

GWI United Nation Representative Advocacy Report 2022

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.*

NGO CSW/NY Debriefing on CSW66

April 28, 2022

Commentators: Maris Burbergs (Latvia), Emily Calaminus (Germany), Maja Nihlmark (UN Women), Teboho Babedi (Youth Advocate), Andrea Trancoso (Women's Major Group), Erica Higbie (Advocacy Research Group), Katie Tobin (WEDO), Alma Randanini (NGYA), Ivy Koek (NGO CSW/NY Vice Chair), Saphira Rameshfor (NGO CSW/NY Recording Secretary).

Highlights from above presenters:

1. If NGOs are going to have a greater impact on the outcome document, organizations need to meet with their UN Ambassador and delegates early, months ahead of the publication of the Zero Draft. Likewise, written statements need to be sent in by the fall at the latest. Once the initial document is drafted changes tend to be mere adjustments or clarifications.
2. A more significant role for civil society and youth was strongly supported by some member states but also met with very strong opposition.

3. CSW will be hybrid in form going forward but civil society's physical presence is really needed and many NGO members mentioned greatly missing getting together, being in sessions, and interacting with delegates.
4. There was significant support and concern from many member states on climate change and a desire to work toward a consensus on this issue. In addition, many member states are concerned about the impact climate change will have on women and girls.
5. Every regional group participated in the action-oriented part of the Agreed Conclusions document, leading to a real hope for implementation. Just as a reminder, the actions urged were:
 - * Strengthen normative, legal, and regulatory frameworks (with particular emphasis on CEDAW and CRC).
 - * Integrate gender perspectives into climate change environments and disaster reduction policies and programs.
 - * Expand gender-responsive finance.
 - * Enhance gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex.
 - * Foster a gender-responsive and just transition.
6. Sexual and reproductive rights were mentioned in the Preamble for the first time.
7. SDG5 will be under review at the HLPF.
8. The Methods of Work section again urged member states to include civil society in all delegations.
9. When advocating for your organization around the theme, keep the focus on a few concise points around key critical issues.
10. There needs to be a closer look at loss and damage. The impact of Climate Change will go well beyond what can be mitigated. Actions, capacity building, and finances need to be scaled up. Policy needs to recognize the need for a just and equitable transition, one that will protect people while moving to a green economy.

Civil Society Feedback:

1. General consensus was the hybrid model allows many more women to participate in CSW and should be kept. Nevertheless, those of us that can go in person get an enormous benefit out of meeting with each other and with member state delegates.
2. Some members reported finding the platform more difficult to navigate this year compared to last year.
3. Make sure there are closed captions and that they are in additional languages – not just English.

4. Think about Civil Society Zero Draft in terms of (a) Precedence Language, (b) Data, (c) Good Practice, (d) Policy and Legal Considerations, and (e) Finance, Accountability, and Implementation.

Implications for GWI:

1. Civil Society needs to remind itself that we are going to swim or sink together. Maris Burbergs mentioned in a previous debriefing that some member states were encouraging divisions such as the Global North vs. South/ Youth vs. Aged. We must try to speak in one voice and keep divisions to a minimum.
2. Get our GWI statement in early (September/October at the latest).
3. NY Reps should try to participate in a meeting with the US Ambassador, perhaps in conjunction with US Women's Caucus, around next year's theme in June or July and be prepared to argue for what we want to see happen for CSW67.
4. One way we might think about themes, rather than in terms of migrants, youth, rural, refugees etc., is to look at cross-cutting issues that are of concern to all women and girls, such as social protection, education, health, finance, data, labor and work, implementation, and accountability.
5. Continue to fight to make violence against women and girls an ongoing theme.

Submitted by:

Maureen Byrne, Ph.D.

5/2/22