

Concept Note and Programme

Global Trade Union UNCSW Preparatory meeting 6-7 December 2016, New York

Roger Smith Hotel
501 Lexington Avenue (between 47th & 48th Street)
Starlight Room (Mezzanine Floor)

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives around the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Public Services International (PSI), Education International (EI) and other global unions, as well as national trade union centres from Canada, Italy, United Kingdom, Norway, Senegal, Brazil and many other countries participate annually in the Sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The UNCSW provides a unique opportunity for coalition-building with other progressive organizations, and for influencing global policies on gender equality. In 2017, the main theme of the 61st Session of the UNCSW will be "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work". This is an important opportunity for the trade union movement to make our demands visible, to influence this global body and to strengthen and consolidate our alliances with major civil society organizations (CSOs). The labour delegations that will be present at UNCSW61 will coordinate actions at the national, regional and global levels, to ensure key labour priorities are included in the UNCSW61 outcome document (commonly referred to as the 'Agreed Conclusions').

Labour Objectives at UNCSW61

- Ensure that global policy outcomes are in line with trade union priority issues related to women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;
- Agreed Conclusions:
 - Influence government positions with the aim of incorporating trade union language/ amendments into the draft agreed conclusions;
 - Engage a core group of women/ feminist organisations to support trade union language/ amendments;
- Alliance building with women's/ feminist groups around trade union/ women workers' rights campaigns both before, during and after UNCSW61;
- Coverage of core messages at the UNCSW61 general debate and panels, at parallel and side events and in (social) media.

Labour position at UNCSW61: *Economic justice for women*

- **Full integration of decent work and trade union priorities**, including in UN platforms on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and the Financing for Development (FfD) follow up;
- **Right to quality education for women and girls** as the first step on the road to economic justice;
- **Closing the gender pay gap**: living minimum wage and social protection, raising the social value of women's work (historical female occupations, jobs and sectors);
- **Investing in the care economy**: financing and providing gender responsive quality public services, more and decent jobs in the child -, elderly- and health care sectors, migrant and domestic workers, job segregation etc.
- **Stop gender-based violence (GBV) in the world of work**: campaign for a binding ILO Standard (Convention and Recommendation) on GBV;
- **Supply chains** (FoA, Living minimum wage, social protection)

Objectives of the UNCSW61 preparatory meeting (December 6-7 2016):

1. **To develop a strategy for trade union representation in the UNCSW61 and ensure high-level participation of trade unions in panels and official side-events.**
2. **To build a common labour lobby strategy for UNCSW61:**
 - Identify points for lobbying governments (list of topics, ILO standards).
 - Create a lobby strategy and process for tracking governments' response, buy-in and engagement.
3. **To develop a strategy for increased labour visibility at UNCSW61**
 - Building and strengthening alliances around core trade union positions at the UNCSW61 (see list above) – and secure support from supportive government delegations;
 - “Women Power Unions”/”A Woman's Place is in her Union” messages in social media/ websites: related to the core labour topics, and to promote labour events/ reports at the UNCSW61;
 - Public events (in cooperation with US/ Canadian affiliates): theme/ topic(s), objective(s) of the event, what and how.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 6 December

09:30 – 10:15 | Welcome and introduction

During this session a short overview of trade union actions at previous UNCSW sessions, the objectives of the UNCSW61 and this preparatory meeting will be presented, followed by a short round of introductions, and a regional “getting to know you” chat between participants.

- Luise Ruerup, FES, Director NYC Office
- Chidi King, ITUC, Director EQ (by Skype)
- Rebeca Sevilla, EI, Equality Coordinator
- Veronica Montufar, PSI, Equality Officer

10:15– 11:15 | Briefing on trade union priorities for UNCSW61 and core labour campaigns

During this session the UNCSW61 global union efforts will be presented, including an update on the preparatory work that has already taken place, followed by a session of Q&A.

- Sandra Vermuyten, PSI, Head of Campaigns

- Marieke Koning, ITUC, Equality Officer (by Skype)
- Moradeke Abiodun-Badru, 2016 ITUC-FES fellow; Equality officer, National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives

11:15 – 11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 | Meeting UN WOMEN and ILO

This session will give participants the opportunity to hear from policy experts from UN Women and the ILO on the policy issues related to UNCSW61, including insights on the report of the Experts' meeting and the report of the UN Secretary-General, the UNCSW61 programme (ministerial debates, general debate), the High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, and planned ILO-UN Women side-events and other ILO/UN Women events, followed by Q&A.

- Chaired by Jill Christianson, National Education Association-USA International Relations
- Christine Brautigam Director, Intergovernmental Support Division, UN Women
- Seemin Qayum, Policy Advisor, Sustainable Development, UN Women
- Raphael Crowe, ILO GED (Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch)
- Kevin Cassidy, ILO NYC Office

13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch

14:00 – 17:30 | Trade union strategy at UNCSW61

The objective of this session is to develop a multi-layered trade union strategy for UNCSW61, which includes defining 4 top labour policy priorities, developing lobbying points, a detailed plan and process for tracking governments' response, buy-in and engagement, actions at national/regional level both before and during the UNCSW, an update of the UNCSW trade union guide, plans for parallel and other events. Guiding questions will be prepared for the moderators/rapporteurs of each of the four groups.

English language group: Gladys Branche Bamijiko, SLLC // Cathy Feingold, AFL-CIO // Gloria Mills, UNISON // Shirley Price, IDWF // Amrita Sietaram, ILO // Moradeke Abiodun-Badru, FES // Kedibone Mdolo, DENOSA // Barb Byers, CLC

English language group: Naomi Dedei Otoo, PUWU // Jillian Bartlett, NUGFW // Rendu Panday Mishra, AICEA // Joan Donegan, IFUT // Jill Christianson, NEA // Rebeca Sevilla, EI // Anna Lee Tuvera, ITUC AP // Lisa Mc Gowan, Solidarity Center

French language group: Nassira Ghozlane, SNAPAP // Dianne Woloschuk, CTF-FCE // Valilia Pierre Etienne, UNNNOEH // Marième Sakho, SYPROS // Fatou Bintou Yafa (CNTS) // Andrée Côté, PSAC // Sandra Vermuyten, PSI

Spanish language group: Juneia Batista, CUT // Maria del Rocio Franzoni, SUTGDF // María de la Luz Rocha Hernández, STUNAM // Gaby Figueroa, APUBA // Eulogia Familia, CNUS // Yamile Sokolovsky, CONADU // Maria Alexandra Arguedas, TUCA // Veronica Montúfar, PSI

15:45 – 16:00 | Coffee break

17:30 – 18:30 | Reception at the Roger Smith Penthouse (16th Floor)

Wednesday 7 December

10:00 -10:30 | Recap of the previous day

Short presentations by each of the rapporteurs of the working groups.

10:30 – 11:30 | Campaign Strategy for UNCSW 61

Linked to the four top policy priorities, proposals for actions will be developed by each of the four working groups, with a view to developing key messages, an international media strategy, communications plan, proposals/concepts for events, plans for engaging allies and potential allies, and proposals for promotional tools (leaflets and others). Guiding questions will be prepared for the moderators/rapporteurs of each of the four groups. Same groups as above.

11:30 – 13:00 | Planning national action ahead of UNCSW

Participants should leave this meeting with strong commitments from trade union representatives on actions they will take when they return home. Several presentations will be made that outline examples of successful actions at the national level.

- **Chaired by Juneia Batista, Chair of PSI World Women's Committee**

13:00 – 14:30 | Lunch

14:30 – 15:30 | Towards an ILO Standard against violence and harassment in the world of work

- **Chaired by Lisa Mc Gowan, Solidarity Center**

15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 | Coalition-building for women's empowerment

The UNCSW provides a unique opportunity for coalition-building with other progressive organizations, and for influencing global policies on gender equality. UNCSW61 is a particularly important opportunity for the trade union movement to make its demands visible, to influence this global body and to strengthen and consolidate alliances with major civil society organizations (CSOs).

- **Chaired by Sara Burke, Senior Policy Analyst, FES**
- **Carol Barton, WIMN (Women in Migration Network)**
- **Tove Maria Ryding, Global Alliance for Tax Justice Campaign Committee Chair**
- **Kate Lappin, Regional coordinator APWLD, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development**
- **Teresa Marshall, Global Tax Justice Alliance (Skype)**
- **Baishali Chatterjee, International Project Manager, ActionAid International**
- **Patita Tingoi, Economic Justice & Financing Manager (AWID)**

17:30 – 18:00 | Concluding remarks

Trade union UNCSW blog: <http://unioncsw.world-psi.org/>

Trade Union Guide to UNCSW: http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/uncsw60_guide_en_final.pdf

More about UNCSW 61 here: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017>