

United Nations 59th Commission on the Status of Women

May 9-20, 2015, New York Beijing plus 20 and the post-2015 agenda

The United Nations 59th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York in March 2015 addressed a 20-year review of the achievements and the insufficient progress on the Beijing Platform for Action. Each year member states, UN entities and ECOSOC accredited NGOs, such as NCWC, from around the world gather to work together. The CSW meetings focussed on the challenges to be overcome in order to implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030. The Beijing + 20 progress review is underway and the meetings addressed these needs in light of the post-2015 agenda. The UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon noted that no country has achieved gender equality. He also noted that women suffer disproportionately from environmental effects, economic crises and the effect of wars. The progress over the last 20 years has been slow and the post-2015 agenda must again pursue these goals more vigorously and include a gender perspective in all future sustainable development goals (SDGs).

“Governments also adopted a Political Declaration during the opening session, which outlines actions to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. And in 2016, they agreed to create a ministerial segment to show commitment towards gender quality, women’s empowerment and women’s human rights. According to UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director Babatunde Osotimehin, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are central to the post-2015 development agenda, and are essential for eradicating poverty, and achieving sustainable development among other things. UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka urged governments to support a stand-alone goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the post-2015 development agenda. She called for addressing challenges, changing attitudes, beliefs, customary practices and laws, in order to create a world in which all can thrive and to achieve gender equality before 2030.”

A report on “Delivering the post-2015 development agenda” as written by Helen Clark, Chair of the UN Development Group, notes that “The main message ... is that, irrespective of income, status or region, the implementation of the new agenda will depend on actions taken at national and local levels ... if we are to make transformative shifts which advancing human and sustainable development requires.”

We now await the official report of the 59th CSW with details of the implementation agreements.

Sections of this report are taken from UN websites.

Links to some websites:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015>

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/fwcwn.html>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015/preparations#Regional>

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/>

<http://sd.iisd.org/events/59th-session-of-the-commission-on-the-status-of-women/>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/csw-59-opens-recognizes-no-country-has-achieved-gender-equality/>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/csw-59-closes-with-renewed-commitments-calls-for-continued-action-on-gender-equality/>