

# GWI United Nation Representative Advocacy Report 2021

## GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of United Nations 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 United Nations low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.
4. Influence the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.
5. All 17 SDGs will include girls' education targets.

**Please bear in mind these five overarching, long-term goals during any United Nations intervention that you make on behalf of GWI. Any intervention should push these five goals further.**

**NB:** *Although these goals represent GWI's mission, our United Nations Representatives are should always promote all GWI key messages and represent GWI professionally.*

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## **Meeting: North America & European Caucus Meeting; May 28, 2021**

### **Agenda Item #1: Generation Forum for Action**

For those of you not totally familiar with the above, the intent of Generation Forum for Action is the collaboration of governments, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate gender equality globally through a set of specific indicators over a 5-year period in six areas stemming originally from the Beijing Platform for Action:

1. Gender Based Violence
2. Economic Justice & Rights
3. Bodily Autonomy and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
4. Feminist Action for Climate Justice
5. Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality
6. Feminist Movements and Leaderships

Commitments were/are to be showcased at the Paris Forum scheduled June 30-July 2, 2021. For more information go to the Generation Forum for Action website.

The caucus meeting was chaired by Zarin Hainsworth (UK). Multiple members reported back that the organizers of the Paris Forum were slow to respond, inconsistent, and often uncommunicative. There was an overall feeling that barriers existed that made it difficult for civil society to get involved. Both the French representative (Monique Bonazig) and the Danish representative, Denmark is co-chairing the Paris Forum (Ulla Madsen), said they would report back the concerns expressed.

Other information shared:

- \* Stark financing differences seen between developed and emerging nations

- \* Where is Un Women? Are they actively working with the French government re the Paris Forum?
- \* What is the process for engagement on the actions?
- \* How does civil society monitor the actions?
- \* Is there, or will there be, a negotiated document?
- \* How does this dovetail with CSW? Suggestion made to write Bureau to obtain information on how they will monitor implementation.

### Agenda Item #2

Zarin Hainsworth reported that one of the core members has a close connection with a member state. They would consider advancing our proposal to create a formal mechanism at the UN for civil society, a space of our own, that would allow us to negotiate the CSW outcome document, meet with Bureau members etc. Among the wish list of caucus members –

1. Formal recognition that we have a right to participate in negotiations on the outcome document
2. UN Women must be more transparent
3. Civil Society should have input on selection of experts
4. Civil Society should be part of the process at every stage
5. Obtain regular updates on draft negotiations from the Bureau during CSW
6. Engage with Bureau members throughout the year not just the two weeks of CSW and develop a process for doing so.
7. Go in big with our demands because it is a negotiation, which means we won't get everything we ask for
8. NGOs need to agree on who will represent us; how they are selected etc.

NA & E and UN Women must work together in formalizing a process where we can be heard especially if it included the other regions as well.

### **Next Caucus Meeting: June 25**

Submitted by:

Maureen Byrne, Ph.D.; NY Rep (Thank you Fay Weber!)

May 30, 2021