Report of the Australian Government Delegation to the 60th Session of the United Nations COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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FOREWORD

As the Minister for Women I am committed to the Australian Government’s ongoing work to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls both domestically and internationally.

The Australian Government’s engagement with international forums such as the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women ensures that the voices of Australian women, particularly those who may be affected by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, are included in these ongoing discussions.

Australia has a steadfast and ongoing commitment to be at the forefront of efforts to promote the empowerment of women and girls, particularly in our Indo-Pacific region.

The Australian Government’s international gender equality priorities focus on supporting:

- The prevention and elimination of all forms of gender-based violence, including harmful traditional practices;
- Increasing women’s economic security by:
  - Accelerating women’s participation in the paid workforce, through for example the G20 commitment under Australia’s leadership to close the gap between women’s and men’s participation rates by 25 per cent by 2025; and
  - Supporting better access to finance, trade opportunities and information and communications technology;
- Including women in leadership and decision-making roles in all areas of society including at all levels of government, the private sector, the broader community and in conflict and post-conflict zones;
- Better health and education outcomes for women and girls with a focus on access to quality, affordable services including in relation to women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights; and
- Recognition of the importance of working with men and boys, and the role of civil society, National Human Rights Institutions and human rights defenders as agents of change in ensuring gender equality and the protection of the human rights of women and girls.

The Australian Government has made reducing violence against women a national priority. The Government has elevated the issue of women’s safety to the Council of Australian Governments to accelerate efforts and address cross-jurisdictional issues. All governments in Australia are currently implementing the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022 and ensuring its programmes are properly resourced and effective. In collaboration with state and territory governments this 12-year plan aims to bring about a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children.
I am delighted that Australia announced its candidacy to serve as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women for the 2019 - 2023 term. Membership will give the Australian Government the opportunity to increase its contribution to international negotiations on crucial issues affecting the lives of women and girls both in Australia and around the world.

I wish to thank Natasha Stott Despoja, the Ambassador for Women and Girls, and other members of the Australian Government delegation to CSW60 for their hard work and dedication to ensuring that the work of the Australian Government in relation to improving the lives of women and girls both domestically and internationally was able to be showcased on the international stage.
REPORT BY AUSTRALIA’S AMBASSADOR FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, HER EXCELLENCY, MS NATASHA STOTT DESPOJA AM

It was my privilege to lead the Australian Government delegation to the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) in March 2016.

As the first Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to be held since the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) was adopted in September 2015, CSW60 provided a valuable opportunity for the Australian Government to underline the Commission’s important role in reviewing the 2030 Agenda and ensuring that its implementation delivers comprehensive gains for women and girls.

The Australian Government delegation’s strong advocacy supported the CSW60 priority theme linking women’s empowerment and sustainable development. Australia’s efforts assisted in protecting the 2030 Agenda in the CSW60 Agreed Conclusions, while also ensuring language in the 2030 Agenda was not used to dilute existing commitments in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPA) and other international agreements.

The delegation’s expansive program of side events contributed significantly to Australia’s high profile at CSW60 and underscored our reputation as a global leader on gender equality issues. Our side events, on topics such as the intersection of digital technology and violence against women and girls, primary prevention, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), engaging young people to address domestic, family and sexual violence, and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to support girls, were uniformly well-attended. Positive feedback on our events highlighted the important foundation these discussions lay for the negotiations at CSW on formal resolutions and Agreed Conclusions.

I spoke at 11 side events: showcasing Australia’s domestic initiatives to address violence against women and our solid partnership with Pacific Island states to end gender-based violence and support survivors; urging member states to embrace closer involvement of NHRIs in the work of the Commission; and pressing for greater women’s agency in humanitarian settings.

At the UN Secretary General’s high level, Every Woman, Every Child event, I outlined Australia’s extensive aid investments to support the empowerment of women and girls and our support for the UN Global Strategy on women’s and children’s health. Ending discrimination against women in legislation was a focus and I led the launch of a campaign on this topic, #LeveltheLaw, by NGO Global Citizen.
My bilateral meetings (12 in total) with heads of other delegations, representatives of UN agencies and my counterpart ambassadors for gender equality from countries such as Finland, Sweden and the US, provided useful occasions to discuss and encourage support for Australian priorities. Australia’s strong contribution, both through its diplomatic initiatives and development programming, to the empowerment of women and girls was commended by Executive Director of UN Women, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UNDP Administrator, Ms Helen Clark, and the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms Zainab Bangura.

The opportunity to work with young women leaders from around the world at CSW60 was especially rewarding and highlighted the challenges we face, and opportunities we must harness, in shaping a future in which all women and girls are able to fulfil their potential. I led Australia’s annual CSW meeting with World YWCA delegates to discuss young women’s role in the 2030 Agenda, and I participated, with Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau and other senior officials, in a ‘Girls Advocacy Roundtable’ with youth CSW delegates.

I applaud the commitment of the Australian Government delegation, comprising officials from the Office for Women in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, staff of Australia’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, led by Ambassador Gillian Bird, and two non-government delegates, both gender equality experts, representing civil society interests and concerns.

Individually and collectively, the delegation worked to great effect to raise Australia’s profile and pursue our national interests. The close attention and strong support given to Australia’s CSW60 representation by Ambassador Bird and her team at our Mission to the United Nations was invaluable. Australia’s NGO delegates, Ms Sarah Boyd and Ms Anuradha Mundkur, also brought a particularly high level of expertise to the negotiations and ably reflected the concerns of the extensive network of Australian civil society representatives involved in the promotion of gender equality.

At my third, and final, CSW as Australia’s Ambassador for Women and Girls, I was once again struck by Australia’s very high standing as a leader in the advancement of gender equality and women’s empowerment. Australia can be proud of its effective advocacy and its reputation at all levels — among heads of UN agencies, Ministers for Women, and women and girls from communities around the globe who gather each year at CSW.

As much as CSW is the foremost annual gathering of global leaders on gender equality to determine international priorities for women’s empowerment, it is also an important occasion to recognise the daily struggles and extraordinary perseverance of women and girls across the world, who are the inspiration for the Commission’s work.
THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (the Commission) is a global policy making body that is dedicated to advancing gender equality and the rights of women and girls across the world. Each year, representatives of United Nations (UN) Member States gather at the UN Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment worldwide. At each session, the Commission establishes a set of Agreed Conclusions, which drive the policy recommendations for governments, inter-governmental organisations (including the UN system) and civil society. More information on the functions and history of the Commission can be found at: www.unwomen.org/en/csw

UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, was created in July 2010, and became operational on 1 January 2011.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The Commission has 45 member countries. Members are elected for four-year terms based on equitable geographical distribution (13 members from Africa, 11 from Asia, nine from Latin America and the Caribbean; eight from Western Europe and other States; and four from Eastern Europe). These members are elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and comprise of one representative from each of the 45 Member States.

Delivering Australia’s Country Statement at CSW60, Ms Natasha Stott Despoja, the Ambassador for Women and Girls, announced our candidacy to serve as a member of the Commission for the 2019–2023 term. Membership would give Australia the opportunity to increase our contribution to international negotiations on crucial issues affecting women and progress key policy goals.

The Ambassador outlined that Australia, if successful, will use its membership to the Commission to advance gender equality, particularly through the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and ensuring its implementation delivers positive results. Australia will further use its central role in the Commission to pursue sustainable development, the economic empowerment of women and prioritise actions where progress is slow. Australia has the opportunity to create a clear path to gender equality by ‘weaving’ together the 2030 Agenda and the BDPA.

AUSTRALIA’S INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMISSION

Australia was one of the 15 founding members of the Commission and has served as a member five times. Australia last served from 1993 to 1996. The Australian Government sends a delegation to the Commission each year and is particularly active in negotiating the Agreed Conclusions in accordance with Australia’s policy positions. Non-government delegates have been included as part of the Australian delegation to the Commission annually since 1999.
Ms Christine Matthews, Deputy Director of the UNHCR New York Office; Ms Natasha Stott Despoja, Australia’s Ambassador for Women and Girls; and Mr Yannick Glemarec, ASG Deputy Executive Director UN Women, at the Achieving Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Humanitarian Action through the World Humanitarian Summit.

Source: The Gender Agency.

Participants at the CSW60 Youth Forum.

Source: UN Women’s CSW60 Album (Flickr).
THE 60TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW60)

At this year’s sixtieth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60), representatives from Member States, UN entities and ECOSOC accredited non-government organisations (NGOs) gathered to evaluate global progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate robust policies that promote gender equality and women’s empowerment worldwide.

The key focus for CSW60 was women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development and the new 2030 Agenda. CSW60 also evaluated the progress in the implementation of the Agreed Conclusions from the fifty-seventh session, the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2030 Agenda will be highly influential, shaping development cooperation and finance flows from a range of sources, including nation states, multilateral organisations, the private sector, civil society and philanthropic entities.

The 2030 Agenda succeeds the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but is a more comprehensive agenda that responds to the many challenges faced by the world today and into the future. It includes 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 targets within those goals. Unlike the MDGs, the SDGs are universal and apply to both developing and developed countries.

Australia is very pleased that both the SDGs and the financing for development Addis Ababa Action Agenda include a strong recognition of the need to address gender inequalities and promote the empowerment of women and girls. For a list of the SDGs see Annex A.
PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

At the fifty-seventh session (CSW57) in 2013, member states agreed that discrimination and violence against women and girls have no place in today’s world. They further agreed on a comprehensive blueprint of actions, including an end to impunity for perpetrators, engaging men and boys as agents of change, and the advancement of women’s empowerment and gender equality to prevent and end human rights violations, and called on governments to implement these. Based on the Agreed Conclusions from CSW57, CSW60’s review theme focused on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

The Report of the Secretary General from CSW60 summarises the impact, trends and challenges facing Member States in relation to implementing the agreed conclusions from CSW57. A copy of the Secretary General’s Report can be found at:

Violence against women and their children is a global problem, stemming from negative attitudes of disrespect and values that tolerate violence against women. In 2015, domestic and family violence was brought into a sharper focus in Australia’s public life. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) established the COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children, to provide advice on how to reduce violence by identifying areas for national leadership. In September 2015, the Australian Government announced the $100 million Women’s Safety Package. The Package focuses on practical immediate action to keep women and their children safe; improved training for frontline workers; trialling innovative and integrated services delivery in critical areas; and providing the best educational resources to parents, teachers and children to change attitudes of young people. A copy of the COAG Advisory Panel’s Final Report can be found at:


Source: The Gender Agency
THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO CSW60

Since the establishment of the Commission in 1946, Australia has formally participated in the annual CSW sessions through the work carried out by the Australian Government delegation. Australian Government delegations to CSW have actively engaged in negotiations on the Agreed Conclusions (formal outcomes document) and resolutions, hosted and spoken at a range of events, developed relationships with like-minded countries, and pursued Australia’s agenda in relation to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Engagement in these proceedings enables Australia to:

- Provide a principled voice on human rights, particularly the rights of women;
- Showcase Australia’s gender equality initiatives internationally;
- Engage with civil society to ensure better outcomes for women in Australia and globally; and
- Strengthen and build relationships with like-minded countries and near neighbours.

In 2015 Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister for Women led the delegation to CSW59. Due to domestic commitments the Minister was unable to lead the delegation this year. Instead the Australian Government Delegation to CSW60 was led by Ms Natasha Stott Despoja AM, Australia’s Ambassador for Women and Girls. The Ambassador for Women and Girls delivered Australia’s Country Statement, which outlined the Government’s unwavering commitment to promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Ambassador for Women and Girls met with leaders of key UN agencies to consider the barriers to achieving gender equality, and discuss effective strategies to address these barriers. The Ambassador undertook 12 bilateral meetings and spoke at 11 side events, as well as participating in other events and representing the Government at official CSW60 proceedings.
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO CSW60

Her Excellency, Ms Natasha Stott Despoja AM
Ambassador for Women and Girls

Ms Louise McSorley
Assistant Secretary
Office for Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Ms Sally Moyle
Assistant Secretary
Gender Equality Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms Donna-Jean Nicholson
Senior Adviser, Women’s Economic Security
Office for Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Ms Alison Aggarwal
Principal Adviser/ Manager
Cultural Reform, Australian Defence Force, Australian Human Rights Commission

Ms Anuradha Mundkur
Co-founder and Associate Director (NGO Delegate)
Gender Consortium, School of International Studies, Flinders University

Ms Sarah Boyd
Founder and Managing Consultant (NGO Delegate)
The Gender Agency
Ms Alison Aggarwal, Principal Adviser and Manager on the Australian Defence Force Cultural Reform team, attended CSW60 as the representative for the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC). At CSW60, Ms Aggarwal undertook an independent program of events that complemented the engagement of Ms Stott Despoja and Ms McSorley and aligned to the AHRC priorities. In her role as representative for the AHRC, Ms Aggarwal’s priority was to enhance the participation and recognition of NHRIs at CSW.

REPORT BY MS ALISON AGGARWAL, AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (AHRC)

The central focus of discussions at CSW60 was on the advancement of gender equality and women's and girls' human rights within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Prior to attending CSW60 the AHRC provided briefings and comments on the zero draft of the Agreed Conclusions and other relevant resolutions to inform the Australian Government’s participation in CSW. The AHRC also participated in the pre-departure briefing organised by the National Women’s Alliances, in conjunction with the Office for Women.

The AHRC focused its efforts in two areas:

In the context of the achievement of the SDGs, advocating for: increasing women’s economic security for women, particularly in relation to discrimination related to pregnancy and return to work after parental leave; recognising and valuing unpaid caring work; increasing women’s participation in leadership; and addressing violence against women, in particular domestic and family violence as a workplace issue.

In the context of advocating for independent participation status for (NHRIs) at CSW, there were substantial beneficial outcomes from CSW60 in terms of advancing the rights of women and girls in relation to their economic participation and security, addressing violence against women and girls and promoting women’s and girls’ leadership.

The AHRC particularly appreciated the opportunity to work with the Australian Government on getting strong recognition of NHRIs and steps towards their enhanced participation at CSW included in the CSW60 Agreed Conclusions.

As the result of the joint efforts of the Australian Government and the AHRC at CSW60, the Agreed Conclusions recognised NHRIs and included a stand-alone paragraph on advancing General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/163 to enhance the participation rights of NHRIs at CSW: This was a significant achievement in advancing the recognition of the role of NHRIs as crucial to achieving gender equality.

The Australian Government delegation had a strong and positive presence at CSW60, organising high quality side events on key gender equality issues which profiled leading practices in Australia as well as key issues relevant to the international context. As the AHRC’s representative I was pleased to chair the Australian Government side event, ‘Silent Tears Photo Exhibition and Panel discussion’, focusing on the rights of women with disability and their experience as victims of violence.
I also attended the side event co-hosted by Germany, Australia, Chile, Morocco and the ICC/APF titled ‘Demonstrating the value of NHRI participation in the Commission on the Status of Women’, made an intervention on behalf of the ICC at a high level panel discussion marking the 10th Anniversary of the Human Rights Council, presented at a session of the 2016 Women’s Empowerment Principles Annual Event; and hosted an Asia Pacific NGOs Dialogue with the Australian Government delegation.

Australia’s country statement, delivered by the Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, Ms Natasha Stott-Despoja, was a strong statement of support for addressing gender equality, promoting and protecting women’s and girls’ human rights, taking strong action to eliminate violence against women and recognising the work of NHRI. The country statement also noted the opportunity provided by the 2030 Agenda to reinvigorate and give global momentum to women’s empowerment, and strongly supported CSW playing a role in the review and follow up of the gender goals of the 2030 Agenda alongside the BDPA and other important international gender commitments.

The Australian Government played a key role in negotiations on the Agreed Conclusions and other accelerate efforts to realise gender equality human rights in the context of achieving the goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda.

In particular the Agreed Conclusions promote women’s economic rights and independence, in relation to decent work, unpaid caring work and macroeconomic policies. They identified measures to eliminate violence against women and girls, including within the workplace. There was also strong recognition of the specific rights of Indigenous women, women with disabilities, women human rights defenders and recognition of the impacts of intersectional discrimination on women. Finally there was recognition of the need for strong gender responsive data collection going forwards.

This year there was a strong contingent of committed and talented NGO representatives attending CSW, sharing their expertise at a range of events hosted by government and NGOs. The Australian NGOs on the ground in New York actively engaged in the CSW process and made a profound contribution to promoting gender equality and women’s and girls’ human rights.

The AHRC is grateful to the Australian Government for the opportunity to attend CSW60 as part of the Australian Government delegation. It was an honour to be part of such an effective delegation and to work together to achieve such significant recognition of NHRI at CSW.

Australia included two non-government delegates on the Australia Government delegation to CSW60. Ms Anuradha Mundkur is a researcher and Deputy Director of the Gender Consortium at Flinders University. Ms Mundkur’s research expertise includes women, peace and security; women’s representation, participation and leadership in politics; gender and international aid. Ms Sarah Boyd is the Founder and Managing Consultant of The Gender Agency. Ms Boyd has extensive experience on UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and international development. The appointment of non-government delegates to the delegation reflects the Australian Government’s ongoing commitment to engaging with civil society.
Non-government delegates are included on the delegation to provide advice to Government on matters relating to their particular areas of expertise and to act as liaison points between government and civil society. The non-government delegates hosted briefings each evening to update Australian NGOs attending CSW60 (independent of the Australian Government delegation) of the government delegation’s activities. The non-government delegates were also encouraged and supported to attend a range of events, build networks with Australian and international NGOs; and make a positive contribution to discussions.

REPORT BY MS ANURADHA MUNDKUR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, GENDER CONSORTIUM, FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

It was an honour to be selected as one of the non-government delegates on the Australian Government delegation to CSW60. I would like to thank the Australian Government for giving me this wonderful opportunity to share my expertise on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls while at the same time deepening my knowledge and enhancing my skills in addressing significant issues faced by women in Australia and across the globe. I would particularly like to thank the Office for Women and the other members of the delegation for their tireless efforts, I deeply appreciate the collegiate and inclusive space created by this hard working group of people.

CSW60 was a revelation on how we negotiate for women’s rights. For an idealist the process can be quite confronting as it dawns, pretty soon, that any progressive language that may substantially impact the realisation of women’s and girl’s human rights will never find consensus. If you are a pragmatist, like me, you will just about survive if you keep telling yourself that the only way to reach the goal of gender equality is to keep chipping away at the foundations of inequality.

It is a roller coaster ride of emotions — there were times when I was angry and frustrated that we still have to negotiate to secure fundamental human rights and freedoms for all women and girls. At other times I sat there incredulous and amused at the abject lack of knowledge amongst those negotiating for the rights of all women and girls. There were also times when I was moved by the passion and sophisticated articulation of why women and girls are central to achieving the SDGs.

Overall, attending CSW60 was an invaluable experience. Given that spaces for direct NGO engagements in key agenda setting processes is shrinking, it is commendable that the Australian Government is one of the few Members States that openly supports the attendance of NGOs, both independently and as non-government delegates on the official Australian Government delegation to CSW. Through attending CSW, NGO representatives get to see and learn how negotiations are carried out, hone their lobbying and persuasion skills, and contribute their knowledge and expertise to influence the outcome of the CSW process. Equally important, participation in high-level negotiations like CSW helps NGOs make vital links between what are perceived as “international” vs “local” issues. This is crucial in the wake of the SDGs, which unlike its predecessor the MDGs, is truly a global agenda.
What has become apparent to me is that the nature and role of CSW has undergone a shift and this has given the Commission a new lease of life. As per the CSW60 Agreed Conclusions, CSW has, on one hand, a central role to play in the follow up and review of SDGs as a whole — not just on Goal 5; and on the other hand has an ongoing role in the review of BDPA. NGO participation at CSW has also undergone a change with more engagement from the private sector, multi-faith and trade union organisations. The Youth Forum held prior to the start of CSW60 was a resounding success. Though we were unsuccessful in institutionalising the forum as part of CSW, with their mention being deleted from the final Agreed Conclusions, there is no doubt that youth organisations are pushing at the door with meaningful contributions to the discussions on the SDGs as reflected in the Youth Statement drafted at the end of the forum and presented at the opening of CSW60.

Australia’s role in CSW is also changing. Australia has nominated to serve as a member of the Commission (2019–2023). This provides opportunities and opens up spaces to engage more proactively with local, national and international NGOs to call for a more progressive agenda in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. NGOs in Australia will also need to develop a strategy to work collaboratively to influence the national implementation of the SDGs.

REPORT BY MS SARAH BOYD, FOUNDER AND MANAGING CONSULTANT, GENDER AGENCY

A desire to be a more effective feminist women’s rights advocate, activist, policy adviser and policy maker first led me to get involved in the CSW process. Learning new advocacy and negotiation strategies as a civil society delegate representing the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) at the 57th, 58th and 59th sessions of CSW were transformative experiences. It was thus an honour and an extraordinary privilege to attend CSW60 as one of the non-government delegates on the Australian Government delegation, alongside Dr Anuradha Mundkur, and to work with and support Australia’s participation and engagement at CSW60.

I was proud to be part of a delegation which continued a historically strong and progressive role in working to advance the global normative frameworks to advance women’s human rights and gender equality, and who works constructively with other Member States to achieve this. Australia is one of the few delegations that resources and prioritises the inclusion of non-government delegates as part of its official government delegation. In the context of global restrictions and a shrinking of space for direct civil society engagement in human rights fora, including at CSW, this is a critical policy space to both maintain and an opportunity to demonstrate leadership.

Agreed in 2015, the 2030 Agenda set the globally agreed road map for the planet. This includes global agreements on the SDGs and development finance as articulated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. As the UN Women Executive Director, Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, highlighted in her opening speech at CSW60, this bold, ambitious and transformative agenda demands that there can be no more ‘business as usual’. The full achievement of
women’s human rights and gender equality is critical for fulfilling these agreements and to meet these goals. The structural inequalities that the women’s rights movement seeks to transform present the greatest impediment to the 2030 Agenda’s achievement.

CSW60 was a critical meeting, and process, for many reasons. Firstly, it was first real test of the 2030 Agenda and Member State’s commitments to gender equality. As the focus of CSW60 was on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it was a test of States’ political will and ability to ensure gender equality was both at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, whilst also committing to integrate it systematically across the whole agenda. Secondly, as the 2030 Agenda is universal, it applies to developed and developing countries. This has created a new dynamic and a broader range of stakeholders for many Member States to engage with, including for Australia.

The ‘no more business as usual’ approach presents a momentous opportunity to revitalise CSW as the preeminent international forum to advance gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment and human rights. Further, there was an opportunity to ensure that CSW plays a central role in the follow-up and review of the SDGs as a whole — not just Goal 5 — as well as its continuing role in the review of the BDPA.

Despite difficult negotiations and being strongly contested, the Agreed Conclusions did provide a progressive and positive commitment to implement and monitor progress of the gender equality compact contained in the entire 2030 Agenda in conjunction with the BDPA.

The Agreed Conclusions contained key language advancements on:

- Multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, the rights of Indigenous women, on women’s roles and addressing gender issues in the context of combatting climate change, in the Women, Peace and Security agenda, in humanitarian action, in relation to migrants and refugees and in combatting violent extremism, as well as the independent participation NHRIs.

- Strong references to civil society including women human rights defenders, a recognition of the importance of inclusive and transparent engagement with civil society in order to achieve a ‘gender-responsive implementation’ of the 2030 Agenda, and the need to create safe and enabling environments for civil society.

CSW60 witnessed the broadening and deepening participation of Australian civil society — an exciting and hopeful development. The interest and participation from broader networks covering domestic as well as international policy issues included interest from networks of young activists; faith based groups, development agencies, trade union officials and the private sector, and actors working to end violence against women both domestically and internationally. The inaugural CSW Youth Forum held prior to the start of CSW60 was a resounding success, with a number of young Australian women playing an active role in the design and hosting of the forum.

As non-government delegates, Dr Mundkur and I attended official sessions of CSW60 as part of the Australian Government delegation, as well as side events hosted by Australia and other Member States, civil society led parallel events, and a huge array of events, meetings and caucuses held in the margins of CSW60. Further to attending and reporting back on these events, we also provided policy advice and support to the Australian Government delegation as we collectively navigate the post 2030 Agenda world.
As non-government delegates, we facilitated communication between national, regional and international civil society networks and contributed knowledge and expertise to the Australian Government delegation (in particular in relation to the Women, Peace and Security agenda, humanitarian action, and sex disaggregated data and indicators).

Further, we engaged in advocacy across thematic-based networks and regional caucuses throughout the negotiations of the Agreed Conclusions. We provided space for Australian and international NGOs to engage with the Australian Government delegation, to engage on substantive policy issues, to facilitate connections between the domestic, Asia-Pacific regional and international agendas, and to highlight the work of Australian individuals, organisations and networks to help inform the government’s positions and negotiations.

At CSW60, this included supporting the work of the AHRC and the Australian Government delegation to advocate for advancing the independent participation rights of NHRIs at CSW. This also included a particular focus on ensuring the voices and policy issues of Indigenous women, young women, women living with disability and issues of sexual orientation and gender identity were heard in the Agreed Conclusions process. Supporting Pacific participation, we also supported the platforms for women from the Asia-Pacific to engage with the delegation and support their collective strategy and advocacy formulation. As non-government delegates, we worked to ensure civil society can continue to access platforms to engage with Member States to discuss, debate and hold States accountable in upholding their human rights obligations.

CSW truly is a site where the personal is the political. The everyday lived experiences of women, from Australia to Bangladesh and from Yemen to Zimbabwe, is deeply political. CSW is a contested space. On the one hand, Member States work together to advance normative frameworks to advance women’s rights (in this case, the gender responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs). On the other hand, the politics and policies of regressive governments plays out at the expense of women’s control over their own rights and bodies — in particular our sexuality and reproductive rights. The politics of trading away women’s rights is hard to bear witness to when CSW is a space for regressive governments to advance their own political and religious agendas.

At the same time, civil society act as advisers, speaking truth to power, providing policy analysis and an evidence base, advising governments and keeping States accountable. At CSW, there are countless examples — from women in northern Iraq sharing their experiences of running shelters and providing access to justice for women experiencing violence; to women from the Marshall Islands and Kiribati sharing lessons from their work mitigating climate change and developing early warning systems; to women from Tunisia sharing their experiences of conflict prevention and countering violent extremism; to Filipino women sharing their experiences and strategies for effective conflict mediation, negotiation and resolution to end armed conflict.

The personal truly is the political. After midnight one evening during the Agreed Conclusions negotiations, a Member State held up the agreement on a particular operative paragraph. They actively prevented, using many negotiations strategies, their regional ‘bloc’ of like-minded countries to recognise the role and particular risks and threats of violence for women’s human rights defenders. At the very moment this was taking place, Twitter updates filled
negotiators twitter feeds with evidence that the government of that same UN Member State was committing human rights abuses in their country — splashed across international news — in particular arbitrarily arresting and targeting women’s human rights defenders. Women’s rights are contested; and CSW is a contested space.

CSW is also a site of meeting, reconnecting, listening, sharing and strategising with feminist activists from around the world and is a reminder of the strength and power of the transnational and intergenerational feminist movement and process. Listening to and meeting researchers, academics, activists, human rights defenders and policy makers from around the world, and forging new personal and professional friendships and networks, is transformational.

The discussions within UN headquarters most often feel a world away from those held in other spaces. It is an extraordinary opportunity and a privilege to hold the correctly lettered and coloured pass to travel between these worlds, from parallel events and informal gatherings discussing joint advocacy strategies, into the Agreed Conclusions negotiating room. As a non-government delegate on the Australian Government delegation, I am grateful not only for being able to be ‘in the room’, but to learn, listen and practice the strategies that will enable us all to bridge the gaps between the conversations, between Member States and civil society, and to work collectively towards a more peaceful, just and equal world. We already have the roadmaps to do so.

I would like to thank the Australian Government for this extraordinary, rare and unique opportunity and insight. Following CSW60, I am further compelled to carry forth the lessons and experience to advance women’s human rights in Australia and around the world. I am compelled to challenge the reality that negotiations over women’s rights will always be difficult and protracted and that there will always be an expectation of a ‘traditional suite of controversial issues.’ To do so, the strengthening and support of a strong civil society remains critical. The solutions to countering all forms of violence and addressing patriarchal and structural inequalities that will prevent us from achieving the 2030 Agenda — globally and in Australia — critically requires and demands a strong feminist civil society.
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION PROGRAM

As Head of the Delegation to CSW60, the role of Ambassador Stott Despoja was to: represent the Australian Government’s position on gender equality and women’s empowerment during official proceedings; engage with other Member States and civil society representatives to share experiences on what is being done to assist women and girls achieve equality, on both a domestic and international level; and discuss the challenges facing women and girls globally to better inform the government’s policy agenda.

The Ambassador’s program was designed in consultation with a number of stakeholders to ensure it reflected the Government’s engagement strategy for CSW60 and aligned with the Government’s domestic agenda for advancing gender equality. The Ambassador highlighted Australia’s efforts to promote and protect human rights, including for women and girls, by supporting the independent participation of NHRLs; end violence against women and girls, through innovative prevention programs; secure women’s economic empowerment and address remaining discriminatory structural barriers to equality. In addition to official CSW60 events, the Ambassador participated in 12 bilateral meetings with other heads of delegations, representatives of UN agencies and other ambassadors for gender equality, and spoke at 11 side events.

Ms Louise McSorley, then Assistant Secretary, Office for Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, undertook an extensive program of side events and bilateral meetings to promote the Australian Government’s gender equality priorities. Her focus included women’s economic security, labour force participation and eliminating violence against women. Ms McSorley used her meetings and participation in events to highlight Australia’s G20 commitments, showcase Australia’s achievements in the domestic violence sphere and advance women’s leadership and economic empowerment.

Ms Sally Moyle, Assistant Secretary, Gender Equality Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, undertook a program of side events and bilateral meetings to promote the Australian Government’s gender equality priorities. Ms Moyle’s focus included mainstreaming gender equality and women’s empowerment in sustainable development, women’s economic empowerment, and ending violence against women and girls. Ms Moyle reaffirmed Australia’s strong commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, and furthered Australia’s development priorities for gender equality.

A copy of the Ambassador’s, Ms McSorley’s and Ms Moyle’s program as complete is at Annex B.

OFFICIAL CSW60 PROCEEDINGS

CSW60 was opened on 14 March 2016 by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon. In his opening address, the Secretary-General reaffirmed his commitment to achieving gender equality, particularly in boosting the leadership of women and girls in all facets of society. The Secretary-General also addressed women’s welfare concerns and assured Member States that he will stand with everyone to make the world a better place for all.

The Secretary General’s full opening remarks at CSW60 can be found at: http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2016/3/sg-speech-csw60-opening

As part of CSW60, each country presented a Country Statement to the Commission. These statements outline a country’s priorities for the session and highlight examples of good practice relating to the priority theme. As head of the delegation, the Ambassador for Women and Girls, Ms Natasha Stott Despoja, delivered Australia’s Country Statement to the Commission on
18 March 2016. The Ambassador discussed the importance of gender equality in building strong economies, achieving development and improving the quality of life for women, families and society more broadly. The Ambassador urged other countries to implement robust policies and frameworks to close the gender gap and further acknowledged the importance of the 2030 Agenda and the role of the Commission in monitoring implementation of the gender equality targets of the SDGs.

See Annex C for the full text of Australia’s Country Statement.

Other Country Statements can be found at: http://papersmart.unmeetings.org/ecosoc/csw/csw60/statements/

As part of the official CSW60 program, a series of high level plenary sessions, including roundtables and panels, were held to examine issues relating to the priority and review themes.

The official program for CSW60 can be found at: http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016/official-meetings

BILATERAL MEETINGS

Whilst at CSW60, the Ambassador held 12 bilateral meetings with heads of delegations, representatives from UN agencies and other global ambassadors. The Ambassador met with counterparts from Finland, Sweden and the US to discuss Australia’s work both domestically and internationally to promote gender equality and broader efforts to increase the global ranks of Ambassador’s for Women. The Ambassador reinforced Australia’s commitment to women’s empowerment as necessary to sustainable development. Discussions were also held around Australia’s work in reducing violence against women and their children.

AUSTRALIAN HOSTED SIDE EVENTS

In addition to the formal CSW60 program, Australia had an expansive program of side events, which contributed significantly to our high profile at CSW60. Overall, Australia hosted seven side events at CSW60.

- Preventing Violence against Women and Girls in the Digital and Technological Age — examined the synergies between technology and gender-based violence. Discussions at the event focused on how technology is both a tool to prevent violence against women, as well as an enabler that facilitates harassment and abuse. Discussions also revolved around how technology can be used by law enforcement and the judicial system to build a case against perpetrators. Ambassador Stott Despoja was in attendance at this event and Ms McSorley was the event Chair.

- National and International Road Maps for Cultural Change and the Primary Prevention of Violence against Women — through exploring “road maps”, plans, strategies and frameworks that have been developed in Australia and internationally, this event detailed how the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment are crucial to preventing violence against women. The Ambassador was a panellist at this event, and focussed on Australia’s aid program and the work of OurWatch in her discussions. Ms McSorley chaired this side event, and made brief opening remarks about how Australia is aiming to eliminate all forms of violence against women and their children through the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022.

- Galvanising Change: Engaging Young People to Create a Future Free from Violence — focused on showcasing Australia’s domestic achievements in the international arena. The event had a strong link with the priority theme and the SDGs, whilst making critical links between women’s safety and
empowerment. A range of emerging topics and innovators to promote gender equality were utilised, such as looking at violence, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights and recognition of gender diversity. The Ambassador attended the event, and Ms McSorley was the event Chair.

**From Rhetoric to Reality: Implementing and Monitoring the Global Goals for Girls** — the event outlined innovative ways the 2030 Agenda can be translated from rhetoric to reality, with a key focus on empowering girls and young women as active participants and leaders for change. There were discussions around addressing the structural causes of gender inequality and the methods for incorporating girl-generated data and insight into decision making and overall design solutions. Ms Moyle, chaired the event, Ms McSorley was also in attendance.

Australia hosted a further three events in during the second week of CSW60.

The first — **EnGendering National Economic Growth** — examined the economic security and workforce participation of women through the G20 commitment (25x25) and the SDGs. Discussions revolved around the opportunities available to bring women into the labour force and the benefits this presents, such as significantly increasing global growth and reducing poverty and inequality. Ms Donna-Jean Nicholson, Senior Advisor, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet chaired the event. In her opening remarks, Ms Nicholson discussed the many ways governments, the private sector and civil society are investing in women, particularly through women’s workforce participation, economic security and the SDGs.

The second — **What do leading women’s studies tell us about equality and empowerment to address gender-based violence: Findings from ALSWH and InterLACE** — presented the latest findings from the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women’s Health (ALSWH), which was initiated following the BDPA, and InterLACE, an international research collaboration that combines data from numerous women’s studies. Ms Nicholson chaired the event. In her opening remarks, Ms Nicholson discussed the importance of sex-disaggregated data in gaining a better understanding of the varied situations of women and men in society, and how their economic and social conditions are changing and evolving overtime.

The third — **The Silent Tears Exhibition and Panel Discussion** — was held at the Centre for Social Innovation. It showcased an artist’s exploration of twenty women’s stories, from four continents and six countries, using a variety of photographic techniques and multi-media. The exhibition acknowledged that violence commonly occurs to people with disabilities and that violence may also cause disabilities. The event provided a unique opportunity to convene an expert panel to discuss violence against women and girls with disabilities and the intersections of culture, gender and other forms of discrimination.

Ms Natasha Stott Despoja, Ambassador for Women and Girls, at the Violence against Women Town Hall event. 
*Source: UN Women’s CSW60 Album (Flickr)*
CO-HOSTED EVENTS

Australia also co-hosted several side events with other likeminded countries.

**Ending Violence Against Women: The Key to Realising SDGs in the Pacific** — was an event Australia co-hosted with other governments including New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga, as well as partners from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Violence against Women Network, Pacific Community, Pacific Disability Forum and Pacific Youth Forum. The event focused on sexual gender based violence in the Pacific region and the importance of addressing this issue as a measure to achieving the SDGs. The Ambassador was a panellist at this event and highlighted Australia’s partnership with the Pacific to end violence against women and girls. The Ambassador emphasised Australia’s ongoing commitment to partner with governments and civil society organisations across the Pacific to address gender based violence, and emphasised the value of increasing women’s economic and political participation.

**Mountains + CANZ Group Side Event — Interactive Town Hall Discussion, Violence against Women and Girls: Ministers Speak Out** — was an interactive discussion hosted by Australia, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland. After speakers made opening remarks, a moderated, interactive discussion occurred on topics relating to violence against women and their children. This style of event was very successful in actively engaging Ministers and moving the conversation towards a discussion on the lessons learned and best practices.

**Indigenous Women and Girls: Pathways to Equality** — Hosted by: Australia, Canada, UNPFII Secretariat, USA, Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples. This event examined the underlying factors that contribute to Indigenous women and girls’ vulnerability to abuse, including the longstanding impacts of colonialism, racism and sexism. It was in the form of a panel presentation, with presentations by key activists and member state representatives. The presentations were followed by questions from the audience, which consisted of approximately 600 member state representatives, observers, relevant agencies, and NGOs. Ms McSorley represented the Australian delegation.

**Demonstrating the value of NHRI participation in CSW** — Hosted by: Germany, Australia and the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions. The event demonstrated the importance and value of national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly for women and girls. Furthermore, calling on the Commission to look at the ways NHRI participation can be enhanced to accelerate our commitments under the BDPA. Australia supports the participation of NHRI at CSW. Ambassador Stott Despoja participated in this event.

**Empowerment of Indigenous Women** — Hosted by: Australia, UN Women and GOFIP. The event aimed to raise awareness and recognition of indigenous women as key leaders in combatting violence, eradicating poverty, empowerment and political participation. The event was a panel style, with presentations by key activists and member state representatives. The presentations were followed by questions from the audience, which included representatives from Member States, observers, relevant agencies, and NGOs. Ms McSorley represented the Australian delegation. She did not have a speaking role at this event, but had the opportunity to make an intervention.
OTHER EVENTS

During CSW60, the Australian delegation participated in a number of high-level receptions.

The Ambassador for Women and Girls hosted the World YWCA Breakfast on Sunday 13 March 2016, a day prior to the opening session of the Commission. The Breakfast was an informal meet and greet with members of the World YWCA delegation to discuss key themes and expected outcomes for CSW60. Participants included representatives from YWCA Australia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Honduras, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Belize, as well as the World YWCA General Secretary (Nyaradzayu Gumbonzvanda). Representatives thanked Australia for addressing gender inequality and the empowerment of women and girls, and stressed the importance of girls participating in CSW.

The Australian Ambassador to the United Nations, Ms Gillian Bird PSM, hosted the annual reception for the Australian Government delegation and Australian civil representatives in the margins of CSW60. The event provided an opportunity for civil society representatives to meet with members of the delegation to discuss a range of issues of importance to Australian women and girls.

The Asia-Pacific NGO Representatives Dialogue presented an opportunity for engagement between Government, NGO and NHRI representatives on current issues relating to women’s and girls’ human rights and gender equality in the Asia Pacific region. The purpose of this Dialogue was to provide a forum for the Australian Government delegation and the Asia Pacific NGOs to have a discussion, whereby, NGOs from the Asia Pacific share information on their key issues and work being done in the region. Similarly, Australian NGOs and the Australian Government have an opportunity to share information on their key areas of work.

Throughout CSW, the non-government delegates delivered daily briefing sessions for Australian NGO representatives. These sessions were an opportunity to share experiences and information of events. The non-government delegates also maintained a strong social media presence throughout CSW60.
OUTCOMES OF CSW60

Similar to previous years, CSW60 was a success. The delegation’s broad participation across CSW events, and advocacy with counterparts, senior representatives and civil society on Australia’s priorities for the session, and generally on gender equality and women’s empowerment, lifted Australia’s profile and reach at the Commission. The Ambassador delivered clear messages on the importance of addressing violence against women; the need to increase women’s workforce participation and economic security, leveraging off Australia’s recent G20 commitments; and the importance of continuing to apply pressure for the inclusion of women in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

The Ambassador also conducted useful advocacy around the gender equality pillar of Australia’s bid for election to the Human Rights Council.

AGREED CONCLUSIONS

The Agreed Conclusions (i.e. the outcomes document) from CSW60 recognised the synergies between the implementation, follow-up and review of the BDPA and the 2030 Agenda, whilst highlighting the Commission’s role in using these frameworks to promote and protect gender equality. CSW60 reaffirmed that women’s economic rights and independence are essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda, thus further highlighting the vital role the empowerment of all women and girls plays in achieving the SDGs and related targets. At CSW60, Australia campaigned for the enhanced participation of NHRIs in CSW processes. As a result, a standalone paragraph about the inclusion of NHRIs was included in the Agreed Conclusions.

A copy of the Agreed Conclusions can be found at Annex D.
RESOLUTION ON THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Resolution on the Multi-year program of work of the Commission on the Status of Women was an opportunity to influence the forward work program of the Commission. Resolution 2013/18 stipulated that at CSW60 a future multi-year program of work would be decided. The priority and review themes for the sixty-first (2017), sixty-second (2018) and sixty-third (2019) sessions were identified. The priority theme for CSW61 is women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work and the review theme is challenges and achievements in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls. The Secretariat confirmed that it would consider the inclusion of Indigenous Women as an emerging issue at CSW61.

The resolution also reaffirmed the Commissions commitment to contribute to the thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs taking place at the high-level political forum. Specially, the Work Methods Resolution requests that in order for the Commission to achieve concrete results in the review cycle, the Commission should make a recommendation on how to best utilize the year 2020, so as to accelerate the realisation of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The full text of the Resolution on the Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women can be found at Annex E.

RESOLUTION ON WOMEN, THE GIRL CHILD AND HIV AND AIDS

Furthermore, the Resolution on Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (60/2) was a significant outcome of CSW60. The resolution noted with deep concern that the global HIV epidemic disproportionately affects women and girls and recognises the need to intensify efforts to end the AIDS epidemic, through fast-tracking the HIV response across the prevention and treatment spectrum.

The full version of the Resolution on Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS can found at Annex F.
CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

The Office for Women disseminates information regarding the Commissions processes and upcoming CSW sessions to its stakeholders. Individuals can be included on the mailing list by contacting the Office for Women at: womensbranchinternational@pmc.gov.au.

NATIONAL WOMEN’S ALLIANCES

As part of their core work the five National Women’s Alliances are expected to engage and collaborate with each other and the Australian Government on the Commission’s processes, as a part a larger joint international engagement project.

For CSW60, the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA), in conjunction with Economic Security 4 Women (eS4W) took the lead on this project including:

- Hosting an International Engagement Forum in October 2015 to discuss the SDGs and CSW60 preparations;
- Making a written submission to the Office for Women on the National Women’s Alliances priorities in relation to the government’s engagement at CSW60;
- Participating in the DFAT/OFW/ACFID Gender Equality Workshop at the ANU in Canberra in October 2015
- Hosting the CSW60 Pre-departure briefing in Melbourne in February 2016; and
- Hosting an International Engagement forum to debrief about CSW60 outcomes in April 2016.

EQUALITY RIGHTS ALLIANCE (ERA)

ERA was represented at CSW60 by Ms Hannah Gissane, Project Co-ordinator, who joined with the YWCA Australia delegation to take advantage of strength in numbers and cross collaboration. Her highlights include:

- Working with Ms Rosie Batty, the 2015 Australian of the Year, Ms Vicky Welgraven, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women’s Alliance, and Ms Cara Gleeson, Our Watch and YWCA Australia on the Galvanising Change: Engaging Young People to Create a Future Free from Violence side event, reflecting on the shared experience of violence prevention work with young people to create long-term social and cultural change;
- Participating in the inaugural CSW Youth Forum which was a youth-led space for over 350 young people from more than 50 countries to meaningfully participate in and contribute to CSW60;
- Working with other civil society delegates from Australia and around the world on direct advocacy prior to and during the CSW60 Agreed Conclusion language negotiations.

ERA believes that while the CSW60 Agreed Conclusions reflect compromises and accommodations, overall they help to consolidate gender across the SDGs, confirming that Goal 5 is where gender in the 2030 Agenda starts, not where it ends.
Further, the CSW60 Agreed Conclusions put us on the path to a gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs in three ways:

- By recognising the critical link between gender equality and the achievement of sustainable development;
- Recognising the BDPA as the framework through which to achieve gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs; and
- Formalising that the Commission will contribute to the follow up, review and monitoring of the SDGs.

While there is headway in the integration of the 2030 Agenda into the work of the Commission, to an extent, the language in the Agreed Conclusions doesn’t always reflect the ambition of the SDGs. This is particularly the case in relation to sex disaggregated data and to women’s health, where language has come to a standstill in the last few years.

ERA will continue working towards embedding and elevating the contributions of young women at CSW in the future years.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE ALLIANCE (AWAVA)

AWAVA’s delegation was led by Ms Julie Oberin, Chair of both AWAVA and its lead agency, WESNET — the Women’s Services Network. The other delegates were AWAVA Advisory Group members Ms Maria Delaney, Association of Women Educators, Ms Margaret Augerinos, Centre for NonViolence/ WESNET and Ms Bonney Corbin, Association of Women Educators and True Relationships and Reproductive Health Qld.

The achievements of AWAVA’s delegation to CSW60 include:

- Engaging in a number of discussions on different prevention and response approaches to violence against women, including accessing information not obtainable elsewhere
- Presenting on the good work AWAVA is doing in Australia;
- Engaging in bilateral discussions on other countries approaches and current trends including a focus on national plans and technology safety;
- Contributing to the Women’s Rights Caucus’s efforts to influence language negotiations for the Agreed Conclusions;
- Hosting an event Women-Led Spaces, looking at different aspects of women’s leadership and self-determination in the area of violence against women and gender equality; and
- Attending the Global Network of Women’s Shelters Meeting and the Facebook consultation and roundtable on women’s safety and social media.

For AWAVA the CSW Agreed Conclusions (from this and previous years) are a useful tool to help advocate for enhanced policy, services, and practise to prevent violence against women at the local, state, territory and national levels.

AWAVA recognises that the CSW60 negotiations were tense in a number of areas including defining violence against women and harmful traditional practises, sexual and reproductive health, comprehensive sexuality education, and linking women’s rights with human rights. AWAVA feels that this increasing friction could be a reflection of a broader political shift away from a feminist intersectional analysis of gender equity.
CSW60 was crucial for Member States to cement theoretical links between concepts of economic empowerment, sustainable development and gender equity. Doing so ensured the work of the Commission remains relevant to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Central to feminist policy-making is the continual improvement of language and indicators that challenge the status quo of gender relations. Whilst CSW60 recognised Indigenous women and women’s leadership in climate change, the Agreed Conclusions only take small steps to challenge the status quo.

In comparison to most other Member States, Australia is a leader in relation to its national violence against women policy, particularly the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (the National Plan). Yet despite this Australian women’s experiences and perspectives of domestic and sexual violence are comparable globally. AWAVA looks forward to the development and implementation of the upcoming third action plan of the National Plan.

**ECONOMIC SECURITY 4 WOMEN (ES4W)**

Economic Security 4 Women (es4W) was represented at CSW60 by Ms Judith Van Unen and Ms Carole Shaw, Joint CEO’s of member organisation Justice Equality Rights Access (JERA) International. ES4W and JERA International’s key observations with regard to the CSW60 outcomes were:

- CSW60 was a difficult negotiating space to achieve any progressive language that may substantially impact the realisation of women’s human rights. Given this, it was encouraging to see reference to the major global challenges that climate change poses to the achievement of sustainable development on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

- It was promising to see several references to human rights in the context of gender equality and women’s empowerment throughout the Agreed Conclusions; however the document fails to make any progress on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity and sexual and reproductive rights.

- The Resolution on the Multi-year Program of Work of the Commission on the Status of Women clearly articulates how the Commission will influence the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and strengthen the implementation of the BDPA, but it does not articulate how the Agreed Conclusions from future CSW sessions will interact with other UN forums to support gender mainstreaming across all of the SDGs.

- It was hoped that CSW60 would develop action orientated outcomes and strong accountability by member states to implement the SDGs. Putting women’s rights at the centre of the 2030 Agenda is key to its full achievement, not just for Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), but ensuring women’s rights are reflected across all 17 goals.

- Successful implementation and achievement of the SDGs relies on all actors — civil society, governments, private sector and communities, in implementing and monitoring the SDGs and holding countries accountable.
The CSW60 Agreed Conclusions include strong references to the involvement of civil society, including feminist groups and women human rights defenders across the implementation, evaluation and monitoring of the SDG’s. However, the shrinking space and lack of funding for all diverse women to engage at international forums such as CSW paints a different picture. There is recognition of the importance of an open, inclusive, and transparent engagement with civil society in the gender responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This transparency will be a major challenge without mobilised civil society groups being able to attend meetings at the national, regional, and international levels. Women Human Rights defenders are especially at risk in this work and should be recognised, supported and assisted in their work.

Given Australia’s increasingly diverse population, better sex and gender disaggregated data is required. The reintroduction of Time Use survey would assist in more informed policymaking, particularly in relation to unpaid care work. Formal and informal carers provide a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of Australians in need of support and assistance. Women bear the brunt of responsibility for care work. Greater recognition and awareness of carer demographics and preferences will ensure that approaches to health, disability and aging policies undertake a holistic approach, and are responsive to the needs of both carers and care recipients equally.

The CSW60 Agreed Conclusions lack specific recognition of the impact that domestic, family and kinship group violence has on the workplace attendance, performance, safety and consequently the economic productivity of a woman whether she has children or not. Controlling and isolating behaviours by an abusive partner both prevent and restrict a woman’s choice of work and impact severely on the lifelong economic wellbeing of women.

The apparent sidelining of sexual and reproductive health was of concern. Denying women sexual and reproductive health rights is a fundamental barrier to the full achievement of women’s potential and the successful accomplishment of the SDGs.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN’S ALLIANCE (NATSIWA)

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women’s Alliance (NATSIWA) was represented at CSW60 by Ms Vicky Welgraven, Director, South Australia. NATSIWA’s aim for CSW60 was to raise the profile of issues faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women especially in relation to domestic and family violence and economic security for these marginalised women. Vicky’s highlights for CSW60 include:

- Giving the acknowledgement of country and paying respect to the traditional land owners in her traditional language at a number of Australian hosted events — the first time this has been done during CSW;
- Presenting at two side events ‘Galvanizing Change: Engaging Young People to Create a Future Free From Violence’ and ‘EnGendering National Economic Growth’, giving the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women’s perspective on the issues being discussed;
- Sharing experiences with other women and gathering information on policies, programs and strategies that could be adopted to improve the lives and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children in Australia;
- Networking with her Australian and international civil society peers and meeting with a number of high-level UN and government officials.
OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

UN WOMEN AUSTRALIA

The National Committee of UN Women (UN Women) Australia sends a delegation to CSW every year, for CSW60 with the assistance of funding provided by the Office for Women they were able to support the attendance of Ms Rosie Batty, 2015 Australian of the Year and Founder of the Luke Batty Foundation, as a member of their delegation.

During her time at CSW60 Ms Batty attended a range of meetings and events where she networked with government and civil society representatives, including other global advocates for the elimination of violence against women; and shared her experiences as a victim of domestic violence.

Ms Batty spoke at two key events during CSW60, as a panellist at Australian hosted side event the ‘Galvanising change: engaging young people to create a future free from violence – lessons learnt in Australia’ and as a keynote speaker the Women’s Empowerment Principles Summit’s session on workplaces’ responses to violence against women.

Ms Batty also attended meetings with high-level UN officials, including receiving briefings on the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, the Fund for Gender Equality and the HeforShe Campaign.

YWCA AUSTRALIA

In 2016, YWCA Australia continued its history of advocacy for women’s rights and equality, in particular that of young women, at CSW60. Representatives from YWCA Australia formed part of a 70 plus strong World YWCA Delegation, comprising mostly young women leaders from countries including Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Canada, Honduras, Tanzania, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Samoa and Zimbabwe.

As one of the first major multilaterals after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the many thousand delegates attending CSW60 held high expectations and aspirations of the transformative potential in using the only UN forum focused exclusively on gender and women, as an implementation and accountability mechanism for everything pertaining to gender in the 2030 Agenda. Throughout CSW60, YWCA delegates maintained their ambition to see the CSW position itself and its forward program of work central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Central to its advocacy work, the YWCA Australian and World YWCA delegations looked to how this could be realised and how it could impact on the lives of women, in particular young women and girls around the globe, with the firm belief that this would not only strengthen the 2030 Agenda, it would also considerably refine and reaffirm the importance and power of CSW.

As Ms Hannah Gissane, Project Co-ordinator, ERA, stated

"While the Agreed Conclusions reflect compromises and accommodations, overall CSW60 consolidates gender across the SDGs. CSW60 confirms that Goal 5 is where gender in the 2030 Agenda starts, not where it ends. We look to the following years and the shaping up of the future priority themes to see whether this is realised."

YWCA Australia, between the two delegates, Ms Cara Gleeson and Ms Hannah Gissane, participated in five parallel events, and partnered with the Australian Government on a side event that focused on how young women are driving change in terms of ending violence against women.
YWCA Australia thanks the Australian Government for hosting the annual World YWCA Breakfast with young women leaders about the issues that face their communities, as well as being briefed on the outcomes of the Youth Forum. At this breakfast the Australian Government heard from young women leaders about the issues that face their communities as well as being briefed on the outcomes of the Youth Forum.

The World YWCA Delegation built on the 2015 young women’s forum and partnered with UN Women in the hosting of the first ever Youth Forum. The Forum, held during the two days prior to CSW60 commencing, brought together 350 young people from over 50 countries to discuss issues that pertain to young women and gender. The Forum produced a comprehensive outcomes document that was a key document in the advocacy strategy used throughout CSW60 by both civil society representatives and Member States. This document was presented to the CSW60 Chair, Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota. Its importance and status was also recognised through the Chair’s championing of this document and its inclusion into one of the last drafts of the Agreed Conclusions.

YWCA Australia looks forward to seeing the Youth Forum further integrated into future CSW sessions, thus ensuring that the voices of young women are heard by their governments in regards to human rights, gender equality and economic empowerment.

The Australia Government delegation showed leadership in its presence and representation at a number of events, including their leadership on the important role of NHRIs. This extended additionally to the Agreed Conclusions with Australia taking the lead on a number of important themes.

Building on what is a proud legacy, the Australian Government delegation also showed leadership in the consultative nature in which it engaged with NGO representatives from Australia and the international community. The daily briefings and funding provided to the two non-government delegates included on the government delegation is an exemplar model that YWCA Australia advocates to many other Member States.

YWCA Australia strongly encourages the consideration of representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women with disabilities, and younger women in future delegations.

We would like to thank Australia’s Ambassador for Women and Girls, Ms Natasha Stott Despoja AM, and Ms Louise McSorley, then Head of the Office for Women, and the other members of the Australian Government delegation for their consultative, inclusive efforts to share their knowledge and expertise.

YWCA Australia and the World YWCA delegation welcomed the candidacy announced by the Australian Government for both the Commission of the Status of Women and the Human Rights Council, demonstrating that they will continue to seek opportunities to lead on gender and women’s rights in the international arena.
Representatives from the International Development Agency (IWDA) attended CSW60 as independent NGO representatives. They noted that the 2030 Agenda provides the global community with an opportunity to accelerate action on gender inequality and women’s empowerment worldwide. The challenge will be seeing this potential become reality which requires a coordinated approach — domestically and internationally — including increased investment, data collection and active consultation with women’s rights organisations and networks.

IWDA made the following recommendations in relation to the 2030 Agenda:

- Governments need to consult with women’s rights organisations and networks on implementation and review processes;
- Australia needs a whole-of-government approach, including coordination across local, state, and national jurisdictions to ensure it meets its obligations, as well as a national plan led by COAG to help target efforts where they can be most effective;
- Governments must meet their financing obligations, including through increasing the amount of overseas development assistance invested in gender equality and women’s empowerment policies and programs;
- Implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be informed by existing international commitments and language on women’s rights and gender equality such as the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the BDPA, United Nations Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, the Cairo Program of Action and other relevant human rights treaties;
- Australia’s efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda must be integrated into existing cross-government coordination mechanisms and action plans such as the National Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022 and the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012–2018;
- The Australian Government needs to take the lead on achieving progress across new international priorities such as recognising the value of unpaid care and domestic work and its implications for poverty, gender inequality and human rights;
- The CSW60 Agreed Conclusions affirmed that the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to progress across the 2030 Agenda. Australia’s implementation plan needs to explicitly recognise gender equality as central to achieving progress and that creating links between the different goals will provide the basis for effective action;
- The 2030 Agenda embraces the ‘Leave No One Behind’ principle, calling for the disaggregation of data by age, sex, income and geographic location, among other things. Mapping the data already being collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics against the SDGs and assessing how data gaps can be addressed is an essential first step for effective action.
ANNEX A — THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

*Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.
### ANNEX B — PROGRAMME AS COMPLETE

**Saturday 12th March**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.00–17.00</td>
<td>Louise McSorley: The Commonwealth Annual Consultation with National Women's Machineries</td>
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**Sunday 13th March**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.30–09.45</td>
<td>Ambassador and Louise McSorley: World YWCA Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.45–10.15</td>
<td>Ambassador and Louise McSorley: Meeting with World YWCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30–12.00</td>
<td>Sally Moyle: Gendernet Bureau Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00–16.30</td>
<td>Ambassador: Meeting with Ambassador Gillian Bird, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, HOM Residence</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30–18.00</td>
<td>Ambassador and Louise McSorley: Delegation briefing with Ambassador Gillian Bird, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, HOM Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.30–19.30</td>
<td>Louise McSorley: Meet and Greet with Australian Civil Society Representatives</td>
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**Monday 14th March**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.00–13.00</td>
<td>Ambassador and Louise McSorley: 60th Commission of the Status of Women Opening Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.00–15.45</td>
<td>Ambassador: Meeting with Anne Lammila, Finnish Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, and Ann Bernes, Swedish Ambassador for Gender Equality and Coordinator of the Feminist Foreign Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30–17.00</td>
<td>Ambassador: Meeting with Dr Dubravka Simonovic, Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.30–20.00</td>
<td>Ambassador and Louise McSorley: Australian Reception for Australian Delegation and Civil Society Representatives</td>
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**Tuesday 15th March**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>09.30–10.00</td>
<td>Ambassador: Meeting with Mary Ellen Iskenderian, President &amp; CEO, Women's World Banking</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00–1.00</td>
<td>Sally Moyle: Official CSW Event — General Discussion and Presentations on the Review Theme</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.20–11.30</td>
<td>Louise McSorley: ‘The Gender Pay Gap: what is it, why does it still exist and how do we get rid of it?’</td>
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### Tuesday 15th March

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.30–12.45</td>
<td><strong>Ambassador:</strong> World Bank and Global Women's Institute Event: 'Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls to Achieve Development Goals'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.15–14.30</td>
<td><strong>Ambassador and Louise McSorley:</strong> Every Woman, Every Child High-Level Event: 'The Roadmap to Realizing Rights: Every Woman Every Child's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health'</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.30–15.30</td>
<td><strong>Louise McSorley:</strong> General Discussions &amp; Presentations on Review Theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.30–16.00</td>
<td><strong>Ambassador:</strong> Bilateral meeting with Ms Zainab Hawa Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00–16.45</td>
<td><strong>Louise McSorley:</strong> Meeting with Ms Katalin Novák, Minister of State for Family and Youth Affairs, Hungary</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.45–18.00</td>
<td><strong>Ambassador:</strong> Side Event: 'Demonstrating the Value of NHRI Participation in CSW'</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.00–20.00</td>
<td><strong>Sally Moyle:</strong> Women's Empowerment Principles Special Event</td>
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| 18.15–19.45| **Ambassador: Mountains + Event:** 'Violence Against Women: Ministers Speak Out'  
**Louise McSorley:** Equal Futures Partnership: Tackling Violence Against Women as a Prerequisite for Sustainable Development |
| 20.15–22.00| **Ambassador and Louise McSorley:** Mountains + Group Ministerial Roundtable and Dinner |

### Wednesday 16th March

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.30–9.45</td>
<td><strong>Sally Moyle:</strong> Switzerland hosted breakfast: Current measures to close the gender pay gap</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00–11.15</td>
<td><strong>Ambassador and Louise McSorley</strong> (chairing event): Australian Event: 'National and International Road Maps for Cultural Change and the Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00–11.30</td>
<td><strong>Sally Moyle:</strong> UN SG High Level Panel Women's Economic Empowerment</td>
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| TBC        | **Ambassador:** Deliver Australia's National Statement  
**Louise McSorley:** To attend |
| 11.45–12.30| **Ambassador and Louise McSorley:** Canadian Event: Prime Minister Trudeau in conversation with Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women: Women's equality and empowerment in sustainable development |
| 13.15–14.30| **Ambassador and Louise McSorley:** Canadian Event: ‘Girls Advocacy Roundtable’ |
| 15.00–18.00| **Sally Moyle:** Official CSW Event — Priority Theme Interactive Expert Panel |
| 15.15–16.30| **Ambassador and Louise McSorley:** Australian Co-hosted Event: ‘Ending Violence Against Women — Key to Realising the SDGs in the Pacific’ |
### Wednesday 16th March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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</table>
| 18.00–20.15| **Ambassador:** Global Poverty Project Event: 'Off the Books: Addressing Legislative Barriers for Women'  
**Louise McSorley:** Australian co-hosted side event: Empowerment of Indigenous Women |

### Thursday 17th March

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.30–10.00</td>
<td><strong>Sally Moyle:</strong> Reducing Gender-Based Violence and Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.30–10.00</td>
<td><strong>Ambassador:</strong> Bilateral meeting with Jill Sheffield, President, Women Deliver</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00–13.00</td>
<td><strong>Sally Moyle:</strong> Official CSW Event — Priority Theme Interactive Expert Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30–11.15</td>
<td><strong>Ambassador and Louise McSorley:</strong> Australian Event: 'Galvanising Change: Engaging young people to create a future free from violence: Lessons learnt in Australia'</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30–11.50</td>
<td><strong>Ambassador:</strong> Meeting with Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator</td>
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| 12.00–13.00| **Ambassador:** Meeting with US Ambassador for Global Women's Issues, Cathy Russell and Dr Jo Cribb, Chief Executive, New Zealand Ministry for Women  
**Louise McSorley:** Bilateral meeting with Ms. Fabiana Tuñez, President of the National Council on Women of Argentina |
| 13.15–14.30| **Louise McSorley:** 'Indigenous Women and Girls, Pathways to Equality' |
| 14.00–15.00| **Sally Moyle:** International Trade Centre Consultations |
| 15.00–16.15| **Ambassador and Louise McSorley:** UN Women Event: 'Empowering Women & Girls in Humanitarian Action' |
| 16.30–17.30| **Sally Moyle:** Australian Hosted Side Event — From Rhetoric to Reality: Implementing and Monitoring the Global Goals for Girls |
| 16.20–16.35| **Ambassador:** Meeting with Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women  
**Louise McSorley:** Australian Event: 'From Rhetoric to Reality: Implementing and Monitoring the Global Goals for Girls' |

### Friday 18th March

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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| 09.30      | **Ambassador:** Departs New York  
**Louise McSorley:** Meeting with Mr. Adrian Chesnoiu, Chef de Cabinet and National Coordinator on preventing domestic violence, Romania |
<p>| 10.00–13.00| <strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Official CSW Event — Negotiation of Agreed Conclusions |
| 13.15–2.45 | <strong>Sally Moyle:</strong> Likeminded EVAW Meeting |
| 14.00      | <strong>Louise McSorley:</strong> Departs New York |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 18th March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00–18.00</td>
<td><strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Official CSW Event — Negotiation of Agreed Conclusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.30–20.30</td>
<td><strong>Sally Moyle:</strong> Centre for Women’s Global Leadership and Reception Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30–21.30</td>
<td><strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Australian Hosted Side Event — Panel Discussion on Silent Tears Photo Exhibition</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 21st March</strong></td>
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<td>10.00–13.00</td>
<td><strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Official CSW Event — Negotiation of Agreed Conclusions</td>
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<td>15.00–18.00</td>
<td><strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Official CSW Event — Negotiation of Agreed Conclusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.30–19.45</td>
<td><strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Australian Hosted Side Event — What do leading women’s studies tell us about equality and empowerment to address gender based violence? Findings from Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH) and InterLACE</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 22nd March</strong></td>
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<td>10.00–13.00</td>
<td><strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Official CSW Event — Negotiation of Agreed Conclusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.15–14.30</td>
<td><strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Australian Hosted Side Event — Engendering National Economic Growth</td>
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<td>15.00–18.00</td>
<td><strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Official CSW Event — Negotiation of Agreed Conclusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00–17.00</td>
<td><strong>Sally Moyle:</strong> Women’s World Banking Event</td>
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<td>17.00–19.00</td>
<td><strong>Sally Moyle:</strong> Women’s World Banking and Australia (DFAT) Event: Women’s Financial Inclusion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 23rd March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00–13.00</td>
<td><strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Official CSW Event — Negotiation of Agreed Conclusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00–18.00</td>
<td><strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Official CSW Event — Negotiation of Agreed Conclusions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 24th March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00–13.00</td>
<td><strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Official CSW Event — Negotiation of Agreed Conclusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00–18.00</td>
<td><strong>Australian Government Delegation:</strong> Official CSW Event — Closing Session of CSW60</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 25th March</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>All day</td>
<td><strong>UN Official Holiday</strong></td>
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Mr. Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to address the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I do so as Australia’s Ambassador for Women and Girls and I urge other countries to create comparable positions.

Gender equality is essential to building strong economies, achieving development and improving the quality of life for women, families, communities and nations.

To achieve this, we need to accelerate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. We must end violence against women and girls. We must ensure women are able to participate fully in social, political and economic realms. And, we must protect the fundamental human rights of women and girls, including those of the most vulnerable and marginalised.

In adopting the 2030 Agenda, the world said unequivocally that gender equality is essential to achieve prosperity and a sustainable, equitable future for all.

It is a comprehensive, ambitious, international agenda that mainstreams gender equality. It acknowledges that no country has achieved equality. It demands progress on the many areas where we have failed to meet our commitments.

We now have the opportunity to weave together the 2030 Agenda and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to develop a clear path to gender equality.

We must not squander this opportunity.

The Commission is central to these efforts. I am pleased to announce that Australia has nominated to serve as a member of the Commission for the 2019–2023 term. Australia supports strongly the Commission’s role in reviewing the 2030 Agenda and ensuring its implementation delivers gender equality.

Mr. Chair

There can be no sustainable development without the economic empowerment of women.

Under Australia’s presidency, G20 leaders agreed to reduce the gender gap in workforce participation by 25 per cent by 2025. This reinforces Australia’s pledge to boost women’s workforce participation and improve women’s long-term financial security.

Through Australia’s aid program, our new Investing in Women Initiative supports partnerships with government and the private sector in South East Asia to expand women’s economic participation. This builds on our extensive support for women’s economic empowerment across the Indo-Pacific region.
Mr. Chair

Australia is hard at work on this agenda, both domestically and internationally.

A major impediment to gender equality and sustainable development is the global pandemic of violence against women. It is a fundamental human rights violation.

Violence can be exacerbated by multiple forms of disadvantage, such as poverty, lack of education or opportunity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, age and Indigenous status.

There is no excuse for violence against women and girls in any form.

Australia is committed to eradicating harmful traditional practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. We applaud the strong leadership among African nations.

Ending all forms of violence against women and girls is a priority for Australia.

Last year, the Australian Government announced a $100 million domestic Women’s Safety Package. The initiative will help to make women safer on the streets, at home and online. This is in addition to a nearly $200 million investment in Australia’s National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.

Internationally we are working with partners across government, civil society and international organisations to shape a world where women and girls can thrive and their safety is assured.

Mr. Chair

Australia is proud to have announced its candidacy for election to the Human Rights Council for the 2018–2020 term. Our candidacy is a measure of our commitment to human rights.

The full realisation of women’s and girls’ human rights is a pillar of Australia’s candidacy for the Human Rights Council.

National Human Rights Institutions play a pivotal role in the international human rights system. Australia strongly supports the contribution of these institutions, and civil society actors, to the promotion of gender equality.

Australia urges the Commission to take forward the enhanced participation of National Human Rights Institutions in its operations, as recommended by the General Assembly.

The 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity to reinvigorate global momentum to women’s empowerment. Our cooperation across the Agenda must be resolute. Our national approaches must be innovative and agile.

We must not fail to seize the opportunity to secure a central role for the Commission in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The empowerment of women and girls is achievable — in this Australia’s commitment is unwavering.
1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

2. The Commission reaffirms that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocols thereto, as well as other relevant conventions and treaties provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls throughout their life cycle.

3. The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, and also reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the promotion, protection and full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

4. The Commission reaffirms the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences, including the International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation. The Commission further reaffirms commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the recognition of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and recalls the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment held on 27 September 2015 and the Meeting on Women and Peace and Security of the Security Council held on 13 October 2015.

5. The Commission reaffirms that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews, and the outcomes of relevant major United Nations conferences and summits and the follow up to these conferences, have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that will leave no one behind.

6. The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives in their respective regions and countries in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including for sustainable development.

7. The Commission welcomes the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizes that women play a vital role as agents of development and acknowledges that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets. The Commission stresses that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if women and girls continue to be denied the full realization of their human rights and opportunities.

8. The Commission expresses concern that the feminization of poverty persists and emphasizes that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Commission acknowledges the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty, and the need to ensure an adequate standard of living for women and girls throughout the lifecycle, including through social protection systems.

9. The Commission reaffirms that the realization of the right to education contributes to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, human rights, sustainable development and poverty eradication. The Commission notes with concern the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in, and completion of secondary schooling, which is key to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as enabling other positive social and economic outcomes, therefore all women and girls must enjoy access to lifelong learning opportunities and equal access to quality education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as technical and vocational training.

10. The Commission recognizes that women’s equal economic rights, economic empowerment and independence are essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It underlines the importance of undertaking legislative and other reforms to realize the equal rights of women and men, as well as girls and boys where applicable, to access economic and productive resources, including land and natural resources, property and inheritance rights, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, and women’s equal opportunities for full and productive employment and decent work, and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value. The Commission acknowledges the positive contribution of migrant women workers for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

11. The Commission further recognizes that achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires the full integration of women into the formal economy, including through
their effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life and through changing the current gender-based division of labour to ensure that unpaid care and domestic work is equally shared, and recognized, reduced and redistributed.

12. The Commission recognizes that conflicts, trafficking in persons, terrorism, violent extremism, natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, and other emergency situations, disproportionately affect women and girls. It therefore recognizes that it is essential to ensure that women are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes, that their needs and interests are prioritized in strategies and responses, and that the human rights of women and girls are promoted and protected, in all development efforts, as well as in conflict, humanitarian emergencies and other emergency situations.

13. The Commission stresses the need to ensure that no one is left behind in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard recognizes the challenges faced by refugee women and girls and the need to protect and empower them, including in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and the need to strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, and underscores the importance of development support for those communities, particularly in developing countries.

14. The Commission reiterates its concern over the challenge climate change poses to the achievement of sustainable development and that women and girls, who face inequality and discrimination, are often disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and other environmental issues, including, inter alia, desertification, deforestation, dust storms, natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification. Furthermore, the Commission recognizes, in line with the Paris Agreement, that countries should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote, and consider gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

15. The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against all women and girls. It expresses deep concern that discrimination and violence against women and girls particularly against those who are most vulnerable, continues in all parts of the world and that all forms of violence against women and girls, including, inter alia, sexual and gender based violence, domestic violence, trafficking in persons, femicide, among others, as well as harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, are impediments to the full achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, and to the development of their full potential as equal partners with men and boys, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. The Commission while welcoming progress made towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, emphasizes that no country has fully achieved gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, that significant levels of inequality between women and men, girls and boys persist globally, and that many women and girls experience
vulnerability and marginalization owing to, inter alia, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination throughout their lifecycle.

17. The Commission recognizes that gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires the acceleration of action on both recent and long-standing commitments to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

18. The Commission reaffirms the importance of significantly increased investment to close resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, the full implementation of official development assistance commitments, and combatting illicit financial flows, to build on progress achieved and strengthen international cooperation, including the role of north-south, south-south and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that south-south cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, north-south cooperation.

19. The Commission stresses the urgency of full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and recalls that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial.

20. The Commission notes that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is of unprecedented scope and significance. It is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, and it will be implemented within countries and at the regional and global levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policy space for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, in particular for developing States, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments. The Commission affirms governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made.

21. The Commission welcomes the major contributions made by civil society, including women’s and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders and girls’ and youth led organizations, in placing the interests, needs and visions of women and girls on local, national, regional and international agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizes the importance of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with them in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

22. The Commission recognizes the importance of fully engaging men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and as allies in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, as well as in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in the gender responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

23. The Commission, in order to continue working towards full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, urges Governments, at all levels, and as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, and invites national human rights institutions, where they exist, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, inter alia, women and community-based organizations, feminists groups, youth led organizations, faith-based organizations, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media, and other relevant actors, as applicable, to take the following actions:

**Strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks**

a. Consider ratifying or acceding to, as a particular matter of priority, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and their respective Optional Protocols, limit the extent of any reservations, formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Conventions, review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the relevant treaty, and implement them fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation and policies;

b. Accelerate the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews and the International Conference on the Population and Development and its Program of Action and the outcomes of its reviews as a foundation for sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and compliance of States Parties with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto as well as other relevant conventions and treaties;

c. Implement all goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, while respecting each country’s policy space and leadership while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, including by developing cohesive sustainable development strategies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and by mainstreaming a gender perspective in all government policies and programs at all levels;

d. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls through the development, where needed, adoption and accelerated and effective implementation and monitoring of laws and comprehensive policy measures; the removal, where they exist, of discriminatory provisions in legal frameworks, including punitive provisions; and setting up legal, policy, administrative and other comprehensive measures, including temporary special measures as appropriate, to ensure women’s and girls’ equal and effective access to justice and accountability for violations of human rights of women and girls;
e. Enact legislation and undertake reforms to realize the equal rights of women and men, and where applicable girls and boys, to access economic and productive resources, including access to, ownership of, and control over land, property and inheritance rights, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, and women’s equal opportunities for full and productive employment and decent work;

f. Promote women’s economic rights and independence, women’s right to work and rights at work through gender-responsive policies and programmes that promote decent work for all; ensure equal pay for equal work or work of equal value; protect women against discrimination and abuse in the workplace; invest in and empower women in all sectors in the economy by supporting women-led businesses, including by tailoring a range of approaches and instruments which facilitate access to universal public services, finance, training and technology, markets, sustainable and affordable energy and transport and trade;

g. Undertake all appropriate measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work by prioritizing social protection policies, including accessible and affordable quality social services, and care services for children, persons with disabilities, older persons and persons living with HIV and AIDS, and all others in need of care, and promote the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men;

h. Promote a socially responsible and accountable private sector that acts in line with, among others, the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the fundamental principles and rights at work of the ILO, and labour, environmental and health standards, as well as the Women’s Empowerment Principles established by UN Women and the Global Compact, in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

i. Recognize the contribution of migrants, including women migrant workers to sustainable development, acknowledge the need to eliminate violence and discrimination against women migrant workers, and to promote their empowerment including through international, regional or bilateral cooperation among all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination;

j. Take concrete steps towards eliminating the practice of gender-based price differentiation, whereby goods and services intended for or marketed to women and girls cost more than similar goods and services intended for or marketed to men and boys (also known as the ‘pink tax’);

k. Urges governments to provide universal and equitable access for all to safe and affordable drinking water, and adequate sanitation and hygiene, in particular in schools, public facilities and buildings, paying special attention to the specific needs of all women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by inadequate water and sanitation facilities [and are at greater risk of violence and harassment when practising open defecation, and have specific needs for menstrual hygiene management; and to improve water management and wastewater treatment with the active participation of women;
I. Recognize the critical role of women as agents of change and leaders in addressing climate change, and promote a gender-responsive approach, the integration of a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies, financing, policies, and processes, towards achieving the meaningful and equal participation of women in decision making at all levels on environmental issues, and towards building the resilience of women and girls to the adverse effects of climate change;

m. Ensure that the rights and specific needs of women and girls affected and displaced by conflicts, trafficking in persons, terrorism, violent extremism, natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies, and other emergency situations, are addressed in national and international plans, strategies and responses; and ensure the participation of women and girls at all levels of decision-making in emergency, recovery, reconstruction, conflict resolution and peace-building processes; provide education for all, especially girls, to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development and address sexual and gender-based violence as an integral and prioritized part of every humanitarian response; and in this respect, encourages the World Humanitarian Summit to give due consideration to integrating a gender perspective into its deliberations;

n. Refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

o. ensure the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services, commodities, information and education, including, inter alia, safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, in accordance with national laws and context, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;

p. Promote and respect women’s and girls’ right to education throughout their life cycle at all levels, especially for those most left behind, by providing universal access to quality education, ensuring inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education, and promoting learning opportunities for all, ensuring completion of primary and secondary education and eliminating gender disparities in access to all areas of secondary and tertiary education, promoting financial literacy, ensuring that women and girls have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships, and by adopting positive action to build women’s and girls’ leadership skills and influence; adopt measures that promote, respect and guarantee safety of
women and girls in the school environment, and measures to support women and girls with disability in all levels of education and training;

q. Mainstream a gender perspective into education and training programmes, including science and technology, eradicate female illiteracy and support school-to-work transition through skills development to enable women’s and girls’ active participation in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making, and create conditions that facilitate women’s full participation and integration in the formal economy;

r. Adopt, review and ensure the accelerated and effective implementation of laws that criminalize violence against women and girls, as well as comprehensive, multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive preventive, protective and prosecutorial measures and services to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against all women and girls, in public and private spaces, as well as harmful practices;

s. Design and implement appropriate domestic policies at all levels that aim to transform discriminatory social attitudes and gender stereotypes as well as to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

t. Fully engage men and boys, including community leaders, as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls both in public and private spheres, design and implement national policies and programmes that address the role and responsibility of men and boys and aim to ensure equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in caregiving and domestic work, transform with the aim to eliminate those social norms that condone violence against women and girls, and attitudes and social norms by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys, including by understanding and addressing the root causes of gender inequality such as unequal power relations, social norms, practices and stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls, and engage them in efforts to promote and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls for the benefit of both women and men, girls and boys;

u. Recognize the important role and contribution of rural women and girls as well as local communities to food security, poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and sustainable development and commit to supporting their empowerment, and ensure rural women’s full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy, and political decision-making;

v. Formulate and implement, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women and their organizations, policies and programmes designed to promote capacity-building and strengthen their leadership while recognizing the distinct and important role of indigenous women and girls in sustainable development; and prevent and eliminate discrimination and violence against indigenous women and girls which has a negative impact on their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and which they are disproportionately vulnerable to, and that constitutes a major impediment to indigenous women’s full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy, and political decision-making;
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w. Take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational, employment and other measures to protect and promote the rights of all women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their full and effective participation and inclusion in society, and to address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination they face;

x. Recognize the family as a contributor to development, including in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals for women and girls, that gender equality and women’s empowerment improve the well-being of the family, and in this regard stress the need for elaborating and implementing family policies aimed at achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment and at enhancing the full participation of women in society;

**Fostering enabling environments for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls**

y. Promote gender equality and the empowerment of women by reaffirming the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors and to reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development;

z. Reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies and adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the promotion of gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment at all levels;

aa. Support and institutionalize a gender-responsive approach to public financial management, including gender-responsive budgeting and tracking across all sectors of public expenditure, to address gaps in resourcing for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and ensure all national and sectoral plans and policies for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fully costed and adequately resourced to ensure their effective implementation;

bb. Take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, including by enhancing revenue administration through modernized, progressive tax systems, improved tax policy and more efficient tax collection and increased priority on gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance to build on progress achieved, and ensure that official development assistance is used effectively;

cc. Urge developed countries to fully implement their respective official development assistance commitments, including the commitment made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries, and encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used...
effectively to help meet development goals and targets and help them, inter alia, to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women;

dd. Strengthen international cooperation, including the role of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and invites all States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation focusing on shared development priorities, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector, while noting that national ownership and leadership in this regard are indispensable for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

ee. Implement macroeconomic, labour and social policies which promote full and productive employment and decent work for all in order to benefit women and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as to enhance economic efficiency and optimize the contribution of women to economic growth and poverty reduction, promote processes to develop and facilitate the availability of appropriate knowledge and technologies globally, and increase awareness among decision makers, the private sector and employers of the necessity of women’s economic empowerment and their important contribution;

**Strengthening women’s leadership and women’s full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development**

ff. Take measures to ensure women’s full, equal and effective participation in all fields and leadership at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors, and public, social, economic and political life and in all areas of sustainable development;

gg. Take measures to ensure women’s full, equal and effective participation, including through temporary special measures, as appropriate, and by setting and working to achieve concrete goals, targets and benchmarks, including by providing education and training, and by removing all barriers that directly and indirectly hinder the participation of women, and where applicable girls, in decision-making roles in all sectors and at all levels such as lack of access to quality and inclusive education, and training, as well as violence, poverty, unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work, and gender stereotypes;

hh. Take measures to ensure women’s effective participation at all levels and at all stages and in peace processes and mediation efforts, conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peace building and recovery, as laid out in relevant Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security;

ii. Encourages States to recognize shared work and parental responsibilities between women and men to promote women's increased participation in public life, and take appropriate measures to achieve this, including measures to reconcile family, private and professional life;

jj. Promote a safe and enabling environment for all civil society actors so that they can fully contribute to the gender-responsive implementation and follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in line with the relevant provisions of the Agenda;
kk. Increase resources and support for grass-roots, local, national, regional and global women’s and civil society organizations to advance and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls;

**Strengthening gender-responsive data collection, follow-up and review processes**

ll. Include a gender-responsive approach in national follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development taking into account, where applicable, the agreed global indicator framework, and strengthen national statistical capacity, including by enhancing technical and financial assistance to developing countries, to systematically design, collect and ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely data disaggregated by sex, age and income and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;

mm. Develop and enhance standards and methodologies at national and international levels to improve collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics on, inter alia, poverty, income distribution within households, unpaid care work, women’s access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, participation at all levels of decision-making and violence against women to measure progress for women and girls on sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

nn. Enhance technical and financial collaboration between countries, with the support of United Nations entities, within their mandates, and the participation of civil society organizations as appropriate, with the aim of collecting data and statistics to follow-up on and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from a gender equality perspective.

**Enhancing national institutional arrangements**

24. The Commission calls on Governments to strengthen the authority and capacity of, including by funding where possible, national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, at all levels, including to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective across all policies and programmes in all sectors of government in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and promote the visibility of and support for these mechanisms.

25. The Commission also calls on Governments to enhance coherence and coordination of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders, where appropriate to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
26. The Commission calls on the United Nations system entities within their respective mandates to support States upon their request in their gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

27. The Commission recognizes its primary role for follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in which its work is grounded and stresses that it is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to ensure synergies between the follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

28. The Commission calls on UN-Women to continue to play a central role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and in supporting Member States upon their request, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

29. The Commission recalls General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/163 and encourages the Secretariat to consider how to enhance the participation, including at the 61st Session of the Commission, of national human rights institutions fully compliant with the Paris Principles, where they exist, in compliance with the ECOSOC rules of procedure.

30. The Commission affirms that it will contribute to the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals taking place at the high-level political forum and will exercise its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that follow-up and review processes benefit all women and girls and contribute to the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030.
The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council,


Recalling also that in its resolution 2013/18 the Council requested the Commission at its sixtieth session to decide on its future multi-year programme of work,

Recalling further its resolution 2015/6 of 8 June 2015, in which the Council requested the Commission to continue to apply a thematic approach to its work and to adopt a multi-year programme of work to allow predictability and adequate time for preparation; in selecting its priority theme, taking into consideration, in addition to the Beijing Platform for Action¹ and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,² the programme of work of the Council, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council and the high-level political forum on

1 Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.
2 General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
3 General Assembly resolution 70/1.
sustainable development, according to the modalities to be established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the context of the high-
level political forum,

Recalling that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and in accordance with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the overall policymaking and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and reaffirming the catalytic role of the Commission in mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes,

Acknowledging the centrality of the Beijing Platform for Action to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, and recognizing that a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda will make a vital contribution to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and help countries to maximize and track progress in order to ensure that no one is left behind,

Recalling the invitation to the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the issue of the empowerment of indigenous women at a future session, as stated in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 69/2 of 22 September 2014, and acknowledging the intention to place this issue as a focus area of its sixty-first session,

Themes for 2017-2019

1. Decides that the Commission’s multi-year programme of work for the sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-third sessions will be as follows:

   (a) Sixty-first session (2017):
      (i) Priority theme: women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work;
      (ii) Review theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session);

   (b) Sixty-second session (2018):
      (i) Priority theme: challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;
      (ii) Review theme: participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session);

   (c) Sixty-third session (2019):
      (i) Priority theme: social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
(ii) Review theme: women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session);

2. Requests the Commission, in order to achieve concrete results in each review cycle, to consider and make a recommendation at its sixty-second session on how best to utilize the year 2020, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

3. Affirms that the Commission will contribute to the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals taking place at the high-level political forum.
ANNEX F — RESOLUTION ON WOMEN, THE GIRL CHILD AND HIV AND AIDS

WOMEN, THE GIRL CHILD AND HIV AND AIDS

PP1Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of its reviews; the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the outcome documents of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the key actions for its further implementation and outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women; the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS; the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

PP2 Noting with deep concern that the global HIV epidemic disproportionately affects women and girls and acknowledging the progress achieved in the realisation of Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), halting and reversing the spread of HIV where the global response to HIV has averted millions of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths since 2000, when the MDGs were set;

PP3 Recognizing the need to intensify efforts to end the AIDS epidemic through fast tracking the HIV response across the prevention and treatment continuum, including in the context of the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets and acknowledging the specific vulnerabilities of adolescent and young girls and women due to, inter alia, unequal power relations in society between women and men, boys and girls;

PP4 Acknowledging that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive multi-sectoral gender responsive approach to end the AIDS epidemic;

PP5Noting with concern that regulations, policies and practices, including those that limit legitimate trade of generic medicines, may seriously limit access to affordable HIV treatment and other pharmaceutical products in low- and middle-income countries, and recognizing that improvements can be made, inter alia through national legislation, regulatory policy and supply chain management, and noting that reductions in barriers to affordable products could be explored in order to expand access to affordable and good quality HIV prevention products, diagnostics, medicine and treatment commodities for HIV, including opportunistic infections and co-infections;

PP6 Stressing that gender equality and the political, civil, social, economic and cultural empowerment of women and girls as well as the enjoyment of their full and equal human rights and fundamental freedoms are fundamental in the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development;

PP7 Recognizing that children and adolescents are more likely to be lost from care and that those on antiretroviral medication are less likely than adults to reach viral load suppression and that there are
many challenges in diagnosing and treating infants, children, and adolescents;

**PP8** Stressing the value and importance of social protection for the most vulnerable of achieving universal health coverage (UHC) that comprises universal and equitable access to quality health services and ensures affordable and quality service delivery to people living with HIV including women and children and making sure that UHC also promotes HIV/AIDS responses;

**PP9** Recognizing that over 13.3 million children have lost one or two parents to HIV and AIDS and that these children have complex needs pertaining to protection, care and support and that they may be at increased risk of infection as well as at increased risk of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence;

**PP10** Noting with appreciation the efforts of Member States and the UN system to end all forms of violence against women and children, in particular the girl-child including the Secretary General’s Campaign "UNite to end violence against women", and the HeForShe Campaign;

**PP11** Deeply concerned that all forms of violence against women and girls, discrimination and harmful practices are key contributing factors to the spread of HIV amongst women and girls;

**PP12** Deeply concerned by the increased vulnerability to HIV infection faced by women and girls living with disabilities resulting from, inter alia, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender based violence, discrimination, and violations of their rights;

**PP13** Noting with concern that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, natural disasters, internally displaced persons, refugees and in particular, women and children especially girls, are at increased risk of HIV infection;

**PP14** Recognizing that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV infection, and that they bear a disproportionate burden of the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including the care of and support for those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and that this negatively affects the enjoyment of their human rights including the right to health;

**PP15** Recognizing that access to quality education and information and the retention of girls in school is a critical element in the prevention of HIV infection amongst women and girls;

**PP16** Acknowledging the leadership of governments, in cooperation with the Joint UN programme on HIV and AIDS and other UN specialised agencies and the international donor community and financing mechanisms including of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, Malaria (GFATM) in increasing domestic and international resources to support programmes that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to address HIV and AIDS;

**PP17** Welcoming the leadership and commitment shown in all aspects of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, including in the HIV and AIDS response by governments, non-governmental organizations, CSOs and people living with HIV, including through the African Union Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa;
OP1 Calls upon governments, international partners and civil society to give full attention to the high levels of new HIV infections amongst young women and adolescent girls and its root causes, bearing in mind that women and girls are physiologically more vulnerable to HIV, especially at an earlier age, than men and boys, and that this is increased by discrimination and all forms of violence against women, girls and adolescents, including sexual exploitation and harmful practices;

OP2 Calls upon Member States to intensify efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life, recognizing that structural gender inequalities, discrimination, violence against women and girls, and harmful masculinities undermine effective HIV responses and the enjoyment of their full and equal human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls;

OP3 Calls upon all governments to enact and intensify the implementation of laws, policies and strategies to eliminate all forms of gender based violence, and discrimination against women and girls in the public and private spheres, and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and female genital mutilation (FGM), and trafficking in persons, and ensure the full engagement of men and boys in order to reduce women and girls' vulnerability to HIV;

OP4 Urges governments to address all health consequences, including the physical, mental and sexual and reproductive consequences, of violence against women and girls by providing accessible health-care services that are responsive to trauma and include affordable, safe, effective and good-quality medicines, first line support, treatment of injuries and psychosocial and mental health, emergency contraception, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV infection, diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, training for medical professionals to effectively identify and treat women subjected to violence, as well as forensic examinations by appropriately trained professionals;

OP5 Calls upon all governments to intensify efforts to reduce the particularly high levels of HIV infection among women and girls that epidemiological evidence shows are at higher risk by reducing barriers to their participation in HIV prevention and care where possible, as well as removing barriers to their full participation in society, and by addressing practices such as trafficking in persons that contribute to HIV risk and social marginalization of women and girls;

OP6 Calls upon all governments to ensure a just and equitable world for women and girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

OP7 Calls upon all governments to promote universal health coverage, as part of a comprehensive social protection package, which implies that all people have equal access, without discrimination of any kind, to nationally determined sets of quality promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative basic health services needed and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, especially through the promotion of
primary health care, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a specific emphasis on women, children and the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

**OP8 Urges** Member States to adopt and implement measures that promote access to, the retention and completion of education by girls including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, special initiatives for keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, or caring for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, and adapt social protection measures as protective strategies to reducing new HIV infections among young women and girls;

**OP9 Calls on** Member States to address gender based HIV related stigma and discrimination against and amongst women and girls, so as to ensure the dignity, rights and privacy of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, including in education, training and informal education and the workplace;

**OP10 Further calls** on Member States to recognize women’s contribution to the economy and their active participation in caring for people living with HIV and AIDS, and recognize, redistribute and value women’s unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, the promotion of equal sharing of responsibilities with men and boys, and social protection targeted at women and girls who are vulnerable;

**OP 11 Appeals to** governments to accelerate access to health services including the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, as part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to the AIDS epidemic;

**OP12 Calls upon governments** to accelerate efforts to scale up age appropriate and culturally sensitive and scientifically accurate comprehensive education that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, with information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relations between men and women, to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection, build informed decision making, self esteem, communication and risk reduction skills, and develop respectful relationships in full partnerships with young persons, parents, legal guardians, care givers, educators and healthcare providers

**OP13 Calls on** governments to take concrete long term measures to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, programmes, treatment, care and support to all women and girls and to remove all barriers to achieve universal health coverage and improve access to integrated sexual reproductive health care services, information, voluntary counseling and testing and commodities while building the capacity of adolescent girls and boys, young
women and men to protect themselves from HIV infection and enabling their use of available commodities including female and male condoms, Post Exposure Prophylaxis and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, while seeking to avoid risk-taking behavior and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour;

**OP14** Commits to remove before 2030, obstacles that limit the capacity of low and middle-income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products, diagnostics, medicines and commodities and other pharmaceutical products, as well as treatment for opportunistic infections and co-infections, and to reduce costs associated with life-long chronic care, including by amending national laws and regulations, so as to optimize the use, to the full, of existing flexibilities under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) specifically geared to promoting access to and trade in medicines, and, while recognizing the importance of the intellectual property rights regime in contributing to a more effective AIDS response, ensure that intellectual property rights provisions in trade agreements do not undermine these existing flexibilities, as confirmed in the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, and call for early acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005;

**OP 15** Commit to remove before 2030, where feasible, obstacles that limit the capacity of low- and middle-income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products, diagnostics, medicines and commodities and other pharmaceutical products, as well as treatment for opportunistic infections and co-infections, and to reduce costs associated with life-long chronic care, including by amending national laws and regulations, as deemed appropriate by respective governments, so as to optimize:

(a) The use, to the full, of existing flexibilities under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights specifically geared to promoting access to and trade in medicines, and, while recognizing the importance of the intellectual property rights regime in contributing to a more effective AIDS response, ensure that intellectual property rights provisions in trade agreements do not undermine these existing flexibilities, as confirmed in the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, and call for early acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005;

(b) Addressing barriers, regulations, policies and practices that prevent access to affordable HIV treatment by promoting generic competition in order to help to reduce costs associated with life-long chronic care and by encouraging all States to apply measures and procedures for enforcing intellectual property rights in such a manner as to avoid creating barriers to the legitimate trade in medicines, and to provide for safeguards against the abuse of such measures and procedures;

(c) Encouraging the voluntary use, where appropriate, of new mechanisms such as partnerships, tiered pricing, open-source sharing of patents and patent pools benefiting all developing countries, including through entities such as the Medicines Patent Pool, to help to reduce treatment costs and encourage development of new HIV treatment formulations, including HIV medicines and point-of-care diagnostics, in particular for children;

**OP16** Calls on governments and stakeholders to uphold commitments to eliminate mother-to-child transmission and keep mothers alive including through integrating HIV prevention,
treatment, care and support, including confidential voluntary counseling and testing and elimination of mother-to-child/vertical transmission, with other primary health-care services especially sexual and reproductive health-care services and through means to prevent new infections among women and adolescent girls of reproductive age and the provision of sexual and reproductive health-care services and life-long anti-retrovirals for women and girls living with HIV;

**OP17 Calls upon** governments and stakeholders to intensify combination prevention initiatives for women and girls for the prevention of new infections and reverse the spread of HIV and maternal mortality;

**OP18 Urges** governments and stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by older women, and women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

**OP19Stresses** the importance of governments, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes developing and implementing strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at point of care, significantly increasing and improving access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for opportunistic infections and promoting a smooth transition from pediatric to adult treatment and related support and services, while taking into account the need to put in place programmes focused on delivering services to HIV-negative children born to women living with HIV, as they are still at high risk of morbidity and mortality and to develop actions to limit post delivery transmissions through breast-feeding through the provision of information and education;

**OP20 Calls upon** governments and stakeholders to prioritize gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in all policies and programmes related to populations destabilized by armed conflict including refugees, internally displaced persons and in particular, women and children who are at increased risk of HIV infection;

**OP21 Urges** governments to increase political commitment and domestic financing to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through national HIV and AIDS responses targeting women and girls, that respect, promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for women and girls including in the context of the HIV epidemic and promote equal economic opportunities and decent work for women and girls;

**OP22 Further urges** governments to promote active and meaningful participation, contribution and leadership of women and girls living with HIV, civil society actors, private sector, youth and young men and women’s organisations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender responsive approach to the national response;

**OP23 Requests** governments, the private sector, the international donor community, funds and programmes of the UN agencies to intensify financial and technical support to national efforts
to end AIDS and achieve gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls, focused on women and girls affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic and to also intensify financial and technical support to mainstreaming gender and human rights perspectives in policies, planning, programmes, monitoring and evaluation;

**OP24 Requests** governments to avail comprehensive disaggregated data on age, sex and other characteristics relevant in national context to inform targeted responses on gender dimensions of HIV and AIDS;

**OP25 Stresses** the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

**OP26 Encourages** the international community and research institutions to support action-oriented research on gender and HIV and AIDS including on female controlled prevention commodities;

**OP27 Requests** the United Nations Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Sixty-second Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.