

IAW report for 2017-2018

CSW 63 takes place March 11 – 22. Deadline is November 9 (EST) for NGO Forum side events. This is pushed up to allow NGOs to obtain visas.

-The Priority theme of the CSW is “Social Protection, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure”; review theme is women’s empowerment and sustainable development. Consultation day is: Sunday March 10th, 2019 from 9:00AM-3:30PM at Tribeca-Performing Arts Center (Borough of Manhattan Community College), Reception is March 12 at—not sure.

-The EGM took place 13-15 September and concept paper along with 2 background papers are online. The points of both papers is that social protection—narrowed down to public sector health, education, welfare—is interlinked to gender bias in public services and infrastructure. The example of rural women and problems of transport to access services and sexual harassment in urban public transport were cited.

-Gita Sen’s paper on Universal Health Care reviews mostly the issue of financing in low and middle-income countries and the tradeoffs that are happening in countries like Brazil and Thailand between financing for a UHC, quality of services offered, and population coverage.

-Neither deals well with issue of IT infrastructure or the need for better policies to govern the private sector provision of health, education and work pensions

Action point: parallel event submissions on NGO side – priority given to linkages with priority theme and jointly held events.

HLPF July 9 to 15 (Tuesday). This theme feeds well into next year’s SDGs under review that includes (Goal 10) inequality and (Goal 13) climate change. Note that we help organize the NGO Orientation that takes place just before the HLPF. I’m quite sure that this will be repeated, so you should arrive a day earlier or July 8. I am representing IAW as an Operating Partners for N. America in the NGO Major Group and will work again on the position paper.

Action Point: Join all or one of the nine major groups online to get information updated and volunteer for statements etc. HLPF does not allow individual NGO statements so major groups are important.

Action Point 2: Contact your government reps drafting their reports (42 VNRs this year, list is on the website) Lack of accountability does not have to happen if we start early interacting with governments. National level consultations are key.

Beijing Plus 25

We met in September with Asa Regner (replaced Lakshmi Puri as deputy) and Lopa Banerjee of UN Women to discuss Beijing Plus 25. It is 20 anniversary of 1325, 75th anniversary of the UN and 10th anniversary of UN Women. Asa asked what should be our goal for the UN? My answer as to “reestablish the strong relationship between the UN and critical social movements” (not the same as civil society) to counterbalance the backlash from governments to weaken the UN. That requires the UN to be more affirmative about the value of disruptive social change.

We have a 2020 group that met 15 October but is ongoing. Hosted by World Federalist movement-Institute for Global Policy, The Stimson Center, CIVICUS, Workable World Trust, UN association-UK and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in NY. This is a coordination group to plan 2020 UN reform and renewal. You can get on list serv

29 November, NGO CSW/NY will have a brainstorming session with UN Women on Beijing Plus 25.

One strategy is to create a Beijing Plus 25 in the cloud. Project is an online book (describe).

Actions: Send us ideas on what you want to do for 2020

Action 2: sign-up for updates on UN2020.org website.

Action: contact your CSW delegates before 2019 CSW to discuss Beijing Plus 25 in your own countries, focusing on the media and social movements for environment, youth, housing, gender equality, etc.