



Workshop on Applying a Gender Lens to STI/STEM

Concept note (as of 7 January 2019)

18 January 2019, Vienna

I. Workshop objective

The one-day workshop will be jointly organized by Austria, UNCTAD and UN Women, in support of the work of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The workshop will bring together STI policy makers, researchers and representatives of governments, and of international organizations to discuss the current state of gender perspectives in science, technology and innovation (STI)/science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The workshop will examine opportunities for gender-responsiveness in STI/STEM fields, highlight best practices to retain women and to achieve gender parity at leadership positions, and develop policy recommendations in support of the work of the CSTD and CSW. Discussions at the workshop will support gender mainstreaming efforts of the CSTD. In addition:

- A report/paper will be produced which will summarize the main points and discussions and could be published as an UNCTAD/CSTD research paper or policy brief.
- A set of recommendations will be developed and presented at the 22nd annual session of the CSTD, made available to the CSW at its 63rd session and contribute to the preparatory process for Beijing+25.

II. Program

1. Keynote addresses by:

Ms. Shirley Malcolm, Chair of CSTD Gender Advisory Board, Director of Education and Human Resources Programs of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) on the current state of gender perspectives in STI and STEM; and

2. Discussion to inform the CSTD's and CSW's priority themes in 2019 (CSTD: the impact of rapid technological change and the role of STI in building resilient communities; CSW: social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls)

This session will focus on the CSTD's and the CSW's current priority themes, in particular the elements of infrastructure, public services and resilient societies in an environment of rapid technological change. It will also contribute to the ECOSOC STI Forum, and the key messages from the meeting will also be submitted to the HLPF.

The session will involve a deliberation on enhancing gender-responsiveness of infrastructure, especially new technologies, and public services so that they contribute to the empowerment of women and girls. The session will further explore gender equality dimensions of technology and infrastructure in the context of environmental sustainability and building resilient societies.

The discussions will contribute to the better understanding of how infrastructure and public services, understood in terms of STI, can help make societies more resilient and particularly ensure that women and girls are prepared to deal with shocks in the form of natural disasters, climate change, health emergencies, or social conflict. This will involve case studies, and best practices of how STI policy makers can support gender equality in the specific areas.



3. Supporting women in STEM careers

The session will bring together women scientists at different stages of their careers, government representatives and policy makers from CSTD members, and representatives of relevant international organizations, to discuss challenges and barriers for women to pursue a career in STEM-related fields and to discuss diverse practices and policy measures in the field of STI to support gender parity.

The session will start with an interactive panel discussion involving women scientists of different age groups to discuss the different perspectives and challenges of women in STEM throughout their careers. The panel will highlight best practices on how to retain women in STEM careers and how to achieve gender balance at the top and leadership level. Panelists will also discuss the role of institutions and the skills needed to succeed. The panel discussion will be followed by a “World Café” on good practices and policy measures in the field of STEM to support gender parity across all ages and career stages.