

Multi-Stakeholder Forum on “Women’s empowerment in the Changing World of Work”

Opening Remarks

His Excellency Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota
Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women
30 January 2017

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to participate in today’s Multi-Stakeholder Forum in my capacity as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, and I express my appreciation to UN-Women for organizing this event.

As you all know, the sixty-first session of the Commission will take place from 13 to 24 March 2017 and will consider the priority theme of “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”.

In December last year, I briefed Member States on the preparations for the upcoming session, including the Bureau’s proposal for the Commission to specifically devote a number of meetings to the priority theme during the first week of the session in March. These are:

- **Four ministerial roundtables** that will be held in two parallel meetings and focusing on different topics as outlined in the Discussion guide that is available on the CSW61 website;
- An **interactive dialogue among ministers** on “Building alliances to promote women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work” with the participation of civil society and employers’ and workers’ organizations; and
- An **interactive expert panel** on “The global care economy in the context of the changing world of work”.

It is therefore fitting that dialogue in preparation for the priority theme starts well in advance, so that we can reflect on the issues more deeply and build alliances that are critical for a positive outcome.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The 20-year review of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action concluded that no country has fully achieved gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment. Subsequently, the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development confirmed the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls to sustainable development and poverty eradication, and for progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our leaders envisaged a world in which every country enjoys sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all. Women's economic empowerment is a prerequisite to realize this vision.

At its first session after the adoption of the SDGs in March last year, the Commission adopted a comprehensive set of recommendations that set out how Governments and other stakeholders should proceed to reach the goal of gender equality by 2030, and with significant and measurable progress already by 2020. This roadmap clearly sets out what needs to be done in order to ensure that no one – no woman and no girl – is left behind.

The Commission will have an opportunity at its forthcoming sixty-first session to provide normative guidance on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, a theme that is of critical importance everywhere, and essential for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. This will be one way of moving us closer to realizing the promise of leaving no one behind. We should spare no effort to realize this vision in our lifetime.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As we prepare for the sixty-first session, I encourage strong participation from ministers and other high-level government representatives, as well as civil society. I also encourage Member States to include strong gender equality advocates from diverse civil society groups such as women's rights groups, youth and civil society organizations, indigenous, disability and other social justice groups in their delegations.

I count on your leadership and support to ensure a successful outcome of the sixty-first session of the Commission that will be instrumental in the accelerated implementation of the SDGs, and have a direct impact on the lives of women and girls.

Thank you for your attention and I wish you all fruitful discussions that will contribute to what I hope will be another successful CSW session in March.