

Concept Note

Side event to Regional Forum on Sustainable Development – Regionalizing CSW67

Title:	Game-changing actions in the digital age for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls: Localizing CSW67 in the Europe and Central Asia Region
Date and time:	29 March, 13:30 – 15:00 CET
Organizers:	UN Women ECA
Format:	Online
Language:	English

Introduction

The [67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#) focused on “**Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**”. The CSW67 dialogue provided an opportunity to address misconceptions of gendered dimensions of technology and innovation that hinder GEWE progress, to move beyond a binary vision of the gender digital divide and shape inclusive innovation ecosystems and address online and technology-facilitated violence against women. The sub-regional CSW67 sub-regional preparatory meetings for Central Asia (hosted by the Government of Kyrgyzstan), the Western Balkans (hosted by the Government of Albania) and Ukraine and EU/neighbouring countries hosting persons fleeing Ukraine following Russian’s invasion), provided an opportunity to formulate national and sub-regional positions to influence and inform CSW67.

In 2020-2021 partners in ECA region joined the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality (AC TIGE) and made commitments to advance gender equality in STEM. The commitments were expected to translate into tangible actions advancing women and girls participation in technology and innovation, overall aspiring to forge new commitments, including collective commitments, building on the momentum of the GEF. The year 2023 is a midpoint for Generation Equality to assess and report on progress and consider how the commitments made could be further strengthened by the solutions suggested by inter-governmental platforms like CSW.

The rapidly growing access and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has had multiple impacts on gender equality and women’s rights, including the further exacerbation of existing forms of violence against women (VAW), especially sexual harassment, and the emergence of new forms of VAW, such as non-consensual image sharing.

Objective

The side event of the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development 2023 aims to bring together governments and experts as well as private sector, youth and civil society perspectives from Europe and Central Asia region to follow-up on CSW67 outcomes and to identify game-changing actions in the digital age for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls to further localize CSW67 conclusions and commitments. More specifically, the discussions will focus on two specific CSW67 recommendations including: 1) Fostering inclusive education in the digital age, and promote women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and careers and 2) Implementing economic, labor and social policies that ensure that women are not left behind in the digital age; and 3) Addressing the need for a systematic approach to prevention and response to technology-facilitated violence against women.

Expected Outcomes

1. To raise awareness about the CSW67 agreed conclusions and renewed commitments by UNECE Member States to gender equality;
2. To share good practices and innovative solutions for further upscaling up in the region to bridge the digital divide and advance gender responsiveness;
3. To identify opportunities for regional cooperation and collaboration in advancing implementation of CSW67 agreed conclusions and commitments building on AC on TIGE transformative actions.

Methodology

The side event will be structured as a panel discussion, with experts from ECE region sharing their experiences and commitments related to CSW67 and further suggestions to regionalize and localize the CSW67 conclusions. The discussion will be moderated by a CSW member and UN Women partner. The panel discussion will be followed by a Q&A session, where attendees can engage with the experts and further explore the themes discussed.

Draft Agenda

Time	Activity
13:30 - 13:40	Opening remarks – Explaining CSW67 and the Agreed Conclusions
	Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia
	CSW Member - TBC
13:40- 14:30	Panel discussion
	Milva Ekonomi, Minister of State for Standards and Services, Albania

Time	Activity
	Edil Zholdubaevich Baisalov, Vice-Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic
	Representative from Government of Ukraine- TBC
	Avtandil Kasradze, Chairperson, Innovation Agency for RFSD, Georgia
	Sezen Sungur Saral, Founding Partner at Reeder, Türkiye
	Sofia Scarlet, Youth Activist
14:30 – 14:50	Q&A and discussion
14:50 - 15:00	Closing remarks by Moderator

Moderator UN Women