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Welcome!

Thanks for participating in the virtual 65th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW65). It is the biggest annual gathering of women’s rights organisations and activists in the world. It is a great opportunity to network with other trade union delegates and women’s and feminist movements as well as to lobby governments around our key trade union priorities.

You are part of a UNCSW65 delegation of 345 union delegates in 56 countries around the world!

At the UNCSW65 our objectives include the following: 1) ensuring that global policy outcomes are in line with trade union priority issues related to the UNCSW65 priority theme by influencing government positions through advocacy and lobby; 2) strengthening and building alliances with women/ feminist organisations to support trade union priorities and trade union gender equality campaigns; and 3) coverage of our key priorities at the UNCSW65 meetings and events and in (social) media.

This trade union guide provides guidance and tools to make the most out of your UNCSW65 participation and assists you with navigating through the programme and other activities (check chapter 3: direct website links and how to register). Please read this guide carefully. The guide is also available online for easy browsing at this link: https://psishort.link/CSW65TUGuide.

To further assist you, we are inviting you to the UNCSW65 Trade Union Briefings (in English, Spanish and French). The first session, on Friday 12 March, 2.00 – 3.30 pm CET, will guide you through the UNCSW65 process and our trade union lobbying priorities and activities. The next briefings take place on Monday 22 March and Friday 26 March, with both sessions at 2.00 – 3.00 CET. You will receive the Zoom invite via the focal point(s) of your delegation.

Throughout the UNCSW65, you will receive UNCSW65 updates via your trade union delegation focal point(s) and via the Global Unions UNCSW blog. Subscribe here to receive the blog updates. We encourage you to contribute your views and stories (in the language of your choice) to this blog (see chapter 5)!

You can contact the focal point of your delegation (chapter 7) for further guidance.

➢ Guidance on the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico (29-31 March) is provided separately
1. The UNCSW65 at a glance

The UNCSW is a global policy-making body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It promotes gender equality and women’s rights, documents the reality of women’s lives throughout the world, and shapes global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The work of the UNCSW is grounded in the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, the blueprint for achieving gender equality³.

Each year, the CSW focuses on one priority theme. Member states negotiate ‘Agreed Conclusions’, which are the key outcome of the UNCSW65. The priority theme of UNCSW65 is “Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”.

The UNCSW65 Global Unions Statement outlines our priorities related to the priority theme. It is part of the official UNCSW65 documentation – and available in English, Spanish and French. The overarching priorities of this statement include:

- The Global Unions call on governments to urgently live up to promises made in the Beijing Platform for Action and to fulfil commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the realisation of equality and equity in leadership and decision-making by addressing the following gender equal new normal pillars:
  - Universal ratification of C190 and its effective implementation, to shape a world of work free from gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work;
  - A new gender-equal social contract which builds resilient societies and economies;
  - A caring economy based on the recognition of the human right to care and placed at the front and centre of macro-economic policymaking so as to secure fiscal space and increased public resources and finance.

The UNCSW65 is a unique opportunity to:

- Lobby governments around our key priorities - check chapter 3 for more guidance on lobbying governments and the Agreed Conclusions.
- Build and strengthen our networks, including with women and feminist organisations, - check chapter 4 for networking tips.
- Share our trade union views and priorities during the UNCSW65 events, including in social media. Key messages for social media can be downloaded here - check the social media guide in chapter 5 for further guidance.

³ The crucial role of trade unions in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (ITUC). https://www.ituc-csi.org/the-crucial-role-of-trade-unions
On the UNCSW65 website, you will find the official UNCSW65 documents. Most documents are in English only; a few are available in other languages. For instance:

- the Report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme (in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese) and
- the Report of the Secretary-General on the review theme (available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese). The UNCSW65 review theme reviews a previous priority theme of the UNCSW. This year’s review theme is "Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development". You can check here if your government provided inputs for the Report of the Secretary-General on the review theme.

2. Navigating through the UNCSW65 program and events

Besides the UNCSW65 official programme, there are two other type of events: side events and parallel events. There are a lot of options to choose from! In this chapter, we provide tips on how to navigate through these types of events and how to secure a spot to attend. The Global Unions UNCSW blog will provide a short list of daily meetings and events to guide you in your choice. You can also join the Global Unions trade-union-related events.

The UNCSW65 Official programme...

...covers debates, panels and roundtables. Most of them are related to the priority theme. The general discussion is where governments make statements on the priority theme. And the interactive dialogue sessions and ministerial roundtables focus on different aspects of the priority theme. While yet to be confirmed, we will inform you when Global Unions speakers are listed for presenting.

To participate: Your UNCSW65 registration will enable you to receive information via your email address on how to attend the official programme (keep an eye on your inbox). These meetings provide interpretation in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese. The UNCSW65 usually also livestreams a number of events (in English only).

The UNCSW65 side events are hosted by governments. While most relate to the priority theme, they will also focus on others. In order to find out more about your government’s position related to the priority theme and our key priorities, check out if your government is hosting or speaking at a side event.

To participate: Each side event provides an email and/or weblink where you can register to attend the event. Please register as soon as you can to save a spot for your participation. Most of the events will be in English only, and some will provide interpretation.

The UNCSW65 parallel events are hosted by civil society organisations. Most events will be in English, and some will provide interpretation, including some parallel events organised by the Global Unions (check the list of trade-union-related events – also available on the UNCSW65 Global Unions blog). The calendar is displayed by default in EST (New York) time; download the trade union calendar (.ics) and open or import it into your own calendar to view it in your own time zone.
The parallel events are hosted on the [NGOCSW65 Virtual Forum](#). Since the forum is in English only, please use google translate to navigate through the forum in your language.

**To participate:** follow these steps to participate in the parallel events:

a. First, register on the NGOCSW Virtual Forum as an ‘advocate’: you can register for free [here](#). Click on the green button ‘register’ and complete the form. You will receive a confirmation email of your registration and the login information (please save your login information).

b. When registered on the online forum, go to ‘Schedule’ and register for the parallel events of your choice. This is highly recommended to secure a post for your participation. You can register by clicking on the parallel event of your choice, then click on the green button ‘reserve your spot’. When done, you will find your list of reserved events in the ‘My Agenda’ section.

**NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum** Once registered on the forum, you can message/network with other attendees and post in the public forum. You can attend UNCSW65 briefing sessions for civil society, including the UNCSW65 Consultation Day (on Sunday 14 March) and the daily briefings, with updates on the UNCSW65. Other events featured are the conversation circles, a virtual exhibit hall, the public forum and regional caucuses (where you can connect and network with like-minded women and feminist movements). These events are (or will be) included in the schedule of parallel events.

### 3. The UNCSW65 Agreed Conclusions and lobbying governments

The ‘Agreed Conclusions’, prepared by the UNCSW65, are negotiated between Member States. Negotiations started in February and will close during the UNCSW65. The negotiations are open for Member States only. This is an opportunity to lobby our own governments, other governments, like-minded NGOs, regional caucuses, and others to influence the outcome of the negotiations of the Agreed Conclusions.

The first Draft of the UNCSW65 Agreed Conclusions is available in English [here](#). To be prepared for lobbying your government, please check with the focal point of your delegation for the latest version of 1) the Agreed Conclusions and 2) the amendments prepared by the [Global Unions drafting group](#). The drafting group also gathers intel about government positions. If you have updates to share about your government position, please inform the focal point of your delegation (check the contact information in Chapter 7). The drafting group cooperates closely with the Women’s Rights Caucus, a grouping of feminist movements from across the world.
Updates on the negotiation process will be provided via the Trade Union Briefing sessions (on 12, 22 and 26 March), via the focal point of your delegation and via email.

**Tips to lobby your governments and where to start**

Our strength is our diversity: the fact that we have trade union delegates from around the world on the same team!

- Lobby your government around our trade union priorities and our amendments for the Agreed Conclusions. Share information with the trade union delegation about your government position. Find out who our allies are, who our opponents are, and what types of hurdles are developing. Share ideas about lobbying strategies and develop alliances to influence the outcomes.
- Compile a list of policies your government has already adopted that are related to the priority theme. That way you can hold them to account if and when they appear to be back-peddling on positions they have already adopted in the past.
- Every Member State gets to make a statement during the ‘General Discussion’ on their progress on the priority theme of the UNCSW65. Find out who is making statements similar to ours, monitor what they say, and get a copy of their statement.
- Many government delegations offer briefings to NGOs on the status of negotiations. Find out about them and plan to attend, and report back on what you hear! Check if your government is in the list of Member States at the UNCSW. Find out which government department in your country has the lead on preparing for the UNCSW65. This list contains the contact details of your government representatives at the UN, called ‘UN Missions’.
- Share your findings with your trade union delegation.

**What we are up against....**

Regressive governments and organisations are often pro-active at the UNCSW. They tend to influence the negotiations **against** the term ‘gender’, reproductive rights and protection against gender-based violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Conservative NGOs are highly organised and connected and found allies in the Holy See (the Vatican) and a number of Member States across the world. Try to find out which organisations or individuals from your part of the world fit this profile and what positions they are bringing forward and who their allies are.

**4. Networking and alliance building**

The UNCSW offers a great opportunity for **transnational networking** and **alliance building** with like-minded organisations/NGOs. There are various ways to connect:

1. Register [here](#) as an advocate on the [NGOCSW65 Virtual Platform](#) to join and connect with other delegates from across the world.
2. Participate in meetings and events. While all virtual, they might offer opportunities to connect with participants.

3. Identify your allies in your own country and/or region, e.g., unions, women’s organisations, NGOs, via the list of UNCSW65 attendees on the UNCSW/NGO virtual platform, the regional caucuses or the parallel and side events.

4. **Once connected**, check what their lobby/advocacy plans are and in which lobby platforms they operate. Share our trade union priorities and invite them to our trade-union-related events. You can check if their statement is listed on the UNCSW65 website: ‘NGO statements’.

Check out the progressive/feminist organisations with a strong presence at past UNCSW meetings. They include the following: ActionAid International; Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development (APWLD); Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID); Centre for Global Women’s Leadership (CWGL); Centre for Reproductive Rights; European Women’s Lobby (EWL); FEMNET (The African Women’s Development and Communication Network); Global Alliance for Tax Justice Campaign (GATJ); Solidarity Centre; Women in Migration Network (WIMN); and Women’s Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO).

5. The social media guide - #CSW65

**Let’s raise our trade union voice!** Write, tweet, photograph or video your messages for the Global Unions UNCSW blog and across social media! The online trade union social media guide provides you with a compilation of tips and tools to help amplify the voice of women workers at the UNCSW65.

**Let’s hear your voice!** During the two weeks, parallel and side events are sources of rich and poignant stories about women who have championed their rights in their respective countries. Their stories need to be shared to a wider audience – and union delegates can play a valuable role in making that happen.

The **Global Unions UNCSW blog**, created by Public Services International (PSI), is our central information point. It houses articles, photos, videos and social media shareables related to the UNCSW. You can also follow updates on the UNCSW Global Unions ‘Women Power Unions’ Facebook page.

This year, because of the virtual format of the UNCSW, it is more important than ever to make use of digital tools to get our message out.

**Hashtags you can use:**
- General: #CSW65 #UNCSW65 #GenerationEquality #GlobalUnions
- Other useful hashtags include:
  - GBV: #GenderEqualNewNormal #RatifyC190 #C190
Check out the social media guide for the trade union delegation for all tips and recommendations on how to report on sessions and events and contribute to the trade union blog. Use the key message and/or the sample tweets we have compiled with useful Twitter handles and hashtags. Download visuals, download the logo and use it on your social media profile.

The Global Unions social media guide is part of the online trade union guide and can also be accessed directly at this link:  https://psishort.link/CSW65Comms

6. Contact the focal point of your Global Unions delegation

The Global Unions delegation at the UNCSW65 and their focal points:

- **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC):**
  - Marieke Koning [marieke.koning@ituc-csi.org](mailto:marieke.koning@ituc-csi.org)
  - Carmen Smenjaud: [carmen.smenjaud@ituc-csi.org](mailto:carmen.smenjaud@ituc-csi.org)
  - [Equality@ituc-csi.org](mailto:Equality@ituc-csi.org)

- **Building and Woodworkers’ International (BWI):**
  - Ana Paula Melli [paula.melli@bwint.org](mailto:paula.melli@bwint.org)

- **Education International (EI):**
  - madeleine kennedy-macfoy [madeleine.kennedymacfoy@ei-ie.org](mailto:madeleine.kennedymacfoy@ei-ie.org)
  - Rebeca Sevilla [rebeca.sevilla@ei-ie.org](mailto:rebeca.sevilla@ei-ie.org)

- **Public Services International (PSI):**
  - Verónica Montúfar [veronica.montufar@world-psi.org](mailto:veronica.montufar@world-psi.org)
  - Hazel Ripoll [hazel.ripoll@world-psi.org](mailto:hazel.ripoll@world-psi.org)

- **International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF):**
  - Neha Prakash [Prakash_neha@itf.org.uk](mailto:Prakash_neha@itf.org.uk)
  - Joanne Martin [Martin_Joanne@itf.org.uk](mailto:Martin_Joanne@itf.org.uk)

- **International Federation of Journalists (IFJ):**

- **International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Associations (IUF):**
  - Julie Duchatel [julie.duchatel@iuf.org](mailto:julie.duchatel@iuf.org)
UNI Global Union:
- Veronica Fernández Méndez veronica.fernandezmendez@uniglobalunion.org

International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF):
- Adriana Paz Ramírez adriana.paz@idwfed.org
- Roula Seghaier roula.seghaier@idwfed.org

Appendix 1: A glossary of some abbreviations for the UNCSW and the Generation Equality Forum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)</td>
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<td>CSW</td>
<td>Commission on the Status of Women</td>
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<td>DAW</td>
<td>Division for the Advancement of Women (at UN Women)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EI</td>
<td>Education International</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>FGM</td>
<td>Female genital mutilation</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTT</td>
<td>Financial Transactions Tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>GUF</td>
<td>Global Union Federation</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFI</td>
<td>International financial institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFJ</td>
<td>International Federation of Journalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITF</td>
<td>International Transport Workers’ Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUF</td>
<td>International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Associations</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization and International Labour Office (Geneva)</td>
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<td>ILO Convention 87</td>
<td>Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise (1948)</td>
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<td>ILO Convention 98</td>
<td>Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining (1949)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO Convention 100</td>
<td>Equal Remuneration (1951)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO Convention 102</td>
<td>Social Security (Minimum Standards) (1952)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO Convention 111</td>
<td>Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) (1958)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO Convention 128</td>
<td>Invalidity, Old-Age and Survivors’ Benefits (1967)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO Convention 151</td>
<td>Labour Relations (Public Sector) 1978</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO Convention 182</td>
<td>Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO Convention 189</td>
<td>Domestic Workers (2011)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITUC</td>
<td>International Trade Union Confederation</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBT</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-governmental organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODA</td>
<td>Overseas development assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development</td>
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<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>PSI</td>
<td>Public Services International</td>
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<td>QPS</td>
<td>Quality public services</td>
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<tr>
<td>TUAC</td>
<td>Trade Union Advisory Committee (at the OECD)</td>
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Appendix 2: Shortlist of useful links

- The Global Unions social media kit: https://psishort.link/CSW65Comms
- The online trade union guide: https://psishort.link/CSW65TUGuide
- The online calendar of trade-union-related events also available for download (.ics).
- The Global Unions Statement available in English – Français – Español

- UNCSW65 side events
- NGO CSW65 Virtual Platform for parallel events
- Draft Agreed Conclusions