



Permanent Mission of Finland
to the United Nations

GenderInSITE

Round table:

What drives the gender gap in science, technology and innovation? And how do we close it?

63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

**20 March, 3.00 – 4.15 PM
Conference Room 12, UNHQ**

Science and gender equality are both vital for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However without science viewed through a gender lens most of the targets will not be achieved. Over the past decades, the global community has made a lot of effort in inspiring and engaging women and girls in science, technology and innovation (STI). Unfortunately, we are still far from women and girls full and equal participation in STI.

Reversing the trend is possible. UNESCO is playing a key role in taking up these issues and in promoting women and girls in and for science through initiatives such as the STEM and Gender Advancement (SAGA) project, the UNESCO-L'Oréal For Women in Science Partnership and the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World. Furthermore, the GenderInSITE initiative is demonstrating how applying a gender lens to STI can provide deeper insights, more effective programmes and more sustainable outcomes in the context of development.

This side event will provide a comprehensive set of innovative approaches, tested good practices and policy guidance around supporting the inclusion of gender equality in national STI policies, plans and legislations, attracting more women to science and showing the pathways to success. The roundtable is an opportunity for Member States, UN entities, and civil society to discuss critical issues related to gender equality in STI as a key enabler for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a key foundation for building and sustaining peace.

Against this backdrop, the event draws on the following questions:

- What is the current situation of women and girls in science and engineering?
- What are the economic implications of the STI gender gaps?
- How to support gender-responsive STI policies?
- How to bring a gender lens to the scientific leadership of global challenges?
- What are the barriers faced by women researchers throughout their career?

Discussion agenda and format

The round table will be convened in the form of interactive discussions, with short presentations of successful initiatives and experiences, targeting member states, including donor countries and recipient countries, UN agencies and other international partners.

Speakers

- H. E. Ambassador Mr. Kai Sauer, Permanent Representative of Finland to the UN
- Marie Paule Roudil, Director of UNESCO Liaison Office New York
- Alessandro Bello, Project Officer of the STEM and Gender Advancement (SAGA) project, UNESCO
- Roseanne Diab, Director GenderInSITE
- Duygu Sag, UNESCO-L'Oreal International Rising Talents