



Chairperson  
Commission on the Status of Women

11 April 2016

Excellency,

I refer to your letter of 17 March 2016, regarding to the 2016 Integration Segment of the Economic and Social Council on the theme “Implementing the 2030 Agenda through Policy Innovation and Integration”. I welcome the opportunity extended to each of the ECOSOC functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies to provide substantive contributions in preparation for the Integration Segment.

I am pleased to highlight in the annex to this letter the current work of the Commission on the Status of Women pertaining to policy innovation and integration for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As you know, the priority theme of the Commission at its sixtieth session focused on “Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development”. This topic provided the Commission with timely opportunity to focus on key elements of a gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to highlight policy areas where such action is especially urgent, by a range of actors, for the equal benefit and with the full and effective participation and leadership of women and girls.

The Commission’s ministerial and expert-level discussions and innovative policy recommendations are captured in Chair’s summaries, as well as, most importantly, in the Commission’s agreed conclusions on the priority theme. I am confident that the Commission’s work at its sixtieth session will enrich the work of the Economic and Social Council at its forthcoming Integration Segment. In this regard, the Commission agreed to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the text of the agreed conclusions on the priority theme as well as the Chairs’ summaries of the four Ministerial roundtables, the high-level interactive dialogue with ministers and two expert panel discussions on the priority theme to serve as input to the Council’s work, including the high-level political forum meeting under the Council’s auspices.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Antonio de Aguiar Patriota  
Chair

Commission on the Status of Women

H.E. Mr. Sven Jürgenson  
Vice-President of ECOSOC

## **Annex**

### **Work of the Commission on the Status of Women on policy innovation and integration for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

At its sixtieth session, from 14 to 24 March 2016, the Commission considered as its priority theme “Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development”. In its discussions and agreed conclusions, the Commission focused on ways to ensure a gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In doing so, the Commission referenced existing commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the synergies between full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission acknowledged that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets and stressed that the achievement of sustainable development is not possible if women and girls continue to be denied the full realization of their human rights and opportunities.

The agreed conclusions represent a significant milestone as they are the first intergovernmental outcome that emphasizes gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and elaborates key issues and strategies for such a gender-responsive implementation. Besides Government, they address key actors and partnerships that should contribute to this effort. The agreed conclusions recognize the persistence of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and identify different groups of women and girls for specific attention so as to ensure that no one is left behind.

Member States committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda in a comprehensive and gender-responsive manner through concerted actions to: strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks; foster enabling environments for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; strengthen women’s leadership and women’s full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development; strengthen gender-responsive data collection, follow-up and review processes; and enhance national institutional arrangements.

These are cross-cutting areas for action, and pursued together, contribute to an integrated and gender-responsive implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Towards this end, as pointed out by the Commission, national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must work in a coherent and coordinated manner with relevant government agencies and others actors to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The Commission also called on United Nations system entities to support States.

It is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to ensure synergies between the follow-up of

the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Towards this end, the Commission on the Status of Women will continue to exercise its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that the implementation of 2030 Agenda benefit all women and girls and contribute to the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030.

The Commission will contribute to the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals taking place at the high-level political forum. It will also continue to engage with other intergovernmental processes and functional commissions through the exchange of information, joint informal interactive events and the participation of the Chair in relevant processes.