

United Nations 68th Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW):
“Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”

PH Virtual Side Event:

**Mind the GaP (Gender and Poverty):
A forum on gender mainstreaming in science, technology, and innovation for the economic empowerment of women and girls**

22 March 2024
09:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Philippine Standard Time)

Rationale

The 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), with the priority theme, “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective,” will focus on reviewing current researches, policies, practices and provide recommendations to address women’s poverty. The Beijing Platform for Action (1995) identified “women and poverty” as the first critical area of concern, recognizing the multidimensional nature of poverty, its structural causes, and women’s overrepresentation among the poor, underscoring that women’s poverty is related to the absence of economic opportunity, access to economic resources, education and support services and low levels of participation in decision-making. Equitable and full participation of women and men in designing macroeconomic and social policies and programs is necessary to achieve sustainable development alongside change in economic structures and political participation.

In 2012, the Human Rights Council included gender equality as a prerequisite for achieving global poverty eradication goals and objectives as one of the guiding principles in eradicating extreme poverty and human rights. Recognized as the most significant global challenge, ending poverty in all forms and dimensions is considered a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To ensure that no gender is left behind in fighting poverty, gender responsiveness of other SDGs, i.e. SDG 2 (zero hunger), 4 (quality education), and 10 (reduced inequalities) should also be kept in mind. To close the gender gap in poverty, member states committed investments and support to achieve gender equality and women empowerment.

In this age of the Information Revolution and Artificial Intelligence, one of the most prominent tools to eradicate poverty, especially among women and girls, is through Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI). STI has a cross-cutting impact on improving agriculture, healthcare, education, entrepreneurship, and other vital aspects of inclusive development. This will be the central theme of the Philippine Virtual Side Event for the UN 68th CSW, Mind the GaP (Gender and Poverty): A forum on gender mainstreaming in science, technology, and innovation for the economic empowerment of women and girls. In this forum, efforts of member countries to use STI to empower economic participation for women and girls will be discussed. Best practices, challenges, and recommendations for future improvement will be shared on how STI can be a powerful mechanism to eradicate poverty and bridge the gender gap in economic participation.

Objectives

1. To recognize and discuss that poverty is a human rights issue and present strategies to protect and fulfill the rights of poor women towards achieving gender equality and empowerment of women;
2. To discuss current and future challenges and opportunities to promote gender equality; and
3. To discuss various efforts to improve the economic participation of women and discuss best practices,

Target Event Host/Organizer: Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

Co-organizers: Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), UN Women

Target Date: March 22, 2024, 9:00 am Philippine time

Format and Target Venue: Hybrid format | Metro Manila, Philippines (TBC)

Program:

9:00 - 9:05	Opening Statement	Dr. Diana L. Ignacio Assistant Secretary, DOST
9:05 - 9:15	Message	Dr. Renato U. Solidum, Jr. Secretary, DOST
9:15 - 9:45	The ASEAN: It's Progress on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	ASEAN (tbc)
9:45 - 10:15	Philippine Government Initiatives in Support of Women's Economic Empowerment	Engr. Sancho A. Maborang Undersecretary for Regional Operations, DOST
10:15 - 10:45	The Intertwined Inequalities of Gender and Poverty	Embassy of Belgium in the Philippines
10:45 - 11:15	Harnessing the Power of STI to Help Women Move out of Poverty	Ms. Frei Sangil Data Analyst, Cybersecurity, Computing and Intelligence Consultant
11:15 - 11:35	Reactions (10 minutes)	PCW (tbc) UN Women Philippines (tbc)
11:35 - 11:55	Question and Answer	
11:55	Closing Remarks	Dir. Romelen T. Tresvalles Regional Director DOST-NCR