

Share-Net briefing session 16 Feb 2016: Gender equality and SRHR in a new global landscape

In 2016, the new 2030 Agenda with the SDGs has formally started, including strong commitments to improve SRHR and gender equality globally. Although the 2030 Agenda was adopted in September 2015, a number of crucial factors still remain unknown and to be negotiated. These include the accountability framework for the new agenda and the indicators which will decide how progress will be determined. A number of meetings in 2016 will determine the final decisions on these. Moreover, the CSW and CPD meetings, respectively taking place in March and April 2016, will contain important discussions on the urgent actions that are necessary to realize the strong commitments to SRHR and gender equality.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 60) – 14-24 March 2016

During the upcoming CSW in New York, two outcome documents will be negotiated:

- The Agreed Conclusions on this year's main theme
- The Multi-Year Program of Work (MYPOW) 2017-2019

The 'Zero Drafts' of both documents were released on Friday 12th of February. Dutch Civil Society input to the Zero Drafts for the Dutch government delegation is coordinated by WO=MEN. For background on CSW60 and the main issues at stake, please refer to the attached Powerpoint presentation by **Margriet van der Zouw of WO=MEN (m.vanderzouw@women.nl)**

Commission on Population and Development (CPD 49) – 11-15 April 2016

During the upcoming CPD in New York, two outcome documents will be negotiated:

- The Resolution on this year's main theme;
- A Resolution on the Methods of Work of the CPD, which basically determines how the CPD will continue in the future, the format, the theme's, the extent civil society can participate etc.

For more background on the upcoming CPD, explanation about the Methods of Work and what the main advocacy messages of Dutch civil society are, please refer to the attached Powerpoint presentation by **Stephanie van der Wijk of CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality (stephanie@choiceforyouth.org)**

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs (and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) were adopted in September 2015. For more background on what's in the SDGs that is relevant for Gender and SRHR, please refer to the attached Powerpoint presentation by **Rineke van Dam, Rutgers (r.vandam@rutgers.nl)**.

There are a number of 'loose-ends' that still need to be determined and that are relevant for how commitments to Gender Equality and SRHR are in the end followed up:

- The monitoring and accountability mechanism, which will be determined at the High Level Political Forum;
- The indicators that will measure progress on all the 17 goals and 169 targets;
- The implementation of the SDGs, and translation at country level to national policies, programs and laws.

Discussion

- **Opposition** is strongly organized in what we also call the 'Unholy Alliance'. This informal alliance consists of the Holy See, a number of Arab countries and a number of African countries (both are sometimes able to mobilize the whole Arab and African blocks to take conservative positions). It is therefore key that like-minded countries (with support from civil society) collaborate cross-regionally. The opposition blocks references to gender equality, women's rights, sexual and reproductive rights, human rights, civil society participation, and other what we call more progressive 'language'. Instead, they push for references to 'the family', culture and religion, the voluntary nature of reporting, and other what we call more conservative 'language'.
- Position of the Netherlands this year and the EU dynamics: The Netherlands is currently the chair of the EU and therefore will be speaking on behalf of the EU in international negotiations (i.e. CSW, CPD). Since the EU is much less progressive than the Netherlands (Malta, Hungary and Poland block progressive positions on SRHR), the Netherlands seems not to be able to push as hard as normally for strong references to gender equality, women's rights and SRHR in the outcome documents that are negotiated.
- Sexual Rights – what is the definition?
 - Check the IPPF Declaration on Sexual Rights: http://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/sexualrightsippfdeclaration_1.pdf
 - Sexual rights embrace certain human rights that are already recognized in national laws, international human rights documents and other consensus documents. They rest on the recognition that all individuals have the right, free of coercion, violence and discrimination of any kind: to the highest attainable standard of sexual health; to pursue a satisfying, safe, and pleasurable sexual life; to have control over and decide freely, and with due regard for the rights of others, on matters related to their sexuality, reproduction, sexual orientation, bodily integrity, choice of partner, and gender identity; and to the services, education and information, including comprehensive sexuality education, necessary to do so.
 - Check the attachment for official references in regional and international agreements.