

NGO CSW GENEVA

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Committee members,

After the two years of Covid insecurity, intermittent lockdowns and mask mandates, 2022 has been like a slow spring thaw after a long hard winter. The UN gradually opened its doors and familiar meetings, briefings, conferences slowly became open to in-person participation. However, the convenience and cost effective element of virtual participation has influenced procedures dramatically, sometimes positively, and surely there is no going back. The NGO CSW Geneva has also adopted options for hybrid meetings, facilitating a broader circle of membership while missing the greater numbers in person. It was truly a joy to meet and embrace each other at our end of year luncheon.

It has been a very productive and regenerative year, especially so because of a remarkable teamwork within the executive bureau, and among our committee members. Our bureau went through several changes, but has taken on a new momentum and solidarity. Each member has their role and specific tasks, and all give generously of their time and competency.

Thank you sincerely to both Mohinder Watson (ICW) and Wendi Momen (WRI) for investing your skills and valuable time in service of the Committee during the previous period.

THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU

Within our core team, the issues, communications, plans and activities are discussed among all through the various communication platforms, while each of us covers specific areas as well. As President, I (WFWPI) take decisions, but very seldom there is not a full consensus, and I listen to dissenting views very intently. I lead the direct outreach to our Global Advocacy Team, UN bodies, mechanisms, government missions on behalf of the committee, but take great joy in delegating and sharing that responsibility whenever possible knowing how capable, knowledgeable and convincing each of our members are. As an example, for the Committee's new "Breakfast Briefing" series with Ambassadors that will be inaugurated on February 8, all members were asked to recommend and/ or invite their preferred government missions and top experts. We will rotate participation among our members.

Carol McKonkie (LDS) and Berthe De Vos-Neven (SI), as Vice Presidents, bring important support, proficiency and momentum to our shared vision and goals. Carol coordinates our Task Forces and media collection, and Berthe's focus is the effectiveness and consolidation of our advocacy work. Donatella Benjamin (SI) has taken over the role of Treasurer, lending her accounting skills and her public reach into the Geneva government to our team. Paula Daeppen (Biovision Foundation and FAWCO), formerly Vice President, has stepped into the role of Assistant Treasurer, but is always invaluable in bureau discussions, oversight and media outreach. Our Secretary, Zarin Hainsworth(WRI), benefitting from the new dimensions of virtual participation, works from her office in the UK, bringing with her a long experience in important issues and networking. Our youngest, Srruthi Lekha (WFWPI), stepping down as Assistant Secretary (thank you) is now focused upon building our youth engagement as Youth Liaison, also coming with exceptional knowledge, tenacity and passion.

Stacy Dry Lara (GWI), Committee past President, as Special Advisor, contributes to our discussions and decision-making. Our committee also appreciates the professionalism and time investment of Sibylle von Heydebrand (IAW) for the yearly audit.

5. UNECE : Chaired by Zarin, following a presentation from Elly Pradervand (WWSF), a task force was created to liaise with the UN ECE office in Geneva. Envisioned to enhance cooperation in preparation for the PrepCom and Beijing +30.

6. UN Terminology on Gender: Co chaired: The ngocsw' task force on gender terminology is presently following developments in the gender and sexual orientation discussion and concomitant legal and societal reinterpretations of the terms sex and gender to ensure progress of the rights of women and girls to equal access to humanity's progress and their participation in public life remains fully and unconditionally at the forefront of the gender equality efforts.

7. 50th Anniversary 2023: This task force, the newest, and surely to be very significant for the year 2023 is chaired by Sibylle. It has been drawing up plans for the momentous celebration of the Committee's 50 anniversary in 2023, including media promotions, member contributions and formal events.

NGO CSW Circle of Honour, a project of this presidency that appreciates long serving members of outstanding dedication. We offered that honor to Berhane Ras-work (founding President of the Inter African Committee on Traditional Practices) at our AGM in April 2022.

Humanitarian project Ukraine: Working with our committee member Martha Kebalo (WFUWO), and in collaboration with women in Ukraine, support was sent for reconstruction at a school that had been badly damaged during the war.

Christmas Luncheon : Our last major event of the year 2022 was a holiday luncheon at the Maison de la Paix Restaurant to appreciate the dedication and seriousness of committee members to our shared goals. It was a highlight of the day to welcome our special guest speakers and partners: State Councillor for the Canton of Geneva, Hon. Nathalie Fontanet; UN Women Director, Ms. Adriana Quiñones; CEDAW Committee member and former President, Prof. Dalia Leinarte.

1. COLLECTIVE ACTION, PROMOTION AND VISIBILITY



Membership: Our membership is by organization, not individuals. We currently have 22 ECOSOC accredited member organizations, and have a goal to reach 30 by the end of the year. Your ideas and support towards our expansion are very welcome.

Mechanisms for collaboration: Task Forces:

1. Development, Training and Review : The oldest, chaired by Mohinder, meets as needs arise. Its most recent activity was to compile a guide based upon the Committee Bylaws with corresponding objectives to assist in assessing appropriateness of our financial investment in projects and programs.
2. Climate & Health : Co chaired by Carol and Ann Lindsay (IFMH), this task force has been quite active organizing a very well received panel during the CSW66, and information-sharing and networking around the COP 27.
3. Youth : Chaired by Srruthi, this Task Force hosted a remarkable Youth Consultation (simulation) for CSW 66 with international participants who drew up a list of Agreed conclusions that were sent to the CSW66 President and UN Women Director. There is a strong networking activity with international youth with training programs for partnership with UN mechanisms.
4. CSW66 and Consultation Day : Created together with NGO CSW Vienna, program, tools and resources were worked out over several months and many Zoom meetings for the very successful joint event.

2. COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS BUILDING

Media, Website, News in Brief, Linked-in: Under the firm and professional hand of Paula Daepfen and her teams, our media outreach has been greatly upgraded. Thank you to our amazing Amanda Wigfall and Rachel Thibodeaux (both FAWCO) for offering their competency and time in rebuilding and updating our website (<https://ngocsw-geneva.ch/>), and Kala Madhav (ICW) for lending her skills for our very informative bi-monthly News in Brief (NiB) publication, that can be found on the website, and Paula again for building our following on Linked-in.

Partnerships with UN Bodies and Mechanisms:

The committee as a whole and our members in particular continue to improve our engagement in, and impact on global and national decisionmaking and policy in the areas of development, peace and security, health and human rights, environment and climate change, especially through the consolidation of our voices at global debates..

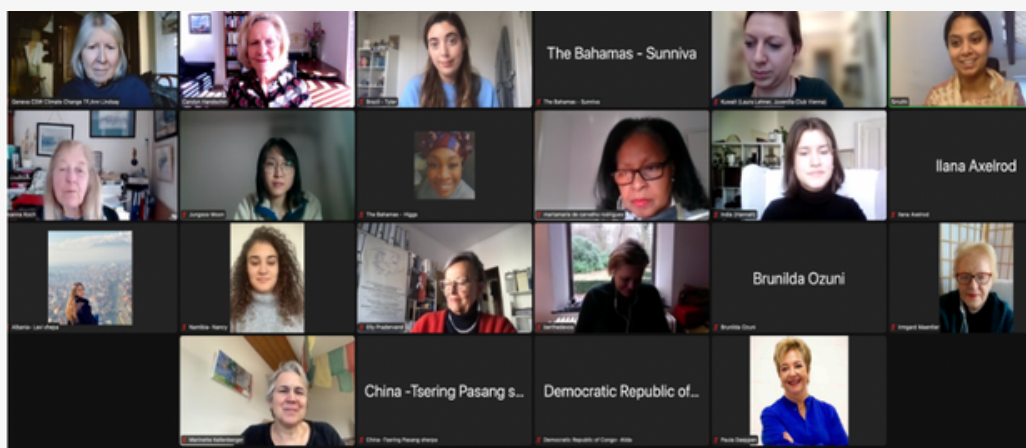
1. Written statements to CSW66: Contribution to the debates through the very large number of submitted statements.
2. Simulation of CSW66 in January: Sessions were held over two days during which youth debated and finalized their Agreed Conclusions forwarded to the CSW66 Chair, Amb Joyini and her bureau, and UN Women Executive Director, Sima Sami Bahous. As Srruthi and team prepared their international delegates for their simulation of the actual processes of the Commission, they also included a briefing with our committee members.



Youth with Chair of Special Mechanism and making Oral Statements

3. Another very significant element of CSW 66 participation was: Consultation Day Geneva Vienna (March 12th) ; Our theme was, “The Human Right to a Healthy Environment : Building Global Solidarity and Partnership”. It included:

- a. Special message from the Special Rapporteur on Environment, Dr. David Boyd
- b. Message of appreciation from Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights
- c. Panel Rural Women and Gender Equality in the Context of Climate Change
- d. Declaration created and agreed on, “Global Partnerships for the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Safe Environment”
- e. Creating and publishing an “Advocacy Resource Tool” for grassroots engagement on environmental issues under the new Human Right to Development



Youth CSW66 session meet with NGO CSW Committee members



4. Brilliant panel organized by the Task Force on Climate and Health on, "Food on all Tables".

CSW 67 in March 2023: Plans are currently under way for the Committee's participation this year under the theme, "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls". Many members have contributed written statements, including with joint support from other members. The CSW67 Consultation Day Geneva banner will be a revival of our theme at CSW 65, "Women's Rights Advocates in International Geneva, The Heart of Human Rights and Service to Humanity".

Human Rights Councils (March, June, September) and Universal Periodic Reviews : (2022)

Members, including myself, participated in many of the sessions, briefings and expert debates. Various joint statements have been submitted on behalf of our members, including written and oral. Our Task force on Climate and Health prepared an oral statement that I had the honor to read at the HRC session on the "Adverse Effects of Climate Change on the Human Rights of People in Vulnerable Situations", and to subsequently speak with the Special Rapporteur, Mr Ian Fry.

Shadow Reports and Country Reports: Ongoing support to facilitate grassroots organizations to produce and submit shadow reports to UN entities, also as part of our partnering plans with CEDAW and UN Women. We are working to encourage more UPR country reports for the Human Rights Council, and promotion of trainings to do so.

Joint Written Statement was submitted for the Special HRC session on Afghanistan as a contribution to our growing solidarity among the members to speak with a common voice.

UN Social Forum has been an important base for partnership with the Human Rights Council over the recent years, with WFWPI engaging on behalf of the Committee. Srruthi has been invited as staff several times for the Special Mechanism on Right to Development. She and I have been able to contribute multiple recommendations related to the role of civil society in the intergovernmental debates on the codification of the Right to Development that have contributed to three reports of the body to the UN General Assembly.

Special Mechanism and the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development: Rigorous participation in these intergovernmental bodies led to a project for in person “Youth Training on UN mechanisms to Implement the Right to Development”. Led by WFWPI, but supported by committee members, 14 youth from three continents participated at the Social Forum on November 3-4. They received training on opportunities for CSO engagement with the UN, drafting and delivering oral statements and engaging personally with various experts and chairs of key mechanisms. There is a plan to continue and expand this youth program in 2023.

A training on “SDG Action, Women’s Rights and the Right to Development” was held on October 26 for committee members and other civil society members. Led by Srruthi, as youth liaison to the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development, its purpose was to train CSOs to engage with the Right to Development to fulfill the SDGs and to impart understanding about the current governmental debates on drafting a legally binding covenant.

CEDAW, WHO, ILO, CRC : Committee members separately, and various Task Forces liaise and contribute to discussions and programs of UN bodies. Many of us partner with these bodies through our local chapters and programs. At the UN Geneva, SI especially supports the work of CEDAW. MMM, SI are always present at the Committee Rights of the Child debates. IFMH, ICW, IAW, LDSCharities, and others work with WHO.

The decent work discussions are also supported by our members and the refugee work at IOM and UNHCR as well. I take this opportunity to remind all members of the importance of reporting their advocacy and partnership with the United Nations bodies so that we can include you.

UN Women: 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence Campaign. As mentioned above, there are more and more partnership efforts with our UN Women Office Geneva. This annual campaign enjoys the support of many members through their local chapters, globally. SI, GWI and WFWPI were among the demonstrators in front of the UN entrance.



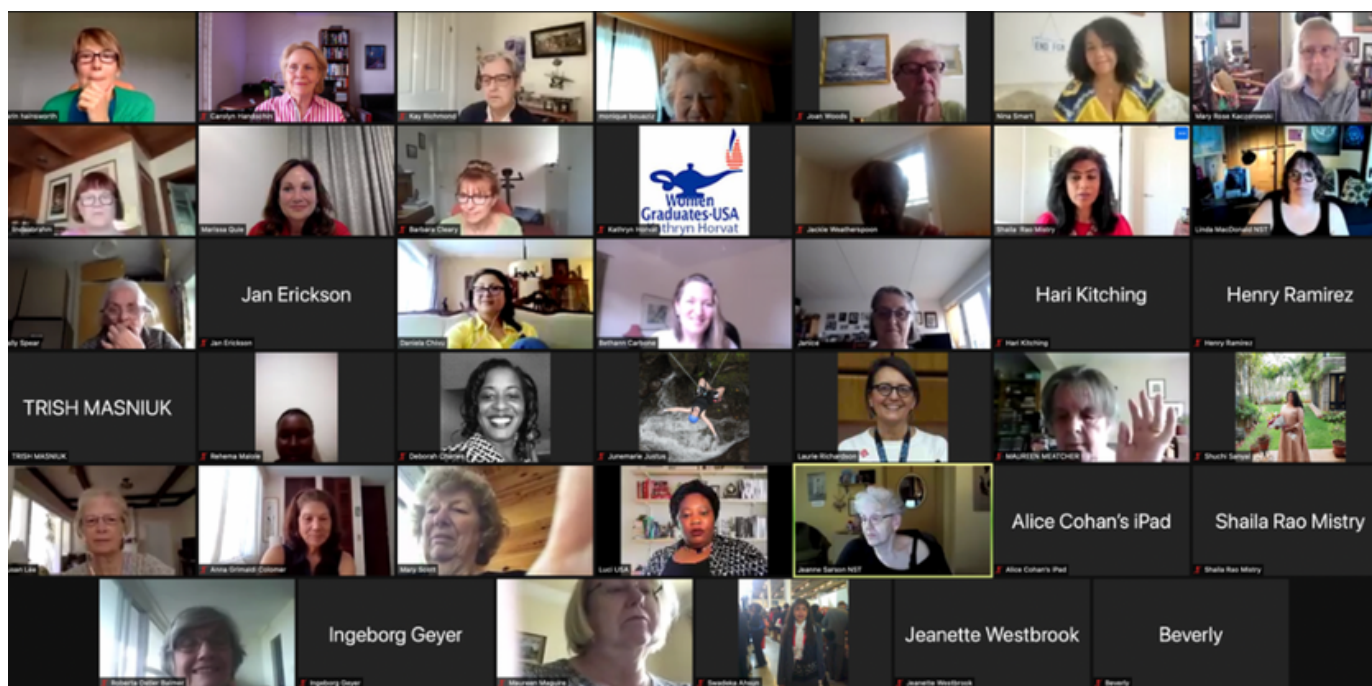
3. KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND EXPERTISE BUILDING

Our committee meetings have provided a platform for experts, including members, to share their knowledge and experience, and has become a regular feature. Presentations have been provided about the UN ECE, Human Rights Council and The Intergovernmental, and the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development. The UN Women Director in Geneva was invited to address the committee at our AGM 2022, replaced due to Covid by the assistant director. She outlined the important work of UNWomen and opportunities for CSO partnership.

Following up on a letter to the UNOG Director General, Tatiana Valovaya from the Committee President, (drafted by the Development Task Force in December 2021), a meeting was arranged. Still under mask mandates, the online meeting provided an opportunity to explain our concern about: adequate space allotment for NGO on the premises, and restricted access to UN meetings. It was a valuable discussion in coming to a better understanding, and some change has been seen.

A summer meeting with UN Women Director, Adriana Quinones at the UN Women Office: I could present some of the history and recent activities of our committee, and all members present could introduce themselves and their NGO's. We discussed several areas in which we plan to collaborate, including through providing trainings, pursuing the "methods of work" debate and co-sponsorship of events.

CSW and "Methods of Work" in general : Building upon a letter drafted by the Development TF in mid 2021, and our ongoing discussions and partnership with the Europe and North America Caucus, NGO CSW Advocacy Network, direct engagement with the CSW bureaus, UN Women and leading governments, some gains can be claimed for civil society and we continue to follow up.



Methods of Work discussions with the EU /NA Caucus

C. Handschin

**The 2022 President's Annual Report to the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva Annual General Assembly
24th January 2023 Submitted by
Carolyn Handschin, President**

AUDITOR'S REPORT

For the attention of the General Assembly

NGO COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN GENEVA

Financial Audit Report for 2022 business year and Proposal to the General Assembly

Based on the documents submitted to me (bank statements, original invoices, receipts) by NGO Committee on the Status of Women Treasurer Donatella Benjamin, Geneva, Switzerland, I carried out the audit on January 13, 2023, using various random checks and documented evidence to the best of my ability.

Assets

Bank Balances

The bank balances for the following accounts are consistent with the bank statements as at 31.12.2022. The inspected documents could be matched with the bank statements up to the accounts:

UBS	CHF 35'840.04
Paypal	CHF 148.44

Cash

The Cash amount of CHF 0.78 is plausible.

Income and Expenses

The statement of income and expenses was checked through analyzing random samples. All the checked positions could be proven by Ms. Donatella Benjamin.

The annual accounts closed with expenses of CHF 4'846.98 and an income of CHF 2'088.00 and a loss of CHF 2'758.98.

Regularity

I confirm that the accounting for 2022 was carried out properly. The balance sheet and the statement of income and expenses correspond with the provided documents as mentioned above. The reported assets exist. Ms. Donatella Benjamin keeps her accounts correctly, with supporting documents.

The executive board is responsible for the annual financial statements. My task is to audit them. I confirm that I meet the requirements for competence and independence.

Proposal to the General Assembly

I therefore propose the General Assembly that the financial statement for 2022 be approved and that the executive board be discharged.



Dr. iur. Sibylle von Heydebrand



ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Statement of Accounts on 31.12.2022

<u>Assets</u>	<u>31.12.2021</u>	<u>31.12.2022</u>
Current Assets :		
Cash	650,78 CHF	0,78 CHF
NGO CSW Current Account UBS	36 661,90 CHF	35 840,04 CHF
Paypal Account	1 465,56 CHF	148,44 CHF
<i>active transferrable</i>		<i>30,00 CHF</i>
 Total Assets	 38 778,24 CHF	 36 019,26 CHF

Budget 2022**Actual 2022****INCOME****Income from regular activities**

Membership Dues	2 500,00 CHF	2 088,00 CHF
Total regular income	2 500,00 CHF	2 088,00 CHF

Fundraising	500,00 CHF	- -
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TOTAL INCOME	3 000,00 CHF	2 088,00 CHF
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EXPENSES**Expenses attributable to regular activities**

International Advocacy	4 500,00 CHF	3 199,01 CHF
Membership Developmnet / Events	1 500,00 CHF	716,90 CHF
Membership Appreciation	750,00 CHF	333,30 CHF
Rental Meeting Rooms	500,00 CHF	- -
Insurance	190,00 CHF	182,70 CHF
Website	500,00 CHF	221,75 CHF
Admin (misc./travel)	620,00 CHF	75,00 CHF
Bank fees	130,00 CHF	101,20CHF
Paypal fees	20,00 CHF	17,12 CHF
Misc.	200,00 CHF	- -

Total regular Operating Expense	8 910,00 CHF	4 846,98 CHF
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Total Expense	8 910,00 CHF	4 846,98 CHF
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Net Operating Profit (Loss)	- 5 910,00 CHF	- 2 758,98 CHF
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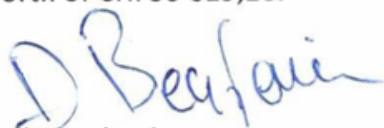
Financial Report for the Year 1.1.2022 to 31.12.2022

The NGO CSW Geneva ended the financial year 2022 with a loss of CHF 2'758,98.

The causes were the membership numbers being off the budget target and only bringing an income of CHF2'088.- instead of CHF2'500.- and no income from fundraising. This was coupled with one extraordinary expense: the donation of CHF2'500.- to the Bohdanivka School project in Ukraina.

To be noted that in 2022 the President and the Bureau did declare expenses of only CHF75.- and no expenses were incurred for rental of meeting rooms.

Other expenses were within the normal range and the NGO CSW Geneva ended the financial year 2022 with a Net Worth of CHF36'019,26.



Donatella Benjamin
Treasurer
NGOCSW, Geneva

Addendum

Berthe De Vos Neven had been elected as Treasurer for 2022, but the Bank did not accept her signature since she was not domiciliated in Switzerland. We would like to thank Anne Riz-Sandweiss who accepted to act as Treasurer until 7 September 2022.