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News in Brief

Please send any information you wish to share to your VPs, Paula and Carol, by the 20th of each month. Submissions should be copy ready and brief – **75 words or less** and may include links to further information.

Send your news to share to:
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We send this newsletter at a time when the world is facing multiple crises; with the disaster in Afghanistan unfolding before our eyes, the ever-growing impact of the COVID Delta variant, the alarming conclusions of the internationally agreed climate report, the earthquake and floods in Haiti and extreme weather around the globe. Always women and children are the most vulnerable and most impacted by these disasters. We all have important work to do.

Notes from the Bureau

FINALLY! In-person Committee Meeting

The Agenda and invitation for the September 1, 2021 Committee meeting was sent on August 13. Please note that the next meeting will be in a new location and will be our first in-person meeting since the start of the COVID pandemic. The meeting will be from 2-4 pm at the offices of Women's Federation for World Peace International at Rue Anne Torcapel 10, 1202 Geneva (close to Maison de la Paix tram stop). This location gives us the technical ability, to allow anyone unable to attend in person due to COVID travel restrictions, to join the meeting via zoom.

The 48th Session of the Human Rights Council

The 48th regular session of the Human Rights Council will be from September 13 to October 8. There is some possibility for attending sessions with prior requests.
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session48/Pages/48RegularSession.aspx>

Bureau Meeting August 11, 2021

- **Proposed changes to the Bylaws;** Only one member gave feedback and submitted questions by the requested deadline. Members should be prepared to vote on the proposed changes on September 1.
- **Assistant Treasurer;** The necessity of appointing an assistant treasurer was addressed. Our elected treasurer Wendi is still unable to travel to Switzerland to gain UBS access, but continues to work remotely.
- **Website Issues;** Problems in gaining control of our website and doing updates and mailings were discussed. As a result, a meeting with our current web managers, the South African company Restrive, was held on August 17. A committee will be looking into finding a solution to our technical issues. In the meantime, the bureau apologizes for the fact that the website has not been updated. We hope to find a long-term and sustainable solution soon.

«Recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and unprecedented in thousands of years»

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel
on Climate Change

Task Force Updates

Climate Change and Health Task Force.

The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was released August 7. The report confirms the findings of previous 2013|2014 Report and is a restatement of the need for very urgent action. A summary for policy makers as well as an interactive map to use to focus on issues in different global regions can be found here, IPCC Sixth Assessment Report 2021;

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>

For an easy- to-read history and content of the legally binding Paris agreement of 2016 visit; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Agreement

Gender Terminology

In the working document, the task force is concentrating on the analysis of documents (conventions, treaties and others) created by the different organizations of the UN, where the terminology of “gender” has been misused and misinterpreted. This is a neutral, apolitical document based purely on terminology. Following a special briefing to the CEDAW Committee, a follow-up letter was sent asking them to take a strong stance supporting CEDAW language and highlighting the problematic of the terminology.

Youth Task Force

Held its first Webinar in a series on " Promoting Empowerment through Leadership and Literacy" on August 12. Dr. Indrias Patras, of Forman Christian University in Lahore, Pakistan spoke to a very engaged audience of 60 participants, from 4 continents on the "Effects of Covid 19 and Child Marriages on Girls Education and Literacy" based upon her work as an activist.

Member News

Women’s Federation for World Peace International

WFWPI UN Office Geneva Human Rights Internship program has been meeting with various women leaders in Afghanistan and has prepared a written statement for the Human Rights Council. The two month program with 5 Masters students in human rights and international law from 3 continents (4 women , 1 man) will also produce advocacy papers on topics very relevant to the work of NGO CSW. A panel debate will be held at the end of September to communicate their research.

Biovision Foundation for ecological development

The UN Food Systems Pre-Summit was held under condemnation of the involvement of the powerful private sector which plays a strong role in food-related politics.

Thanks to external public criticism and the committed efforts of numerous organizations, progress was made, with the importance of agroecology recognized and the fact that food and nutrition must be viewed systemically; with agriculture, health, environment, economy, human rights, and climate change all interconnected. For a report on Biovision’s position at the pre-summit visit:

<https://www.biovision.ch/en/outlook-foodsystemsummit/>

Make Mothers Matter

Organized a virtual HLPF side-event on ‘Changing narratives about unpaid care work and the economy’ in July. Introduced by Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on Poverty, the event showed the importance of changing narratives, perceptions and social norms around care and the economy to recognize and redistribute care and bring about change in women’s lives. Speakers included Gary Barker (Promundo), Sonia Malaspina (Danone Italy), Anam Parvez (Oxfam) and Shahra Razavi (ILO) discussing changes in families, communities, private companies, society and the economy. The report and recording of the event:

<https://makemothersmatter.org/unpaid-care-work-is-work-that-our-economic-system-must-recognize-invest-in-and-support/>

Women’s World Summit Foundation

Creating the power for change, WWSF announces that their three 2021 campaign Action Kits for individuals, groups and organizations to use for the advancement of women’s and children’s rights are now online. www.woman.ch



Upcoming Events

The COP26 Summit

The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021. The summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Be sure to share information on any side events planned by your organization for the next NIB.