



- Increase opportunities for exchange of experiences and promising practices in addressing violence against women;
- Improve tracking of trends in addressing violence against women; and
- Strengthen the knowledge base for effective policy responses to prevent and address violence against women.

We also hope that the database will provide a strong link to the Secretary-General's "*UNiTE to end violence against women*" campaign.

activities in support of the Secretary-General's "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women" Campaign, this last feature of the database will also grow.

The second option, particularly relevant for those users who are interested in a particular *country*, is the use of the relevant country page. The database contains a country page for each Member State of the United Nations, which lists all measures undertaken by that particular country. (An example of a country page with information available in two languages is Kyrgyzstan).

A third option, for those users who would like to know what measures have been identified as good practices, is to view the good practices page of the database. Currently,

Let me now indicate briefly the ways we hope the database will develop and become more comprehensive over time.

Firstly, I must stress that the database and the information it contains is, and will continue to be, only as up-to-date and accurate as the information received by the Division. The database should not be seen to be indicative of the entire body of work that is being undertaken by Member States to address violence against women, but rather as a tool for sharing the information that Member States have made available – through their responses to the questionnaire, in reports to treaty bodies, in statements at the United Nations, or as inputs to Secretary-General's reports.

I thank all Member States who responded to the questionnaire on, or close to, the deadline, and reassure those who have responded later, that we will endeavour to input their information as soon as possible. I also take this opportunity to call upon those Member States who have not yet responded to the questionnaire, to do so at their earliest convenience, and to call upon those Member States who have responded to the questionnaire, to continue to provide us with new and additional information and documents as these become available.

We firmly believe that this database and the information that it contains will provide an innovative and useful tool for all those working to address violence against women throughout the world. It provides unprecedented access to the laws, policies, programmes and statistics of Member States across the globe, in their ongoing efforts to eliminate this fundamental violation of women's human rights.

We trust that a broad range of stakeholders – government officials and decision-makers, parliamentarians, representatives of national Human Rights Institutes, representatives of civil society, our colleagues in the United Nations system, researchers and academics – will find the database useful and will disseminate information to all relevant stakeholders on its existence and usefulness.

Before concluding, let me express our appreciation to those United Nations country offices that have offered their support and actively assisted Member States in the preparation of responses to the questionnaire.

The request for the creation of this database by the General Assembly is a tribute to the political will of all United Nations Member States to address violence against women and the increased awareness of the value of sharing of experiences and learning from one another, in order to move forward together to eliminate this scourge.

I invite Member States and other stakeholders to provide any feedback you may have to the Division, once you have had the opportunity to explore the database.

Thank you.