

SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Gender Equality, the Empowerment of All Women and Girls
and Their Human Rights Across the Sustainable Development Goals:
Assessing Progress towards the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Expert Group Meeting, 30 June–2 July 2026

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Virtual, 8 a.m.–12.30 p.m. (ET time)

DAY 1 – Tuesday 30 June 2026	
8.00–8.30	<p>Welcome and opening of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks from Sarah Hendriks, Director, Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division • Overview of the programme
8.30–10.00	<p>Session 1 – Progress, setbacks and future priorities for gender equality and sustainable development towards and beyond 2030</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What tangible difference has the 2030 Agenda made for advancing gender equality in global, regional and national policy spaces since 2015? • What have been the most significant setbacks, in terms of outcomes, resources or political space? What lies behind these reversals? • What role have global norms – and the 2030 Agenda in particular – played in safeguarding hard-won gains and driving further progress in a context marked by conflict, climate crisis, democratic erosion, weakening multilateralism and declining ODA? • What lessons can be drawn from SDG implementation for feminist priorities in a possible successor framework of the SDGs beyond 2030? <p>Expert presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Sanders, School of Public and International Affairs, University of Cincinnati: “Women’s Rights in an Era of Extremism and Authoritarianism” • Lina Abou-Habib, American University of Beirut: “On-going Conflict and Displacement as a Serious Impediment for Progress in Gender Equality Towards 2030” • Eudine Barriteau, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: “Operationalizing Gender Equality Commitments across Human Rights Treaties: Achieving the SDGs Post-2030 Agenda” • Gloria Novović, King’s College London: “Gender Equality under Agenda 2030: A Systems-level Analysis of Policy Innovation and Political Foreclosures” • Gita Sen, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era: “The Post-SDGs Era: Whither Gender Equality”

	Session structure: Expert views (8 minutes each); plenary discussion
10.00–10.30	BREAK
10.30–12.00	<p>Session 2 – Insights from national implementation: Impact of the SDGs on gender equality discourses, policies and institutions</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How have the SDGs (re)shaped national and local discourses, laws and policies on gender equality? 2. How have gender-equality advocates and feminist organizations used SDG language, processes and reporting mechanisms (e.g., VNRs, local reviews) to open new political spaces or overcome institutional resistance? 3. What processes and institutions, such as gender-mainstreaming practices, coordination structures or planning and budgeting routines, have emerged or changed as part of SDG domestication? 4. Which mechanisms (e.g., regional platforms, city-level coalitions, interministerial bodies) have been effective in translating SDG norms into policies and institutional innovations that accelerate gender equality? 5. What lessons can be drawn about how a future global development agenda might strengthen the discursive and institutional foundations needed for coherent, multi-level implementation of gender equality commitments? <p>Expert presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • İpek İlkkaracan, Istanbul Technical University: “From SDG 5.4 to the Care Economy: Lessons for the Post-2030 Agenda” • Norah Madaya, Civil Society for Budget Advocacy Group – Uganda: “Citizen Data, Gender-Responsive Budgeting and SDG Localization: Advancing CGD on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Children” • Salma Nims, Formerly, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia: “Gender-Responsive SDG Implementation in Contexts of Crisis, Climate Change and Inequality: Lessons from Governance, Participation and Accountability” • Esther Waweru, Equality Now • Rabeb Aloui, Women’s Major Group to UNEP – Africa Focal Point: “Gender Justice in Africa: Intersecting Inequalities and Delivering the SDGs Towards and Beyond 2030” <p>Session structure: Expert views (8 minutes each); plenary discussion</p>
12.00–12.30	Wrap-up and summary of the themes of the day

DAY 2 – Wednesday 1 July 2026	
8.00–8.30	Recap of Day 1
8.30–10.00	<p>Session 3 – Addressing intersecting inequalities: The promises and limitations of the 2030 Agenda’s leave no one behind principle</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How well did the 2030 Agenda address intersecting inequalities, including through the leave no one behind principle? How has this principle been interpreted in national implementation, both strengths and limitations? 2. How can efforts to reduce gender and other horizontal inequalities remain effective when broader economic structures are driving ever-greater concentration of wealth, income and political influence? 3. What are the strengths and limitations of current data systems in making intersecting inequalities visible? What innovations show promise? 4. How have social movements, feminist organizing, and cross-movement coalitions shaped action on inequality, and what lessons can be taken forward for 2030 and beyond? <p>Expert presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naila Kabeer, The London School of Economics and Political Science: “Can the SDGs Address Inequalities? Revisiting the Leave No One Behind Principle” • Rosalee Gonzalez, Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas – North America: “Thirty Years After Beijing: Indigenous Women of the Americas Between Resistance, Collective Rights and the Promise to Leave No One Behind” • Saowalak Thongkuay, ASEAN Disability Forum: “Intersecting Inequalities and the Promise to Leave No One Behind: Advancing Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion Across the SDGs” • Khalida Azhigulova, International PSEAH consultant and investigator of GBV incidents: “Invisible Victims: Access to Justice in Gender-based Violence Cases for Refugee and Migrant Women” • Gisela Zaremberg, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales – Mexico: “The Role of Social Movements: Feminist Organizing and Cross-Movement Coalitions in a Context of Collapse and Global Reordering” <p>Session structure: Expert views (8 minutes each); plenary discussion</p>
10.00–10.30	BREAK
10.30–12.00	<p>Session 4 – Financing and partnerships for gender equality and sustainable development</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has been achieved, and what remains insufficient, after the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development regarding the financing of gender equality and sustainable development? 2. How can financing architecture evolve in a ‘post-aid world,’ including through global public investment, expanded domestic resource mobilization and progressive taxation? 3. What opportunities and risks emerge from new financing instruments (e.g., sustainable finance, blended finance, climate finance) for gender equality? 4. What kind of partnerships – at global, regional and national level – have delivered meaningful progress on gender equality and sustainable development? <p>Expert presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solange Baptiste, ITPC Global: “From Charity to Solidarity: What Comes After Aid?”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foteini Papagiotti, International Center for Research on Women: “Financing the Feminist Future: Public Investment, Partnerships and Accountability After FfD4” • Sivananthi Thanenthiran, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women: “Financing Models and Their Opportunities and Risks” • Bemnet Agata, Tax Justice Network: “Beyond Debt and Austerity: Financing Gender Justice” <p>Session structure: Expert views (8 minutes each); plenary discussion</p>
12.00–12.30	Wrap-up and summary of the themes of the day

DAY 3 – Thursday 2 July 2026	
8.00–8.30	Recap of Day 2
8.30–10.00	<p>Session 5 – Governance, monitoring and accountability</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does the current crisis of multilateralism mean for the post-2030 agenda? Can “global governance by goals” still drive progress? 2. How can monitoring and reporting mechanisms be strengthened (e.g., VNRs/HLPF, human rights bodies, feminist accountability frameworks) to ensure that commitments translate into action? 3. What is needed to close gender data gaps and how can gender data and statistics be used to drive accountability? 4. What multi-level accountability arrangements – from local to global – have proven effective, and how can these be institutionalized in a post-2030 framework? <p>Expert presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa Upreti, Formerly, United Nations Working Group on discrimination against women and girls: “Strengthening Multi-level Governance, Monitoring and Accountability amidst Increasing Hostility to the Concept of Gender Equality and Impunity for Violations of Human Rights” • Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Pacific Women Mediators Network: “Reweaving the Mat, Removing the Silos: Feminist Peacebuilding Lessons for the Post-2030 Agenda” • Joy Belmonte, Mayor of Quezon City: “QC as an Inclusive and Caring City: Delivering SDGs through Gender-Transformative Governance” • Francesca Perucci, Open Data Watch: “Gender Data at a Crossroads: Reflecting on the SDGs and the Road Beyond 2030” <p>Session structure: Expert views (8 minutes each); plenary discussion</p>
10.00–10.30	BREAK
10.30–12.00	<p>Session 6 – Discussion of the EGM report recommendations</p> <p>In plenary and/or breakout groups</p>
12.00–12.30	Wrap-up and next steps