"Violence against women: Good practices in
combating and eliminating violence against women"

Expert Group Meeting

Organized by: UN Division for the Advancement of Women
in collaboration with:
UN Office on Drugs and Crime
17 to 20 May 2005
Vienna, Austria   i

Aide-Mémoire

I. Background

On 22 December 2003, the General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution entitled "In-depth study on all forms of violence against women" (A/RES/58/185). The resolution requests the Secretary-General to conduct an in-depth study on all forms and manifestations of violence against women (the full text of the resolution is attached for easy reference).

The resolution spells out five areas to be addressed in the study:
  (i) A statistical overview on all forms of violence against women, in order to evaluate better the scale of such violence, while identifying gaps in data collection and formulating proposals for assessing the extent of the problem;

  (ii) The causes of violence against women, including its root causes and other contributing factors;

  (iii) The medium and long-term consequences of vio

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Advancement of Women will organize a meeting of experts. The proposed dates for this meeting are 16 to 20 May 2005, and the proposed venue is the United Nations Office in Vienpos

! effective policies on the provision and functioning of, among others, hotlines, crisis centers and shelters;

! effective policies on, among others, education, training, economic support, housing and counseling of victims of violence and services for the children of such victims.

(4)   Awareness raising and capacity-building:

! elements of effective national, regional or community-based policies on education and awareness raising on violence against women;

! elements of successful policies on capacity-building to respond to violence against women in the education and health fields and in institutions.

(5)   Factors and processes that contribute to the success of a multi-sectoral action plan to combat violence against women including, without limitation, guidelines for effective collaboration, budgets and institutional mechanisms to deal with violence against women.

III.   Expected outcome

The expert group meeting will result in a report on "good practices" in combating violence against women which will (i) analyze determinants or indicators of the effectiveness of strategies to combat violence against women and (ii) identify elements of 'models of good practice' with respect to legislation, policies, programmes and remedies. Since the success or effectiveness of an intervention is context-specific, the expert group will also compile a list of factors to be considered or questions to be asked when designing an approach for combating violence against women.

Experts will prepare and finalize their report by the end of the four-day meeting. It will consist of an analytical summary of the discussions as well as recommendations for further action. The meeting's report will form the basis for the chapter, in the Secretary-General's study, on best practices (sub-paragraph I (v) of resolution 58/185).

IV.   Method of work

The experts will prepare papers and case studies on "good practices" in combating violence against women focusing on particular interventions. These papers will also include a consideration of factors determining the effectiveness of various interventions. The expert group's discussions will be guided by a background paper prepared by a consultant on behalf of the Division for the Advancement of Women to frame the discussion. The themes presented will then be further developed in working groups to sharpen the analysis and arrive at context-specific recommendations.

V.   Profile of participants

The expert group meeting will be attended by approximately fifteen (15) experts on strategies to combat violence against women, including lawyers, practitioners,

activists, researchers and academics. A small number of observers from United Nations entities will also attend. Staff of the Division for the Advancement of Women will support the meeting.

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