

CSW70 Spotlights Financing Gender-Transformative Learning as Key to Equality



The session on “Inclusive Finance & Digital Justice for Advancing Economic Power for Women & Girls” in New York on 18th March 2026. Source (CSBAG)

Momentum is building at the 70th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women as global education advocates continued the push for urgent investment in Gender-Transformative Education, warning that without financing, gender equality will remain out of reach.

At a parallel session under the theme *'Financing Gender Transformative Education as a Pathway to Justice for Women and Girls,'* convened by the Commission on the Status of Women and its regional partners, stakeholders called for a shift from rhetoric to a financing structure for education that is sustainable and predictable.

This approach is increasingly recognized as a powerful tool for dismantling systemic inequalities. By equipping learners especially women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals, with critical awareness, agency, and life skills, it challenges harmful gender norms and enables meaningful participation in economic, political, and social life. Yet, despite its promise, the approach remains significantly underfunded. Education systems across many regions continue to prioritize access over transformation, leaving gaps in gender-responsive curricula, teacher training, safe learning environments, and accountability mechanisms.

The discussion aligned with CSW70's priority theme of ensuring access to justice for all women and girls, positioning education as a cornerstone of empowerment and rights realization. With an estimated 122 million girls still out of school globally, speakers stressed that without targeted financing, inequalities will deepen particularly in underserved communities within conflict-affected and low-income contexts.

The event also highlighted the need to build stronger alliances with organizations working on economic justice to scale advocacy efforts for stronger domestic resource mobilization, progressive taxation, and international cooperation. Other point of emphasis was for actors to increasingly tailor gender transformative education to regional realities, ensuring that reforms are both effective and sustainable.

CSBAG's work in this partnership, as a partner of the Global Partnership for Education, demonstrates that financing reforms must be locally grounded and context-specific. By advocating for inclusive budgeting and alignment of national priorities with global commitments, organizations like CSBAG are helping translate gender transformative education principles into tangible outcomes for learners—particularly girls and marginalized communities.

Co-organized by education coalitions spanning Africa, the Arab region, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America, the event underscored a unifying message: education systems must be transformed—not just expanded.

As deliberations continue, advocates are clear, without bold and sustained financing for gender-transformative education, global commitments to equality and justice risk remaining promises on paper rather than realities in people's lives.

In another panel on women's economic empowerment, delegates underscored financial inclusion as a fundamental human right for women navigating economic insecurity.

Speakers highlighted the growing “digital justice gap,” warning that without inclusive systems, technology risks deepening inequality. Calls were made for gender responsive financial regulations, privacy by design, and mandatory audits of algorithms used in credit and capital allocation to address systemic bias.

The discussion also pointed to stark funding disparities, noting that women entrepreneurs receive less than 3 percent of global venture capital despite their significant role in driving economic growth.

Policy recommendations included investments in data literacy, digital skills, and civic engagement tools. The panel concluded with a call for coordinated global action on inclusive financial systems, backed by political will and technological innovation for sustainable economic empowerment for women worldwide.

About UNCSW70: The United Nations 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW70), happening between 9th to 20th March 2026, has gathered delegates from across the world including Ministers, UN experts, civil society leaders, and regional blocs, to interrogate one of the most enduring challenges to gender equality: the global failure to ensure full and equitable access to justice for women and girls. Delegates are also reviewing progress on women's participation in public life and the elimination of violence against women.