
areas of concern, for example (i) persistent gender stereotyping and insufficient sharing of tasks and responsibilities within families, households and communities; ii) unequal power relationships between women and men which hindered women's ability to insist on safe and responsible sex practices; and iii) lack of communication and understanding between women and men on women's health needs.

awareness-raising campaigns on men's roles in the elimination of violence against women and girls;
parental leave schemes to provide better opportunities for both women and men to reconcile work and family responsibilities; and
measures to increase male participation in protecting women's reproductive health and addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic.⁹

Member States also highlighted the challenges in engaging men in the promotion of gender equality including:

traditional beliefs concerning sexual values, roles and relationships among family members;
insufficient measures to reconcile family and work responsibilities; and
inadequate involvement of men in reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS.¹⁰

The review emphasized that making progress on gender equality involved not only legislative and policy reform and implementation of programmes, but also changing attitudes and deeply engrained behaviours. The educational system and media were considered to be important in changing gender stereotypes, as were partnerships with NGOs, the private sector and leaders from all segments of society, including religious leaders. The review noted that country and context-specific actions were essential. It also highlighted that significant gains could be made through sharing experiences and good practices across regions.¹¹

The interactive dialogue will be introduced by two keynote speakers who will make presentations of 15 minutes. Member States, entities of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations will participate in the ensuing dialogue, and will be encouraged to share their experiences in implementing the agreed conclusions on "The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality" highlighting achievements as well as continued gaps and challenges, and/or respond to the keynote presentations. Interventions from the floor will be limited to 3 minutes. A Chairperson's summary of the interactive dialogue will be prepared.

The dialogue will focus on the areas identified in the agreed conclusions where men and boys can function as agents for change, for example in: i) preventing HIV/AIDS; ii) promoting responsible sexual behavior; iii) combating violence against women and girls; and iv) promoting the equal share of responsibilities between women and men at the family and community levels.

The following questions may serve as a non-exhaustive discussion guide:

- Ø What specific steps have been taken to raise awareness on men's and boys' roles in promoting gender equality since the adoption of the agreed conclusions?
- Ø What types of legislation and policies have led to increased participation of men and boys in achieving gender equality?
- Ø What, if any, examples exist of successful programmes to build the capacity of men and boys in fostering gender equality?
- Ø Can examples be provided of collaboration with other actors in efforts to implement the agreed conclusions? Do good practices exist?
- Ø What role does the private sector play? What steps have been taken to contribute to gender equality and to engage men and boys in such efforts?
- Ø What are the major challenges at the national level to effectively involve men and boys in efforts to achieve gender equality?
- Ø Can concrete examples be provided of opposition to women's empowerment and