

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Sixty-third session



Social protection systems, access to public services
and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality
and the empowerment of women and girls

New York 11 – 22 March 2019



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 interactive 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-THIRD SESSION (2019)

The sixty-third session of the Commission will take place from 11 to 22 March 2019. The Commission will address as its priority theme 'Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls'. In addition, it will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the sixtieth session (2016) on 'Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development'. The Commission will also discuss a focus area, 'Women and girls of African descent'.

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/csw63-2019>.

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/csw63-2019> six weeks prior to the session:

- E/CN.6/2019/1: Provisional agenda and annotations
- E/CN.6/2019/1/Add.1: Proposed organization of work
- E/CN.6/2019/2: 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.6/2019/3: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (Report of the Secretary-General)
- E/CN.6/2019/4: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (Report of the Secretary-General)
- E/CN.6/2019/5: Discussion guide for the Commission on the Status of Women ministerial segment on the priority theme (Note by the Secretariat)
- E/CN.6/2019/6: The situation of, and assistance to, Palestinian women (Report of the Secretary-General)
- A/HRC/41/3-E/CN.6/2019/7: 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.6/2019/8: Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

- E/CN.6/2019/9: Input to the 2019 session of the Economic and Social Council and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (Note by the Secretary-General)
- E/CN.6/2019/10: Results of the sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Note by the Secretariat)
- E/CN.6/2019/NGO/1-135: 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 CSW63, UN-Women convened an expert group meeting on ‘Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls’ in New York from 13 to 15 September 2018. A multi-stakeholder forum was held in January 2019 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-THIRD SESSION

(Term expires at close of session in year)

1. Albania 2019	10. Colombia 2019	19. Haiti 2022
2. Algeria 2022	11. Comoros 2022	20. Iraq 2022
3. Bahrain 2021	12. Congo 2022	21. Iran (Islamic Republic of) 2019
4. Belgium 2019	13. Ecuador 2022	22. Ireland 2021
5. Bosnia and Herzegovina 2019	14. Equatorial Guinea 2019	23. Israel 2021
6. Brazil 2020	15. Eritrea 2020	24. Japan 2022
7. Canada 2021	16. Estonia 2021	25. Kenya 2022
8. Chile 2021	17. Ghana 2022	26. Kuwait 2020
9. China 2021	18. Guatemala 2020	27. Liberia 2019

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| 28. Liechtenstein 2019 | 35. Norway 2020 | 41. Spain 2019 |
| 29. Malawi 2019 | 36. Peru 2021 | 42. Trinidad and Tobago
2020 |
| 30. Mongolia 2019 | 37. Qatar 2020 | 43. Tunisia 2021 |
| 31. Namibia 2021 | 38. Republic of Korea
2022 | 44. Turkmenistan 2022 |
| 32. Nicaragua 2022 | 39. Russian Federation
2020 | 45. United Kingdom
2020 |
| 33. Niger 2021 | 40. Saudi Arabia 2022 | |
| 34. Nigeria 2020 | | |

BUREAU MEMBERS OF THE SIXTY-THIRD 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: 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
- Mr. Mohammed Marzooq (Iraq), Asia-Pacific States Group, Vice-Chair-designate.

For more information on the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women please visit: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019

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

220 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017, USA
Tel: 646-781-4400
Fax: 646-781-4444

www.unwomen.org
www.facebook.com/unwomen
www.twitter.com/un_women
www.youtube.com/unwomen
www.flickr.com/unwomen