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**United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, now part of UN Women
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America/ Subregional
Headquarters for the Caribbean**

**Expert Group Meeting on good practices in national action plans
on violence against women
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America/ Subregional
Headquarters for the Caribbean
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**BACKGROUND PAPER FOR THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON
GOOD PRACTICES IN NATIONAL ACTION PLANS
ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL
LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

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Introduction

The Secretary General's 2006 in-depth study on all forms of violence against women recommends that States institute plans of action that are regularly monitored and updated by Governments in consultation with civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, women's groups and networks.

effectiveness of the measures taken.³ It has recommended the adoption of such a plan on different forms of violence against women, such as domestic violence.⁴ The allocation of sufficient resources has also been highlighted by that Committee.⁵ The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has also recommended that State parties adopt and implement national plans of action to combat violence against women,⁶ including trafficking in persons and domestic violence.⁷ The Human Rights Committee has recommended that States parties implement national action plans on violence against women,⁸ while the Committee on the Rights of the Child has called up States parties to ensure the implementation of national plans of action to combat female genital mutilation.⁹ The Committee against Torture has also recommended that States consider adopting national plans of action to prevent and eradicate violence against women and children as well as to combat human trafficking.¹⁰ National action plans on trafficking have been welcomed by the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, and their effective implementation encouraged.¹¹

International policy instruments and recommendations

A significant number of policy instruments call for the adoption of national action plans to combat violence against women.

The Beijing Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, urges Governments to formulate and implement, at all appropriate levels, plans of action to eliminate violence against women.¹² The 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, also calls for the adoption of national action plans to combat violence against women.

violence against women, and including concrete measures to prevent male violence, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators” (article 1). In March 2009, the European Parliament adopted resolution 2008/2071 (INI) on combating female genital mutilation in the European Union, calling on Member States to adopt national action plans aimed at banishing female genital mutilation from the European Union. The European Economic and Social Committee, a consultative body of the European Union, issued an Opinion on Domestic Violence against Women in 2006, in which it drew attention to the fact that Member States have not taken sufficient measures to combat violence against women.

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