



CSW65

Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-fifth Session • New York • 15-26 March 2021



Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

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 2021-2024 is laid out in ECOSOC resolution 2020/15.

IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 ON THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION

It is anticipated that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic will continue to impose limitations on the conduct of intergovernmental meetings at United Nations Headquarters in 2021. In view of the ongoing constraints, the sixty-fifth session of the Commission will take place in a hybrid format which will include a limited number of in-person formal meetings, informal virtual meetings and/or proceeding with a portion of work through correspondence.

SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION (2021)

The sixty-fifth session of the Commission will take place from 15 to 26 March 2021. The Commission will address as its priority theme 'Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all 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 ten-day session will include a ministerial segment with round tables and other interactive dialogues, and a general discussion. Stakeholders will organize virtual side events to draw attention to critical aspects of the work on gender equality. Details are available at: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw65-2021>.

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 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw65-2021> six weeks prior to the session:

- E/CN.6/2021/1: Provisional agenda and annotations
- E/CN.6/2021/1/Add.1: Proposed organization of work
- E/CN.6/2021/2: 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.6/2021/3: Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (Report of the Secretary-General)
- E/CN.6/2021/4: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (Report of the Secretary-General)
- E/CN.6/2021/5: Discussion guide for the Commission on the Status of Women ministerial segment on the priority theme (Note by the Secretariat)
- A/HRC/47/20-E/CN.6/2021/6: 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.6/2021/7: Results of the sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Note by the Secretariat)
- E/CN.6/2021/NGO/1-146: 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 CSW65, UN Women convened a virtual expert group meeting on 'Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls', from 5 - 8 October 2020. 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-fifth session (Term expires at close of session in year)

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| 1. Algeria 2022 | 16. Ecuador 2022 | 31. Nicaragua 2022 |
| 2. Armenia 2023 | 17. Equatorial Guinea 2023 | 32. Niger 2021 |
| 3. Australia 2023 | 18. Estonia 2021 | 33. Peru 2021 |
| 4. Bahrain 2021 | 19. Germany 2023 | 34. Philippines 2024 |
| 5. Bangladesh 2023 | 20. Ghana 2022 | 35. Republic of Korea 2022 |
| 6. Belarus 2023 | 21. Haiti 2022 | 36. Russian Federation 2024 |
| 7. Brazil 2024 | 22. Iraq 2022 | 37. Saudi Arabia 2022 |
| 8. Canada 2021 | 23. Ireland 2021 | 38. Senegal 2024 |
| 9. Chile 2021 | 24. Israel 2021 | 39. Somalia 2024 |
| 10. China 2021 | 25. Japan 2022 | 40. South Africa 2023 |
| 11. Colombia 2024 | 26. Kenya 2022 | 41. Switzerland 2024 |
| 12. Comoros 2022 | 27. Malaysia 2023 | 42. Togo 2023 |
| 13. Congo 2022 | 28. Mexico 2024 | 43. Tunisia 2021 |
| 14. Cuba 2023 | 29. Mongolia 2024 | 44. Turkmenistan 2022 |
| 15. Denmark 2024 | 30. Namibia 2021 | 45. United States 2023 |

Bureau members of the sixty-fifth 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. Mr. Mher Margaryan (Armenia), Eastern European States Group

Vice-Chairs:

- Ms. Ahlem Sara Charikhi (Algeria), African States Group, Vice-Chair
- Mr. Na Sang-Deok (Republic of Korea), Asia-Pacific States Group, Vice-Chair
- Ms. Shilpa Pallela (Australia), Western European and other States Group, Vice-Chair designate
- Vice-Chair for the Latin American and Caribbean States Group; to be nominated