

## Request for Participation in Meeting or Event

If you receive a request for the Minister to attend an event either in Ireland or abroad, you may wish to contact the Private Office first to get an initial idea of the Minister's movements at the particular time. You must then compose a submission outlining the section's recommendations on whether or not attendance is required. The form for this submission is below.

### 1. Description of meeting / event:

The Human Rights Unit is inviting the Minister to the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (thereafter the Commission), which will be held from 13 March to 23 March 2017, and will focus on **Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work**.

The Commission is the principal global intergovernmental body solely dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Through extensive research to assess the status of women worldwide, the Commission shapes global standards and raises awareness on women's issues.

The three following themes have been chosen for this year's session:

- Priority theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work ;
- Review theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session ;
- Emerging issue/Focus area: The empowerment of indigenous women.

### 2. Date & time of meeting / event:

The 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held from 13 March to 23 March 2017. In light of Ireland's election to serve as a member of the Committee for the first time, we would hope to have the Minister attend the Ministerial segment from 13 March 2017

to 15 March 2017 and High –level interactive dialogue among Ministers scheduled for 14 March 2017.

For information, other interactive dialogues and interactive expert panels on various themes will follow from 15 March 2017 - onwards.

### **3. Venue:**

United Nations headquarters, New York.

### **4. Objective of participation in the meeting / event:**

The principal objective of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission is to contribute to an exchange of information, views and best practices on the economic empowerment of women in the changing world of work.

We would hope to have the Minister deliver a statement on behalf on Ireland during the Ministerial segment of the session, and participate to the Ministerial segment.

### **5. Observations and recommendation on attendance**

It is strongly recommended that favourable consideration be given to this invitation on the basis that:

- Ireland has been elected to serve as a member of the Commission for the first time.
- The Commission provides a unique opportunity to engage on the topic of women and human rights, which is one of Ireland's foreign policy priority;
- As a member of the Human Rights Council (2013-2015) and the Executive Board of UN Women (2012-2013), Ireland worked to highlight a range of issues affecting women and girls around the world. Ministerial attendance will enable to showcase our continued commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at an international level ;
- The Minister attended the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission. We would therefore hope for the Minister to attend the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission.

<b>6. Officer responsible and extention:</b>
Martina Feeney, Director of the Human Rights Unit, ext. number 2849
<b>Date:</b> 13/01/2017

The section must then draft a reply to the rep/invite according to the recommendations provided and submit to the Minister’s Correspondence Office.