



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CSW67 SIDE EVENT

**INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT TO PROMOTE PEACE,
PROSPERITY, PROGRESS, AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**



FRIDAY 10 MARCH 2023



1:15 - 2:45 PM EST



**PERMANENT MISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
633 THIRD AVENUE 12TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, N.Y., 10017**



RSVP: [HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/FORMS/D/E/1FAIPQLSFVZU18TMLI8QQHWXLXS0XJ-B5AOJG2WES0DL8FV2M7UCNWSG/VIEWFORM?USP=PP_URL](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIPQLSFVZU18TMLI8QQHWXLXS0XJ-B5AOJG2WES0DL8FV2M7UCNWSG/viewform?usp=pp_url)





CONCEPT NOTE

Innovation and technological advancement to promote Peace, Prosperity, Progress, and Sustainability for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls

Date: Friday 10 March 2023

Time: 1:15pm-2:45pm

Venue: Level 12 633 Third Avenue, New York NY 10017

Panelists:-

- *The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Gender and Child Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago;*
- *Dr. Andrea Kanneh, Manager, Performance and Engagement, National Information and Communication Technology Division, Ministry of Digital Transformation of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago;*
- *Ms. Gordina Hector-Murrell, Director Cyber Security, Ministry of Information, Communications Technology and Digitalization of Antigua and Barbuda (TBC);*
- *Ms. Rowena Pitt, Director of Tabitha's Home for Women and Children in Tobago*

Background

This side event will aim to interlink this year's CSW67 theme (innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls) with Peace, Prosperity, Progress, and Sustainability. The goal of achieving gender equality is at the heart of the UN's agenda and in this regard, information and communication and technology is an essential tool for the empowerment of all women and girls, as the use of ICTs have contributed to the improvement in the quality of their lives and the lives of their families. Through the use of technology and innovation, women can be equipped with access, knowledge, and the necessary tools to reach their full potential. We must also acknowledge that women are key players in achieving peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability.

Peace

The world faces multiple and intersecting challenges such as rising geo- political tensions, military conflict, natural disasters, and other crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to negatively impact the global community, thereby erasing any progress that may have been made towards achieve global peace and prosperity. Women though innovative methods using ICTS can be instrumental in combatting misinformation and disinformation, the promotion of peace, cyber governance, and assisting in humanitarian access.

Prosperity

Promoting women's empowerment through investing, among other things, in women's employment, health and education will ultimately result in social, economic and sustainable development. However, there is still a gap between men and women, especially in the use of information and communication technologies. According to UN Women, "25 percent fewer women than men use the Internet, while women in developing countries are 21 percent less likely to own a mobile phone. Therefore, in order to create a sustainable and inclusive socio-economic environment, we must take steps to bridge the gender digital divide so that women can contribute on an equal basis with men, to balanced sustainable development.

Progress

"The world cannot afford to lose your talents", UN Secretary General António Guterres in his message for Girls in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Day, observed on 23 April 2020. It is acknowledged that there has been progress in respect of innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. In relation to STEM, it can be argued that tech companies, which have more women in leadership positions deliver better returns and outperform companies with less diverse teams. However, much more needs to be done to educate our women and girls on the use ICTs, in particular to ensure that they are equipped with sufficient knowledge of its benefit but also awareness of its associated risks and threats.

Sustainability

It is believed that women are more likely than men to be affected by environmental challenges which have arisen as a result of climate change. Women in developing countries who supply water and other supplies for their families find this increasingly difficult as environmental changes negatively affect the supply of their resources and infrastructure. As a result, women are forced to develop innovative ways to meet the daily needs for themselves and their family.

What more needs to be done

Clear progress has been achieved in the advancement of women through technological advancement, leadership, and strong advocacy, with gender parity being at the heart of national policies, but much more is needed. Gender responsive methodologies are needed for innovation and technological advancement to promote peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability. Incorporating women into innovation and technological advancement results in more creative solutions and greater potential for innovation to promote gender equality and end the gender gap. According to the UN Women's Gender Snapshot 2022 report, the lack of inclusion of women comes with massive costs: as per women's exclusion from the digital world has shaved \$1 trillion from the gross domestic product of low- and middle-income countries in the

last decade—a loss that will grow to \$1.5 trillion by 2025 without action.¹ Not only do we need to discuss the challenges and barriers that our women and girls face in the context of technological advancement, but we also need to advocate for their full and inclusive participation. We need to share positive experiences and build their capacity to ensure the empowerment of all women and girls in our community, society and country.

Guiding Questions

PEACE

1. How have the lives of women and girls in Trinidad and Tobago been impacted by the advancement of technology?

PROSPERITY

2. How have major global events/disasters such as the COVID-19 Pandemic affected the economic status of women and their family?

PROGRESS

3. What more can be done in terms of ending the gender gap with the use of innovation and technology?

¹ [International Women’s Day 2023: “DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality” | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

SUSTAINABILITY

4. What role do women and girls have in achieving a clean, healthy environment and a sustainable planet in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
