**47th session of the Human Rights Council**

**Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women**

**Panel 2: Gender-equal socioeconomic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

*Concept note (as of 29 June 2021)*

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| **Date and venue:** | **Tuesday, 6 July 2021, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, and online platform (Zoom)** *(will be broadcast live and archived on* [*http://webtv.un.org*](http://webtv.un.org)*)* |
| **Objectives:** | To discuss concrete ways to ensure mid- and longer-term socio-economic recovery plans from the COVID-19 pandemic that can advance gender equality. |
| **Chair:** | H.E. Mr. Yuri Borissov Sterk, Vice-President of the Human Rights Council |
| **Opening statements:** | **Ms. Michelle Bachelet**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  **H.E. Ms. Mónica Zalaquett Said,** Minister for Women and Gender Equity of Chile (*video message*) |
| **Panellists and themes:** | * **Mr. Mohammad Naciri**, UN-Women Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women *(video message)*   ***How to address women’s economic insecurity, including gender inequality in care****:  How to address women’s economic insecurity, including precarious livelihood of women working in informal economy and how to  address gender inequality in care economy*   * **Ms. Maria Alesi**,Feminist and development practitioner, Uganda *(video message)*   ***How to finance for gender equal recovery****: How macroeconomic and fiscal policies, including through taxation, debt management, budgeting, can advance gender equality*   * **Ms. Kateryna Levchenko,** Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy of Ukraine and Vice-Chair of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe *(video message)*   ***How to get the process right****: How to ensure women and girls’ participation, including through civic space, in designing and implementing gender-responsive recovery plans* |
| **Outcome:** | A summary report on the discussion will be prepared by OHCHR. |
| **Mandate:** | In its resolution 6/30, the Human Rights Council reaffirmed the principle of gender equality and the need for the full implementation of the human rights of women and decided to hold an annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women. The second panel of the 2021 annual discussion will address gender-equal socioeconomic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, building on the discussion of the panel in 2020 on the impact of COVID-19 on women’s rights. |
| **Format:** | The total duration of the annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women will be four hours, divided into two panels of two hours each. In this panel, after opening statement and initial presentations by the panellists, there will be two segments of interventions, followed by conclusions from the panellists. A maximum of one hour will be set aside for the podium, which will cover the opening statements, panellists’ presentations, and their responses to questions and concluding remarks. The remaining hour will be reserved for two segments of interventions from the floor, with each segment consisting of interventions from 12 States or observers, 1 national human rights institution and 2 non-governmental organizations. Each speaker will have two minutes to raise issues and to ask panellists questions.  The list of speakers for the discussion will be established through the online inscription system and, as per practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups of States will be moved to the beginning of the list. Delegates who have not been able to take the floor due to time constraints will be able to upload their statements on the online system to be posted on the HRC Extranet. |
| **Background:** | The COVID-19 pandemic has had and continues to have profoundly negative impact on gender equality and women’s rights.  During the pandemic, [more women lost their jobs than men](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/impacts-and-responses/WCMS_767028/lang--en/index.htm), and [women’s labour force participation continued to decline more rapidly than that of men](https://unctad.org/news/gender-and-unemployment-lessons-covid-19-pandemic), as many women who lost their jobs gave up returning to work. Many women working in the informal economy, who have not been covered by social protection, have lost their income. Setbacks in women’s equal economic participation is undermining their livelihoods and the <enjoyment of an adequate standard of living.  [When women’s contribution to all types of care is considered, its economic value equates to US$11 trillion or 9 per cent of global Gross Domestic Products](https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/policy-brief-covid-19-and-the-care-economy-en.pdf?la=en&vs=407). Women and girls absorbed majority of increase in care needs during the pandemic and sustained the society, sacrificing their retention and return to employment, livelihood and education. Nevertheless, among the measures taken to respond the pandemic crisis, [those addressing unpaid care work have been scarce](https://data.undp.org/gendertracker/).  States have been rigorously responding to socio-economic impact of the pandemic, and yet, many struggle with freeing up fiscal space necessary for health, social protection, education and protection of livelihood.  While women have been at the frontline of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, as health workers and other essential workers, they don’t have equal representation in decision-making. According to the [COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker](https://data.undp.org/gendertracker/), women represents only 24 per cent of members of national public institutions created to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.  Against this backdrop, the General Assembly, in its [resolution 75/157](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/157) of 23 December 2020, called on Member States, inter alia:  To fully implement their obligations under international human rights law and existing commitments towards gender equality, including under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;  To strengthen women’s leadership and to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes and in all stages of response to COVID-19, as well as in recovery processes;  To develop gender-responsive economic recovery plans, underlining that economic response must be equally accessible to all, specifically address the care sector and the issues of informal and non-standard forms of employment, and take measures to reduce and redistribute women’s and girls’ disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, and consider financial inclusion for women, equal pay for work of equal value and career opportunities, as well as women’s leadership and female entrepreneurship and ensure women’s participation in economic activity.  The panel discussion is an opportunity for States, United Nations entities, civil society and other stakeholders to reflect on what a human rights-based and gender-responsive recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic should look like. |
| **Background documents:** | * [Human Rights Council resolution 6/30](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/6/30) of 14 December 2007 on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system * [General Assembly resolution 75/157](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/157) of 23 December 2020 on women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) * Summary report of the annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women held at the 44th session of the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/47/44](http://undocs.org/A/HRC/47/44), April 2021) * [A UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19](https://unsdg.un.org/resources/un-framework-immediate-socio-economic-response-covid-19) * Analysis and recommendations of [special procedure](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/COVID-19-and-Special-Procedures.aspx) mandate holders and [treaty bodies](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/COVID-19-and-TreatyBodies.aspx) on human rights dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic * UN Women, Beyond COVID-19: [The feminist plan for sustainability and social justice](https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/06/feminist-plan) * UNDP/UN Women, [COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker](https://data.undp.org/gendertracker/) (database) |