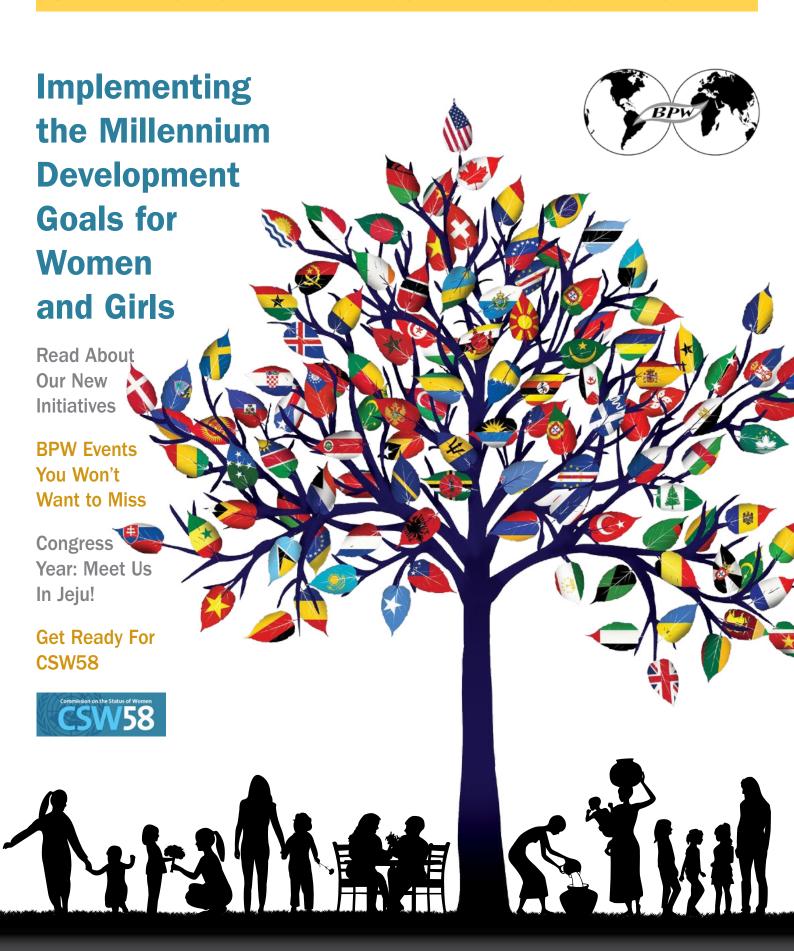
BPW International

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

5TH EDITION OF THE BPW CSW HANDBOOK • 2014



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About this Handbook:

This Handbook has been designed so that you can print out the sections that you require. It will not be made available in hard copy. However, it is also available on the BPW International website.



Welcome from BPW International President



On behalf of the BPW International Executive, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the fifty-eighth Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58) at an important time for women given this year's priority theme—Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls.

For more than a decade, the MDGs have embodied the spirit of partnership with the aim to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. As we approach the end-date of the MDGs, it is time to take stock of progress and also look forward; the next generation of development goals is being shaped and women and girls should be empowered to shape that agenda. BPW International continues to advocate for the need to economically empower women to achieve gender equality in the shaping of the post 2015 development agenda because when women are empowered in an economic

sense, the development impact on society is socially and statistically significant.

CSW58 will take place at a strategic moment. Processes are well under way to inform and design a post-2015 development agenda. As we approach the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (B+20), the implementation of the commitments made nearly 20 years ago have taken on new urgency. This is a once-in-ageneration opportunity to position gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment front and centre on the global agenda.

BPW International Vice President UN Huguette Akplogan Dossa and her team have organised another great program of events during this year's CSW58, which includes the largest number of side events co-organised by BPW International! Stakeholders include—UN Women, UN Global Compact, League of Women Voters, the Permanent German Mission to the UN and the Pan Pacific Southeast Asia Women's Association. I would like to thank VP Huguette, our UN Representatives and her team for their work. I hope that you will all be able to participate in key discussions taking place over the next few weeks building on our advocacy and raising awareness of existing commitments, share lessons learned and strategies.

Our coming together is also important to galvanize efforts to accelerate implementation of the MDGs for women and girls, and of the Beijing Platform for Action. Together we are Empowered Women Leading Business, and CSW is one place where we can show that we are leading from all levels: from the top, at all levels and in the communities in which we serve and live.

Whilst we're working hard to ensure the empowerment of women is embedded in the future, we need to celebrate the work carried out in the past by our advocacy team. So don't forget to join us at the 2014 Claire Fulcher Dinner, which promises to be a very special night. Let us commemorate BPW International's partnership with the UN, celebrate the service of our UN Representatives, and raise our glasses to the continued advocacy efforts of affiliates all around the world.

Let us also pay tribute to this being our Congress year and join with hosts BPW Korea and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations on 12th March at a very special reception at the Korean Embassy. There is no better way to herald in such a year!

Freda Miriklis

Message from BPW International Vice President UN



Welcome to CSW58 BPW International members. This year's theme is: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls.

The Millennium Declaration has given focus for commitment to equality and gender justice. Regrettably, however, implementation of the MDGs has fallen short.

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International), in our role as a non-governmental organization with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, has submitted our statement on the theme to CSW58 and made some recommendations. BPW International also contributes to the on-going discussion on achievements and gaps in reaching the MDGs and the modalities for the Post-2015

Development Agenda through our UN Representatives.

For BPW International, women must be part of the formal economy and formal labour force; their work in family companies and farms must be formally acknowledged and remunerated accordingly, and the unpaid roles for which women are considered responsible must be recognized as important economic drivers. Women need access to information, resources, education, training, markets, technical assistance and labour organizations. They need equal, secure access to capital and credit and decision making.

As UN representatives, Leaders and Members coming to CSW58 we have to participate to meetings and caucuses to raise our members voices and particularly by advocating and lobbying our officials coming from various countries and institutions.

This process can be achieved with the orientation that BPW International UN Representatives and BPW International UN Standing Committee members can give us before the beginning of CSW58 or at our UN Panel at the Leadership Summit which will take place from 7th to 8th of March.

BPW International is fully committed to the Women's Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business, and invites Governments and companies to adopt the seven Principles, developed by UN Women and the UN Global Compact to help avoid poverty and give women economic power.

Three recommendations to support this process:

- Adopt and implement the Women's Empowerment Principles to include equal employment, equal pay, pension, accessible and affordable care, social and health services, maternity leave benefits, and child care:
- 2. Publicize these issues through broad media coverage and social networks;
- 3. Establish women entrepreneur networks to provide continuous and independent learning and access to materials with technical information about production, processing, procurement, management and marketing.

Finally, as you know, the root of BPW International's advocacy is embedded in its work with the UN. I look forward seeing you all in New York as we develop our advocacy and lobbying skills.

I welcome you to CSW58!!!!!!

Huguette Akplogan Dossa





Under the High Patronage of President Geun-hye Park, Republic of Korea

Empowered Women Leading Business

CONGRESS EVENTS INCLUDE:

- 3 Plenaries plus Breakouts
- 30 Workshops
- 4 Introductory Sessions
- B2B and Individual Networking
- Film Festival
- Author Series
- Pre & Post Congress Tours
- Opening Ceremony
- President's Reception
- Friends & Fellows Dinner
- Young BPW Beach BBQ
- Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony
- Farewell Seaside
- Garden Party
- Many Gifts and Other Benefits

Join us on "The Island of Women" Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

An exciting time to be in South Korea!

- First Female President
- New Policy Emphasis on Women in Business & Government
- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (Korean)
- World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim (Korean)
- Businesses Encouraged to Sign a Pledge for Women's Empowerment ("Korea: YES for WEPs!" co-sponsored by BPW International and UNGC-Korea)

Jeju Island

- Known for Strong "Asian Amazons"
- Goddess Mythology
- Famed "Haenyeo" Diving Women
- Icon Mandeok Kim (17th c.), Korea's "1st Female CEO"
- · Recipient of UNESCO "Triple Crown" of Nature
- One of the World's New 7 Wonders of Nature

BPW International

- Founded in 1930, Geneva, Switzerland
- 30,000 members in over 100 countries across 5 continents
- Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC since 1947
- Participatory Status with Council of Europe
- Partners include: International Trade Centre (ITC), International Organisation of Employers (IOE), Commonwealth Business Council and WEConnect International
- Current BPW International President: Freda Miriklis

Sponsorship, Exhibition & Advertisement Opportunities Available.

For more information contact:

Secretariat bpw2014@hessedjeju.com

Featuring the Music of Alison Hinds, "Caribbean Queen of Sosa" and BPW International Goodwill Ambassador: http://www.alisonhinds.com/









President
Dr Insil Lee
BPW Korea

Empowered Women Leading Business

Over 75 High Level Speakers From:

- OECD
- World Bank Group
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- WEConnect International
- Sungjoo Group and MCM Holdings AG

Hear From:

- HRH Princess Fay Jahan Ara, President, RACH Foundation
- Hsiu-lien "Annette" Lu, former Vice President, Taiwan
- **Delia Domingo Albert**, Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Philippines
- Yoonsun Cho,
 Minister of Gender Equality
 & Family, ROK
- Youngkyung Suh, Deputy Governor, Bank of Korea

Join high-level government and private sector representatives, academic and industry experts and more than 600 BPW International members as we discuss and debate:

- Women's Empowerment Principles in 5 Tracks: Government, Commerce, Education, Civil Society and Indigenous Practice
- Leadership from the top
- · Leadership in the community
- · Leadership at all levels

Sample Workshops Include:

- Gender Training for Government Officials
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Media and Gender Equality
- Health and Work/Life Balance
- Gender-based Violence
 & Prevention

- Sourcing from Women Vendors
- Business Incubator
- Training & Mentoring
- Successful Project Funding
- · Women on Boards
- Equal Pay Day
- Women in Information Technology

CONGRESS WEBSITE

http://bpw-international.org/congress2014

BPW INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE

http://bpw-international.org

VENUE International Convention Center Jeju http://www.iccjeju.co.kr/EN/Main

HQ HOTEL Hyatt Regency Jeju

http://jeju.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Secretariat bpw2014@hessedjeju.com

Program Coordinator anne.hilty@bpw-international.org

Preparation for CSW58

Recommended reading

Contacts

Delegates



Preparation for CSW58

Before you leave...

Advise Angela McLeod in the Office of the President of your arrival and departure dates to and from New York.

Let Angela know where you will be staying and advise her of any information that may be outstanding.

US Visa arrangements: attendance at the session is contingent upon obtaining an entry visa to the United States of America. Please contact the President's Office if you require assistance with this.

Register to attend BPW International events. Details can be found in the CSW58 Schedule on the website and on page 21 of this Handbook.

Note: BPW International is known as the International Federation of Business and Professional Women at the UN.

What you will need to bring with you [D-20 only]

Letter of Confirmation & Photo ID: Make sure that you bring with you your Letter of Confirmation, photo identification and US Visa (please check requirements for your country/passport). Please contact Angela if you need assistance with any of these.

Material or information that you have worked on in relation to this year's priority theme. Please remember to report on the work you do.

Accommodation

If you have not booked your accommodation, this must be finalised. We suggest members use the following links to help with possible accommodation options (especially in the Murray Hill area). The following site: http://www.newyorkhotels.com/hotels/by-type/cheap/ is very helpful as it covers all aspects of the UN and the city. Click on search in Murray Hill area, which is close to the UN. If you are on a budget, there are many cheap places in New York and you should start comparing the various cheap hotels scattered in close proximity to the UN Headquarters. The Pod Hotel is very reasonable also and newly renovated—details are available at http://www.thepodhotel.com/.

Recommended Accommodation:

Check the links below for all Hotel Information available in New York and special rates offered—changes daily (Choose Manhattan, New York and then choose neighbourhood—East Side Grand Central) www.hotels.com, www.booking.com, www.newyorkhotels.com/hotels/by-type/cheap/.

The 6th Annual Leader's Summit will be held at the Harmonie Club, 5th Ave and 60th street (a private club) and CSW58 will be held at the United Nations, 2nd Ave and 45th Street. The Church Centre is located opposite the UN Headquarters at the corner of 44th Street and First Avenue. Consider these locations while choosing your accommodation from the recommended lists. Harmonie Club members' only website, United Nations Official website.

Affina Dumont. 150 E 34th St, New York, NY 10016. Executive will be staying at this hotel.

Affinia Shelburne (4 Star). 303 Lexington Ave, New York at 37th

The Westin New York Grand Central (formerly the New York Helmsley Hotel) (4 Star). 212 East 42nd Street New York, New York Phone: (212) 490-8900 approximate rate \$250/night



One UN New York Hotel—Formerly the UN Millennium Plaza—(4 Star). One United Nations Plaza, New York, (44th St. and 1st Ave across from the United Nations) Phone: 866-539-0036 Approximate rates \$250/night—look for specials

Pennsylvania Hotel (2.5 Star). 401 7th Avenue (at 33rd St.) New York City, New York Tel: 800 223 8585

The Hotel Pennsylvania is a cheaper hotel located across the street from Madison Square Garden and Penn Station and 1 block from Macy's department store. Available with In-Room Safe, Fitness Facility, In-House Dining, In-House Bar, Data Ports, Business Centre; Internet access only available in Lobby, not in rooms; approximate rate \$100/night.

Note: Rates usually increase from March, so book early.

Getting around

From the airport to New York City:

Taxi. The fare for a New York City taxicab between JFK and Manhattan is fixed by the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission. It is clearly posted in the taxi. That fare is \$45.00 plus any tolls. While a tip is not obligatory, it is customary, and it is usually about 15% of the fare before additions. Thus, the total fare should be \$45 plus any tolls and a tip of between \$6.75 and \$8.00.

Super Shuttle. Super Shuttle courtesy phone is available at the ground Information booth at the airport. The rate is around US\$17 one way. To arrange for a Super Shuttle pick up call (212)-258-3826 or ask your hotel to arrange this for you.

Public transportation to the United Nations:

Bus: M15, 27, 42, 50, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104 Check map.

Metro: Grand Central (line 4,5,6,7 and S) Check map.

Currency

Bring cash in USD and/or a credit card—it can be difficult to get cash in Manhattan due to "after 9/11" regulations. Check with your bank to find out what US banking partners they may have.

Dress

Smart casual clothing and comfortable shoes. It gets bitterly cold in New York and there's a lot of walking inside and outside of the UN, so make sure that you bring with you comfortable shoes and warm clothes. You will need heavy coats, scarves, hats and gloves! There will be opportunities to dress up in the evening when attending BPW International events, but even then you want to make sure that you are comfortable! Business or smart casual attire is appropriate and remember to bring layers of clothing that will allow you to accommodate for the varying temperatures inside and outside buildings.



Report on your work

Please remember to report on the work that you are doing at CSW58.

Enjoy New York!!

When you're there enjoy New York! See a show or visit a museum. Click here for a calendar of events.

Recommended reading

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Previous outcomes.

Contacts

Office of the President: Angela McLeod

Email: presidents.office@bpw-international.org

Mobile: +64 27 497 2761

Angela will send an email update re her mobile number once she is in New York.

UN Main Representative: Eva Richter

Email: Me2richter@aol.com Mobile: 917 887 5259



BPW International Delegates to CSW58

Name	Country	Membership
Kathy Kelly	USA	BPW International, Women for Water board member
Huguette Akplogan Dossa	Benin	BPW International, Vice President UN
Ojobo Atuluku	Nigeria	BPW Nigeria, Member
Catherine Bosshart	Switzerland	BPW International, Main UN Representative in Geneva
Elisa Campos	Brazil	BPW Brazil, Member
Yasmin Darwich	Mexico	BPW International, Executive Secretary
Anna di Lamarca	Italy	BPW Italy, President
Eliane Ekra	Cote d'Ivoire	BPW Cote d'Ivoire, Member
Michele Ekue Ahouadi	Benin	BPW Cotonou, Member
Yue Fang	China	BPW International Youth Representative, UN DPI
Susan O'Malley	USA	BPW International UN Representative, New York
Masako Hirmatsu	Japan	BPW Japan, Member
Arzu Ozyol	Turkey	BPW International UN Representative, Geneva
Eufemia Ippolito	Italy	BPW Italy, IPP
Debbie Kearns	Australia	BPW Sydney, Member
In Sil Lee	South Korea	BPW Korea, President
Angela McLeod	NZ	BPW International, Office of the President
Freda Miriklis	Australia	BPW International, President
Eva Richter	USA	BPW International, Main UN Representative in New York
Jane Tatchell	UK	BPW UK, Member



D-20

Registration

To obtain your ground pass, you must follow the procedure established by the UN Headquarters in New York. Failure to follow this procedure will result in delays in acquiring your pass. On-site registration will be held at the NGO registration desk located in the lobby of the General Assembly Building.

Upon arrival at the United Nations, please use the visitors' entrance at 1st Avenue and 46th Street only—do not try to go in via the entrances on 42nd Street and on 45th Street. You need your confirmation letter and your passport to get into the building and pass a security check. Do not bring any big bags and remember all the rules from airports: they apply here as well. On-site registration will be held at the NGO registration desk located in the lobby of the General Assembly Building.

Please bring with you your confirmation letter and 2 copies of the completed ground pass form and photo identification to obtain your grounds pass which will allow you access to the UN.

Please do not use the Delegates' entrance at 45th Street and 1st Avenue, as this is strictly reserved for delegations from the Permanent and Observer Missions and cannot be used by NGOs. Be prepared to stand in line for a while to have your security picture taken.

On-site registration

On-site registration hours have not been set at the time of publication but will be contained in Special Advisories which will be sent to you about a week before the conference. Look for these. They are very important and will contain all sorts of information, including registration details!!!.

The queues to register can be quite long on the first day of CSW (both inside and outside the UN) so expect to be waiting in the queue for hours. To avoid delays, try to obtain your UN pass prior to the session.

Registration guide:

- 1. Enter at the visitor's entrance at 1st Avenue and 46th Street.
- 2. Go to the DAW NGO Registration Desk located in the lobby of the General Assembly Building.
- 3. Present the official CSW Confirmation Letter that was emailed to you by Angela McLeod and an official ID with photo such as a passport or driver's license.
- 4. You will be asked to complete some paperwork, and your photo may be taken onsite if you have not attended previous CSWs and your photo is not on record. If the photo booth is busy, you may be asked to stand in a queue for this also.
- 5. Once you have obtained your ID grounds pass, make sure that it is visible at all times when entering and exiting, and while present on United Nations premises. Your grounds pass allows you access to the UN Headquarters but under the newly introduced UN arrangements, it does not guarantee attendance to the meetings. Your pass must be worn at all times. You're now in the UN building, accredited and ready to go!

The entrance to the United Nations Headquarters building is on 1st Avenue and 46th Street. All the official panels of the CSW will be taking place inside the North Lawn Building, except for the opening of the session, which will take place inside the old General Assembly Building.



UN Passes

Only TWO passes will be issued by UN Women per organisation to attend the official sessions of the UN inside the UN complex. This means that BPW International will have only two passes amongst the D-20 (and UN Representatives) and only two members of our delegation will be able to attend scheduled meetings. The first of the 20 designated BPW International members who registers will receive the pass. The designated person should keep in touch with either Angela McLeod from the Office of the President or Eva Richter Permanent UN Representative and let her know when she has received the pass. By the second week of the conference, since there are far fewer attendees, restrictions may be lifted.

Meeting Schedule/Relay

To ensure that all members of the D-20 are provided with equal and adequate opportunity to address the meetings over the two week period, a system to form a sort of relay is proposed. One person will go to the first session with the pass in hand; she will then hand off her pass to the second person, who will meet her at a designated place in order to attend the second session—and so on down the line. Thus, everyone will get a chance to attend one session. Members going to these sessions should be able to express their preferences in terms of sessions they want to attend, their interests and the times when they are available. Permanent UN Representative Eva Richter will be responsible for the distribution of passes and will inform each member of their designated session(s). It will be the responsibility of each member to change/swap sessions, if another session is preferred.



Events

CSW58 Event Guide

Organisation Of Work

BPW International Events

Schedule of CSW58 & **BPW International Events WEPs Events**

CSW58 Event Guide

Conference Venues.

The two week conference of events takes place inside and outside the United Nations. The **official UN CSW sessions** take place inside the UN Headquarters and only pre-registered delegates [D-20] can attend these meetings upon presentation of a limited number of tickets. However, all pre-registered delegates will have access to the main UN buildings on presentation of their grounds pass. Entry into the conference rooms is restricted to those with a ticket for the designated event. **UN-sponsored parallel events** are open to all registrants, but you must obtain a ticket. **NGO parallel events** at the Church Centre, the Salvation Army, the Armenian Convention Centre Ballroom, or at any other venues outside the UN building are open to all participants. However, in some instances, registration may be required.

Consultation Day.

The NGO Consultation Day will take place on Sunday, 9 March, 2014, immediately preceding CSW58, at the Great Hall of the Cooper Union, 7 East Seventh Street, New York, NY, 10003. Registration for the event is imperative and must be made online directly with the NGO, CSW/NY and the fee is \$100. More information about the NGO Consultation Day can be found at the NGO/CSW website. The NGO Consultation Day is the first opportunity to see who's attending the CSW (no list of participants is available).

NGO CSW Reception.

The Reception will take place on Tuesday, March 11, from 6:00pm - 8:00 p.m. at the Armenian Convention Centre Ballroom at 630 2nd Avenue, corner of 35th Street and 2nd Avenue. Registration is mandatory through the NGO CSW website.

CSW58 Handbook.

The CSW Handbook will be distributed free of charge at the Consultation Day, 9 March.

The CSW Handbook acts as a pocket guide to the scheduled events and will contain the CSW's key documents, daily calendars and special events. It is ideal to use in conjunction with this BPW International Handbook!

Starting on Tuesday, 11 March, the CSW Handbook will be distributed at the Morning Briefings from 8:45am–9:45am every morning from Tuesday, 11 March in the Church Centre, at the Salvation Army and at designated sites at the UN. Schedules change every day. The most up to date versions will be available online at www.ngocsw.org and on the bulletin boards at the Church Centre, the Salvation Army, and in the UN buildings. Check these carefully as schedules change every day!

Parallel Events.

Over 300 NGO Parallel Events will be listed in the Handbook and online at www.ngocsw.org and www.unwomen. org websites. All events are subject to change and the schedule is regularly updated. Parallel events organized by Permanent Missions and UN entities will be posted on the UN Women website and are also regularly updated. Special tickets to these events will be issued.



CSW58 Event Guide

Locations of NGO Parallel Events during CSW58 Church Centre and other locations.

Parallel events organized by NGOs take place outside United Nations premises, usually in the Church Centre. NGOs, both with and without ECOSOC accreditation, may organize and attend these events. To accommodate the increased numbers of attendees expected, parallel events will be held in several main locations:

- 1. The Church Centre (located at the corner of 44th Street and First Avenue) across the road from the United Nations (777 UN Plaza); this is a private building owned by the Methodist Church and houses the offices of several NGOs. NGOs, both with and without ECOSOC accreditation, may attend these events.
- 2. The Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, located at 221 East 52nd St (between 2nd and 3rd Avenues);
- 3. The Armenian Convention Centre Ballroom, 630 Second Avenue (corner of 35th Street and 2nd Avenue.

A listing of events privately arranged, including some events which BPW International is co-sponsoring, will also be listed in the Handbook. Look for our Equal Pay Day event, the WEPs parallel event we are co-sponsoring with the Global Compact, the parallel event we are co-sponsoring with the League of Women Voters, and the session on Women and Water sponsored by the Government of Switzerland under "Outside Events." In addition, our partner Commonwealth Business Women is holding a training session on *Gender and Procurement* that may be of interest. BPW International events are listed on page 23.

General information/Morning Briefings/Caucuses/Conversation Circles.

The Morning Briefings will take place on the 2nd Floor, Church Centre, each morning from 8:45am–9:45am, starting on 11 March. Morning Briefings are held by the CSW Chairperson (together with chairs of the regional NGO CSWs), and generally feature a designated Bureau member or representative of UN Women, and sometimes a representative of a Member State. They update NGOs on developments of interest and answer questions, providing important information for NGOs active in the conference. Members interested in maximizing their effectiveness as NGO advocates during the CSW should attend these meetings, as important information is provided by the Bureau for the CSW. The sessions are also convened to give NGOs an opportunity to keep themselves well informed of the proceedings of the sessions and of discussions held in NGO caucuses and conversation circles.

Caucuses.

These are organized by region and are important for: consulting with other NGOs concerning their priorities; strategizing with others as to how to advocate for certain points to be included in the Outcome Document of the CSW; setting up meetings with government delegates and for planning for future follow-up and implementation of the provisions included in the Outcome Document. Caucuses will be scheduled in the Church Centre (See Handbook and NGO CSW website).

Conversation Circles.

These were quite successful at CSW57. They are organized around certain specific themes and provide a venue for NGOs from all over the world interested in a particular topic to network and share stories and experiences. This is a great way to find people interested in the same issues as you are and make the contacts necessary to continue working beyond CSW58. For meetings, check the schedule on the NGO/CSW website or in the NGO/CSW Handbook.



CSW58 Event Guide

Participation in CSW Outcomes.

If you are interested in following UN CSW procedures, there are many opportunities at the NGO/CSW Forum to do so, even without attending the actual meetings inside the United Nations premises during the CSW session. There is no limit to the number of members allowed to take part in the full NGO/CSW programme at the Church Centre and other venues nearby that enable a full exchange of ideas with other NGOs and delegates. Timely updates and information will be provided regularly via the bulletin board at the Church Centre, UN buildings, and the Salvation Army venue on 52nd Street. Summaries of all official proceedings may be available the day after the event on the website of UN Women and live streaming will be available in many cases. The NGO/CSW programme, together with the planned BPW International activities, will provide a platform to share and exchange ideas and meet new people sharing similar passions. Members will be able to influence and participate in shaping the CSW58 outcome statement. In addition, the programme of exciting BPW International events and activities will add a distinctive BPW International flavour to the above programme and input to CSW outcomes.

Documents

Regional committees on the Status of Women produce Outcome Documents that serve as negotiating documents for advocacy with governments, UN entities and individuals. The North American and European documents will be circulated when they are ready and posted on the BPW International website. Documents from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions (Asia and Pacific, Arab States) may also be posted soon. You are encouraged to read these documents carefully, together with the report of the Secretary General, "Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls", the Expert documents posted on the same website, and the outcome document of the Expert Group meeting in Mexico City in October 2013. It is encouraging that, increasingly, NGO representatives from around the world attending the NGO Consultation, Caucus meetings and NGO events are briefed and mentored as needed and are well prepared for participation in NGO activities (and the Commission). They are clear about the changes they want to advocate for and effective in follow up to ensure change on the ground as a result of the work of the Commission.

Report on what you do

Please remember to report on the work you do at CSW58.



Organisation of Work

1ST WEEK	10 AM - 1 PM	1 - 3 PM	3 - 6 PM
MONDAY 10 MARCH	Opening of the session · Elections of officers (Item 1) · Adoption of the Agenda and other organizational matters (Item 2) · Introduction of documents (Item 3 as a whole) General discussion (Item 3) (opens) Review of the implementation of the BPfA and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the GA—sharing of experiences and good practices on implementation of the Platform for Action, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges 1 PM: deadline for inscription on list of speakers for the general discussion		High-level round table on the priority theme (in two parallel meetings) Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (Item 3 (a) (i))
TUESDAY 11 MARCH	General discussion (Item 3) (continued)		General discussion (Item 3) (continued)
WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH	Panel 1 Priority theme Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls		Panel 2 Priority theme Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls Focus: accountability and participation of women and girls in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals
THURSDAY 13 MARCH	General discussion (Item 3) (continued) in parallel with Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations		Panel 3 Emerging issue Women's access to productive resources
FRIDAY 14 MARCH	Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations		Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations



Organisation of Work

2ND WEEK	10 AM - 1 PM	1 - 3 PM	3 - 6 PM
MONDAY 17 MARCH	General discussion (Item 3) (continued)		General discussion (Item 3) (continued)
	in parallel with		in parallel with
	Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations		Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations
TUESDAY 18 MARCH	Panel 4 Review theme Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full		3 PM: Deadline for submission of draft proposals (i.e. draft resolutions/decisions)
			Panel 5 Review theme
employment and decent work		Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work	
WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH	Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations		Closed meeting to consider the report of the Working Group on Communica- tions (Item 4)
			followed by
			Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations
THURSDAY 20 MARCH	Follow-up to the Economic and Social Council resolutions and deci- sions (Item 5)—introduction and discussion		Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations
	Introduction of draft proposals		
	General discussion: (Item 3) (concludes)		
	followed by		
	Agreed conclusions: Informal consultations		
FRIDAY 21 MARCH	Action on draft proposals		Action on draft proposals and other outstanding issues
			Provisional agenda for the 59th session of CSW (Item 6) Adoption of the report of the CSW on its 58th session (Item 7) Closure of the 58th session
			Opening of 59th sessionElection of Bureau members



BPW International Events

Below is a complete list of BPW International events and activities that are highly recommended. Some events require you to pre-register. To avoid disappointment, please make sure that you register and, where necessary, pay for events as indicated.

ANNUAL BPW INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

6th BPW International Leadership Summit (over 2-days).

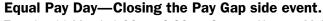
Friday 7 & Saturday 8 March, 2014 at the Harmonie Club, a private club at 5th Avenue and 60th Street. This is the sixth year of the Summit and is a must-attend event for leaders or emerging leaders of BPW International worldwide. The program is presented by the President and members of the Executive along with stakeholders, expert speakers and other special guests. The Leadership Summit program is delivered in a professional setting, designed to convey BPW International best practices. Participants can expect to learn about all aspects of BPW International while sharing/exchanging ideas and obtaining tools that can be taken back to clubs/federations. Registration Fee: \$395.00 USD includes—2 lunches & Ursula Schulthess Dinner, all conference materials and presentations. Online registration essential.

BPW International Claire Fulcher Dinner.

Thursday, 13 March, 6:00pm–10:00pm at The 3 West Club—3 West 51st Street New York, NY 10019 Tel: (212)582-5454. Formally inaugurated in 2009, the dinner was established in honour of our long-serving UN Representative in New York and marked her retirement, Dr Claire Fulcher. Dr Fulcher dedicated 30 years to the advancement of women's rights and gender equality, keeping women's issues at the forefront of the United Nations agenda. The BPW International Claire Fulcher Dinner remains one of the highlights during CSW for BPW International delegates where we get together to acknowledge the work of our appointed UN Representatives at the various UN Headquarters and Regional Commissions. Check the website for details. Online registration essential.

BPW International Caucus Meetings.

Held daily from 10-14 March at 7:30am—8:15am. This year's meetings will take place at the Affinia Dumont Hotel, New York. This is a great way to be informed about BPW International engagement during CSW. Key areas that BPW International wishes to advocate/lobby for in preparation for the CSW session are highlighted. The caucuses are held early in the morning to allow members time to reach the Church Centre for morning briefings at 8:45am. D-20 delegates will be present and attendance is generally high.



Tuesday 11 March 1:00pm–2:30pm German House - Main Auditorium 871 UN Plaza, NY (1st Avenue and 49st Street). No fee. Seating is limited and registration is essential for security reasons. Register here.

While this is a side event, BPW International co-hosts this with the German Mission annually.

Equal Pay Day marks the date on which women's annual earnings reach parity with men's annual earnings. BPW International has been committed to equal pay since the launch of Equal Pay Day in 2010. This year's workshop will cover equal pay as a tool to empowering women in the workplace. Hear how members co-ordinate activities to raise awareness on ways to solve wage inequity, from seminars on negotiating wages and salaries to influencing decision-makers to remove structures that perpetuate the gender pay gap.

Friedlander Reception. Wednesday 12 March 6:00pm–8:00pm. An evening at the stunning apartment of UN representative Harriet Friedlander and husband Bob. Invitation only as space is limited. Please enquire at the Office of the President.



BPW International Events

2014 BPW INTERNATIONAL SIDE EVENTS CSW58

As BPW Korea are hosting the 28th BPW International Congress, 23–27 May, on the beautiful island of Jeju, they have teamed up with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations to host us at a very special reception at the Korean Embassy. This event is not to be missed and registration is essential for security reasons.

In addition to the annual events that members have come to expect while attending CSW in New York, BPW International is sponsoring or co-sponsoring the following side events this year:

How Does the New (Sustainable) Economy Advance Women's Opportunities?

Date: Monday 10 March, 2:30pm-4:00pm

Venue: Church Centre

Women's Empowerment Principles—Equality Means Business:

A Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Implications for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Co-sponsored by UN Global Compact, UN Women, BPW International and the NGO CSW Forum 2014

Date: Tuesday 11 March, 1:15pm–2:30pm **Venue:** Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium

Women at the Top—Making the Economic and Political Difference

Co-sponsored by League of Women Voters, BPW International and the Pan Pacific

Southeast Asia Women's Association

Date: Tuesday 11 March, 2:30pm-4:00pm

Venue: Salvation Army auditorium

Reception at Korea Mission

Co-sponsored by Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, BPW International and BPW Korea

Date: Wednesday 12 March, 12:00pm-1:30pm

Venue: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, 1st Floor 335 E. 45th St., New York,

NY 10017. Places are limited and registration is essential for security reasons. Register here.

Women, Migration and Development in the Post-2015 Agenda

Sponsored by NGO Migration Committee, NY **Date:** Thursday 13 March, 2:30pm–4:00pm

Venue: Church Centre, Drew Room





BPW International CSW58

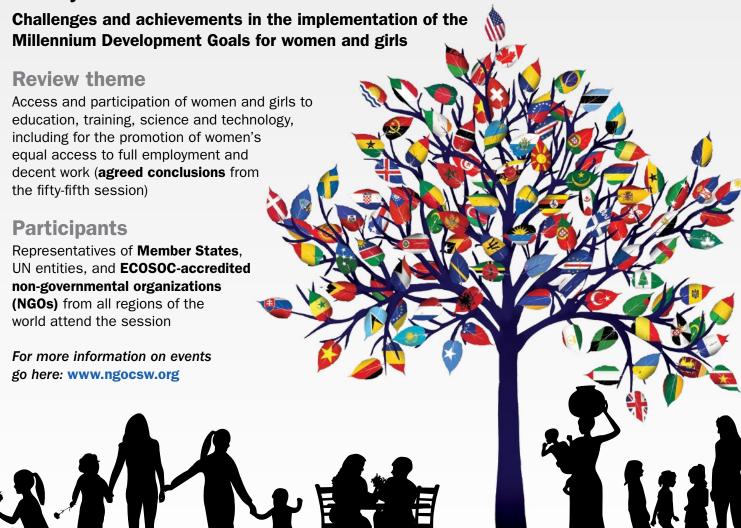
Fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

10-21 March 2014

The fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10–21 March 2014.

Schedule of CSW58 & BPW International Events

Priority theme



This is the schedule of events for CSW58 and BPW International events. Please follow registration/booking instructions carefully to avoid disappointment.

Eri 7 Cot O Billows		Wodnoods: 40 Ba	
Fri 7 — Sat 8 March		Wednesday 12 March	
[2 day leadership prog and other leaders]	Event: 6 th BPW International Leadership Summit ram for BPW International affiliates [Presidents, Vice Presidents 4 E 60th St, New York, NY	7:30am-8:15am 12-13 March	Morning Caucus Briefing with all BPW International Members attending CSW58 Gender & Procurement Training Session -
, ,		9:00am-5:00pm	[invitation only & over two days] Co-sponsored by Commonwealth Businesswomen (CBW)
Saturday 8 March			Two-day event targeting Commonwealth companies and
7:00pm-9:00pm	Face-to-Face Executive Meeting		policy-makers to share best practices. Venue: TBC
Sunday 9 March			
9:00am-5:00pm	NGO CSW, NY, Consultation Day Consultation Day to prepare for CSW58 Organiser: NGO Committee CSW, NY Venue: The Great Hall Cooper Union 7 East Seventh Street New York, NY, 10003; visit www.ngocsw.org Please print out your badge. Badge holders will be available on site.	12:00pm-1:30pm	BPW International Event: Reception at Korea Mission Co-sponsored by Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, BPW International and BPW Korea Venue: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, 1st Floor 335 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017. Places are limited and registration is essential for security reasons, please register here:
6:00pm-8:00pm Mon 10 — Fri 14 Ma	Meeting with UN Reps [Chaired by VP UN, with the UN Representatives. Invite only, please contact the President's Office]	6:00pm-8:00pm	BPW International Event: Friedlander Reception Organised by: Bob and Harriet Friedlander Venue: Private Reception [Invitation only- Contact the President's Office]
NB: Meetings inside UN	UN CSW58 The fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of	Thursday 13 March	
Headquarters will require passes/ticket so you will need to check and register	leadquarters will women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from Monday, 10 to Friday, 21 March 2013 with NGO parallel events taking place at the Church Centre and various	7:30–8:15am	Morning Caucus Briefing with all BPW International Members attending CSW58
with the appropriate Permanent Mission/	to attend parallel events outside of UN HQ on first-come	Wed 12 — Thu 13 Ma	rch
UN Agency to obtain passes		9:00am-5:00pm	Gender & Procurement Training Session – [invitation only & over two days] Co-sponsored by Commonwealth Businesswomen (CBW)
Monday 10 March		2:20nm 4:00nm	Women, Migration and Development in the Post-
7:30am-8:15am	First Morning Caucus Briefing with all BPW International Members attending CSW58	2:30pm-4:00pm	2015 Agenda Venue: Church Centre, Drew Room
9:00am-11:00am	CSW58 Official Opening Ceremony	6:00pm-10:00pm	BPW International Event: Claire Fulcher Dinner
2:30pm–4:00pm	BPW International Event: How Does the New (Sustainable) Economy Advance Women's Opportunities? Venue: Church Centre		Organised by EPW New York State Venue: The 3 West Club 3 West 51st Street New York, NY 10019 Tel: (212)582-5454 Bookings essential. Register EPW New York State here.
Tuesday 11 March		Friday 14 March	
7:30am-8:15am	Morning Caucus Briefing with all BPW International Members attending CSW58	7:30am-8:15am	Morning Caucus Briefing with all BPW International Members attending CSW58
1:00pm-2:30pm 1:15pm-2:30pm	Co-sponsored by BPW International and German Mission. Venue: German House - Main Auditorium 871 UN Plaza, NY (1st Avenue and 49th Street). Registration essential. Women's Empowerment Principles—Equality	3:00pm-4:15pm	Disaster Risk Reduction and Empowerment of Women Co-sponsored by BPW Japan, Japanese Government and Japanese NGOs Venue: Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium, UNHQ
	Means Business: A Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Implications for the Post-2015 Development Agenda	Mon 17 — Fri 21 March	
Co-sponsored by UN Global Compact, UN Women, BPW International and the NGO CSW Forum 2014 Venue: Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium, UN HQ Registration information to be advised	[2 nd week of CSW58]	UN CSW58: The fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from Monday, 17 to Friday, 21 March 2013 with NGO parallel events taking place at the Church Centre and various	
2:30pm–4:00pm	Women at the Top—Making the Economic and Political Difference Co-sponsored by League of Women Voters, BPW International and the Pan Pacific Southeast Asia Women's Association Venue: Salvation Army Auditorium	7:30am-8:15am [TBC]	Morning Caucus Briefing with all BPW International Members attending CSW58
6:00pm-8:00pm	NGO CSW Forum Reception Organised by: NGOCSW, NY Venue: Armenian Convention Centre Ballroom 630 2 nd Avenue, NY. Registration fee: \$45.00 Register here.	For a complete schedule of UN events, please visit the UN Women website: www.unwomen.org For a schedule of NGO parallel events please visit the	



NGO CSW, NY website: www.ngocsw.org

WEPs Events

2014 WEPs LEADERSHIP GROUP MEETING & 6TH ANNUAL WEPS EVENT

BPW International's involvement with the WEPs LG and commitment to the WEPs continues this year as we join the 2014 Awards Committee, participate in the WEPs LG meeting on the 5th of March and present at the WEPs Conversation Series being launched this year.

Held over two days, the 6th Annual Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) event, Gender Equality and the Global Jobs Challenge, will spotlight business strategies, experience and challenges on increasing and enhancing job opportunities for women and expanding access to decent jobs. The main event on 6 March, held at the United Nations Headquarters, will feature a Morning Plenary, WEPs Leadership Awards, WEPs Luncheon and Afternoon Roundtable Sessions. The 5 March programme, held at Scandinavia House, will feature a series of WEPs conversations, followed by a government hosted opening reception. Hosted by the WEPs, a partnership initiative of UN Women and the UN Global Compact, the event will bring together the experience of leading stakeholders from business, government and civil society to strengthen local and global solutions. With more than 670 CEO Signatories worldwide, the WEPs provide a roadmap for companies to advance and empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. Learn more about the WEPs.

This year, the United Nations has invited BPW International to speak at the High-level Event on "The Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda" that the President of the General Assembly is convening on Friday, 7 March 2014, in the Economic and Social Council Chamber. BPW International will be contributing to the panel discussion on "Closing the inequality gap: efforts for addressing inequalities and meeting new and emerging global development challenges for the eradication of poverty through meaningful contributions of women, the young and civil society in the post-2015 development agenda" and in particular, speak about the need to increase women's economic empowerment and to raise awareness about the Women's Empowerment Principles.



All You Need To Know About The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) provides a unique place in the UN system and processes entirely devoted to examining the state of progress for women. For BPW International, the CSW provides the opportunity to bring forward input into policy negotiations and establishing long-lasting contacts.

Objective

To promote implementation of the principle that men and women shall have equal rights.

Location within the UN structure

The CSW is one of nine Functional Commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). An organisational chart of the UN is available here.

Mandate

The CSW is dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body on these issues. Every year, representatives of UN Member States gather at UN Headquarters in New York to review progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and the advancement of women worldwide. CSW is mandated to:

- Prepare recommendations and reports to ECOSOC on the promotion of women's rights in the political, economic, social, civil and educational fields;
- Make recommendations to ECOSOC on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights;
- Follow up the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women (known as "Beijing" after the host city), by reviewing the 12 critical areas of concern in the **Beijing Platform for Action** (BPfA); more information is available here.

Membership

The CSW is composed of 45 Member States elected by the UN ECOSOC. It convenes once a year for 10 working days (late February—early March) at UN Headquarters in New York.

UN Women

UN Women comprises four formerly separate parts of the UN—the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Office of Special Advisor on Gender Issues (OSAGI), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)—and works closely with the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW/NY) to facilitate information exchange and NGO participation in the United Nations' work on gender equality. The Committee coordinates events and consultation sessions with NGO representatives in preparation for the CSW. It is responsible for substantive servicing of the Commission, including supporting the work of the CSW Bureau.



All You Need To Know About The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

The Bureau

The Bureau of the CSW plays a crucial role in facilitating the preparation for, and ensuring the successful outcome of, the annual sessions of the CSW. Bureau members serve for two years. In 2002, to improve its work and ensure continuity, the CSW decided to hold the first meeting of its subsequent session immediately following the close of the regular session, for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairperson and other members of the Bureau.

Official Documents

The UN is continuing its "paperless" policy and will not distribute hard copies of statements, etc. at CSW58. NGOs will have to download and print documents in advance from the UN website if they wish to have a paper copy. Official CSW sessions may also be paperless. NGO representatives are requested not to ask for official documents at the documents booths in the Conference Rooms, as distribution of documents to NGOs from these points is not authorised.

Programme information

The Journal—the Journal of the UN is issued daily. It contains the daily programme of official meetings in the UN, room numbers as well as announcements.

Message Boards—Information about UN meetings and other events associated with CSW58 is available on the UN Women website; the website of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO/CSW),; the message boards on the walls of the UN buildings and the Church Centre; and at the daily NGO Morning Briefings on the 2nd Floor of the Church Centre.

Restrictions to the United Nations Headquarter premises

Renovations at UN Headquarters are in progress. Therefore, access to the UN campus and buildings is severely restricted. Only twenty members of any organisation may be registered as official participants in CSW58, and even these must have secondary passes in order to attend any of the official meetings of the Commission. Only one or two such passes will be issued to any given meeting. However, any of the officially registered twenty may have access to the buildings themselves simply by presenting their grounds passes. Grounds passes allow access to the cafeteria, the book shop, all public spaces within the UN, etc. Access to the Church Centre, the Salvation Army, the Armenian Conference Centre is unrestricted. However, at least during the first week of the conference, for all side events occurring within UN buildings attendees need secondary passes. These may be more liberally distributed, i.e. not limited to one or two. At the time of writing, the system for such distribution is not yet in place. Information will be available on the NGO CSW website, at the CSW Consultation on 9 March, and at the Morning Briefings on the Second Floor of the Church Centre, 8:45–9:30a.m., 11–21 March.



Make the most of CSW58

As in past years, thousands of women from all over the world are expected to participate in CSW58 this year. I encourage those attending to participate in as many of the BPW International and NGO events as you can. If it is your first visit, the NGO Consultation Day is a great way to orient yourself with the priority theme and to meet and network with others during the breakout sessions. The overall NGO/CSW programme provides information and trains participants in advocacy and knowledge of the UN, creating parallel reports and hosting workshops. It is also an important networking opportunity allowing you to make links within the NGO community and decide the part you wish to play in this worldwide movement for change.

Huguette Akplogan Dossa Vice President UN

UN CSW Multi-Year Programme

The 2014 CSW58 is the last year of a multi-year programme of work dating from 2009.

This program of work culminates in the theme: "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls", and progress will be evaluated in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fifty-fifth session on "Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work".

This coincides with the review of the Millennium Development Goals and the determination of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. BPW International UN Representatives have been working to ensure the inclusion of gender equity into the review (see page 64).

In addition to the work of BPW International UN Representatives, BPW International is seeking to inform the Post-2015 Development Agenda through the *Why Change?* Initiative (see *page 52*). The initiative will culminate in a report submitted to the UN Secretary General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on what needs to change to address the behaviours, attitudes and cultural barriers affecting women's participation in society and the economy.

At CSW57 the Commission decided that it will undertake a review and appraisal of the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** in CSW59 and include the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

What can you do?

When you return home after CSW58, start planning to set up a committee for your local club or federation to provide input to the CSW59 2015 review. Distribute the Why Change? report and use it to advocate for gender issues in development in your region. Discuss this further with your Regional Coordinator or International President to see how you can get maximum support from members. If you have expert members or know of experts that can contribute, consider inviting them to be part of a working group with the intention of creating and developing a discussion paper that can be sent to BPW International for inclusion in the official BPW International Outcome Document.



The significance of the NGO CSW/NY

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NGO CSW/NY, was founded after the First World Conference on women in Mexico City in 1975. It is a substantive committee of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) with consultative status to the United Nations. Its primary objective is to advocate with Member States and the United Nations for the adoption of programs and policies that will advance the economic, political, legal, health and educational status of women worldwide and to promote women's rights and gender equality—cornerstones of the United Nations Charter.

The NGO CSW/NY supports the work of UN Women. In its work with the NGO Committees on the Status of Women in Geneva and Vienna, the NGO CSW/NY supports the BPfA, UN Security Resolution 1325, the MDGs, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Today, NGO CSW/NY provides a forum for the exchange of information and for substantive discussion on issues and policies related to women under UN consideration and other relevant women-related studies and programs.

Members of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY represent approximately 80 organizations that monitor and actively participate at the daily UN events in New York. Every year the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY organizes the NGO Consultation Day in preparation for the UN Commission on the Status of Women sessions that take place in February/ March. In helping to bring together activists from around the world for two weeks at the United Nations, the NGO CSW, NY is effective in networking, sharing strategies and best practices, lobbying governments encouraging them to implement resolutions, treaties they have signed and to allocate necessary resources.

The NGO CSW/NY brings NGO representatives together to caucus, issue joint statements and provide wording for the Agreed Conclusions, the outcome document generally provided at the close of the annual CSW meetings. NGO CSW/NY also manages an international listserv that keeps women worldwide apprised of issues throughout the world; these e-mail updates contain information on events, job listings and global women's issues. To learn more about NGO CSW/NY, visit their website.

Monitoring and Implementing Decisions

UN agreements are only the first step in the process of achieving the aims that they express. Their central importance lies in follow-up at the national level. Many agreements contain references to establishing follow-up mechanisms, methods of evaluating implementation and sources of funding. It is primarily the responsibility of national governments and international organisations to use these tools to transform commitments and obligations into reality.

Following the adoption of the agreed conclusions on the priority theme by the Commission, many members take the outcomes of the Commission back to their clubs at local level and work to ensure that they are well-known and used in different contexts. At national level, federations use the outcomes effectively, working to hold governments responsible and accountable for commitments made in the Commission and to monitor and report on progress.

Your work away from the meeting

Your contribution to our work is of enormous value to our network. Work on the international level counts for little without support at the regional, national and local levels. In the months leading up to CSW, for example, national federations and associate clubs can make contact with other civil society organizations and speak with government officials who are preparing national positions. They may be able to make suggestions on policies, provide inputs to country reports and urge that the delegation include an NGO representative.



BPW International and the United Nations

BPW International and the UN—Working Together

A Brief History: 1914–2014

UN Representatives: The Work We Do

UN Representatives: Who We Are

Summary of meetings with UN 2013



BPW International and the UN—Working Together

The General Assembly (GA) increased its interactions with NGOs in the late 1990s and early years of the new century. In 2005, it started to organize informal interactive hearings with civil society and the private sector prior to high level meetings or dialogues held on various issues.

These hearings serve to present the experiences and views of civil society to governments and UN officials. So far they have proved very valuable to both the Member States and NGOs.

The first hearing was held in June 2005 prior to the World Summit of September 2005. This was an unprecedented event. More than 360 NGO representatives were able to attend as observers and 35 participants delivered a statement. In 2006, three informal interactive hearings with civil society were convened on HIV/AIDS, on Least Developed Countries (LCDs) and on international migration and development.

Today, BPW International continues to work with all stakeholders—with the UN, its Agencies, private sector, academia and other NGOs. Our UN Representatives continue to make significant contributions at various NGO Committees.

I'm just a BPW International member—I can't make a big contribution? Yes you can! In addition to engaging your own governments at the national and local levels, there will be a number of ways to input at the international level through BPW International UN Representatives.

The simple fact is that 189 world leaders made an historic promise at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 when they signed onto the Millennium Declaration and agreed to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. It's up to citizens to make sure leaders follow through on these commitments.

One way to get involved—either individually, through your federation or through BPW International is through the "United Nations Millennium Campaign" (http://www.endpoverty2015.org).

BPW International accredits members to major UN meetings and forums to advocate and lobby for policies and actions that support our aims and objects, and which reflect agreed position statements on the issues under discussion. BPW International continues to advocate for the full implementation and funding of gender architecture reform at the UN, women's rights, and the advancement of women and girls worldwide.

Members can ask to attend UN and/or NGO meetings at most major international meetings, and UN Forums and Summits where the issues directly affect women are related to the aims and objectives of BPW International. Statements are prepared by BPW International outlining our position and are fed into discussions leading to recommendations. BPW International has submitted a written statement to the Commission (see page 68).

In addition to the many UN meetings that members are registered to attend, BPW International accredits one of the largest delegations to the CSW annually, preparing recommendations and reports to ECOSOC on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. One of the most exciting things about attending CSW meetings is the access to Heads of State, ministers, ambassadors, commissioners and top civil servants. This is the equivalent to being allowed access onto the floor of Parliament at home and is one of the great privileges afforded to you as a member of BPW International.



BPW International and the UN—Working Together

Other meetings include CoNGO (Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations)

For the past 50 years CoNGO has been actively promoting the involvement of NGOs in the working of the United Nations. Meetings take place in New York and Geneva. BPW International Representatives to the UN have served on this board in both locations.

CoNGO does not take positions on substantive matters, but it provided access to the United Nations entities, officials of the UN Secretariat, and UN delegations.

In its annual Civil Society Development Forum (CSDF), CoNGO facilitates an NGO contribution to the deliberations and outcome of the annual ECOSOC session, particularly the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) of one or more of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In July 2011 the AMR focused on "Implementing the internationally-agreed goals and commitments in regard to education", particularly the MDG 2 goal of achieving universal primary education by 2015. The Geneva component of the Forum was held in June 2011, and the outcome was verbally presented and fed into the AMR. In September, a follow-up CSDF in New York reviewed synergies that have arisen between ECOSOC and AMR and examined steps to be taken toward the achievement of MDG2 (for further discussion see the CoNGO website.

The DPI (Department of Public Information)/NGO Conference generally takes place in September each year and for the past four years has been held outside the UN Headquarters in New York. The topic, venue and other details are currently being negotiated.

BPW International and the United Nations

BPW International has General Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, (ECOSOC) and is a member of the Board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CoNGO). Not all NGOs are accredited to ECOSOC under the General Status Category; this is a privilege reserved for international organisations like BPW International that are in good standing with the United Nations and meet the ongoing reporting requirements.

By right of its status with ECOSOC, BPW International is granted official relations with United Nations Specialised Agencies including:

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

ILO: International Labour Organization **WHO**: World Health Organization

UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization

FAO: Food and Agricultural Organization **UNICEF**: United Nations Children's Fund

The BPW International President appoints members annually to represent BPW International at the United Nations with UN Representatives in all the UN Headquarters: New York, Geneva, and Vienna, as well as UNESCO in Paris, the FAO in Rome, and the United Nations Regional Commissions:

Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

Economic and Social Commission for East Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) t Economic

Commission for Africa (ECA)

Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA).

For a full list of BPW International UN Representatives see page 36.



A Brief History: 1947-2014

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

Since its founding by Dr. Lena Madesin Phillips in 1930, BPW International or the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW) as it is known at the United Nations, has been proud of its position as an international organization supported by and advocating for thousands of women all over the world. Continuing its early relationship with the League of Nations and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) with which IFBPW maintained advisory and consultative positions, in 1947 the organisation was among the first Non-Governmental Organisations to obtain Consultative Status with ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Such status has given IFBPW a channel, backed up by data acquired through local national study, to advocate for positions that the organisation has advanced in the interest of women's empowerment and equality, most prominent among which are: recognition of the basic human rights of women in all areas, including the right to health, education, property and access to all resources and means of production; equal access to education, including technical training; equal pay for equal work; and equal access to positions of power and decision-making in all fields. It is a mutually beneficial relationship: just as we need the UN as a channel to make our voices heard, the United Nations needs us not only for advice but also to carry out their recommendations.

In the sixty-seven year relationship between the UN and IFBPW, many basic concerns have remained unresolved, notably the unequal position of women, and many shifts have taken place. New concerns have arisen: environmental depredation, the disastrous effects of climate change, the benefits and dangers of a globalized economy, increasing economic inequalities, frequent and severe economic crises, geopolitical shifts of alliances and massive migration have all claimed the world's attention. New UN entities have been established and new relationships have been forged among nations and with NGOs. The number of NGOs now in consultative relationship with the United Nations has risen from forty-five in 1948 to over four thousand today. IFBPW, with consultative status Category I, is permitted to speak in ECOSOC meetings, place items on the agenda, submit statements of a thousand words directly to the Council, and sit in ECOSOC meetings in a seat reserved for IFBPW members. Over the years these members have made excellent use of their privileges.

IFBPW has participated in virtually all the major changes and developments within the UN. In 1946 a United Nations Committee was formed within BPW International under the leadership of Margaret Hickey; in 1947 it was added to the list of BPW International Standing Committees. In 1950 Esther Hymer became the main UN representative and remained so till her death in 2001. On her hundredth birthday on 20 July, 1998, she was publicly honoured by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for her devotion and dedication to the cause of women's equality. In between, in preparation for the International Women's year of 1972, she established the NGO Committee on the Status of Women which she chaired for ten years. She was active in every single development that concerned the advancement of women, especially in the establishment of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979) and the first three of the four major world women's conferences: 1) Mexico City, 1975; 2) Copenhagen 1980; 3) Nairobi 1985; 4) Beijing 1995. The two outcome documents of this last conference, the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), have informed every meeting since then of the Commission on the Status of Women, which has turned to the BPfA for each of its themes. The Platform outlines twelve critical areas of concern: Poverty, Education, Health, Violence, Armed Conflict, the Economy, Decision-Making and Leadership Positions, Gender Equality, Human Rights, the Media, the Environment, the Girl Child and provides indicators to measure progress towards improvement. CEDAW is among the most effective instruments for women's equality, requiring quadrennial examinations of each of the 187 states parties to the convention (out of 193 Member States in the UN) to ensure compliance.

Many IFBPW members have been leaders at the United Nations in the establishment of its basic tenets and conventions and in the dissemination and implementation of its legislation. Eleanor Roosevelt, architect of the Declaration of Human Rights, was a member. For example:



A Brief History: 1947-2014

- in 1972 Helvi Sipila, long-time BPW International member from Finland, was appointed Assistant UN Secretary General and facilitated the establishment of the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW). In 1988 she was elected the first chair of the World Federation of National Committees for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM);
- in 1972 the UN held its first UN Conference on the Human Environment and shortly after that established the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Wangari Maathai, BPW International member and Nobel Prize winner in 2004 for her work on the environment, chaired the NGO Forum in connection with the UN International Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 1981, in Nairobi, Kenya;
- in 1975 two BPW International members, Marcelle Devaud and Nobuko Takahashi, were two of ten founding trustees of the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW);
- in 1988 UN Representative Claire Fulcher became the convener of the NGO Committee on UNIFEM and worked closely with that organization until her retirement and the dissolution of the committee in 2010, after the establishment of UN Women.

On 15 September 1987 the United Nations Peace Messenger Award was conferred on IFBPW.

Some of the major developments of the new millennium, in all of which IFBPW has taken part in both the formulation of policy and in its implementation, have included:

- the creation of the Millennium Development Goals (2000) the blueprint for a global action plan to meet the needs of the world's poorest;
- the establishment of the Global Compact (2000), a strategic policy initiative for businesses that agree to align their business operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption;
- the Women's Empowerment Principles (2010), a set of seven Principles for businesses to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community (the result of a collaboration between UN Women and the Global Compact, in which IFBPW under the leadership of Elizabeth Benham and Freda Miriklis played a highly significant role);
- the establishment of UN Women as the single gender entity in the United Nations (2010), superseding the four previous gender entities: the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM);
- the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2012), whose outcome document has formed the basis for the formation of new, sustainable development goals(SDGs) to be launched in 2015 and currently being widely discussed by NGOs and UN entities alike throughout the UN system.

There are now twenty-one UN representatives of IFBPW in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Paris, Istanbul and Nairobi, Beirut, Rome, Strasbourg and Brussels covering every major UN entity, agency and special unit. They attend meetings, read widely to keep up with highly complex developments in the UN, write reports, proposals, resolutions and statements and advocate tirelessly for women in every condition and at every level. Progress is often glacially slow, but they keep working and organizing and advocating. They know that if women are to succeed in gaining full equality with men, and humanity is to achieve universal justice and dignity they cannot lose heart. They take energy and courage from the support of their many sisters in BPW International.



UN Representatives: The Work We Do

At the United Nations, BPW International is known as the International Federation of Business and Professional Women and appoints UN representatives at the UN Headquarters in New York, Geneva, Vienna, the five regional commissions and at UN Agencies.

Representatives are dedicated to promoting the agenda of BPW International, specifically *the economic advancement of women at all levels*. This cross-cutting issue takes in concerns for women's overall wellbeing in matters of health, education, access to all resources (including food, shelter and water), properly remunerated work, safety, human rights, and personal dignity. Within the UN Human Rights framework it means advocating for the implementation of the major conventions and agreements on women, like CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, relevant ILO Conventions and General Assembly Resolutions, and the Women's Empowerment Principles. It means advocating for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the staffing, creation and implementation of all UN decisions.

Our activism is accomplished through information gathering (going to meetings and briefings by various UN Agencies and CoNGO Committees, together with wide reading of background materials); lobbying (visiting the missions of member states and talking to UN delegates and agency personnel to get our points across); creating oral and written input into UN negotiations, outcome documents, conventions, and agreements; and communicating with one another, the NGO community and BPW International through reports, talks and presentations and the creation of informational panels and workshops.

Two major agendas occupy the UN Representatives at present:

- 1. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are set to expire in 2015 and will be replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will be rooted in the framework created by the outcomes of Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of 2012. Our efforts have been focused on working towards a stand-alone goal on women and making sure that women's issues, particularly those (like migration) that were not considered in the MDGs, are well represented in all goals, in both process and end result.
- 2. 2015 is also the year of Beijing + 20, and we are working through UN Women and the NGO CSW to prepare to review the implementation (challenges and opportunities) of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) during CSW59.

In addition, we have been working on planning details for CSW58 (Susan O'Malley is co-chair of the Committee), providing material for, writing and editing the regional North American Outcome Document, arranging four different parallel events, three with co-sponsors, and convening a study group on the BPfA.

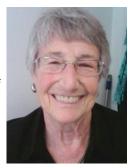
Finally, we are working through various agencies to involve the business community in the UN processes, mainly through the Global Compact.



BPW International UN representatives: Who We Are

Eva Richter

Eva Richter is the Permanent UN Representative for BPW International. She is Vice-Chair of the NGO Committee on Migration, which she helped found, an Advisor to the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, and a member of the NGO Committee on Human Rights. She has written papers on migration, on various aspects of CEDAW, and in her commitment to the realization of women's equality and gender justice has organized many workshops, seminars and panels. In 2011 she was given the Pathfinder Award by BPW International in recognition of her work.





Catherine Bosshart-Pfluger

In 2013, Catherine Bosshart-Pfluger, became UN main representative at Geneva. She is an historian of contemporary and modern history as well as specialist of gender studies. After studies in Switzerland, Germany and the USA, she received her MA in 1974, in 1981 her PhD of the University of Fribourg/Switzerland. After working from 1974 to 1991 on different research projects, she has been teaching from 1991 to 2013 first as a senior lecturer and then a professor for contemporary history at the University of Fribourg. Since June 2013 she has retired. In fall 2013 she was nominated as an independent expert for the Gender Studies Program by the Conference of University presidents of Switzerland. Currently, she is working in the Geneva NGO/

CSW task force on Beijing +20.

Dr Susan O'Malley

Dr Susan O'Malley, Alternate Delegate to UN, is currently the Vice Chair of NGO/CSW/NY. She is co-chair of the Planning Committee for CSW58 Forum, co-editor of the North American Outcome Document and convener of the Beijing Platform for Action Study Group. She is also editor of the Working Group on Girls' *Action for Girls*. In addition to serving as the Faculty Trustee and Chair of the 22-campus City University of New York Faculty Senate, Dr O'Malley taught English Literature and Women's Studies at CUNY (Kingsborough and the Graduate Centre) for many years. She holds an AB from Smith College and a PhD from Tulane University.





Lesha Witmer

Lesha is an independent senior advisor on sustainable development (water governance and management) and Human Resources (participatory approaches and gender issues included) and vocational training. She was *inter alia* Steering Committee member of Women for Water Partnership and on her government and NGO delegations to the UN CSD multiple times, chaired the sustainable development committee of the Netherlands Women's Council and the SC on sustainable development & water of BPW International.

She currently serves *inter alia* as member of International Standard Development Committee of AWS, member of the EUWI CC, SC member of the Butterfly Effect NGO coalition, member Social Impacts, etc. chamber of the Hydropower Sustainability

Assessment Council and is (alternate) delegate of BPW International to the UN (ECE) on sustainable development issues and delegate to the World Water Council.

Ms. Witmer holds degrees in Human Resource and General Management and studied law (University of Amsterdam).



BPW International UN representatives: Who We Are

Princess Fay Jahan Ara

Her Royal Highness Princess Fay Jahan Ara has recently been appointed UN Representative for ESCWA.

She is a renowned public figure, noted for her contributions to business, philanthropy and women's rights. A Persian-born US national, Princess Fay Jahan Ara studied Business and Art at UCLA, USA, and at the Heidelberg University, Germany. She has been actively involved in the international trading business since 1975. Princess Fay Jahan Ara is President of the RACH Charity Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of underprivileged children and families.



In pursuit of her charitable objectives, the Princess travels extensively and works closely with a number of regional and global NGOs, community organizations, government agencies, educational institutions, and healthcare providers. As global activist for woman's rights, she has been campaigning vigorously for female education and higher female participation in the workforce in developing countries.



Marie-Claude Machon-Honore

Marie-Claude Machon-Honore has been a member of BPW-Paris since 2008. She has been a member of the Education for All working group at UNESCO Paris since 2011. As a BPW International delegate at UNESCO, Paris, she was member of the steering committee for the first UNESCO-NGO forum on Education, 9-23-13, Paris, France. She is co-president of the steering committee for the second UNESCO-NGO on the role of women in the fight against poverty due in May 2014.

Marie-Claude teaches at secondary and tertiary levels. She has a Masters Degree (Role of CPAG in British civil society) and a Doctorate in Anglophone Studies (Education and development of women in the Anglophone Caribbean), Sorbonne University, Paris, France.

She is a graduate of the 2009 Caribbean Institute in Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies.

Marlene Parenzan

Marlene has been a member of BPW International since 1999. She is the liaison for the Conference of NGOs (CONGO) since the 1990s, organized an office at the UN in Vienna for CONGO, Vice-president Vienna (2000–2003), (Head of Vienna office, 1997–2004)

She has been active in NGO Committees on Narcotic Drugs, Youth, Women, Development, and Peace. She has attended numerous sessions of the CSW and CEDAW, the Commissions on Narcotic Drugs and on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.



She participated in World Conference on Women in Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995), co-organized NGO activities for NGO Fora in parallel to these conferences, as well as organising the NGO regional preparations for the ECE.



Arzu Ozyol

Arzu Ozyol is an environmental engineer and the Founder President of BPW Turkey. She has a MBA and is a PHD Candidate on Social and Environmental Sciences.

Arzu Ozyol believes that equality between women and men is an integral part of human rights and it is a prerequisite for democracy and social justice. In protecting and promoting human rights, she seeks to eliminate discrimination based on gender and promote a balanced participation of women and men in political and public life. She brings this passion to BPW International's programme and policies.

Her research is used in academic publications and she lectures at university in Turkey.



BPW International UN representatives: Who We Are

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

Geneva	Catherine Bosshart Elizabeth Clement-Arnold Francoise Van Leeuwen Lesha Witmer Arzu Ozyol
New York	Eva Richter Dr Susan O'Malley Harriet Friedlander Elizabeth Benham Elizabeth Vanardenne
Vienna	Marlene Parenzan Christa Kirchmair
UNESCO : United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Paris	Marie-Claude Mauchon
UNICEF : United Nations Children's Fund New York	Dr Susan O'Malley
UNIDO: United Nations Industrial Development Organization Vienna	Marlene Parenzan
UNCTAD : United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Geneva	Elisabeth Clement-Arnold
FAO : Food and Agriculture Organization Rome	Christina Gorajski Visconti
ILO : International Labour Organization Geneva	Catherine Bosshart
WHO: World Health Organization Geneva	Michele Gerber Gabrielle Gonzenbach
UNECE: The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Geneva	Francoise van Leeuwen
ESCWA: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Beirut	Princess Fay Jahan Ara
DPI : Department of Public Information New York	Eva Richter Francesca Burack Tess Mateo Yue Fang (Youth representative)



Summary of meetings with UN 2013

BPW International supports the work of our UN representatives at the UN Headquarters of New York, Geneva and Vienna; the Regional Commissions and UN Agencies. Our Fist Vice President, UN and Chair of the Committee on the Status of Women has worked with our International President and UN Representatives to increase BPW International's visibility at important UN meetings. Here is a summary of the activities and events during 2013.

International Organisation of Employers

BPW International worked with the IOE and UNGC to develop Project WEPs (see page 50). BPW International UN Representatives—Arzu Ozyol, Ambassador Fay, Catherine Bosshart and PIP Antoinette Ruegg—joined President Miriklis at a meeting organized with IOE representative, Amelia Espejo during the ITC Joint Advisory Group meeting in Geneva on the 6 May 2013 to discuss and identify ways to work together. As Gender Specialists to the IOE, BPW International's role is to provide sound and relevant policy guidance for employers around the world.

With Project WEPs now underway, the IOE have invited BPW International to make an intervention at the International Labour Conference (2–12 June 2014) and to address the IOE Employer's Group during this meeting. This is a serious opportunity to raise the visibility of BPW International and develop capacity of our business network.

BPW International met with IOE Secretary-General, Brent Wilton during the UN Global Compact Leader's Summit in New York to launch Project WEPs and discussed the selection of pilot countries for this initiative. BPW International and IOE wish to promote policies and regulatory frameworks that are conducive to achieving diversity in the workplace to enhance business productivity and the WEPs ThinkTank will be set up to identify members that can be contribute.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

BPW International presented to Mr Cvetkoski, Division Gender Equality, UNESCO Paris, France, on the 21st of October 2013 with UN Representatives Marie-Claude Machon and Arzu Ozyo. President Miriklis led discussions around the WEPs and BPW International was invited to make a formal proposal to UNESCO on future collaboration. Marie-Claude presented to UNECSCO on behalf of BPW International in December with our proposal being considered by Mrs Corat, Executive Director, Division Gender Equality.

United Nations Global Compact (UNGC)

During the UN Global Compact Leader's Summit 2013, several meetings were organised by BPW International to meet with UNGC representatives to discuss Project WEPs, including—Georg Kell, Lauren Gula, Ursula Wynhoven, Matthew Tukaki, Alice Cope, Dzana Ferhatbegovic and Tulsi Burne.

Meetings included discussions about the importance of considering Sustainability Reporting and the benefits for members and stakeholders. Increasingly funders/stakeholders and UN Agencies are looking for NGOs that can provide such reports. The Summit was also an opportunity to invite key UNGC people including Executive Director, Georg Kell, to attend the BPW International Leadership Summit in New York and Congress in Jeju, Republic of Korea.



Summary of meetings with UN 2013

UN Women

BPW International met with Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women, at the UN Women Board Meeting in New York held during the 67th Session of the General Assembly in September 2013. This meeting was attended with UN Representative Susan O'Malley and the NGO CSW, NY team.

At the BPW Africa Regional Meeting, Ms Mlambo-Ngcuka met with BPW International executive and Presidents of BPW Africa, where she was presented with a Certificate of Honour. We were able to follow up our discussions and speak to her about our progress with Project WEPs.

On the 25 September 2013, BPW International organised a meeting to discuss Project WEPs with Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, Laksmi Puri, Carolyn Hardy, Head of Private Sector Relations, Strategic Partnerships Division and Larraine Mills at UN Women Headquarters in New York. UN Representatives—Eva Richter, Susan O'Malley, Princess Fay Jahan Ara and Arzu Ozyol—joined President Miriklis.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

BPW International attended the Opening Ceremony of World Food Day on the 15 October 2013 at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. BPW International UN Representatives—Cristina Visconte and Arzu Ozyol—joined President Miriklis at this meeting, where sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition were key points of discussion. They also attended the launch of the International Year of Family Farming.

BPW International is currently the co-ordinator of the Ad Hoc Group of INGOs and Cristina organised and convened a meeting of the International NGOs where the work/projects of the INGOs was discussed and information on FAO programs was disseminated.

International Trade Centre (ITC)

The 47th Session of the ITC Joint Advisory Group (JAG) was held from 6–7 May 2013. BPW International made an intervention as a founding partner to the Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women Vendors (GPfASWV).

Since joining the platform, BPW International has seen the ITC become a champion of women's economic empowerment. As part of the Women and Trade programme, the Global Platform provides women entrepreneurs with access to trade support services. BPW International believes that providing equal opportunities to women is good development policy has been able to increase its advocacy efforts to governments and corporations. When women are in control of their income, a number of positive outcomes follow which contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

BPW International organised a meeting with Mr Nadim Khouri, Deputy Exec Secretary of UNESCWA and the head of the Gender Unit on the 21st of November at UN Headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon. UN Representative, Ambassador Fay joined President Miriklis to better understand how this commission works and how we can work with them. There are many changes happening with the UN programing and strategic partners are being considered.



Summary of meetings with UN 2013

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

During the 68th session of the General Assembly (23rd Sept 2013), BPW International met with Patti O'Neil from the OECD to discuss international standards on a wide range of topics and BPW International policies. BPW International commitments and outcomes of the Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministerial Meeting and the Post-2015 Development Agenda were also addressed.

Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)

BPW International is a member of the Water for Women Partnership that gives women a voice to influence policy and be part of decision-making at all levels, from the international policy arena through national level to the direct environment women live in. UN representatives Arzu Ozyol and Lesha Witmer have continued their representation and interest with WfWP.

At the recent elections, BPW International nominated, Kathy Kelly of EPW-USA, for the vacant position in the WfWP Steering Committee and she was accepted by the General Assembly.

UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

At the 47th Session of the International Trade Centre Joint Advisory Group, Geneva, Switzerland, 6–7 May, the BPW International delegation participated in the business sessions and evening receptions at UN Headquarters. BPW International made an intervention discussing its involvement with the Global Platform for Action and the importance of procuring from women-owned businesses. BPW International also advocated for the economic empowerment of women to be a central theme of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and this was discussed with several ambassadors and government representatives.

WEPs Leadership Group (WEPs LG)

As a founding member of the WEPs LG, in New York, BPW International attended both—the annual WEPs LG meeting on the 6th of March and the 5th Annual WEPs event on the 5th of March 2013.

The event, held in observance of International Women's Day, focused on how inclusive business strategies and practices drive change towards realizing the Women's Empowerment Principles and featured innovative approaches the private sector is taking to overcome challenges to achieve gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community. Participants included business leaders and representatives from a wide range of sectors and geographical regions and other key stakeholders from civil society, government and academia. More information available here.

BPW International was invited by the UN to address Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and provide a summary of the day's events at the closing session. BPW International was also interviewed for the official promotional video to raise awareness of the WEPs.



BPW International Core Policy Initiatives

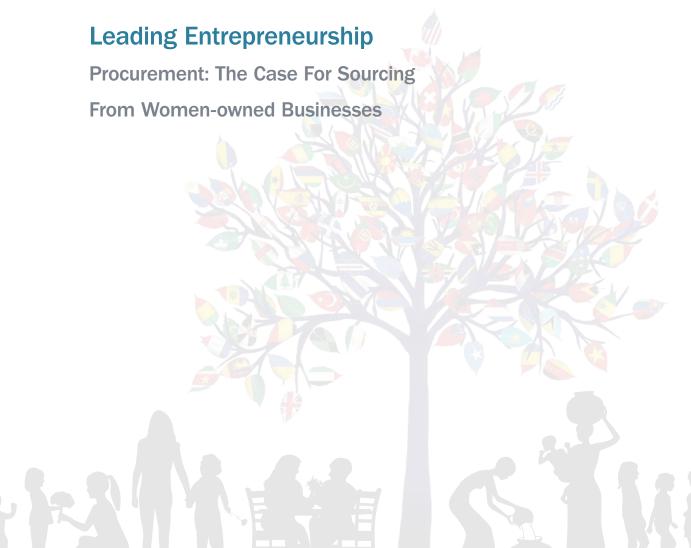
Leading Empowerment

Women's Empowerment Principles.

Equality Means Business

Leading Equality

Equal Pay Day



Leading Empowerment

Women's Empowerment Principles. Equality Means Business.

The Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) are a set of Principles offering guidance for business on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. They are the result of a partnership between UN Women and the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). The WEPs provide guidance on best practice in good corporate citizenship and the role of business in sustainable development.

BPW International supports the WEPs because they speak to the interests of all our members. The WEPs bring the case to the private sector that Equality Means Business and echoes our theme of *Empowered Women Leading Business*.

The WEPs in Brief

- 1. Establish high-level corporate leadership for gender equality.
- 2. Treat all women and men fairly at work—respect and support human rights and non-discrimination.
- 3. Ensure the health, safety and well-being of all women and men workers.
- 4. Promote education, training and professional development for women.
- 5. Implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women.
- 6. Promote equality through community initiatives and advocacy.
- 7. Measure and publicly report on progress to achieve gender equality.

BPW International aims to position itself as the NGO with expertise and Gender Specialists to advise business. We encourage the private sector to sign up to the WEPs and incorporate them into the very fabric of their organisation.

The WEPs are an instrument to bring equality, not only into the workplace, but also into the practices of organisations that effect communities. This is important to business as it creates a social licence to operate. Many businesses are looking for ways to be good corporate citizens and signing the CEO statement of support for the WEPs (http://www.weprinciples.org/) is one way they can demonstrate their good intentions.

WHAT IS BPW INTERNATIONAL DOING?

■ Project WEPs and the ThinkTank: Launched first quarter 2014 (see page 50).

Project WEPs. BPW International are working with the IOE and UNGC Local Networks to identify BPW International affiliates to pilot a program to test how best to implement the WEPs and place BPW International as gender specialists. The feedback from this will give all members examples of best practice establishing a model that can be rolled out to 2016 and beyond.

ThinkTank. Establishing a BPW International ThinkTank of Gender Specialists to solidify our position as the 'goto' NGO. Those members with WEPs experience will be asked to nominate first.

- Supporting a WEPs event being held in Australia in June 2014, run in conjunction with B20 (Business 20). The purpose of the B20 is to develop recommendations and relevant commitments from the business leaders and business organizations to deal with current issues such as procurement and diversity. This is a global event and to see more information about the B20, including countries involved, click here.
- A 'WEPs Toolkit' for use by our members in presenting to CEOs and other important private sector representatives to obtain 'CEO Statements of Support' for the WEPs.



Leading Empowerment

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Learn the WEPs.

- Hold an information event on the WEPs for your club members. You can find a lot of information here. The BPW International WEPs Toolkit is also invaluable.
- Use the event to mobilise your members to use their network to invite CEOs to attend a 'CEO Statement of Support' signing event.
- Hold a CEO Statement of Support signing event. Encourage business leaders to join them and use the Principles as a guide for actions that can be taken in the workplace, marketplace and community.
- Communicate with those organisations that have signed a CEO Statement of Support to implement policies and initiatives and offer your support and advice.
- Let us know what you are doing!! Whether you hold an event or know of an organisation that is doing great things let us know. Corporations can achieve global recognition through the UNGC for adopting this important initiative. We need to make sure we shine a light on those doing good work in the corporate sector. Please let the President's Office know of any events and also report through the BPW International Affiliates Annual Report.

- The WEPs are a top organisational priority and BPW International actively supports the WEPs.
- The WEPs can be used by BPW International affiliates to advocate gender equality to business.
- BPW International is positioning itself to be recognised as gender specialists by 2016.
- Communicate your success back to BPW International.



Leading Equality

Equal Pay Day. Building a Global Awareness Campaign and Taking Action.

In countries across the world and at all stages of economic development and prosperity, women are still paid less to do the same work as a man. Regardless of a nation's history, economic position or its efforts to address other areas of gender inequality... there is NO country in the world where women receive equal pay for work of equal value.

BPW International launched Equal Pay Day (EPD) in 2010 during the United Nations Fifty sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW56) to highlight the issue of the gender pay gap and to drive for solutions. EPD marks how far into the next year a woman would need to work before she would earn the same amount as a man earns in the previous year. EPD supports WEPs Principle #2. Treat all women and men fairly at work.

Empowering women through economic security is central to a sustainable economy. The economic empowerment of women addresses not only poverty but family security, education and health issues. It also has an impact on welfare in retirement and/or old age. There is no sound reason why women should not be paid at the same rate as men.

EPD dates are different for each country because the gender pay gap is different. A shift in the gender pay gap would move the Equal Pay Day further away, or closer to, the end of year.

WHAT IS BPW INTERNATIONAL DOING?

- Through its work on promoting the Women's Empowerment Principles (See page 43) BPW International is bringing the issue of equal rights in the workplace to CEOs, their businesses and governments across the world.
- Continues to co-sponsor (with the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations) annual EPD side events in New York during the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.
- Works collaboratively with partners at the international level to expose the underlying causes of the gender pay gap and advocate for the adoption of workplace policies and practices to address this inequality. This includes working with the IOE and UN Agencies like the ILO, World Bank and the UN Global Compact office.
- BPW Europe is considerably active in uniting to take action on this important issue. There are useful tips and facts and figures on the Equal Pay Day website.
- Encourages affiliates to establish EPD events in their country. Outside of Europe we have been successful in starting campaigns in Australia, NZ, Korea, Japan, and Argentina.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Visit the EPD website. This is the key resource for EPD events website.
- If there is no EPD campaign in your country, start one! Look at the great events, promotions and media opportunities set up by your BPW International colleagues in other countries and be inspired to do something similar!
- You will need to calculate the Gender Pay Gap in your country by contacting relevant government authorities/ bureaus to collect statistics on average weekly earnings so that you can determine the Equal Pay Day in your country.



Leading Equality

- Collaborate with other like-minded organisations and work together to attract the attention of your local and national media on this important issue.
- Raise awareness in your workplace.
- Invite members to send a letter, or send a collective letter from members, to your local political representatives and ask them what they are doing to achieve Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value.
- Report on your EPD events and let us know of any achievements or any setbacks. We want to bring attention to our successes ...and shine light on areas that need our attention across the globe. Use the BPW International Affiliates Annual Report to let us know!

Key messages

- In no country are women paid the same as men.
- There is no sound economic reason for the gender pay gap.
- The economic empowerment of women is a human rights issue.
- If you do not have an EPD campaign—start one!



About the EPD logo

The logo (left) was designed by BPW Germany member (and Award Winning Designer), Natalie Schommler, and is available to Affiliates world-wide for non-commercial use. Contact the President's Office for more information about using the logo.



Leading Entrepreneurship

Procurement: The case for sourcing from Women-owned Businesses.

Every day of the week all over the world, Governments at all levels, and businesses and companies of all sizes buy products and services. They buy products to manufacture new products for sale; they buy products to use in their offices and factories; they buy services to assist them in carrying on with their own businesses. The global economy exists through a complex network of supply chain, each business created to service the need of another business, or to provide products and services direct to consumers.

Women-owned Businesses (WoBs)¹ are part of this global supply chain. However, while acknowledging the efforts of pioneering women business owners, it is the case that business is dominated by men. Therefore, it stands to reason that businesses owned by men have long standing relationships within the global supply chain and greater opportunity to be the preferred suppliers of goods and services to businesses around the world and in local economies. BPW International, and a number of its global partners, want this to change.

BPW International has partnerships with WEConnect, International Trade Centre (ITC) and Commonwealth Business Women (CBW), all of which work in different and complementary ways to increase the profile of WoBs and challenge procurement practices to support gender diversity in the supply chain.

WEConnect. Certification.

Within the services WEConnect offer is a certification program to assure corporations that they are purchasing goods and/or services from WoBs.

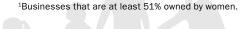
ITC. Global value chains.

Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women connects women business owners in developing countries to global value chains. The Platform is open to corporations, women business owners, governments and institutions.

CBW. Finance and skills. Access to markets.

CBW features both access to Finance and Skills and Access to Markets in their 2014–2020 Road Map (See Resources). While the initiatives to fully realise these goals are still being developed, through BPW International's relationship with CBW members from all countries have access to the Commonwealth Business Forum—the next one is in 2015—to access markets.

As corporations are increasingly looking for ways to diversify their supply chain and assist local communities, these partnerships also become increasingly important to BPW International. BPW International members, as *Empowered Women Leading Business*, are showing the way with their involvement in programs that increase access to markets.





Leading Entrepreneurship

WHAT IS BPW INTERNATIONAL DOING?

- Maintains the relationships with organisations that support WoBs to bring value to BPW International members.
- Actively seeks relationships and opportunities with organisations that support the inclusion of WoBs in supply chains.
- Advocates for the adoption of 'Supplier Diversity Programs' (SDP) within the private and public sector. A SDP asks businesses and governments to look at their supply chain and to think about where WoBs feature.
 BPW International wants private and public sector institutions to look at how every dollar they spend can contribute to creating gender equality and increase the economic growth and competitiveness of all nations.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Bring BPW International's WoBs to the ITC Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women Vendors (GPASWV). Have them attend the annual Women Vendors Exhibition and Forum in September 2014, Kigali, Rwanda and secure direct contracts with major corporations. To facilitate the engagement of WoBs in your area with the GPASWV, see here.
- All countries can participate in the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) Business to Business sessions which have begun to attract more business women. For more information on the CBF go the Commonwealth Business Council site.
- Identify CEOs who have signed on to the WEPs CEOs Statement of Support and advocate that they adopt a Supplier Diversity Program as part of their commitment, specifically WEPs Principle #5 Implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women.
- Encourage your member WoBs to register and get certified through WEConnect as WoBs. If there is no certification provider in your area, let the Office of the President know and we will work on getting one started.
- Ask your local or national levels of government whether they have considered adopting a preferential procurement policy for their government spend. Advocate for change!
- Report back to us about your initiatives via the BPW International Affiliates Annual Report.

- Women have a significant and under-utilised role to play in economies.
- WoBs benefit businesses and communities in ways that male-owned businesses do not.
- BPW International advocates for improved access to finance and the market place for women entrepreneurs.
- The ITC Global Platform, CBW and WEConnect are important partners in support of WoBs.



BPW International New Initiatives

Project WEPs

ThinkTank

Why Change?

Sustainability in BPW International



Project WEPs

Project WEPs was launched at the UN Global Compact Leader's Summit 2013 in New York. Since then, BPW International has been working with the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and UN Global Compact (UNGC) Local Networks to deliver pilot projects with affiliates and business networks at the national level.

Project WEPs seeks to establish a working model to bring affiliates closer to business communities in their countries. We want to position BPW International as the 'go-to' Non-Government Organisation (NGO) for advice on gender issues. This requires BPW International leading the way in signing Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) to the CEO Statement of Support for the WEPs and then forging relationships with those organisations to advise them on the implementation of policies and initiatives that support the WEPs.

We believe in the creativity of our members and realise that different approaches are going to work in different regions. For us to truly position BPW International as experts in this area we need to understand what works and what doesn't at the grass roots level.

Project WEPs has the support of the IOE and UNGC Local Networks to facilitate the relationships needed and to bring our networks together. The initial stage of the project is a pilot of 12 countries developing 2014-2016 National Action Plans.

The result will be a working model which will be rolled out to BPW International affiliates. In addition, the experience of working with business and our Project WEPs partners, positions BPW International as being gender specialists and complements the ThinkTank initiative (page 51). These two initiatives are different but compatible and draw upon the emerging and current expertise of our members.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Learn the WEPs. They are a core policy initiative and reach into all of the work we do.
- Identify UNGC Local Networks/Focal Points and IOE member organisations in your country.
- Plan ways to be more involved with business in your country.
- Build on your business contacts and introduce them to the WEPs.

- BPW International is delivering Project WEPs.
- Project WEPs is a pilot that will run to 2016.
- Project WEPs will deliver a model highlighting that as an NGO, BPW International and its affiliates are the gender specialists to business.
- Project WEPs is a collaboration between BPW International, UNGC Local Networks and the IOE that extends to our affiliates at a national and club level.



ThinkTank

BPW International, as one of the main stakeholders, provided input into the development of the WEPs during 2009. We believe there is an opportunity to leverage our unique position as business and professional women and provide advice on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The ThinkTank creates a platform for members to be recognised as BPW International Gender Specialists, a pool of experts that we can draw from to access expertise on an as-needs basis. The model allows for all members to potentially play a role. Gender Specialist criteria will be developed to define the expertise needed. Such criteria will include evidence of familiarity with key statistical information, key reports and the business case for why women mean business.

It is intended that the ThinkTank members will be called upon to provide advice to both external and internal stakeholders. Stakeholders may include: the WEPs Leadership Group in New York (BPW International is a member), ILO, CEOs, IOE, policy makers, decision makers; and internally the International President and other members.

The WEPs are a top organisational priority and reach across the other policy based initiatives. With Project WEPs in place, familiarity with the WEPs is where we will start to identify the Gender Specialists for the ThinkTank.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Learn the WEPs.
- Understand the gender context of your country i.e. relevant legislation, data and statistics.
- Think about how you can contribute to the ThinkTank initiative.

- BPW International is striving to become the gender specialist NGO to business and government.
- BPW International is establishing a ThinkTank that will provide advice to internal and external stakeholders on gender.
- Gender Specialists will have a working knowledge of the WEPs and their implementation.



Why Change?

WHY CHANGE?

BPW International is passionate about the wave of enthusiasm that now exists around women and their contribution to society and economies—both current and untapped. In many countries the business case is already fully understood, while in others the connection between a healthy society and the economic empowerment of women is only beginning to be seen. In this context, BPW International is calling the 21st century the Women's Century—the time for change is now.

BPW International has been working with the Business School Lausanne and devised a short survey that asks the what, why and how of change to create gender equality. The results of the survey will be collated into a report—a compilation of responses on what needs to change to address the behaviours, attitudes and cultural barriers affecting women's participation in society and the economy. The report will be a compilation of regional responses within a global context. We call this initiative *Why Change?*

Importantly, BPW International is advocating for gender equality and the economic empowerment of women to be a central pillar of the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda. *Why Change?* will provide regional evidence to the UN on the state of the empowerment of women.

Why Change? will be available for:

- BPW International members for the purpose of advocacy
- the general public as it will be freely available on the BPW International website
- relevant governments for policy guidance. BPW International will distribute the information to those governments implicated in the responses
- the UN Secretary General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons
- BPW International in their role as an advocate for gender equality and the economic empowerment of women in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Use the report to inform your members.
- Distribute the report amongst your networks.
- Use the report to map a plan of action.
- Use the report as evidence in your advocacy campaigns for change.

- In driving *Why Change?*, BPW International is supporting its commitment to provide members with tools for advocacy.
- Why Change? provides evidence for the need to change.
- Why Change? builds credibility for BPW International and positions us as gender specialists



Sustainability in BPW International

All organisations strive to be effective, to make a difference, to do well and for longevity—in a nutshell—to be sustainable. BPW International is no different. The question is, how do you measure these things so you know how the organisation is doing?

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) has worked since 1997 to develop guidelines that help to measure the sustainability of an organisation. In 2013 they produced their fourth revision of these guidelines.

The GRI guidelines provide indicators to help an organisation look at their governance practices, their economic, environmental and social impacts, labour practices etc. and see how they are performing—where they are doing well and where they may improve. The GRI standard also understands that not all of the indicators are going to be relevant to all organisations.

In addition, it has become increasingly important to stakeholders to understand an organisation's approach to sustainability. BPW International is no different. Sustainability reporting is one of the key areas of interest of the UN Global Compact (UNGC) and the UN Office for Partnerships also considers strategic alliances with corporations, foundations and NGOs that report on this basis.

In 2014, BPW International will produce its first sustainability report. The report will cover BPW International 2011–2014 Triennium activities. In our first report we will be focussing on the areas that we know we do well in such as gender and social impacts. The report will also allow us to set targets and goals in areas that we may not have considered before. It is time for us to look at our organisation through a new lens.

The working title of the report is Our Roots: Our Destiny as we look at where we have come from and where we want to be. It will honour those who have worked to get BPW International to where it is today and lay a foundation for the future.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- The report will include case studies of the kind of work BPW International does. We will be seeking input from affiliates so we can profile examples of their work. If you have anything you would like to profile, please send to policy@bpw-international.org.
- When the report is launched at Congress, please share it with your members and other stakeholders. There will be a very limited number available in print to reduce the resource footprint of the organisation. The report will be available on the BPW International website.
- Think about how you can contribute to the sustainability of BPW International and act!

- Sustainability builds on our history.
- Sustainability is being integrated into BPW International.
- Sustainability includes governance, environmental, economic and social impacts.
- Sustainability is a strategy to ensure our future.



Thinking Globally.
Working Locally.
Bringing It To Life.

Commonwealth Business Women

International Trade Centre

International Organisation of Employers

Food and Agricultural Organisation



Commonwealth Business Women

Strengthening the Commonwealth. Building Businesses.

Advancing Women. 54 Countries. One Platform.

BPW International have been in partnership with Commonwealth Business Women (CBW) since 2011. The alignment between the CBW agenda and BPW International initiatives has made this an important strategic relationship. In addition, of the 54 Commonwealth member countries, BPW International has a presence in 23.

CBW brings together the collective experience, relationships, reputation and reach of the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC), BPW International and the British Association of Women Entrepreneurs (BAWE).

The Commonwealth's 54 countries comprise 2 billion people (a third of the world's population), accounts for 20% of world trade, its urban population increases by 65,000 people daily and its middle class contains 31% of the global population, representing a huge and growing consumer market.

CBW in Brief

CBW's agenda is defined as 5 Ps-potential, progression, platform, procurement and policy.

Three priorities for CBW are:

- Encouraging more women onto boards and in senior decision making roles
- Development of gender based procurement programmes
- Access to finance and skills

Additional areas of interest are:

- Women and technology
- Women and international trade

These have significant alignment with the priorities of BPW International and help to strengthen our programs and initiatives, extend our reach and enhance our networks.

BPW International has a CBW presence in the following countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, United Kingdom and Zambia.

CBW have a Roadmap to 2020 (see Resources) to guide their work. In delivering on the Roadmap to 2020, CBW are currently working on:

- a report for policy-makers and corporates documenting best practice on gender and procurement across the Commonwealth
- holding a Gender and Procurement Training event during CSW58
- a Handbook for women in business on how to access global trade and procurement platforms
- planning regional workshops with the Commonwealth Secretariat held in 2014 in Asia and Africa to provide outreach and share key messages of the Handbook and outcomes from the meetings during CSW in New York.



Commonwealth Business Women

WHAT IS BPW INTERNATIONAL DOING?

- Aligning affiliates and clubs with CBC events where there is a strategic purpose.
- BPW International was part of the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF)—an event of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)—in Sri Lanka in November. This was the first CBF that had a session dedicated to the economic empowerment of women. It also had the most women attending of any CBF. BPW International was instrumental in making this happen.
- Due to our relationship with CBW, BPW International made history by being invited by the Secretary General to address the 10th Women's Affairs Ministerial Meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- As a partner of CBW, BPW International has had new opportunities to expand our influence. One such opportunity was the invitation to present to a close door interaction chaired by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka during CHOGM and attended by 20–30 senior business leaders and ministers.
- During CHOGM, BPW International was invited to a business reception with His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales and given the opportunity to update His Royal Highness on the significant progress CBW has made over the past two years.
- BPW International made an intervention at last year's annual Consultation of Commonwealth National Women's Machineries in New York, bringing us closer to decision makers. This is now an annual event for BPW International during CSW in New York.
- Our relationship with CBW also allows BPW International access to closed door ministerial meetings held during CSW.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Work with CBW to help establish local Leadership Groups in which BPW International is represented nationally. This will also raise awareness and support for local BPW International initiatives and projects and can increase membership.
- Participation in CBF is not limited to Commonwealth Countries, so all BPW International members are able to be involved in this business forum.
- Learn more and stay updated by accessing the CBW website.
- Join and participate actively and effectively in the CBW LinkedIn group on the internet. Get involved!

- BPW International has a strategic partnership with CBW.
- CBW goals align with BPW International's priorities.
- Our partnership with CBW allows us access to important profiling and advocacy forums.
- CBW is a strong partnership in the areas of procurement and supporting women into senior roles



International Trade Centre

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is a joint agency of the United Nations and World Trade Organisation based in Geneva. ITC's mission is to foster sustainable economic development and contribute to the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries and countries in transition, through trade and international business development. Established in 1964, ITC is celebrating 50 years of providing solid trade-related technical assistance.

The ITC's Women and Trade Programme works with governments, the private sector and trade support institutions to bring greater economic benefit to women through increased participation in export trade.

The Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women Vendors in brief

A central aspect of ITC's Women and Trade Programme is the Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women Vendors (GPASWV). For all of the reasons stated in Leading Entrepreneurship [See page 47] and more, the ITC established this important initiative in 2010. BPW International has been a partner of this initiative since its inception. The aim of the initiative is to increase the share of corporate, government and institutional procurement secured by women vendors.

The Women Vendors Exhibition and Forum in Brief

The Women Vendors Exhibition and Forum (WVEF) is the annual event of the Global Platform's ten year strategy, a key part of the commitment to ensure women business owners conclude commercial transactions over time.

Through a rigorous matching process, women vendors are brought together with senior procurement executives from corporations and public sector procurement officers. Preparation for the meeting is undertaken in advance through the relevant trade support institutions, BPW International being one of them.

At WVEF participants have the opportunity to develop partnerships by engaging in Buyer Mentor Groups (BMGs) in target sectors, and to further these partnerships through facilitated one on one buyer seller meetings on a selected basis. The BMGs are led by senior mentors who have substantial experience in making buyer seller linkages. There are also presentations from dynamic highly knowledgeable speakers, an electronic showcase of select companies, and capacity building workshops and technical assistance.

To date over 650 women from around the globe have met buyers resulting in USD20m in sales and letters of intent to do business. In addition, ITC with partners has launched projects to help suppliers understand and meet buyers' requirements.

WHAT IS BPW INTERNATIONAL DOING?

- BPW International actively encourages its members to participate in WVEF by circulating regular information updates, getting our members registered on the Platform and surveying our membership to assist ITC to determine where the needs of our business and professional women are, and how we can all best assist to grow their businesses.
- As a founding partner of the GPASWV, BPW International made an intervention at the 47th Annual Meeting of the Joint Advisory Group. This meeting was also an opportunity to meet with ITC team and discuss future opportunities for collaboration.
- BPW International and ITC updated their MOU at the Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women Vendors meeting during the Women Vendors Exhibition and Forum in Mexico City, with a view to increasing and streamlining our co-operation in this area.



International Trade Centre

- BPW International conducts member surveys to assist ITC identify industry sectors in which women entrepreneurs are active. Buyers are then sought in key sectors.
- Through its work with CBW [See page 55], BPW International has advocated for the inclusion of 'Procurement' as one of the three central tenets of CBW's mandate. With ITC's support, BPW International will continue to advocate for the adoption of preferential procurement policies favouring sourcing from women-owned businesses (WoBs) by all Commonwealth countries' governments through its work with CBW.
- Encouraged an increased participation of BPW International entrepreneurs from developing countries in WVEFs.
- Encouraged both private and public sector buyers to attend WVEFs to increase their sourcing from WoBs.
- Has agreed to work closely with ITC over the coming years as the Platform continues to grow, to benefit BPW International members, and to work with CBW as the initiative is expanded to include a focus on government procurement.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Facilitate the engagement of WoBs in your area with the GPASWV. Register here.
- Participate in the annual BPW International Members' ITC Survey to assist the ITC to determine the key industry sectors for the WVEF.
- Do some research. Look at where your own business (or your employers' business) sources its goods and services, or ask your local or national levels of government whether they have considered adopting a preferential procurement policy for their expenditure. Advocate for increased sourcing from WoBs!
- Report back to us about your initiatives via the BPW International Affiliates Annual Report.

- The ITC is a powerful partner in increasing procurement from WoBs.
- Through their forums the ITC can assist in supporting access to markets for BPW International WoBs based in developing countries.
- The ITC is a natural partner in BPW International's call for legislative change in favour of gender equality and the empowerment of women; and the provision of mentorship for women in business.



International Organisation of Employers

During 2012, BPW International forged a relationship with International Organisation of Employers (IOE).

This was in the context of initial discussions at the Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum: Innovation & Collaboration for the Future We Want.

Since then we have explored and identified potential collaboration opportunities, recognising that BPW International could provide advice in the areas of: women's entrepreneurship; eliminating discrimination against women in the workplace; empowering more women in business into positions of power and decision making; enhancing labour force participation; and assist the IOE membership to better understand why women advocate for inclusiveness and its importance to business and the bottom line.

Since its creation in 1920, the IOE has been recognized as the only organization that represents the interests of business in labour and social policy debate in international forums, and across the UN multilateral system. It is the largest representative organisation of the private sector in the world. The IOE's work in the support of its members in all countries, and at all stages of development, includes the promotion of a wider understanding of the benefits of gender equality initiatives and the development of women entrepreneurship.

"We look forward to collaborating with BPW International on harnessing common experiences and business initiatives, and creating an international forum that promotes the exchange of information and good practice in this important area amongst a wider business community."

IOE Secretary-General, Mr Brent Wilton

Today, the IOE has a membership of 151 national employer organisations from 144 countries all over the world. BPW International has a footprint that extends to some 98 countries worldwide. In laying the foundation for BPW International to be recognised as gender specialists during this Triennium, we have relied upon the strength of our partnerships and informing them of the value that we can bring. We have worked with the IOE to bring mutual understanding to our membership bases and to strengthen our networks. This has resulted in Project WEPs, which will see our two organisations plus the UNGC Local Network coming together to pilot and report on a working model for delivering the WEPs to business (see page 50).

WHAT IS BPW INTERNATIONAL DOING?

- In support of establishing Project WEPs, BPW International UN Representatives met with the IOE in Geneva during the ITC Joint Advisory Group meeting in May 2013. Follow up meetings were held to explore how BPW International could best be profiled at the IOE International Labour Conference (ILC) in June 2014. As result of these discussions, BPW International have been invited to make an intervention at the IOE Employer's Group meeting during the ILC on Project WEPs.
- BPW International attended the IOE Women's Empowerment meeting in Geneva which was a unique opportunity to formally introduce BPW International to the IOE employer's network.
- Established a secretariat to deliver Project WEPs an initiative that will see 12 affiliate countries pilot the promotion of the WEPs to business and build local partnerships with the IOE and UNGC Local Networks. This project will run over a three year period to 2016. The feedback from this will be the basis for developing a working model and provide members with examples of best practice in promoting and advising on the WEPs. It is the foundation of BPW International becoming gender specialists.
- In establishing the ThinkTank (see page 51), BPW International affiliates can become Gender Specialists to national employer organisations, raising awareness of the WEPs and using them as a framework to lead business discussions.



International Organisation of Employers

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Learn the Women's Empowerment Principles. Both the IOE and BPW International have these as an organisational priority.
- Ask the President's Office to introduce you to IOE members in your country so that you can collaborate and promote gender equality in the workplace.
- Know your regional statistics, regulatory framework/s and relevant reports that are conducive to achieving diversity in the workplace and increasing business productivity.
- Develop policy advice for the inclusion of women in business and the workplace.
- Develop the capacity of your business networks.
- Report back using the BPW International Annual Affiliates report.

- Project WEPs is an example of our global partnerships working at the local level—bringing the voice of women to business.
- The IOE is an influential partner for BPW International, representing the interests of peak business and industry organisations.
- BPW International's relationship with the IOE allows affiliates access to their membership base at the national level.
- BPW International is partnering with IOE for Project WEPs which is the pilot program working with business and is also the foundation for BPW International becoming gender specialists.



Food and Agricultural Organisation

"Women make crucial contributions in agriculture and rural enterprises. Women play a key role in rural economies, where the fight against hunger and poverty is most pressing, as this is where the large majority of the world's poor live. They are also central to family food security and nutrition, as they are generally responsible for food selection and preparation and for the care and feeding of children ..."

Director General.

The FAOs policy on gender equality is to achieve equality between women and men in sustainable agricultural production and rural development for the elimination of hunger and poverty.

Women's participation, equal access with men and control over employment, income, land, goods and services for agricultural development and markets are the aims of BPW International and other women associations with representatives at FAO.

At the FAO Conference in June 2013, five strategic objectives were defined as the main areas of work.

- 1 Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition,
- 2 Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner,
- 3 Reduce rural poverty,
- 4 Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels,
- 5 Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

2014 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN2)

The Second International Conference on Nutrition, an inclusive inter-governmental meeting will be held at FAO Headquarters, in Rome, 19–21, November 2014.

It will be a high-level ministerial conference which will propose a flexible policy framework to address today's major nutrition challenges and identify priorities for enhanced international cooperation on nutrition. The scope of the conference is to:

- be global in perspective, but focus particularly on nutrition challenges in developing countries;
- address all forms of malnutrition, recognizing the nutrition transition and its consequences;
- seek to improve nutrition throughout the life cycle, focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable households, and on women, infants and young children in deprived, vulnerable and in emergency contexts.

The outcome of the ICN2 will contribute to the UN Secretary-General's call for a high degree of policy coherence at global, regional, national and sub-national levels and a global partnership for development at all levels. The ICN2 will also engage the Secretary-General's call to leaders gathered at the Rio+20 Summit to take up the "Zero Hunger Challenge".

Investing in nutrition is not only a moral imperative, but also makes economic sense as it improves productivity and economic growth, reduces health care costs and promotes education, intellectual capacity and social development. While the cost of dealing with the effects of malnutrition—whether in fiscal, economic or human terms—is high, the cost of prevention is much less.



Food and Agricultural Organisation

2014: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING

At the 66th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, 2014 was declared the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF).

Family farming is not defined solely by production. When supported by appropriate policies and public investment, family farming has the capacity to contribute to food security, job creation, sustainable management of biodiversity and other natural resources and preserve traditions.

The ultimate goal is to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods of men and women family farmers, by facilitating the development of effective and economically viable agricultural cooperatives, where principles of equity and good internal governance are integrated.

The World Food Day 2014, October 16, 2014, will focus on Family Farming.

What is BPW International doing?

- BPW International is convenor of the Ad Hoc Group of International non-Governmental Organisations. The AHG is a network engaged to disseminate FAO programs so they are more effective at regional and global levels. The alliance/platform www.ahgingos.org / www.fao.org/partnerships is shared with the most important international associations and experts. Working with partners allows FAO to learn how its support for gender equality in agriculture can be made more effective.
- BPW International disseminates AHG information and awareness-raising materials.
- The AHG can assist with forming strategic alliances in your region. Contact the Office of the President.

What can you do?

- Develop strategic alliances and establish national or regional committees to advocate for gender equality in farming.
- Report on your activities using the BPW International Annual Affiliates report.
- Contact our UN representatives at the FAO.

- 2014 is the International Year of Family Farming.
- Farming is a key issue in the equality of women.
- Family farming also impacts food security, employment and environmental sustainability.



The Millennium Development Goals

CSW58 Theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls

Millennium Development Goals

Progress on Implementation

BPW International position statement on the Post–2015 Development Agenda

BPW International written statement issued to CSW58

BPW International draft oral statement issued to CSW58



Millennium Development Goals

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In September 2000, building upon a decade of major United Nations conferences and summits, world leaders came together at United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time-bound targets—with a deadline of 2015—that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2002, the Millennium Project was commissioned by the United Nations Secretary-General to develop a concrete action plan for the world to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to reverse the grinding poverty, hunger and disease affecting billions of people. In 2005, the independent advisory body headed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, presented its final recommendations to the Secretary-General in a synthesis volume "Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals."

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) below, form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest.

- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2. Achieve universal primary education
- 3. Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4. Reduce child mortality
- 5. Improve maternal health
- 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8. Global partnership for development

The outcome document of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), requested the Secretary-General to initiate thinking on a Post-2015 Development Agenda. In addition, an outcome of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development is an inclusive intergovernmental process to prepare a set of post MDGs called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is broad agreement on the need for close linkages between these two processes to arrive at one post 2015 global sustainable development agenda.

BPW International is a contributor to the Post-2015 Development Agenda and SDGs on the issue of gender equality and the economic empowerment of women. The Why Change? report based on the international survey conducted by BPW International (see *page* 52) will be presented to UN Secretary General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons to provide guidance and recommendations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In addition the BPW International UN Representatives are advocating for gender equality and the economic empowerment of women in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda review.

More info: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/



Progress on Implementation

- The world has achieved equality in primary education between girls and boys, but only 2 out of 130 countries have achieved that target at all levels of education.
- The gender gap in employment persists, with a 24.8 percentage point difference between men and women in the employment-to-population ratio in 2012.
- Globally, 40 out of every 100 wage-earning jobs in the non-agricultural sector were held by women in 2011. This is a significant improvement since 1990.
- Globally, 123 million youth (aged 15 to 24) lack basic reading and writing skills. 61 per cent of them are young women.



- Gender gaps in youth literacy rates are also narrowing. Globally, there were 95 literate young women for every 100 young men in 2010, compared with 90 women in 1990.
- Children of educated mothers—even mothers with only primary schooling—are more likely to survive than children of mothers with no education.
- Maternal mortality has nearly halved since 1990. An estimated 287,000 maternal deaths occurred in 2010 worldwide, a decline of 47 per cent from 1990. All regions have made progress but accelerated interventions are required in order meet the target.
- In Eastern Asia, Northern Africa and Southern Asia, maternal mortality has declined by around two-thirds
- More women are receiving antenatal care. In developing regions, antenatal care increased from 63 per cent in 1990 to 81 per cent in 2011.
- Only half of women in developing regions receive the recommended amount of health care they need.
- Fewer teens are having children in most developing regions, but progress has slowed.
- The large increase in contraceptive use in the 1990s was not matched in the 2000s.
- The need for family planning is slowly being met for more women, but demand is increasing at a rapid pace.
- Official Development Assistance for reproductive health care and family planning remains low.
- In many countries, gender inequality persists and women continue to face discrimination in access to education, work and economic assets, and participation in government. For example, in every developing region, women tend to hold less secure jobs than men, with fewer social benefits.
- \blacksquare The global share of women in parliament continues to rise and reached 20% in 2012.
- Violence against women continues to undermine efforts to reach all goals.
- Poverty is a major barrier to secondary education, especially among older girls.
- Women are largely relegated to more vulnerable forms of employment.



BPW International position statement on the Post–2015 Development Agenda

BPW International

Empowered Women Leading Business

Women's Economic Empowerment Through Labour Market Access and Entrepreneurship:

Key to Development

Shaping the Post 2015 Development Agenda and SDG to Achieve Gender Equality and the Economic Empowerment of Women

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International)¹ advocates for gender equality and women's economic empowerment. Research shows that when women earn equally to men, enjoy full access to land, water, and food and the management thereof, have access to all basic services, have control over means of production and (natural) resources and the opportunity to engage in income generating activities, including but not limited to entrepreneurship, the development impact on society is socially and statistically significant.

The progress reports on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have revealed significant gaps and omissions, especially in the realization of MDG 7 – the sanitation target - and MDG 3: "Promote gender equality and empower women". The <u>economic</u> empowerment of women is not specifically mentioned; and discussion of enablers like technical assistance, property rights or legal frameworks that ensure household and societal voice of women - so essential to the development of business - is basically absent. Women are seen as recipients of aid and advice (victims) rather than as actors in their own right, agents of change, with rights to ownership and the means (including general and financial literacy education, loans, technical assistance, etc.) to ensure success and achieve their full potential equally with their male peers.

With the on-going discussions on the Post 2015 agenda and SDGs there are new opportunities: the inclusion of clear language concerning women's equality and economic empowerment in the vision, goals, targets and indicators.

International Federation of Business & Professional Women

Founded in 1930, BPW International empowers Business and Professional Women in over 98 countries on 5 continents with General Consultative Status at ECOSOC/United Nations.

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BPW International position statement on the Post–2015 Development Agenda

BPW International

Empowered Women Leading Business

BPW International therefore recommends for the Post 2015 agenda and SDGs:

- 1. Women's equality and economic empowerment should be sought within the normative United Nations framework of human rights and with attention to sustainable development, as set out in the Rio+20 outcome document, "The Future we Want". The Women's Empowerment Principles², the normative framework for businesses ensuring equality, justice and economic advancement for all, should be universally adopted and promoted.
- 2. Member States (MS) should advocate the integration of specific measures to achieve the economic empowerment of women at the goal, target and indicator levels. These should include specific language, beginning with socially protective policies that, inter alia, aim to develop capacity and shrink institutional and educational gaps by stimulating basic and vocational training for women and girls. Policies must narrow disparities between women and men in earnings and productivity through provision of but not limited to childcare, training, management and leadership roles, and access to sustainable resources like land, credit, markets and materials.
- 3. MS should implement agreed treaties and conventions (inter alia CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action) and thus guarantee full ownership and access to land, water, food and the management thereof, means of production, the opportunity to engage in entrepreneurship, and full access to markets and resources all necessary for women to succeed in business and trade.
- 4. Access to information is crucial to all action. Careful monitoring procedures must include gender-disaggregated data and other indicators such as educational, social and economic levels and geographic location.



² http://www.weprinciples.org/

BPW INTERNATIONAL WRITTEN STATEMENT ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA TO CSW

Fifty-eighth Session, March 2014

Statement by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International), a nongovernmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

The Organization is founded on the vision of the empowerment and economic advancement of women, inter alia, through achieving workplace equality and equal pay.

In that context we welcome this opportunity to contribute to the discussion on achievements and gaps in reaching the Millennium Development Goals and the modalities for the Post 2015 framework.

General Comments

The Millennium Declaration has given focus, including to women, for commitment to equality and gender justice. Regrettably, however, implementation through and of the Millennium Development Goals has fallen short. Progress reports have revealed significant gaps and omissions, especially in the realization of Goal 7—the sanitation target—and Goal 3, "Promote gender equality and empower women". The economic empowerment of women is not specifically mentioned, and discussion of enablers like technical assistance, property rights or legal frameworks that ensure a household and societal voice for women is largely absent. Women are seen as recipients of aid and advice (victims) rather than as actors and agents of change. Results are measured in "averages", obscuring true disparities.

In the analysis and discussion below, we will consider gaps and challenges particularly in Goals 1, 2, 5 and 7; Goal 3, "gender equality and empowering women", is subsumed throughout.

Agreed Conclusions from the Fifty-fifth Session:

Goal 1, Target B provides for full and productive employment for all people including women and youth. However, we see everywhere the tremendous vulnerability of women in precarious jobs, the gap in employment rates between women and men and the unmeasured gaps in and caused by the informal economy. These gaps cost companies profit and nations economic growth.

Women must be part of the formal economy and formal labour force; their work in family companies and farms must be formally acknowledged and remunerated accordingly, and the unpaid roles for which women are considered responsible must be recognized as important economic drivers. Women need access to information, resources, education, training, markets, technical assistance and labour organizations. They need equal, secure access to capital and credit and decision making.

We urge Governments and companies to adopt the Women's Empowerment Principles—Equality Means Business, developed by UN Women and the UN Global Compact:

- treat all fairly at work—respect and support human rights and non-discrimination;
- secure the health, safety, and well-being of all workers;
- promote education, training and professional development for women;
- ensure women's participation in corporate management and governance;



- implement supply chain, enterprise development and marketing policies and practices that empower women;
- promote equality through community initiative and advocacy;
- measure and publicly report on progress to achieve gender equality.

Recommendations:

- adopt and implement the Women's Empowerment Principles to include equal employment, equal pay, pension, accessible and affordable care, social and health services, maternity leave benefits, and child care;
- 2. publicize these issues through broad media coverage and social networks;
- establish women entrepreneur networks to provide continuous and independent learning programmes and access to materials with technical information about production, processing, procurement, management and marketing.

Our organization has given wide publicity to the gender pay gap by establishing an Equal Pay Day. Our "Equal Pay for Equal Work" campaign, an ongoing initiative in fifty countries, aims to **close the gender gap in income** between men and women doing equal work. Without equality in pay no realization of Goal 3, no poverty eradication is possible; women will not gain their full potential as agents of change and actors in their own right.

Recommendations:

- 1. raise awareness of the gap with employers and women and develop strategies to mitigate it;
- 2. recognize and compensate (previous) experience and competences acquired in unpaid and volunteer jobs by "scaling" women into the pay scales;
- 3. empower women through training to advocate for themselves;
- 4. reward women fairly for taking care of the family and the home.

MDG Goal 2:

Education is a human right. It contributes to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and the eradication of poverty. It empowers women and girls in the context of global economic and technological changes and promotes development. Our organization emphasizes that education and training are essential to employment and access to the labour market in general.

The Commission on Sustainable Development in its seventeenth session concluded that "vocational and entrepreneurship training including proactive and market-related elements to build capacities within rural communities, in particular for youth, young girls, women and indigenous people" are necessary in order to enhance human capacity. Educated, well-trained women can advocate for themselves, develop and use their leadership abilities to enhance their domestic, economic, social and professional position and overcome the stereotyping and discrimination that keep them frequently in poverty, unequal to men and subject to violence.



Recommendations:

- 1. that vocational secondary level education (as minimum) especially for women and girls become part of the sustainable development goals;
- 2. that women be encouraged and facilitated to follow vocational and in-service training programs to increase their employment opportunities;
- 3. that recommendations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Global Education Digest 2011) be accepted and implemented.

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

We emphasize that good health, including mental and reproductive health, is essential for women and girls to gain employment, maintain their economic independence and contribute to development.

Action should be taken, including at all public and private working places, to secure the health of women workers under the framework of **Women's Empowerment Principle 2**. Lack of support for adequate maternal care and maternity leave and lack of child care in the workplace create additional stress on women and lead to health problems, both physical and mental; they place additional burdens on individuals, communities, and nations and contribute to low employment rates and low-level positions among mothers.

MDG Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability and Access to Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation are economic and education drivers, essential both for health and women's empowerment. Lack of adequate water, sanitation and hygiene have significant impact on countries' economies. Not only is distance a factor: carrying water has a severe impact on women's health because of the load they are carrying and the violence against them when they go to remote areas. Bad water quality can also severely damage their health and that of their children and make medication worthless.

In "an afterthought" the 55th Commission on the Status of Women mentions the need for provision of drinking water and separate adequate sanitation facilities as a factor in women's participation in the labour market and education. The Commission on the Status of Women has not paid much attention to recommendations from chapter K of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Other Commissions, though, made strong recommendations concerning the impact of proper water and sanitation delivery on the education of girls and the economic empowerment of women: access to clean water helps to improve education outcomes both by reducing the time spent fetching water and by reducing water-borne diseases (in 2011, only 51% of schools in Africa had an adequate water source and only 45% had adequate hygienic sanitation facilities which also allowed for menstrual hygiene; this lack caused half of the girls to drop out). Such inadequacies in the water supply ultimately affect girls' and women's opportunities for economic prosperity and well-being and constitute a severe impediment to gender equality.

Hygiene is a crucial component of the future development agenda. Women should have understanding of and full access to personal (particularly hand-washing), menstrual, domestic and food-handling hygiene.

70% of the workers in agriculture are women; they control 70% of our water use for agriculture and could be instrumental to sustainable and multiple use of water. However, the fact that women own only 1% of the land has a direct impact on their ownership of and access to water sources, so their roles as water managers and protectors of the source are not acknowledged, leading to the loss of important traditional knowledge.



Withholding adequate training and proper access to decision-making regarding water allocation constitutes mismanagement of our water resources.

The impact of inadequate sanitation alone costs eighteen African countries 5.5 billion US dollars each year. Targeted investments can yield broad social, health and economic returns. It is estimated that each US dollar invested in sanitation yields an average benefit of US \$5.5 globally—and can be as high as US \$8; for interventions in improved drinking water the yield is US \$2.

BPW International strongly recommends that the Commission on the Status of Women in future pay more attention to the importance of natural resources, including ownership and access to their benefits and to the impact of climate change. We advise that the Post 2015 framework encompass:

- 1. universal access to safe and sustainable water supply and gender-responsive sanitation and hygiene, including in schools, health facilities, companies and public installations;
- 2. access to proper hygiene, including hand-washing and menstrual hygiene management;
- 3. front-line service delivery by women to make public services more accessible;
- 4. involvement of women in water management at all levels.

At the Commission on Sustainable Development 2012 under the topic of "Driving Inclusive Sustainable Growth" our organization presented a side event to encourage innovative collaborations to enable women to develop scalable green economy businesses to accelerate sustainable development. It is crucial to motivate and facilitate rural women to engage in entrepreneurship and green jobs which provide opportunities to advance from low-skill, entry-level positions to high-skill, higher-paying jobs and create additional income.

With less than two years left until 2015 for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, ending gender-based injustices that create barriers to women's and girls' opportunities must be the centrepiece of further action.

Recommendations for the Post-2015 Goals:

- 1. the Goals must go beyond numbers, consider substance and quality and ensure full integration of the different pillars of sustainable development, avoiding a "silo" approach and connecting the various targets with other goals;
- 2. BPW International urges member states to adopt dedicated goals for water and sanitation and equality and non-discrimination;
- 3. universal ratification and implementation of the Convention for the Elimination of All Discrimination Against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action must be part of the Goals, since they underlie and connect all the different areas of concern;
- 4. all goals must be considered equally important, be underpinned by a human rights framework and guarantee a full range of connected services;
- 5. governments must translate the globally agreed goals and targets into national frameworks, investing where resources are most needed;



6. clear language concerning women's equality and economic empowerment must be included throughout.

Some practical approaches to putting women's rights at the heart of the new goals include:

- increasing the rate of access to services for women (including reproductive health);
- continuing girls education for the critical secondary years and delaying marriage;
- amplifying women's voices in decision-making, from the household up to local and national levels;
- enhancing women's ability to accumulate assets including through laws;
- increasing women's voice in society by introducing quotas;
- fostering women's leadership and ensuring that policies reflect the realities of women's lives;
- mobilizing communities to raise awareness of discrimination, pinpoint harmful cultural and social behaviours, and develop alternative models;
- developing the programmes to increase women's self-confidence, competent social interaction, participation, negotiation skills, capacity for decision-making and problem-solving, and democratic citizenship awareness.

The Sustainable Development Goals/Post-2015 Development Agenda provides opportunities for a new commitment to equality in the economic advancement and empowerment of women. They should lead to sufficient health care, education and water-, food- and energy-security. Research shows that when women earn equally to men, enjoy full access and management of land, water, food and all basic services, control means of production and (natural) resources and have the opportunity to engage in income generating activities, the development impact on society is socially and statistically significant.



BPW International draft oral statement issued to CSW58

The Draft Oral Statement on promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all By Arzu ÖZYOL

Statement submitted by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

To accelerate poverty eradication, The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) works so all people, particularly women, are empowered, socially integrated and offered decent work and full employment. While women now represent 40% of the global workforce, 43% of the world's agricultural labor force and more than half the world's university students according to the World Bank's 2012 Development Report, women have unequal access to economic opportunities, earning less than men everywhere, thus making up the majority of the world's poor. The World Economic Forum demonstrates that the gender gap is costing nations economic growth, from an estimated 9% in the US to over 25% in North Africa. Women need access to information, resources, education, markets, technical assistance and labor organizations.

BPW International strives to achieve workplace equality and economic advancement of women. We develop women's professional and leadership potential, so they can have equal participation in power and decision-making roles. With over 25,000 members in 96 countries from all levels of the public and private sectors, our work ranges from grassroots community building to high-level advocacy.

BPW International advocates the UN's Women's Empowerment Principles and we urge others to do the same. Our global network helped double the number of businesses implementing these principles that include equal employment, equal pay, equal access to resources, affordable care, social and health services.

We believe women's economic empowerment is critical in accelerating sustainable development and poverty eradication and lead campaigns like Equal Pay Day to raise awareness. Our members are creating economic opportunities for disadvantaged women who not only live in the rural areas and slums of India, Brazil and Kenya, but also in the cities of developed countries. Promoting ITC's Global Platform for Action on Sourcing from Women Vendors, BPW-International lobbies governments and companies to procure from women-owned businesses resulting in transactions worth over \$30 million. Because women more than men, reinvest more of their earnings into their families and communities there are multiplier effects in women's economic empowerment.

The Women's Empowerment Principles is an important cornerstone of BPW International's activities. We support policies that drive green and inclusive growth and participate in Post-2015 Development Agenda activities to ensure women economic empowerment is embedded wherever possible since we believe **EQUALITY will drive global prosperity.**



