



CSW : The global process and opportunities

AU GENDER PRE SUMMIT

17st January, 2018



What is the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)?

CSW is the premier intergovernmental **global forum** for gender equality and women's empowerment related **policy dialogue** and **review** as well as **norms and standards setting**

It is intended to focus on the "**normative of implementation**" in relation to both the Beijing Platform for Action and now the Gender Equality Compact of Agenda 2030 and other UN General Assembly /ECOSOC resolutions—particularly in relation to SDG 5 and gender-related targets in other goals



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- **1947 to 1962:** CSW focused on setting standards and formulating international conventions to change discriminatory legislation and foster global awareness of women's issues
 - **1995:** As the preparatory body for the Beijing Conference, the CSW was mandated by the GA to play a central role in monitoring, within the UN system, the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and advise the ECOSOC
 - It continues to play a critical role by bringing together Governments, UN entities, NGOs and other international and regional organizations to promote women's rights and advance gender equality.
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The CSW has been instrumental in:

- Expanding the recognition of women's rights;
- Documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world;
- Shaping global policies on gender equality and empowerment of women;
- Ensuring that the work of the UN in all areas incorporates a gender perspective.

The CSW has also made available the outcomes of its work to other functional commissions (Commission on Sustainable Development in 1997, Commission on Human Rights in 1998, etc.)

The Membership

45 Member States serve as members of the CSW at any given time (one representative per country).

Elected by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution

They serve 4-year terms.



Current African Member States (13)

Congo	2018	Malawi	2019
Egypt	2018	Namibia	2021
Equatorial Guinea	2019	Niger	2021
Eritrea	2020	Nigeria	2020
Ghana	2018	Tunisia	2021
Kenya	2018	United Republic of Tanzania	2018
Liberia	2019		

The Bureau

The Bureau of the CSW plays a crucial role in facilitating the preparation for, and in ensuring the successful outcome of, the annual sessions of the CSW. Bureau members serve for two years.

In 2002, in order to improve its work and ensure continuity, the CSW decided to hold the first meeting of its subsidiary session, immediately following the closure of the regular session, to elect the new Chairperson and other members of the Bureau.

The Bureau members:

- Ms. Geraldine Byrne Nason (Ireland), Chair-designate (Western European and other States Group)
- **Ms. Koki Muli Grignon (Kenya), Vice-Chair (African States Group)**
- Mr. Mauricio Carabali Baquero (Colombia), Vice-Chair (Latin American and Caribbean States Group)
- Ms. Rena Tasuja (Estonia), Vice-Chair-designate (Eastern European States Group)
- Mr. Shah Asif Rahman (Bangladesh), Vice-Chair-designate (Asia-Pacific States Group)

Work process

- The CSW meets annually over a two-week session, at UN headquarters in New York
- Participation drawn from representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities
- Follows a focussed and thematic approach defined through a **multi-year programmes of work**, with defined annual themes and a review theme
- **The principal output is the Agreed Conclusions on priority themes set for each year**
- Agreed conclusions contain an analyses of the priority theme **and a set of**

In order to monitor implementation, the CSW has adopted different methods of work:

- **1997:** Agreed to adopt **negotiated conclusions** on its thematic areas of focus to allow time for substantive and debates on the area of concern under consideration;
- Since **1996**, experts are invited to participate in the substantive panels on the implementation of the 12 critical concern. **The results of these dialogues are reflected in action-oriented agreed conclusions prepared by the Commission's delegates**, and are then put forward for adoption as resolutions of the Economic and Social Council.
- The Division for the Advancement of Women organized **Expert Group Meetings** prior to the CSW's sessions on under consideration, to help gather views from academia and civil society;
- **At its 46th session**, the CSW decided to **increase opportunities for sharing national practices on emerging issues** introducing **high-level round tables**.
- Since **2003**, the CSW has organized **roundtables for high-level representatives** attending the annual sessions, Ministers and State Secretaries **for high-level exchange of experiences and good practices and have focused institutional capacity-building, statistics, national mechanisms for the advancement of women and incorporate gender perspectives into national development strategies.**

Evolution of the CSW's work methods

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- In its 48th session, the Commission agreed to **enhance the use of interactive events that increase the emphasis on implementation and the sharing of experiences and good practices**, as well as exploring ways to incorporate sessions emerging issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men, and improving effectiveness and flexibility.
 - The development of a new multi-year programme of work at the 50th session now provides an important opportunity to increase the focus on implementation.
 - The CSW will further align its work to the **ECOSOC and the new UN High-level Political Forum** to strengthen and integrate gender equality across all global debates and actions on sustainable development;
 - Member States agreed to create a **ministerial segment starting with CSW 60, expected to heighten the visibility of concerns, and offer opportunities to demonstrate high-level political commitment** to accelerated progress towards GEWE;
 - **Governments agreed to sharpen focus of the Commission's annual review theme:** To demonstrate lessons learned in implementing commitments made in previous CSW sessions. This will provide opportunity for a more thorough implementation of norms;
 - **The Secretary-General will issue a targeted report on progress on the theme, drawing on national data and other sources.** The process will **help close gaps between promises made and measurable change.**

Evolution of the CSW's work methods

The CSW 62 Agenda



(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

Priority theme:

Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;

Review theme:

Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the formal session);

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

The CSW62 and the Africa's Gender agenda

- The CSW62 reinforces Agenda 2063 and the AU Constitutive Act, both of which commits Africa to promote gender equality and women's empowerment as a pre-condition towards realizing the continent's development objectives
- Africa constitutes almost 1/3 of the UN Member States, it is important for AU Member States to be clear on their collective position and strategic ministers are requested to take note of the theme of CSW 62 and resolve to speak

Defining the Agreed Conclusions

The conclusions must give clear guidance as to how SDG implementation needs to proceed from a gender equality perspective, and what elements need to be in place.

- Particular attention should be paid to legal, policy, institutional, financial, monitoring and accountability arrangements and mechanisms at country-level, as well as to resource and data challenges and gaps with the strengthening and resourcing of national gender equality mechanisms, statistical bureaus as well as civil society and women's organizations.
- They must also give guidance on the role national gender equality advocates should play and how their advocacy and partnerships are instrumental in making the qualitative change that is necessary to actually move gender equality irrevocably to the centre of sustainable development.
- The Agreed Conclusions need to be clear and practical so that they can be turned into actionable results at country level.
- To strengthen the accountability discussions at CSW62, delegations must both continue

Key Consideration and Recommendation/10th GPS

1. STC to reach out to all 55 AU Member States to hold a multi-stakeholders national consultations: between now and the mid-February 2018
 2. RECs to convene regional consultations by the end of February 2018 (Preferably)
 3. CSOs to engage in the FEMNET planned consultations
 4. Propose the date of the African Pre-CSW 62: 21-23 February 2018
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THANK YOU!

