

Informal Briefing of NGOs by the Chair of CSW61



(Photo by Anna Warrington)

Date: 13-24 march, 2017

Location: UN Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 6, 13 December 2016, 3 – 4.30 p.m.

Organised by: UN Women

Event Summary:

The Chair, H.E. Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, welcomed all NGO representatives to the briefing and gave an overview of the priority theme for the upcoming sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) along with a description of the review theme, focus areas and the structural set-up of the formal debates.

The priority theme for CSW61 is Women's Economic Empowerment on which there will be held 4 ministerial focusing on the following topics:

- Gender pay gaps in public and private sector and how to achieve equal pay
- Technology in the changing world of work and how to accelerate women's economic empowerment in this changing world
- Informal and non standard work and how to create policies to support women's economic empowerment as well as ensuring full and productive employment for all through decent work and how to achieve SDG8 for women by 2030.

The focus area for this year will be the empowerment of indigenous women and for the review theme there will be held voluntary presentations from states and regions on their

best practices when implementing the CSW58 commitments and MDGs. A civil society representative will be part of the presentation team.

The dialogue by ministers will be followed by speaking time from non governmental representatives. There will be adopted a set of agreed conclusions on the priority theme at the session as well as any other resolutions requested by Member States.

The focal point within all discussions at CSW61 will be lessons learned from long standing as well as recent commitments from former CSW agreed conclusions and the SDGs focusing on how all stakeholders can accelerate efforts of implementation in an inclusive and effective manner.

The briefing was followed by a Q&A session where NGO representatives raised several issues to be addressed in the upcoming CSW.

A suggestion was put on the table to create more open spaces outside the formal setting of debates to engage a variety of actors in the discussion relating to the CSW session to broaden the reach of the discussions. The suggestion of creating both an increased physical space of engagement and a digital space for creative interaction was overall welcomed by the Chair, the other NGO participants at the briefing as well as the representatives from UN Women. No concrete conclusions on this matter was reached.

The Chair highlighted the importance of maintaining and increasing the inclusive and interactive nature of CSW and encouraged all participants at the meeting to stay updated on information on registration and participation through online resources from CSW. In light of the priority theme there will be held a 3 min silent break on Tuesday March 14 as a symbolic initiative to highlight the persistence of the gender pay gap. All participants were encouraged to engage in this.

For more information on CSW, including eligibility for NGO participation and opportunities for NGOs to address the Commission, please visit the [CSW website](#) and [NGO participation](#), or:

- Email: csw@unwomen.org
- Follow: @UN_CSW #CSW61

The deadline for [online registration](#) of NGO delegates is January 27th.