

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Sixty-fourth session



Review and appraisal of the implementation of
the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
(1995) and the outcomes of the 23rd special session
of the General Assembly (2000)

New York 9 – 20 March 2020



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 all 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.

Every five years, the Commission conducts a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session. Such "+5" reviews were held in 2005 (CSW49), 2010 (CSW54) and 2015 (CSW59).

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).

SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION (2020)

The sixty-fourth session of the Commission will take place from 9 to 20 March 2020. The Commission will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It will assess current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It will also contribute towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a gender perspective (E/RES/2018/8).

The Commission will also decide on its next multi-year programme of work for 2021 and beyond.

The ten-day session will include a ministerial segment with round tables and other high-level interactive dialogues, a general discussion and a series of interactive events. 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/csw64-2020>.

OUTCOMES

Political declaration

In accordance with the practice of recent '+5' reviews, Ministers and high-level government representatives are expected to adopt a Political Declaration to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and to give further impetus to accelerated implementation.

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 containing a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. 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/csw64-2020> six weeks prior to the session:

- E/CN.6/2020/1: Provisional agenda and annotations
- E/CN.6/2020/1/Add.1: Proposed organization of work
- E/CN.6/2020/2: 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.6/2020/3: Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Report of the Secretary-General)
- E/CN.6/2020/4: Proposals on the priority and review themes for the Commission on the Status of Women for 2021 and beyond (Report of the Secretary-General)
- E/CN.6/2020/5: Discussion guide for the ministerial round tables (Note by the Secretariat)
- E/CN.6/2020/6: Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (Report of the Secretary-General)

- E/CN.6/2020/7: Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (Report of the Secretary-General)
- A/HRC/44/3-E/CN.6/2020/8: 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.6/2020/9: Results of the sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Note by the Secretariat)
- E/CN.6/2020/NGO/1-206: 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 in 2010 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 CSW64, UN-Women convened an expert group meeting on 'Beijing +25: Current context, emerging issues and prospects for gender equality and women's rights', in New York City, from 25 to 26 September 2019. The Entity collaborated with the five United Nations regional commissions to undertake regional reviews that are feeding into CSW 64. The Entity also convened or facilitated preparatory meetings for civil society and youth, prior to or in the margins of these regional review meetings.

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-FOURTH SESSION

(Term expires at close of session in year)

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|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Algeria 2022 | 5. Bangladesh 2023 | 9. Chile 2021 |
| 2. Armenia 2023 | 6. Belarus 2023 | 10. China 2021 |
| 3. Australia 2023 | 7. Brazil 2020 | 11. Comoros 2022 |
| 4. Bahrain 2021 | 8. Canada 2021 | 12. Congo 2022 |

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 13. Cuba 2023 | 25. Japan 2022 | 37. Russian Federation
2020 |
| 14. Ecuador 2022 | 26. Kenya 2022 | 38. Saudi Arabia 2022 |
| 15. Equatorial Guinea
2023 | 27. Kuwait 2020 | 39. South Africa 2023 |
| 16. Eritrea 2020 | 28. Malaysia 2023 | 40. Togo 2023 |
| 17. Estonia 2021 | 29. Namibia 2021 | 41. Trinidad and Tobago
2020 |
| 18. Germany 2023 | 30. Nicaragua 2022 | 42. Tunisia 2021 |
| 19. Ghana 2022 | 31. Niger 2021 | 43. Turkmenistan 2022 |
| 20. Guatemala 2020 | 32. Nigeria 2020 | 44. United Kingdom
2020 |
| 21. Haiti 2022 | 33. Norway 2020 | 45. United States 2023 |
| 22. Iraq 2022 | 34. Peru 2021 | |
| 23. Ireland 2021 | 35. Qatar 2020 | |
| 24. Israel 2021 | 36. Republic of Korea
2022 | |

BUREAU MEMBERS OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH 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. Jo Feldman (Australia), Western European and other States Group, Vice-Chair
- Ms. Ahlem Sara Charikhi (Algeria), African States Group, Vice-Chair designate
- Ms. Devita Abraham (Trinidad and Tobago), Latin American and Caribbean States Group, Vice-Chair designate
- Ms. Zahraa Nassrullah (Iraq), Asia-Pacific States Group, Vice-Chair designate

For more information on the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women please visit: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020

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