



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), addresses the opening meeting of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

16.03.2016 – The historic 60th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) began on March 14 at United Nations Headquarters in New York and will run until March 24.

CSW will focus on “Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development”. The review theme will be “The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”.

The CSW is instrumental in promoting women’s rights, documenting the reality of women’s lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. At the opening of the session, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated, “I am deeply grateful to our outstanding current Executive Director [of UN Women], Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. Our new global force for women has made its mark.”

He added, “The world is full of inequalities and injustices for women and girls – but after nearly ten years as Secretary-General, I know those are no match for our resolve to create a future of full equality.

During the Commission’s annual two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities will gather at UN headquarters in New York. They will discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform

for Action, the key global policy document on gender equality, as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women. Member States will agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic and social fields.

In the context of the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, [UNFPA](#) will be hosting a high level advocacy event on ending harmful practices against women and girls as described in

[Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) number 5](#)

of the 2030 Agenda. This event at UNHQ New York will feature music, renowned speakers and performers. The event aims to highlight the realities of harmful practices against women and girls, such as female genital mutilation (FGM), and will call for renewed action to eliminate them by 2030.

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