Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment – CSW Consultation

Context

Gender equality and women’s empowerment – and specifically women’s economic empowerment – are intrinsic to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Yet, large gender gaps in economic opportunities and outcomes remain across all countries and regions. This does not only undermine outcomes for women, but for society as a whole.

In the context of the 2030 Agenda, the High Level Panel was established by the UN Secretary General in January 2016 to do three things.

First, demonstrate high-level leadership and commitment. The Secretary General has brought together influential leaders from a diversity of regions and backgrounds to participate in the Panel.

Second, to highlight selected key priorities for accelerating women’s economic empowerment, and showing how this can be done.

Third, to show how government, business, civil society and development partners can work effectively together to achieve the vision of gender equality, as illustrated in the report and in the subsequent follow-up.

While recognizing the breadth and complexity of the agenda, the Panel will focus on a limited set of major issues in order to ensure real traction and progress within its limited timeframe, to set momentum for the period beyond. The Panel will produce two reports to the UN Secretary-General, drawing on rigorous analysis of the evidence, and views from broad-based consultations, and highlighting good practices. The first report will be presented in September 2016, and the second in March 2017. The Panelists will bring insights and commitment to actions to implement the agenda.

Purpose and objectives

The work of the High Level Panel will be informed by consultations with key stakeholders around the world. Following the inaugural meeting of the Panel on March 15th this consultation is an opportunity for a broad range of actors, many of whom are directly engaged in women’s economic empowerment, to contribute their early views and feedback. Consultations are envisaged to continue in various fora for the next several months, at the national, regional and thematic levels.
**Target audience**
The target audience is a broad range of constituents including Civil Society, Academics, Member States, and Multinationals. It will be open to all CSW attendees with members of the Panel in attendance.

**Format**
The format will be a moderated discussion. The moderator, Ghida Fakry, the Co-Chairs, the President of Costa Rica, Luis Guillermo Solis and the CEO of IKEA Switzerland, Simona Scarpaleggia along other members of the High Level Panel will sit on the podium and will respond to questions from the moderator. The moderator will then open the discussion up to the floor, requesting interventions from a range of voices including Civil Society actors.

The primary aim is elicit views from stakeholders. Interventions could focus on particular priorities that the HLP should address cases of success to highlight, and any other more general points about the work of the High Level Panel.