

DRAFT Concept Note

UN Commission on the Status of Women

UNESCO WFEO Side Event: Role of Women in STEM in addressing Climate Change

Event Title	Joint Side Event at the UN Commission on the Status of Women CSW66 14-25 March 2022.
Background	<p>The sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place from 14 to 25 March 2022. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited (NGOs) from all regions of the world are expected to attend the session.</p> <p>The Priority theme for 2022 is, <i>Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes</i>. The review theme is, <i>Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work</i>.</p> <p>It is important that UNESCO has a presence and a voice at this important event especially in relation to women and their role in addressing climate change, environmental risks and natural disasters. Empowering women in the STEM fields and ensuring their role in government, industry and academia, is increasingly important after two years of dealing with the pandemic. Women have been under-represented in addressing issues relating to climate change to date and this event will address this imbalance to some extent.</p> <p>WFEO, UNESCO and other major international organizations in science, technology and engineering will come together for a side event that will demonstrate the need for more women participation and retention in STEM fields.</p>
Event Outcomes	<p>The event will demonstrate the key role of women scientists and engineers in addressing climate change, disaster risk management, innovation and advancing the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal #9.5, Goal #5 – Gender, Goal#13 Climate Change. The event will also contribute to celebrating the achievements of engineers and agronomists and scientists in this field.</p>
Event Format	<p>The event will be a panel discussion with speakers from every region and representing major science and engineering organisations from more than 100 nations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNESCO - WFEO - International Science Council - Other--