

CSW63 Multi-Stakeholder Forum  
Closing session (5:30 – 6:00 p.m.)  
1 February 2019, Conference Room 1

Closing remarks by  
Ms. Åsa Regnér, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been briefed by my team of the intense, engaging and interesting dialogue and exchange of good practices and commitments in the areas of social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment and the realization of the rights of women and girls across the life course.

In preparation for the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, we have heard today very knowledgeable voices of governments, civil society, the UN system and academia.

Many good examples and practices have been brought to the table today, all of them stressing that social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure are critical for the acceleration of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda.

In particular, I am very pleased that in so many instances you have talked about the **synergies among these three issues and, consequently, the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to policy-making so that action can reinforce each other for greater impact.**

As we all know and has been repeatedly said here today, **investments in gender-responsive social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure are critical to free up women's time, support their mobility, enhance their access to economic and other opportunities and to strengthen their resilience to any type of shocks, whether economic crisis, natural disasters or others.**

Speakers today have stressed that **closing gender gaps in social protection must be a priority on the path towards universal social protection systems that protect women's income security across the life course.**

**Other speakers have argued the central role that gender-responsive public services play in reducing poverty and inequality and in advancing the rights of women and girls.** To do so, barriers that constrain access for women and girls must be identified and removed. And **greater efforts are required in order to mainstream gender perspectives into sustainable infrastructure and to plan, for example, urban space and transport systems with women’s safety and mobility in mind.**

A very important point raised today is that there is no one model that fits all contexts. **Women and girls experience and live in many varied circumstances and those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are particularly affected by exclusion and marginalization.** We need to ensure that no one is left behind.

And finally, but not least, **there has been a general recognition and call for the need to increase resources.** In virtually all countries, there is scope for increasing investments to expand social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure on which women and girls rely and to avoid cut-backs in the context of austerity measures; either through tax policies, international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and tax evasion, decisions on deficit spending and the management of debt, trade, monetary policy and financial regulation, and gender-responsive budgeting. **We know what works in these three areas in order to achieve gender equality and for the empowerment of women and girls, and we know and must find the why to fund it.**

**From UN Women’s side, we are extremely grateful for the many commitments for action, support and collaboration that we have heard throughout the day today. We are certain they will enable very fruitful discussions and deliberations during the session, as well as a very strong outcome.**

UN Women stands ready to support Member States and the Commission with technical and substantive inputs throughout the session and negotiations.

We very much look forward to the session and to welcoming many delegations from capital as well as a large, and possibly a record number of civil society representatives, UN entities, experts, academia and other stakeholders.

We sincerely thank you for your energy, expertise and commitments today, and we will see each other in March.