

## 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 61<sup>st</sup> 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').

#### 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.

**15:45 – 16:00 | Coffee break**

**17:30 – 18:30 | Reception at the Roger Smith Penthouse (16<sup>th</sup> 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).

- Sara Burke, Senior Policy Analyst, FES
- Carol Barton, WIMN (Women in Migration Network)
- Teresa Marshall, Global Tax Justice Alliance (Skype)

17:30 – 18:00 | Concluding remarks

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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](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>