



NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva

Virtual Informal Briefing to NGOs

by CSW Chair

H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan

21 January 2021
3 p.m. - 4 p.m. EST



Informal Briefing to NGOs By the Chair of CSW

21 January 2021



**Commission on the Status of Women 65
15-26 March 2021**

Registration for NGO Representatives (unlimited for 2021) is open now for representatives of NGOs with ECOSOC status until 19 February, allowing time for Conference Focal Points to approve registrations by UN Women deadline of 22 February. No late registrations will be accepted.

The pandemic will continue to impose restrictions on attendance at the UN through 2021. CSW membership agreed on a hybrid format for CSW 65. Formal virtual meetings for roundtables etc. and negotiating on agreed conclusions. This will not create a precedent for the work of the commission. (Interesting to note: the CSW was the first intergovernmental body impacted by COVID-19 in 2020)

Modalities of work will remain the same this year, even though virtual. Modalities will be reviewed for CSW66.

The proposed work will compose all key elements of the commissions and will try to be as full and substantive as possible. Side events will be announced later.

Formal in person meetings will be on 15 March 2021 – ceremonial opening and welcoming statements by ECOSOC President, General Assembly Chair, UN Secretary General, UN Women and

CEDAW Chair, one civil society and one youth representative and the closing meeting on 3 March 2021.

The ministerial segment will be 15-19 March 2021 – roundtable discussions – each topic will be discussed twice to accommodate different time zones. Two proposed themes:

A. Getting to parity: good practices towards achieving women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life.

B. Creating an enabling environment for women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life.

General discussion will be through informal discussions. Three minutes is time limit for interventions. Civil Society will be able to sign up to speak during interactive dialogs.

Meetings will be held multiple times to accommodate the different time zones.

The CSW65 Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session) will be addressed including 12 Member States statements; limited intervention from civil society but there will be some allotted time.

The Bureau has advocated that one NGO representative and one Youth representative be a part of each national delegation. Access to delegations continues to remain a major issue.

NGO participation

146 written statements were submitted as official documents of the Commission.

CSW65 will be very different from previous sessions because 100% virtual. There is general concern about lack of ability to interact, as usual. UN Women says they will try to not limit interaction and look forward to virtual natural engagements.

Oral statements will be delivered through virtual modalities, three minutes. Opportunity for civil society to make statement during the Interactive Dialog will be announced and limited to three minutes whether recorded or live.

Live webcast will be available. More information on UN Women website closer to CSW.
Virtual side events – UN Women

Guidelines for submitting pre-recorded statements, including duration, will be posted on the CSW65 website

CSW website: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

Contact: csw@unwomen.org

Social Media: Follow @UN_CSW, #CSW65

Official Links on the CSW website:

[Commission on the Status of Women: CSW65 \(2021\): Official Meetings | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw65-2021/official-documents>
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/ngo-participation/written-and-oral-statements>

Morning Briefings: Working on providing morning briefings on our virtual platform.

Informal Platforms: for conducting informal discussions between members states and NGO representatives .. country and local level engagement

Comments from the floor

This CSW carries the weight of the last CSW when we could not participate so the investment in this one is higher than usual... also the weight of the B+25 moment which continues into this year.

CSW will have its 75th anniversary next year. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) first met at Lake Success, New York, in February 1947, soon after the founding of the United Nations. All 15 government representatives were women. Info on CSW history can be found here - <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/brief-history>

Questions from the Floor to be answered in CSW Bureau follow up

1. How can NGOs have access to high level meetings?
2. Why can't NGOs observe negotiations on the Agreed Conclusions document?
3. Suggestion made that alternate presentations on panels occur between government representatives and NGO representatives.
4. There should be co-chairs for CSW consisting of NGOs and Gov. Reps

The push to have NGOs more centrally involved skirted again.

Zero Draft

As you all know, for the past few years NGOs have written their own zero draft document. As far as we know, that is not happening this year.

NGO CSW New York

For those of you not aware of the NGO CSW New York will hold a Virtual Forum please visit their website and sign up as an advocate – registration is free. We are trying our best to bring UN Women and Bureau members to engage with us on our platform as much as possible:

<https://ngocsw.org/ngocsw65/>

For those of you still confused, the panel discussions taking place with civil society on NGO CSW New York Virtual platform is called Parallel Events. The “high level” events organized by Member States and UN entities are called Side Events.

NGO CSW New York is organizing an Orientation session for Monday 15 March 9am on their platform. Several other NGO CSW Regional Committees will also hold Consultation Days this session. Dates and times to be announced.

Advocacy Guide

The updated Advocacy Training Guide on women's human rights at the UN and CSW for 2021 will be uploaded to this website by mid-February in Arabic, Spanish, French, Russian and English.

See: <https://ngocsw.org/get-involved/advocacy-guide/>

NGO CSW New York Youth Leaders and Young Professionals is hosting a CSW preparation series specifically for youth! Here's the schedule of the series and we'll be posting more info like registration links soon!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pWOHVVfn_zQFJPpu80sHrzyL5vRcr5wH/view?usp=sharing

Report Contents submitted by:

Stacy Dry Lara, President of NGO CSW Geneva