

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2020/15 of 27 July 2020, in which it decided that the Commission on the Status of Women should review as appropriate, its methods of work, adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2015/6, taking into consideration the outcome of the process of alignment of the agendas of the General Assembly and the Council and its subsidiary bodies, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Commission for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,¹

Recognizing that the organization of work of the Commission should contribute to advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action² and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing also that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women³ are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the realization of their human rights,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and underlining the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming,

Recognizing the key role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in supporting the work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of Member States in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and recognizing the efforts of Member States towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

Recognizing also the importance of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and, in this respect, the work of the Commission,

Recognizing also multi-stakeholder efforts on achievement of gender equality, and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the realization of their human rights and taking note of all international, regional and national initiatives, in this regard,

¹ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

² *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.



Recalling General Assembly resolutions [72/305](#), [75/290 A](#) and [75/325](#) which requested the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies to further enhance their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts, and also requested the Council to promote a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and that to that end, the Council should also ensure that the agenda, work programme and discussions in its segments and forums and its subsidiary bodies contribute to their implementation as well as the response to major challenges to the achievement of sustainable development, while ensuring that subsidiary bodies deliver on their specific mandates and functions,

Reaffirming the commitment to **to** achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and *acknowledging* that the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to making progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if women and girls are denied opportunities and the full realization of their human rights,

1. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,¹ and further reaffirms its mandate and its important role in overall policymaking and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,² in which it is recognized that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls is essential for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

2. *Also reaffirms* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the process of implementation of the outcome of other major United Nations conferences and summits and the need for a coordinated follow-up to all major conferences and summits by Governments, regional organizations, and all of the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system within their respective mandates, and recognizes the need to increase cooperation between the Commission and other relevant UN bodies, mechanisms and processes in this regard;

3. *Reaffirms* that the Commission will continue to contribute to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as well as the realization of their human rights;

4. *Decides* that the Commission will report on the aspects relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women of the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council, in order to contribute to its work;

5. *Also decides* that the session of the Commission will continue to 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 will 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;

6. *Further decides* that the Commission will continue to hold, on an annual basis, a general discussion that will commence during the ministerial segment on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and recommends 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;

7. *Decides* that statements made during the general discussion will continue to be subject to strict time limits that will be determined prior to the session by the Bureau of the Commission and consistently applied by the Chair;

8. *Also decides* that the Commission will continue to consider one priority theme at each session, on the basis of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

9. *Further decides* that the consideration by the Commission of the priority theme shall focus on ways and means to accelerate the implementation of commitments in the context of current challenges, through not more than two interactive expert panels or other interactive dialogues to identify key policy initiatives and strategies in order to accelerate implementation on the basis of an exchange of national, regional and global experiences, lessons learned, good practices and new insights based on evidence, research and evaluation, with an emphasis on results achieved, and to strengthen dialogue and commitment for further action, and that the expert panels could include experts from Governments, the United Nations system, civil society and other stakeholder groups that work on the theme under consideration;

10. *Decides* that the Commission will maintain, and *encourages* it to consider ways, to further enhance the interactive nature of the discussion on its priority theme, with the participation of high-level representatives and of experts from a wide range of substantive areas to share experiences and lessons learnt on the priority theme to strengthen commitment for further action, and to continue engaging with civil society and other stakeholder groups in this respect;

11. *Decides* that the outcome of the annual discussions on the priority theme shall be in the form of short and succinct agreed conclusions, negotiated by all Member States, which shall focus on action-oriented recommendations for steps and measures to close remaining gaps, meet challenges and accelerate implementation, to be taken by Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms and entities of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, , including civil society, and that the agreed conclusions shall be widely disseminated to the United Nations system, and made widely available by all Member States to the public in their own countries so as to encourage follow-up action;

12. *Decides* that ahead of each session, the schedule of informal consultations of the session outcomes should be set according to a clear timetable, giving due consideration to working hours, which allows for consultations and coordination in order to reach a timely and substantial outcome;

13. *Also decides* that the Commission will, as necessary, discuss emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women and girls, 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;

14. *Requests* 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;

15. *Decides* that the outcome of the discussion on that emerging issue, trend, focus area or new approach will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau;

16. *Also decides* that, at each session, the Commission will 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;

17. *Invites* all Member States to meaningfully involve civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders in preparatory processes for the work of the Commission, including through considering holding consultations with them at the national level on the priority theme and review theme;

18. *Decides* that the outcome of the discussion on the review theme will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau;

19. *Requests* the Commission to consider ways to further strengthen the review theme process;

20. *Calls upon* the Commission to further enhance its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system, including in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development , inter alia, expanding its cooperation with other intergovernmental processes and functional commissions through, as appropriate, the exchange of information and transmission of the outcomes of its work, joint informal interactive events and the participation of its Chair, in consultation with the Bureau, in relevant processes;

21. *Reaffirms* the role of the Commission to contribute to the work of the Economic and Social Council from its substantive perspective and to continue to align, as appropriate, its thematic priorities with those of the Council in order to provide effective and targeted inputs from a gender perspective;

22. *Invites* all gender-specific United Nations entities and other relevant United Nations entities **and bodies**, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to contribute, where appropriate, to the discussion of the Commission;

23. *Invites* the regional commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission;

24. *Decides*, in view of the traditional importance of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, that, in accordance with Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 and 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, such organizations should be encouraged to participate, to the maximum extent possible, in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation process relating to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to ensure full utilization of existing channels of communication with non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate broad-based participation and the dissemination of information;

25. *Also decides* to continue to strengthen existing opportunities for non-governmental organizations, in accordance with Council resolutions 1996/6 and 1996/31, to contribute to the work of the Commission, including by allocating time for them to deliver statements on themes relevant to the session, during panels and interactive dialogues and at the end of the general discussion, taking into account geographical distribution;

26. *Calls upon* the Commission to continue to ensure the participation of relevant stakeholders from all regions, including non-governmental organizations, civil society and youth, in accordance with existing rules of procedure of the functional commissions of ECOSOC, so as to leave no one behind, including through increased attention to accessibility, and to consider ways to strengthen their contribution, in consultation with Member States and mindful of the intergovernmental nature of the Commission;

27. *Calls upon* the Commission to consider organizing an interactive dialogue on the priority theme, within its annual Programme of work, to facilitate exchanges among youth representatives from delegations of Member States, which will be open to all Member States and follow the Commission's existing modalities for interactive dialogues;

28. *Notes with appreciation* the continuation of the annual parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and their contribution to the discussion of the Commission, as well as the programme of side events held on the occasion of the sessions of the Commission;

29. *Encourages* all Member States to consider including in their delegations to the Commission technical experts, planning and budgeting experts and statisticians, including from ministries with expertise relevant to the themes under consideration, as well as parliamentarians, members of national human rights institutions, where they exist, and representatives of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors, including youth, as appropriate;

30. *Encourages* the Bureau of the Commission to continue to play a proactive role in the preparations for the session, including through regular briefings and consultations with Member States;

31. *Also encourages* the Bureau of the Commission to continue to propose interactive dialogues, such as high-level events and ministerial and expert workshops that engage Member States and relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage dialogue and enhance the impact of its work;

32. *Encourages* Governments and all other stakeholders to undertake comprehensive preparations for each session of the Commission, at the national, regional and global levels, as applicable, so as to strengthen the basis for follow-up to outcomes and implementation;

33. *Requests* the Commission to continue to apply a thematic approach to its work and to adopt a multi-year programme of work to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation; in selecting its priority theme, the Commission should take into consideration, in addition to the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the programme of work of the Council, as well as 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council system and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on the priority theme, including conclusions and recommendations for further action;

35. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on progress made on the review theme at the national level;

36. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in the annual report to the Council on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system an assessment of the impact of the input of the Commission to discussions within the United Nations system;

37. *Decides* that, at its seventy-first session, in 2027, the Commission,, should further review, as appropriate, its methods of work.
