



## **CSW70 Orientation**

Pamela Morgan

Jan, 2026

# Zonta International UN Committee

## Africa

Joan Kabayambi, Nairobi

Marguerite Akossi-Mvongo, African Union

## Bangkok

Chavali “Pam” Osathanugrah, *Team Lead*

Soipetch Resanond

Sharon

Sharyl Scott

## Geneva

Marinette Kellenberger, *Team Lead*

Helena Bühler

Fabienne Moulin

Claudia Walder

## New York

Pamela Morgan, *UN Committee Chair*

Mary Lou Shippe, *Team Lead*

Janat Clemendor

Leslie Wright

## Paris

Lydia Chaillou, *Team Lead*

Elke Farny

Marion Leuba

\*Ursula Bouchard

## Vienna

Sabine Peters, *Team Lead*

Gabrielle Kokoff-Weidenfeld

Nadja Kvasnicka-Fleischer

\*Ingeborg Geyer

# CSW70 - 9 to 20 March 2026

## Themes

- Priority theme: Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers
- Review theme: Women's full and effective participation and decision making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-fifth session)

# The Bureau for the 70th session (2026) of the Commission on the Status of Women

- 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).
- H.E. Ms. Maritza Chan Valverde (Costa Rica), Chair (Latin American and Caribbean States Group)
- Ms. Samah Dbouk (Lebanon), Vice-Chair (Asia and Pacific States Group)
- Mr. Noah Oehri (Liechtenstein), Vice-Chair (Western European and Other States Group)
- Ms. Andreea Mocanu (Romania), Vice-Chair (Eastern European States Group)
- Ms. Flavia Umulisa (Rwanda), Vice-Chair (African States Group)

# Member States

Forty-five Member States of the United Nations serve as members of the Commission at any one time. The Commission consists of one representative from each of the 45 Member States elected by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution:

- 13 members from Africa
- 11 from Asia
- nine from Latin America and Caribbean
- eight from Western Europe and other States
- four from Eastern Europe

## Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its seventieth session (2026)

*Alphabetical list (Term expires at close of session in year:)*

*List by regions*

1.	Algeria	2026
2.	Bangladesh	2028
3.	Belgium	2028
4.	Belize	2029
5.	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2028
6.	Brazil	2028
7.	Cabo Verde	2026
8.	Chile	2029
9.	China	2026
10.	Colombia	2028
11.	Costa Rica	2026
12.	Côte d'Ivoire	2027
13.	Cuba	2027
14.	Czechia	2027
15.	Democratic Republic of the Congo	2027
16.	Egypt	2026
17.	Ethiopia	2029
18.	India	2029
19.	Italy	2029
20.	Japan	2026
21.	Lebanon	2026
22.	Liechtenstein	2027
23.	Lithuania	2029
24.	Mali	2028
25.	Mauritania	2026
26.	Mozambique	2027
27.	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	2028
28.	Nigeria	2029
29.	Pakistan	2026
30.	Panama	2026
31.	Philippines	2029
32.	Portugal	2027
33.	Republic of Korea	2027
34.	Romania	2028
35.	Rwanda	2028
36.	Saudi Arabia	2027
37.	South Africa	2029
38.	Spain	2027
39.	Sri Lanka	2028
40.	Trinidad and Tobago	2026
41.	Tunisia	2026
42.	Ukraine	2027
43.	United Kingdom	2029
44.	United States	2029
45.	Vacant	2026

### **AFRICAN STATES (13 members)**

1.	Algeria	2026
2.	Cabo Verde	2026
3.	Côte d'Ivoire	2027
4.	Democratic Republic of the Congo	2027
5.	Egypt	2026
6.	Ethiopia	2029
7.	Mali	2028
8.	Mauritania	2026
9.	Mozambique	2027
10.	Nigeria	2029
11.	Rwanda	2028
12.	South Africa	2029
13.	Tunisia	2026

### **ASIA-PACIFIC STATES (11 members)**

1.	Bangladesh	2028
2.	China	2026
3.	India	2029
4.	Japan	2026
5.	Lebanon	2026
6.	Pakistan	2026
7.	Philippines	2029
8.	Republic of Korea	2027
9.	Saudi Arabia	2027
10.	Sri Lanka	2028
11.	Vacant	2026

### **EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES (4 members)**

1.	Czechia	2027
2.	Lithuania	2029
3.	Romania	2028
4.	Ukraine	2027

### **LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN STATES (9 members)**

1.	Belize	2029
2.	Bolivia (Plurinational state of)	2028
3.	Brazil	2028
4.	Chile	2029
5.	Colombia	2028
6.	Costa Rica	2026
7.	Cuba	2027
8.	Panama	2026
9.	Trinidad and Tobago	2026

### **WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHER STATES (8 members)**

1.	Belgium	2028
2.	Italy	2029
3.	Liechtenstein	2027
4.	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	2028
5.	Portugal	2027
6.	Spain	2027
7.	United Kingdom	2029
8.	United States	2029

# Zonta Int'l. CSW70 - Conversation Circles

To be hosted twice daily, with rooms for French and speaking Spanish speaking Zontians

Date	Topic
<b>Jan. 21</b>	Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls
<b>Feb. 4</b>	Promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems
<b>Feb. 11</b>	Eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices
<b>Feb. 18</b>	Addressing structural barriers

# Key Terms

- Agreed Conclusions - Agreed conclusions contain an analysis of the priority theme and a set of concrete recommendations for governments, intergovernmental bodies and other institutions, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders, to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local level.
- Civil Society - society considered as a community of citizens
- CSW - The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946.
- NGOCSW – Non Governmental Organization/Civil Society side of CSW

# Key Terms

- Parallel event -organized by NGOs take place outside UN premises during the NGOCSW Forum
- SCR 1325– Security Council Resolution – Women Peace and Security
- Side event - activities organized outside the formal programme of the session of the Commission, provides an excellent opportunity for any Member State, UN entities and NGOs to discuss themes of the Commission and other critical gender equality issues. Side events are generally held on UN premises and hosted by Member States.
- Zero Draft – The first draft of the agreed conclusions that is available for discussion.

# UN CSW vs NGO CSW70 FORUM

Aspect	UN CSW (Commission on the Status of Women)	NGO CSW Forum (NGO Committee on the Status of Women)
<b>Organizer</b>	UN Women (official UN agency)	NGO CSW/NY (civil society organization)
<b>Institutional Type</b>	Intergovernmental body within the United Nations	Independent civil society forum
<b>Accreditation</b>	Requires ECOSOC accreditation for NGO participation	Open to any civil society organizations, no ECOSOC accreditation needed
<b>Participant Access</b>	Mainly UN member states, accredited NGOs, UN entities	Open to broader civil society and activists without UN grounds pass
<b>Venue</b>	Held inside the United Nations Headquarters	Held outside UN HQ, in-person or virtual events
<b>Event Types</b>	Official sessions, side events by Member States and UN agencies	Parallel events, conversation circles, regional caucuses, training
<b>Purpose</b>	Policy-making, reviewing global gender equality progress	Advocacy, grassroots engagement, education, networking
<b>Decision-making Role</b>	Provides Agreed Conclusions guiding global gender equality policy	No formal decision-making, complements official CSW
<b>Theme Focus</b>	Themes annually set for global policy focus	Priority and Review themes reflecting grassroots perspectives

# The NGOCSW Forum

*Virtual Safety Guidelines to ensure safety for all*

- Exhibit Hall
- Consultation Day in the regions
- Parallel events – 700+ events on a 24/7 basis from global NGOs
- Networking
- Conversation Circles
- Artisan Fair
- Reception – Evening of Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>...

# Advocacy Toolkit

- <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:655dff4a-2dfc-4c15-9464-253350300816>

NGO CSW  
FORUM 69  
BEIJING 130

## ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

A guide that will help NGOs, civil society representatives and feminist activists build their capacity to advocate for their organization, work, and global gender equality at the CSW.

Rev 1.



# How to Participate

- [Zonta at CSW webpage](#)
- In person
  - Zonta delegation of 20 – these are recipients of UN Grounds Passes
  - Individual attendee registering for ticketed side events
  - Attend the NGO CSW70 Forum – Grounds passes are not needed
  - Regional participation (to be determined as the CSW Revitalization process is implemented)
- Virtual participation via Whova and possibly some side events (to be determined as the CSW Revitalization process is implemented)

# Getting Around CSW

## Transportation:

- Subway – \$2.90 per trip – purchase Metrocard or use OMNY; uptown, downtown; senior citizen discount available at token booth – Senior citizens 50% fare
- Taxi
- Rideshare (Uber, Lyft, Via – download the app before arriving in NYC)

## Food:

- Restaurants on 2nd and 3rd Avenues and food court at Grand Central Terminal
- John's Coffee Shop on 44<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

## Misc.:

- Bring comfortable and warm clothing and shoes
- In March in NYC is usually between -1C /29<sup>o</sup> (F) and
- 14 C/57<sup>o</sup> (F) with the chance of snow

**QUESTIONS?**