



MULTISTAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS FOR ARMENIA, GEORGIA, MOLDOVA, UKRAINE

TO PREPARE FOR THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 68TH SESSION

Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective

20 FEBRUARY 2024

#CSW68

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

I. Background

The sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will take place from **11 to 22 March 2024**. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world are invited to contribute to the session. The CSW, a functional commission under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is dedicated to advancing global gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The priority theme for CSW68 is "**Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.**" The outcome of the Commission's consideration of the priority theme during its 68th session will take the form of Agreed Conclusions to be negotiated by all Member States.

This thematic focus underscores the critical intersectionality between economic well-being and governance practices responsive to gender dynamics. The discussions will be informed by the SG Report on the priority theme. Concurrently, the session will review progress under the theme, "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls," which was the priority theme of CSW63 and its Agreed Conclusions.

Recognizing the imperative to engage in substantive and inclusive dialogues that span diverse sectors of society, the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and the Government of the Republic of Moldova will collaboratively convene a subregional multistakeholder consultation for **Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine**.

These **consultations are strategically positioned as a preparatory initiative for CSW68**, seeking to foster comprehensive discussions and collaboration among various stakeholders to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities central to advancing gender equality in the region and more specifically, on the priority theme.

The consultations will address challenges and opportunities in accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) by focusing on poverty alleviation, strengthening social protection, unveiling and addressing unpaid care work, women's participation in the labor force, and financing and investing with a gender perspective.

Given the countries' common challenges, these consultations will also address the issue of gender-responsive recovery and economic resilience of women IDPs and refugees.

II. Objectives of the consultations

The subregional multistakeholder consultations have the following key objectives:

1. To assess the status of gender equality in relation to the priority theme in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, considering the unique challenges and opportunities of the region.
2. To identify regional priorities and strategies for advancing and financing GEWE concerning care economy, unpaid care work, social protection and labor force, including in the humanitarian context these countries face.
3. To facilitate a dynamic exchange of ideas among various stakeholders, including government representatives, civil society, academia, and the private sector.
4. To contribute to developing **concrete messages and recommendations for the CSW68 session with a focus on multiple humanitarian crises these countries face.**

III. Outcome

The half-day consultations are expected to produce a document with a comprehensive set of **messages, best practices, and concrete recommendations** that will inform the subregion's (Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine) contribution and participation to CSW68.

The document will be shared with all delegations, participants, and relevant stakeholders, contributing to a more inclusive and impactful global conversation on advancing gender equality ahead of the meeting and serve as basis for discussions and review for endorsement.

IV. Target audience

The consultations will bring together a diverse group of participants, including:

1. High level officials and technical staff responsible for gender equality and women's empowerment and involved in the topics addressed by the priority theme, including poverty, social protection, unpaid care work, women's participation in the labor force, and financing and investing in gender equality and women's empowerment.
2. Representatives from civil society organizations, including youth-led organizations with a proven track record on the topic and those representing women refugees and internally displaced women and children.
3. Academics and researchers specializing in issues pertaining to the priority theme.
4. Private sector representatives committed to promoting gender equality and economic empowerment of women.

V. Content and format of the consultations

The consultations will consist of two interactive panel discussions focusing on the priority theme. Participants will have the opportunity to share best practices, discuss challenges, and propose innovative solutions. Emphasis will be placed on fostering collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders to accelerate progress towards gender equality.

The discussions will focus on the following sub-themes:

- Budgets and finance for gender equality
- Social protection systems, access to services and tackling care work for economic development
- Economic resilience, targeted programs for economic empowerment and crisis recovery

Format

The half-day session will be undertaken in a hybrid modality with host country participants in person to the extent possible and participants from all the rest of countries connected online.

Translation

The working language will be English. Simultaneous translation will be provided in Armenian, Georgian, Romanian, Russian, and Ukrainian.