



**Beijing +30 Parallel Report Submission  
by the NGO CSW/NY to UN Women  
on the occasion of the 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)**

**Prepared by the Advocacy & Research Group of the NGO CSW/NY**

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## CHAPEAU

The CSW remains a critical and effective space for the global advancement of gender equality. However, as civil society organizations have long been documenting<sup>1</sup> the breadth and depth of the Commission's recommendations have not been matched with the political will to implement cross-cutting measurable and time-bound commitments for the empowerment of women and girls, resulting in halting progress and even regression across key gender equality goals and targets.

The 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) afford us a stock-taking opportunity to assess global challenges and pertinent issues facing women, girls, and youth in all their diversity, while at the same time demonstrating that action, funding and resourcing in critical areas remain woefully lacking and inadequate. We outline some of these priority areas below, based on extensive consultations with our global members, and outline recommendations for the CSW to address them.

In particular, we focus on the CSW Revitalization as an opportunity to address persistent gaps in implementation and we outline recommendations to improve meaningful engagement with civil society to drive improvements in implementation, commitments, accountability, inclusion and resourcing.

We urge the CSW to recognize and address emerging issues such as Artificial Intelligence, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM), cyber security, ethics, and safety as critical cross-cutting dimensions, essential to ensuring gender-responsive strategies that align with the evolving global landscape and the empowerment of all women, girls, and youth in all their diversity.

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<sup>1</sup> Reimagining CSW-Civil Society Perspectives on Improving the CSW. NGO CSW NY survey on CSW Revitalization [https://mcusercontent.com/eb520eecfe82a5bf0d814ealf/files/e640d865-3767-5c7e-de9c-7df1ecc0aaa7/Copy\\_of\\_civil\\_society\\_in\\_put\\_on\\_csw\\_revitalization\\_2.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/eb520eecfe82a5bf0d814ealf/files/e640d865-3767-5c7e-de9c-7df1ecc0aaa7/Copy_of_civil_society_in_put_on_csw_revitalization_2.pdf)

We underscore that immediate and transformative action and ambitious funding, resourcing and investment are needed to shift the current trajectory to accelerate progress on women's and girls' rights and gender equality.

## **Part I: CSW Revitalization and CSW Process Recommendations**

We emphasize the following recommendations related to **CSW Revitalization** beginning with CSW Process (*Part I*) and followed by CSW Content (*Part II*):

### **1. Require effective accountability from all CSW stakeholders**

The CSW is a key platform for advancing global gender equality. Nonetheless, civil society organizations strongly urge that their recommendations and highlighted critical gaps between the Commission's ambitious recommendations and the political will to implement them are addressed with clear, measurable, time-bound commitments, removing obstacles to gender equality. This includes:

- a. Strengthening and localizing cross-cutting national policies to address gender inequality at the national and local level. This can be achieved by setting clear, time-bound gender equality goals for governments, supported by robust action plans, adequate budget allocations and meaningful civil society engagement at every stage of the process.
- b. Implementing regular monitoring and independent evaluations to track progress, with adequate dedicated funding for robust accountability mechanisms and civil society engagement at every stage of the process.
- c. Aligning CSW recommendations with global frameworks and existing gender mechanisms (e.g. findings and recommendations from Beijing+30 Reviews, CEDAW recommendations, Women, Youth, Peace and Security and special rapporteurs, the UN Gender Equality Acceleration Plan, etc.) to promote local, national, regional and global collaboration and accountability.

These strategies are crucial for turning gender equality commitments into actionable, measurable outcomes.

**2. Promote local, national, regional and global collaboration, through greater inclusion and linkage of UN gender mechanisms, e.g. BPfA, Beijing+30 Reviews, CSW agreed conclusions, CEDAW, Women, Youth, Peace and Security and special rapporteurs.**

**A. Beijing Platform for Action and Beijing +30**

- a. Strengthen and localize national policies to address gender inequalities in all sectors.
- a. Ensure women's access to decision-making processes and positions at all levels.
- b. Advocate for the integration of BPfA goals into local government agendas.
- c. Ensure usage of local and friendly language that is accessible for all including to grassroots groups.
- d. Monitor progress with indicators on commitments made during Beijing+25, Beijing+30 processes, focusing on addressing persistent challenges and gaps to ensure meaningful implementation and follow-up.
- e. Involve a diversity of women including feminist and grassroots women's organizations in reviewing national reports and regional representation.
- f. Ensure inclusive and meaningful engagement of the diversity of women at regional representation.
- g. Address challenges and gaps identified in previous reviews to ensure meaningful implementation.

**B. CSW Agreed Conclusions**

- a. Implementation of CSW conclusions must be put into action in national frameworks.
- b. Annual reports on CSW achievements will be sent to UNW, CSW Board and regional commissions by national governments.
- c. Engage all aspects of civil society including feminist organizations and local communities in reviewing progress on agreed conclusions together with national governments, for example, by UNW inviting women's and feminist NGOs to write an alternative report evaluating the achievements of the national plan or framework
- d. Identify new priorities that address intersectional issues affecting women, especially in conflict areas.

**C. Special Rapporteurs and CEDAW**

- a. Use reports and recommendations from special rapporteurs on violence against women, discrimination, and human rights defenders to guide local and regional advocacy.
- b. Facilitate direct engagement between local women leaders and special rapporteurs to amplify voices especially from conflict and war areas.
- c. Inclusion and linkage of Women Peace and Security and Youth Peace and Security (WYPS) framework and recommendations into CSW.
- d. Inclusion and linkage of CEDAW framework and recommendations into CSW.

**3. Recognize the critical role that feminist organizations and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play and will continue to play in advancing gender equality and the rights of women and girls:**

- a. Appoint two civil society seats on the CSW Bureau and on regional CSW mechanisms
- b. Address the backlog and lack of transparency and accessibility in the ECOSOC accreditation process and reform it to enable more CSOs to contribute fully to CSW deliberations
- c. Provide significantly greater funding support to UN Women and NGO CSW/NY specifically to enable them to build capacity needed for their pivotal role in ensuring that the preparation, implementation and follow-up to the official and parallel events of CSW are inclusive, relevant and support unswerving input and action at country level on CSW agreed actions and recommendations.

**Part II: CSW Revitalization and CSW Content Recommendations**

**In addition to the CSW process points above, we emphasize the following content related recommendations related to thematic priorities and critical areas of concern:**

**4. Mandate Violence Against Women/Gender-Based Violence as a standing item for review and action in the CSWs for progress and advancement**

Mandating Violence Against Women and Gender-Based Violence (VAW/GBV) as a standing action item for review in the CSW is essential to ensuring consistent global progress. This approach underscores the urgency and universality of addressing systemic inequalities and new

forms of violence, such as online violence, political and obstetric violence, fostering accountability among nations to implement and strengthen legislative, social, and economic measures and funding to combat all forms of VAW/GBV. By integrating it as a recurring agenda, the CSW can facilitate data-driven discussions, amplify survivor voices, and promote the exchange of best practices and failures, empowering member states to address root causes and barriers. Regular reviews also provide a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of international commitments and follow-up, such as CEDAW national reports and recommendations, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAW-G), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the BPfA and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.2, reinforcing the global commitment to eradicating violence in all areas.

### **5. Mandate Women in Power and Decision-Making as a standing item for review in the CSWs for progress and advancement**

Prioritizing women in power, women led negotiations and decision-making roles is crucial for achieving gender equality. Women's representation in high-level political and legislative positions, including UN, ensures decisions reflect their concerns and promote gender equality. Women legislators often introduce more bills, engage more with constituents, and have higher attendance rates than their male counterparts, fostering trust in government and advancing progressive social and environmental laws. Countries with more women parliamentarians are more likely to adopt policies on climate change and land conservation and ratify environmental treaties.

Persistent gaps remain across sectors: In 2023, none of the peace agreements reached included representatives of women's groups as signatories: women represent only  $\frac{1}{3}$  of participants in international peace and disarmament fora; and women's political representation and civic space are increasingly under attack. Women are underrepresented in decision-making in the economic governance architecture.

By integrating the issue as a recurring agenda, the CSW can strengthen consistent data monitoring and reporting across sectors, highlighting areas of progress and persistent

representation gaps. The CSW can also provide a platform for the development, implementation and monitoring of action plans on achieving parity, as recommended in CEDAW General Recommendation 40 (2024), with meaningful participation from civil society, the multilateral system, the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders.

## **6. Mandate “Women and Armed Conflict” as a CSW Priority Theme**

While wars continue to occur year after year, the last time the critical area of concern on “Women and Armed Conflict” was addressed as a priority theme at the CSW was in 1998 for CSW42. Given the role that women have played in galvanizing peace movements, and given the deleterious effect of rising military spending on the 2030 Agenda, a CSW review on women and armed conflict is imperative and long overdue. A discussion on the contributions women have made and continue to make to foster peace in the world today should be a priority.

Actors in the multilateral space have a responsibility to seize the opportunities created through intergovernmental processes, like the CSW, to uphold the UN’s mandate to secure enduring peace. The importance of leveraging CSW, in particular, is underscored by women’s essential contributions to sustaining peace and the disproportionate ways they experience the impacts of conflict.

## **7. Recognize emerging issues, e.g. Artificial Intelligence (AI), Science, Technology, Engineering, Arth and Math (STEAM), cyber security, ethics and safety impacting all decision-making and existence.**

AI and Technology and its gender biases were not considered in the BPfA in 1995. Today, AI is male dominated, shaping technologies and systems that perpetuate inequalities. AI plays a crucial role in all aspects of women’s socio-economic empowerment, but gender biases pose significant challenges. These biases create barriers to women’s participation across sectors outlined in the BPfA. Integrating gender perspectives into AI development is essential for gender equity and a more inclusive digital future. Continue to include protections from cyber security, ethics, and online safety from harassment and threats to women, girls, adolescents and youth in CSW priority and review themes as a means to keep up with the digital, technological and innovation changes.



**8. Address the intersectional impact of the climate crisis and disaster on food, water, energy, air insecurity, health, economic, environmental impacts, trafficking, and population displacement.**

By continuing to include intersectional impact issues as a priority or review theme, the CSW can address and educate on the multifaceted and emerging challenges of the climate crisis by empowering women and marginalized groups, particularly indigenous women, in education, skills training, and leadership development, as well as providing access to resources and decision-making processes. Addressing emerging intersectional issues, such as the wildfires and rising temperatures exacerbating air pollution which disproportionately affect women and children in low-income or informal settlements, can serve to combat compounding risks, such as health, respiratory illnesses and lung diseases, and mental health care. Moreover, including women and girls in a central role as agents of change in consultations, crafting any solutions as well as implementing gender-responsive policies that integrate considerations of women and girls' specific needs and vulnerabilities into climate strategies.

**9. Prioritize regular review of women and girls' poverty, addressing and reversing economic and financial gender biases embedded in institutional practices and mandating inclusion in leadership and finance.**

A regular review of the intersecting impact of poverty on women and girls is critical to advancing gender equality, achieving sustainable development and removing impediments to women's economic justice. In its 68<sup>th</sup> session, the CSW reaffirmed that women's economic empowerment and agency, as well as their effective and meaningful participation in economic and financial decision-making, is essential for the fulfillment of their fundamental freedoms, human rights and ending poverty, enhancing inclusive economic growth and productivity, and promoting peaceful, just societies. The CSW further recognized that multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization are obstacles to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

We recommend prioritizing the integration of financing for development commitments into the CSW; implementation of gender-responsive economic and social policies that strengthen public institutions; mandating investments to end poverty for women and girls;

- a. fostering new development strategies towards sustainable economies and sustainable societies;
- b. increase financing to women's, youth and girls' organizations, networks and collectives; and
- c. enhancing multidimensional poverty data and statistics.

It is also critical for the CSW to identify synergies with the 2025 Financing for Development Conference process, to ensure a strong integration of a gender perspective in its negotiations and outcomes.

**15 January 2025**