**31st session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

**UNODC High-level Side Event to launch the new statistical framework on gender-related killings**

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| **Date and venue:** | **19 May 2022, 1.10 – 2 p.m. (CEST), online event (recorded statement)** |

## *Proposed talking points – Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences*

* Good morning, excellences, ladies, and gentlemen. A very warm thank you for the invitation, it is both a pleasure and an honour to address you in my capacity as Special Rapporteur;
* Let me begin by congratulating UNODC and UN Women for the launch of the comprehensive statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls (femicide/feminicide), the framework represents an important step in addressing the lack of statistical evidence in this regard;
* Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted just how important the collection of administrative data and statistics that accurately tally gender related killings is; restrictions on movement imposed in order to contain the COVID-19 pandemic left thousands of women and girls trapped at home. For those women who were already in abusive situations, their situation was exacerbated by the crisis, with femicides by intimate partners reported with alarming frequency;
* In response to the global purge of femicide, in 2015 the mandate initiated a call for the establishment at the global, national and regional levels of a femicide prevention watch and observatories on gender-related killings and violence against women;
* In her annual report to the General Assembly in 2016 (A/71/398), my predecessor addressed the topic of femicide and outlined the modalities required for the establishment of such a preventative mechanism;
* In calling upon all States to establish a femicide watch – or a “gender-related killing of women watch” – it was proposed that data on the number of femicides be published annually, on 25 November, along with information concerning the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators;
* I intend to continue to encourage States to provide data and in November 2021 I issued a call to States and relevant stakeholders for comparable data on: (a) intimate partner femicide; (b) family-related femicide based on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim or victims; and (c) all other femicides based on the country context;
* Taking into consideration ongoing existing work on data collection on femicides, the mandate proposes a flexible model for the establishment of “national Femicide Watch” which could be a new independent interdisciplinary body, or integrated in existing observatories or other independent mechanisms, such as ombudspersons or human rights commissions;
* The Femicide Watch should go beyond collection and publication of data, and focus on systematic gaps and shortcomings of national civil and criminal justice frameworks and systems. It should include information on conduct of police and public prosecutors, efficiency of protection orders, availability of shelters and other measures in a number of individual cases;
* Femicide Watches/Observatories are important due to the poor quality of existing data, under reporting and concealing of femicide. This remains an obstacle to meaningful prevention work. Data collected must be made publicly available at the national level, while the UN and other organizations should ensure the publication of such data globally and regionally.
* In the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 32/19 (A/HRC/RES/32/19), the Council expressed its alarm “at the high level of impunity with regard to gender-based violence, including gender-related killings of women and girls, including indigenous women and girls, and recognizing the key role of the criminal justice system in preventing and ending impunity for such crimes”.
* The Council also encourages States to improve the collection, harmonization and use of data disaggregated by sex, and administrative data, including, where appropriate, from the police, the health sector and the judiciary, on incidents of all forms of violence against women and girls, including against indigenous women and girls, such as data on the relationship between the perpetrator and victim and geographic location, ensuring that confidentiality and ethical and safety considerations are taken into account in the process of data collection, and improving the effectiveness of the services and programmes provided and protecting the safety and security of the victim (OP 12).
* While some progress has been made since 2016 in developing national observatories and collection of data with the aim of analyzing the causes of femicide, challenges remain. The long-term objective is to eradicate femicide and the short to mid-term objectives are to collect information on national practices for a femicide watch and/ or observatories, encourage the creation of femicide watches and/ or observatories in additional countries;
* States must therefore bear in mind that the elimination of gender based violence is not merely a target, but a concrete legal obligation that they have committed to protect and fulfil. They must confront the growing backlash against women’s universal human rights and the persistent discrimination which impedes, inter alia, the elimination of violence against women and seek to build on and complement the work of global and regional human rights mechanisms that monitor progress on women’s human rights;
* The launch of the framework also reminds member States that they have a responsibility to promote a “general environment of zero tolerance”, and as such, I would encourage all States to take urgent action, alongside non-State actors, as well as international organizations and independent monitoring mechanisms, civil society organisations, and women’s rights movements, to prevent and combat gender-based violence against women and to support and provide redress to women who are willing to speak up.

*Thank you*