



CSW 68



UPDATE ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE HYBRID 68TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW 68)



In Person-United Nations
Headquarters, New York, United
States of America

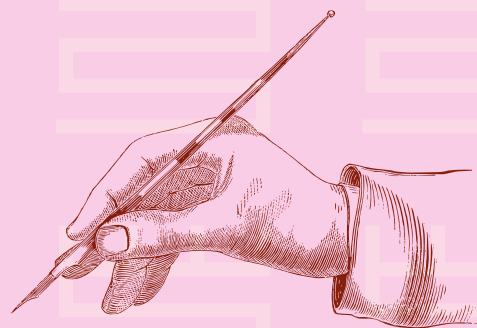


11th-22nd March, 2024





What is CSW?



The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the global inter-governmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The CSW discusses progress and the gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the key global policy document on gender equality as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The outcomes of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow up.

The principal output of the CSW is the Agreed Conclusions (AC) on the priority theme set for that year. The Agreed Conclusions contain an analysis of the priority theme and provides 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. [Read more on CSW here.](#)



B. How do I register for the hybrid CSW68?




The CSW68 registration begun on 6th October 2023 and closes by 26th January 2024. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are accredited to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may designate representatives to attend the in-person CSW68. Please click here to register for CSW68. Please note, online registration is mandatory. For questions pertaining to CSW NGO registration, please contact the CSW registration support e-mail address: csw@unwomen.org

Due to space constraints, the numbers of attendees to CSW sessions is kept to a minimum not exceeding 20 representatives per organization. To facilitate registration for feminists who aren't part of an ECOSOC accredited organization, the Women's Rights Caucus (WRC) has created this form. Please fill out the form if you are a WRC member who needs support with registration and/or if you are an ECOSOC-accredited member willing to offer a spot on your delegation.



C. The Africa Disrupt CSW


The Africa Disrupt CSW was created to respond to the continued shrinking space for feminist and civil society engagement at the annual CSW sessions in New York. Unlike other UN convenings, each ECOSOC member can only accredit up to 20 participants for CSW. However, owing to the cumbersome accreditation and immigration processes attributed to the racist lens applied in visa processes, COVID -19 regulations, lack of access to vaccinations, expensive accommodation and meals, travel restrictions - economic and otherwise; and the changes informed by the pandemic, in which, country delegations were limited to a maximum of six people by delegation. Owing to this, there has been limited space for inclusive and participatory engagement during the deliberations on the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.





Nairobi Declaration


In March 2022, 60 African women and girls in all their diversities, representing 18 African countries, convened in Nairobi, Kenya, for the first-ever African Commission on the Status of Women (Africa CSW66) under the theme: “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs”. The Africa CSW presented a first-of-its-kind opportunity for African women, girls, non-binary persons, and persons with disabilities, in all their diversities to congregate, commune, strengthen capacities, and collectively construct their demands for CSW66 as informed by their lived realities, experiences, research, evidence and solutions - to directly inform and influence the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27), future CSW events, and similar global spaces.





Lilolongwe Declaration

In 2023, FEMNET members, together with NGO CSW/Africa organized for the second time the largest Africa Disrupt CSW67 with over 200 women and girls from 21 African countries in Lilongwe, Malawi under the theme: 'Unpacking Innovation, Technology and Education in the Digital Age for Women and Girls in Africa'. The decision to host the second CSW Africa in Southern Africa was intentional and was aligned to our desire to ensure that CSW rotates across all the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa to enhance accessibility for African women and girls in all their diversity. Malawi is also one of the Generation Equality Action Coalition co-leaders on Feminist Movement Building. In line with CSW67 theme Malawi is home to the first Africa drone and data academy- using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to deliver health services, agro-solutions and humanitarian response. The delegates re-emphasized the contribution of African women and girls' innovators in technological advancements in their countries, continentally and globally; reflected on the progress and challenges on the technological gender divide; consolidated perspectives from localized contexts and co-developed a common agenda and voice in the Lilongwe Declaration.





D. Africa Disrupt CSW 68

20th-22nd February 2024

📍 Banjul, The Gambia

In 2024, FEMNET members and other civil society organizations will convene the 3rd Africa Disrupt CSW68 from 20th - 22nd February in Banjul, the Gambia under the theme: **'Reclaiming the Dignity of Women and Girls in Africa'**. With this convening, we shall provide a safe space for African women and girls in all their diversity to reflect on how the theme intersects with their everyday lives and articulate strategies to address the issues on poverty, financing and institutions.

We believe that African women and girls are not homogenous and as such they experience the theme of CSW68 in a variety of ways. Without the opportunity to surface these diverse lived experiences, we risk living the most vulnerable behind, as well as proposing and implementing solutions that do not address the systemic structural and agency issues that prevent them from fully enjoying their rights and reaching their full potential.

The convening will bring together women and girls from the 5 African sub-regions in all their diversities. Their selection will be based on the following criteria;






1. **The principle of inclusion.** FEMNET will prioritize access to members who have not engaged in the CSW before, providing opportunity for new voices and ideas.

2. Consideration will be given to women and girls who are drawn from FEMNET's **implementing partners and nominees from NGO CSW/ Africa** members.

3. FEMNET will prioritize an **intersectional, cross-sectional** and **intergenerational representation** of women and girls in;

- All their diversity, including adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, women and girls living in rural areas and informal settlements, gender non-conforming persons, etc.
 - Regional balance/ language (informed by all 5 sub-regions)
- 




E. The African CSOs Position Statement, Key Messages & Strategies on the theme for CSW68

From the 3rd to 7th of November 2023, over 200+ women's rights and economic justice advocates, feminists, teenage girls and young women activists from 49 countries joined three (3) Africa Pre-CSW68 CSOs Consultations convened by FEMNET and in collaboration with NGO CSW/Africa and the UN Women. These convenings were timely to not only share their lived experiences within their respective contexts but also co-create the African CSOs Position Statement on the priority and review theme of CSW68, backed up by critical recommendations that were presented to the Africa Pre-CSW68 Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (STC) Meeting held on 10th November 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Further, the CSW68 strategic priorities and recommendations by African women and girls in all their diversity were presented to ministers of gender and women affairs on 14th November 2023, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and strategically used to influence and contribute to the African common position on the theme for CSW68 that was adopted by the ministers.

FEMNET is currently consolidating the Africa CSOs Position Statement on CSW68, highlighting critical issues for continued advocacy and influencing at national level before CSW68 in New York.





F.CSW 68 Mailing List


FEMNET Secretariat will be sharing updates on important dates and key events as we prepare for Africa Disrupt and CSW68 in New York. If you wish to be part of the mailing list, kindly share your information with us on [this link](#).

G.CSW 68 Parallel Events

The registration for the parallel events that are coordinated by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW/NY) came to a close in December 2023. We are inviting FEMNET members and partners to share with us the confirmed parallel events to enable us to create a calendar of events-not-to-miss. Please send us the events on email to Julie Okiro on j.okiro@femnet.or.ke.

H.CSW 68 Side Events

Permanent Missions, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations entities hold side events on UN premises during the CSW session. Permanent Missions and UN entities interested in organizing a CSW68 side event are asked to contact UN-Women via email to csw.sideevents@unwomen.org. The deadline for Permanent Missions, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations entities to register CSW side events is **31st January 2024**.






Making a speech during the general discussion

Subject to time availability, oral statements may be delivered during the general discussion by a limited number of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC. Preference will be given to NGOs speaking about the priority theme or review theme, and to NGOs speaking on behalf of groups of organizations, caucuses, or coalitions. Oral statements may not exceed three minutes (approx. two pages double-spaced using font size 12). Instructions will be communicated, via e-mail, to the NGOs that will be selected.

Sign-up for NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC wishing to express interest in delivering an oral statement during the general discussion at CSW usually opens in late January.

Intervening from the floor during an interactive dialogue

A limited number of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC will be able to make oral interventions during the interactive panels, subject to time availability. Interventions must be focused on the theme of the panel and not on any other issues. Interventions at interactive expert panels are NOT to be in the form of prepared statements; NGOs are therefore not required to submit copies of such interventions. These interventions must be in the form of comments or questions addressed to the panel experts. Interventions may not exceed three minutes. Instructions will be communicated via e-mail to organizations that will be selected to make an intervention. Sign-up for NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC wishing to express interest in intervening from the floor during a dialogue or an interactive panel usually opens in late January.






CSW68 NGO Statements

In October 2023, FEMNET submitted a statement reflecting on the theme for CSW68 and presenting succinct recommendations for financing for gender equality and women's empowerment grounded on feminist economic alternatives. [Click here to download and read the statement by FEMNET](#) and [click here to read all the different NGO Statements](#).

Our Call to Action

"African feminists, activists and gender advocates demand for the cancellation of the colonial, exploitative and extractive austerity conditionalities in Global South countries. As a matter of urgency, governments and development partners must finance and put in place institutional mechanisms to address and respond to the lived realities (such as poverty, gender-based violence, burden of unpaid care work, unemployment, multiple discrimination, which are a result of poor governance, wars, conflicts, capitalism, patriarchy, and economic instabilities) of women and girls in all their diversity. Furthermore, we call for urgent implementation of existing commitments on protecting, advancing and safeguarding the rights of women, girls and gender nonconforming persons in all their diversity (including those with disabilities; living in rural areas and informal settlements; indigenous communities; historically marginalized and exploited persons and communities). We urge inter-governmental organizations (including the United Nations and the African Union) and national governments to strengthen legal provisions and ensure a rights-based approach for women' and girls' access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure."





*Follow & Engage on twitter using the hashtag **#AfricaDisruptCSW68** and **#CSW68** - tagging **@FemnetProg** and **@engocswafrica***

*For questions, clarifications and more information, please contact Esther Nyawira, Girls & Young Women Programme Coordinator on email **e.nyawira@femnet.or.ke** and Kerubo Onsoti, Digital Media Officer on email **s.kerubo@femnet.or.ke**.*

