

CSW61

Policy Division Highlights



Agreed Upon Conclusions

Special acknowledgement goes to Seemin, Carla, Shahra, and Silke, who, alongside IGSD colleagues, worked extremely long hours to support the facilitator with substantive contributions to the Agreed upon conclusions. They put a lot of heart into their work, and it truly made a difference.

1. The AC include two strong paragraphs on social protection—apart from many references across the text where social protection is repeatedly highlighted as a crucial component of decent work for women and the transition from formal to formal employment. These two paras set a good precedent for 2019 when social protection will be the priority theme of the Commission given that we have little agreed language on this topic.
 - a. Para 48x calls for creating and strengthening inclusive and gender-responsive social protection systems, including floors, to ensure access to social protection for all without discrimination of any kind and to take measures to progressively extend the level of protection.
 - b. Para 48 y calls for the promotion of legal, administrative and policy measures that ensure women’s full and equal access to pensions, through contributory and/ or non-contributory schemes, and independent of their employment trajectories, and reduce gender gaps in benefit levels.
2. We also got a good paragraph (48 dd) on the importance of public services, including transport, and investments in infrastructure for reducing UCW which should also be useful for the discussion about on the priority theme next year (rural women).
3. As several delegations indicated in the final discussion after the adoption of the AC the references to civil society are not as strong as they could be which is reflective of the context we are in. The respective paras on its role were contested throughout and until the end—a worrisome expression of the current context. Although there was expression of contest, per our intergovernmental colleagues, the line was well defended and the references are not weaker than in preceding years.
4. Finally, as we all know, ‘the’ family and SRHR remained highly contested among groups of MS and this sidetracked the negotiations, taking away time, energy and attention that could have been dedicated to more discussion on the substance of concrete items under the priority theme of women in the changing world of work.



Just prior to CSW, the Policy Directorate launched the Policy Spotlight video series. The two videos shared during CSW align with CSW's focus on economic empowerment, and the emerging theme of empowerment of indigenous women. These videos are intended to give colleagues quick overviews of policy-related areas to keep everyone up to speed and help in our own work. The videos, with [Anu Seth on Macroeconomics](#) and [Beatrice Duncan on Indigenous Women](#), are available for internal use.

In addition to participation in the Agreed Upon Conclusions dialogues, throughout the two weeks of CSW, Purna represented the division at the following events:

13 March

- Moderated the **side event on Gender Responsive Budgeting**, organized by the Government of Morocco
- Spoke at the **side event organized by Malta and OHCHR on Legal reforms to protect the human rights of trans, intersex, and gender variant people**.

15 March

- Spoke at **"A journey to strengthened cooperation between the international and regional mechanisms on women's rights"**
- Moderated **EU side event: A year of action to combat VAWG**
- Delivered closing remarks at the Swiss side event - Unpaid Care Work in A2030 - Advancing the triple R framework

16 March

- Spoke at **side event - Trafficking of women and children fleeing conflict**

20 March

- Opened **MEWGC FPI Steering Committee - INEGI Breakfast** event
- Spoke on a panel at side event on **Accelerating Women's Leadership**

22 March

- Spoke at an ***ILO-Belgium-Brazil Side Event on Women's Economic Empowerment: the case for equal pay for work of equal value***

Purna was featured in a [live interview on IWD with CGTV](#), the English news channel of CCTV. Purna talks on this year's theme (women in change world of work), equal pay and care. Purna is also quoted in the following articles: [The UN Has a New Campaign to Stop Women from Being 'Robbed' of Equal Pay](#) (Fortune, March 14, 2017); [Patricia Arquette Launches Equal Pay Platform with U.N. Women: 'The Whole Planet Cannot Afford to Continue Like This'](#) (Quotes are Purna's, but attributed to ED in this People article posted on March 13, 2017); [Patricia Arquette Takes Her Fight for Equal Pay to the UN](#) (Cosmopolitan, March 14, 2017)



Economic Empowerment

13 March

Economic Empowerment of Women in Migration: Impact on their Children's Educational Outcome and Resilience" organized by OMEP, the NGO Committee on Migration, FAWCO and UNANIDMA International. The panel discussion focused on challenges as well as opportunities arising for children when their parents, especially mothers, migrate. The different impacts on children's education, as well as how power relations in the family changes were discussed on global, regional (with specific focus on South/Latin America) and local levels (New York/USA). Next to Andrea Milan, Ms. Debra A. Jones (Director and UN Representative from Save the Children) as well as Ms. Ambreen Qureshi (Deputy Director of the Arab American Family Support Centre in Brooklyn, NY) were part of the panel with Ms. Judith Wagner (Director of Broadoaks Children's School, Professor of Education and Child Development at Whittier College, CA, Deputy World President of OMEP) moderating the event. Around 50 participants joined the event.

Knowledge exchange and networking event with 40 UN Women colleagues and WEPs signatory companies from Albania, Bosnia & Hercegovina, Brazil, Japan and Turkey (organized by the Empower Women team). TURKONFED hosted the event, Ingibjorg (RO Istanbul) provided opening remarks and the Empower Women team moderated and provided an overview of the WEPs. TURKONFED proposed a partnership with Empower Women/WEPs team to organize a regional WEPs event to encourage and promote WEPs signatories in the region. UN Women Brazil and Japan expressed interest in joining and contributing to this event. Empower Women team explored fundraising opportunities for WEPs with TURKONFED.

Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment

The Final Meeting of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment.

'W20 Germany: Diverse, Resilient and Viable- Empowering Women in the G20' organised by the German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Solid foundation for W20 Summit taking place in Berlin in April 2017. UN Women stressed the need for implementation and the development of an accountability mechanism.



15 March

2017 Women's Empowerment Principles Forum "Measuring Success, Making it Count: Business Investing in Women and Girls", organised by UN Women in partnership with UNGC, UNOP and US Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Day 1 cancelled. On day 2, Meg Jones moderated the first panel discussion on 'Girls' Education—The Best Return on Investment' with panelists Pearson, UPS and Laboratoria. Meg was then a panelist on the deep dive session on 'Supporting Women's Entrepreneurship and Trade' which discussed policies and programs that support women entrepreneurs in accessing capital, mentorships and connections to grow and scale their businesses and participate in trade. UN Women launched "The Power of Procurement - How to Source from Women Owned Businesses" on UN Women's website and buywomenowned.unwomen.org. The guide, developed with support from Citi and input from WE Connect International, is an output of the HLP WEE and will be implemented under our Flagship Programming on Women's Entrepreneurship in Gender Responsive Procurement.

2017 Women's Empowerment Principles Forum at the Hyatt (day one was cancelled and parts carried over to day two). Co-organized with UNGC, UNOP and US Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Empower Women team established connections with potential partners with Virtual Skills School (UPS, Laboratoria, Pearson, global network of lawyers, global network of engineers). More interest in signing WEPs.

16 March

Meeting at the AmCham Finland residency to discuss the "HundrEd initiative" to mobilize innovations in education globally with linkages to the virtual skills school. Empower Women team initiated discussion on potential collaboration with the "HundrEd initiative". Their good practice content could be used within the Virtual Skills School. AmCham Finland would be interested in exploring opportunities for collaboration under the EU/G7 project on WEE.

'Work-Life (Im)balance' organised by the Bocelli Foundation, the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations and UN Women.

Meg was a panelist on the panel that resulted in the government of Hungary (State Secretary, Women, Family, Sport) expressing interest in working with us on our Flagship Programme on the care economy. The Bocelli Foundation are also interested and met with Anu Seth later the same day.

CSW61 side event on "Changing world of work with need for 21st century skills". UN Women-organized event, with speakers from UN Women (ED, EES, IST), Unilever, Aktrea, and one Empower Women Champion 2016/17. Empower Women team caught the interest of many organizations to collaborate on VSS course content creation and dissemination.

'Strategies to Transform: Empowering Women for Economic Rights' organised by the international Council of Women and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the UN. Meg delivered the key note address on the panel that resulted in the Korean Ambassador seeking closer ties with our work.

Economic Empowerment (cont'd)

17 March

"Future Women Leaders: Program for Economic Empowerment of Low Income, high Potential Young Women' organised by KAGIDER and Sanofi. Meg delivered key note address. Resulted in KAGIDER offering to lend full support to the Women's Economic Empowerment Summit in UAE in Q4.

CSW61 NGO Forum event on "Inclusive & Transformative Leadership for WEE". Empower Women team spoke about innovative ways of engaging champions for change as strong leaders for women's economic empowerment. Empower Women team initiated the discussion on how we can we have a stronger collaboration with Soka Gakkai International, a large network of NGOs in Asia.

Mini workshop with the World Wide Web Foundation and African, Asian, MENA and LAC grassroots organizations working on digital inclusion. Participation by Empower Women Team and Innovation Team. Discussed opportunities for collaboration through the Virtual Skills School, EQUALS and Empower Women. The World Wide Web Foundation would like to collaborate in mobilizing resources for digital inclusion in the 40 countries where Universal Service Funds are available (but in many of them dormant). Empower Women team will collaborate with workshop participants in organizing a webinar series around digital inclusion.





20 March

Addressing women’s human rights in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. During the CSW side event “Addressing women’s human rights in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration”, co-organized by the Governments of Bangladesh and Germany and UN Women, panelists highlighted the importance of integrating a gender perspective into the forthcoming global compact. Ms. Lakshmi Puri presented the Recommendations for addressing women’s human rights in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration developed by leading experts from relevant treaty bodies, UN agencies and civil society.

CSW Side Event: A Purple Economy Complementing the Green for a Gender Egalitarian and Sustainable Economic Order. CSW side event “A Purple Economy Complementing the Green for a Gender Egalitarian and Sustainable Economic Order”, co-sponsored by Women for Women’s Human Rights (WWHR) – New Ways and UN Women. UN Women was represented on the panel by Anu Seth (Macroeconomics Policy Advisor), and Ingibjorg Gisladdottir (Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Representative to Turkey).

Integrating a gender perspective in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.” The panel discussion aimed to highlight the importance of addressing women’s human rights in the development and implementation of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. During the event, actions were discussed on how to ensure that the global compact effectively promotes the rights of women migrants at all stages of migration. Opening Remarks: H.E. Mr. Horacio Sevilla Borja, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Moment, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women. Panelists: Ms. María Landázuri de Mora, CMW (Committee on Migrant Workers). Ms. Oby Nwankwo, CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women), Ms. Monami Maulik, WIMN (Women in Migration Network).

Economic Empowerment (cont'd)

21 March

CSW Side Event: Digital Inclusion: towards equal access, skills and leadership for women and girls. The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Rwanda to the UN, ITU and UN Women co-organized this event. The importance of digital inclusions, gender equality, education and affordable connectivity were highlighted. UN Women was represented by the Regional Director for ESA.

22 March

ILO-Belgium-Brazil Side Event on Women's Economic Empowerment: the case for equal pay for work of equal value. UN Women was represented by Meg Jones who talked about ongoing UN Women's efforts to address the gender pay gap, including the Equal Pay Platform of Champions, the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, and UN Women's #StopTheRobbery Campaign to raise awareness of the gender pay gap.

24 March

CSW Side Event United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), Empowering Women through Procurement. Panelists discussed how public procurement can be used as a game-changer for women's economic empowerment, which is in alignment with the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's high Level Panel on women's Economic Empowerment. Meg Jones represented UN Women and spoke about concrete actions to implement commitments, including those made the Chief Executives Board of the UN, to practice gender-responsive procurement. She also highlighted the publication of the new guide to gender-responsive corporate procurement, "The Power of Procurement: How to Source from Women-Owned Businesses."



The **interactive dialogue on indigenous women** was well attended with a call for specific attention as a priority theme in a future CSW session. Overview report available for further reading.

13 March

The Kingdom of Morocco, with support from UN Women, convened a side event on gender responsive budgeting in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Moderated by Purna Sen, the event featured representatives from the governments of Austria, Kenya, Morocco, Tunisia as well as the civil society organization, Equidad de Género of Mexico. The speakers provided examples of how gender responsive budgeting (GRB) can support increased and more effective financing for gender equality and women's empowerment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and discussed the importance of south-south cooperation to strengthen capacity and build the evidence base on GRB.

15 March



UN Women and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held a press conference to launch the IPU-UN Women “Map of Women in Politics,” which shows that as of 1 January 2017: progress of women's representation in national parliaments is stagnating (around 23%); the number of the world's women heads of state (6.5%) and government (5.1%) remains minimal; the share of women ministers has increased nominally (18.3%); and the number of women speakers of parliament (53, 19.1%) is at an all-time high. The press conference, led by UN Women ED and the IPU Secretary-General was well attended by international media (including CBS news, South African Broadcasting Corporation, the New York Times) with engaging questions that demonstrated interest and concern for reasons behind the slow pace of change, as well as the potential gender dynamics behind high-profile impeachments of Brazilian and Korean presidents in 2016, and the impact of conflict on women's participation in politics, among others. The joint UN Women-IPU press release and briefing were picked up in several international news outlets.

Leadership and Governance (cont'd)

16 March

UN Women participated in **two CSW side events organized by the IPU**. The first covered “Equality in Politics – another 50 years to reach 50-50?” co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations. The event analyzed much of the data presented in the map of women in politics, as well as challenges and opportunities for women’s political empowerment more broadly. UN Women presented its work on developing the methodology for SDG Indicator 5.5.1b – proportion of seats held by women in local government – which will help close a major knowledge gap on women’s political participation by establishing the world’s first baseline of women in politics at local level.

The second focused on **breaking the silence on “Violence Against Women in Politics – name it, investigate it, eliminate it,”** with participation from the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women Dubravka Šimonovic who expressed her utmost support for addressing the phenomenon, the National Democratic Institute which presented its #notthecost campaign and related tools, and the IPU which shared alarming findings from its survey on violence from women MPs (more than 80% have experience a form of GBV in her political role). UN Women presented its work to advance the field of research on violence against women in politics by drawing on lessons learned from EVAW prevention and response, namely by contributing to an agreed definition, indicators and tools for measurement and mitigation.



17 March

UN Women and IPU co-hosted the CSW Parliamentary Day, the event which gathers hundreds of parliamentarians from across the globe each year to discuss ways to advance women's rights and gender equality and contribute to the CSW theme under discussion. This year's Parliamentary Day focused on "Empowering Parliaments to Empower Women: Making the Economy Work for Women"; specifically, the crucial role parliaments can play in identifying and addressing obstacles to women's economic empowerment, ensuring social and economic policies respond to men's and women's needs, and monitoring those policies' implementation and impact. Discussions and exchange of best practices focused on issues such as: repealing discriminatory laws that hinder women's economic empowerment; the importance of keeping girls in school to ensure their future in the labour market and higher earnings; the need to amplify the voices of women living with disabilities on questions related to economic participation; the importance of working across party lines on issues related to women's economic empowerment; and how although a recent ILO study shows the majority of women and men want women to be in the labour force and working, "there will never be equality in paid work until there is equality in unpaid work".

A side-event organized by several Member States (Afghanistan, Australia, Chile, Costa Rica, Germany, Morocco, New Zealand, Qatar, UK) and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions entitled 'The role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in enhancing women's economic participation in the changing world of work'. At the event, the NHRIs from Philippines, UK, Morocco and Afghanistan discussed the role of NHRIs in engaging with human rights mechanisms such as the CEDAW Committee and in advising and holding governments accountable on their human rights obligations, including in the labor market. In their introductions, several Member States stressed the importance of allowing for independent participation of NHRIs at CSW. The NHRIs from Philippines, Morocco, UK and Afghanistan shared some examples of how they had carried out activities to support women's economic participation in the labor market and other women's human rights issues. Their initiatives included: a study to follow-up on the Beijing + 20; work with the CEDAW Committee to provide input to the development of General Recommendations; activities to address sexual violence and human rights abuses of domestic workers; activities to address honor killings, as well as initiatives to address the gender pay gap and the under-representation of women in company boards. The side-event pointed to the important work NHRIs can do on women's human rights and that context naturally determines what type of issues they address. It also highlighted the importance of their engagement with human rights mechanisms and that their engagement on gender depends on mandate, structure, management and interest of each NHRI. The event was moderated by the chair of GANHRI, Ms. Florence Simbiri-Jaoko.

HIV/AIDS-Health team provided some **evidence and data on the links between sexual and reproductive health and rights and women's economic empowerment** to support the team working on the agreed conclusions.

20 March

A joint UN Women, World Bank and OECD side event ‘Monitoring legal frameworks that address non-discrimination on the basis of sex’ provided an update for global stakeholders on how UN Women, the OECD Development Centre and the World Bank Group are working together to develop, measure and track progress on SDG indicator 5.1.1, which aims to measure "whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex." The side event presented the technical work underpinning this collaboration and efforts by Member States and other stakeholders in relation to SDG indicator 5.1.1 and legal frameworks that advance gender equality. Presentations on the importance of laws for development were given by Jane Mpagi, the Director of the Department of Gender and Community Development in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in Uganda, and Nicole Ameline, member of the CEDAW Committee. Janette Amer (UN Women), Sarah Iqbal (World Bank Group’s Women, Business and the Law Project), and Keiko Nowacka (OECD Development Centre) provided an update on how these three partners are working together to develop, measure and track progress on this important indicator. The event was moderated by Begona Lasagabaster (UN Women).

UN Women supported UNAIDS and SADC for the convening of the SADC event: Women, the Girl Child, and HIV/AIDS: Implementing the CSW Resolution and the Political Declaration on Ending AIDS. Opening remarks were made by the current Chair of SADC – Swaziland; followed by three presentations by CSOs. Closing remarks were presented by the incoming Chair of SADC –South Africa. The event was very well attended with great member state participation, beyond Africa, including Latin America, Western Europe, and Asia. Key priorities for implementation were outlined, and our messages to ensure member states report on implementation in preparation of the SG Report for next CSW was presented by UNAIDS on our behalf, and reiterated in the closing remarks of the incoming Chair. UN Women’s Regional Advisor on HIV in the Multi-country office in South Africa provided extensive support to develop the plan of action for implementation of the resolution as well as organizing this event.

21 March

UN Women participated in a bipartisan briefing on the topic of violence against women in politics, organized by The Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, in partnership with several members of Congress in Washington. The objective of the event was to raise awareness of the existence and seriousness of this problem in countries around the world. The event was held in the Capitol building and the primary audience were Congressional members and congressional staff. It was also open to the public and was well attended. Several esteemed speakers from different countries spoke about their experience with violence in political life, including Dr. Joyce Banda, former President of Malawi; Paddy Torsney, former Canadian MP currently permanent representative of the IPU at the UN; and Claudia Paz y Paz, former Attorney General of Guatemala.



iKNOW Politics -- a longstanding partnership between UN Women, International IDEA, the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU), and UNDP -- celebrated its 10th anniversary on March 21st, 2017 at an event hosted by International IDEA and dedicated to the topic of closing the gaps on women's political participation and representation. Since its launch in 2007, iKNOW Politics has become the premier online platform serving the needs of women politicians and their supporters around the world. During the event, iKNOW Politics unveiled a 10th Anniversary Video featuring the achievements of the initiative in the past ten years as well as voices of women in politics and remarks by partner organizations' leaders. The video presentation was followed by a panel discussion on the role iKNOW Politics plays in providing access to knowledge and expertise to women in politics around the world. Moderated by Mr Alessandro Motter, Senior Adviser at IPU, the panel included Ms Randi Davis, Director of the Gender Team at UNDP, Ms Meriem Trabelsi, iKNOW Politics representative, and Hon. Dr Jessie Kabwila, MP, Chairperson of the women Parliamentary Caucus of Malawi.

UNDP, UN Women, and International IDEA organized a side-event share the relevance of its tools on gender and constitution making as complementary sources of assistance to key stakeholders, advocates, policy makers, parliamentarians and civil society representative working to ensure that the constitutions advance gender equality and women's empowerment, especially within the context of the adoption and ongoing implementation of the 2030 Agenda. UN Women had the opportunity to share how its global gender equality constitutional database can be used.

15 March

New directions and opportunities: CSW Side Event on 2242. Organized by the Permanent Missions of Spain, Sweden, UK and Uruguay and UN Women. Very well attended, with ambassadors from Spain, Uruguay, Sweden, and the UK (deputy ambassador because the ambassador was presiding the Council at the time). ASG Kang linked the 1325 agenda to the SG's prevention agenda and highlighted the usefulness of new tools created after the adoption of 2242 (such as the IEG, the GAI, the gender strategy of the PBC, and the integration of gender in the work of the CVE architecture). IPI provided an analytical summary of implementation of global study recommendations thus far. Suzan Aref from Iraq was the CSO speaker. There were many questions from the audience, including pointed questions on the periodic reports from peacekeeping missions or suggestions to improve the use of Council visits to advance the WPS agenda.

16 March

Side event on “Women in Post Conflict Reconciliation – The Road to Reconciliation: Justice, Hope and Dignity in Sri Lanka”. Organized by the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, in collaboration with UN Women, the Association of War Affected Women and the International Civil Society Network. Participants about 50 people (two thirds of women, one third of men). After an initial period of denial in the aftermath of the war in Sri Lanka under the previous administration, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York, reaffirmed his Government's commitment to reconciliation. The Government embarked on two parallel processes, a constitutional reform process and a transitional justice process. Noteworthy is that the Government appointed an eleven-member Consultative task force, driven by civil society and comprised of a majority of women, notably six women and five men, to organize consultations across the country on the proposed transitional justice mechanisms. Other participants shared their experiences in working on transitional justice processes in Tunisia (Khadija Arfaoui, Women's Alliance for Security Leadership), Colombia (Advisor for Peace and Security, UN Regional Office for Latin and Caribbean countries) and in the Philippines (UN Women Regional Advisor for Latin and Caribbean countries). Participants underlined the importance of putting victims at the centre of these processes, and of organizing fora for exchange of good practices and lessons learned. Participants also discussed individual and collective reparations/compensation packages, the role the diaspora can play to support this process and women's participation.

20 March

Side event organized jointly by UN Women (Peace and Security and Human Rights team) and OHCHR on **“Human rights, gender and preventing violent extremism- community oriented approaches”**. Prevention and addressing the conditions conducive to violent extremism is now recognized by the international community as key to tackling this phenomenon. Panelists and participants stressed that, in line with their international obligations, Member States should promote respect for, and compliance with, human rights, including a gender perspective, in their prevention measures as part of a holistic and effective approach to address violent extremism. Community oriented approaches have been identified as such a measure in addressing the underlying drivers of violent extremism. Speakers included Hanny Megally, NYU, bringing a global perspective, Siobhan Hobbs, Gender Focal Point and Team Leader for the Women’s Rights and Gender team in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), providing insight into the UN’s approach at national level, as well as Sarah Arumugam, a consultant to the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka and partner of ICAN to bring a community perspective. Jayne Huckerby, Duke University, School of Law, NC, moderated the event.

21 March

The **side-event on “Examining the Gender Dimension of Countering Violent Extremism Policy and Programming”**, co-hosted by Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh of UAE and Ambassador Melanne Vermeer, with UN Women, focused on lessons learned and good practices in engaging women in efforts to prevent violent extremism. Panelists underscored the need for women’s participation at all stages as policies and programs are developed and implemented, and to ensure that women are not also adversely impacted by counterterrorism approaches. Ambassadors Nusseibeh and Vermeer also commended UN Women’s proactive engagement on this issue and reaffirmed the critical importance of ensuring sufficient and sustainable funding for these programs. Panelists: Alistair Millar, Jayne Huckerby and Olivier Zehnder; moderator: Naureen Fink, UN Women

23 March

The UN Security Council held a briefing session on South Sudan. **With the support of UN Women, a representative of the South Sudanese civil society, Betty Sunday, Coordinator, Women Monthly Forum on the Peace Process, briefed the UNSC on the current situation of women in South Sudan.** She drew attention to the security threats that women face in the country and advocated for the inclusion of women in the implementation and monitoring of the peace agreement. She further called on the UNSC to ensure (1) the peace agreement is implemented, 2) SGBV and human rights are addressed, 3) humanitarian support provided, 4) the national dialogue is inclusive, 5) the UNMISS mandate renewed and 6) cooperation strengthened between the UNSC, the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa.



Julie Ballington (Political Participation Advisor, Leadership and Governance Section, Policy Division, UN Women) and Paivi Kannisto (Chief, Peace and Security Section, Policy Division, UN Women) participated in a **meeting with the UN Secretary-General and the European Parliaments' Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (Committee)**. The Committee asked the Secretary-General what the UN has been doing to bridge the gender equality gap, to promote gender parity and the work on Women, Peace and Security. Following the European Union International Conference "She Decides", organized in Brussels early March, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health, the Committee further inquired about UN Women's support to this issue.



Apart from side events, the EAW Section had the opportunity to participate in technical discussions and bilateral meetings with several strategic actors, including the Center for Women’s Global Leadership, and the Director of the Gender Unit of Commonwealth. The EAW Section also contributed to the **drafting of agreed conclusions** (paragraphs of VAW and sexual harassment).

14 March

Side event on femicide: co-sponsored by the Government of Chile, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and UN Women, provided an overview of the latest policy development on femicide, as well as good practices. This side event contributed to highlighting some key trends and challenges, as well as opportunities to step up efforts for preventing and eliminating gender-related killings.

15 March

Side event titled “Economic Security, Violence against Women and the Workplace” co-organised by Zonta International and the Zambia Mission. Kalliope participated as a panelist. The focus of the event was on the impact VAW has on the workplace, and subsequently on women’s lives: loss of productivity, emotional and physical stress among the workforce, increased costs of health care and days lost from work. In addition, the fear of lost wages or lost employment has a negative impact on those abused, creating concern over economic survival.

16 March

Corporate side event on preventing and responding to VAW in the world of work co-organised by UN Women and ILO. This event brought together representatives from Governments, employers, workers, unions, civil society and academia to examine VAW as an impediment of women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work and to consider good practices to address VAW within and outside workplaces.

22 March

Event organized by UNFPA and Australia on March 22nd, titled “Measuring and exploring prevalence and patterns of violence against women across the Asia-Pacific region”. The panel presented the status of measurement of the VAW SDG indicators in the Asia Pacific (UNFPA), as well as overall trends and developments in measuring the VAW SDG indicators globally (Juncal represented UN Women, as a panelist). Solomon Islands and Australia shared specific country experiences with measuring prevalence of VAW.

15 March

Shahra moderated side event on Care Policies in Agenda 2030

16-17 March

Thursday and Friday: Shahra worked with other colleagues (policy and intergovernmental) on the AC negotiations. Three R&D staff (Sophie, Jessa, Mika) facilitated the review theme presentations by MS and prepared summaries for the chair.

