



Volume 4| Issue3

July 2024

# News in Brief

Please send any information you wish to share in the September NIB by the 20<sup>th</sup> of August to [vicepresidents@ngocsw-geneva.ch](mailto:vicepresidents@ngocsw-geneva.ch). Submissions should be copy ready and 75 words or less and may include links to further information.

## NGO CSW Geneva Bureau

### President

Carolyn Handschin

### Vice Presidents

Berthe De Vos-Neven

Brigitte Polonovski Vauclair

Zarin Hainsworth

### Treasurer

Donatella Benjamin

### Assistant Treasurer

Paula Daeppen

### Executive Secretary

Sallie Chaballier

### Assistant Secretary

Jo Thompson

## NGO CSW Appointees

### Web Coordinators

Rachel Thibodeaux and

Amanda Wigfall

### Bureau Advisor

Stacy Dry Lara

## President's Message

### Dear Committee Members,

The weeks of early summer have been full of activity at the United Nations in Geneva. The CEDAW 88th session in May, World Health Assembly, ILO General Conference, HRCouncil 56, and more. Members have been active, representing us at each.

Our committee's 5th "Ambassadors Breakfast Briefing" was held on June 12. The roundtable discussions served as a non-formal and enjoyable opportunity to discuss with governments of the ECE region and UN entities about their preparations for the Beijing +30 Regional Review on October 21-22.

Our **Committee** has been coordinating recommendations from civil society for over a year in the form of 12 Working Groups aligned with the 12 Critical Areas determined in 1995, based on analysis of government decisions, implementation, and the so important voices from the field.

We were eager to listen to our guests, to insert the results of our own work on the issue, and project how we could work together to improve. The focus was "Education and Training of Women".

Intensive preparations are underway for our hosting of the Beijing +30 Civil Society Forum on October 19-20, with over 360 participants expected. Special appreciation to our Task Force on UNECE, co-chaired by Zarin Hainsworth, Berthe De Vos-Neven, and Ana Bonny. Details for registration will come soon.



## New Members

We are pleased to welcome two new members:  
Lutheran World Federation and World Council of Churches.

## UN News

### UNOG calendar:

- HRC 56th session (June 18th-July12th):  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions/session56/regular-session>
  - Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women  
**Panel 1: Economic violence against women and girls**  
**Panel 2: Human rights economy and women's rights**
  - Quadrennial panel discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal  
**Theme: Promoting inclusiveness in and through sports**
  - Annual panel discussion on the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights  
**Theme: Ensuring livelihood resilience in the context of the risk of loss and damage relating to the adverse effects of climate change**
  - Annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building  
**Theme: Enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations**
- CCPR, 141th session: July 1st-August 2nd  
[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2734&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2734&Lang=en)
- Int'l Law Commission, 75th session: July 1th-August 2nd  
<https://legal.un.org/ilc/sessions/74/>
- CAT, 88th session: July 8th-July 26th  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cat>
- CERD, 113th session: August 5th – August 23th  
[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2701&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2701&Lang=en)
- CRPD, 31th session: August 12th – Sept 5th  
[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2691&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2691&Lang=en)
- CRC, 97th session: August 26th- Sept 13th  
[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2691&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2691&Lang=en)  
**NOTE: Due to the current liquidity situation at the United Nations Secretariat and associated cash conservation measures, the scheduling of the 97th session and the 99th pre-sessional working group remains uncertain. We will provide further details on the session and working group arrangements as soon as more information becomes available.**
- HRC, 57th session: Sept 9th – Oct 9th  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sessions>

**Report by Ms. Reem Alsalem, HRC special rapporteur on VAW on "Prostitution vs Sex Work".** She strongly rebuts the unrealistic "sex work" narrative by linking prostitution to the "patriarchal norms and the accompanying abuse of power and sexual demand by men."

Report and request for submissions: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2024/call-input-report-special-rapporteur-violence-against-women-and-girls-human>

Read a short summary on [PassBlue here](#).

## Advocacy

NGO CSW Geneva members sponsored several side events during the HRC 56th session:

- June 18th: WFPW, co-sponsor by SI and NGO CSW Geneva: “Fulfilling the right to education through international cooperation – especially in conflict zones” – in person – room XXV
- June 19th: WRI, co-sponsor by SI, GWI, LDSC and NGO CSW Geneva: “VAWG – widows in refugee camps” -in person – room XXV
- June 20th: WFPW: Challenges and prospects for women, peace and human rights in Afghanistan – in person – room XXV



L to R: Berthe De Vos-Neven, Patricia Elias, Carolyn Handschin, Srruthi Lekha at the HRC Side Event on “Fulfilling the Right to Education”

## Member News

### Biovision Foundation for ecological development

In its 25th anniversary year, Biovision financed more projects than ever before. The Annual Report 2023 provides a wealth of information and figures, including information on projects from Tanzania, Kenya and Switzerland that demonstrate our impact. Read our report here;:

[https://www.biovision.ch/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/BV\\_JB\\_EN\\_RZ.pdf](https://www.biovision.ch/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/BV_JB_EN_RZ.pdf)

### FAWCO

FAWCO UN Representative Pamela Perraud was recently elected President of the US Women’s Caucus, an alliance of feminists collaborating to advance human rights and gender equity for women and girls worldwide. FAWCO is a founding member of the US Women’s Caucus.

### **Violence Against Women**

FAWCO's President, Ann Marie Morrow, recently met with the White House's Office of Public Engagement about building dialogue with the community of Americans abroad. She highlighted concern over the cut in funding to assist overseas American victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault, and advocated for reinstatement of federal funding. Violence against all women remains a key focus for FAWCO.

### **International Cancer Expert Corps (ICEC)**

Democratizing radiation therapy, an essential treatment, for more than half of all cancer patients: Only 10% of patients in low-income countries (LICs) have access to radiation therapy. Globally for cervical cancer 9 out of 10 and for breast cancer 7 out of 10 women die in LICs and sadly for every 100 women that die, 20-30 children also die.

### **ICEC (International Cancer Expert Corps) Launches STELLA Project**

The International Cancer Expert Corps (ICEC) launched the STELLA project at the end of May at CERN, focusing on improving access to cancer treatment and trying to reduce the wide disparities that exist. It is clear that enhancing access is not just about technology, but also about understanding and integrating into the local socio-economic landscapes of LMICS and rural regions in high income countries.



Together at the STELLA kick-off meeting at CERN, L to R: Nina Wendling, Executive Director of ICEC, USA; May Abdel-Wahab, Director of the Division of Human Health, IAEA, Austria; Manjit Dosanjh, ICEC, STELLA Project Leader, Switzerland; Kristin Hatcher, Director of the International, DOE, USA.

### **Soroptimist International reporting:**

- Statement to the 2024 High-Level Political Forum: <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/si-releases-its-2024-hlpf-report/>

- <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/soroptimist-international-hlpf-report-empowerment-education/>
- To the Special Rapporteur of Education - OHCHR
- Inputs for draft plan of action - fifth phase (2025-2029) of the World Program for Human Rights Education.
- Into the intersections of climate crises and gender inequality, drawing from a recent report by UN Women. The report, titled '*Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action*', <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/feminist-climate-justice-a-framework-for-action/>

### **Widows for Peace through Democracy (WPD):**

Brief to Summit of the Future:

The SDGs can never be realized unless the human rights of widows and half-widows of all ages are fully addressed locally, nationally and internationally:

- Recognition and Protection of Widows' Human Rights: <https://www.widowsforpeace.org/un-resolution-on-the-situation-of-widows/>
- Widow-Inclusive Policy Implementation: Strengthen Inheritance Laws
- Conflict Prevention and Resolution: formal birth, marriage, husband death registration of widows/half-widows/their children
- Quality widow-sensitive data collection and monitoring is urgently needed

### **Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI)**

It has been a super charged two months - read our June 2024 report [here](#).