

63rd Commission on the Status of Women
UNIDO Statement by
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Madam/Mister Chairperson, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are pleased to address the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women.

UNIDO has always been committed to gender equality and women's economic empowerment. Women's equal participation in, and benefit from social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure allow economies to grow faster, lift people out of poverty and open the pathway further towards sustainable development.

We are all moving towards this goal. But, it is clear that gender inequalities still prevail and will limit the achievement of the Agenda 2030. UNIDO is well aware of the extensive effects of these inequalities, and the solid and long-term work that is required to eliminate them - both within the Organization itself and through our technical assistance activities.

We are proud to say that advancing gender equality and women's empowerment is at the core of our mandate on inclusive and sustainable industrial development in developing countries and economies in transition. Our work is structured around three thematic priorities: i) creating shared prosperity, ii) advancing economic competitiveness, and iii) safeguarding the environment. Across these three thematic areas, gender equality is integrated to help ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

Ensuring sustainable infrastructure for gender equality is at the core of UNIDO's work. Our recent working papers "Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development: The Gender Dimension," and "Gender Equality in the Sustainable Energy Transition" provide key resources and policy recommendations on how industrial policies, sustainable infrastructure and access to social protection can support women in advancing beyond low-skilled and semi-skilled occupations as well as shifting the dialogue from women's vulnerabilities to women's agency as producers, consumers, distributors and decisions makers across value chains.

UNIDO also promotes sustainable energy infrastructure in developing countries by providing much needed energy access, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating opportunities for women's empowerment, employment and gender equality.

With the Island Women Open Network (IWON) on Sustainable Energy, we provide women working in the energy sector with access to technical know-how, business skills and She-to-She networking opportunities in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

In the context of our Programmes for Country Partnerships in, for example, Ethiopia, Morocco and Egypt, UNIDO ensures, as part of SME promotion programmes, that women have equal access to vocational training, skills upgrading and decent jobs opportunities.

And, to practice what we preach – UNIDO, in November 2018, adopted its own gender parity strategy to align to the SG's system-wide effort.

To conclude, women's economic empowerment is central to UNIDO's work. It is not only a matter of human rights, but also a precondition for inclusive and sustainable development and economic growth.