

Briefing on Parallel Event “*Transformative Action: Gender and the People’s Pact for the Future*” at CSW68

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On March 19, 2024, as part of CSW68, I had the pleasure of speaking at an event on how gender plays a role in shaping our future. The event was co-sponsored by IAW, Coalition for the UN We Need, the Cities for CEDAW History and Future Project, and Oxfam International.



The event, ***Transformative Action: Gender and the People’s Pact for the Future***, discussed the Summit of the Future process from a gender perspective.

The panelists, consisting of Lebogang Ramafoko (Executive Director, Oxfam South Africa), Chido Mpemba (African Youth Envoy), and me with opening remarks from Ambassador Leonar Zalabata Torres (Permanent Representative of Colombia to the UN) and closing remarks from Lbrenda Mofya (Head of the New York office for Oxfam) shared innovations, highlighted women and youth leadership, and addressed the questions of participation and inclusion.

The panel was moderated by Soon-Young Yoon (UN Representative for IAW).

My presentation focused on what happens after 2024 and the role of sub-national financing/politics for implementation of the Summit’s Pact for the Future. I specifically spoke about the Cities for CEDAW movement in the United States as a case study.

Cities for CEDAW is a grassroots campaign to implement CEDAW at the local level. Today, despite the US’ refusal to ratify the treaty at the federal level, over 80 million people are covered by CEDAW resolutions and ordinances thanks to Cities for CEDAW.

The Summit of the Future is a golden opportunity to redefine the gender equality and women’s human rights agenda —all which ultimately will help to accelerate and scale-up action of CEDAW localization. Cities for CEDAW is a shining example of how cities can localize global governance and make human rights real for people.

It was an honor to amplify the incredible work of Cities for CEDAW at CSW!