



Graduate Women International

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Commission on the Status of Women 61
Preparatory Information for Delegates
Attending UNCSW Meeting
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How to Use this Information

Every year, long before the UN Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) meeting takes place, extensive preparation is undertaken by UN Women usually in the form of discussions that take into account papers, research and reports on the Priority and Review Themes. These discussions provide opportunities for subject matter experts, NGOs and Member State representatives to contribute to the preparations.

This work results in the compilation of Official Documents for the UNCSW meeting. Here I have compiled information from three central documents that will hopefully enhance your experience at the meeting.

I've included summaries and highlights of: The Expert Group Meeting that discusses this year's Priority Theme; UN Secretary – General's report on the Implementation and Achievements of The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that speaks to the Review Theme; a suggested discussion guide for the Ministerial Roundtables and a chronology of CSW work regarding the Empowerment of Indigenous Women which is this year's emerging theme.

There are four ways in which you can use this background information. You can use it to:

- 1) Generally, enhance your understanding of the changing world of work and the global status of women in this world
- 2) Better understand UNCSW meeting discussions so that you can write/blog and speak about meeting content
- 3) Review how your country government has implemented the MDGs and is transitioning to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Understand the gaps in implementation and their implications
- 4) Identify your personal and /or organizational advocacy priorities and advocate more effectively based on a multi-sectoral approach to women's empowerment in the changing world of work

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Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 61

The Priority Theme for CSW 61 is “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”. The context for the session is shaped by the twentieth anniversary and global review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Review theme is the “Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls”.

The Emerging theme is “Empowerment of Indigenous Women

The principal output of the Commission on the Status of Women is the Agreed Conclusions which contain an analysis of the priority theme and a set of concrete recommendations for governments, intergovernmental bodies and other institutions, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders, to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local level.

In addition to the agreed conclusions, the Commission also adopts a number of resolutions on a range of issues.

GWI's Written Statement to CSW61 2017

We, the undersigned international and national non-governmental organisations in consultative status with ECOSOC present for the information and consideration by the participants of the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women the following statement on the theme:

Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work

The world of work is dynamic, influencing and being influenced in turn by changing social and economic norms. To respond to these changes, enabling women's economic empowerment is a moral imperative for States' commitment to international human rights. It is also good business sense for inclusive growth and development. The modern and changing world of employment is characterised by increasingly fluid populations. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 65.3 million people were forcibly displaced in 2015, women and girls accounting for roughly 50% of them. Women's economic opportunities may change dramatically through destabilisation and displacement - they may be enabled or compelled to enter labour markets, though restrictive laws and rules can limit opportunities. Many are forced to take up informal jobs as a result. The challenges of conflict and violence are not confined to the countries in which they manifest but many of the difficulties that women face generally such as discrimination, violence and exploitation are faced to a higher degree in employment following migration. GWI is highly concerned at the persisting economic barriers faced by refugee girls and women.

As demographic composition varies, so does the availability and demand for work. The global workforce deficit for 2030 is predicted to have severe shortages due to aging populations and reducing fertility rates. For example, China faces a shortage of up to 24.5 million people by 2030; Brazil 40.9 million people, and Germany 10 million. Growth in certain sectors, such as the science and technology sector, will face a critical workforce shortfall in the future if the skills demand is not met. The arrival of refugee populations with the right facilitation and investments can supply

workforce needs as well as being an empowering economic, cultural and learning opportunity for both immigrant and host populations.

GWI strongly believes that the provision of relevant, quality education and skills training for refugee women is critical to break the cycle of poverty that many endure and to involve them in a greater decision-making role in any reconciliation and peacebuilding process. Gender equality and fair representation of the population to promote innovation and diversity requires the equal participation of all women including refugee, indigenous and disabled women. Investment in building human capital of refugee women and youth enables them to make the best use of their skills and capacities, and better able to contribute to their own and their communities' well-being.

GWI is encouraged to see international standards and declarations recognise the need for equality of access to education and training for the self-reliance and economic empowerment of all refugees, particularly women and girls. These standards must be implemented and enforced to have any measurable effect. The Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 commits to 'Leave no-one behind' including those in conflict-affected and volatile settings. International standards for employment—as laid out in the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions and recommendations, apply to all women and girls. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Reduced Inequalities Goal 10 target 10.7, which facilitates safe, responsible migration, is of particular relevance to reduce the multiple vulnerabilities of women migrants and those working in the informal economy, as does SDG Goal 8 Decent Work target 8.8.

GWI emphasises timing is critical to take action on empowering refugee populations, and this is recognised at the highest levels. At the United Nations General Assembly Summit on 19 September 2016 refugees were the focus; countries committed to "Ensure that all refugee and migrant children are receiving education within a few months of arrival; and strengthen the positive contributions made by migrants to economic and social development in their host countries". This commitment was upheld in the New York Declaration September 2016 Comprehensive Refugee Framework, 13.(b) Take measures to foster self-reliance by pledging to expand opportunities for refugees to access, as appropriate, education, health care and services, livelihood opportunities and labour markets, without discriminating among refugees and in a manner which also supports host

communities. As the European Commission affirmed in its Action Plan on the integration of third country nationals, Brussels 7 April 2016 – ‘National economic and social policies will need to cater for the recent inflow of third-country migrants and refugees, in particular to provide for their immediate needs and their integration into the labour market and society’.

Recommendations

Taking into account the need for gender equality in the changing world of work and States’ legislative commitment to integrate and empower women refugees, GWI makes the following recommendations:

Labour rights for refugee women

- Implement and monitor new and existing legislation addressing challenges for migrant women, protection of labour rights and their economic empowerment by States, institutions and civil society.
- Introduce qualification transfer systems and accelerated certification programmes to recognise foreign qualifications, for example the right of teachers to teach in their country of settlement.
- Take steps in identification and matching of refugee expertise and transferable skills with international institutions to help utilise global training and talent and encourage self-reliance are an essential step towards long-term economic empowerment.

Education skills and language training for the country of settlement

- Develop and introduce tailored, accessible life-long education and training for marginalised women including refugee, disabled and indigenous women.
- Put in place language and training courses, job counselling, and skills training tailored to meet labour needs of the host country in specific settlement areas.
- Identify applied learning strategies that combine vocational and non-vocational skill-building, such as literacy training with mobile phones as a learning tool.
- Support women in advocacy, dialogue and agenda-setting skills so they can participate effectively in sensitising local and national authorities to their most urgent needs.

- Provide training and mentoring in financial support including the use of banking systems to facilitate women entrepreneurs.
- Improve market skills, specialised knowledge and professional networks for women to help them access and navigate markets more effectively.

Gender disaggregation of data

Put in place measures to collect and analyse data disaggregation by sex, age and migratory status in order to systematically monitor progress of vulnerable groups—including migrant women and girls—to protect their human rights and guarantee access to health, education, and employment for all.

Cultural integration programmes

- Provide refugees with information on the country of resettlement, helping them building realistic expectations about their new life, making them aware of their rights and their duties, and equipping them with language and other skills that can help them succeed in their new environment are key elements to facilitate their integration.
- Foster co-operative relationships, by initiating skills and cultural exchange programmes that encourage mutual understanding of the migrant and host population such as Finland’s national ‘Let’s Read Together’ programme.

Protection against gender-based violence in the workplace, trafficking and exploitation

- Promote safe and secure working environments for all women migrant workers and take protective measures for migrant women to mitigate the risk of exploitation.
- Ensure reporting channels and legal recourse to justice for abuse, assault or exploitation of migrant women.

Financing

GWl calls for international implementation of the migration-related provisions of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. Both the 2030 Agenda and Financing for Development outcomes have prioritised gender equality and women’s empowerment as a key objective, enabler and beneficiary of sustainable development and financing for development efforts.

Economic empowerment of women is essential to enhance gender equality and secure women's equal status and participation in modern economies and every professional, social and political field.

Co-sponsoring organisations:

Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO)

International Alliance for Women (IAW)

International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW)

Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF)

Soroptomist International (SI)

GWJ's Oral Statement to CSW61

Women and girls comprise the majority of people living in poverty and experience multidimensional inequalities, thus limiting their earning potential. Women's economic empowerment in the world of work is essential to the achievement of gender equality, human rights and sustainable development.

Countries need to enact their commitments to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that include: Resources for gender equality as part of Sustainable Development Goal 5; Formal and informal education; Legislation to allow flexible working hours, Elimination of sexual harassment and violence across all workplaces and educational systems; Opportunities for marginalized groups; Maternity and paternity leave; Shifting value to work sectors dominated by women

Legislative reform should ensure women's rights to: Land and inheritance, Equal pay; Inclusive working environments; Freedom to travel in their own right

Employers must take specific actions to increase gender diversity across all sectors and numbers of women in leadership positions.

Sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators should be collected nationally, regionally and globally in order to measure gender gaps and rectify work-related gender empowerment inequalities.

When governments, businesses and communities invest in empowering women in any workplace and in eliminating inequalities, countries, communities and families see improvement in health, education and reduction in poverty.

Priority Theme: Background Discussion

The Economic Empowerment of Women in the Changing World of Work

In preparation for the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, UN Women convened an Expert Group Meeting on the priority theme: “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work.” The Expert Group Meeting was held with the technical contribution and support of the International Labor Organization (ILO) at ILO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, from 26 to 28 September 2016.

Expert Group Meeting Report (Summary)

Women’s economic empowerment is directly tied to the terms and conditions of their paid work and to the opportunities that exist in labor markets.

Over the past several decades, indicators of women’s employment and their labor conditions in the changing world of work remain stubbornly negative.

- Unemployment and underemployment are rising in many parts of the world, social protections and labor rights are being eroded
- Technological change is accentuating employment inequalities, accelerating job growth in some industries and job losses in others.
- Jobs in the global south increasingly depend on consumer markets in the global north and are subject to the vagaries of demand swings and recessions.
- Many global supply chains generate profits by “informalizing” their labor forces, instituting excessive working hours and paying for piece rates
- Nearly one fourth of women globally receive no direct pay for their work.

Women in the Global Economy

- More than 40 percent of all agricultural workers are women.
- Agricultural work is low-paying and seasonal and one of the three most hazardous sectors for workers
- Women are paid up to 40 percent less than their male coworkers for doing the same job.

- Informal employment arrangements or agreements with labor brokers, violence and harassment on the job, and the unpredictability of labor demand make this work precarious.
- Within all sectors – agriculture, manufacturing, services –women typically occupy the lowest occupational categories within each sector, earning less and having fewer entitlements to social security and pensions.
- Globally, women and girls do significantly more unpaid work than men, especially caring for work for family and communities. Unpaid work inhibits women’s physical and economic mobility, forecloses opportunities to learn and earn, reduces women’s formal labor market participation, and reflects a deeply entrenched structural advantage enjoyed by men that transcends cultures.
- Austerity, financial crisis and the roll-back of social protection, aging and demographic shifts that contribute to rising dependency ratios, and the adverse impacts of climate change increase women’s unpaid labor.
- Tens of millions of women migrate yearly in search of work or in response to crisis and conflict.
- Most migrant women are channeled into domestic work and sweatshops in low-end manufacturing supply chains without labor regulations and protections
- Annually, increasing numbers of young women are coerced, deceived, trafficked across borders, exploited and brutally abused
- Gender-based discrimination is compounded by discrimination based on multiple and intersecting identities and characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, caste, class, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, migrant status, age and religion.

Rather than being empowered in this changing world of work, women continue to subsidize the market economy through their unpaid care work and through their undervalued, precarious and insecure paid work.

Solutions toward Women’s Economic Empowerment

Achieving women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work will require no less than a profound paradigm shift to address the issues at the very core of alterations in the world of work. The new paradigm calls for:

- Reconceptualization and redesign of the goals and policies of the global economy
- Complete integration of women in decision-making in economic, social and political spheres.
- Macroeconomic policies that value unpaid care work, understand the levels of unpaid work, its distribution across society and acknowledge that it subsidizes the market economy
- Systems, laws and policies that: a) regulate the workplace in favor of women's labor rights and gender equality, b) ensure work-life balance, c) guarantee collective bargaining and freedom of association, d) extend social protections to all workers in the formal and informal economies, e) provide income support to low - income workers and the unemployed, f) establish and implement living minimum wages, g) invest in social services and infrastructure.
- Policies and regulations that support Women's Entrepreneurship Development which can lead to improved income and employment opportunities and contribute to poverty reduction at the household and community levels.
- Governments should support the organizations – including trade unions- that represent the interests of workers.
- Natural resources, like care work, are public goods and must be fully integrated into the macro-economic analysis and policy design. Expenditures for public goods should be seen as investments and should be supported by tax policy, monetary policy, expenditure policy, intergovernmental transfers and public debt management
- The conventional approach to macro-economics is incapable of ensuring full employment and inclusive growth, precisely because the care economy and environment are excluded *and growth is achieved in part through the discrimination and exploitation of women and by drawing down and degrading environmental resources.*

Women's Economic Empowerment and Substantive Gender Equality

Women's Economic Empowerment is a function of substantive gender equality and the unfettered realization of human and labor rights. A commitment to substantive equality would guide policymakers to do the following:

- Develop inclusive policies and programs capable of supporting alternative visions of empowerment and progress. *For example*, governments could place greater weight on indigenous women’s collective land rights over policies that further the extractive rights of private entities to mine natural resources.
- Commit to key human rights principles (universality of labor and human rights, their progressive realization and the non-retrogression of previously agreed mandates and commitments to uphold these rights) that can transform the world of work for women
- Commit to the protection of human rights defenders, indigenous rights defenders, trade unions, and other labor rights activists and civil society, solidarity economies, cooperatives and social enterprises that uphold the rights of indigenous peoples and fight to advance working women’s power and the terms and conditions of women’s employment.
- Look to the examples of good governance that protect and extend women’s rights and uphold their meaningful participation in decision-making. These examples include the ILO, the Human Rights Council, and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Global Good Practice and Examples of Alternative Economic, Social and Political Systems:

Powerful examples of gender equality expanding and deepening labor market institutions and regulations, are:

Latin America

- Higher minimum wages, collective bargaining, public transfers, social protection, investment in social care infrastructure. These investments stimulate tax revenue generation and increase fiscal space.

Ecuador and Bolivia

- Care as a fundamental pillar of social protection systems. Investment in public provision of care

South Korea, Uruguay, Colombia and Mexico City

- Women’s skills recognition, upgrading, and professionalization

Brazil, Kenya, South Africa, Indonesia and Lebanon

- Domestic workers and migrant workers are organizing supported by broad alliances of unions and civil society.

These examples demonstrate how organizing, investments in care infrastructure, strengthened labor market policies and political will can promote change and counter the erosion of rights and social protections for women in a changing world of work. *Collectivizing and mobilizing the power of women is critical to counteracting the powerful economic and political forces of globalization and to building new systems based on equality and inclusion.*

Recommendations

Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) is essential for the collective economic wellbeing and for the future of our integrated and global economy. Governments regional associations and multilateral institutions should design macroeconomic policy including:

- Economic policies that integrate and are accountable to human rights standards.
- A perspective of a total economy that includes care work and the environment
- Fiscal expenditures to invest in social care infrastructure, education, health care and support for the productive capacity of informal economy workers.
- Recognition that building human capital is an investment of equal importance to building physical and financial capital.
- Gender responsive budgeting techniques that make commitments visible.
- Policies that support the equal distribution in the household of the provision of care.
- Monetary and fiscal policies that promote and support decent work and full employment for women and men.
- ILO Recommendation that creates universal social protection floors to ensure access to basic social protections for all workers

- Ratification and implementation of CEDAW with specific attention to articles 4, 11, 13 and 15.
- Labor market access and support for young women as first-time entrants to the labor market
- Policies that regulate labor markets to ensure equal pay for equal work, access to maternity and paternity leave, and regulate hours and ensure work-life balance.
- Access to care services as an essential component of the social protection floor
- Portability of social protection, social security and labor rights, across sectors and national borders.
- A living-wage floor for all workers, in both the formal and informal sector.
- Tripartite engagement between policy makers, employers and women workers and their allies to redress the particular systemic discrimination of women
- Robust and gender-inclusive labor rights inspection, monitoring and adjudication system capable of remediating gendered labor rights violations
- Concerted and immediate efforts to eliminate gender-based violence (GBV) in the world of work. ILO to provide an international standard to address GBV
- Enabling the environment for women's enterprise development
- City planning everywhere and in developing countries specifically, that provides space with supporting facilities for the economic activities of informal economy workers
- Defining informality and counting who is informal in what sector and occupation, by age, sex, ethnicity and national origin.
- Sex-disaggregate data and collection of time use data to inform and monitor the impact of policies and programs within and beyond national boundaries.
- Ensuring that all the SDG goals, targets and indicators are sex disaggregated
- Protection of women's civil and political rights to freedom of association, assembly, speech and collective bargaining

- Legal recognition to informal workers' organization such as unions
- Protection of labor activists and other human rights defenders from retaliation
- Policies that support women's enterprise development in the context of decent work which will include banking the unbanked, financial inclusion of women, training, positive government procurement commitments and sectoral policies that unlock credit and access to markets for women's enterprises.
- Gender balance in decision-making at all levels, especially pertaining to economic policy, programs and services including corporate boards, central banks, international financial institutions and governance mechanisms pertaining to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and development banks, and the World Trade Organization.
- ***Research into the gendered impacts of macroeconomic policies, and specific trade and investment agreements and holding governments and corporations accountable.***
- Undoing mechanisms that allow corporations and private sector interests to : States for upholding their citizens' and residents' rights.
- Regulation of business activities to respect women's rights
- Work-related policies that are embedded in institutional frameworks that are transparent, free from corruption and democratic.
- Ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not undermined by trade policies.
- Commitments to the SDGs including goals 5, 8, 1.3, 1.4, and 10
- Linking accountability for the SDG commitments to the human rights frameworks and in particular for Goal 5, to CEDAW and ILO Conventions 100 and 111.
- Movement with choice for women and men of different skills groups and recognition that skills required to care across the gamut of caring work from domestic workers, nurses, and medical technicians to educators.
- Regulation of the role of private intermediaries and labor brokers in migration.

- Support of migrant workers organizing in home and host countries to demand their full labor rights.
- Laws against trafficking, including through asset forfeiture.
- Increase in the number of member states signatories to ILO Convention 189 and adhering to applying ILO Recommendation 204.
- Recognition of the transnational nature of social protection systems
- Recognition that remittances create fiscal space for home governments and link this fiscal space to state obligations to invest in care and resolve care deficits exacerbated by migration.
- Respect for indigenous peoples' knowledge, cultures, traditional practices and contributions to the sustainable and equitable environmental development
- Women's right to own and use land and recognition of rural women's knowledge of land and environment
- Engagement of rural, indigenous and tribal peoples and women's organizations in national and global policymaking,
- Recognition of sex work as work and protection of the terms and conditions of those who may freely choose to engage in the exchange of sex.
- Ensuring that sex workers have access to health care and social protection
- Recognition of sex workers' organizations as legitimate unions and associations
- Decriminalization of sex work but holding exploiters to account
- Recognition of challenges faced by transgendered workers in obtaining identity documents, social protection Eradication of violence against transgendered workers
- Ratification and implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including provisions of its Article 6 "Women with disabilities".
- Enactment of legislation on non-discrimination in the workplace
- Disaggregation of labor market statistics by sex and disability status.



- Recognition of refugee women’s right to decent work and facilitation of their access to work.
- Ensuring women’s safety to and from work
- Ensuring government commitments through human rights
- Ensuring that accountability to implement SDGs is integrated into human rights treaty body system and the Universal Periodic Review Process.

CSW should consider the issue of empowerment of indigenous women as a priority theme at a future session.

Review Theme: Background Discussion

Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls.

The review theme of the Commission on the Status of Women 61 is “Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls”. The Commission had adopted Agreed Conclusions on this theme at its fifty-eighth session, in 2014. There has also been a review of the Beijing +20 Report since CSW 54 confirmed that the Platform for Action provides comprehensive guidance for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in a gender-responsive manner.

In addition to assessing the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the focus of the review is on actions taken by Member States to transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals.

This report summarizes the progress, gaps and challenges relating to the implementation of the Agreed Conclusions at the national level. It also identifies ways to support and achieve their accelerated implementation.

Report of the UN Secretary General (Summary)

The Agreed Conclusions of CSW 58, reinforced the important linkages between:

- Millennium Development Goals
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Development and the human rights of women and girls.

These Agreed Conclusions also called for:

- A stand-alone goal on gender equality, women’s empowerment and the human rights of women and girls (Goal 5) accompanied by gender-specific targets and indicators across other goals
- Gender equality to be mainstreamed throughout all other goals. In the 2030 Agenda,
- Gender equality and women’s empowerment to be recognized as “a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets
- Identifying critical gender equality issues that were insufficiently addressed in the Millennium Development Goals
- Standards and methodologies in several areas, including data on women’s poverty, income distribution within households, unpaid care work, women’s access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, and women’s participation at all levels of decision-making. These areas are now visible priorities in monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Differences between Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- SDGs reflect a far more comprehensive set of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- Goal 5 has nine targets including: Discrimination, Violence, Harmful practices, Unpaid care and domestic work, Participation in decision-making, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights, Rights to economic resources.
- SDGs prioritize gender across other goals including: access to social protection (Goal 1), addressing the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women (Goal 2), universal health coverage (Goal 3), access to quality education (Goal 4), access to water and sanitation (Goal 6), access to decent work and addressing the gender pay gap (Goal 8),

reducing inequalities of outcome (Goal 10), safe public spaces (Goal 11) and inclusive decision-making at all levels (Goal 16).

- *MDGs, were an agenda for developing countries, the 2030 Agenda recognizes the global and interconnected nature of challenges to sustainable development, including gender inequality.*
- MDGs focused on national averages, which often hid inequalities, the 2030 Agenda commits to “leave no one behind”, requiring a much deeper analysis of the multiple drivers of inequalities.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation

- Overall progress towards gender equality has been unacceptably slow, with stagnation and even regression in some areas.
- Women are still more likely than men to live in poverty.
- Women are less likely than men to have access to decent work, assets and formal credit.
- There remain significant regional variations in women’s labor force participation.
- There is pervasive occupational segregation
- Accelerating progress will require addressing the low quality of work available to women by strengthening measures to guarantee women’s rights at work; shifting macroeconomic policies to enable the creation of decent work and redistributing and reducing women’s unpaid care work through social protection measures, accessible and quality care services and improved infrastructure.
- Lack of data on women’s poverty continues to be a major challenge.
- Women’s increasing educational attainment and rising participation in the labor market have not been matched with better conditions of work, prospects for advancement and equal pay
- It is also essential to address the barriers to girls’ education
- In 2013, there were still 757 million adults (aged 15 and over) unable to read and write, of whom two thirds were women.

- Globally, women are paid 24 per cent less than men and women do nearly two and half times more unpaid care and domestic work as men.
- The number of women living with HIV has been increasing globally since 2001. Continued efforts to enhance the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality health and reproductive services are central to achieving progress.
- Between 1990 and 2015, the global maternal mortality ratio declined by 44 per cent but fell short of Millennium Development Goal target
- Rates of child marriage have declined overall but remain at unacceptable levels, especially in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Violence against women persists at alarmingly high levels across the world
- A major obstacle for ending violence against women is the persistence of discriminatory attitudes and social norms that normalize and permit violence.
- Despite advances in implementing the global women, peace and security agenda, the broader context of insecurity, protracted crises, poverty and growing inequalities, as well as emerging threats such as the rise of violent extremism, has served to limit and even derail progress.
- Women's full and equal participation in all matters related to peace and security is vital to achieving and sustaining peace, however women remain under-represented in decision-making and leadership positions.
- Accelerating progress requires ensuring the accelerated implementation of the global women, peace and security agenda through gender-responsive policies
- Women's participation in decision-making is increasing, albeit at a glacial pace.
- Women's unequal access to land, water and other resources and productive assets, compounded by limited mobility and decision-making power mean that they are disproportionately affected by climate change.
- Accelerating progress will require greater efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change, natural disasters, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss on women and their families
- Study of the Implementation and Achievements of the MDGS with reference to the Beijing + 20 Report is important to the implementation of

SDGs because of: Marked by increased conflict, Mass displacement of populations and related humanitarian catastrophes and Increasing global military expenditure which affects the resources available for sustainable development.

National MDG implementation efforts and Transitioning to SDGs

Overall, the responses from Member States indicate a varied approach to the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goal. *Adopting a comprehensive approach to gender equality, grounded in international norms and standards, is particularly important for the wide-ranging 2030 Agenda to maximize the synergies between gender equality and women's empowerment and all the goals.* Following are goal areas and Member States' approaches to these areas:

A. Realizing women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights

- Emphasizing the Sustainable Development Goals as a priority at the national level (Argentina, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkmenistan) and outlining initial approaches for adapting their national policies and frameworks to the 2030 Agenda.
- Reaffirming the importance of integrating gender equality across the three dimensions of sustainable development.
- Placing an emphasis on the gender equality commitments in the Sustainable Development Goals in their development cooperation efforts. (Australia, Austria, Finland, Japan, Norway, Sweden)
- Developed and developing countries have provided good practice examples of policy implementation to realize women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights, strengthen the enabling environment, maximize investments in gender equality, strengthen the evidence base and ensure women's participation.
- Aligning their national gender equality policy frameworks based on the Beijing Platform for Action with the Sustainable Development Goals (Colombia, Cuba, Greece, the Russian Federation and Sri Lanka)

- While Goal 5 has been specifically referred to by Member States in the alignment of their national gender equality frameworks, other Sustainable Development Goals have received limited attention.
- Noting the importance of CEDAW (Argentina, Colombia, Cuba and Turkmenistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina). Citing its efforts to implement regional instruments, such as the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. (Italy)
- Recognizing the centrality of peace to sustainable development and developing new approaches to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (Georgia, Italy, Japan and Sweden).
- Implementing action plans on resolution 1325 (2000) at the local and provincial levels with a focus on human security, rather than the more militarized concept of national security (Bosnia and Herzegovina).
- Promote gender equality and removing discrimination (Djibouti, the Philippines, Qatar and Togo)
- Areas of reform include laws around marriage, divorce, guardianship, citizenship, inheritance and driving. (Albania, Argentina, Azerbaijan, China, Djibouti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Nepal, Paraguay, Peru and Spain).
- Introducing reforms or considering reforms to improve women's economic rights by improving general labor rights and conditions (Argentina and Colombia),
- Outlawing discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sex, pregnancy and marital status (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cuba and Djibouti)
- Enshrining equal pay in law (Colombia and Lithuania)
- Enhancing maternity leave provisions (Peru and the Philippines)
- introducing positive duties or obligations in law which create an obligation for governments to take proactive measures to achieve gender equality (Finland, Lithuania and Norway)
- Expanding the definition of discrimination and equality to reflect the concept of substantive equality, or equality of outcomes (Turkmenistan).
- Focusing on legal and policy measures to address multiple forms of discrimination experienced by specific groups of women, including women

with disabilities (Jamaica), indigenous women (Australia and Paraguay), migrant and displaced women (Georgia and Lithuania), Roma women (Albania and Italy), Dalit women (Nepal), widows (Kenya), and women who experience discrimination owing to their sexual orientation and gender identity (Albania, Argentina, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Georgia, Peru and the Philippines).

- Developing new national action plans on gender equality (Burkina Faso, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, Poland, the Russian Federation and Switzerland).
- Addressing issues including gender and health through policies (Kenya), violence against women (Austria, Burkina Faso, Djibouti and Lithuania)
- Economic empowerment (China and Poland)
- Trafficking (Spain)
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights (Finland and Switzerland)
- Recognizing unpaid care work (Finland, Sweden and Switzerland)
- Supporting women's access to social protection (Nepal and Senegal).

B. Strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women

Gender mainstreaming emerges as a key priority for ensuring that gender equality is addressed across a broad range of policy areas. Many national gender equality machineries do not have the authority, the position within the administration or adequate levels of resources to be able to fulfil their essential functions. However, some countries (Australia and the Philippines) have strengthened the mandate of their national gender equality machineries in the light of the Sustainable Development Goals. Here are some national actions:

- Embedding gender equality as a cross-cutting priority in national sustainable development plans (Mexico, Paraguay and Qatar)
- Making gender mainstreaming a central strategy of gender and development policy (Kenya).
- Requiring government departments to assess the impacts of their policies and programs on gender equality (Finland and Sweden)
- Appointing gender focal points across government agencies (Jamaica and Paraguay) and set up inter-agency task forces on gender equality issues (Georgia).

- Creating gender equality mechanisms at the local level (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Nepal).
- Strengthening gender mainstreaming at the local level include localized gender equality action plans (Georgia) and provincial gender equality assessments (China).
- Addressing gender equality in its trade policy. (Jamaica)
- Focusing on measures to increase women's participation in entrepreneurship (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and (Italy) as a strategy to strengthen the enabling environment for gender equality.
- Increasing women's access to technology (China)
- Providing microfinance (Mexico)
- Focusing on key sectors such as agriculture (Togo)
- Prioritizing spending on social policies. Senegal's economic policy has an explicit focus on reducing social inequality, including gender inequality.
- Increasing investments in social protection (Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Jamaica), universal pensions (Argentina) and universal health care and universal education (Cuba).

C. Maximizing investments in gender equality and the empowerment of women

The Agreed Conclusions of CSW 58 call for increased investments, including action to increase resources for gender equality through both domestic resource mobilization and official development assistance (ODA), to fulfil ODA commitments, to institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting, to cost out national action plans on gender equality so as to ensure their implementation and to increase funding for women's organizations.

- In some countries (Albania and Austria), the commitment to gender-responsive budgeting is inscribed in law.
- Countries have institutionalized gender-responsive budgeting using multiple approaches, including training (Colombia), inter-agency structures (Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Nepal and Togo) and participatory processes (Senegal).

- Limited information was provided on the extent to which gender-responsive budgeting processes resulted in increased or reprioritized resources for gender equality.
- Australia, Finland, Norway and Spain require a regular gender analysis of budgets.
- The Philippines has a requirement of 5 per cent of government expenditure being allocated towards gender and development,
- Djibouti has a specific budget for gender equality across several ministries.
- Some countries report increasing resources for gender equality (Argentina and Mexico) while others recognize the need to do so but are limited in their capacity to undertake it (Jamaica).
- In an effort to designate resources, countries have set up specific funds for gender equality (Peru) or allocated funds to particular issues, for example women, peace and security (Austria), funds for women's civil society organizations (Bosnia and Herzegovina), violence against women (Georgia) and women's economic empowerment (Sri Lanka).
- Kenya has a requirement that 30 per cent of public procurement be from businesses owned by women, youth and people with disabilities.
- Islamic Republic of Iran is pursuing partnerships with the private sector to increase resources for gender equality.
- Australia, Austria, Japan, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland report increased tracking of ODA for gender equality

D. Strengthening the evidence-base for gender equality and the empowerment of women

Data and statistics are indispensable tools for informing policies, assessing their impact and ensuring accountability. Given the monitoring requirements of the 2030 Agenda, the need to produce relevant and quality gender-sensitive indicators to monitor progress is now an urgent priority. Significant gaps remain in many areas of gender statistics.

- Member States are making efforts to improve disaggregated data collection methods to better identify and address multiple forms of discrimination
- Albania's focus is on Roma and other ethnic minorities, women with disabilities and lesbian, bisexual and trans women

- Australia's focus is on people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and women with disabilities
- Finland's focus is on migrants and refugees;
- Jamaica's focus is on older women, women with disabilities and women living with HIV and AIDS;
- Norway's focus is on the development of indicators for all grounds of discrimination.
- Some governments are providing technical and financial capacity-building to their statistical systems by appointing new gender focal points and gender statistics coordinators in their national statistical offices (Jamaica and Norway), through newly established inter-agency committees on gender statistics (the Philippines) and internal working groups (Colombia and Cuba), fostering collaborations between the national statistical office and gender equality institute (Spain).
- Albania, Italy, Mexico, the Philippines, Paraguay, Peru, Spain and Sri Lanka are all prioritizing surveys on violence against women and Argentina piloted a survey on the incidence of different types of violence against women in intimate relationships.
- Increased international recognition of the disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women and girls, Kenya, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and the Philippines have improved time use data collection
- Georgi, Argentina, Islamic Republic of Iran are enhancing data collection capacities regarding women's assets, femicide and entrepreneurship
- Only Paraguay has highlighted data collection on women's participation at all levels of decision-making
- Many have demonstrated how their data work is aligned with global frameworks including the CEDAW (Australia), through online portals and surveys that measure progress against the Beijing Platform for Action (Greece and Jamaica), Sustainable Development Goals (Kenya, the Philippines and Switzerland).
- A few governments acknowledge challenges in capacities to enhance standards and methodologies and the need to invest more attention (Burkina Faso)

- Many Member States produce regular reports and gender equality indexes (Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Finland, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Lithuania, Spain and Sweden), on a number of key areas, including families, childcare, violence against women, employment and politics (Djibouti and Switzerland), and specific areas, like Australia's new profile of women business operators.
- Electronic database systems, portals and software tools are being established across countries to evaluate efforts to advance gender equality, including some on such specific areas as violence against women

E. Ensuring women's participation and leadership at all levels and strengthening accountability

The Agreed Conclusions of CSW 58 emphasize the importance of women's participation and leadership at all levels and strengthening accountability for effective implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, which remains equally pertinent for the period of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Governments acknowledge such challenges (Burkina Faso), including the persistence of cultural constraints that limit women's access to higher education, property and participation in public decision-making (Togo).
- Despite these longstanding concerns, Member States recognize the potential for closing such gaps as women gain higher education and social norms and practices change (for example, Sri Lanka).
- Member States' actions to ensure women's participation in public and private life has primarily focused on quotas and other affirmative action measures. The vast majority of Member States that provided responses have installed mandatory or voluntary parliamentary and/or local level quotas (Senegal)
- Increasing focus on women's representation at the local level is promising, as it will be a new dimension of women's representation tracked by the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Women are in senior positions in the private sector (Italy and Sweden).

- The introduction of financial incentives for political parties with high percentages of female candidates has had limited success in Georgia, whereas in Mexico, the move from a quota to a legal requirement for political parties to ensure gender parity in nominations at the federal and local levels has helped boost women's political representation.
- Sweden has achieved gender parity in the public sector.
- Kenya has drafted a new bill on affirmative action measures aimed at increasing the representation of women, as well as of youth, people with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups.
- Australia, Paraguay, Peru and Togo are think of or have established a department for addressing the participation of indigenous women, to promote their participation in public policy, and also conducted a nationwide campaign to encourage greater political representation of women in elected positions and municipal elections.
- The establishment of national gender equality councils (Albania, Argentina and Australia) and consultative dialogues with election committees (the Philippines) are proving effective in supporting female candidates.
- Establishment of Islamic councils of cities and villages in the Islamic Republic of Iran is a strategy to increase women's participation at the local level.
- Lithuania has established a network of women politicians and women's organizations in all regions that undertake information campaigns, mainly with a focus on economic decision-making.
- Some countries still report high numbers of cases of political harassment in female candidates' participation in regional and municipal elections (Peru).
- Norway has established a database that identifies qualified women to fill board seats.
- Capacity-building programs are also emerging across regions, including public and private sector leadership, local governance and civil society mobilization training for women (Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nepal, Norway, the Philippines and Spain),
- Support for marginalized women in leadership (Azerbaijan and Nepal).

- Sweden has formed a national expert group on gender equality in academia to address male predominance in this field and has adopted recruitment objectives to be achieved by 2017.
- Ensuring women's involvement in working groups to design national implementation plans, including with civil society organizations (Finland and Jamaica).
- The Philippines conducted a series of participatory workshops to localize the 2030 Agenda, involving women's organizations.
- Cuba has taken a gender mainstreaming approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals by focusing on increasing women's participation and leadership in environmental conservation, risk management and disaster prevention.

Conclusions, Recommendations and Future Priorities

Member States have taken important steps to implement the wide-ranging actions of the Agreed Conclusions of CSW 58. *However, overall implementation of the Agreed Conclusions has been uneven across the recommendations, with limited focus on the effectiveness of actions.* Therefore:

Governments should

- Expand legal reform to implement a full range of measures to achieve substantive equality for women, focusing on outcomes. National implementation should build on the lessons from the implementation of CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action.
- Focus on multiple and intersecting discrimination for ensuring no one is left behind in the implementation of the SDGs.
- Focus on policies that address the structural, power and political dynamics that deepen inequalities.
- Focus on macroeconomic frameworks, trade and investment policies, labor policies, redistributive policies, including universal social protection and services, as well as anti-discrimination legislation.
- Pursue universal and targeted policy measures to work in tandem to ensure access for groups that have been historically excluded while also building universal health or education systems that are collectively financed and used by all social groups.

- In 2014, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimated that developing countries face an annual investment gap of \$2.5 trillion in sectors relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals. Pay greater attention is urgently needed on strategies and measures to mobilize additional resources for gender equality, including through progressive income and wealth taxes and closing tax loopholes. Investments need to be prioritized across all sectors, including social protection, infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, justice, care services and water and sanitation.
- Focus on the importance of gender equality-focused ODA and other global resource mobilization.
- Understand that 2030 Agenda places a strong emphasis on national ownership and, as such, accountability for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals lies primarily at the national level.
- Provide information on accountability mechanisms related to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Provide information on how gender perspectives are integrated into national sustainable development strategies and plans.
- Fund national gender equality mechanisms and national human rights institutions
- Strengthen gender equality mechanisms and make gender equality a priority in setting up institutions. This also includes greater investments in gender statistics to ensure that progress for women and girls can be effectively monitored.
- Support women's organizations in ensuring that global commitments are translated into national priorities. *Comparative research on 70 countries over four decades recognizes the role of autonomous feminist organizations in advancing women's rights as the most critical factor in the implementation of gender equality policies.*
- Enable spaces for the effective participation of women's civil society organizations in all aspects of decision-making related to SDGs
- Accelerate implementation efforts to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda.

Emerging Theme: Chronology of Work

Empowerment of Indigenous Women

CSW 61: The Expert Group meeting in anticipation of CSW61 called for the “Empowerment of Indigenous Women” as a primary theme for a future CSW meeting. During CSW61, Indigenous women around the world will be participating in a side event panel discussion entitled “Empowerment of Indigenous Women” in Conference Room 7, on Friday, 17 March 2017 from 6.20pm to 7.40pm.

CSW 60: Indigenous women around the world participated in panel discussions entitled “Empowerment of Indigenous Women” and “Indigenous Women and Girls: A Pathways to Equality”

CSW59/Beijing+20: International Forum on Indigenous Women (FIMI) organized the Panel discussion on “Beijing+20: The voices of Indigenous women” on the occasion of the Beijing +20 review to celebrate the achievements of indigenous women and girls, and to highlight persisting obstacles to the full realization of their rights.

CSW57: The adoption of Agreed Conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls was influenced by indigenous women and the Commission reaffirmed that “indigenous women often suffer multiple forms of discrimination and poverty which increase their vulnerability to all forms of violence; and stresses the need to seriously address violence against indigenous women and girls.”

CSW56: Resolution: Indigenous women: key actors in poverty and hunger eradication, was adopted

CSW49 / Beijing+15: Resolution: Indigenous women: beyond the then-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action) was adopted. It is the first resolution on indigenous women at the CSW, it highlights their rights and specific needs.

UN CSW Meetings Schedule

First week	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	1-3 p.m.	3-6 p.m.
Monday 13 March	<p>Opening of the session Election of officers (Item 1) Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (Item 2) Introduction of documents (Item 3 as a whole)</p> <p>General discussion(Item 3)(opens) Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly - sharing of experiences and good practices on implementation of the Platform for Action, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges</p> <p>1 p.m.: deadline for inscription on list of speakers for the general discussion</p>		<p>Ministerial segment: round tables on the priority theme (in two parallel meetings)</p> <p>(A) Gender pay gaps in the public and private sectors: how can equal pay work of equal value be achieved in the changing world of work?</p> <p>(B) Technology changing the world of work: how can technology and innovation be harnessed to accelerate women's economic empowerment?</p> <hr/> <p>Ministerial segment: round tables on the priority theme (in two parallel meetings)</p> <p>(C) Informal and non-standard work: what policies can effectively support women's economic empowerment?</p> <p>(D) Full and productive employment and decent work for all: how can Sustainable Development Goal 8 be realized for women by 2030?</p> <hr/> <p>Ministerial round tables A and B, from 3.00 - 4.30 and 4.40 - 6.00 pm Ministerial round tables C and D, from 3.00 - 4.30 and 4.40 - 6.00 pm</p>
Tuesday 14 March	<p>General discussion (Item 3) (continued)</p> <p>In parallel with: High-level interactive dialogue among Ministers on the priority theme 'Building alliances to promote women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work'</p>		<p>General discussion (Item 3) (continued)</p> <p>In parallel with: Interactive dialogue 'Accelerating implementation of Agreed Conclusions commitments for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls'</p>
Wednesday 15 March	<p>General discussion (Item 3) (continued)</p> <p>In parallel with:</p>		<p>General discussion (Item 3) (continued)</p> <p>In parallel with:</p>



First week	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	1-3 p.m.	3-6 p.m.
	Interactive dialogue Focus area 'Empowerment of indigenous women'		Interactive dialogue Review theme 'Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls'
Thursday 16 March	Interactive dialogue Review theme 'Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls'		General discussion (Item 3) <i>(continued)</i> <i>in parallel with</i> Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations
Friday 17 March	Interactive expert panel Priority theme 'The global care economy in the context of the changing world of work' <i>In parallel with</i> Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations		General discussion (Item 3) <i>(continued)</i> <i>In parallel with</i> Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations

Second week	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	1-3 p.m.	3-6 p.m.
Monday 20 March	Interactive expert panel 'Enhancing availability and use of data and gender statistics to support accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'		Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations
Tuesday 21 March	Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations		Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations <i>3 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals</i>
Wednesday 22 March	Closed meeting to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications (Item 4) <i>Followed by:</i> Follow-up to the Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions (Item 5) - <i>introduction and discussion</i> <i>Introduction of draft proposals</i>		Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations

Second week	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	1-3 p.m.	3-6 p.m.
	<i>General discussion (Item 3)(concludes)</i>		
Thursday 23 March	Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations		Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations
Friday 24 March	Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations	Action on draft proposals and other outstanding issues Provisional agenda for the 62 nd session of CSW (Item 6) Adoption of the report of the CSW on its 61 st session (Item 7) <hr/> Closure of the 61 st session Opening of 62nd session Election of Bureau	

Ministerial Roundtables

From March 13 to March 15, 2017, The Commission will hold four ministerial round tables (see above) on the following topics:

- (A) Gender pay gaps in the public and private sectors: how can equal pay for work of equal value be achieved in the changing world of work?
- (B) Technology changing the world of work: how can technology and innovation be harnessed to accelerate women’s economic empowerment?
- (C) Informal and non-standard work: what policies can effectively support women’s economic empowerment?
- (D) Full and productive employment and decent work for all: how can Sustainable Development Goal 8 be realized for women by 2030?

The ministerial round tables will provide ministers attending the sixty-first session of the Commission with the opportunity to engage in dialogue and discussion. These are open to observers.

Discussion Template for Roundtables

Roundtable (A): Gender pay gaps in the public and private sectors: how can equal pay for work of equal value be achieved in the changing world of work?

Discussion questions:

- 1) What are examples of effective national laws, policies and regulations that have helped to reduce gender pay gaps?
- 2) What steps can Governments take to ensure that women are paid the same as men for work of equal value in the private sector?
- 3) How have measures to eliminate gender-based labor market discrimination and occupational segregation or to promote better work-life balance contributed to reducing gender pay gaps?

Roundtable (B): Technology changing the world of work: opportunities and challenges for women's economic empowerment

Technological and digital developments, for example, automation, robotics, 3D printing and connectivity, are transforming the world of work. Even so, gender gaps exist. For example: More than 3 billion people in low- and middle-income countries do not own mobile phones; 1.7 billion of them are women.

Over the next five years. In this scenario, women will lose jobs, since they are less likely to be employed in sectors that will create jobs, resulting in a widening of the gender gap.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are examples of national policies that have increased access by women to digital and mobile technologies for economic empowerment, including by women in remote areas and/or in the lowest income quintile?
- 2) What measures have been taken in both the public and private sectors to channel technological and digital changes to create jobs for women?
- 3) How can Governments encourage public and private investment in increasing women's digital fluency and literacy in science, technology, engineering and mathematics?

Roundtable (C): Informal and non-standard work: what policies can effectively support women's economic empowerment?

Over the past two decades, the informal economy has come to dominate the world of work in both developing and developed countries (where it may be

called “non-standard work”). Women are overrepresented in it around the globe; in developing countries; the informal sector is the primary source of employment for women.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What measures are Governments taking to address the rising informality and non-standard forms of work and create favorable environments for all women workers?
- 2) What steps are Governments taking to extend social protection coverage to women workers in the informal economy?
- 3) How can part-time work be regulated to provide both flexibility for women workers and basic childcare, health care and income security?

Roundtable (D): Full and productive employment and decent work for all: how can Sustainable Development Goal 8 be realized for women by 2030?

Conditions also need to be improved for the 780 million women and men who are working but not earning enough to lift themselves and their families out of poverty and earn more than \$2 a day.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What measures are Governments taking to stimulate public provision of full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men?
- 2) What kinds of incentives and regulations have encouraged the private sector to create decent work for women?
- 3) How can Governments encourage women’s entrepreneurship in the context of decent work? What policies have successfully removed structural barriers?