



General Information & Contact

contact@ngocsw-geneva.ch

www.ngocsw-geneva.ch

Postal address:

Les Amis du Comité ONG de la Condition de la Femme, Genève

1200 Genève

Oral Statement delivered at the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York at the High Level Panel on Panel on the Results of regional Beijing+20 meetings of the United Nations regional commissions on Thursday 12 March 2015 3:00-6:00 pm.

Excellencies, Madam Chair, lady and gentlemen,

First of all, in the name of the NGO CSW Geneva, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for giving us the opportunity to speak today. I also take this opportunity to thank the UN Economic Commission for Europe, UN Women, the UN Office at Geneva, as well as various member states, especially Switzerland, the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands, for the close and fruitful collaboration in the organization of the NGO Forum for the UN ECE Regional Review that took place on 3-5 November 2014 in the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Almost 700 women's rights advocates from 50 countries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region and beyond, representing more than 300 organizations from civil society, the UN system, governments and other stakeholders gathered at this NGO Forum to review progress made on the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and discuss recommendations under the motto: act advance achieve women's rights.

In addition to the 12 critical areas, new cross-cutting and emerging women's issues brought on by a world that has tremendously changed since 1995 were also addressed in interactive roundtables: the human rights of migrant women, women and ageing, Science, Technology and Innovation for the advancement of women, as well as the critical role of men and boys.

A clear consensus emerged on the fact that unfortunately there has been a definite backward trend on women's rights in some areas. The underlying cause of this reversal of gains is notably attributed to the recent financial crisis. Austerity and other measure responses to the global economic downturn have been largely gender insensitive and have thus resulted in higher unemployment for women than men, less educational opportunities, reduced access to healthcare and social services, like care services, plus a pervasive violence against women.

Among others, our Forum outcome document, the « Geneva NGO Forum Beijing+20 Declaration » calls for

1. The Fulfilment of the Beijing commitments to all interconnected and universal human rights and systematic implementation of a women's rights approach delivered through and monitored by strong well-funded Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women at every level of government; buttressed by an accountability, resourcing, tax and

public fiscal and revenue framework capable of sustainably financing progressive realization of women's human rights.

2. Women are at the heart of sustainable development; the post-2015 SDG agenda must include a clear and **stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's rights** with clearly articulated means of implementation for women's rights and empowerment. Girls and women's rights must be recognized throughout the other SDG goals and specific strategies.
3. CEDAW must remain the framework for monitoring and accountability of government commitments.
4. We demand women's equal access to resources including land, credit and funding towards intergenerational social, cultural, development, environmental, economic, civil and political rights and justice;
5. Robust and sustained investment in women and girls' rights including Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights; ending violence against all women and girls; and particularly ending child, early and forced marriage as well as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM);
6. Urgent and systematic focus on women of all ages as users, shapers and leaders of new technologies.
7. Sharing power with young women and girls as leaders and agents of change and ensuring responsibility and accountability of men and boys for gender equality.

Time is too short for me to go further into the details of our recommendations, but I invite you to go to our NGO Forum website and download and read our outcome document:
beijing20.ngocsw-geneva.ch

A shorter version of the NGO Forum outcome document is also included in the UNECE report as an annex, and I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the UN ECE for that.

Every woman, every right, every minute. Everyone is responsible. The time is now.

Thank you for your attention