



Nations Unies

CSW67

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the world's leading intergovernmental body dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

6 TO 17 March 2023 the largest annual UN gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment,

The theme:

“Innovation, technological change and education in the digital age to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.”

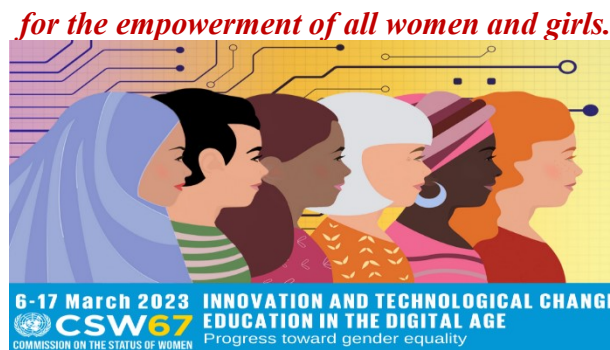


Ambassador of South Africa to the United Nations

Madame Mathu Joyini

About South Africa at the United Nations: South Africa was one of the 51 founding members of the United Nations in 1945. Since 1945, UN membership has increased to 193 states. The United Nations General Assembly suspended South Africa from participating in its work on 12/11/1974 due to opposition to the apartheid policy. South Africa was readmitted to the UN in 1994 after a transition to democracy.

The CSW67 offers a unique moment to forge a positive digital future. Governments, civil society organizations, experts from around the world are working together to address the challenges – and to advance the enormous potential – that technology holds



CSW67 Side Events = Events organized at UN premises by:

- The permanent missions
- Inter governmental organizations
- Entities of the United Nations



Parallel events = organized by non-governmental organizations

Are coordinated by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW/NY), which is a group of women's NGOs based in New York with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

NGO CSW/NY EVENTS

2ND WEEK

Click on the event title to register for each event
all times are in EST/Atlantic

KEY:

Conversation Circle
Regional Caucus
Civil Society Briefing
Youth Leaders Event
NGO CSW/NY events and
co-sponsored events

MARCH 2023

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<div>13</div> <div> Indefatigable - a roadshow to end violence against women and girls 10:30-12pm Advocates' Meditations 12:30-1:30pm Working Group on SRHR 1:30-3pm </div>	<div>14</div> <div> Truth-telling Briefing 9:30-10:30am Day for Women - Action Against Old Ageism/ Gender Based Violence 10am-12pm </div>	<div>15</div> <div> Africa 9:30-10:30am Sexual & Reproductive Health, Justice & Rights 10:30-11am Land Issues/HRH 11am-12:30pm SRHR 12:30-1pm Advocates' Meditations 1:30-2pm Health, Justice & Gender 2-3:30pm Global Women & the Caribbean 3-4:30pm Women and Girls Independent of Regional Advocates Regional Caucus 4:30-5pm Resilient & Youth Leadership & Movements 5-6:30pm Latin America 6-8:30pm European Justice & Rights 9-10:30pm </div>	<div>16</div> <div> Civil Society Briefing 9:30-10:30am <div> <div> All Conversation Circle and Regional Caucuses on 15 March will be held at G-16 in-person space at Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice </div> </div> </div>	<div>17</div> <div> Advocates' Meditations 12:30-1:30pm </div>



Work of the CSW67 Committee

- **Closing the important gender** gap in innovation and technology
- **How gender equality, empowerment and sustainable development** can be achieved in the digital age.
- **Highlight online violence and other dangers** faced by women and girls, as well as the need for quality education in the information age.

In her opening address, CSW67

President Mathu Joyini, said:

“While digital technologies are rapidly transforming societies, they are also creating new and profound challenges that can perpetuate and deepen existing gender inequalities.”

“Gender discrimination is a systemic problem that has woven into the fabric of our political, social and economic lives, and the technology sector is no different.”

New technologies and biases in automated systems perpetuate and reinforce gender inequalities. Finally, the lack of international laws and regulations further exposes vulnerable groups to violations of rights and privacy.

Women's Commission begins work against the backdrop of slow progress



Progress is disappearing

- ✚ UN Secretary-General António Guterres noted that CSW67 is meeting as progress on women's rights "fades before our eyes" in countries like Afghanistan, where women and girls have been erased from public life, the richest countries, where women's sexual and reproductive rights are under attack.
- ✚ Drawing on data from UN Women, the UN secretary General said that "gender equality is an increasingly distant horizon" and that at the "current pace, **it will take 300 years to reach it.**"

Because of

- increased maternal mortality whereas in most cases it would be preventable
- Disproportionate impact of Covid-19 and international armed conflicts on women.

While "technology is moving fast, women and girls are falling behind"

"The math is simple: without the ideas and creativity of half the world, science and technology will only achieve half of their potential."

With gender inequality ultimately a power issue, the Secretary-General called for urgent action in three areas, starting with improving education, income and employment for women and girls, especially in the countries of the South.

In addition, the full participation and leadership of women and girls in science and technology should also be encouraged.

The digital age is creating new and unprecedented opportunities for improving the lives of women and girls around the world. Digital technologies are rapidly transforming all areas of life, including our economic, social and political systems, creating new entry points and platforms for historically marginalized groups



When the session opens, board members begin discussions on how innovation, technology and education in the digital age can and should be tools for women's empowerment.

The meetings then focus on best practices and policies to:

- **Bridging the digital gender divide**
- **Promoting education in the digital age**
- **encouraging inclusive innovation and technological change for the empowerment of women and girls**

Alongside the session, representatives from Member States, UN entities and several NGOs are taking part in hundreds of parallel meetings focused on the critical issues of gender equality today.

Feminist speakers and experts from around the world cover various topics

- use of technology and innovation to improve the situation of women and girls - their digital rights and access to digital,
- **Youth Participation in Technology Spaces: Solutions to Strengthen Women's Civic Space and Digital Rights: Overcoming Resistance to Gender Equality**



Here is an example of a side event

To combat the decline of gender equality, encourage and finance inclusive feminist movements

On 13 March, UN Women, in partnership with the Generation Equality Action Coalitions on Feminist Movements and Gender-Based Leadership and Violence (GBV), brought together partners from all sectors to exchange experiences and identify strategies to counter the decline in gender equality and strengthen women's citizenship, space and digital rights.

Women's human rights are constantly under attack. Their bodies are a physical and metaphorical battlefield," said Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, opening the event with growing resistance and organized opposition to gender equality around the world.

"Technology has facilitated gender-based violence, hate speech, surveillance and censorship, as well as harassment are a large part of this growing opposition to gender equality," Bahous said.



Hard-won gains in women's rights under attack in various areas les droits sexuels et reproductifs

- LGBTQ rights
- The political participation of women.

Latiyah Orneill, Founder of the Transgender and Rights Association, shared an example of repression in her region in Côte d'Ivoire.

Here, rigid definitions of gender exclude transgender women and members of the LGBTQ community from reporting GBV cases, erasing their right to recognition and protection.



Zonta International Statement to the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

“..... To bridge the digital divide and ensure equal opportunities for women and girls in education and employment, Zonta International calls on Member States and the United Nations to:

- **Ensure universal access to the Internet.**
- **Remove specific barriers** to women's access to the Internet, including costs, quality of services, and digital skills and abilities.
- **Invest in digital education** for women and girls so they can fully and freely access the Internet and participate online.
- Implement UNESCO's revised Global Declaration on Connectivity for Education at the National Level to ensure that technologies support inclusive education based on the principles of justice, equity and respect for human rights.
- Increase investments in girls' education and support STEM education and digital skills development for girls at the primary level, secondary and tertiary education to ensure continued access to the learning and employment and economic opportunities of the future.
- Develop gender-specific policies with specific measures to address the digital gender gap, promote gender-specific digital learning and address online violence through privacy policies and laws; safety and security.
- Design and implement school programs for teachers and youth to promote safe and responsible use of information and communications technologies



UNESCO participation to the CSW67

UNESCO took the opportunity to launch the “**Women 4 Ethical AI**” project, which aims to mobilize women in the world of artificial intelligence for ethical and inclusive outcomes



The digital revolution offers many opportunities to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment, but it also poses a number of risks and challenges to perpetuating gender stereotypes and gender-based violence.

In addition:

- **difficulties related to access to information,**
- **disinformation - fake news**
- **online gender-based violence**

Hinder the participation of women and girls in the digital world and become a global phenomenon that transcends borders and requires a multilateral response. It is “the most widespread and pernicious form of gender-based censorship”.

UNESCO parallel event:

- **proposes to discuss possible solutions**
- **Involvement in policy, with a view to building inclusive societies in the digital age.**
- **Highlights UNESCO’s policy instruments such as the UNESCO Recommendation on Ethics of AI, adopted by all Member States and UNESCO’s research and recommendations on the promotion of gender**
- **Equality in the right of access to information and the fight against gender-based violence against journalists.**



how to implement policy measures to avoid replication of stereotypes and biases in AI



Background

It is now well established that, without an ethical framework, the development and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) can reproduce and even amplify inequalities and discrimination in the real world.

Artificial intelligence has an impact in many fields, from telecommunications and social media to industrial production and employment

In this sense, digital transformation, fuelled by artificial intelligence, is already deepening inequalities, particularly according to gender.

According to the World Economic Forum (2021)

- 97 million new jobs will be created by 2025
- the majority requiring AI skills

However, women remain an untapped resource.

Women = 35% of STEM students

= 28% of STEM professionals

= 15% of Facebook AI researchers

= 10% of Google are women.

= Worldwide less than 25% of AI specialists

= 14% of IT workers

= 20% in engineering.

Even worse, this gender gap has remained chronic and static, and at this rate it will take more than a century to achieve gender equality in this area.

There are real and significant challenges to addressing to ensure that AI does not exacerbate or amplify societal biases, inequalities and fractures.

Bias in AI can be generated by a simple statistical error or by conscious and unconscious assumptions that programmers make about race, gender, or other ideological concepts and social stereotypes.

AI systems are likely to replicate existing discriminatory social norms and create new ones.

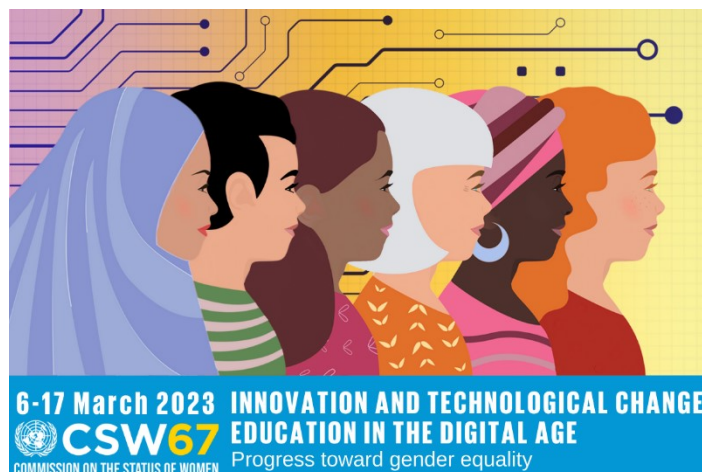


That is why, at the 41st General Conference on 24 November 2021, UNESCO adopted the AI Ethics Recommendation, which establishes a global framework based on human-centred principles and values.

- Ensure that national AI strategies include a gender equality action plan;
- Dedicated funds from public budgets to fund gender-sensitive programmes
- Increasing women's representation in the digital world and in STEM careers
- AI systems do not replicate discrimination and harassment; they support female entrepreneurship

PROPOSAL

- The Committee on the Status of Women and the decision to devote the 2023 session to innovation and technological developments is an excellent opportunity to increase the visibility of UNESCO's work in the field of artificial intelligence
- Build on the commitments made by 193 UNESCO members to advance gender quality in the digital world and discuss practical means of implementation.
- Strong call to respect these commitments, through the integration of an action plan.
- Regulations to achieve gender balance at all stages of the life cycle of an AI system, AI research and development
- encourage female entrepreneurship
- Representation in AI business leadership positions
- Addressing gender bias, discrimination and harassment online.



CSW67 closing statement: Game-changing Agreed Conclusions for a more equal and connected world for women and girls

Closing statement to the Commission on the Status of Women at its 67th session, by Ms. Sima Bahous, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women 17 March 2023 - UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous

[UN women closing-statement-game-changing-agreed-conclusions](#)



Take steps to:

- **fully implement existing commitments to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**
- **Ratify or accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child**
- **Identify and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, including those exacerbated by the use of new technologies**
- **bridging the growing digital divide within and between countries**
- **expanding digital learning and literacy and facilitating access to information and communications technologies for women and girls**

- enable the participation of all women and girls in education and ensure equal access to affordable mobile devices and an open, affordable, accessible, safe and secure Internet
- achieving the right to enjoy the highest standards of physical and mental health for all women and girls with universal health coverage
- ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health
- Tackling new risks, gender stereotypes and prejudices in artificial intelligence, predictive algorithms and robotics
- Access accessible and inclusive digital information and technologies for persons with disabilities, women in the rural economy, Indigenous women, migrant women and girls, regardless of their migratory status
- Increase the resilience of older women to maintain adequate financial resources by bridging the digital divide that particularly affects them
- That developed countries implement their respective official development assistance commitments
- Strengthen international and regional cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
- Avoid unilaterally promulgating and applying economic, financial or trade measures that are not consistent with international law and the Charter of the United Nations

Promote:

- Gender-sensitive digital, scientific and technological education in the digital age
- primary and secondary education and the expansion of vocational and technical education for all women and girls, and the promotion of intercultural and multilingual education for all
- STEM education and research for girls - helping them take advantage of science and technology - Creating opportunities for women in the STEM sector
- Girls' diversification of educational and professional choices in emerging fields such as science and technology, engineering and mathematics, arts, information technology and digital skills
- teacher training, especially for women, who account for more than half of all teachers in pre-primary, primary and secondary education
- Ensuring equal and effective access to age-appropriate information for all children - Protecting against online risks and human rights violations
- Eliminate occupational segregation and structural barriers that prevent women from entering the labour market – Facilitate the recruitment and retention of women in technology and digital professions

Supporting the economic empowerment of women and women-led businesses

Encourage

- development and implementation of policies and programs that support women entrepreneurship
- the design, development and deployment of gender-sensitive technologies
- proactive measures to include women and girls in planning, machine learning and artificial intelligence technology design
- Implementation of legislation, which protects women and girls from violations and abuses, including the right to privacy

- **assessment of emerging technologies to prevent, identify and mitigate potential risks to all women and girls**
- **full, equal participation and leadership of young women and adolescent girls in decision-making processes**
- **inclusion of women and girls in innovation teams**

Elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, online and offline:

- **Sexual and gender-based violence, family violence**
- **Gender-related murders, including femicides**
- **Child, early and forced marriage**
- **Female genital mutilation,**
- **Sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment**
- **Human trafficking and modern slavery and other forms of exploitation**
- **In situations of armed conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian emergencies**

Through coordinated multi-sectoral approaches to prosecute and punish perpetrators to end impunity, take appropriate measures to create a safe, violence-free work environment for women, including ratifying key international treaties that protect against gender.

