

GWJ United Nation Representative report from CSW66

Name: Sophie Turner Zaretsky

City of UN Representation: New York

Place; New York (virtual) ,

Session; UN WOMEN SIDE EVENT, 3/17/2022

Beyond COVID -19: Advancing Gender-Responsive Policies on Climate, Care and Jobs for a Sustainable and Equal Future.

Panel of visionary leaders from the UN and civil society for interactive discussion on the policies needed to ensure a gender-responsive post pandemic recovery, and climate justice.

Panelists:

- Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women
- Michelle Bachelet Jeria , United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Suki Beavers, Director of UNAIDS Gender Equality Human Rights and Community Engagement Department
- Kate Donald, Director of Program at the Center for Economic and Social Rights –**Panel moderator**
- Mary Robinson, Chair of The Elders; and youth activists
- Manal Bidar, Ambassador for African Youth Climate Hub (from Morocco)
- Nyasha Phanisa Sithole, Regional Lead at ATHENA Initiative, Co founder of youth led “My Age Zimbabwe Trust”

Sustainable Development Goals addressed:

All

UN Study reveals that only 1 country is almost on track to meet indicator 1 of the SDG S

Relevant treaties/conventions/resolutions referenced/addressed:

- [The Feminist Plan report](#), which was highlighted over the course of the event
- [A short video, Essential](#), on the need for a feminist plan for sustainability and social justice

https://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ha/cedaw/cedaw_e.pdf

https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C190

Summary of session/meeting:

CLIMATE CRISIS.

- Over the next decade global temperature will rise by 1.5 degree C.
- COP 26 was “male, pale and stale” per Mary Robinson. Governments must provide plan for COP27 to be held in Egypt where fortunately there are good women leaders.
- Globally, we must transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

COVID 19.

- Pandemic revealed gross economic, gender, minority related and geographic inequalities including access to vaccines and treatments.

- OXFAM report found 99% of humanity was worse off in last 2 years. The poor and marginalized were affected disproportionately.
- Leaders of nations made huge mistakes by applying a nationalist rather than global strategy for access to vaccinations and COVID treatments, and by leaving key decisions about vaccine development and distribution to private companies.
- A new billionaire was created every 26 hours during the pandemic.
- 11 billionaires cashed in on vaccines and COVID 19 treatment.
- 116 million people were pushed into poverty.
- 90 countries did not reach WHO target of vaccinating at least 40% of their population against COVID (vaccine apartheid).
- 85% of African population has not yet received a single dose of vaccine.

Governments and private sector must;

- Scale up investment in public health systems.
- Maximize rapid and increased development of safe and effective vaccines.
- Suspend relevant intellectual property rules to increase affordability.
- Ensure that testing, vaccination and treatments are affordable, or free where appropriate.
- *100 organizations worldwide have formed a People's vaccine alliance to further these efforts in order to streamline pandemic response.*

JOBS AND ECONOMY.

- In order to successfully transition to renewable energy, workers in fossil fuel industries must have training and job opportunities and be included in discussions.
 - Per ILO- millions of \$s will be available for job creation and must include women.
 - Need targeted measures to aid in assessing implementation of goals.
 - Investment in the care economy could create 40-60% more jobs than other industries e.g. construction.
 - Poorest communities make up 75% of population; major portion is in the global South.
 - Women's access to financing is limited especially in poor and rural areas.
 - In the area of unpaid work such as the care economy, which mostly falls on women and girls, there was a 2.5 times increase over the prepandemic level.
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WOMEN and GIRLS.

- Disasters are not gender neutral.
- According to ILO there were 13 million fewer women in employment from 2019 to 2021.
- Per World Economic Forum it will now take 136 years to reach gender equality.
- UN Women state that there will be an additional 13 million child marriages between 2020 and 2030 ,and 2 million FGMs.

- According to UN FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION 12 million women had family planning services disrupted or stopped during the pandemic resulting in 1.4 million unwanted pregnancies, and HIV increased by 50%

In all there was significant increase in all forms of GBV and a worsening of women's and girls' rights in spite of conventions such as CEDAW and ILO 195.

EDUCATION.

- According to UNESCO 11 MILLION girls and young women will not return to school due to climate change and the pandemic.
- By 2025, 2.5 million girls/year will not complete their education, making them vulnerable to exploitation, GBV and early child marriage.

How this serves GWI members:

Explain trends in development in this particular subject.

Explain why these trends and developments are relevant to GWI and NFAs.

NFAs may benefit from the above statistics in their advocacy, they should form alliances to strengthen their voice, and they must demand women's and girls' participation at all climate related negotiations.

Experienced high level leaders e.g. UN Women and Mary Robinson and Michele Bachelet are good resources for support.

Next steps: (What needs to be done?)

The prepandemic level of gender equality and social justice was totally inadequate even then. We need a new social contract driven by agents of change with meaningful participation by all stakeholders. Exclusion of women and girls from decision making must stop. Only 24% women hold decision making positions in climate negotiations .This is particularly egregious as rural and indigenous women are the protectors of the environment and their knowledge is indispensable in mitigating the crisis.

(Per SG- leaders of G7and G20, where major decisions are made are all men).

CSW66 must conclude with a strong outcome document. Governments must be held accountable for implementing its recommendations.

Submitted by Sophie Turner Zaretsky,
New York, 3/20/2022