

Check against delivery

**Statement by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council
H.E. Ambassador Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland
on behalf of the President of the Economic and Social Council
H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
to the United Nations**

**Opening of the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
Monday, 14 March 2016, 10:00 AM
(General Assembly Hall)**

Mr. Chair,
President of the General Assembly,
Secretary-General,
Executive Director of UN-Women,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Let me first convey the sincere regrets of the President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Oh Joon, who could not be here today due to travel commitments. I am honoured to address the opening of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on his behalf.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development rightly positions the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as one of the sustainable development goals in its own right.

It thus recognizes that the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is crucial to achieving sustainable development. At the same time, it makes clear that the entire Agenda must deliver for women and girls. The full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and of the CEDAW Convention will help us do so.

The Paris agreement adopted by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was another achievement in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. In Paris, Parties committed to respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on gender equality and the empowerment of women while addressing climate change.

Adequate financing will be critical to turn commitments into action. To this end, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda commits to undertake legislation and administrative reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, and to promote gender responsive budgeting and tracking.

The Commission on the Status of Women continues to be in the forefront of setting the global agenda on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

At the core of your work lays the review and follow up of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

You have been assisting the Economic and Social Council in assessing global progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women, identifying gaps and emerging issues, and recommending corrective action.

The Council continues to count on the Commission to galvanize broad political support for measurable progress for all women and girls, in all parts of the world. Your work is truly indispensable.

This session of the Commission on the Status of Women coincides with the beginning of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which was launched barely six months ago.

In addition to defining the key enabling conditions for a gender responsive implementation of the new agenda, CSW60 provides an important opportunity to give clear and concrete guidance on national level implementation towards achieving the SDGs by 2030 and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Economic and Social Council welcomes the fact that the Commission's priority theme of "Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development" is closely aligned with the Council's theme for this year, which reads "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: Moving from commitments to results".

The inputs from CSW60 will also be an important contribution to the work of ECOSOC leading up to the High-level Segment and the High-Level Political Forum.

The Council also welcomes the fact that going forward, the Commission intends to consider its future priority themes in the light of possible linkages to the 2030 Agenda, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Economic and Social Council system and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The principle of integration will be at the core of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

This will no doubt have implications for the work of the ECOSOC system. It will require the Council's subsidiary bodies – of which this Commission is an important member - to harmonize their work programmes and agendas, to align their themes with the main theme of the Council, to synchronize their calendar of meetings and to provide coordinated inputs to the Council in accordance with their respective mandates and areas of expertise.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

The Economic and Social Council will continue to do its part to contribute to progress for women and girls.

Indeed, the entire ECOSOC system has a mandated responsibility to eliminate and prevent all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and to accelerate realization of gender equality.

More progress is needed as functional commissions do not yet consistently reflect gender perspectives across all areas of their work.

The Council welcomes the leadership role of the CSW and its efforts to act as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming within and beyond the ECOSOC system. The Council will continue to support the Commission in this regard.

The international community needs a strong Commission on the Status of Women to be an effective platform for norm setting and engagement with relevant stakeholders.

Your session over the next two weeks will be a valuable step towards addressing the medium to long-term challenges of realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2030.

Thank you.