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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA

Ministry of Women and Human Rights
Development

Concept Note:

**National Validation for the Strategy on Combating Violence against Women and Girls for the
Federal Government of Somalia**

22 and 23 April 2024

Mogadishu, Somalia

BACKGROUND

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) persists in Somalia, with a wide range of forms and contributing factors. Ongoing conflict and displacement in the country, coupled with patriarchal attitudes, a limited legal framework, and limited access to services, exacerbate rates of violence. According to national statistics, 12 per cent of ever-married women reported physical violence perpetrated against them by a spouse, while 4 per cent reported emotional abuse by a spouse. Sixteen per cent of women in the age group 20-49 entered their first marriage by the age of 15, and 34 percent of women aged 20-49 were married for the first time by the age of 18. Female genital mutilation (FGM) also remains a serious concern throughout Somali, with most women (99 per cent) aged 15-49 having undergone some form of FGM, the majority of whom were cut between the ages of 5 – 9.

To address this situation, the Federal Government of Somalia has fortified its commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment and has taken steps to address VAWG through the development of a its first ever national Strategy on Combating Violence against Women and Girls, among other necessary legal and policy interventions.

As such, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has supported the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development (MoWHRD) in drafting a Situation Analysis to inform the process of crafting the Strategy, which was drafted by ESCWA in consultation with the Ministry and other UN agencies. ESCWA is now partnering with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) in Somalia to move forward in finalizing the Strategy on Combating Violence against Women and Girls through a national validation process. The national validation process will involve two meetings (one for governmental stakeholders and one for non-governmental stakeholders, respectively) to discuss and endorse the proposed national Strategy on Combating Violence against Women and Girls in Somalia.

OBJECTIVE

This objective of these engagements is to validate the contents of the draft Strategy on Combating Violence against Women and Girls in Somalia and its Plan of Action. Discussions will be facilitated by ESCWA with support from UNFPA, UN Women, UNSOM, and UNDP, as necessary.

AUDIENCE

The MoWHRD will invite ±50 stakeholders (governmental stakeholders, non-governmental stakeholders and UN representatives) to attend the validation meeting. The lists of invitees is TBC.



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The validation meeting will take place at the RA Hotel, Mogadishu, Somalia (AAIA Zone) on Monday, 22 April 2024 and Tuesday, 23 April 2024 from 9:00 – 15:30 each day.

Presentations and facilitation will be provided in English and simultaneous English – Somali interpretation will be available.

DRAFT AGENDA

| Monday, 22 April 2024 | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| 9:00 – 9:30 | <i>Opening Remarks, Introductions and Review of the Agenda</i> | MoWHRD ESCWA UNDP UNFPA UNSOM UN Women |
| 9:30 – 10:30 | <i>Session I: Why a Strategy on Combating Violence against Women and Girls?</i> This session will discuss the importance of developing a Strategy on Combating Violence against Women and Girls reflect upon other examples from the Arab and African regions. The Situational Analysis will also be discussed, highlighting the current interventions within Somalia, as well as the opportunities, for holistically addressing violence against women and girls. | ESCWA |
| 10:30 – 11:45 | <i>Session II: Overview of the Strategy on Combating Violence against Women and Girls</i> This session will discuss the contents of the Strategy and provide an overview of the main outcomes and related outputs for its implementation. | ESCWA |
| 11:45– 12:30 | Coffee Break and Prayer Break | |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | <i>Session III: Working Groups: Discussions of the Strategy's Outcomes</i> This session will initiate a more in-depth discussion of the Strategy's Outcomes through Working Groups to ensure a better understanding of the Strategy's outcomes, outputs and activities, and to facilitate its validation. | ESCWA |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | Lunch | |



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| Tuesday, 23 April 2024 | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 9:00 – 9:05 | Brief Review of Previous Day | ESCWA |
| 9:05 – 10:30 | <p>Session IV: Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>This session will involve a discussion of the various stakeholders' roles and responsibilities for implementing the Strategy. Drawing upon the diverse cross-section of stakeholders present, the discussion will focus on which organizations/agencies are best suited to lead or support on a particular indicator and/or activity.</p> | ESCWA |
| 10:30 – 11:45 | <p>Session V: Working Groups: Baselines and Targets</p> <p>This session will address the various baselines and targets highlighted in the Strategy with the aim of identifying, through Working Groups, where data might be found and what targets might be reasonable targets to ensure success of the Strategy.</p> | ESCWA |
| 11:45– 12:30 | Coffee Break and Prayer Break | |
| 12:30 - 13:00 | <p>Session V cont'd: Discussion: Baselines and Targets</p> <p>This session is a continuation of the Working Group discussion and will be an opportunity for the Working Groups to present their discussion points and findings.</p> | ESCWA |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | <p>Session VI: Stakeholder Collaborations</p> <p>This session will be a facilitated discussion of the participants to explore opportunities for collaboration between governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as UN agencies, to ensure implementation of the Strategy in a timely, holistic and survivor-centered manner.</p> | ESCWA |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | Lunch | |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | <p>Session VII: Closing Session and Evaluations</p> <p>This final session will conclude with parting words from UN agencies as well as the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development to formally launch the Strategy. Evaluation forms to assess the validation workshop will also be shared with participants.</p> | MoWHRD ESCWA UNDP UNFPA UNSOM UN Women |