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Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-fifth session

15–26 March 2021

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work*

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”:
 - (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
 - (i) Priority theme: women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
 - (ii) Review theme: women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session);
 - (b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men;
 - (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-fifth session.

* The proposed organization of work will be issued as [E/CN.6/2021/1/Add.1](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/poverty/inequality/2021/1/1).



Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and pursuant to Council resolution [1987/21](#) and decision 2002/234, the Commission on the Status of Women may elect its Bureau for a two-year period. At the 1st meeting of its sixty-fourth session, on 22 March 2019, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Mher Margaryan (Armenia) as Chair of the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the Commission. The Commission also elected, by acclamation, Jo Feldman (Australia) as Vice-Chair for its sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions. At the 2nd meeting of its sixty-fourth session, on 9 March 2020, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Ahlem Sara Charikhi (Algeria) as Vice-Chair for the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions. In accordance with Council decisions 2020/205, 2020/206 and 2020/219, as well as Council resolution [2020/4](#), the Commission elected, by silence procedure, on 9 July 2020, Na Sang Deok (Republic of Korea) as Vice-Chair for the sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions. The Commission postponed the election of the remaining Vice-Chair to a later date, on the understanding that upon endorsement by the Latin America and Caribbean group, the candidate would be allowed to participate in the meetings of the Bureau held in preparation for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/16, the Commission appoints five of its members to serve a two-year term on the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women, established in accordance with Council resolution [1983/27](#). At the 1st meeting of its sixty-fourth session, on 22 March 2019, the Commission appointed the Russian Federation to serve as a member of the Working Group at its sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 March 2020, the Commission appointed Israel as a member of the Working Group for the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the Commission. In accordance with Council decisions 2020/205, 2020/206 and 2020/219, as well as Council resolution [2020/4](#), the Commission appointed, by silence procedure, on 9 July 2020, Brazil to serve as a member of the Working Group on Communications at the sixty-fifth session of the Commission.

In the absence of nominations from the African and Asia-Pacific States, the Commission postponed the appointment of the remaining two members of the Working Group on Communications to a later date, on the understanding that upon nomination by their respective Groups, the endorsed members of the Commission would be allowed to participate fully in the proceedings of the Working Group on Communications. At its 1st meeting, the Commission will be called upon to appoint the remaining members of the Working Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission, at the beginning of each session, shall adopt the agenda of that session.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2020/223.

Preparations for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution [2015/6](#) on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as informal briefings and consultations with delegations to consider the organization of work for

the session. The preparations, consultations and organization of work were informed by the constraints imposed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the conduct of intergovernmental meetings at United Nations Headquarters in the first quarter of 2021. The Commission is expected to meet in person and virtually from Monday, 15 March, to Friday, 26 March 2021.

Following past practice, statements delivered by representatives of delegations of members and observers of the Commission during the general discussion shall be limited to 5 minutes, and statements made on behalf of groups of delegations to 10 minutes. It is also recommended that interventions from non-governmental organizations on themes relevant to the session be integrated into the general discussion and the interactive dialogues, taking into consideration geographical balance.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

(i) Priority theme: women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(ii) Review theme: women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development

In its resolution [2020/15](#), the Economic and Social Council decided that, at its sixty-fifth session, in 2021, the Commission would consider as its priority theme “Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”, and also decided that it would consider as its review theme “Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development”, in follow-up to the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission at its sixtieth session (see [E/2020/27-E/CN.6/2020/10](#)).

In its resolution [2015/6](#), the Council decided that the session of the Commission would include a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human rights and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the deliberations of the Commission, and that the segment would include ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices, as well as a general discussion on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The Council recommended that statements identify goals attained, achievements made and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges in relation to the priority theme and the review theme.

Also in its resolution [2015/6](#), the Council decided that the Commission would evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on a priority theme of a previous session, as its review theme, through an interactive dialogue that includes:

(a) Member States of different regions, on a voluntary basis, presenting their lessons learned, challenges and best practices that identify means for accelerated implementation through national and regional experiences;

(b) Ways to support and achieve accelerated implementation, including through addressing data gaps and challenges in the enhanced collection, reporting,

use and analysis of data with regard to the theme, at the national, regional and global levels.

Ministerial segment

The Ministerial segment of the Commission will be held from 15 to 19 March 2021 and will include two ministerial round tables and other interactive dialogues.

Interactive dialogues on the priority theme

The Commission will hold three interactive dialogues with the participation of ministers and other high-level government officials, experts and representatives of the United Nations system, civil society and other stakeholder groups that work on the priority theme.

Interactive dialogues on the review theme

The Commission will hold two interactive dialogues with voluntary presentations by Member States from different regions on the review theme.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls ([E/CN.6/2021/3](#))

Discussion guide for the ministerial round tables on the priority theme: note by the Secretariat ([E/CN.6/2021/5](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development ([E/CN.6/2021/4](#))

(b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men

In its resolution [2015/6](#), the Economic and Social Council determined that the Commission would, as necessary, continue to discuss emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men, that require timely consideration, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives is required, and with attention to relevant issues on the agenda of the Council, in particular its annual main theme, as applicable.

In the same resolution, the Council requested the Bureau of the Commission, prior to the session, to identify such an emerging issue, trend, focus area or new approach, in consultation with all Member States, through their regional groups, and taking into account inputs from other relevant stakeholders, for consideration by the Commission through an interactive dialogue.

Following consultations, the Bureau proposed that no emerging issue be identified for the sixty-fifth session.

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

In accordance with paragraph 67 (c) of General Assembly resolution [64/289](#), the Commission will have before it the annual report of the Under-Secretary-

General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the normative aspects of the work of UN-Women and on its implementation of the policy guidance provided by the Commission.

Violence against women

In its resolution [50/166](#) on the role of the former United Nations Development Fund for Women (now UN-Women) in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for its information.

Programme matters

The proposed programme of work of UN-Women for 2022, under programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women, is under preparation.

Documentation

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the Entity ([E/CN.6/2021/2](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women ([A/HRC/47/20-E/CN.6/2021/6](#))

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its seventy-third, seventy-fourth and seventy-fifth sessions ([A/75/38](#))

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women ([E/CN.6/2021/7](#))

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution [76 \(V\)](#), the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution [304 \(XI\) I](#), the Council amended resolution [76 \(V\)](#) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution [1983/27](#), the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution [1993/11](#), the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging

trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members would be able to meet to enable the Secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that would be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission.

In its resolution 2009/16, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission, starting at its fifty-fourth session, should appoint the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for a two-year period.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women ([E/CN.6/2021/R.1](#) and [E/CN.6/2021/R.1/Add.1](#))

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/305](#), the Economic and Social Council, at its integration segment, will discuss and consolidate all the inputs of Member States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development for 2021 will be “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its sixty-sixth session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-fifth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its sixty-fifth session.

Annex**Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its
sixty-fifth session (2021)****(45 members; four-year term)**

<i>Member</i>	<i>Term expires at close of session in the year</i>
Algeria	2022
Armenia	2023
Australia	2023
Bahrain	2021
Bangladesh	2023
Belarus	2023
Brazil	2024
Canada	2021
Chile	2021
China	2021
Colombia	2024
Comoros	2022
Congo	2022
Cuba	2023
Denmark	2024
Ecuador	2022
Equatorial Guinea	2023
Estonia	2021
Germany	2023
Ghana	2022
Haiti	2022
Iraq	2022
Ireland	2021
Israel	2021
Japan	2022
Kenya	2022
Malaysia	2023
Mexico	2024

<i>Member</i>	<i>Term expires at close of session in the year</i>
Mongolia	2024
Namibia	2021
Nicaragua	2022
Niger	2021
Peru	2021
Philippines	2024
Republic of Korea	2022
Russian Federation	2024
Saudi Arabia	2022
Senegal	2024
Somalia	2024
South Africa	2023
Switzerland	2024
Togo	2023
Tunisia	2021
Turkmenistan	2022
United States of America	2023
