



**MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING**

**Accelerating the realization of gender equality and  
the empowerment of all women and girls**

**United Nations Headquarters (virtual), New York, 21 July 2020  
10.00 am to 5.00 pm EDT**

**Programme notes**



## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING

### Moderated dialogue among gender equality leaders

Tuesday, 21 July 2020, 10.10 – 11.40, United Nations Headquarters (virtual)

#### Programme note

##### a. Objective

This session will highlight current challenges and opportunities for accelerating action for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, through the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will highlight priority actions needed in the current context of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and a gender-responsive path to response and recovery from COVID-19.

##### b. Key issues

Under this theme, the following issues will be addressed:

- Member States, through the Political Declaration adopted at the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, recognized that new challenges have emerged that require intensified efforts for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. These include, among others, areas such as education, participation in decision-making, economic empowerment, unpaid care and domestic work, social protection, climate change, violence, armed conflict, health, and hunger.
- Member States also identified a range of ways for addressing these challenges, including through: eliminating discriminatory laws; eliminating structural barriers, discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes; enhancing institutional accountability; systematic gender mainstreaming; adequate financing; accountable implementation of commitments; harnessing the potential of technology and innovation; closing gender data gaps; and strengthening international cooperation.

**c. Suggested guiding questions**

- *What are concrete examples for tackling one of the new or remaining challenges in implementation of the Platform for Action? What measures have brought concrete results, and what actions are needed to halt any reversal of gains made for women and girls in the past decades?*
- *What strategies have been used successfully for tackling interlinked challenges in an integrated manner, and what results have been achieved?*
- *What are examples of good practices for ensuring that women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, vulnerability and marginalization throughout their life course can fully benefit from policy interventions?*
- *How can alliances and partnerships between different stakeholders be strengthened for successful action for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls?*
- *How can institutions ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is at the core of response packages to COVID-19? What steps are needed to ensure that women are involved in decision-making in response to the pandemic? What good practices can be replicated and adapted?*



## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING

### **Interactive panel discussion: Women's and girls' voices, participation and leadership**

**Tuesday, 21 July 2020, 11:45-12.50, United Nations Headquarters (virtual)**

#### **Programme note**

##### **a. Objective**

This session will highlight strategies, actions taken and good practices to strengthen women's and girls' voices, participation and leadership and opportunities for accelerating such action, including in the context of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and a gender-responsive path to response and recovery from COVID-19.

##### **b. Key issues**

Under this theme, the following issues will be addressed:

- Women and girls as changemakers and role models: From supporting women's economic empowerment to addressing gender-based violence, from building resilience to climate change and effectively responding to the COVID-19 crisis, women and girls from all walks of life are demonstrating leadership skills necessary for transformative change that brings about tangible results for women and girls in their daily lives, and to societies at large.
- The role of leadership in realizing women's and girls' rights: Women continue to be underrepresented in all areas of public life, including in politics and in the economic sphere. Discriminatory legislation, inadequate institutional responses, and gender stereotypes and negative social norms continue to hamper the realization of women's and girls' rights. Men have an important role to play and be a part of the solution by working, in solidarity, with women in the shift to the culture of respect and equality for all.
- Women's and youth activism and mobilization for gender equality: Women's movements in all parts of the world, over many decades, have been instrumental in changing legislation and raising issues of concern to national and global attention, from the right to

vote to the impact of new technologies on gender equality. The impetus of youth activism is bringing new opportunities for working across generations and movements, and for leveraging change.

- Sharing insights and lessons between generations for accelerated progress: Inter-generational dialogue and collaboration provides an opportunity to draw on the lessons learnt and shape future efforts to deliver transformative change in the lives of women and girls.

c. **Suggested guiding questions**

- *How can women and girls changemakers and role models be effectively supported in their work for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls? How can backlash and violence directed towards them be prevented?*
- *What policies and strategies have proven to be most successful and impactful in advancing women's and girls' leadership? How can men play a proactive role in supporting women's leadership and tackling gender stereotypes and negative social norms?*
- *What are some of the current challenges facing gender equality leaders and activists, and what are the opportunities for strengthening their work?*
- *What are some of the key issues that women's movements are raising in today's context, and what are proposed solutions?*
- *What are key demands from women and youth civil society organizations for a "build back better" post COVID-19 future?*



## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING

### Interactive panel discussion: Achieving gender equality is everyone's responsibility

Tuesday, 21 July 2020, 12:55-14:00, United Nations Headquarters (virtual)

#### Programme note

##### a. Objective

This session will highlight that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is everyone's responsibility and requires everyone's engagement. It will bring attention to the role of men and boys as strategic partners and allies as well as agents and beneficiaries of change, and of multi-stakeholder partnerships for advancing gender equality and women's and girls' rights.

##### b. Key issues

Under this theme, the following issues will be addressed:

- The role of men and boys in realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the Decade of Action and Delivery to implement the Sustainable Development Goals: Everywhere, unequal power relations, gender stereotypes and practices that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls persist. On average, women do three times as much unpaid care and domestic work as men, which indicates the unequal sharing of responsibilities. Male violence against women and girls is pervasive. Almost everywhere, women are under-represented in positions of power and decision-making. The COVID-19 pandemic is deepening existing inequalities and levels of violence against women and girls are increasing globally. This calls for renewed efforts to address the root causes of gender inequality and for men and boys to become agents of change in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to build back better from COVID-19.
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships for gender equality and women's and girls' rights: Collaboration between various stakeholders has been crucial to advance the implementation of gender equality commitments, articulate women's interests in public policies and enhance institutional accountability. Non-governmental actors, especially

women's organizations, have advocated to advance legislation, public policies and their funding and implementation. Other actors, such as the media, academia, trade unions and the private sector also contribute to this common goal. More work is needed to ensure accountability of all stakeholders to deliver on commitments, and to support and strengthen the capacity of women's organizations to hold decision-makers to account for results.

c. **Suggested guiding questions**

- *What are effective policy interventions so that boys grow up to become allies and agents of change for gender equality, and how are such efforts being stepped up in COVID-19 response and recovery frameworks?*
- *How can male role models contribute to addressing discriminatory attitudes and behaviour patterns?*
- *What role can the media play in transforming negative social norms and gender stereotypes?*
- *What are examples of successful partnerships between actors to accelerate implementation of gender equality commitments? How is such collaboration evolving in the light of new challenges and opportunities in the COVID-19 recovery process?*
- *How can partnerships between different stakeholders contribute to meeting commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and realization of their human rights?*



## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING

### **Interactive panel discussion: Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment: drivers for sustainable development**

**Tuesday, 21 July 2020, 15.00-16:30, United Nations Headquarters (virtual)**

#### **Programme note**

##### **a. Objective**

This session will highlight strategies, actions taken and good practices to strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the context of sustainable development. It will focus on steps and measures towards a gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in the context of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations and a gender-responsive path to response and recovery from COVID-19.

##### **b. Key issues**

Under this theme, the following issues will be addressed:

- **Securing the transition from education and training to decent work and economic security and autonomy for women and addressing women's unemployment and over-representation in the informal sector:** While parity in education has been achieved on average, at global level, the global gender gap in labour force participation rates stands at 31 percentage points. 58 percent of working women are in the informal economy. Women's unemployment rates remain high, and worldwide, 30 per cent of young women are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Women perform a disproportionate share of care work that sustains families and societies but is insufficiently recognized and supported. These numbers hinder progress towards meeting the SDGs and require particular attention in the response to and recovery from COVID-19.
- **Financing for gender equality:** While there is progress in implementing gender-responsive budgeting, and a growing number of governments are systematically tracking budget allocations for gender equality, financing for gender equality, including for women's organizations, remains inadequate. Women's access to formal financial services remains



inadequate, where globally, 67 per cent of women had an account at a formal financial institution in 2017.

- Addressing the climate crisis from a gender perspective: The climate emergency will most affect those with limited access to land, resources or the means to support themselves. Globally, 39 percent of employed women work in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Women and girls are leading climate and environmental actions and coming up with solutions and initiatives to address the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

c. **Suggested guiding questions**

- *How can gains in the education of girls and women be translated into greater access to decent work and more equal labour market outcomes, including the transition from the informal to the formal economy, reduction in the gender wage gap, and better access to social protection?*
- *How can care work – both paid and unpaid – be better recognized and supported to promote sustainable development and gender equality?*
- *What policy reforms are needed, at national and global level, to direct financing to close gender gaps, and to ensure that all actors “build back better” post COVID-19 and accelerate the gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs?*
- *How can partnerships among different stakeholders strengthen the environmental and climate resilience of women and their communities?*