

Advocacy report template

GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of UN Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
2. By 2030 100% of UN low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of UN Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.

Please bear in mind these three overarching, long-term goals in any UN intervention that you make on behalf of GWI. Any intervention should push these three goals further.

NB: *Although these goals represent GWI's mission, UN Reps are also invited to promote GWI key messages on areas where especially relevant e.g. women in STEM, securing investment in women teachers, addressing barriers to girls' education such as child marriage.*

Meeting attended: (place, date, time, name of meeting)

Baba'h International Community; 9-26-16; 1:00-3:00 p.m.; DESA/DSPD's Briefing for ECOSOC Accredited NGO's on the 55th Commission for Social Development

Subject of meeting: Provide NGO's with updates on the Commission and information related to registering for the 55th Commission for Social Development and submitting written and oral statements.

Presenters: Andrew Allimedi, CSO; Melissa Martin, CSO; Amine Lamrabat, CSO

Information Provided:

1. The 55th Commission for Social Development meeting will take place February 3-10, 2017 at the UN.
2. The Bureau for the Commission is not totally formed – It currently includes Romania and Paraguay; China and Qatar will share membership. No response has yet been received from Africa or the West.
3. One goal for 2017-18 is to strengthen the social dimensions' agenda. Recommendations to the Bureau will include encouraging underrepresented organizations to participate to increase diversity; encouraging younger members to participate to get the youth perspective; and encouraging cross-issue collaboration on written statements.
4. January 20, 2017 is the deadline for registering for the February meeting.
5. An NGO can register online at website social.un.org.

6. The deadline for submitting a written statement is 10-31-16. If an NGO's statement is approved, the organization will be notified by 11-30-16.
7. Rules for the written submission:
 - a. Statements by more than one NGO will be prioritized
 - b. The statements must stay on theme (eradication of poverty and achieving sustainable development)
 - c. The statements must be in English or French
 - d. If you have consultative NGO status, the statement can be no longer than 2000 words (includes heading etc.)
 - e. If an organization has special consultative status, the statement can only be 1500 words.
 - f. Your statement should address the theme and describe innovative projects or best practice that your organization has developed. Be strategic about which intervention(s) you want to focus on related to the eradication of poverty.
 - g. No graphics, charts etc.
 - h. If you endorse anyone else's statement, then you cannot submit a separate written statement. If you submit a joint statement with one or more NGOs you cannot endorse any other statements.
 - i. An organization can do an oral statement with or without a written statement, but if the latter the two should contain different information.
 - j. Do not make any negative statements about any country or head of state in your document.
8. There will be a Committee of NGOs for Social Development meeting on Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 777 UN Plaza at 2:00p.m.
9. Ms. Martin was asked estimated # of written papers accepted – last time 70 were accepted. Given that there are 3-4,000 NGOs with consultant or special status, it becomes apparent why joint statements are encouraged.
10. One NGO representative expressed her concern that there appears to be shrinking space for NGO input within the UN.

Refers to SDG no #: (please reference) SDG #1

Extreme poverty rates have been cut by more than half since 1990. While this is a remarkable achievement, one in five people in developing regions still live on less than \$1.25 a day, and there are millions more who make little more than this daily amount, plus many people risk slipping back into poverty.

Poverty is more than the lack of income and resources to ensure a sustainable livelihood. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making. Economic growth must be inclusive to provide sustainable jobs and promote equality.

Relevant treaties/conventions/resolutions:

Intervention by GWI rep: (what you did)

How this serves GWI members:

Two-thirds of the 758 illiterate adults worldwide are women; the inability to read or write leads to and perpetuates a cycle of poverty. GWI is in a unique position to speak on the interrelatedness of gender and poverty eradication and report on our organization's special projects such as *Teachers for Rural Futures*, *Girls' Choices*, *Girls Choices' for Careers*, *STEM Girls*, and *Ready for Work*.

Next steps:(what needs to be done)

GWI needs to determine if we want to submit a written and/or oral statement for the 55th Commission for Social Development and, if written, what other NGOs we may wish to collaborate with.

Submitted by:

Maureen Byrne, Ph.D.

9-27-16