

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Sixty-second session



Challenges and opportunities in achieving
gender equality and the empowerment of
rural women and girls

New York 12 – 23 March 2018

MANDATE OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is a global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Commission was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946 with a mandate to prepare recommendations on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. The Commission is also responsible for monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 and of the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly of 2000, at all levels, and to support gender mainstreaming. The Commission also contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Every year, representatives of Member States, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York for the Commission's annual session. Usually held for ten days in March, the session provides an opportunity to review progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, identify challenges, set global standards and norms and formulate policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide. The session is also a key opportunity for policy makers, advocates, researchers and activists to network and strategize, mobilize and plan new initiatives and actions to further the cause of gender equality and women's empowerment.

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND WORKING METHODS

The Commission's annual programme of work and its working methods are set out in relevant ECOSOC resolutions. The current working methods call for a thematic approach, and determine the inter-active nature of the session, the format of the outcomes and the participation of non-

governmental organizations (see ECOSOC resolution 2015/6). The Commission's multi-year programme of work for the period 2017-2019 is laid out in ECOSOC resolution 2016/3.

SIXTY-SECOND SESSION (2018)

The sixty-second session of the Commission will take place from 12 to 23 March 2018. The Commission will address as its priority theme 'Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls'. In addition, it will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the forty-seventh session (2003) on 'Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women'. The Commission will also consider and make a recommendation on how best to utilize the year 2020, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The ten-day session will include a ministerial segment with round tables and other high-level interactive dialogues, a general discussion, as well as interactive and expert panel discussions. Stakeholders will organize many side events to draw attention to critical aspects of the work on gender equality. Details are available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw62-2018>.

OUTCOMES

Agreed conclusions on the priority theme

These are the Commission's principal outcome on the priority theme. They are negotiated by all Member States, are short and succinct, and identify gaps and challenges in the implementation of previous commitments and make action-oriented recommendations for all States, relevant intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms and entities of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders. They aim to accelerate implementation and are widely disseminated to the public so as to encourage follow-up action (resolution 2015/6).

OTHER OUTCOMES

The Commission usually adopts a small number of resolutions on different topics. In addition, summaries by the Chair of the Commission of high-level round tables and interactive dialogues highlight key issues discussed, including recommendations for further action. These summaries are not negotiated.

DOCUMENTATION

The Commission will consider a number of reports prepared by UN-Women, including a report on the priority theme and a report on progress made on the review theme at national level. Statements submitted by NGOs also form part of the documentation for the session. The following documents will become available on the CSW website at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw62-2018> six weeks prior to the session:

- E/CN.6/2018/1: Provisional agenda and annotations
- E/CN.6/2018/1/Add.1: Proposed organization of work
- E/CN.6/2018/2: Normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women)
- E/CN.6/2018/3: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (Report of the Secretary-General)
- E/CN.6/2018/4: Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (Report of the Secretary-General)
- E/CN.6/2018/5: Discussion guide for the Commission on the Status of Women ministerial segment on the priority theme (Note by the Secretariat)
- E/CN.6/2018/6: The situation of, and assistance to, Palestinian women (Report of the Secretary-General)
- E/CN.6/2018/7: Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (Report of the Secretary-General)

- E/CN.6/2018/8: Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (Report of the Secretary-General)
- E/CN.6/2018/9: Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women
- E/CN.6/2018/10: Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women
- E/CN.6/2018/11: Input to the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (Note by the Secretary-General)
- E/CN.6/2018/12: Results of the sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Note by the Secretariat)
- E/CN.6/2018/NGO/1–172: Written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations.

THE ROLE OF UN-WOMEN

UN-Women is the United Nations organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN-Women was established to accelerate progress on realizing their rights and meeting their needs worldwide. UN-Women supports United Nations Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's enjoyment of their human rights in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN-Women also coordinates and promotes the United Nations system's work in advancing gender equality.

UN-Women serves as the substantive Secretariat of the Commission and in that capacity, supports all aspects of the Commission's work. UN-Women

prepares the evidence-base, policy analysis and recommendations that underpin the Commission’s deliberations on the themes selected for each session, as well as for negotiated outcomes. UN-Women reaches out to stakeholders, creates awareness and works to build alliances and forge consensus around the topics under consideration. The Entity facilitates the participation of civil society representatives in the Commission’s sessions.

In the lead-up to CSW62, UN-Women, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) co-convened an expert group meeting on ‘Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls’, from 20 to 22 September 2017, at IFAD Headquarters in Rome, Italy. A multi-stakeholder forum will be held in January 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York to build alliances and strengthen partnerships. The Entity will also convene or facilitate other preparatory activities, including for civil society.

MEMBERS AND BUREAU OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Commission consists of 45 members who are elected for a period of four years by ECOSOC on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

- (a) Thirteen members from African States
- (b) Eleven members from Asia-Pacific States
- (c) Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States
- (d) Eight members from Western European and other States
- (e) Four members from Eastern European States.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION *(Term expires at close of session in year)*

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|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Albania 2019 | 4. Belgium 2019 | 6. Brazil 2020 |
| 2. Bahrain 2021 | 5. Bosnia and Herzegovina 2019 | 7. Canada 2021 |
| 3. Bangladesh 2018 | | 8. Chile 2021 |

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 9. China 2021 | 22. Ireland 2021 | 36. Qatar 2020 |
| 10. Colombia 2019 | 23. Israel 2021 | 37. Republic of Korea 2018 |
| 11. Congo 2018 | 24. Kazakhstan 2018 | 38. Russian Federation 2020 |
| 12. Egypt 2018 | 25. Kenya 2018 | 39. Spain 2019 |
| 13. El Salvador 2018 | 26. Kuwait 2020 | 40. Tajikistan 2018 |
| 14. Equatorial Guinea 2019 | 27. Liberia 2019 | 41. Trinidad and Tobago 2020 |
| 15. Eritrea 2020 | 28. Liechtenstein 2019 | 42. Tunisia 2021 |
| 16. Estonia 2021 | 29. Malawi 2019 | 43. United Kingdom 2020 |
| 17. Ghana 2018 | 30. Mongolia 2019 | 44. United Republic of Tanzania 2018 |
| 18. Guatemala 2020 | 31. Namibia 2021 | 45. Uruguay 2018 |
| 19. Guyana 2018 | 32. Niger 2021 | |
| 20. India 2018 | 33. Nigeria 2020 | |
| 21. Iran (Islamic Republic of) 2019 | 34. Norway 2020 | |
| | 35. Peru 2021 | |

BUREAU MEMBERS OF THE SIXTY-SECOND SESSION

The Bureau of the Commission plays a crucial role in facilitating the preparation, and in ensuring the successful outcome of the annual sessions of the Commission. Bureau members are elected for two years.

Chair-designate: H.E. Ms. Geraldine Byrne Nason (Ireland), Western European and other States Group

Vice-Chairs:

- Ms. Koki Muli Grignon (Kenya), African States Group, Vice-Chair
- Mr. Mauricio Carabali Baquero (Colombia), Latin American and Caribbean States Group, Vice-Chair
- Ms. Rena Tasuja (Estonia), Eastern European States Group, Vice-Chair-designate
- Mr. Shah Asif Rahman (Bangladesh), Asia-Pacific States Group, Vice-Chair-designate.

For more information on the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women please visit: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw62-2018

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Planet 50-50 by 2030
Step It Up for Gender Equality

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