



**March 2016, Report by Sophie Turner Zaretsky**

**Session:**

Informational meeting about organisation in run up to CSW60. By Chair of CSW H.E. Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil)

The Commission on the Status of Women, CSW, is taking place 14-24 March 2016 in New York City. In the run up to CSW60, there was an informational meeting to learn more about the upcoming conference. The priority theme of CSW60 is *Women's Empowerment and its link to Sustainable Development*. Around this theme there will be four ministerial round tables at which civil society can participate. These round tables will include discussions on financing for women's empowerment and fostering data analysis. Draft resolutions will be submitted and there will be negotiations to produce an outcome document. In addition there will be a review theme centred around the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, which was agreed upon in CSW57 in 2013. There will be 10 voluntary regional and national presentations by ministerial and civil society representatives but no negotiations or discussion. New working methods were also approved by ECOSOC in 2015, which call for strengthening of NGOs participation to support the commission in ways such as tracking the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

A number of suggestions were made for next steps. Civil society should strongly advocate with their governments and their missions to the UN on the priority theme. There will be informational morning sessions for NGOs by UN women and The Chair and members of the Commission. It is important to attend these and look for opportunities to interact. There are plenty of side events that are worthy of being attended.

**WWW references with more information**

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/member-states#sthash.mB3Efhql.dpuf> )

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016#sthash.5FvU7LWE>