

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Friday, 7 July 2017

1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

Conference Room 11

United Nations Headquarters, New York



GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN THE WORK OF ECOSOC FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS in the context of the 2017 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On the occasion of the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the secretariats of functional commissions are hosting a roundtable discussion with Chairs of functional commissions on the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

PROGRAMME

H.E. Ambassador Bente Angell-Hansen (Norway)
Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

H.E. Ambassador Mitsuru KITANO (Japan)
Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Ms. Aija Žigūre (Latvia)
Vice-Chair of the Statistical Commission

Mr. Ruijun Wang (China)
Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

H.E. Ambassador David Donoghue (Ireland)
Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

Moderation

Ms. Christine Brautigam (**UN-Women**) & Ms. Jo Dedejne-Amann (**UNODC**)

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stresses that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Agenda is crucial. The HLPF has a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. The functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums support thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs, including cross-cutting issues, at HLPF.

This context provides a key opportunity for functional commissions to present their ongoing efforts at integrating gender perspectives in their work and their contribution to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also provides an opportunity for functional commissions to further expand ongoing collaboration, interaction and information exchange on issues of common interest.

As the functional commissions have specific mandates and areas of expertise, they also have important contributions to make to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For example:

- **The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,**
as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug related matters;
- **The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,**
as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;
- **The Statistical Commission,**
as the main body of the global statistical system;
- **The Commission on Science and Technology for Development,**
providing high-level advice on relevant science and technology issues;
- **The Commission on the Status of Women,**
as the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

The event will also underline the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women in promoting gender mainstreaming in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, by expanding cooperation among functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Modalities

The event will take place on 7 July 2017, from 1.15 – 2.45 pm, at United Nations Headquarters. It will be in the format of a roundtable discussion, bringing together the Chairs of the above mentioned functional commissions.

With a view to facilitate ongoing informal dialogue among functional commissions, the event aims to promote sharing of information on progress made and opportunities for gender mainstreaming in the work of the participating functional commissions. It will also aim to demonstrate their contribution to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to this year's HLPF theme of eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world.

Following opening comments by Commission Chairs, a moderated discussion will provide opportunities for Member States, representatives of civil society and the United Nations system to engage on the role and contributions of functional commissions to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including ideas and suggestions for further progress.

The following guiding questions could be addressed:

- What are key areas of work of the functional commissions where gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls have received increasing attention? What are main recommendations and strategies for action that functional commissions have addressed to Governments and other stakeholders in these areas?
- How are functional commissions interacting with stakeholders for enhanced attention to gender perspectives?
- How are functional commissions addressing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as a cross-cutting issue in their contribution to the thematic reviews of progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
- What are key challenges for addressing gender perspectives in the context of the functional commissions' contribution to the follow-up and review of the SDGs, and how can those be addressed?
- How can enhanced horizontal cooperation among the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council support their contribution to ensuring that no one is left behind – in the broader framework of the Sustainable Development Goals?