
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'



What does the CSW do?

- ❖ 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 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – the key global policy document on gender equality;
- ❖ Mainstreams a gender perspective in UN activities.

What does the CSW do?

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 [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#) held in 2000 (Beijing+5)
- ✓ Emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women
- ✓ Follow-up to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)


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



What does the CSW do?

- ❖ 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**.

