



**Review theme: 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 (Agreed Conclusions of the forty-seventh session)**

**Wednesday, 14 March 2018, United Nations Headquarters**

***Overview***

In accordance with its working methods, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) each year will evaluate progress in the implementation of the Agreed Conclusions on a priority theme of a previous session, as its review theme, through an interactive dialogue that includes:

- (a) Member States of different regions, on a voluntary basis, presenting their lessons learned, challenges and best practices that identify means for accelerated implementation through national and regional experiences;
- (b) Ways to support and achieve accelerated implementation, including through addressing data gaps and challenges in the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data in regard to the theme, at the national, regional and global level.

The outcome of the discussion on the review theme will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau.

The review will be supported by a report of the Secretary-General on progress made on the review theme at the national level ([E/CN.6/2018/4](#)).

***Review theme at CSW62***

At the sixty-second session, the Commission's review theme will be "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", contained in its [Agreed Conclusions](#) of its forty-seventh session of 2003.

The review of these Agreed Conclusions is timely given rapid developments in the media and information and communications technologies (ICT) since 2003. To increase women's access to and participation in the media and ICT, including their decision-making processes and new opportunities created through ICT, the Agreed Conclusions emphasized:

1. Prioritizing the integration of gender perspectives and ensuring women's early and full participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of ICT and media policies, legislation, programmes, projects, strategies and regulatory and technical instruments, as well as prioritizing allocation of resources;
2. Promoting girls' and women's education (formal and informal) and skills development in media- and ICT-related subjects, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);
3. Enabling and ensuring women's full participation in the ownership, control and management of the media and ICT sectors, including at the highest levels of decision-making, and supporting the development and use of ICT and new technologies for gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. Enhancing efforts to compile, and disaggregate by sex and age, statistics, to develop gender-specific indicators and to collect gender-specific data related to media and ICT.

Member States making voluntary presentations should specifically address some or all of these four key areas of focus of the Agreed Conclusions since adoption by the Commission in March 2003. Member States should provide concrete examples of measures taken in response to the Agreed Conclusions from CSW47 and their impacts or results; identify good practice examples, as well as key lessons, gaps and challenges; and highlight successful inclusive collaboration with stakeholders and comprehensive approaches to the implementation of the Agreed Conclusions.

#### ***Proposed format for the review***

In order to enable an interactive dialogue, approximately 13 Member States will make voluntary presentations. Each voluntary presentation will be no more than 15 minutes, followed by comments and questions by ‘partner countries’, and brief responses by the presenting Member State. It is proposed that each presenting country identifies in advance 2 to 3 ‘partner countries’ to comment on its presentation in a constructive manner, including posing questions. The ‘partner countries’ could be invited based on ongoing cooperation with the presenting country, on similar experiences, or because they would seek to benefit from the lessons of the presenting country. Presenting Member States may also wish to consider inviting a United Nations entity to contribute to the discussion from the floor.

#### ***Timetable***

The following Member States have been designated to make voluntary presentations: **Argentina, Colombia and Costa Rica** (Latin American and Caribbean States Group); **Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka** (Asia and Pacific States Group); **Belgium, Germany and New Zealand** (Western European and other States Group); **Kenya, Nigeria and Sudan** (African States Group); **Bulgaria and Slovakia** (Eastern European States Group).

Each presenting country should make available, **at least one week prior to its presentation, a short synopsis** so as to facilitate the contribution of ‘partners’, and to share information with all participants in the Commission.

Approximately 30 minutes will be allocated to each presentation (voluntary presentation, comments from ‘partners’, and responses from presenting country).

#### ***Technical briefing by UN-Women***

UN-Women held a technical briefing for the Member States making voluntary presentations at CSW62, on 12 February 2018. A second briefing will be held on 8 March. UN-Women country offices, as applicable, stand ready to support national consultations and preparations for the voluntary presentations.

#### ***Format of voluntary presentations***

Voluntary presentations should:

- At national level, be prepared through a multi-stakeholder consultation
- Focus on actions taken since March 2003 in response to the CSW47 Agreed Conclusions
- Focus on lessons learned, challenges and best practices, covering one or several areas of the Agreed Conclusions
- Be presented, if possible, by a team of up to 3 speakers, led by a senior Government official, and including a civil society/media representative
- Power point or short videos are encouraged (as part of the 15 minutes)