United Nations Commission on the Status of Women: An Overview



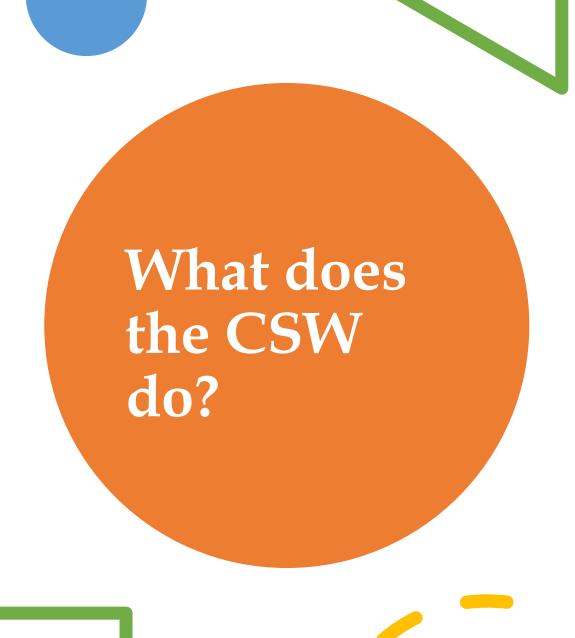
What is the mandate of the CSW?

To -

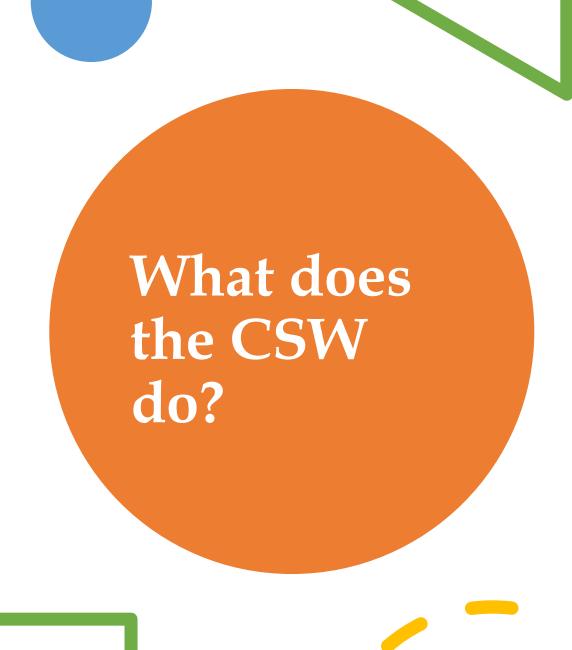
'prepare recommendations and reports to the Economic and Social Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields'

and to make recommendations on -

'urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights'



- The main global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- Promotes women's rights, documents the reality of women's lives all over the world, and shapes global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- Monitors & reviews progress and problems in the implementation of the <u>Beijing Declaration and</u> <u>Platform for Action</u> – the key global policy document on gender equality;
- Mainstreams a gender perspective in UN activities.



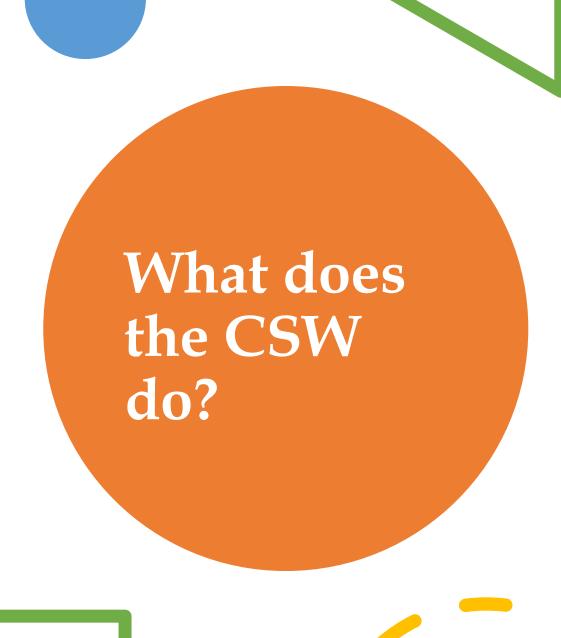
Representatives of:

- ✓ UN Member States
- ✓ Civil society organisations
- ✓ UN entities

Meet at UN headquarters in New York to discuss progress and gaps in implementation of:

- ✓ The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- ✓ The <u>23rd special session of the General Assembly</u> held in 2000 (Beijing+5)
- ✓ Emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women
- ✓ Follow-up to the <u>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</u>

UN Women supports all aspects of the Commission's work and facilitate the participation of civil society representatives



- UN Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic, and social fields;
- ❖The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC (the UN Economic and Social Council) for follow-up;
- ❖UN Women supports all aspects of the Commission's work and facilitate the participation of civil society representatives.

How does the CSW Work?

- ❖ Annual two-week Session;
- ❖ Priority theme; review theme;
- ❖ Ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment, ensure high-level engagement and visibility of the Commission (ministerial round tables, high-level interactive dialogues);
- General discussion on the status of gender equality;
- ❖ Interactive expert panel discussions and other interactive dialogues on steps and initiatives to accelerate implementation and measures to build capacities for mainstreaming gender equality across policies and programmes.

How does the CSW Work?

- Adopts Agreed Conclusions and Resolutions on further actions for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- Contributes gender perspectives to the work of other intergovernmental bodies and processes;
- Reports on gender equality and women's empowerment to the Economic and Social Council;
- Celebrates International Women's Day on 8 March, when it falls during the Session.



Who is a member of the CSW?

One official representative from each UN member state, elected for a 4-year period by the Economic and Social Council across the five UN regional groups:

- ✓ 13 members from Africa;
- √ 11 members from Asia;
- ✓ 9 members from Latin American and the Caribbean;
- √ 8 members from Western Europe and Other States;
- √ 4 members from Eastern Europe.



Who is a member of the CSW?

CSW Bureau:

- ✓ 5 members [representing the five UN regions]
- ✓ Serve for two years
- ✓ Organise preparations for each annual CSW Session

The Bureau for the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2024) comprises the following members:

H.E. Mr. Antonio Manuel Revilla Lagdameo (Philippines), Chair (Asia and Pacific States Group)

H.E. Ms. María del Carmen Squeff (Argentina), Vice-Chair (Latin American and Caribbean States Group)

Mr. Māris Burbergs (Latvia), Vice-Chair (Eastern European States Group)

H.E. Ms. Yoka Brandt (Netherlands), Vice-Chair designate (Western European and Other States Group)

Ms. Dúnia Eloisa Pires do Canto (Cabo Verde), Vice-Chair designate, African States Group)



Why is the CSW Important for EI?

- ✓ Research shows that feminist civil society mobilisation is a critical factor for understanding what is happening in women's lives;
- ✓ CSW founding documents acknowledge the importance of women's organising and mobilisation within civil society and in non-governmental organisations for working to align UN policies to women's needs and realities.

