

Strasbourg, 14 September 2020

GEC (2020) Bureau Report 3

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
Bureau meeting

Via BlueJeans

Thursday, 10 September 2020
Report

1. Athens, Greece – 14-16 October 2020

- Seminar organised in partnership with the Greek CM Presidency (14 October 2020) and GEC meeting (15-16 October 2020)

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that they had been in contact with the Greek authorities about the seminar and the GEC meeting being organised in Athens in October. However, in view of the low physical attendance foreseen in Athens, it had been decided that both the seminar and the GEC meeting would be online events only, with no physical presence of participants. Confirmation of this would be sent to the GEC members as soon as possible, once the logistic details have been finalised with the Greek authorities with regard to the seminar.

In answer to a question about physical presence in Strasbourg for GEC-related events, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that in accordance with current Council of Europe rules meetings with the physical presence of participants remain exceptional, given the health-related issues and some technical difficulties associated with them. The instructions therefore are that all meetings taking place in Strasbourg should be online events only, until further notice.

The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that, as the Athens events fall during the week of the Parliamentary Assembly session in Strasbourg, room availability had not yet been confirmed and there was a risk that the originally foreseen dates of the meetings would need to be changed to the following week (21-22-23 October 2020). Final confirmation is expected by Friday, 18 September.

The Bureau expressed their disappointment about not being able to participate physically in Athens, but understood the reasons. It was agreed that the best option would be to 'host' the GEC meeting virtually from Strasbourg. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to confirm the dates of both events as soon as possible and to inform the GEC members thereafter.

- GEC18 meeting (15-16 October 2020)

The Bureau reviewed the draft agenda for the GEC18 meeting. With regard to the item on the election of the GEC Chair and two Vice-Chairs, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to invite nominations from the GEC members for the three posts, prior to the GEC meeting. It was further decided to allow for some time during the GEC meeting in October for the candidates to introduce themselves to the other members.

With regard to the thematic discussions at the next GEC meeting, the Bureau discussed past proposals and instructed the Secretariat to contact the member from Spain about a possible presentation on "Climate change from a gender perspective" in October. If time permitted, the Bureau instructed the Secretariat to contact the member from Slovenia about presenting the project "ClickOff on CyberVAW".

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that, as the meeting would be online, the duration would be the same as for the previous meeting, i.e. three sessions of two and a half hours over two days; with a one and a half hour break for lunch. This is in line with the rules governing the work of the interpreters. The Bureau agreed and asked the Secretariat to adjust the draft agenda, if required, to fit into this schedule.

Andreia Lourenço Marques (Vice-Chair) informed the Bureau that she had participated in the first meeting of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI). She highlighted the exchange of views held between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the European Commissioner for Equality, which she found very interesting as regards how the two organisations co-operate on issues of common interest. She proposed having a similar exchange at one of the forthcoming meetings of the Gender Equality Commission.

The Chair agreed and asked the Secretariat if this could be possible. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that this could be explored.

Request from the Secretary General to Chairs of intergovernmental committees *Letter/questionnaire*

The Chair requested the assistance of the Secretariat to complete the questionnaire which had been sent to all chairs of intergovernmental committees by the Secretary General, regarding the four-year strategic framework that she will shortly be preparing, reflecting the priorities for the Council of Europe. The Chair asked the Bureau to forward any comments or ideas to the Secretariat in the next few days and asked the Secretariat to prepare a reply on that basis. The completed form will be sent back to the Chair for approval and forwarding to the Secretary General.

2. Preparation of 1st Drafting Committee on migrant women (GEC-MIG)

The Bureau reviewed the draft agenda of the first meeting of the GEC-MIG. The Secretariat informed them that elections for a Chair would take place at this meeting, however, as it will be the first meeting, some of the members may not know each other enough to proceed to an election on solid grounds on the first day. The Bureau agreed that the members would be asked, in advance of the meeting, to nominate candidates for the election of Chairperson, and be given the opportunity to do so until noon of the first day of the meeting. All candidates would then be given a chance to present themselves at the meeting and the elections will take place on the second day of the meeting. In the meantime, the Secretariat would chair the meeting.

The Bureau was informed that the NGOs who have been invited to speak at the GEC-MIG meeting did not have participatory status with the Conference of INGOs and nor did they have observer status with the Gender Equality Commission. The Bureau was asked to what extent these NGOs could stay for the discussions and deliberations of the meeting. The Bureau decided that it would be helpful to have input from experts in the field of migration and therefore they should be allowed to stay on for the full duration of the half-day session when they will be making their presentation. It was also noted that it could be useful, at the time of the revision of the mandate of the GEC by the CM, to review the list of NGOs with observer status with the GEC.

3. Date of the next Bureau meeting

The GEC Bureau decided to have a short debriefing immediately following the next GEC meeting and instructed the Secretariat to convene the next Bureau meeting later in the year when suitable to discuss the draft agenda of the GEC19 meeting in 2021 and other GEC-related matters.

Participants:

Bureau: Charles Ramsden (Chair), Ljiljana Loncar (Vice-Chair), Andreia Lourenço Marques (Vice-Chair)

Secretariat: Daniele Cangemi, Carolina Lasén Diaz, Cécile Gréboval, Adrienne Looby, Evrydiki Tseliou, Eva Gonzales de la Arada (intern)