

*Unity in Action: Accelerating SDG Implementation and Building a Better Future for All*,

11 June 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CSW Chair's Draft Talking Points

*Guiding question 1: How can UN bodies and entities effectively mainstream gender equality in their work, and how is the Commission contributing to coordinated action across the UN system that reflects the diverse lived realities of women and girls around the world? [3 minutes]*

Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is essential to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development specifically states that “realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets.”

Before that, the Council in its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on gender mainstreaming called upon United Nations system to “mainstream a gender perspective systematically into all areas of their work.” Additionally, we have a recurring resolution on Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system that was adopted by the Council yesterday.

In doing so, UN bodies should take full advantage of the outcome of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Key elements of CSW's mandate are follow up to the Beijing Platform for Action and contribution to the follow up to the 2030 Agenda. CSW thus plays a critical role in the overall policy making for gender equality, rights and the empowerment of all women and girls, and acts as catalyst for gender mainstreaming across the UN system.

CSW, through its agreed conclusions, negotiated by all Member States, provides normative guidance and concrete, actionable recommendations on a wide range of themes, to guide other UN bodies and entities in their gender mainstreaming efforts. In a recurring paragraph which appears in all recent agreed conclusions, the Commission calls upon the United Nations system entities to support Member States in their efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Furthermore, in March this year, CSW concluded the review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 30 years after its adoption. The outcome of the session was a Political Declaration adopted by consensus by Ministers at the opening meeting. The Political Declaration recognized that no country has fully achieved gender equality, the rights and the empowerment of women and girls, and made specific recommendations on how to accelerate implementation of the Platform for Action, everywhere.

The Political Declaration further called upon the United Nations system to continue to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including through systematic gender mainstreaming, multi-stakeholder partnerships, the

mobilization of resources to deliver results and the monitoring and assessment of progress with disaggregated data and robust accountability systems,

These outcomes are available for all Member States and UN entities to use as they engage in the various intergovernmental fora.

Ambassador may draw on her work in the First Committee for a concrete example, if appropriate.

If all UN bodies and entities systematically integrate a gender perspective in all their work, it will be possible to overcome systemic gender inequality and deliver tangible results for all women and girls. This is a call for all of us.

*Guiding question 2: How can we ensure that the gender equality agenda is not sidelined but strengthened in the context of interlinked global crises? [3 minutes maximum]*

Crises are not gender neutral. They deepen existing inequalities and create new vulnerabilities, particularly for women and girls. From climate change and conflict to economic instability and public health emergencies, it is more important than ever to ensure that gender equality remains a central priority. The Commission on the Status of Women is a key platform for advancing this approach.

CSW brings together Member States, intergovernmental organizations, UN entities, civil society, young people, and other relevant stakeholders to exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in relation to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Its main outcomes provide concrete policy recommendations on promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, in all settings.

For example, when COVID-19 broke out in 2020, we saw its disproportionate impact on women and girls and how the pandemic deepened existing gender inequalities. In response, CSW adopted agreed conclusions in 2021 that included recommendations to address the specific needs of women and girls in response and recovery efforts, and to promote their leadership in those processes.

The following year, climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction was the priority theme on the Commission's agenda. CSW recognized the impact of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls and adopted corresponding recommendations and urged governments and other stakeholders to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of all women and girls

In 2023, while dealing with innovation and technological change as its priority theme, the Commission also considered "Achieving gender equality in a context of overlapping emergencies" as an emerging issue.

And this year, the Political Declaration provided recommendations on a wide range of issues relevant to the gendered dimensions of global challenges, including poverty eradication, food security, disaster risk reduction, peace processes and humanitarian action, and the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict.

Promoting gender equality, the rights and the empowerment of women and girls has to be central to all aspects of our work. It should not be an add on. Data shows that societies with greater gender equality are more resilient, more inclusive, and more prosperous.

We have clear normative guidance from the CSW. Let us make full use of it. And we must continue to walk the talk. The inclusion of a gender perspective in this panel discussion is an example of how gender equality can and should be mainstreamed across all our work. I commend you for this important and commendable effort and stand ready to engage with Member States, UN entities, civil society and other stakeholders throughout my tenure as Chair of the Commission