

# Peace & Justice Report

For the week of April 7, 2017

## The 61st UN Commission on the Status of Women: Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work

*162 Member States attended, including 89 representatives at the Ministerial level.*

*Over 3,900 representatives from 580 civil society organizations from 138 countries, attested to the growing strength and unity of women's voices around the world.*



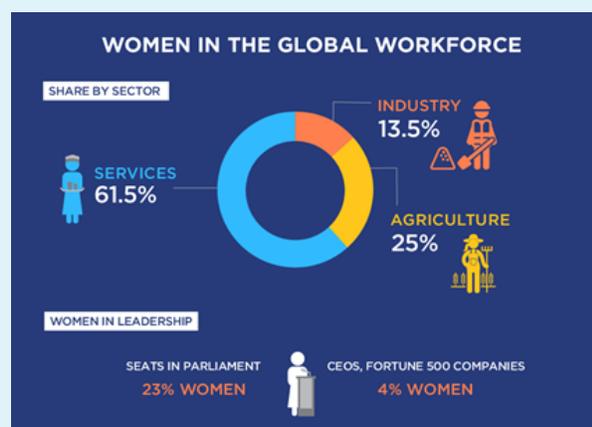
### Recognized Barriers that Women Face:

- Unequal working conditions
- Women's over representation in the informal economy
- Gender stereotypes and social norms that reinforce women's concentration in certain sectors
- The uneven share of unpaid care work that women do
- The gender pay gap, which currently stands at 23 percent globally, persists in all countries
- Women are paid persistently low wages, which are often below decent living wages

**For sustainable and healthy economies, the world of work must empower women and remove the persisting inequalities that hold women back from getting on equal footing with men.**

### In the final agreement of the 61<sup>st</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, Member States committed to the following:

- The implementation of **equal pay policies**, which includes paid care and domestic workers
- **Parental/Pregnancy rights** for women and men
- Legal and policy frameworks to **end sexual harassment** at the work place
- Gender-responsive **migration** policies
- More gender balance in **managerial positions**
- An **end** to the practice of **gender-based price** differentiation
- The full **inclusion** and **development** of indigenous women



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## UN Women ask: What do we need to do to get there?

- Call for passing and enforcing laws and regulations upholding the principle of equal pay for work of equal value
- Pass policies that reduce and redistribute unpaid work
- Invest in systems to provide water, electricity, transportation and other essentials that reduce household labor
- Take urgent policy action to eliminate barriers that discriminate against women workers
- Provide education and training for women that open opportunities for women in the changing world of work
- Aim for gender parity in decision-making positions
- Urge governments, employers and organized workers to jointly promote the human and labor rights of all women workers
- Enact and implement laws and policies to criminalize all forms of workplace harassment and gender-based violence. Work with unions, employers and advocates for informal workers so all women know their rights and can seek redress for violations



Read more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2017/2/photo-world-of-work>

**The future envisioned for humanity and our shared planet, across all of the 17 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, rests on fully freeing women's power and potential. It is time to act on the high ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and guarantee that every woman can thrive and contribute, including through decent, dignified work.**

### The 2030 Sustainability Goals:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/publication>

Click to see a **video from UN Women which shows the economic value of unpaid work** as well—and the consequences of excluding that work from measuring a country's true wealth. Worth watching!

<https://youtu.be/fcqt0QzgUFU>

**Full Press Release:** <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/3/press-release-un-csw-provides-roadmap-to-womens-full-and-equal-participation-in-the-economy>