

Strasbourg, 19 April 2021

GEC (2021) Bureau 3

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
7th Bureau meeting

Friday, 16 April 2021

Report

1. Debrief of 19th GEC meeting and follow-up (14-15 April 2021)

The Bureau discussed the 19th Gender Equality Commission (GEC) meeting and agreed that longer meetings are needed to allow for in-depth discussions on the most important agenda items. While the online meetings work to some extent, all the members of the Bureau looked forward to in-presence meetings and proper discussion with more members actively participating in the plenary meetings of the GEC.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to look into the possibility of different options for a longer meeting in November and to see what is feasible, given the uncertainty of whether the meeting would be fully online, hybrid or in-presence, and the availability of meeting rooms.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to include in the meeting report the comments made by several GEC members who stressed the need to have in-person meetings to facilitate discussion, networking and exchanges. The Secretariat said this point could also be included in the “Lessons learned” part of the evaluation form that has to be completed for the Organisation’s management on the review of the intergovernmental structure set for 2020-2021, as regards the GEC’s work.

Bureau members proposed to encourage members to use headsets during online meetings, in order to avoid technical problems with the KUDO system, in the convocation of GEC meetings.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that all immediate follow-up to the GEC regarding: (i) the final version of the abridged report adopted and the list of participants of the GEC meeting, as well as (ii) information on different subjects (EU Presidencies, EIGE’s report, Generation Equality Forum, etc.), had been completed and distributed to GEC members and observers. GREVIO had also received the GEC comments on their draft general recommendation on the digital dimension of violence against women.

The draft 2020 annual report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy will be updated with contributions received from member states by 28 April 2021, and the final version will be submitted to the Chair for approval before forwarding it to the Committee of Ministers, together with the abridged report of the 19th GEC meeting.

2. Plans for the preparation of the 20th GEC meeting (24-26 November 2021)

The Secretariat outlined the draft agenda for the next meeting which will include an exchange of views with the Deputy Secretary General, election of the GEC Chair and two Vice Chairs, discussions on COVID-19, future work on men and boys and gender equality, the approach to be followed for the review of the implementation of the sexism recommendation and the adoption of the draft recommendation on migrant women by GEC, currently being prepared by the GEC-MIG.

The terms of reference for intergovernmental committees for 2022-2025 may be adopted by the Committee of Ministers in the same week as the GEC meeting and the Secretariat will keep the GEC and its Bureau informed about this.

The Bureau discussed the preparation of the next annual report and the deadline for contributions from the member states. The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to send out the template for completion by the member states as usual in July with a deadline for completely of 30 November 2021 on the main part of their reporting. The GEC members would be reminded during the 20th meeting about this deadline. An additional deadline of 20 January 2022 will also be fixed to submit any major events or legislative changes taking place at this end of the year, following the submission of the national reports. This additional information will be added to the member state's contribution and included in the analytical part of the annual report.

The Bureau further agreed that the annual report should contain information about activities in GEC observer states (including notably Morocco and Tunisia) and that they should receive the template as well.

The Secretariat proposed to contact the authors of the mapping study on men and boys who will revise the document following discussions at the GEC meeting. The document, which remains the authors' opinions and is not formally adopted by the GEC, will form the basis of further discussion on the subject at the November meeting.

The proposal to have an exchange of views with the OECD at the next GEC meeting was also discussed and it was agreed that it could perhaps be included in the agenda item on the COVID-19 discussion, in light of the interesting work carried out by the OECD on this issue during the pandemic. This will be decided once the duration of the 20th GEC meeting and the available discussion time are known.

3. Any other business

The Bureau discussed the external consultation procedure on the text of the draft recommendation on migrant women that the GEC-MIG was planning to carry out over the summer. It was agreed to keep the Bureau informed of decisions on this taken by the GEC-MIG during its next meeting (27-28 April 2021).

As the Chair is not able to participate in the 8th International Roma Women's Conference, which will take place in in Skopje on 15-17 September, and as one of the Vice-Chairs was not present when this was discussed, they will be both consulted as to their availability to represent the GEC at that event.

4. Date of the next Bureau meeting: Monday, 14 June 2021 at 3:00 pm

Participants:

Bureau: *Andreia Lourenço Marques (Chair), Basim Al-Alousi (the Netherlands), Kateryna Levchenko (Ukraine)*

Secretariat: *Daniele Cangemi, Caterina Bolognese, Carolina Lasén Diaz, Cécile Gréboval, Adrienne Looby, Evrydiki Tseliou*