

Permanent Mission of India
New York

Press Release

India and UN Women co-host Ministerial-level Roundtable on the side lines of CSW-69

India and UN Women co-hosted a Ministerial-level Roundtable on the sidelines of the 69th session of the Commission on Status of Women on 12th March 2025. It focused on two pertinent topics that can globally strengthen the agenda of women empowerment (i) Digital and Financial Inclusion for Women Empowerment (ii) Financing for Women Empowerment-Criticality of Core Resources. The relevance of these two themes was reflected in the overwhelming response from a packed audience at the UN.

2. Permanent Representative of India (PR) to the UN, Ambassador P. Harish, in his welcome remarks, emphasized how 'Aadhaar', India's unique foundational ID system and the Unified Payments Interface have benefited over 250 million Indian women through seamless transactions. PR also noted that during India's G20 presidency, the country established a Women's Empowerment Working Group to advance this important agenda.

3. Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development Smt. Annpurna Devi and Executive Director of UN Women Ms. Sima Bahous co-chaired the session. Hon'ble Minister outlined India's women-led development initiatives, focusing on financial and digital inclusion through the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhaar, and Mobile connectivity), which has fostered sustainable and inclusive economic growth. She also highlighted the use of digital platforms to track the effective implementation of government initiatives. In the context of Beijing+30, Executive Director Bahous highlighted the \$1.7 trillion financing gap hindering women's full economic participation. She stressed that women's economic empowerment must be central to discussions on reforming global financial architecture to create a more prosperous world.

4. H.E. Amurwani Dwi Lestariningsih, Deputy Minister for Gender Equality, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesia, H.E. Fatima Zohra Iraoui, Head of Human Rights Unit Ministry of Health, Morocco, Smt. Nayana Sahasrabuddhe, G20 Women Task Force member also shared their experiences about leveraging technology for empowering women. H.E. Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi, Minister of Social Development and Family, Qatar, H.E. Mirthia Borissoff, Secretary General of the Ministry of Women, Panama and H.E. Stephanie Copus Campbell, Ambassador for Gender Equality, Australia highlighted the ways by which targeted investment in initiatives for women transform their lives. Deputy Executive Director UN Women, Ms. Kirsi Madi remarked on the close cooperation with India in this field.

5. The Ministerial roundtable reiterated the call for focused and targeted work for Member States to achieve the SDG 5 targets by 2030.

* * *

New York
12 March 2025