



A Living Network of Gender Expertise

JERA International Newsletter

April, 2016



CSW 60 (2016) Update Special Edition

This newsletter focuses on JERA International's work around the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). For information on CSW 61st Session see end of newsletter.

CSW 60th Session

The sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 24 March 2016. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attended the session.

This Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 60th) is unique in that it is the testing ground to see how far States genuinely commit to gender equality through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is a test of political will towards not only Goal 5 of the SDG's but to mainstreaming across all the Sustainable Development Goals.

Six months prior, the UN General Assembly adopted the sustainable development goals (SDGs), an ambitious agenda to end extreme poverty and tackle inequality and climate change by 2030. These 17 goals and 169 targets will become a key feature of future CSW's and civil society representatives were keen to hear about the role of CSW in achieving the SDGs.

Putting women's rights at the centre of the agenda is key to full achievement of the SDGs. Not only Goal 5 on achieving Gender Equality, but having the full achievement of women's rights reflected across all 17 SDGs.

For full summary click [here](#)



Opening Ceremony of CSW 60 New York

CSWSide Events / Parallel Sessions



Parallel Session

SDGs and the Link to the Normative Framework

JERA International and Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) presented a packed workshop on the SDG's and their links to CEDAW, ICPD, UNSCR1325 and the Beijing Platform for Action.

Parallel Session : JERA International and Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW)

Time/Date: 10:30am -12:00 noon Tuesday 15 March Venue: Thai Cultural Centre

[More](#)

Parallel Session:

An Investment in Women in the Economy pays the Best National Dividends

This parallel session outlined Australian government priorities and investigated a regional view on the situation of the care economy and drawing more women into the workforce.

Parallel Session : Economic Security for Women (eS4W), Australian Government and JERA International

Time/Date: 10:30am -12:00 noon Thursday: 17 March Venue: Salvation Army

[More](#)



En-Gendering National Economic Growth Side Event: UN HQ

This packed panel discussion examined the workforce participation of women (G20 commitment), their economic security and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and opportunities to bring women into the labour force, significantly increasing global growth and the reduction of poverty and inequality. The emphasis of the panel was on the Asia Pacific region, addressing potential opportunities and challenges in lifting employment and participation of women in their economies and ensuring the delivery of decent, quality jobs.

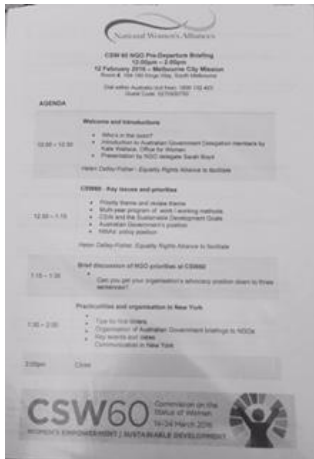
Side Event : Co-hosted by the Australian Government, economic Security4Women (eS4W) and Justice Equality Rights Access (JERA) International

Time/Date: 1.15pm -2.30pm Tuesday 22 March Venue Conference Room 7, UN Headquarters

[More](#)



CSW Preparatory Meetings



Australia

Throughout the last year, JERA International and ActionAid Australia formed an SDG working group which hosted a number of round tables and meetings to discuss the SDG's and their implication on Australia's policy work. Outputs from this group were shared and distributed through a number of National forums, and submissions.

JERA International presented on effective engagement at the CSW 60 NGO Pre-Departure Briefing held at Melbourne City Mission on 12 February, 2016. The meeting covered an introduction to the Australian Government Delegation to CSW, Key Issues and priorities for CSW, and practicalities for attending CSW.

Pacific – Fiji

JERA International in its role with the Asia Pacific NGO Committee on the Status of Women participated in the Pacific Regional Training and Preparatory Workshop for 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held in Fiji. By working collaboratively with Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, Pacific Women, Pacific Leadership Program, UN Women and AP NGO Committee on the Status of Women, 34 men and women from Pacific governments and civil society came together for a 4 day training and preparatory meeting on CSW 60.

The dates for this training and preparatory workshop were changed at the last minute due to Cyclone Winston coming through Fiji and devastating much of the Island. As a result, the training took place two weeks prior to CSW. Report on this found [here](#)



Asia – Sri Lanka

JERA International as a member of Asia Pacific Women's Watch worked collaboratively with Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) to discuss the normative frameworks around the Sustainable Development Goals and ways in which BPFA, CEDAW, ICPD and UN SC 1325 can be strengthened. New technologies and ways to work using new technologies was also key to strengthening linkages moving forward into the SDG 2030 Agenda

International Meetings – New York

JERA International attended events in New York surrounding the United Nations General Assembly Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held from 25 to 27 September 2015, in New York and convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly.. UN Women and the People's Republic of China co-hosted a landmark event in conjunction with the UN Summit on the post-2015 development framework and as part of the 20th Anniversary commemoration of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. At the high-level "Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action", over 70 world leaders made concrete commitments and firm pledges to overcome gender equality gaps. For the first time at the UN, commitments to women and girls were made at the level of Heads of States and Government.



JERA International is accredited to participate at CSW as a member of Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) in this role they work to co-host the Asia Pacific Regional Caucuses and to progress the Asia & Pacific voice in all events. JERA International is also the Co-Chair of the Asia Pacific NGO Committee on the Status of Women and in this role, coordinates with CoNGO and other NGO CSW events and submissions.

JERA International is a member of eS4W and ERANational Women's Alliances. For CSW 60th Session there was a National Women's Alliances International Engagement Joint Project 'From Global to Local' eS4W and ERA were co-leaders in the project and eS4W appointed JERA International to be it's representative at CSW in New York

JERA International submissions into CSW 60th Session

JERA International prepared input into and supported the following submissions into CSW 60th Session:

- ARROW / APWW Submission to CSW 60 on Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development
- National Women's Alliances – Comments on Zero Draft
- eS4W Submission to Office for Women on CSW 60th

Key Documents coming from CSW 60th Session

- Copy of Agreed Conclusions from CSW 60th Session
- Copy of Working Methods from CSW 60th Session
- UN Women : Summary of the Gains from the CSW 60th Session for Australia
- Women's rights are human rights: Enhancing the participation of national human rights institutions in the Commission on the Status of Women (13.04.2016) By Penny Morton, First Secretary, Australian Permanent Mission to the UN in New York

CSW61 (2017)

The sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017.

Priority theme:

Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work

Review theme:

Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session)

Other News:

New CoNGO Substantive Committee : Asia Pacific NGO Committee on the Status of Women (AP NGO CSW)

JERA International is proud to support the formalisation of the Asia Pacific NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

The Asia and Pacific NGO Committee on the Status of Women, (NGO CSW/AP) was established in 2014 as a committee under the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO). During the CoNGO Session on 16 March 2016 held in New York during the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW), the Asia Pacific NGO CSW was agreed and in conformity with the CoNGO Rules, final approval will be requested by the CoNGO Board at its next meeting at the end of April, 2016 and the Asia Pacific NGO CSW Committee, along with three other new substantive regional CSW's (NGO CSW Latin America-Caribbean, NGO CSW Africa, and NGO.CSW Arab States-MENA) will then be fully up and running. These substantive committees have equal status with their sisters in New York, Geneva and Vienna as well as the other newly formed regional CSWs.

Membership details can be found on the [AP NGO CSW website](#) - there are still some vacancies on the Executive Committee for ECOSOC accredited members.

Save the Date:

National Women's Alliances : International Engagement Forum 29 April, 2016 (10am – 4 pm)

The National Women's Alliances invite you to a day of updates and strategic planning covering:

- The 60th Session on the Status of Women
- The Sustainable Development Goals
- The Universal Periodic Review

RSVP at <http://nwa-internationalengagement.eventbrite.com.au>

Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) and Our Watch Conference 19-22 September 2016

AWAVA in conjunction with Our Watch, supported by WESNET (Women's Services Network) invite you to attend 'Prevalent and Preventable': an international conference on violence against women from 19-22 September 2016. Save the date – for more information please check [here](#)