

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter June 2019 no. 3

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'Women Leadership Shattering the Glass Ceiling.'

[Delhi Gate, Lahore](#)

**Important information from
the
Secretary General**

Dear readers,

Get ready for International Meeting Lahore. Register by August 25.

Joanna Manganara evaluates the outcome of CSW 63.

Water and Pads Project is moving ahead.

Preparations for Beijing+25

In the Netherlands they are celebrating a hundred years of the vote and in Switzerland 60 years.

Anje Wiersinga has been appointed Officer in the Order of Oranje Nassau.

International Meeting October 23—29 Lahore, Pakistan

Preparations for the International Meeting 2019 are in full swing. The invitation has been sent out together with the programme, registration paper and other relevant information.

All these documents are now available for members on the website. Go to www.womenalliance.org > Home > Members login. The password is Berlin1904. Scroll down the page and you'll find a block called *Meetings*

The programme consists of business sessions with an agenda and a seminar: ***Women Leadership Shattering the Glass Ceiling.***

There will be time to visit some of the beautiful sights in Lahore.

Please, send any proposal for the agenda to Secretary General Olufunmi Oluyedeked at jawsecgen@womenalliance.org by August 25

NB! NB!

Please note that reservations at the Pearl Continental Hotel (Conference venue) at the specially negotiated conference rate is on a *first come, first served* basis only. Intending delegates are to make payments to the hotel directly and submit details to IAW and APWA for confirmed reservations as soon as possible. Moreover, members requiring visa assistance letters are urged to indicate this on their completed registration forms.

[Download the registration form and read more.](#)

Deadlines:

Registration must take place by August 25. Members who need visas are recommended to register by June 15. It takes 2—4 weeks at least to get a

visa.

Booklet

Christina Noble Knight, editor of the booklet of annual reports, asks you to send your reports by September 1.

Last year's booklet is available [here](#):



President's Newsletter May 2019

In her May Newsletter, President Joanna Mananara evaluates the CSW63 Agreed Conclusions.

[Read more](#)

International Representatives

New York



*From left: Soon-Young,
Mayor Souad Abderrahim*

International Representatives

Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative for the IAW, participated in the Tunis Gender Equality Forum held in Tunis 24-26 April. Imminent speakers of the Forum include Prime Minister of Tunisia, Youssef Chahed, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka; Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Margot Wallström; and Minister of Women, Family, Childhood and Elders of Tunisia, Neziha Labidi, among others. Yoon moderated a panel on “What is a gender-responsive city—Intersections between the Beijing Platform for Action and the New Urban Agenda.” Speakers included the dynamic Souad Abderrahim, first woman mayor of Tunis, Isabelle Miron, Councilor at the City of Gatineau, Quebec, Canada, Manju Dhimel, Secretary, National Indigenous Women's Federation, Nepal, Esther Sackie, Activist from Liberia, Alma Bonilla, Secretaria-General de ANDRYSAS, El Salvador, and Sri Shunaini Sofjan, Huairou Commission, Malaysia. Among the main issues discussed was the critical of governance of diverse leadership in a city, climate change, and strategies to ensure linkages between city government and the feminist and women's movements. Yoon also participated in the panel on Data during which she emphasized the importance of NGO Parallel reports for Beijing + 25 as a critical, independent accountability mechanism.

Geneva

World Health Assembly 72 2019

Report by Seema Uplekar and Ursula Nakamura– Stoecklin

At the yearly assembly WHA of the World Health Organization our focus was on women's and girl's health, be it regarding mental health or the sexual and reproductive human rights SRHR.

Dr. Tedros in his opening remarks at the WHA mentioned that all 194 member countries have approved the Universal Health Coverage UHC. Dr. Richard, Lancet chief editor at the outset appealed to all present to support this agenda with good financial aid. There was mention of mental health among other. No health without mental health! I am pleased about this inclusion and the due attention it's getting.

The technical briefing on scaling up mental health was hopeful and informative. The princess of Belgium is an ambassador for the sustainable development goals SDG's. She was present among other stakeholders to show her solidarity and support for mental health.

Both of us attended the ILC side event on ageing and vaccine at the Red



Photo: Sally Greencross ILC, Islene Araujo de Carvalho WHO, Seema Uplekar and Ursula Nakamura.

Cross Museum.

Unfortunately Seema could not present our [IAW statement](#) in person as the items of the program had been changed at very short notice. However we made a lot of propaganda for IAW whenever we met other representatives at WHA. Both the IAW statement and the leaflets about the Water and Pads project were extremely well accepted.

Obviously Universal Health Care UHC cannot be reached easily. Although the member states had agreed on primary health care for all, at the same time they are drastically reducing the necessary financing. More than once Dr. Tedros also warned about the rise of nationalism and military conflicts as seen with the recent new outbreaks of Ebola epidemics in North-Kivu DR Congo. In fact WHO is well prepared for emergencies, e. g. vaccinations, but the WHO teams cannot work there due to mortal risks by brutal gangs. “The spread of these extremely dangerous bugs can only be stopped by concentrated international collaboration!”

Everybody therefore hopes that the high-level-meeting about UHC at the UN General Assembly in September 2019 will bring positive developments. In behalf of 42 states Sweden made a strong appeal for more public spending on health for all. This will foster the economic growth and reduce poverty. The speaker also very convincingly pleaded for an easy access to family planning for all girls and women around the world. The SRHR must be at the core of the high-level meeting and UHC in general!

Definitely WHO is standing up for these goals. At a side-event “Let’s get real” the focus was on adolescents. More research should be done about their attitudes towards SRHR. The participation of the young people “at the discussion-tables” is crucial.

Dr. Chandra Mouli, whom we had already contacted before then presented a new book:

“WHO recommendations on adolescents sexual and reproductive health and rights”.¹

Last but not least Dr. Tedros joined the panel and confirmed once again the strong engagement of WHO on the implementation of the full SRHR for all.

¹ <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/adolescent-srhr-who-recommendations/en/>



Seema Uplekar, Ursula Nakamura and Dr. Chandra Mouli WHO

Water and Pads Project



Entering Womanhood

A Project of International Alliance of Women IAW/AIF

Water and Pads Project

By Gudrun Haupter

After the highly successful pilot project at Medjo School in Cameroon, two similar events are taking place, ~~the~~ one under the lead of SOFEDEC with Anuarite Siirewabo at the Bunyakiri-School in DR Congo, the other organized by RENATA with Julliet Saab at the Kongola School in Cameroon. Girls in some primary schools in francophone Africa will get their small IAW booklets. However, we still could not get the copyrights for the small guides in English but thanks to helpful contacts this may work out as well.

We faced less difficulties with the edition of age-adapted booklets for the secondary schools. Here the content had got to be more precise and also more comprehensive regarding sexual and reproductive human rights

than with younger children. So we were very happy that we could fall back on “Hé les Miss!” a guide for young people (age 12 years) in French edited by

Sexual Health Switzerland SSH. SSH is the Swiss affiliate of International Planned Parenthood Federation supported by the Swiss government.

Barbara Berger, the director of SSH and Daniela Enzler, chief of communication of SSH, were both very helpful. We got the permission to adapt the contents for the IAW-purposes. We chose only the texts about the “facts” and left out all comments or pictures regarding the life-style in affluent countries.

The school-girls in poor rural areas have to be able to identify themselves with young people shown on the photographs. Again we were lucky because Francine Perret, like Barbara a member of ADF-SVF Suisse (!), had given us excellent pictures from young students, snapshots she had taken during her various visits in rural schools of India and Africa.

Last but not least we are very thankful for the recommendations from Anne Pelagie Yotchou who shared her experience dealing with schools and communities in Cameroon. We selected anatomical charts which were not too “explicit” and always had in mind the sensitivity of the parents and the local teaching-staff. Claudia Pauletto was very excited about the Water and Pads project and made the whole professional graphic design at a reduced price.

The booklets are now getting printed in English and French. The activities of our IAW colleagues will probably take place in September 2019 in secondary schools of Northern Cameroon, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Dear all, to have a look at it please click on the special Water and Pads website! From there you can download and disseminate these documents!

Le Projet Eau et Serviettes

A la suite du projet pilote à l'Ecole Medjo au Cameroun deux événements pareils auront lieu, un sous la direction de SOFEDEC avec Anuarite Siirewabo à l'école Bunyakiri en RD Congo, l'autre organisé par RENATA, avec Juliet Saab à l'école Kongola au Cameroun. Donc dans quelques écoles élémentaires en Afrique francophone des jeunes-filles recevront leur brochure IAW/AIF. Quant au petit guide en Anglais nous n'avons pas encore le copyright, mais espérons l'obtenir grâce à des contacts qui existent.

L'édition de brochures pour des écoles secondaires adaptées à l'âge présentait moins de difficultés.

Leur contenu devait être plus explicite, et aussi plus compréhensif au sujet des droits humains sexuels et reproductifs. Nous étions donc heureuses de pouvoir recourir à “Hé les Miss!”, un guide pour les jeunes (âgés de 12 ans) édité par Santé Sexuelle Suisse. SSS est l'affiliée Suisse de la Fédération Internationale pour le Planning Familial, IPPF, qui reçoit du soutien financier par le gouvernement de la Suisse.

Barbara Berger, Directrice de SSS, et Daniela Enzler, Cheffe de la



Devenir femme en toute sérénité
Un projet de l'Alliance Internationale des Femmes IAW/AIF

Communication, nous ont beaucoup aidé. Nous avons reçu la permission d'adapter le contenu aux intentions de l'AIF. Nous avons sélectionné les textes décrivant les "faits" et omis tous les commentaires décrivant le mode de vie des pays bien nantis.

Il fallait que les écolières puissent s'identifier avec les jeunes sur les photos. Là encore, nous avons eu de la chance: Francine Perret, tout comme Barbara membre de ADF-SVF Suisse (!), nous a fourni d'excellentes photos de jeunes élèves pris pendant ses visites dans des écoles rurales en Inde et en Afrique.

Dernier point mais pas le moindre: nous remercions Anne Pelagie Yotchou des recommandations basées sur son expérience avec des écoles au Cameroun. Nous avons choisi des chartes anatomiques pas trop explicites et avons tenu compte des sensibilités des parents et du personnel enseignant. Claudia Paletto, enthousiaste du Projet Eau et Serviettes, a fait la maquette graphique complète à un prix réduit. Les brochures françaises et anglaises seront imprimées sous peu. Les activités de nos collègues de l'AIF auront probablement lieu en Septembre 2019, dans des écoles secondaires au Nord du Cameroun, en Soudan et Zimbabwe.

Chères toutes, cliquez sur le site spécial "[De l'eau et des serviettes hygiéniques pour les écolières](#) – empowerment pour la vie." De là vous pouvez télécharger et disséminer ces documents!

Beijing + 25

Beijing+25

By Joanna Manganara

The guidelines for the elaboration of parallel reports on the occasion of the commemoration of Beijing + 25 in 2020 have been drafted by women and feminist NGO's including individual members of these organizations such as Soon-Young Yoon and Jessica Pierson, a member of our DPI delegation. Unlike shadow reports, parallel reports can 'praise and raise' achievements by both civil society and governments while providing critical analysis and new data. As it is said in the introduction to these guidelines civil society stakeholders must have their own independent process to report on progress made, challenges and recommendations. Although many questions are drawn from UN women's official guidelines for governments these are adapted to reflect NGO and civil society perspectives.

The purpose of this process, together with the civil society forum which will be held in France, Mexico and possibly other countries is to infuse new energy into the feminist and women's movements across the world and mobilise young leaders. It can be the moment for girls and women of all ages, as well as feminist men and boys to shape the world. I wish this process could really be materialised. However, I have some difficulty in understanding how this can be done when no accountability of governments is asked for their perpetuation of gender inequality and violation of women's human rights in our world.

NGO Guidance for
National Parallel Reports
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOURTH
WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND THE
BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR
ACTION (1995)

<https://www.ngocsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/NGO-Main-Guide-2019-Supplement-5.pdf>

IAW around the world

A Hundred Years of the Vote

The Netherlands



The Netherlands

BATTLE!

By Lyda Verstegen

Battle is the name of the exhibition in the Netherlands to commemorate the struggle for women's suffrage, ended one hundred years ago, in 1919. It was 25 years after Vrouwenbelangen, the Association for Women's Suffrage was founded en 15 years after the International Women's Suffrage Alliance came into being.

The banner, presented to IWSA during its sixth Congress in 1911 is now IAW's prized possession.

Our Banner was prominently exhibited in the exposition. It showed that the battle was not just a Dutch phenomenon but a widely shared international movement.

In the Netherlands Aletta Jacobs is the best remembered fighter for women's suffrage. She was the first woman to become a medical doctor, the first to have her own practice, where she earned enough to qualify for insertion in the list of voters. So she applied and was rejected by the Amsterdam government, because as a woman she was not considered to be in possession of all civic rights. Even the Supreme Court shared that opinion, so it is not surprising that Aletta became a fierce defender of the right to vote.

Aletta studied in Groningen and the museum there owns much of her estate. Therefor the exhibition is in Groningen.

The exhibition shows many portraits, by famous artists, of the women who fought, and organized and manifested and demonstrated and petitioned for the vote. Also satirical prints by famous journalists of the time.

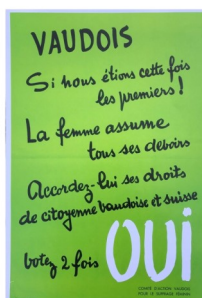
Many of the relics from Aletta's estate are related to IWSA. The Congress in 1908 in Amsterdam is portrayed as well as memorabilia from her trip around the world with Carrie Chapmon Catt, IWSA's first president.

Until 1956 married women in the Netherlands were considered the same as under age persons. They had the vote, but could not act legally without the consent of their husband. But that there were a few women who without having the active vote could act as provincial councillors and as such vote for our Senate was new to me. That was because women could be elected two years before they got the vote. And there were 97 local councillors, one of whom was a deputy mayor, before 1919. A lot of studies were done in relation to this centennial, some of them presented on May 9, the opening day of the exhibition.

It was wonderful to be there with Arina and to meet Louise Deumer and Joke Sebus!

Switzerland

60 years of the vote



Droits de vote et d'éligibilité en Suisse Par Simone Chapuis-Bischof

C'est bien connu du monde entier : la Suisse est le dernier pays qui a reconnu ces droits aux femmes. Pourquoi ? Parce que c'est le peuple – et seuls les hommes en faisaient partie – qui a la faculté de choisir sa constitution et d'en changer des articles. En 1959, pour la 1^e fois le Gouvernement suisse a décidé d'organiser une votation fédérale sur le suffrage féminin réclamé par des associations et des politiciens depuis plus de 50 ans. La date fixée fut le 1^{er} février.

L'Association vaudoise pour le suffrage féminin, présidée par Me Antoinette Quinche, persuada le gouvernement cantonal d'organiser le même jour une votation demandant aux citoyens s'ils étaient d'accord de reconnaître les droits de vote et d'éligibilité aux femmes sur le plan cantonal.

**1959 - 2019
LES VAUDOISES
VOTENT
DEPUIS 60 ANS !**



Au soir de ce 1^{er} février 1959, le résultat a été négatif pour toute la Suisse. Seuls 3 cantons avaient dit OUI, mais comme le Canton de Vaud était le seul à avoir posé la question sur le plan cantonal, les Vaudoises furent les premières à pouvoir voter et le canton était pionnier comme le disait l’affiche !

La même année, le canton de Neuchâtel organisa la votation nécessaire pour introduire le suffrage féminin sur le plan cantonal. Genève le fit en 1960. (Le premier canton alémanique à le faire fut Bâle-Ville en 1966).

Affiche du comité d’action d’du Canton de Vaud en 1959

L’Association vaudoise pour le suffrage féminin existe toujours sous le nom d’Association vaudoise pour les droits des femmes. L’hiver dernier son comité a décidé de mettre sur pied une grande fête pour marquer le 60^e anniversaire de cette votation. Cet événement historique.

Ce fut une fête magnifique. Malgré la neige et les routes glissantes, près de 200 personnes y participèrent appréciant les discours, la présence de 3 conseillères d’Etat – c’est exceptionnel ! – le débat avec d’anciens membres du gouvernement vaudois, la fantaisie théâtrale, l’apéro vaudois, un film et la suite dans un bar lausannois !

A Royal Decoration for Anje Wiersinga **By Lyda Verstegen**

The Netherlands are a kingdom. And a kingdom has its traditions. That becomes visible on the King’s birthday, the 27th of April. Then the royal decorations are given to about 3.000 people. About one third of them women.

There are several orders. The Order of Oranje Nassau is meant for people who contribute to the community in an outstanding way. It has several variations: Member, Knight, Officer and Commandeur. It is given for voluntary work.

This year Anje Wiersinga was among the decorated in her town. When you nominate a person for a “fitting” decoration, you have to get many letters supporting this nomination. The President of Vrouwenbelangen nominated Anje and then asked all her friends to support this. Even her team mate at the Council of Europe and the chair of the INGO group wrote glowing letters. That led to the desired result. So Artemis, Arina, Audry and I were with the members of Anje’s family present in Zeist where the Mayor spoke the formula that ‘ it had pleased the King to appoint. Anje Wiersinga Officer in the Order of Oranje Nassau’.

Sizani Ngubane has sent a very sad message to us all from South Africa.

[Read the message](#)

Newsletter Editorial group:

Lene Pind: lenepind@gmail.com
Cheryl Hayles: cherylhayles@sympatico.ca
Christina Knight: christina@uknight.se
Miriam Kollberg: miriam@fredrikabremer.se

Proof reading and advice:

Priscilla Todd, editor *International Women’s News*, iawiwn@womenalliance.org

Distribution:

Joke Sebus: jmhsebus@gmail.com

