

Notes from GWI Reps in NYC for Informal Briefing of NGOs in Preparation for CSW61 – 12-13-16

Chair: Mr. Antonio de Agular Patriota (Brazil)

The 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations from 3-13-17 to 3-22-17.

The theme for the 61st session is Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work. Representatives of member states, UN entities, and ECOSOC accredited NGOs from all regions of the world are invited to attend.

Priority Theme: (above)

Review Theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millenium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the 58th session)

Emerging Issue/Focus Area: The empowerment of indigenous women

1. March 13, 2017 – ceremonial opening; ECOSOC; Special Raporteur on Violence vs. Women; possible address by new Secretary General; statement from Labor

Round Tables later in the afternoon will address the following issues:

- a. Gender Pay Gaps in Public & Private Sectors
- b. How Technology is Changing Work
- c. Policies on Informal Work and Work by Indigenous Women
- d. Full Work for all

Each round table will have one NGO representative.

2. March 14, 2017 – Ministers Dialogue; later in the day there will be discussion on accelerating implementation of commitments. NGOs can sign up to speak (3 min. limit) during discussion.

At 4:05 pm meeting will be suspended for 3 minutes to recognize the gap in gender pay – symbolic to recognize persistence of this gap

3. March 15, 2017 - Empowering Indigenous Women
4. March 17, 2017 – Expert Panel on Theme
NGO statements (12-15) chosen based on geographic diversity; specific contributions to the topic (ex. trade unions); from the developing world; voices of people particularly knowledgeable on the status of indigenous women. Statements will be limited to 3 minutes.
6. March 20, 2017 - Enhancing Use of Data re Gender

Additional Information:

There will be a second briefing in early March 2017.

The date to submit statements will close January 27, 2017. To date, 131 statements have been submitted.

UN Women will send out information closer to 61st session and will post at csw@unwomen.org; @un_csw; hashtag #csw61.

Next year CSW would like a youth forum focused on race, class, and gender.

Zero document will be released hopefully in mid-February.

A request was made that CSW sessions not be scheduled at the same time as Human Rights Commission sessions; chair indicated he would like to see this happen. However, it was pointed out that the committee on conferences decides when the dates for CSW set up.

Chair indicated that he was hopeful that there will be fuller participation by representatives of the private sector at the 61st session and that it was announced at DAVOS.

Request that an electronic space be set up so NGOs can share best practices.

UN Women looking at putting side events in more public spaces.

GWI NY Rep pointed out the interconnectedness between education and women's economic empowerment as well as the need for access to both academic and skill-based instruction.

A recommendation was made that NGOs go to the International Labor Organization website (ILO) for statistics and analysis on work. In fact the website currently has an article up - *ILO: Large gender gaps remain across broad spectrum of global markets*.

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