



GEC-BU(2025)3

31 March 2025

BUREAU OF THE GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)

27th meeting

27 March 2025

Meeting report

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of agenda

1. The Bureau of the Gender Equality Commission held its 27th meeting online on 27 March 2025. The meeting was chaired by Sara SLANA (Slovenia).

2. The Bureau adopted the agenda of the meeting.

2. Information from the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat

3. The Bureau was informed that the Chair of the GEC will participate in the third Meeting of the Secretary General with Presidents of the Intergovernmental Committees of the Council of Europe, on 24 April 2025 in Strasbourg, and that the exchanges will be part of a consultation process on the Secretary General's New Democratic Pact for Europe.

3. Preparation of the 27th meeting of the GEC

4. The Bureau examined the draft annotated agenda of the 27th plenary meeting of the GEC (13-15 May 2025).

5. Regarding the reporting on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029, the Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat in relation to the draft list of indicators and draft questionnaire. The Working Group on reporting on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2024–2029 will finalise both documents at its second meeting (10 April 2025). The draft list of indicators and the draft questionnaire will then be presented to the GEC for approval at its 27th meeting.

6. In relation to the appointment of rapporteurs and focal points, the Bureau was informed that Ralph KASS (Luxembourg) resigned as focal point on SOGIESC issues and agreed that Maria ELLUL (Malta), in her capacity as substitute focal point, takes on the responsibility of main focal point. It was recalled that focal points support the implementation of the GEC's main task ix, as set out in its terms of reference: *"promote gender equality as a visible priority for the Organisation (internally and externally) and, to this end, support the committees and bodies of the Organisation in integrating and implementing gender mainstreaming in their activities."* The Secretariat recalled that the GEC is expected to appoint two rapporteurs (children's rights and rights of persons with disabilities) at its 27th meeting.

7. In relation to the work of the Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (GEC/ADI-AI), the Bureau was informed by the Secretariat that the public consultation on the draft Recommendation on equality and artificial intelligence is ongoing (10 March to 28 April 2025). The GEC will be invited to provide written comments on the draft Explanatory Memorandum to the Recommendation and delegations will have the opportunity to raise any outstanding comments on the text that have not yet been addressed by the GEC/ADI-AI. The Vice-Chair of the GEC/ADI-AI (Radan ŠAFARIK, Czechia) provided information in relation to issue of EU coordination, discussed at the previous Bureau meeting, and the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the joint GEC/ADI-AI Secretariat was working to proactively address possible concerns as to the compatibility of the draft Recommendation with EU legislation.

8. The Bureau took note that the Committee of Experts on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (GEC/PC-eVIO) will examine a revised version of the draft Recommendation and the first of the draft Explanatory Memorandum at its 3rd meeting (3-4 April 2025). The revised versions of the draft Recommendation and Explanatory Memorandum will be sent to the GEC for their comments prior to their 27th meeting.

9. Regarding the work of the GEC on developing positive narratives in the context of anti-gender movements, the Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat in relation to the presentation of the Mapping Study on anti-gender movements and their impact on promoting gender equality and combating violence against women and the format of the workshop that will take place at the 27th meeting, including a presentation on narrative building and value-based framing and discussions in small groups. The Bureau also took note that Katerina LEVCHENKO (Ukraine) was appointed to report on the work of the Working Group on developing positive narratives in the context of anti-gender movements at the GEC plenary meeting. The Secretariat provided information on the preparation of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group (11 June 2025).

10. As regards the follow-up of Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)17 on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women girls, the Bureau recalled that GEC members would have the opportunity to raise outstanding points on the 'Practical Guide for public authorities to support the implementation of the Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls'. Such comments should not affect the content or wording of, in particular, the checklists included in the Guide, which are based on the text of the Recommendation itself, but may address other aspects such as clarity or presentation.

11. Regarding the GEC's cooperation with the youth sector, the Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the organisation of the event on 'Youth Gender Equality: A Dialogue for Inclusive Action' at the 27th meeting of the GEC.

12. The Bureau took note the GEC would hold an exchange of views with the Secretariat of Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and the expert responsible for preparing draft Study on preventing and combating intersectional discrimination. According to the Terms of Reference of the CDADI, the feasibility study should be prepared in consultation with the GEC. The objective of the exchange of views is two-fold: provide an opportunity for GEC members to contribute their perspectives, ensuring that gender equality considerations are effectively integrated into the final version of the Study, and serve as a preparatory step for the written consultation, during which GEC members will have the opportunity to provide comments on the Study once it is circulated for feedback to the CDADI members, participants and observers.

13. In relation to the preparation of the 28th meeting of the GEC (18-20 November 2025), the Bureau took note of the proposal to include an item on the agenda to examine a new activity in 2027. This activity would be carried out under deliverable 12 of the Terms of Reference of GEC and consist of a review of the implementation Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the inclusion of gender differences in health policy. This review would be conducted in cooperation with the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO). The Secretariat informed the Bureau that this activity would also have to be approved by the CDBIO as part of its Strategic Action Plan, to be examined in June 2025 and adopted in November 2025. The Bureau agreed with this proposal and asked the Secretariat to present information on this matter to the GEC at its 28th meeting.

14. The Bureau agreed that Secretariat would arrange an informal exchange with Aoife Nolan, President of the European Committee of Social Rights, in the margins of the 27th meeting. The President will present the Committee's report on [Social Rights and the Cost of Living Crisis](#), with an emphasis on the impact on women.

4. Any other business

15. The Bureau held a discussion on the 69th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held from 10 to 21 March 2025 in New York.

5. Proposed date of the next Bureau meeting

16. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting online on 25 September 2025.

Participants:

Bureau: Sara SLANA (Slovenia), Chair of the GEC; Sandra LENGWILER (Switzerland), Vice-Chair of the GEC; and Radan ŠAFARIK, Bureau member (Czechia).

Secretariat: Caterina BOLOGNESE (Head of the Gender Equality Division); Mathilde BARLOW (Administrative Assistant); Flurina FREI (Policy Adviser); Cécile GREBOVAL (Senior Gender Equality Adviser); Yanna PARNIN (Head of the Gender Equality Policy Unit and Secretary to the GEC) and Valerie POPPE (Principal Administrative Assistant and Co-Secretary to the GEC).