



# CSW60 HANDBOOK - 2016



**BPW International**

*The International Federation of Business and Professional Women*

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# I. THE HISTORY OF CSW

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. United Nations commitments to the advancement of women began with the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco in 1945. Of the 160 signatories, only four were women - Minerva Bernardino (Dominican Republic), Virginia Gildersleeve (United States), Bertha Lutz (Brazil) and Wu Yi-Fang (China) – but they succeeded in inscribing women’s rights in the founding document of the United Nations, which reaffirms in its preamble “faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of Nations large and small”.

The Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), established by Council resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946.

The Commission first met at Lake Success, New York, in February 1947, soon after the founding of the United Nations. At that session, all of the 15 government representatives were women – giving the Commission the unique character it would maintain throughout its history by gathering a majority of women delegates. From its inception, the Commission was supported by a unit of the United Nations that later became the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) in the UN Secretariat. The CSW forged a close relationship with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) who were invited to participate as observers.

From 1947 to 1962, the Commission focused on setting standards and formulating international conventions to change discriminatory legislation and foster global awareness of women’s issues. In contributing to the drafting of the Universal



Declaration of Human Rights, the CSW successfully argued against references to “men” as a synonym for humanity, and succeeded in introducing new, more inclusive language.

Since the codification of the legal rights of women needed to be supported by data and analysis, the Commission embarked on a global assessment of the status of women. Extensive research produced a detailed, country-by-country picture of their political and legal standing, which over time became a basis for drafting human rights instruments.

The Commission drafted the early international conventions on women’s rights, such as the 1953 Convention on the Political Rights of Women, which was the first international law instrument to recognize and protect the political rights of women; and the first international agreements on women’s rights in marriage, namely the 1957 Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, and the 1962 Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages. The Commission also contributed to the work of UN offices, such as the International Labour Organization’s 1951 Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, which enshrined the principle of equal pay for equal work.

In 1963, efforts to consolidate standards on women’s rights led the UN General Assembly to request the Commission to draft a Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which the Assembly ultimately adopted in 1967. The legally binding Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), also drafted by the Commission, followed in 1979. In 1999, the Optional Protocol to the Convention introduced the right of petition for women victims of discrimination.

As evidence began to accumulate in the 1960s

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that women were disproportionately affected by poverty, the work of the Commission centered on women's needs in community and rural development, agricultural work, family planning, and scientific and technological advances. The Commission encouraged the UN system to expand its technical assistance to further the advancement of women, especially in developing countries.

In 1972, to mark its 25th anniversary, the Commission recommended that 1975 be designated International Women's Year—an idea endorsed by the General Assembly to draw attention to women's equality with men and to their contributions to development and peace. The year was marked by holding the First World Conference on Women in Mexico City, followed by the 1976–1985 UN Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Additional world conferences took place in Copenhagen in 1980 and Nairobi in 1985. New UN offices dedicated to women were established; in particular, the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). In 1987, as part of follow-up to the Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi, the Commission took the lead in coordinating and promoting the UN system's work on economic and social issues for women's empowerment. Its efforts shifted to promoting women's issues as cross-cutting and part of the mainstream, rather than as separate concerns. In the same period, the Commission helped bring violence against women to the forefront of international debates for the first time. These efforts resulted in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 1993. In 1994, a UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences was appointed by the Commission on Human Rights, with a mandate to investigate and report on all aspects of violence against women.

The Commission served as the preparatory body for the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women which adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In 1996, ECOSOC in resolution 1996/6 expanded the Commission's mandate

and decided that it should take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities. In 2011, the four parts of the UN system mentioned on this page—DAW, INSTRAW, OSAGI and UNIFEM—merged to become UN Women. Its main roles are to support the inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms. It also helps Member States to implement these standards and hold the UN system accountable for commitments on gender equality. During the CSW, UN Women organizes special preparatory events and briefing sessions for Member States and is responsible for organizing substantive papers, such as the Report of the Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action, based on government reports.

As the Secretariat for the CSW, UN Women also manages the written and oral statement applications by NGOs. UN rules stipulate that only NGOs with official relations with the UN through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) have full privileges, such as speaking at official inter-governmental meetings. It should be noted that some NGOs are accredited to the UN through the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) or through UN conferences; these NGOs cannot submit written or oral statements to UN Women for the CSW.

## II. THE METHOD OF WORKING

During the Commission's annual 2-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations, and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. They discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the key global policy document on gender equality, and the 23rd special session of the General Assembly held in 2000 (Beijing+5), as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic and social fields. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

The Commission adopted a multi-year work programme for the first time in 1987, containing priority themes for discussion and action at its annual sessions, per ECOSOC resolution 1987/24. Subsequently, multi-year programmes of work were adopted in 1996 in ECOSOC resolution 1996/6, and in 2001 in ECOSOC resolution 2001/4. Since 2006, the Commission has to appraise progress and make further recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action. These recommendations take the form of negotiated agreed conclusions on a priority theme. Under its current methods of work, established by ECOSOC resolutions 2006/9, 2009/15 and 2013/18, at each session the Commission:

- Engages in general discussion on the status of gender equality, identifying goals attained, achievements, gaps and challenges in relation to implementation of key commitments;
- Focuses on one priority theme, based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly;
- Holds a high-level roundtable to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices on the priority theme;
- Evaluates progress in implementing agreed



conclusions from previous sessions as a review theme;

- Convenes interactive panel discussions on steps and initiatives to accelerate implementation, and measures to build capacities for mainstreaming gender equality across policies and programmes;
- Addresses emerging issues that affect gender equality;
- Considers in closed meetings the report of its Working Group on Communications;
- Agrees on further actions for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women by adopting agreed conclusions and resolutions;
- Contributes gender perspectives to the work of other intergovernmental bodies and processes; and
- Celebrates International Women's Day on 8 March, when it falls within its session.

### III. CSW AND NGOS

The active participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is a critical element in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). NGOs have been influential in shaping the current global policy framework on women's empowerment and gender equality: the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. They continue to play an important role in holding international and national leaders accountable for the commitments they made in the Platform for Action. NGOs that are accredited to and in good standing with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may designate representatives to attend the annual sessions of the CSW. The number of representatives who can attend open official meetings is contingent on the availability of space.



NGOs with or without consultative status with ECOSOC, may organize and attend parallel events held outside UN premises, for example in the Church Center. To do so, they should contact the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, which is a group of New York-based women's NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC.

Today, nearly 4,000 NGO representatives participate in the UN Commission on the Status of Women each year. It is the largest annual gathering of the international women's movement at the UN—a time for renewal of collective purpose and action. The NGO CSW Committees hope that advocacy training will help build the capacity and influence of the international women's movement for successful outcomes at future UN meetings, particularly at the CSW.

#### III.A. What is ECOSOC accreditation?

Non-governmental, non-profit, public or voluntary organizations may formally contribute to the work of the United Nations after being granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council under Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations

and on Economic and Social Council Resolution 1996/31. By having consultative status, an NGO could:

- Provide expert analysis on issues directly from its experience in the field;
- Serve as an early-warning agent;
- Help monitor and implement international agreements;
- Help raise public awareness of relevant issues;
- Play a major role in advancing United Nations goals and objectives;
- Contribute with essential information at organization events.

#### III.A.1. Privileges of accredited NGO's

*Attending the annual sessions of the CSW and many other open official UN meetings:*

NGOs that are accredited to and in good standing with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may designate representatives to attend the annual sessions of the CSW. Invitation letters are sent, usually in November, to the e-mail addresses registered in the integrated Civil Society Organizations (iCSO) System of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) by NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. NGOs are encouraged to make sure that their profile and contact information on the CSO system includes the latest correct information about their organizations. Because of increasing demands on limited space, it has become necessary to reduce the numbers of attendees to CSW sessions from civil society. This number should be kept to a minimum and should not exceed 20 representatives per organization. Organizations should be aware that, in this context, entry into official meetings can still not be guaranteed to all who wish to attend.

*Submitting oral and written statements prior to sessions:*

NGOs which are accredited to ECOSOC have an opportunity to prepare oral and written statements during the interactive panels. Oral statements

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may be delivered during the general discussion by a limited number of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, subject to time availability. Preference will be given to NGOs speaking about the theme of the session, on behalf of groups of organizations, caucuses, or coalitions. Instructions about the process will be communicated via e-mail to each NGO representative requesting to make a statement. Oral statements should not exceed three minutes (approximately two pages double-spaced using font size 12).

NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC may also submit written statements on the thematic issues considered by CSW, in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31. Statements are submitted months prior to the session in order to allow time for processing and issuance of the statements as official United Nations documents for the Commission.

#### *Lobbying at national levels:*

The most important starting point to influence the UN process is at the national level. Accredited NGOs should submit shadow reports to their governments, seek opportunities to discuss the government positions, and establish good relations with delegations, as well as try to join the official delegations as members of Civil Society.

#### *Organizing Parallel and Side Events:*

Accredited NGOs have an opportunity to arrange Side Events and Parallel Programs in CSW Processes. The Side Events include panels and discussions, including some organized by conveners of the Conference and others by Member States or other stakeholders.

The Parallel Program, organized by the conveners of the conference, often concerns negotiations on the possible outcomes of the meeting. These negotiations, called "informal meetings," can be open or closed; the confidentiality changes from one meeting to another.

#### III.A.2. Obligations of accredited NGO's

A major requirement for NGOs in consultative status is the submission of a report to the Committee, through the NGO Branch, every four years, that includes a brief description of the organization's activities, particularly highlighting their contribution to the work of the United Nations. To emphasize the need to abide strictly by this requirement, resolution 2008/4 stipulates measures that the Council has taken to suspend, and subsequently withdraw consultative status of organizations that fail to submit their reports on time.

Per NGO Branch instructions:

Six months prior to the due date of your quadrennial report, the NGO Branch sends you a reminder informing you of the expected due date of your report, as well as the penalties for failing to submit the report within the deadline. Please ensure that your organization's contact information is current by logging on to your account and updating your contact information under the Profile tab.

Under "Measures to improve the quadrennial reporting procedures" in ECOSOC resolution 2008/4, specific measures are outlined for action if an NGO fails to submit a report on time. They are as follows:

- One month after the due date of your report, the NGO Branch sends you a notification requesting your overdue report by 1 January of the following year.
- If no report is received by 1 January, the NGO Branch will send a final letter requesting that the report be submitted by 1 May.
- If the report is still not received by this date, the Committee on NGOs recommends immediate suspension of consultative status for your organization for one year.
- If the Council decides to suspend your consultative status, you will be notified, along

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with a request to receive the quadrennial report by 1 May of the following year. If within that period the report has still not been submitted to the NGO Branch by your organization, it will result in the recommendation for withdrawal of your consultative status by the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs.

#### III.B. General Tips for NGOs

**Tip I.** Long term preparation is the key to success. Member States begin their preparation at least one year in advance – a practice that NGOs need to adopt in order to successfully influence the outcome of the CSW.

**Tip II.** Gather information about the issues and allies. NGOs should gather good information through readings of the UN documents and research. It is important to know the position and background of one's allies — NGOs and governments – but also the position of those defending another position.

**Tip III.** Reach out to other NGOs as well as governments. To be influential at the United Nations, NGOs need States that are ready to champion their proposals. These “friendly States” can be identified during the year prior to the CSW. Generally, progressive States concentrate their effort on one or two topics and become the “specialists” on them.

NGOs must reach out to interested States, go to Side Events organized by these countries, and talk to the diplomats working at UN Missions. The NGOs should also contact the main government body responsible for the negotiations at the UN in their own countries such as the Ministries of Women's Affairs. They must present themselves as well-prepared partners who can bring added value during the negotiations.

**Tip IV.** Intervene at key moments during the lifecycle of a decision. The negotiations on a UN outcome document move as fast as a train, and NGOs must be prepared to get on at the right “stations”. In other words, NGOs' actions must be in sync with the lifecycle of a decision. For example, it will be

very difficult to introduce a new theme in the final round of the negotiations. The right moment is at the very beginning. Similarly, streamlining wording just after the arrival of the Zero Draft in the “capital cities” is too early to have an impact.

**Tip V.** Written and oral statements need to be strategic. Usually, the CSW takes place in the first half of March (9 to 20 March in 2015). Around September of the year before (i.e. 2014), there is a call for written statements by ECOSOC-accredited NGOs. For example, the deadline for written statements for CSW 59 was 24 October 2014. The deadline for oral statements and interactive panel participation is usually set later in December or January. These statements need to be checked for NGO accreditation, translated and edited. They are published on the website of the CSW and distributed to the Missions to the United Nations. There is a word limit, and an NGO can only deliver one written statement although they may sign on other group statements. The UN encourages NGOs to submit group statements.

**Tip VI.** Amendments to the zero draft should begin at the national level. As soon as the Zero Draft is available on the UN website, NGOs should contact their own government delegates to the CSW and UN missions with concrete proposals for wording. New topics are not likely to be included at this point. As explained above, Member States have only two weeks to change language, to have it approved by their administration, and to deliver it to the Secretariat (UN Women in the case of the CSW). Time is very limited and decision-making goes very fast. This is the key moment to introduce a new and non-agreed language in the Zero Draft.

**Tip VII.** Be vigilant during the negotiations. First readings can start prior to the beginning of the official program. This is the case for the 59th session of the CSW, when informal negotiations began several weeks before the official beginning of the session. It is difficult for NGOs to follow up with what is happening during the debates, as they are not admitted in the room. NGOs have requested to self-select observers in limited numbers. It is understood that NGO observers would not speak during the negotiations unless invited to do so.

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If progressive language disappears at an early stage, this means that enough governments did not support it. As the streamlining occurs and the “square brackets” indicating added text disappear, you will be able to understand the political weight of the different language. After each new version, the Member States will reflect on possible language that would offer an acceptable formulation for the other side. This is when NGOs can be supportive by proposing language to streamline the text, as well as supporting arguments for governments to defend preferred language. It is important to keep in mind that new issues cannot be introduced at this stage.

**Tip VIII.** A last and important step in negotiations is to identify the last “square brackets” and the last “deals.” As explained above, the last “square brackets” are the most controversial issues, comparing the last brackets with the final text allows the NGOs to see what was adopted and what was not.

**Tip IX.** Work with coalitions, caucuses and forums. Overwhelming negotiators with numerous messages, phone calls and meetings is not an effective NGO strategy. Rather, NGOs should work collectively in caucuses, coalitions or forums. Often, the most powerful messages are those supported by a large number of NGOs. For example, caucuses can be created on many levels: national, regional and global. National caucuses are equally important because they are direct links to the grassroots organizations.

**Tip X.** Use mobile technologies and electronic media. One important technical support that the NGO can bring is in “the wording” to express a particular position. This wording should be based as much as possible on the “agreed language” from previous UN documents. It can entail hours of research to find this agreed language. Every agreed language should be quoted with the reference of the text. There are different tools to find the adequate language. Two applications for mobile phones and tablets have been created to support the work of the NGOs and diplomats in their research for agreed language on women’s human rights.

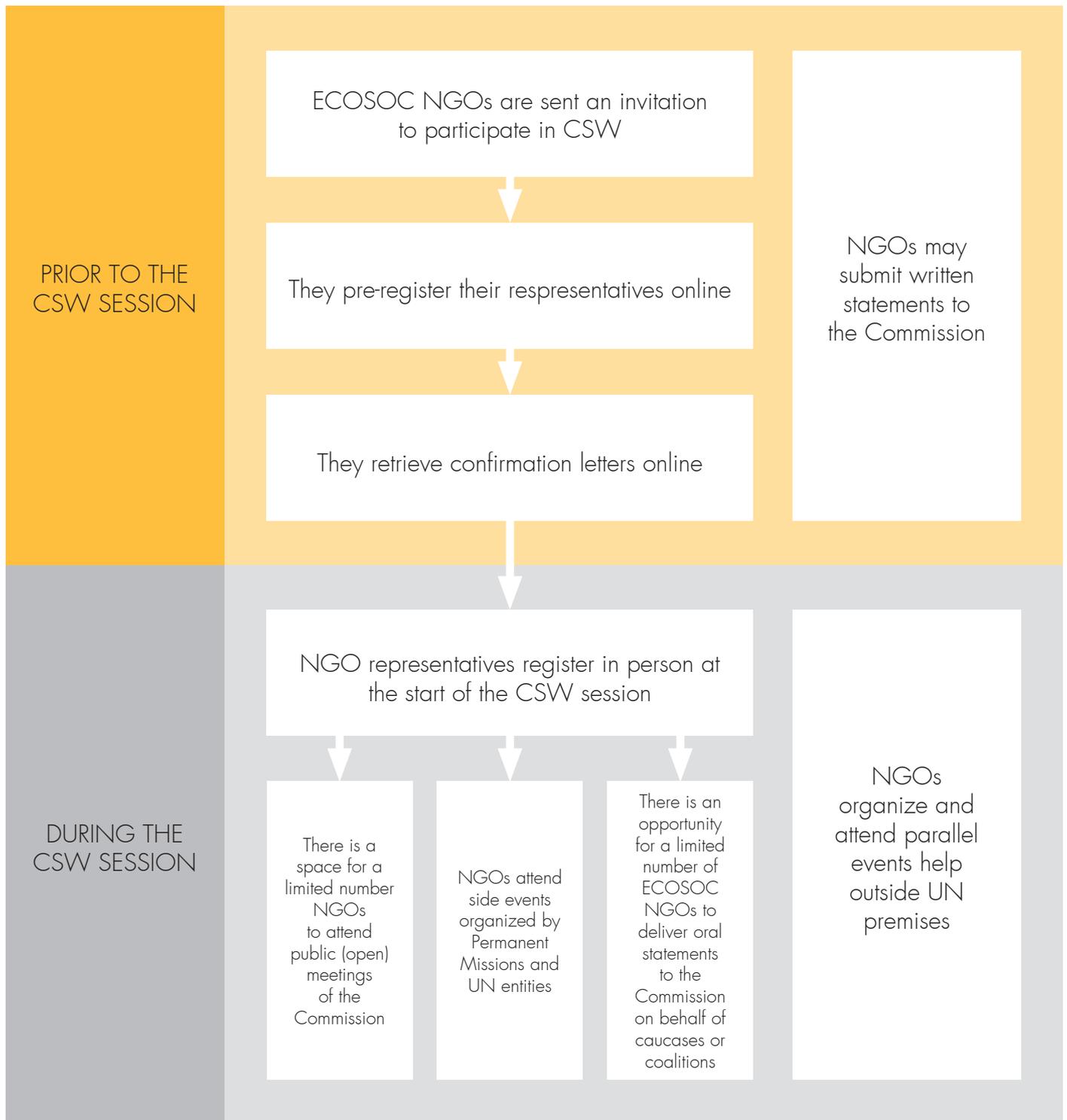
a) Women’s Human Rights or W’sHR: The Swiss administration in cooperation with the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights and the Interdisciplinary Center for Gender Studies at the University of Bern developed this application. This is the most complete app with access to the texts and it has a search function.

b) Women, Peace & Security: Peace Women and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) have created a second application with the support of Switzerland and Liechtenstein. This app is now available for Apple and Android.

#### III.C. How NGOs participate in CSW Processes

UN Women facilitates the participation of NGOs in sessions of the CSW. NGOs that are accredited to and in good standing with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may designate representatives to attend the annual sessions of the CSW. The number of representatives who can attend open official meetings can be contingent on the availability of space.

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## IV. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE COMMITTEE ON NGOS (NGO CSW)

In its work with the NGO Committees on the Status of Women in New York, Geneva and Vienna, NGO CSW supports the Beijing Platform for Action, UN Security Resolution 1325, the Millennium Development Goals, and the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and all the works of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and UN Women.

The first NGO Committee on the Status of Women, which is a volunteer-based, non-profit NGO (corporation type 501(c)(3)), was established in 1972 as a substantive committee of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) in consultative status with the United Nations in the State of New York (NY). By playing an active role in the UN Community, NGO CSW/NY advocates for women's rights and the advancement of women and girls worldwide. Voting members are those individuals who represent organizations in consultative status with the UN through ECOSOC, with each organization casting one vote. However, individuals without an organization affiliation may become a member but they are not eligible to exercise a vote. Young Professional members are welcome to attend all NGO CSW/NY membership meetings as non-voting participants. Dr. Susan O'Malley who is the BPW International Permanent UN Representative to the Headquarters of the United Nations in NY, is the chair of NGO CSW/NY.

The NGO CSW Geneva was formally created in 1973 to prepare for the First World Conference on Women. Through national affiliates of its member organizations, it has also been working very closely with local and national governments to advance the status of women and the girl child in economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights. The Executive Secretary of BPW International, Dr. Catherine Bosshart-Pfluger, is the Vice Chair of NGO CSW/Geneva.

The Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women, accredited at the United Nations Office in Vienna, was founded in 1982 and works on a voluntary basis on the national and international

level. The Committee is comprised of 40 international organizations with a focus on women's issues. The Committee's main purpose is to facilitate the activities of its member organisations in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, both among these member organisations and in relation to the UN Division for the Advancement of Women.

### IV.A. NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York (NGO CSW/NY)

Members of NGO CSW/NY represent approximately 100 organizations that monitor and actively participate in the daily UN events in New York. Every year, NGO CSW/NY organizes the NGO Consultation Day in preparation for the UN Commission on the Status of Women sessions that take place in February/March. In bringing together activists from around the world for two weeks at the United Nations, NGO CSW/NY enables members to network, share strategies and best practices, and lobby governments to implement resolutions and treaties they have signed. NGO CSW/NY brings NGO Representatives together to caucus, issue joint statements, and provide wording for the Agreed Conclusions of the annual United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Additionally, NGO CSW/NY manages an international Listserv that continuously conveys email updates to women around the world on gender inequality issues.

The current terms of reference of the Committee are set out in Resolution 1996/31. The main tasks of the Committee are:

- The consideration of applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification submitted by NGOs;
- The consideration of quadrennial reports submitted by NGOs in General and Special categories; The implementation of the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31 and the monitoring of the consultative relationship;

## IV. GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE COMMITTEE ON NGOS (NGO CSW)

- Any other issues which the ECOSOC may request the Committee to consider.

The Committee has 19 members who are elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation in every four years:

- 5 members from African States;
- 4 members from Asian States;
- 2 members from Eastern European States;
- 4 members from Latin American and Caribbean States; and
- 4 members from Western European and other States.

NGO CSW/NY organizes the NGO CSW Forum that includes a Consultation Day, Reception, Celebratory March to commemorate the International Women's Day, Regional Caucuses and Parallel Events during the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting in New York.

During the NGO CSW Forum, regional NGO caucuses meet to discuss thematic and regional issues. These are open to all participants who are registered for the CSW.

The purpose of NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day is to set the stage for the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meetings (14-24 March 2016) and facilitate interactions between participants. NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day will be held on 13 March 2016 from 9am-3pm at the 92nd St Y, New York, NY. Speakers will include UN Women, The Woman of Distinction Awardee, and other international leaders for gender equality and women's empowerment.

The NGO CSW Forum will hold a reception for all UN and NGO delegates who attended CSW60 on 15 March 2016 from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations.

The annual Celebratory March is an important way to celebrate the successes of the international

women's movement and the fight to end poverty and violence against women of all ages. The Celebratory March demonstrates our efforts to promote a dialogue between NGOs and UN Member States. It is the NGO CSW's hope that the Celebratory March fosters partnerships as outlined by the Sustainable Development Goals. It will be held on 18 March 2016.

## V. THEMATIC OVERVIEW ON CSW60



### V.A. Priority theme of CSW60: Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development

Early twenty-first century global context reflects entrenched poverty and hunger, rising inequalities, ecosystem destruction and climate change; all of which are consequences, in large part, of prevailing economic models and paradigms. Dominant development patterns have both entrenched gender inequalities and proved unsustainable (Fukuda-Parr, Heintz and Seguíno, 2013). Economic liberalization and the concentration of productive and financial activity are geared to short-term profits; unrestrained material consumption; unparalleled levels of militarism; and the privatization of public goods and services, all at the expense of state regulation and redistribution. The richest one percent of the world's population owns some 40 percent of all assets while the poorer half of the population owns just one percent of global assets (UNDP, 2013a). The world's most rapidly growing economies, including those of Asia, Southern Africa and Latin America, have also seen rapid rises in inequality. Inequality itself threatens economic sustainability, fuelling unrest and conflict and undermining the stability, level playing field and consumer demand on which growth relies (Stiglitz, 2012).

The dominant economic models are unsustainable, not only in economic terms but also in social and environmental terms, perpetuating gender and other inequalities and damaging ecosystems and biodiversity (ILO, 2012; A/CONF.216/PC/7). Export-oriented models of growth in many areas of industry and agriculture have contributed to the rising labour force participation of women, as discussed in the 1999 World Survey (A/54/227). Financial crises and recessions, which have taken hold in many countries with severe repercussions

across the world, have brought to the fore the risks and vulnerabilities inherent to liberalized and financialized market models. These risks and vulnerabilities undermine the viability of market models even on their own terms. The fruits of economic growth have also been unequally divided. Over the past three decades, economic disparities between and within countries and regions have increased.

International norms and standards on women's and girls' human rights, and gender equality provide a solid basis for advancing action to strengthen the vital role of women in achieving sustainable development. Discrimination on the basis of sex is prohibited under all major international human rights instruments. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) obligates state parties to take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development and advancement of women. Yet gender-based discrimination and segregation in labour markets, as well as the weak regulation of those markets, have served to confine women to jobs that are low paid and of poor quality in terms of working conditions and access to social protection. They reinforce the status of women as secondary earners within their households (Chen and others, 2005). International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions have continuously enhanced women's rights to and at work, including, most recently, those of domestic workers.

The series of United Nations conferences convened during the 1990s advanced international norms and agreements on sustainable development and gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in 1992, provided a landmark

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forum to advance the global policy framework on sustainable development. It launched Agenda 21, a commitment to sustainable development and three global environmental conventions — the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in the Countries which are experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa. Principle 20 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states that the full participation of women is essential to achieving sustainable development. The Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes that the integration of women's rights and gender equality in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is not only intrinsically important, but can also improve the efficacy of interventions, programmes and resources.

In 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna, affirmed, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, that the "human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights" (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III).

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, adopted in 1994, marked the beginning of a new chapter on the interrelationship between population, human rights and sustainable development. The outcome positioned gender equality and the empowerment of women as global priorities and emphasized the wellbeing of individuals as the key focus of the global agenda on population and sustainable development. The Programme of Action highlights a number of critical areas for advancing gender equality, including universal access to family planning and sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights; equal access to education for girls; and equal sharing of responsibilities for care and housework between women and men.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted in 1995, set a landmark global agenda for women's human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Declaration

provides that "the advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men are a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and ... are the only way to build a sustainable, just and developed society". The Platform for Action calls on governments to integrate gender concerns and perspectives into policies and programmes for sustainable development. The 20-year global review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action provided an important opportunity for renewed commitments for accelerated action.

The United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted in 2000, built upon the outcomes of the major summits and world conferences of the 1990s. In the Millennium Declaration, Member States affirmed six fundamental principles essential to international relations, namely freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility, and called for action in key areas, including development and poverty eradication, peace and security, and democracy and human rights. Governments also confirmed their resolve to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to promote sustainable development (General Assembly resolution 55/2). Resolution 70/1 was adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 and a new agenda under the title of "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" has been entered into force. This agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want, and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and

## V. THEMATIC OVERVIEW ON CSW60

resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. The SDGs seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

The SDGs and targets will stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. New Universal Agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (with 169 targets) - see right:

**Sustainable Development Goal 5** is designed according to the results in advancing gender equality that have achieved by the UN since its creation 70 years ago through the adoption of various landmark agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

On the occasion of the General Debate of the 66th Session of the General Assembly held in September 2011, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted in his Report "We the Peoples", the crucial role of gender equality as driver of development progress, recognizing that the potential of women had not been fully realized, owing to, inter alia, persistent social, economic and political inequalities.

Gender inequalities are still deeply rooted in every society. Women suffer from lack of access to decent work and face occupational segregation and gender wage gaps. In many situations, they are denied access to basic education and health care and are victims of violence and discrimination. They are underrepresented in political and economic decision-making processes.

With the aim of better addressing these challenges and to identify a single recognized driver to lead and coordinate UN activities on gender equality issues, UN Women was established in 2010. UN

- SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- **SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;**
- SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
- SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries;
- SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
- SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
- SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
- SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;
- SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;
- SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

## V. THEMATIC OVERVIEW ON CSW60

Women work for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, empowerment of women, and achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

The vital role of women and the need for their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development was reaffirmed in the Future We Want (paragraph 236-244), as well as in the Open Working Group Proposal for Sustainable Development Goals. The proposed Sustainable Development Goal 5 addresses this and reads “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” through the proposed 10 targets as:

**5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

**5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

**5.3** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

**5.4** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

**5.5** Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decisionmaking in political, economic and public life.

**5.6** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

**5.7** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

**5.8** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

**5.9** Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

**5.10** Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

[To view more, click here.](#)

### **V.B. Review Theme: The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls (agreed conclusions from the fifty-seventh session)**

The 2013 session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women reached a historic global consensus that discrimination and violence against women and girls have no place in today’s world. It agreed on a comprehensive blueprint of actions to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, the theme of its deliberations.

The “agreed conclusions” adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at the conclusion of its session (E/2013/27) cover all forms of violence against women and girls, in all contexts and settings. Emerging forms of violence, such as cyber stalking and cyber bullying, gender-related killings, or femicide, and the need for safety in public spaces, also receive attention.

The agreed conclusions recognize that multiple forms of discrimination and other factors expose

## V. THEMATIC OVERVIEW ON CSW60

some women and girls to increased risk of violence, requiring targeted responses.

The introductory part (paragraphs 1 to 33) of the agreed conclusions sets out the framework as well as progress and challenges in addressing this scourge. It condemns all forms of violence against women and girls as a violation of the enjoyment of human rights, and reiterates that custom, tradition or religious consideration may not be invoked to avoid obligations with respect to its elimination. The introductory part also makes it clear that violence against women and girls must be addressed in a comprehensive manner through prevention measures as well as support for victims and survivors of such violence. Following this introductory part, the Commission urges governments and other stakeholders (paragraph 34) to take actions aimed at strengthening legal and policy frameworks, prevention, response, and the evidence-base (sections A to D).

Section A (paragraphs (a) to (bb)) sets out actions to strengthen legal and policy frameworks that address gender inequality and violence against women and girls. The section also includes actions aimed at ensuring accountability to end impunity and punish perpetrators, and providing access to justice for survivors. It also calls for the allocation of resources.

Section B (paragraphs (cc) to (ccc)) focuses on prevention. It includes actions to address the structural causes, social norms and gender stereotypes that perpetuate violence against women and girls. Other actions aim to promote and protect the human rights of all women, including their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and to realize their empowerment and participation at all levels. Education, awareness-raising and community mobilization, including the engagement of men and boys, and of the media, are also covered in this section.

Section C (paragraphs (ddd) to (lll)) focuses on the response to violence against women and girls. It calls for the establishment of a range of essential services, programmes and responses for women and girls subject to violence. It refers to

the role of the police and justice sector, legal aid services, health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health, and medical services, so as to address all health consequences in the immediate aftermath of such violence and respond to trauma. Actions also aim at ensuring availability of social and rehabilitative services, and their accessibility for victims and survivors.

Section D (paragraphs (mmm) to (qqq)) presents actions to improve the evidence-base including thorough research and analysis, and enhanced data collection and information dissemination. The section also calls for the development of national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and the sharing of good practices and experiences.

Governments and other stakeholders are now called upon to implement the actions contained in the agreed conclusions so that all women and girls can exercise their right to a life free from violence, and the fear of such violence. UN Women stands ready to support Member States and other stakeholders in this work.

[To view more, click here.](#)

## VI. CSW AND BPW INTERNATIONAL

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that has had general consultative status with the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1947. At present there are a total of 21 members serving as representatives of IFBPW at the United Nations and its subsidiary organizations, specialized agencies and related organizations.

At the United Nations, BPW International is known as the International Federation of Business and Professional Women and appoints UN representatives at the UN Headquarters in New York, Geneva, Vienna, the five regional commissions and at UN Agencies.

Representatives are dedicated to promoting the agenda of BPW International, specifically the economic advancement of women at all levels. This cross-cutting issue takes in concerns for women's overall well-being in matters of health, education, access to all resources (including food, shelter and water), properly remunerated work, safety, human rights, and personal dignity. Within the UN Human Rights framework it means advocating for the implementation of the major conventions and agreements on women, like CEDAW, the Beijing



Platform for Action, relevant ILO Conventions and General Assembly Resolutions, and the Women's Empowerment Principles. It means advocating for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the staffing, creation and implementation of all UN decisions.

Our activism is accomplished through information gathering (going to meetings and briefings by various UN Agencies and CoNGO Committees, together with wide reading of background materials); lobbying (visiting the missions of member states and talking to UN delegates and agency personnel to get our points across); creating oral and written input into UN negotiations, outcome documents, conventions, and agreements; and communicating with one another, the NGO community and BPW International through reports, talks and presentations and the creation of informational panels and workshops (please visit <http://www.bpw-international.org/history-of-cooperation-bpw-un>)



## VI. CSW AND BPW INTERNATIONAL



Left to Right: Dr. Helena Finn, the moderator of our side events, Vice-president UN Arzu Ozyol, our International President Yasmin Darwiche, the President of EPW New York Francesca Burack and UN Rep Harriet Friedlander



## VI. CSW AND BPW INTERNATIONAL

### VI.A. List of UN Representatives, 2016

Headquarters	Name	E-mail Address
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Agencies	Name	E-mail Address
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OHCHR, Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva	Catherine Bosshart	catherine.bosshart@unifr.ch
WHO, World Health Organisation, Geneva	Michelle Gerber	gerber.michele@bluewin.ch
WHO, World Health Organisation, Geneva	Gabriella Gonzenbach	gabrielle.gonzenbach@bluewin.ch
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UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and development, Geneva	Elisabeth Clement-Arnold	eckadima@hotmail.com
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DPI, Department of Public Information, NY	Den Quinsay	denquinsay@gmail.com
DPI, Department of Public Information, NY	Julia Brown	juliabrown94@gmail.com

## VI. CSW AND BPW INTERNATIONAL

Regional Offices	Name	E-mail Address
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UNESCWA, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Beirut	Hissah Al-Sabah	hissah1950@gmail.com

### VI.B. List of D20s to the CSW 60

Name of the Delegate	Federation	E-mail Address
Ira Sharma Prasai	BPW-Nepal	eraprasai@gmail.com / fbpwn@mail.com.np.
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Insil Lee	BPW-Korea	islee@leepark.net
Mayhsing H. Yang	BPW-Taiwan	maysing2000@gmail.com
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Marta Susana Solimono	BPW-Argentina	martasolimano@gmail.com
Beatriz Rosa (UN Rep)	BPW-Brazil	bia.rosa@taroba.eng.br
Yasmin Darwich	BPW-Mexico	yasdar@gmail.com

## VI. CSW AND BPW INTERNATIONAL

### VI.C. List of the members of the Standing Committee for UN CSW

Name of the Member	Region	E-mail Address
Erika Zoeller	Latin America	erikazoeller@gmail.com
Hellen Swales	Asia-Pacific	hellen.swales@slingshot.co.nz
Kathy Kelly	North America	kathy@ppiadvantage.com
Henrike Von Platen	Europe	hvp@bpw-germany.de
Marcella Desalvo	Europe	mercedes@inwind.it
Yetunde Teriba	Africa	yetundeteriba@yahoo.com

### VI.D. List of the Side Events of BPW-International

Please note that the list of events is included as a separate attachment.

A calendar of side events organized by Permanent Missions and UN entities is available on the CSW website. For the list of these events, please visit: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw58-2014/side-events/calendar-of-side-events>

A calendar of parallel events organized by NGOs is available on the website of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. For a list of these events, please visit: <http://www.ngocsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Parallel-Events.pdf>

### VI.E. Proposed Program of the Morning Sessions

Activity	Date	Program
Morning Session 1	14 March 2015 7:00AM - 8:30AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction of D20's (15 minutes)</li><li>• Welcome Speech (10 minutes) <b>By President Yasmin</b></li><li>• Overview on the Official Program (20 minutes) <b>By Susan O'Malley</b></li><li>• Information about our side-events (15 minutes) and social programs <b>By Arzu Özyol</b></li><li>• Recommendations on the Official Programs (14th and 15th of March) (15 minutes) <b>By Ayça Mazman</b></li><li>• Questions-Answers (15 minutes)</li></ul>
Morning Session 2	16 March 2015 7:00AM - 8:30AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UN Commission Statue of Women and NGO-CSW (20 minutes) <b>By Catherine Bosshart</b></li><li>• CSW and BPW International: Our Advocacy Role (20 minutes) <b>By Arzu Özyol</b></li><li>• Thematic Overview on CSW60 (20 minutes) <b>By Lesha Wiimer</b></li><li>• Recommendations on the Official Programs (16th and 17th of March) (15 minutes) <b>By Ayça Mazman</b></li><li>• Questions-Answers on the Official Program (15 minutes)</li></ul>

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Morning Session 3	18 March 2015 7:00AM - 8:30AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evaluations for the 1st week (30 minutes) <b>By Cristina Visconti/Beatriz Rosa/Kathy Kelly</b></li><li>• Recommendations on the Official Programs (18th of March and the program of the second week) (15 minutes) <b>By Ayça Mazman</b></li><li>• Introduction of Evaluation Form/Delegates Reports (15 minutes) <b>By Arzu Özyol</b></li><li>• Questions-Answers on the Official Program (15 minutes)</li><li>• Certification of D20's (15 minutes)</li></ul>
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***\*Please follow the announcements through the web-page of BPW-International for the information on meeting venue and regular updates.***

### VI.F Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1. Will the number of representatives from any given NGO again be limited to 20?

Yes, due to the limited space in the conference rooms and the high number of organizations attending the sessions, the maximum number of representatives will be limited to 20 as in previous sessions.

#### 2. What types of passes will be required for those with grounds passes to attend?

a) Official UN CSW 60 events in the UN building

NGOs with CSW grounds passes will be able to attend open official meetings of the session as space allows, however a secondary pass or a ticket may be needed to gain access to some meetings. We will be able to confirm closer to the session whether secondary access passes or tickets will be needed, and for which meetings they may be needed (e.g. opening of CSW). In such case, one or two secondary passes or tickets per organization will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis, at or near the session site. We will communicate the final CSW60 arrangements via NGO advisories which will email to all pre-registered organizations and post on the CSW website closer to the session <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016>

All open official meetings will be publicly webcast live at <http://webtv.un.org/>

b) Parallel events within the UN building

The grounds pass will be sufficient to attend side events on UN premises unless a side event organizer holds a closed event. Based on what we can see from previous sessions, closed side events ("by invitation only") are very rare; most side events are open to NGOs with grounds passes, until the maximum seating capacity of the room is reached. Please see the CSW60 calendar of side events which will be published closer to the session at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016/side-events>

#### 3. Can those without grounds passes gain access to the UN building? If so, what passes would they require?

Visitors without UN grounds pass will not be able to attend official meetings of the Commission. However, side event organizers may make a limited number of special event tickets for their side event on UN

## VI. CSW AND BPW INTERNATIONAL

premises available to guests who do not have a UN grounds pass. If so, side event organizers will indicate the ticket pick-up time and location on the CSW60 calendar of side events which will be published closer to the session at <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016/side-events>. A special event ticket is valid to access a specific side event without UN grounds pass.

### **4. Will all UN grounds passes, annual as well as specific to CSW 60 allow access to the UN? To which meetings?**

Valid CSW grounds passes and ECOSOC annual passes will allow access to open official CSW meetings, as space allows (however, a secondary pass or a ticket may be needed to gain access to meetings, please see response to question 1).

### **5. Why do I have to register for the NGO CSW Forum?**

Due to the high volume of attendees, free registration is now required.

### **6. What were the dates of the 60th UN Commission on the Status of Women Session (CSW 60)?**

14-24 March 2016. Please view the [UN CSW website](#) for details.

### **7. How do I submit a written statement to CSW?**

Applications for written statements for CSW60 are closed. More information may be found through the [UN CSW website](#).

### **8. Where do I go to get my UN pass?**

UN Women issues NGO Advisories with information on registration. Please view their website on [NGO participation](#) for registration information. The NGO CSW/NY does not have the authority to register organizations.

### **9. Where can I get the invitation letter for the session?**

NGO CSW/NY does not issue invitation letters for the UN CSW sessions. Please see the [UN Women website](#).

### **10. Do I need to register to attend UN Side Events?**

Yes. Please view their website on [NGO participation](#) for additional information.

### **11. Do I need to register to attend NGO CSW Forum Parallel Events?**

Yes, you need to register for the NGO CSW Forum to attend parallel events.

### **12. Where can I find the most up-to-date schedule each day?**

Please check back for schedule updates online and on the display board at the Church Center.

### **13. Do I have to pay to attend NGO CSW Forum Parallel Events?**

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No, NGO CSW Forum Parallel Events are free, but you do need to register for the NGO CSW Forum to attend the events.

### **14. Is Wi-Fi available in the rooms?**

Wi-Fi is available at the Church Center. There is no Wi-Fi at the Salvation Army.

### **15. What is the date of NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day?**

Consultation Day will be held on 13 March 2016

### **16. Where can I register for NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day?**

Registration will be open from 16 November 2015 – 7 March 2016.

Please visit to register: <https://www.ngocsw.org/ngo-csw-forum/ngo-consultation-day>

### **17. Can I register on site when I arrive?**

No. Please see Q.16 above.

### **18. What is the registration fee for NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day? Does the fee include lunch?**

US\$110 for adults, US\$50 for youth ages 13-25. The fee does NOT include lunch.

### **19. Do you give refunds for the NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day or the NGO CSW Forum Reception?**

No. Unfortunately, we cannot refund fees.

### **20. When and where will the NGO CSW Forum Reception be held?**

The Reception will be held on 15 March 2016.

### **21. What is the fee for the NGO CSW Forum Reception?**

US\$45 per person (youth and adults).

### **22. Where can I register for the NGO CSW Forum Reception?**

Registration will be open from 16 November 2015 – 7 March 2016.

Please visit to register: <https://www.ngocsw.org/ngo-csw-forum/ngo-reception>

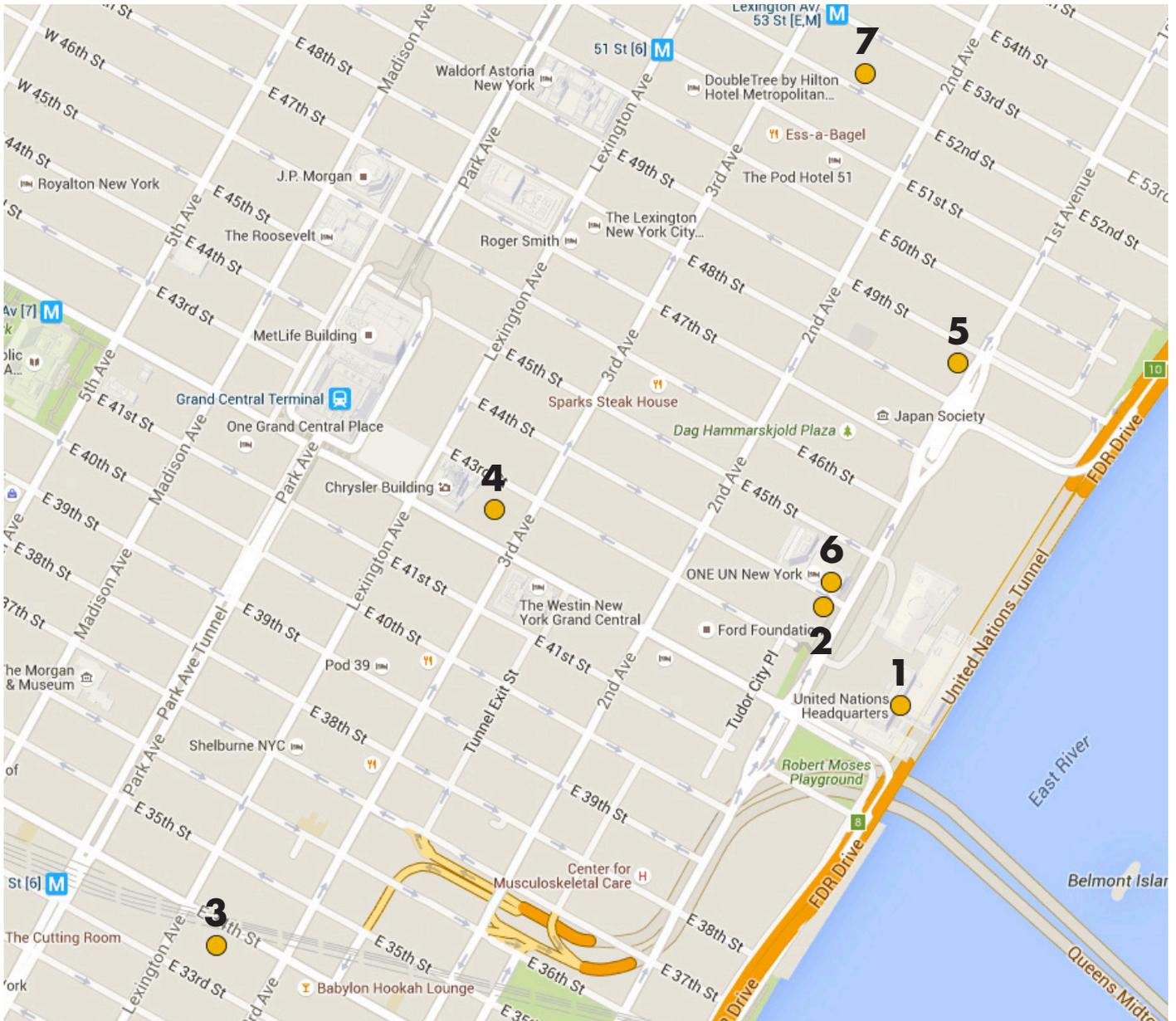
### **23. When and where is the NGO CSW Forum Artisan Fair?**

The date for the NGO CSW Forum Artisan Fair will be set in early 2016

Please visit to register: <https://www.ngocsw.org/ngo-csw-forum/ngo-artisan-fair>

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## VI.G. Maps and Important Addressees



1. **United Nations Headquarters**, New York, NY 10017
2. **Church Center (CCUN)**, 777 United Nations Plaza #8g, New York, NY 10017
3. **Dumont NYC - An Affinia Hotel**, 150 E 34th St, New York, NY 10016
4. **UN Mission of Netherlands**, 3rd Avenue, New York, NY
5. **Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations**, United Nations Plaza, New York, NY
6. **ONE UN New York**, United Nations Plaza, New York, NY
7. **Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations**, East 52nd Street, New York, NY

## VI. CSW AND BPW INTERNATIONAL

### VI.H. United Nations Glossary of Terms

<b>BPfA</b>	Beijing Platform for Action –the main outcome document of the Fourth World Conference on Women – 1995
<b>B+20</b>	Beijing 20 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women held in China
<b>CCUN</b>	Church Center of the United Nations – 777 UN Plaza (44th Street, and First Avenue
<b>CEDAW</b>	Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>C4C</b>	Cities for CEDAW (effort to adopt local ordinance for Women’s Bill of Rights Law city by city
<b>CoNGO</b>	Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the United Nations
<b>CSO/Net</b>	ECOSOC Civil Society Organisation Network
<b>CSW</b>	United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
<b>DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>DPI</b>	United Nations Department of Public Information
<b>DPKO</b>	United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operation
<b>ECOSOC</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Council – Serves as the central body discussing social and economic issues and formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and to the United Nations System
<b>FAO</b>	The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
<b>GA</b>	General Assembly – main deliberative organ of the United Nations for governments to formulate and appraise policy from September to December annually
<b>GFMD</b>	Global Forum on Migration and Development—an initiative of the UN Member States (2006) to address migration and development
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals – proposed in the Millennium Declaration as an essential measure of progress toward sustainable social and economical development
<b>NFLS</b>	Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies
<b>NGLO</b>	UN Nongovernmental Liaison Service – an inter-agency programme formed to facilitate dialogue
<b>NGO-CSW</b>	NGO Committee on the Status of Women
<b>Prep-Com</b>	Preparatory Committee – the preparatory meeting leading up to an important meeting
<b>PRSPs</b>	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers – prepared by governments to describe a country’s poverty reduction plans and strategies
<b>OHCHR</b>	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>UNCED</b>	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
<b>UNDP/GIDP</b>	UN Development Programme/Gender in Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environmental Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Corporation
<b>UNFCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>UNSCR/1325</b>	UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace, and Security

## VI. CSW AND BPW INTERNATIONAL

<b>UN WOMEN</b>	United Nations Women entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation

## VII. CLAIRE FULCHER DINNER

### Meet Your Friends From Around The World

Dr. Claire Fulcher worked tirelessly for almost 30 years as one of BPW International's representatives to the UN. Our sisters from around the world honor the memory of Claire Fulcher and the work of our present UN Representatives at the Annual Claire Fulcher Dinner, being held the evening of March 14, 2016. The Claire Fulcher Dinner also provides opportunities to develop personal and business relationships.

We express our gratitude to EPW-NYC and EPW-USA for their support in organizing the Claire Fulcher Dinner, under the leadership of Francesca Burack President of EPW-NYC and Chair of BPW International's Standing Committee for Development, Training and Employment. And we wish to acknowledge Past International President and President of EPW-USA Liz Benham for organizing the Candle Light Ceremony to be held during the Claire Fulcher Dinner.



### Registration A Must

To sign up for this wonderful celebratory evening and for the other side events during CSW 60 in which we are involved, go to [www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org), click on Register Now (website opens to this) scroll and click on Claire Fulcher Dinner box to register.

**AliBaba Terrace**  
**862 Second Avenue (East 46 Street)**  
**7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.**



**BPW International**

[www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org)