



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-fourth session

9–20 March 2020

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: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution [2018/8](#));
  - (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-fifth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-fourth session.

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\* The proposed organization of work will be issued as [E/CN.6/2020/1/Add.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 elects 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, Mohammed Marzooq (Iraq) as Vice-Chair for its sixty-fourth session and Jo Feldman (Australia) as Vice-Chair for its sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions. The Commission postponed the election of the Vice-Chairs from the African States and Latin American and Caribbean States to a later date, on the understanding that upon nomination by their regional groups, the candidates would be allowed to participate in the meetings of the Bureau held in preparation for the sixty-fourth 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 Economic and Social Council resolution [1983/27](#). At the 1st meeting of its sixty-fourth session, the Commission appointed the Russian Federation to serve as a member of the Working Group at its sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions and Brazil to serve as a member of the Working Group at its sixty-fourth session.

In the absence of nominations from the African, Asia-Pacific and Western European and other States, the Commission postponed the election of the remaining three members of the Working Group on Communications to a later date, on the understanding that upon endorsement by their respective groups, the endorsed members of the Commission would be allowed to participate fully in the proceedings of the Working Group. At its 2nd 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-fourth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2019/212.

Preparations for the sixty-fourth 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.

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: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2018/8)**

In its resolution 2018/8, the Economic and Social Council decided that, at its sixty-fourth session, in 2020, the Commission on the Status of Women would undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a gender perspective.

Also in its resolution 2018/8, the Council encouraged the regional commissions to conduct regional reviews so that the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level could inform the 2020 review, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Economic Commission for Africa convened an African regional conference on women, from 28 October to 1 November 2019 in Addis Ababa, under the auspices of the fourth session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment of the African Union, on the theme “Realizing women’s rights for an equal future”. The Economic Commission for Europe held a regional review meeting on 29 and 30 October in Geneva. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Review, from 27 to 29 November in Bangkok. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia convened a high-level meeting on progress made in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action after 25 years, on 28 November in Amman. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will hold the fourteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in January 2020.

#### *Ministerial segment*

The ministerial segment of the Commission will be held from 9 to 13 March 2020, concluding at 1 p.m. on 13 March, and will include a series of ministerial round tables and other high-level interactive dialogues, in addition to the general discussion.

#### *Ministerial round tables*

Four ministerial round tables will be held, on the following topics:

- (a) Inclusive development, decent work and poverty eradication;
- (b) Peaceful societies, access to justice and freedom from violence;
- (c) Participation, institutional mechanisms and accountability;
- (d) Environmental protection and climate action.

#### *High-level interactive dialogues with ministerial participation*

The Commission will hold three high-level interactive dialogues during the ministerial segment, as follows:

- (a) A high-level interactive dialogue with regional commissions on the outcomes of regional reviews of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and next steps;
- (b) A high-level interactive dialogue on national mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls: looking to the future;
- (c) A high-level interactive dialogue on financing for gender equality: the way forward.

#### *Interactive dialogues*

The Commission will hold interactive dialogues on the following topics:

- (a) “Beijing@25”: a conversation between participants in the Fourth World Conference on Women and youth;
- (b) “UN@75”: the contribution of the Commission to “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism”;
- (c) Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the era of climate change: leaving no one behind;
- (d) Technology and innovation: tools for progress;
- (e) Are the Sustainable Development Goals delivering for women and girls? A data perspective;
- (f) Family-friendly policies to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- (g) Ending discrimination in law.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly ([E/CN.6/2020/3](#))

Discussion guide for the ministerial round tables to be held on the occasion of the 25-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action ([E/CN.6/2020/5](#))

#### **Information on outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level**

Economic Commission for Africa: see [www.uneca.org/beijing25](http://www.uneca.org/beijing25).

Economic Commission for Europe: see [www.unece.org/index.php?id=51017](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51017).

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: see [www.cepal.org/en/work-areas/gender-affairs/la-plataforma-accion-beijing-cumple-25-anos](http://www.cepal.org/en/work-areas/gender-affairs/la-plataforma-accion-beijing-cumple-25-anos).

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: see [www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/asia-pacific-regional-review-25th-anniversary-beijing-declaration](http://www.unescap.org/intergovernmental-meetings/asia-pacific-regional-review-25th-anniversary-beijing-declaration).

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: see [www.unescwa.org/sub-site/beijing-25](http://www.unescwa.org/sub-site/beijing-25).

**(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.

This sub-item is integrated into the consideration of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect such implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

**(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.

*Future multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women*

In its resolution [2018/8](#), the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission at its sixty-fourth session to decide on its future multi-year programme of work and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, at its sixty-fourth session, a report containing proposals on the Commission's priority and review themes for 2021 and beyond.

*Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS*

In its resolution [62/2](#), the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the resolution to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session.

*Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts*

In its resolution [62/1](#), the Commission on the Status of Women requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the resolution, including relevant practical recommendations, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations.

*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 2021, 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.6/2020/2](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on proposals on the Commission's priority and review themes for 2021 and beyond ([E/CN.6/2020/4](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS ([E/CN.6/2020/6](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts ([E/CN.6/2020/7](#))

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/44/3-E/CN.6/2020/8](#))

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its seventieth, seventy-first and seventy-second sessions ([A/74/38](#))

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women ([E/CN.6/2020/9](#))

**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 the 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.6/2020/R.1](#) and [E/CN.6/2020/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 2020 will be “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

#### **6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth 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-fifth session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

#### **7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-fourth 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-fourth session.

**Annex****Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-fourth session (2020)****(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	2020
Canada	2021
Chile	2021
China	2021
Comoros	2022
Congo	2022
Cuba	2023
Ecuador	2022
Equatorial Guinea	2023
Eritrea	2020
Estonia	2021
Germany	2023
Ghana	2022
Guatemala	2020
Haiti	2022
Iraq	2022
Ireland	2021
Israel	2021
Japan	2022
Kenya	2022
Kuwait	2020
Malaysia	2023



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<i>Member</i>	<i>Term expires at close of session in the year</i>
Namibia	2021
Nicaragua	2022
Niger	2021
Nigeria	2020
Norway	2020
Peru	2021
Qatar	2020
Republic of Korea	2022
Russian Federation	2020
Saudi Arabia	2022
South Africa	2023
Togo	2023
Trinidad and Tobago	2020
Tunisia	2021
Turkmenistan	2022
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2020
United States of America	2023

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