

Commission on the Status of Women - CSW62
12 -23 March 2018
United Nations New York
“Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the principal global inter-governmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It was established in 1946 with a mandate to prepare recommendations on promoting women’s rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields.

UN Women is the Secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which works collaboratively with member States, non governmental organisations (NGOs), other agencies, academia and the private sector to advance the priority areas.

Doris Bingley, NCW Malta Hon General Secretary and ICW Vice-President accepted the invitation to participate in the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Apart from the priority theme “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls” there is a review theme “Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women”.

NGO CSW/NY organise the Forum in parallel with the CSW Session to provide civil society an opportunity to engage with member states. During the Commission’s annual two-week session, representatives of the UN Member States, Civil Society Organisations and UN Entities gather at the UN Headquarters in New York. This is the largest Commission Gathering at the United Nations with thousands of people attending the NGO CSW Forum.

To be able to absorb and take part in the UN events and NGO parallel sessions, one has to be very organised. Participating in the Opening of the Session, attending the General Discussions and Ministerial Round Tables on the priority theme is necessary. Another must is the NGO CSW/NY daily morning briefing where one can submit proposals and comments on the themes and discuss the progress of the outcome document being prepared.

Among the many events Doris Bingley attended, apart from the above, she was present at the Commonwealth Annual Consultation of National Women’s Machineryes. A generalised framework for assessing the economic cost of violence against women and girls was presented and discussed. Next she attended two side-events organised by the Republic of Malta under the Head of Delegation HE Dr Helena Dalli Minister for European Affairs and Equality. One was on “SOGIESC in Gender Mainstreaming

Measures” in collaboration with Outright Action International and the second one was on “Setting Standards Against Gender-based Violence” with speakers from Australia, the Commonwealth, UN Women and the Council of Europe. She also attended the side-event of the Regional Council of South America which together with the International Council of Women discussed “Education and Empowerment of Rural Women: Strategies to Eliminating Poverty”. Another ICW event in collaboration with WHO and Jamaica was about ”Advancing Women’s Health and Well-Being” While the main ICW event sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations was “Transforming Society Through Empowerment of Rural Women”. Another event attended was the one organized by the Arab Women Organisation with the theme ”Rural Women in the Arab Region: Cases of Challenges and Resilience” Also the “Good practices in the Empowerment of Rural Women” organized by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office was also very informative. Another very good side-event was the one by the International Federation for Business and Professional Women on : “Empowering women to realize the Sustainable Development Goals” in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations and moderated by the International President of BPW Dr Amany Asfour.

Keeping in mind that CSW62 priority and review themes resulted in many proposals, comments and challenges put forward. It is hoped that the recommendations will be reflected in the Agreed Conclusions which need to be implemented globally to advance towards “**No One is Left Behind**”

CSW62 Agreed Conclusions will be found on www.unwomen.org

Recommendations of NGO CSW NY from CSW62: www.ngocsw.org

International Council of Women Board Meeting

The ICW Board Meeting was held on the first weekend of CSW62. It was a very positive and important meeting as apart from the issues and work normally associated with this meeting, the forthcoming triennial was discussed.

The Indonesian organising committee was in New York to meet ICW board members. They presented their plans and programme and agreed on the dates. ICW Triennial will take place in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from the 13th to 18th September 2018. ICW President JungSook Kim will be sending the invitations, registration forms and information to all National Councils of Women in April.

Doris Bingley

NCW Malta and ICW Vice-President