



Interactive expert panel on the priority theme

Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective

Monday, 18 March 2024, 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Background

The Commission on the Status of Women will convene an interactive expert panel on the priority theme: *Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.*

The Commission will meet at a time when the world is grappling with acute and overlapping emergencies that have intensified poverty and inequality. The impact of these challenges is not borne equally. Women and girls are disproportionately represented among those living in poverty. They have the least resources and power to recover from economic shocks and face structural and systemic barriers that perpetuate poverty. The feminization of poverty is an increasing phenomenon that acts as a structural barrier for societies, for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, since it limits the economic, physical, and decision-making autonomy of women.

The economic downturn is also leading to political instability and distrust in public institutions. In developing countries, unsustainable debt levels and debt servicing are crowding out critical investments in healthcare, social protection, education, and public services such as energy, water, and transportation. As a result, women's unpaid care and domestic work becomes an invisible subsidy to the economy as households absorb losses in public provisioning of services. It is imperative to enlarge fiscal space for investments to reduce poverty and rebuild trust in public institutions to deliver change for women and girls living in poverty. To reverse course, States must enact new development strategies that are inclusive, caring, pro-poor and socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

Objective

The interactive expert panel is an opportunity for an exchange of views, experiences, and new insights from economists, governance and other experts on addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. The panel will bring together diverse experts who will make short presentations followed by a moderated discussion and questions and comments from the floor

Format and participation

The interactive expert panel will be moderated by a Vice-Chair of the CSW Bureau. It will include presentations (6-8 minutes) by up to six experts from diverse backgrounds and regions, followed by comments, questions and contributions from Member States and other stakeholders addressed to the panelists. Member States will participate in the dialogue on a voluntary basis. No speakers' list will be kept.

UN-Women will facilitate an online application process for representatives of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC. The list of NGOs proposed for participation in the event will be distributed to Member States through respective Bureau members.

Guiding Questions

The below set of suggested questions are intended to support the discussion.

- What is the impact of intersecting crises on women and girls living in poverty?
- How have systemic inequalities and intersectional discrimination further intensified these impacts?
- How can reforms to the international financial architecture support developing countries to mobilize and target public financing to address women's and girls' more effectively?
- How can the international human rights framework support Member States in prioritizing gender, responsive, pro-poor policy decisions?
- How can public institutions be more accountable to women and girls living in poverty?
- What strategies have been effective in mobilizing state action to deliver essential public services to women and girls living in poverty?
- What new development strategies can accelerate progress on ending women's and girls' poverty and set the world on a sustainable, inclusive and equitable development trajectory?

Outcome

The outcome of the interactive expert panel on the priority theme will be in the form of a Chair's summary, prepared in consultation with the regional groups through the members of the Bureau.