COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 18 November 2022 GEC22(2022)November Abridged Report

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC)

22nd meeting
16-18 November 2022
Hybrid meeting

Abridged report

The Gender Equality Commission(GEC), chaired by Andreia Lourenço Marques (Portugal),

1. adopted the draft agenda as it appears in Document GEC(2022)OJ2 Revised.
2. agreed that future plenary meetings would be fully in person meetings only with no online participation.
3. took note of the draft annual report for 2022 on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy.
4. agreed to transmit all national contributions by 16 December 2022 at the latest.
5. instructed the Secretariat to update and finalise the annual report with any further information provided by the member states and to send it back to them before transmitting it to the Committee of Ministers.
6. instructed the Secretariat to extend the consultation period on the draft Gender Equality Strategy calendar and agreed on the revised calendar.
7. instructed the Secretariat to prepare a draft document for discussion at the 23rd meeting of the GEC in May 2023 taking into account the recommendations of the High-Level Reflection Group of the Council of Europe.
8. took note of the information from the GEC Chair about her exchange of views with GREVIO on 12 October 2022.
9. took note of the exchange of views with Iris Luarasi, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
10. took note of the information put forward by member states regarding national developments and experiences regarding the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention.
11. took note of the ongoing co-operation projects being undertaken in the area of violence against women and domestic violence.
12. took note of the information about ongoing activities regarding implementation and promotion of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls.
13. took note of the information from the Secretariat about a proposed project regarding the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls.
14. requested that the Secretariat prepare an information note on the project which members agreed to use to consult with national authorities about possible participation either as a beneficiary or through a financial contribution.
15. took note of the exchange of views with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatović, in particular her proposals to include women's reproductive and sexual health and rights in the next Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029, and to pay special attention to women and girls facing marginalisation and intersectional discrimination.
16. took note of the information about the 2023 annual thematic conference on the subject of men and boys as agents of change in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women, as well as the date, 27-28 April 2023, and venue, Strasbourg.

17. decided, at this stage, not to advise the Committee of Ministers to adopt a Recommendation (rather than Guidelines) on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women.

18. adopted the text of the Guidelines on the role of the men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women, taking into account the modifications made during the plenary meeting and subject to a final editorial review by member states.

19. took note of the exchange of views with Carlien Scheele, Director of the European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE) and the invitation to the Council of Europe to work together with EIGE on a publication in 2023 on guidelines on communication on how to counteract anti-gender narratives.

20. agreed that the Chair would disseminate a written report on her exchange of views with the CEDAW Committee (July 2022) and instructed the GEC Bureau to decide on the follow-up to be given to the exchange.

21. asked the GEC members from Czech Republic, Sweden and Spain to submit the information about the gender equality programme of their respective presidencies of the Council of the European Union in writing.

22. approved the draft study on the impact of artificial intelligence, its potential for promoting equality, including gender equality, and the risks to non-discrimination.

23. instructed the Secretariat to keep the GEC informed about the progress in this work. The final study will be presented to the GEC for approval in the next plenary.

24. elected Ralph Kass (Luxembourg) as the Chair, Karin Bengtson (Sweden) as the Vice-Chair and Andri Savva (Cyprus) as member of the GEC Bureau for 2023.

25. agreed that the Chair would disseminate a written report about the work on the draft comprehensive Recommendation on combating hate crime.

26. agreed that the Secretariat would send information in writing about the work of the ADI-ROM, particularly in relation to the draft Recommendation on equality for Roma and Traveller women and girls.

27. took note of the presentation by the Secretariat about the ongoing activities related to gender mainstreaming in the Council of Europe activities.

28. took note of the request for expressions of interest by members in the areas of freedom of expression and of the rights of migrant women and the extended deadline of 23 November 2022 for any further nominations.

29. took note of the information provided by the representatives of Ireland, Iceland and Latvia about the gender equality programme of their respective presidencies of the Committee of Ministers.

30. agreed that the Chair would disseminate a written report on her participation at the meeting of the Network of Pilot Courts organised by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ).

31. took note of the report on the impact of COVID-19 on women's access to justice and agreed to endorse it subject to certain modifications and to suggested changes sent by member states by 12 December 2022.

32. Asked members to send any proposed items and thematic discussions for the next plenary meeting of the GEC by the end of November 2022, and agreed that the GEC Bureau would decide which ones to include in the agenda of the next meeting.

33. agreed on the dates of the next GEC-related meetings: Annual thematic conference 2023 (Strasbourg, 27-28 April 2023); 23rd meeting of the Gender Equality Commission (Strasbourg; 24-26 May 2023); 24th meeting of the Gender Equality Commission (Strasbourg, 15-17 November 2023).

34. agreed on the abridged report of the meeting and instructed the Secretariat to transmit it to the Committee of Ministers for note to be taken of it.

Appendix I

AGENDA

I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

- *Draft Agenda* *GEC(2022)OJ2*

II. Gender Equality Commission

- Election of GEC Bureau

III. Exchange of views with Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

IV. Council of Europe Transversal Programme on Gender Equality

1. Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023

a. Draft 2022 annual report on the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy (2018-2023) *GEC(2022)12*

Activities and measures in member states towards the achievement of the objectives of the Gender Equality Strategy *GEC(2022)06 Revised*

b. Preparation of the draft Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029

GEC(2022)11
Report of the High-Level Reflection Group of the Council of Europe

c. Objective 1 – Prevent and combat gender stereotypes and sexism

- Draft Guidelines on the place of men and boys in gender equality policies and in policies to combat violence against women

Oral presentation
Reports of Working Group meetings
Draft Guidelines (Working Group) GEC(2022)08
Draft Guidelines (consolidated version) GEC(2022)08 rev
Compilation of comments received on the draft Guidelines GEC(2022)10

d. Objective 2 – Prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence

- Follow-up to exchange of views between the GEC Chair and the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) (Strasbourg, 12 October 2022)
- Exchange of views with Iris Luarasi, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)

- Sharing experiences by states parties on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and information on further ratifications
- Update by the Secretariat of co-operation projects undertaken by the Gender Equality Division concerning violence against women and domestic violence

e. Objective 3 – Ensure the equal access of women to justice

- Presentation of the study on the impact of Covid-19 on women's access to justice during the meeting of the Network of Pilot Courts (European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)) – (Strasbourg, 13 October 2022) and exchange of views with the author and the GEC Chair

Oral presentation

- Presentation of the study on the impact of Covid-19 on women's access to justice *Programme Study*
- Follow-up to the presentation of the study on the impact of Covid-19 on women's access to justice *Oral presentation*

f. Objective 5 - Protect the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls

- Committee of Ministers Recommendation on protecting the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls – update on translations, dissemination and promotion

g. Objective 6 - Achieve gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures

- Gender mainstreaming in Council of Europe activities

Oral presentation

- Reports from members of the GEC, experts and Secretariat who have participated in the following meetings of Council of Europe bodies:
  - Committee of Experts on Hate Crime (PC/ADI-CH) – preparation of a draft comprehensive Recommendation on combating hate crime

Oral presentation

  - Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) - preparation of a draft Recommendation on equality for Roma and Traveller women and girls *Oral presentation*

h. Annual Thematic Conference (Strasbourg, 27-28 April 2023)

i.

V. Co-operation with other Council of Europe sectors

- Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and its subordinate bodies

  Presentation of the work of the Task Force on the study on the impact of artificial intelligence on equality, including gender equality, and discrimination

  Draft study GEC(2022)09/CDADI(2022)21

VI. Co-operation with international/regional organisations

- Exchange of views with Carlien Scheele, Director of the European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE)
- Follow-up to exchange of views between the GEC Chair and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Geneva, 1 July 2022 *Speaking notes*
- Council of the European Union – gender equality agenda:
  - Czech Presidency (July – December 2022)
  - Swedish Presidency (January – June 2023)
  - Spanish Presidency (July – December 2023)

VII. Current and future activities at national and international level

- Gender equality agendas of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Presidencies:
  - Ireland (May - November 2022)
  - Iceland (November 2022 - May 2023)
  - Latvia (May - November 2023)

VIII. Proposals for the agenda of the next meeting, including thematic discussions

IX. Other business

- Presentation of the Gender Equality Division's database of Council of Europe publications on gender equality

X. Dates of forthcoming meetings

XI. Adoption of the abridged report of the 22nd GEC meeting (16-18 November 2022)

Calendar of forthcoming events and meetings

- GEC 2023 Annual thematic conference – Strasbourg, 27-28 April 2023
- 23rd meeting of the Gender Equality Commission – Strasbourg, 24-26 May 2023 (tbc)
- 24th meeting of the Gender Equality Commission – Strasbourg, 15-17 November 2023 (tbc)