

## WFP International: CSW64 Is Canceled - But Not Entirely

Grace Kellett and Tamara Starr  
March 13, 2020



It is with great sadness that we inform you that due to the very real threat of the coronavirus, the 64th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) was effectively cancelled for all participants. However, CSW is still organizing a series of events to commemorate the 25th anniversary of The Fourth World Conference on Women that took place in Beijing.

**Here is a timeline that explains the reasons behind the cancellation, and the series of events that will take place in 2020 as we move forward:**

On February 28, the UN Secretary General issued a letter recommending that the 64th annual session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women be scaled back due to concerns regarding the coronavirus. [Read the full letter here.](#)

Based upon that recommendation, the Chair of the CSW sent a letter to the Permanent Missions announcing that a briefing would be held on Monday, March 2, to discuss these recommendations. [Read the full letter here.](#)

On March 2, the CSW bureau held a briefing for the member states of the Commission and NGOs at the UN to discuss the recommendation sent out by the [UN Secretary General's office](#) that CSW64 be scaled down and shortened this year, in light of the global coronavirus emergency. Upon a three hour discussion during which time member states gave their opinions and recommendations, it was decided that CSW64 would be scaled down even further to only include one official meeting related to all procedural matters (adopting the political declaration and other agreed upon resolutions) to be held on Monday, March 9. This was agreed upon contingent on the understanding that efforts would be made to integrate dialogue portions that make up CSW.

[See the letter from the Chair here.](#)

[Read UN Women's announcement here.](#)

Watch a video message from the Chair here:



In response to the decisions made by the Chair and UN Women, NGO CSW NY decided to cancel the CSW64 Forum, including Consultation Day, the Reception and all parallel events.

[See the full announcement from NGO CSW NY here.](#)

### **Moving Forward**

Since March 2, plans have been made to ensure dialogue regarding the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

### **Virtual CSW64 Forum Consultation Day - March 16**

NGO CSW NY is holding the CSW64 Forum Consultation Day virtually on March 16. [You can register here for free.](#)

[See the full Consultation Day program.](#)

### **Virtual Parallel Events**

NGO CSW NY has announced that while they are unable to arrange virtual parallel events, they are encouraging NGOs who were planning on holding a parallel event to hold it virtually. You can find information on any planned virtual parallel events on NGO CSW NY's social media channels.

WFWPI and WPPI plan to hold our parallel event virtually. Time is TBD.

### **Multi-Stakeholder Hearing and High-level meeting on the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women - July 21 and September 23**

It has been decided that Beijing +25 discussions will take place as a Multi-Stakeholder Hearing on July 21 and High-Level Meeting on September 23 as part of the UN General Assembly events.

### **From the announcement:**

2020 marks the commemoration of Beijing+25: 25 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995. To commemorate its 25th anniversary, the Multi-Stakeholder Hearing and High-Level Meeting will be held at the UN Headquarters. For representatives of civil society organizations or the private sector that are not in consultative status with ECOSOC, it is required that you register for "Special-Accreditation" to participate in this event!

[Apply here](#) by March 16, 2020.



Chairperson  
Commission on the Status of Women

2 March 2020

Excellencies,

I refer to my letter of Friday, 28 February and have the honor to write in follow up to the informal meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women held this morning, where it was decided that the sixty-fourth session of the Commission will convene on 9 March, at 10.00 a.m. It was agreed that the meeting will be of a procedural nature, with Member States being represented by their Permanent Missions to the United Nations. It will include opening statements by the Chair, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the ECOSOC, the President of the Security Council for the month of March, as well as UN Women Executive Director and a representative of civil society, followed by the adoption of the draft Political Declaration and action on any other draft resolutions. There will be no general discussion. The session will then suspend until further notification.

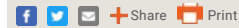
In this regard, the meeting reiterated the Secretary-General's strong recommendation that capital-based delegations and other stakeholders refrain from travelling to UN Headquarters. The meeting recommended that all side events planned by Member States and the UN system in conjunction with CSW64 will be cancelled.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mher Margaryan', written in a cursive style.

Mher Margaryan  
Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia

All Permanent Representatives to the United Nations  
New York



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## CSW64 / Beijing+25 (2020)

### Update

**2 March, New York**— Following the UN Secretary-General's recommendation to Member States to amend the format of the 64th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in light of the current concerns regarding coronavirus disease (COVID-19), an informal meeting took place today.

The Commission decided that the 64th session of the Commission will convene on 9 March, at 10.00 a.m. (EST), for a procedural meeting. The meeting will include opening statements, followed by the adoption of the draft Political Declaration and action on any other draft resolutions. **The session will then suspend until further notification. No general debate will take place and all side events planned by Member States and the UN system in conjunction with CSW64 will be cancelled.**

[Read the full letter from the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women](#)

### CSW64 Advisory

**29 February, New York**— In light of the current outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the UN Secretary-General has suggested to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) that Member States consider amending the format and conduct of the session. Options could include holding a scaled-down, shortened session with the participation of New York-based delegations only, or postponing the session to a later date.

Member States will meet on Monday 2 March to discuss the matter and take a final decision. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

### Latest news

[COVID-19: Women front and centre](#)
[Checklist for COVID-19 response by UN Women Deputy Executive Director Ása Regnér](#)
[Five big wins ushered in by the landmark Beijing Platform for Action](#)
[Paying attention to women's needs and leadership will strengthen COVID-19 response](#)
[More news ►](#)

In 2020, the global community will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the [Fourth World Conference on Women](#) and adoption of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (1995). A five-year milestone will be reached towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). 2020 is therefore a pivotal year for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, everywhere.



- **Download the CSW64 Brochure for more information:**  
[Arabic](#) | [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)
- Download more information useful in preparation for, and during the session:
  - [United Nations System Code of Conduct](#)
  - [Coronavirus \(COVID-2019\): Guidance for meeting participants at UNHQ](#)
  - [Coronavirus \(COVID-2019\) Brochure: Prevention](#)
  - [Coronavirus \(COVID-2019\) Brochure: Handrub and cough](#)

## Themes

The main focus of the session will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#). The review will include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Bureau

The Bureau of the Commission plays a crucial role in facilitating the preparation for, and in ensuring the successful outcome of the annual sessions of the Commission. Bureau members serve for two years. In 2002, in order to improve its work and ensure continuity, the Commission decided to hold the first meeting of its subsequent session, immediately following the closure of the regular session, for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairperson and other members of the Bureau ([ECOSOC decision 2002/234](#)).

The Bureau for the 64th session (2020) of the Commission on the Status of Women comprises the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan (Armenia), Chair (Eastern European States Group)
- Ms. Zahraa Nassrullah (Iraq), Vice-Chair designate (Asia-Pacific States Group)
- Ms. Jo Feldman (Australia), Vice-Chair (Western European and other States Group)
- Ms. Ahlem Sara Charikhi (Algeria), Vice-Chair designate (African States Group)
- Ms. Devita Abraham (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-Chair designate (Latin American and Caribbean States Group)

## Preparations

- **National-level reviews:** States are called upon to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered.
- **Regional 25-year review processes:** The regional commissions of the United Nations are invited to undertake regional reviews and convene regional intergovernmental meetings. These will feed into the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.
- **Expert Group Meeting:** Beijing +25: Current context, emerging issues and prospects for gender equality and women's rights

## Session Outcomes

- [Political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women](#)

## NGO participation

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- [Registration](#)
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- [Accessibility](#)

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# NGO CSW64 Forum Cancellation Notice



## NGO CSW64 Forum Cancellation Notice

It is with a heavy heart that we have to share this regretful news with you.

Following the [recommendation by the UN Secretary-General](#) on the coronavirus sent on Friday, 28 February, and the 64th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) briefing held on 2 March, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY) Executive Committee has decided to cancel all NGO CSW64 Forum events due to the current threat posed by the coronavirus as per recommendations by the UN Secretary- General, UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO).

NGO CSW64 Forum events include: the Consultation Day, Reception, Conversation Circles Space, Artisan Fair, Rally and all 550 Parallel Events scheduled through our office.

Reimbursements will be given for all events. Please be advised that as it may take up to 4-6 weeks to process everyone's reimbursement, we ask for your patience in the process. Further instructions will be sent separately to those who have purchased event tickets or venue spaces.

The only refunds we will not be able to honor will be for any ads purchased. Handbooks are in the process of being printed and will be mailed out to those who purchased an ad. Your ad will be available on the NGO CSW/NY website and will be highlighted through our social media channels.

A formal letter by the NGO CSW/NY stating the reason for cancellation is [attached](#) to be helpful with hotel and/or airline reimbursements.

We were heartened by the power of women to mobilize at the critical moment! Within 48 hours, we had over 50,000 individuals raising their voices regarding the CSW64. No CSW without NGO CSW and no NGO CSW without women of the world!

### RECENT POSTS

[2020 Woman of Distinction Award](#)

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**NGO CSW/NY Monthly Newsletter**  
**Volume 2 | Issue 5**

In this issue Consultation Day Tickets are Now ...



**Beijing+25 And Generation Equality Updates**  
**Volume 1 | Issue 4**

In this issue Updated Beijing+25/Generation Equ...



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**Volume 1 | Issue 3**

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### CATEGORIES

- Beijing+25 And Generation Equality Updates
- Beijing25
- CSW61
- CSW62
- CSW63
- CSW64
- CSW64 Ads
- Monthly Newsletter
- Reports & Guides
- Uncategorized
- Woman of Distinction Awardee
- Women of Distinction
- Zero Draft



NGO CSW64 Forum

# Virtual Consultation Day

Co-Hosted by Houry Geudelekian & Ivy Koek

## Gathering Our Collective Power

*Led by Mallika Dutt*

Conversation with Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, UN Women; and Zaruhi Batoyan, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Armenia

## Generation Equality Core Group Presentation

*Lopa Banerjee, UN Women; Delphine O, France; Nadine Gasman Zylberman (invited), Mexico; Mabel Bianco and Shannon Kowalski, Civil Society; Moderated by Xenia Kellner, Young Feminist Europe*

## Breaking Silos:

### the Feminist & Women's Movement Action Plan

*Co-Drivers: Soon-Young Yoon, International Alliance of Women; Melissa Upreti & Krishanti Dharmaraj, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers*

*Presenters: Radhika Balakrishnan, Rutgers University; Emilia Reyes, Equidad de Genero; Kelsey Romeo-Stuppy, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)*

*Program includes polling and  
a raffle for NGO CSW/NY water bottles!*





## DGC-Civil Society



# Special-Accreditation for the High-Level Meeting of UN General Assembly and for the Multi-Stakeholder Hearing on the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

from February 20, 2020 to March 27, 2020  
United Nations Headquarters  
America/New\_York timezone  Search

- Overview
- Registration
- Support**
- ✉ [ngls@un.org](mailto:ngls@un.org)

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
In accordance with the General Assembly resolution 73/340, a high-level meeting (HLM) of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women will be held in New York, on 23 September 2020, with the overall theme: "Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls," at the UN Headquarters in New York.

**MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING**  
As part of the preparations for the HLM, the President of the General Assembly, with the support of UN Women, was requested to organize and preside over an inter-active multi-stakeholder hearing (MSH), to ensure the active participation of multi-stakeholders in the process.  
Representatives of all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies that have observer status with the General Assembly,



intergovernmental organizations, entities that have observer status with the Assembly, parliamentarians and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, relevant non-governmental and civil society organizations and individuals whose efforts have supported the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, national human rights institutions, academic institutions, private sector are invited.

SPECIAL ACCREDITATION FOR STAKEHOLDERS NOT ACCREDITED BY ECOSOC

**In order to participate in the MSH and/or the HLM of 23 September, following categories of relevant entities not in consultative status with ECOSOC must express interest here and must apply for special accreditation.**

- Relevant non-governmental and civil society organizations and individuals whose efforts have supported the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- National human rights institutions
- Academic institutions
- Private sector

**The Application for Special-accreditation is now open until 27 March 2020.**

Stakeholders approved for participation will be informed and receive further instruction to finalize their registration, as representatives will need to register individually to secure their participation in the MSH (in May) and the HLM (in July).



United Nations Headquarters



**Starts** Feb 20, 2020 17:30  
**Ends** Mar 27, 2020 23:55  
America/New\_York



- Necessary documents for accreditation:
  - o 1. URL of stakeholder's homepage (Website, facebook or any URL format)
  - o 2. Reason for participation
  - o 3. Proof of Legal Status issued by the government
  - o 4. A letter from the head of organization or relevant stakeholder requesting accreditation to the event



**Registration for this event**  
Deadline: **Mar 27, 2020**

**Register now** >



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