

## WFWP USA and United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Yumi A. Willet  
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Every year the [United Nations Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) hosts a 10-day session in March, where UN member states (who send delegations to represent their country), civil society (citizens and organizations outside of the government and private sector), and gender experts gather at the UN headquarters in New York to discuss important issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The session tackles three themes that change annually: a priority theme, a review theme (this reviews the progress on implementing the agreed conclusions from an earlier year), and an emerging issue theme. They are based on one of the 12 issues of concern

highlighted in the [Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995](#).

This year was the first time since the pandemic that the UN decided to open its doors once again to have the 10-day annual event with a hybrid option for those unable to be in New York to attend virtually for some of the side and parallel events. The priority theme this year is: Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

### WFWPI Advocacy Training

In preparation for this, WFWPI invited 30 participants to come to New York for the WFWPI Advocacy Training from March 3-5, 2023 in preparation for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 67 (CSW 67).

The goal of this advocacy was to equip WFWPI leaders and advocates with the necessary knowledge, tools, and strategic skills to create a culture of heart and foster a more peaceful world through practical and holistic initiatives that address the root causes of conflict and promote social transformation and to empower WFWPI leaders to drive change in alignment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WFWPI's vision in their respective communities.

### UN CSW On-site events

The first day of the UN CSW is the opening session which has the largest turnout of people. Although some of the rooms were full, we were able to follow the session via the UN Web tv as well as join the side events later in the afternoon. For the remaining days of the first week, we joined several side events hosted by UN Women as well as other UN-related and organizational events to better understand the theme for the year and the best practices from the leaders in the field. These side events were paramount as they allowed us the opportunity to network with these leaders as well as learn UN advocacy language. These side events included:

Gender based violence and technology: Risks, opportunities, challenges #endTFGBV

Using technology to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Myanmar

EU High level side event: A gender equal world with technologies, digitalization and AI-What is our roadmap?

UN Women: Open, Safe and Equal, Shaping a feminist digital future #techforequality

Morocco and UNFPA: The role of digitalization in the economic and social empowerment of women in difficult circumstances

Lift off: Space Technology and Innovation for Gender equality

DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality. UN Observance of International Women's Day

UNDP: Disrupting the gender digital divide: Using technology to mobilize a supportive ecosystem for women and girls in STEM

### **WFWPI Parallel Events**

WFWPI was able to host a parallel event on the topic of "Partnership in equipping women and girls with technological resilience, discernment and protection from digital dangers" on Thursday , March 9 at 4 West 43rd Street in midtown Manhattan.

This program addressed current issues in technology as well as best practices and an interactive Q and A session from noteworthy speakers: Ms. Carolyn Handshin, WFWPI Director UN offices, Dr. Karen Judd Smith, Founder The NGO Academy and CEO Global Development Enterprise, Mrs. Adriana Gascoigne, Founder and CEO Girls' in Tech, Ms. Attefeh Riazi, Senior Executive Vice President and CIO Hearst, Engr, and Christine Rose Bulayo, Regional Secretary General WFWP Asia Pacific 1. The session was moderated by Mrs. Merely Barlaan, Deputy Director of the WFWPI UN Relations Office, NY. Each speaker shared their expertise as well as offered key insights into the theme.

On the same day, WFWP Taiwan presented Gender-gap solutions in STEM from individual, organizational and state perspectives. This was a meaningful event as we could hear about best practices directly from Taiwan.

### **Moving forward**

The week in New York provided a chance for the office team to meet and share with each other about the CSW as well as matters with regards to future plans for the year. Although we were only able to attend the first week of the UN CSW 67, it provided an opportunity for us to hear about what is being done in other countries and organizations as well as network with women leaders from different fields and build our partnerships. We look forward to all new partnerships and lessons learned thus far and are encouraged to continue working together for a better future.

# Commission on the Status of Women



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by [ECOSOC resolution 11\(II\) of 21 June 1946](#).

The CSW is instrumental in promoting women’s rights, documenting the reality of women’s lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In 1996, ECOSOC in [resolution 1996/6 \(see p. 20\)](#) expanded the Commission’s mandate and decided that it should take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities.

During the Commission’s annual two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. They discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), the key global policy document on gender equality, and the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#) held in 2000 (Beijing+5), as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women’s enjoyment of their rights in political, economic, and social fields. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

UN Women supports all aspects of the Commission’s work. We also facilitate the participation of civil society representatives.

## Methods of work

The Commission adopts [multi-year programmes of work](#) to appraise progress and make further recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action. These recommendations take the form of negotiated agreed conclusions on a priority theme. The Commission also contributes to the follow-up to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Under its current methods of work, established by [ECOSOC resolution 2022/4](#), at each session the Commission:

- Convenes a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human rights, and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the deliberations of the Commission, including through ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned, and good practices;
- Engages in general discussion on the status of gender equality, identifying goals attained, achievements made, and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges;

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- Convenes interactive expert panel discussions and other interactive dialogues on steps and initiatives to accelerate implementation and measures to build capacities for mainstreaming gender equality across policies and programmes;
- Considers one priority theme, based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly and linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Evaluates progress in implementing agreed conclusions from previous sessions as a review theme;
- Discusses emerging issues, trends, focus areas, and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men, that require timely consideration;
- Considers in closed meeting the report of its Working Group on Communications;
- Agrees on further actions for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women by adopting agreed conclusions and resolutions;
- Contributes gender perspectives to the work of other intergovernmental bodies and processes;
- Reports on the aspects relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women of the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council, in order to contribute to its work; and
- Celebrates International Women’s Day on 8 March, when it falls within its session.

## Multi-year programme of work

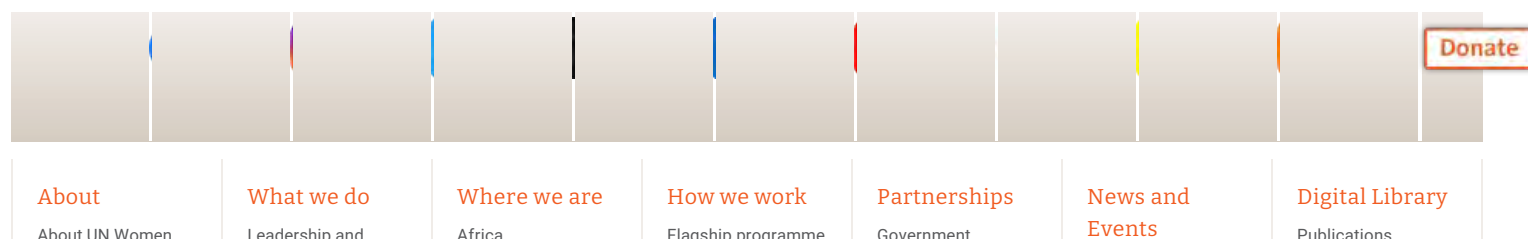
The Commission elaborated a multi-year programme of work for the first time in 1987, containing priority themes for discussion and action at its annual sessions, per [ECOSOC resolution 1987/24](#). Subsequently, multi-year programmes of work were adopted in 1996 in [ECOSOC resolution 1996/6](#) (see p. 20), in 2001 in [ECOSOC resolution 2001/4](#), in 2006 in [ECOSOC resolution 2006/9](#), in 2009 in [ECOSOC resolution 2009/15](#), in 2013 in [ECOSOC resolution 2013/18](#), and in 2016 in [ECOSOC resolution 2016/3](#). The theme for 2020 was determined in [ECOSOC resolution 2018/8](#).

A new multi-year programme of work for the years 2021-2024 is contained in ECOSOC resolution [ECOSOC resolution 2020/15](#).

Based on the resolutions from 2018 and 2020, priority and review themes for 2020–2024 are:

- **2020:** Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **2021:** Priority theme: Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Review theme: Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session).
- **2022:** Priority theme: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. Review theme: Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session).
- **2023:** Priority theme: Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Review theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-second session).
- **2024:** Priority theme: Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. Review theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-third session).

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