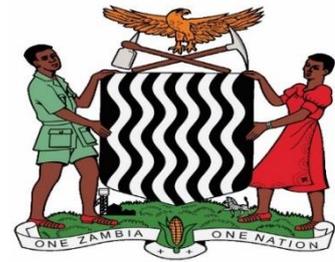




Permanent Mission of Finland  
to the United Nations



## CONCEPT NOTE

# Right holder. Carer. Worker. Mother.

## *Social Protection for Women's Rights - Enhancing Social Protection Especially for Mothers.*

### Side-event at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

**Time:** Monday 11 March, 16:45 – 18:00 (1h 15 min)

**Location:** UNHQ, CR 11

**Host:** Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations together with the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations and the African Union

**RSVP for guests without a UN grounds pass,** please register [here](#) before Wednesday, 6 March 2019 4:00 PM

The presentations and the link to the webcast will be found in [the Web Calendar of CSW Side-events](#)

#### **Background:**

For social protection systems to be not only gender sensitive but gender transformative they need to reflect the various roles that women and girls play as right holders, carers and workers. This includes adapting a life cycle approach and providing support to women and girls throughout the various phases of their lives. The aim should be to establish affordable, accessible, quality rights-based, inclusive and gender-responsive social protection systems to ensure full access to social protection for all without discrimination of any kind.

Women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care work and domestic work. Women and girls are also often employed in the informal sector, so for social protection systems to be effective they need to be supported to transition into the formal sector. For the transition to have a positive effect on women financially it needs to be supported by adequate childcare services.

Another context specific issue is women's participation in decision making. For social policy and social protection systems to be gender transformative they need to be participatory, so that women's and girls' voices are heard and taken into account throughout the service delivery. The influence of women and girls in decision-making at the household level also needs to be strengthened, so that any support provided to the household through social protection systems is shared equally, based on the needs of each member in the household. It is also essential to involve women with disabilities to decision-making and to ensure that services are user-led.

#### **Objective:**

The purpose of the side event is to discuss social protection practices that are relevant for girls and women and especially for mothers. Various national social protection systems, displaying diverse paths to realizing the universal right to social protection, are highlighted in the session by examples. The event underscores the importance of

women's and girl's individual rights for social protection as a means for realizing gender equality. The side event will include presentations of quality daycare services and maternity and child health care clinics in Finland and from the health system in Zambia. The side event will introduce and discuss social protection practices and questions in partner countries.

The programme will approach social protection from the perspective of the multiple roles of women, especially mothers, as right holders, carers and workers. Social protection needs to be designed and implemented in a way that recognizes and addresses these multiple and intersecting roles.

## **Programme**

### **Opening Words:**

- Päivi Sillanaukee, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Social Affairs and Health, Finland (Head of Delegation)

### **Speakers:**

- Hon Elizabeth Phiri, MP, Minister of Gender of the Republic of Zambia (Head of Delegation): *Women as carers: Improving health outcomes through social protection in Zambia*
- Jane Marie Ong'olo, Head of Division, Social Welfare, Vulnerable Groups and Drug Control Department of Social Affairs, African Union Commission – *Women as workers: Meeting women's practical needs through provision of care services*
- Tanja Auvinen, Director, Gender Equality Unit, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland: *Women as right holders in the Finnish social protection system – focusing on maternal and newborn care.*

### **Comment from civil society:**

- Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, CEO, Plan International: *Social protection for the Girl Child*

### **Moderator:**

- Katri Viinikka, Ambassador for Gender Equality, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland