



Interactive dialogue on the review theme

Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development **(Agreed Conclusions of the sixtieth session)**

Tuesday 23 March and Wednesday, 24 March, 9.00 – 11.00 a.m., Informal virtual meeting

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.6/2021/4](#)).

Review theme at CSW65

At the sixty-fifth session, the Commission’s review theme will be “*Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development*”, contained in its [Agreed Conclusions](#) of its sixtieth session of 2016. The Commission previously reviewed implementation of these agreed conclusions at its sixty-third session, in March 2019.

The review comes in the second year of the Decade of Action for delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals, a time when concerted action to implement the 2030 Agenda in a gender-responsive manner needs to be accelerated to achieve full gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030.

The Agreed Conclusions emphasized action in five key policy areas, with the full and effective participation and leadership of women and girls:

1. Ensuring that **normative, legal and policy frameworks** are gender-responsive and non-discriminatory;
2. Fostering enabling environments for **financing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls**;
3. Strengthening **women's leadership and women's full and equal participation in decision-making** in all areas of sustainable development;
4. Strengthening **gender-responsive data collection and follow-up and review processes** in the context of the 2030 Agenda;
5. **Enhancing national institutional arrangements** to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Member States making voluntary presentations should specifically address some or all of these five key areas of focus of the Agreed Conclusions since the first review by the Commission in March 2019. Member States should provide concrete examples of measures taken in response to the Agreed Conclusions from CSW60 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. Presentations should in particular elaborate on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women's empowerment and sustainable development and the prospects for a gender-responsive recovery.

Proposed format for the review

In order to enable an interactive dialogue, CSW65 should invite up to **12 voluntary presentations by Member States**, which will take place through **informal virtual meetings**. Each voluntary presentation will be no more than 10 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

Presenting Member States should be **identified through their regional groups, with the support of CSW Bureau members, by end of January 2021, at the latest**, to allow sufficient time for consultations at the national level and preparation of the presentations. 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.

CSW65 will allocate **two meetings** for the review, totaling 4 hours. Approximately **18 minutes** will be allocated to each presentation (voluntary presentation, comments from ‘partners’, and responses from presenting country).

Technical briefing by UN-Women

UN-Women will hold two technical briefings for the Member States making voluntary presentations at CSW65, at the **beginning of February 2021** and during the **second week of March 2021**.

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 2019 in response to the CSW60 Agreed Conclusions
- Focus on lessons learned, challenges and best practices, covering one or several areas of the Agreed Conclusions
- Be presented through live virtual presentations with participation from capital-based speakers or pre-recorded presentations, combined with live Q&A.
- Be presented, if possible, by a team of up to 3 speakers, led by a senior Government official, and including a civil society representative.