

WEDNESDAY, **8 MARCH 2023** AT 3.00-4.15 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM A **AT THE UNHQ**

SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

# Why is data critical for gender equality?

The sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

## OBJECTIVES

- Highlight the critical role of data for gender equality and showcase concrete efforts in gender-transformative data policies and practices.
- Demonstrate how technology and innovation can provide solutions to achieve gender equality, and
- Invite a multi-stakeholder discussion on how technology can be used for the empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity.

## REASONING

Data forms a basis for digital economies and societies. If data collected is not representative, the result can be for example health services that do not take into consideration gender-related questions such as pregnancy and menstrual health, or the fact that women are 47% more likely than men to be seriously injured in a car crash because the car crash-test dummies are based on the average male. Simultaneously, the possible real-life inequalities represented in data must be averted before use. Recruitment systems have been shut down after they were discovered to replicate and amplify discriminating against women in recruitment. Sex-disaggregated,

representative data is needed to develop services that take into account the needs of women and girls in all their diversity.

For technology to benefit everyone, gender-transformative approach must be taken into the design, development, deployment and evaluation of technologies, platforms and tools as well to relevant policies, programs, and regulation. AI must be used in a way that leads to solutions that are gender-transformative, inclusive, safe and secure, and does not reproduce the eventual gender biases, stereotypes and discriminatory social norms of the data or offline world.



Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland



## BACKGROUND

In the UN Women led global Generation Equality process, Finland is a co-leader of the Action Coalition on Technology and innovation for gender equality. The Action Coalition is committed to globally bridging the gender gap in digital access and competences, investing in feminist technologies and innovation, building new inclusive innovation ecosystems, and preventing

and eliminating online and tech-facilitated gender-based violence and discrimination.

**The side event is hosted by the Government of Finland** and co-hosted by Chile and A+ Alliance, both Finland's co-leaders in the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality, as well as UN Women.

## PROGRAM

### Now is the time for gender-transformative digital policies

- Mr. **Thomas Blomqvist**, Minister for Nordic Cooperation and Equality, Finland

### The vision for human rights-based and gender-transformative data governance policies

- Ms. **Ilze Brands Kehris**, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, OHCHR
- Mr. **Amandeep Singh Gill**, Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, United Nations
- Ms. **Åsa Regner**, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

### Reducing the gender digital divide through international cooperation (video message)

- Ms. **Jutta Urpilainen**, Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission

### How to improve gender equality through and within data

- Mr. **Silas Ngayaboshya**, Director General of Gender Promotion and Women Empowerment, Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, Rwanda
- Ms. **Anita Peña Saavedra**, Head, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, Chile
- Ms. **Kate Behncken**, Corporate Vice President, Microsoft Philanthropies
- Ms. **Caitlin Kraft-Buchman**, Co-Founder, A+ Alliance

*Followed by questions or comments from the audience*

Moderated by Ambassador for Innovation  
Ms. **Riitta Swan**, Finland

