



**High-level interactive dialogue among Ministers on the priority theme:
Building alliances to promote women's economic empowerment
in the changing world of work**

Tuesday, 14 March 2017, United Nations Headquarters

Overview

In accordance with its methods of work, the Commission on the Status of Women holds a ministerial segment that may include ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues. At its sixty-first session, the Commission's ministerial segment will include a high-level interactive dialogue among Ministers on "Building alliances to promote women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work." The report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme supports this dialogue (E/CN.6/2017/3).

The interactive dialogue will provide Ministers with an opportunity to engage with each other on experiences, good practices and lessons learned with regards to their experiences in building alliances with other stakeholders and how this will promote women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work. In addition, non-governmental organizations and workers' and employers' organizations will be invited to present established processes, planned initiatives and other efforts to strengthen alliances among gender equality leaders, advocates and other partners in order to promote women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

This dialogue will also contribute to strengthening opportunities for non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to contribute to the work of the Commission, as called for in the Commission's working methods.

Format and participation

The event will be a moderated dialogue among Ministers. Participants will be invited to comment on leading questions (*see below*), and the moderator will support the dialogue and its interactive nature through follow-up questions. Ministers will participate in the dialogue on a voluntary basis. No speakers' list will be kept. However, Ministers wishing to participate in the dialogue will be invited to communicate this intention in advance.

As regards participation by representatives from non-governmental organizations, UN-Women will facilitate an online application process, and recommend speakers in a manner that reflects regional diversity, and diversity of voices and expertise at national level. UN-Women will work with the International Labor Organization to identify representatives of workers' and employers' organizations. Representatives of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment will also be invited.

Initial comments will be strictly limited to three minutes, and any follow-up comment to one minute.

Leading questions

The transformative, universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development confirmed that the Beijing Platform for Action laid a solid foundation for sustainable development. Member States agree that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that will leave no one behind and that will achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work requires action by Governments and many other stakeholders to translate recent and longstanding commitments into measurable progress. Collaboration, partnerships, alliances among, and mobilization of a broad range of stakeholders are critical to create opportunities, and overcome barriers and challenges.

National gender equality mechanisms are the principal governmental bodies charged with policy coordination for gender equality and women's empowerment and their human rights. They also collaborate with civil society organizations, especially women's organizations, towards common goals. In regards to women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, other ministries and labour-related mechanisms and institutions, employers' and workers' organizations, the private sector, and women's and civil society organizations are also key actors in developing and implementing effective legal, regulatory and policy frameworks, and for ensuring monitoring and compliance.

The following questions should be addressed in the dialogue:

- How can gender equality mechanisms collaborate effectively across Government and with other stakeholders for women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work?
- What are some of the key trends in the changing world of work that are impacting on women's equal opportunities and full participation? What actions are stakeholders taking to ensure that women benefit from these trends and can take full advantage of new opportunities?
- What are examples of good practice of cooperation among governmental authorities, the private sector, workers' organizations and women's civil society organizations to ensure women's right to work and rights at work, and to eliminate persistent gender inequalities and overcome barriers?

Summary

The dialogue will be reflected in a Chair's summary which will highlight the role of the Commission in galvanizing implementation.