

# UNECE GENDER RESPONSIVE STANDARDS INITIATIVE

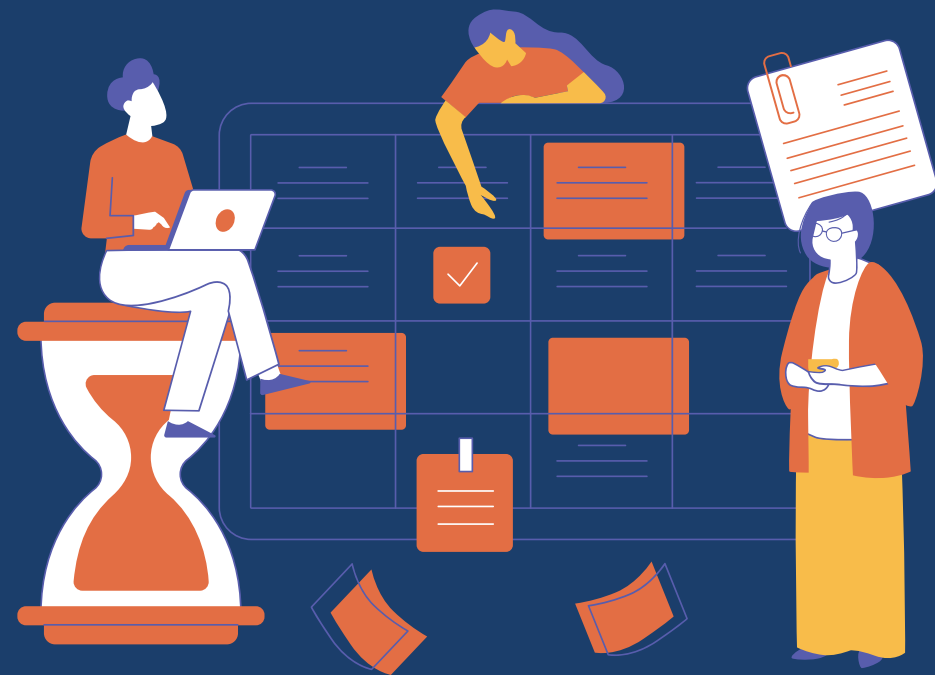
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Report for the Annual Session WP.6



# Report

## Structure of Presentation



01 GRSI for Standards

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02 GRSI Composition & Objectives

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03 2021 Project Team Activities

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04 2021 Declaration Signatories & Plans

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05 Presentations & Media

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06 Future Activities

# UNECE GRSI Standards for Gender Equality

The Gender Responsive Standards Trello board contains the following focus areas: best practice, outreach & capacity building; reference materials; ongoing activities; and GRSI meeting reports and presentations.



Working Party 6 created the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative, with the aim of improving gender balance in standards development, and of ensuring that the content and impact of standards, when implemented, are gender-responsive.

The Initiative aims to strengthen the use of standards and technical regulations as powerful tools to attain SDG 5 (Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls), integrate a gender lens in the development of both standards and technical regulations, as well as elaborate gender indicators and criteria that could be used in standards development.



THE GENDER RESPONSIVE  
STANDARDS INITIATIVE  
DECLARATION, PROJECT TEAMS

# WP.6 GRSI

## 2021 COMPOSITION & OBJECTIVE

### Project Team 1

Knowledge Sharing & Best Practice,  
led by Lucy He of Worksafe New Zealand

### Project Team 2

Gender Responsive Standards Methodology,  
led by Michelle Parkouda of Standards Council of Canada (SCC)

### Project Team 3

Network Development,  
led by Ray Walsh of Dublin City University (DCU)

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# 1

## PROJECT TEAM 1: TRAINING & BEST PRACTICE

Project Team 1 works to cultivate training and best practice material to support standards bodies/signatories to meet their commitments, under the UNECE Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards. This includes identifying existing materials in the network and training gaps.

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# 2

## PROJECT TEAM 2: GENDER RESPONSIVE STANDARDS METHODOLOGY

Project Team 2 works to support NSBs to ensure the standards they develop and the practices they follow are gender-responsive.

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# 3

## PROJECT TEAM 3: NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Project Team 3 extends the network and brings gender-responsive standards to new fora and constituencies. The team engages with national, regional and international platforms to raise awareness of gender responsive standards.

# PROJECT TEAM (PT)

## 2021 ACTIVITIES



### PROJECT TEAM 1: TRAINING & BEST PRACTICE

The team has developed a survey which will be circulated via SurveyMonkey to focal points of National Standards Bodies within the signatory network. The survey will identify NSB training needs and existing capacity related to gender and standards.

### PROJECT TEAM 2: GENDER RESPONSIVE STANDARDS METHODOLOGY

Project team 2 has developed a Gender Responsive Standards Methodology,; a living document which addresses practical issues of gender responsiveness in standardization and the standards development process. A glossary of terms is included to harmonize understanding of key terms.

### PROJECT TEAM 3: NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

The project team has brought the GRSI and message of 'standards for women's empowerment' to new constituencies. Since September, the team has presented gender responsive standards at the International Conference on Sustainable Development and to the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO)

# 80 DECLARATION SIGNATORIES



International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

European Committee for Standardization (CEN) &  
European Committee for Electrotechnical  
Standardization (CENELEC)

African Organization for Standardization (ARSO)

AMFORI

ASTM International

European Environmental Citizens' Organization for  
Standardization (ECOS)

Fairtrade International

The Gold Standard

Round Table on Responsible Soy Association (RTRS)

The Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic  
Countries (SMIIC)

The Rainforest Alliance

Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC)

Verra

WOCAN (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture &  
Natural Resource Management)

Albania - General Directorate of Standardization

Argentina - Instituto Argentino de Normalización y  
Certificación - IRAM

Austria - Austrian Standards International

Bolivia - Instituto Boliviano de Normalización y Calidad

Bosnia & Herzegovina - Institut for Standardization of  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Brazil - Associação Brasileira de Normas Técnicas  
(ABNT)  
Canada - Standards Council of Canada

Cuba - Cuban National Bureau of Standards (NC)

Colombia - Instituto Colombiano de Normas Técnicas y  
Certificación

Congo - Office Congolais de Contrôle

Costa Rica - Technical Standards Institute of Costa  
Rica (INTECO)

Cuba - Cuban National Bureau of Standards (NC)

Cyprus - Organisation for Standardisation

Denmark - Danish Standards

Dominican Republic - Instituto Dominicano  
para la Calidad

Ecuador - Servicio Ecuatoriano de Normalización

France - Association Française de Normalisation  
(AFNOR)  
Gambia - The Gambia Standards Bureau

Georgia - Georgian National Agency for Standards and  
Metrology (GEOSTM)

Germany - Deutsches Institut für Normung

Germany - Deutsche Kommission Elektrotechnik  
Elektronik Informationstechnik im DIN und VDE (DKE)

Honduras - Organismo Hondureño de Normalización

Iceland - Icelandic Standards

Israel - Standards Institute of Israel (SII)

India - Bureau of Indian Standards

Ireland - National Standards Authority of Ireland

Italy - Comitato Elettrotecnico Italiano

Italy - Ente Italiano di Normazione

Latvia - Latvian Standard

Lithuania - Lithuanian Standards Board

Luxembourg - Institut Luxembourgeois de la Normalisation, de l'Accréditation, de la Sécurité et qualité des produits et services

Madagascar - Bureau des Normes de Madagascar

Mali - Agence Malienne de Normalisation et de Promotion de la Qualité (AMANORM)

Malta - Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority

Mauritius - Mauritius Standards Bureau

Mexico - Dirección General de Normas

Moldova - Institute for Standardization of Moldova

Morocco - Institut Marocain de Normalisation

Mozambique - Instituto Nacional de Normalização e Qualidade

Netherlands - Netherlands Standardization Institute

New Zealand - New Zealand Standards Organisation

New Zealand - New Zealand IEC National Committee

Norway - Standards Norway

Papua New Guinea - Institute of Standards and Industrial Technology

Peru - El Instituto Nacional de Calidad (INACAL)

Portugal - Instituto Português da Qualidade

Rwanda - Rwandan Standards Board (RSB)

Saint Lucia - Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards

Senegal - Association Sénégalaise de Normalisation

Serbia - Institute for Standardization of Serbia (ISS)

Slovakia - Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing

South Africa - South African Bureau of Standards

Spain - Asociación Española de Normalización

Sweden - Swedish Institute for Standards

Switzerland - Swiss Association for Standardization

Thailand - Thai Industrial Standards Institute

Togo - Agence Togolaise de Normalisation

Trinidad and Tobago - Bureau of Standards

Turkey - Türk Standardları Enstitüsü

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - British Standards Institution

Uruguay - Instituto Uruguayo de Normas Técnicas

# DECLARATION

## SIGNATORY ACTION PLANS



### Rwanda

The RSB partnered with the national Gender Monitoring Office to elaborate a joint national action plan to implement the core objectives of the Declaration. These efforts are aimed to 'support gender responsiveness across the whole standardization value chain.



### Canada

The priorities of the SCC Gender Action Plan were improving gender representation in standards development, building gender expertise into the standardization system by developing guidance on how to mainstream gender in the development of a standard; and contributing sound research to this area



### India

The priorities of the BIS Action Plan include creating inclusive committees and connecting with external organizations to promote inclusivity; creating gender responsive standards by developing methodology to assess gender blindness of existing standards and new proposals; and imparting training/ awareness



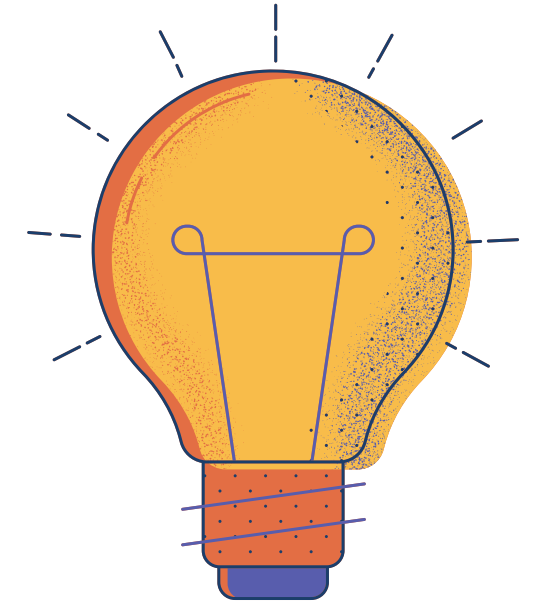
### Portugal

IPQ, the standards body of Portugal, has committed to partner with the national Commission for Equality in Labor and Employment, and the Icelandic Standardization body, for the elaboration of a Portuguese Standard on Equal Wages



# Presentations

## GENDER RESPONSIVE STANDARDS



**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)**

'Gender Responsive Standards',  
(December 8<sup>th</sup> 2020)

**COMMONWEALTH STANDARDS NETWORK (CSN)**

'UNECE Gender Responsive Standards Initiative',  
(March 30<sup>th</sup> 2021)

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ICSD)**

'Gender Responsive Standards and their Impact on UN SDGs',  
(September 21<sup>st</sup> 2021).

**AFRICAN REGIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATION (ARSO)**

'The Importance of Gender Responsive Standards'  
(27<sup>th</sup> October 2021)

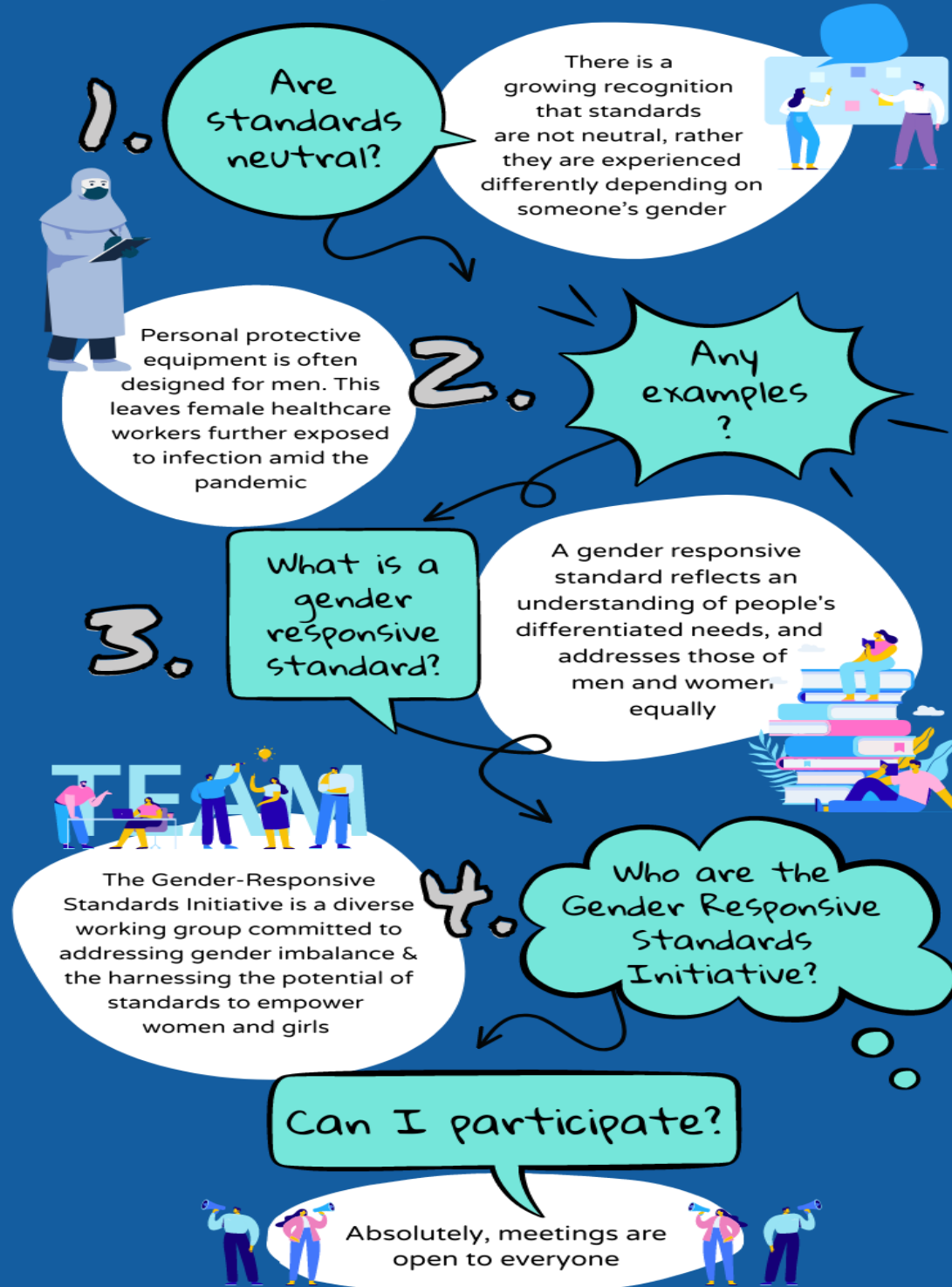
# MEDIA

## Awareness-Raising Social Media Content



## Why Gender Responsive Standards?

UNECE's work on women's economic empowerment is guided by key global norms and standards that recognize the rights of women and girls everywhere.



More

Please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat if you would like to have further information, or participate in this Initiative



## STANDARDS & HEALTHCARE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

### Global Healthcare

Roughly 70 per cent of the global healthcare workforce are women. They hold only 25% of senior roles.



### Risk

Failure to provide suitable PPE, places women at greater risk of infection. They bear the brunt for our collective well-being.



### Exposure

In Italy, 69% of women health-care workers have been infected with COVID-19 compared to 31% of men (2020)



### Different Requirements

PPE does not protect all workers equally. This is because – quite often – these specifications are drawn up on the basis of the male body, which is often taken as the reference for the population as a whole.



### Ill-Fitting PPE

UK's 2017 Trades Union Congress found 71% of women wear PPE that has not been designed for female bodies. In emergency services, only 5% of women said their PPE never hampered their work



7'0"  
6'8"  
6'4"  
6'0"  
5'8"  
5'4"  
5'0"  
4'8"

### COVID-19 & Inclusivity

The global health crisis has underscored the dire need for gender considerations in PPE and the structural inequalities faced by women at work. UNECE is committed to gender-responsive standards and driving change in standardization. Standards are vital tools in the achievement of the SDGs.



### Face Masks

Research conducted in the United Kingdom found that respiratory equipment "poorly fit" 16.7% of female health workers compared to 7.6% of men (2020)



Under the umbrella of the UNECE "Gender-responsive Standards Declaration", standards bodies work together to make standards – like those on filtering masks, medical gloves and protective clothing – gender-responsive. Some 75 standards bodies have signed the Declaration, taking concrete commitments for action.

# Future Activities

## GRSI IN 2022



## GENDER FOCAL POINT NETWORK

Strengthen continuity and understanding on the activities of the Gender Responsive Standards Initiative (GRSI) through a network of dedicated gender focal points.

## DELIVER GENDER TRAINING

Develop training manual on the topic of gender responsive standards. Deliver a series of training workshops based off this report to gender focal points of NSBs. Intended to support NSB develop a gender action plan, practical information on plan development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

## DEVELOP TRAINING & BEST PRACTICE

Publication of the Methodology on Gender Responsive Standards. Disseminate survey to identify training needs and existing capacity. Strengthen knowledge sharing between NSBs through WP.6 platform and signatory network.

# THANK YOU

## ANY QUESTIONS?



### Website

<https://unece.org/gender-responsive-standards-initiative>