



Permanent Mission of Italy
to the United Nations



CONCEPT NOTE

Heads of Delegation to CSW62, Permanent Representatives and Experts

Side Event organized by the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar and the
International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

Creating a Culture of Gender Justice: A Multi-Dimensional Approach

Monday, 12 March 2018

1:15 to 2:45pm

Conference Room 8, United Nations

Co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Italy, Pakistan and Tunisia

The side-event will take place during CSW62, and will provide an opportunity for Member States, UN entities, and civil society to discuss critical issues related to gender justice as a key enabler for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a key foundation for building and sustaining peace.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the importance of ensuring justice for women and girls, especially in the achievement of the complementary and mutually reinforcing objectives enshrined in SDG 5 (gender equality, women's empowerment and women's access to justice) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and the rule of law).

The concept of gender justice encompasses women's and girls' access and enjoyment of the whole range of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights and freedoms. As such it also encompasses all the different dimensions of the struggle for women's equality and empowerment.

Significant progress has been made with respect to many of these dimensions: the importance of women in politics has been recognized and women are now represented in parliaments and as heads of state, 16 women have won the Nobel Peace Prize, women drive the economy and own 60% of all global microenterprises. Beyond the increased role in political and economic decision-making, women are also achieving progress in the areas of media, research and sports. Yet much needs to be done to close the gender gap and break the vicious circle of discrimination, violence and neglect so that women and girls around the world are able to enjoy their equal right to political participation, health, education, employment, land and natural resources, energy, food, water, among others. As the Secretary General has put it in his recent report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace (A/72/707) "without the full participation of women in society, neither peace nor prosperity can be ensured over the long term."

Amidst all these challenges, how do we ensure justice for women across multiple dimensions – economic, social, cultural, political? Are there lessons and models that we can build on to bring about fair, equitable and accountable justice frameworks for women? How can emerging technologies, like blockchain and cryptocurrency help women achieve equality?

This side event will showcase examples of *how gender justice for women is central to the achievement of the development goals across multiple dimensions*, whether through combatting discriminatory laws, building capacity of institutions that deliver justice, strengthening women's ability to know and claim their rights, enhancing women's participation in the justice sector and promoting role models, among others.

Discussions will explore:

- 1) forms of injustice that women and girls experience across specific dimensions;
- 2) what roles do law and justice institutions play in hindering or facilitating these injustices,
- 3) what has worked so far in terms of enabling justice for women and girls, with a focus on innovative and creative models and strategies for strengthening gender justice across all areas.

In illustrating the centrality of gender justice, the session will invite speakers across various dimensions of development work:

- Economic empowerment (employment, financial inclusion)
- Women's leadership/political participation
- Gender-based violence
- Land and natural resource governance
- Access to justice
- Technology

Programme

Opening remarks by co-organizers:

- **H.E. Dr. Issa Al Jafali Al Nuaimi**, Minister of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs of the State of Qatar

Interactive Panel:

- **Ms. Irene Khan**, Director-General, International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
- **H.E. Néziha Labidi**, Minister of Women, Family and Children Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia
- **Ms. Ana Maria Menéndez**, Under-Secretary-General and Secretary-General Senior Adviser on Policy
- **Dr. Hessa Al-Jaber**, former Minister of Communication and Information Technology of the State of Qatar, United Nations ITU Broadband Commissioner for Digital Development, Commissioner for the WHO/ITU Commission on Information and Accountability for Women and Children's Health
- **Dr. Shezra Mansab**, Member of Parliament, Pakistan
- **Ms. Amal Abdullatif Al Mannai**, CEO Qatar Foundation for Social Work
- **Judge Luigi Marini**, Justice at the Supreme Court, Italy

Moderated by **Ms. Ghida Fakhry**, International broadcast journalist and current affairs program presenter with TRT World

Lunch will be provided