



REPORT to the CoNGO board
By
The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY
March 2016
CoNGO board meeting, New York

The NGO CSW/NY reporting year is for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. New leadership was elected in June 2015 and assumed leadership on 1 July 2015. Cf. Attached. The goals established by the new leadership for 2015-2016 were increased membership with attention paid to younger members, financial transparency, greater democratic participation of our membership and positioning our member NGOs to be more effective within the UN, in particular, the High Level Political Forum, the Major Groups and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. (SDGs).

As of 1 June 2016 NGO CSW/NY has 370 members including 104 young professionals, an increase of 121% from 1 June 2015. There are currently over 200 member organizations, largely composed of ECOSOC - accredited NGOs and members of CoNGO along with a few members in other categories. Dues (\$50 a year) are paid by members through electronic alerts for renewal on an individual basis. Young Professions pay \$25. We also have financial reports including our Advocacy Grant. Cf. Attached. To increase membership participation, this year in our planning for the NGO CSW 60 Forum we reorganized the structure of our monthly planning meetings and each of the subcommittees was co-chaired by a member of the executive committee and an NGO CSW/NY member. We have also included in our monthly meetings, discussions on the HLPF, Major Groups, and SDG Implementation and the role NGO CSW/NY members and their NGOs could take.

On 13 March 2016 the NGO CSW Forum 2016 was launched with Consultation Day at the 92nd St. Y on the priority theme “Women’s Empowerment and Its Link to Sustainable Development Goals” with 850 attending. Featured was a conversation with Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women, and H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Permanent Representative Mission of Brazil, Chair of the Bureau of the Commission; a Keynote Address by Bandana Rana, winner of the NGO CSW/NY Woman of Distinction Award, on “Mother Sister Daughter: the Violence They Face”; a panel on “No One Left Behind,” focusing on migration, violence against women, climate change, and poverty with responses by Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General of the UN and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women, and Charlotte Bunch, Distinguished Service Professor in Women and Gender Studies, Rutgers University. In the afternoon people participated in five break out groups on advocacy training; peace and security and migration; education and health; poverty and finance; and water and climate change. Featured were on-the-ground cross-cutting projects for implementing SDG 5 on gender equality and other SDGs.

During NGO CSW Forum NGO CSW/NY facilitated 453 parallel and other events involving over 8,000 participants in the Church Center, the Salvation Army, the Thai Cultural Center, the CUNY Graduate Center, and the UN. Each of the five regions held three Caucus meetings to discuss strategy and the Outcome

Document. In addition, Advocacy Trainings were held for all regional caucuses, as well as daily in English, and weekly in French, attracting an estimated total of 1000 persons. An important milestone was reached when NGO CSW/Africa, NGO CSW/Asia Pacific, NGO CSW/Latin America and Caribbean, and NGO CSW/Arab States MENA became official CoNGO committees at a parallel event. NGO CSW/NY continues to be involved in Cities for CEDAW as reported last year. This year we organized a parallel event on “Cities for CEDAW Goes International” that included participants from Reykjavik, Iceland; Port of Spain, Trinidad; and Los Angeles, California, US.

In addition, NGO CSW/NY held a reception for 500 at the Kimmel Center, NYU, an Artisans’ Fair, and a rally. Seven morning briefings were held in the UN in collaboration with UN Women and the Commission on the Status of Women to give people updates and inform them on the latest developments in the negotiation of the Outcome Document.

An important activity that continues to strengthen the CSW process, as well as improving gender advocacy efforts at the UN and with member states, has been the Advocacy Training project, involving NGO CSWs in the regions. Close collaboration with the UN economic and social commissions in those regions, notably ECLAC, ESCAP and ECA as well as with UN Women, has been important. The initial grants were given by the governments of Switzerland and Norway. Switzerland renewed the grant and Australia also funded the Advocacy Grant this year for the Pacific sub-region. The Advocacy Training Guide is available in English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic on the NGO CSW website (www.ngocsw.org).

The NGO CSW/NY calendar of events includes monthly meetings that are both educational and participatory. Average attendance at monthly meetings ranges from 45 to 150 persons. Many meetings are co-sponsored with another CoNGO Committee (Committee on Children’s Rights, Committee on Aging, Committee on Human Rights) and include involvement of the members (analysis of the survey on NGO CSW Forum taken by over 500 participants).

Two other important events this year were the Civil Society Watch: Governments’ Commitments to Action, an NGO Parallel Event to the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equity and Women’s Empowerment on 27 September 2015 at the CUNY Graduate Center and the Women Ambassadors’ Luncheon at the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the UN on 17 February 2016. Approximately 500 participants from around the world participated in the Civil Society Watch co-sponsored by UN Women to enable women to watch the commitments made by countries to the Beijing Platform for Action and to strategize with each other on An Accountability Score Board, NGO Collective Commitments, A Vision of an Open and Transparent Inter-Governmental Policy-Making Space, a Youth Express, and Imagining the World in 2030. The gala Women’s Ambassadors luncheon celebrated Mrs. Ban Soon-taek and 36 Women Ambassadors and country representatives.

*The NGO CSW Forum is the term used specifically during the CSW for NGO activities organized by the NGO CSW/NY in collaboration with numerous partners in government, civil society and the UN.

Please see appendices below for further documentation.



2015-2017 Executive Committee Slate Contact Information

(Updated April 2016)

Chair

Susan O'Malley

International Federation of Business
and Professional Women (IFBPW)
Brooklyn, NY 11238
Email: susanomalley4@gmail.com

Vice Chair

Bette Levy

Soroptimist International
New York, NY 10022
Email: bslmjb@aol.com

Treasurer

Erica Higbie

The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas
(FAWCO)
Pound Ridge NY 10576
Email: ericahigbie@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Ivy Gabbert

Soka Gakkai International
NY, NY 10016
Email: ivy.gabbert@sgi-ouna.org

Communications Secretary

Houry Geudelekian

Armenian Relief Society
New York, NY 10035
Email: unngo@ars1910.org

Member-at-Large

Mary Ann Tarantula

Zonta International
Bergenfield, NJ 07621
Email: marymac215@gmail.com

Member-at-Large

Dr. Padmini Murthy

Medical Women's International Association
27 Skidmore Rd
Email: minimurthy@aol.com

Member-at-Large

Melissa Guardaro

American Association of University Women
Valley Cottage, NY 10989
Email: mguardaro@gmail.com

Member-at-Large

Jackie Weatherspoon

US Women Connect, Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, NH 03833
Email: jckweatherspoon@yahoo.com

Past Chair Ex-Officio

Soon-Young Yoon

International Alliance of Women
Hoboken, NJ 07030
Email: yoonsw@aol.com

1. To send a message to all EC members, send email to: executivecommittee@ngocsw.org
2. To send a message to all of the Advisors, send email to: advisors@ngocsw.org
3. To send a message to the Interns, send email to interns@ngocsw.org