



CIRCULAR GEN No 19 (2016)

To all PSI affiliates
To PSI World Women's Committee members

File Reference: RP/VM/CHM-UNCSW61
Contact Name: veronica.montufar@world-psi.org

10 November, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

61st Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 13th-24th March 2017, New York (USA)

We are pleased to inform you that the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW61) will take place at the UN Headquarters, in New York, from 13th to 24th March 2017.

The UNCSW provides a unique opportunity for coalition-building with other trade unions and progressive organizations, and for influencing global policies on gender equality. In 2017, the main theme of the UNCSW will be "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work". This is an important opportunity for the trade union movement to make our demands visible, to influence this global body and to strengthen and consolidate our alliances with major civil society organizations (CSO's). We need to coordinate actions at the national, regional and global levels, and ensure our key priorities are included in the outcome document of UNCSW61 (commonly referred to as the 'Agreed Conclusions').

Further information will soon be available on: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017>.

PSI is an accredited organisation for this Commission. We encourage the participation of sisters (and brothers) from our affiliated unions. Although a large part of our activities will take place during the first week, we are seeking to ensure representation throughout the entire UNCSW61, with delegates attending the entire event and others attending only part of it.

Please note that practically all the official side meetings and parallel meetings during the UNCSW are in English without interpretation provided, while only the official sessions provide interpretation in all UN languages but allow for very limited interaction. We therefore encourage delegates with at least basic knowledge of English to register.

The United Nations limits the number of delegates to 20 people per organisation. PSI will register representatives in order to ensure adequate regional representation.

The registration process for UNCSW61 will follow the same procedure as last year to ensure a better preparation and coordination with other union and partner organizations. PSI will prepare its

list of participants by 26th November 2016. We expect delegates to take an active part in the preparative events at national and international level.

We therefore request you to send us the name(s) and contact details of your representatives **by 21st November 2016 at the latest**. Please fill in the attached form and send it back by email to Clarisse.heronneaud@world-psi.org.

There is no registration fee. However, **all costs pertaining to participation in the UNCSW61 are to be covered by your organisation.**

For those of you who have the possibility, another option for participation is to approach your government, requesting that a trade union representative be part of the government delegation. Please inform us if a trade union representative will be part of your government delegation and provide us with the person contact details using the email address mentioned in the above paragraph.

Trade union delegates will receive further updates on the UNCSW61 preparations in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rosa Pavanelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R'.

Rosa PAVANELLI
General Secretary