

Introduction of the Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-eighth session

by

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Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Management Meeting

Item 19: Social and human rights questions

(a) Advancement of women

05 June 2024

Mr. Vice-President,
Excellencies,
Colleagues,

I am pleased to present the outcome of the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which took place from 11 to 22 March 2024.

We had a very productive session, with concrete engagement from delegations, civil society and the youth, in line with the Commission's methods of work and past practice.

As you know, the Commission considered as its priority theme "*Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective*".

In the true spirit of intergovernmental collaboration and within the limitations of the liquidity measures that were put in place during the session, the Commission worked efficiently to reach consensus on the Agreed Conclusions, where it reaffirmed existing commitments and set out issues requiring attention and actions to be taken by Governments and other stakeholders in the following areas:

1. Integrating a gender perspective into financing for development commitments;
2. Implementing gender-responsive economic and social policies and strengthening public institutions;
3. Expanding a fiscal space for investments to end poverty for women and girls;
4. Fostering new development strategies towards sustainable economies and sustainable societies;
5. Engaging and financing women's organizations and collectives; and
6. Enhancing multidimensional poverty data and statistics.

This outcome is the result of a shared commitment and a significant milestone on a topic that is relevant to the entire world.

Its actions align with many of the SDGs and provide an important input to the work of the Council and of the HLPF next month.

Mr. Vice-President,

This year's session reached record in-person attendance. Nearly 9,000 participants from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, UN system, CSOs, and youth were present in New York.

The Commission's ministerial segment included participation of two Heads of State, three Vice-Presidents, four Deputy Prime Ministers, and 106 Ministers who took part in the general discussion – all expressing their strong commitment to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

One hundred and one ministers and senior officials from around the world exchanged experiences and recommended the way forward in four ministerial round tables.

Participation of stakeholders in an expert panel provided opportunity for in-depth discussion on the priority theme. And the second interactive dialogue with youth representatives was held during the ministerial segment to give it prominence.

The Commission also considered a crucial and timely emerging issue on “*Artificial intelligence to advance gender equality: challenges and opportunities*”.

It reviewed progress on the Agreed Conclusions from its 63rd session on “*Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,*” where eleven Member States from different regions made voluntary presentations on targeted national efforts to implement the SDGs so as to leave no woman or girl behind.

Mr. Vice-President,

This scale of representation and participation reflects the importance of gender equality, rights and the empowerment of women and girls for all of us, for the 2030 Agenda, and for future generations.

Next year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women when the Commission will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. This is an opportunity to take stock of progress made, assess gaps and challenges, and recommit to implement the Platform for Action, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

I have no doubt that the Council and its Member States will continue to provide support and guidance to the CSW Bureau in preparation for and during the upcoming sixty-ninth session.

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the CSW68 Bureau, for their excellent collaboration, support and guidance during this past session. Special thanks go to the facilitator of the agreed conclusions, H.E. Ambassador Yoka Brandt of the Netherlands, and her team for the leadership and facilitation of the negotiations of the Agreed Conclusions. I am grateful to UN-Women and DGACM teams, as well as my own delegation, for the excellent support.

We count on the Council’s leadership to ensure that the Agreed Conclusions are fully taken into account and inspire your work and that of the HLPF.

Thank you for your attention.