

Regional Civil Society Strategising Workshop on 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women and Beijing + 25 review

Date: 11-12 February 2019

Venue: Meeting Room F, UN Conference Centre

Organisers: Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), support of UN Women, UNESCAP and the Canadian Government, has organised this one-and-a-half day strategising workshop for women's organisations and advocates.

Background and objectives: The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body for women's human rights. At this annual forum, representatives of UN member states meet to measure and evaluate progress on commitments made towards gender equality as well as identify challenges and new and emerging areas. It is a space for setting global standards and formulating policies to promote gender equality globally.

The 63rd Session of the Commission (CSW63) to be held in New York in March 2019 will cover the following themes:

- Priority theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session);

2019 is a pivotal year for national and regional preparations leading to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). CSW64 in March 2020 will review and appraise the implementation of the BPfA 25 years since its adoption (Beijing+25). Other key initiatives to advance political accountabilities and commitments, social mobilisation and link the Beijing+25 review processes to the 5-year review on the 2030 Agenda, are being planned, culminating in 2020.

In this context, the workshop aims to:

- Build capacity of women's rights organisations new to the CSW and the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to understand and effectively utilise national, regional and international processes to collectively advocate and galvanise support to further advance the rights of women and girls;
- Contribute to identifying key advocacy priorities from the Asia Pacific region, ahead of the Asia-Pacific Regional High-Level Meeting for CSW63 as well as CSW63 itself;
- Plan for participation and contribution for each participant's Beijing + 25 country review processes and strategise over civil society consultation processes and advocacy opportunities for key events planned at the national, regional and international levels.

Programme
11 February (afternoon only)

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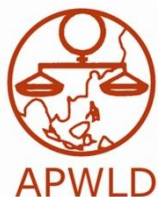
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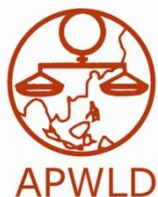
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13:00-13:15	Registration
13:15-13:45	<p><i>Session One: Introductions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome remarks from workshop organisers and run through of agenda Participant introductions
13:45-14:45	<p><i>Session Two: Dialogue with UN Women, ESCAP, and Embassy of Canada to Thailand</i></p> <p>Representatives from UN Women (headquarters as well as Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific), UNESCAP and the Canadian Embassy to Thailand will share information on how each are supporting civil society from Asia Pacific to be a part of the Beijing + 25 review process at the national, regional and global level, and contextualise CSW in relation to the Beijing Platform for Action.</p> <p>Q&A</p>
14:45-15:30	<p><i>Session Three: Reflections on 25 years since Beijing</i></p> <p>Speakers present at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women will share their recollections of the hopes and expectations when drafting the Beijing Platform for Action, and their reflections on women's rights and women's movements in the region in 25 years; speakers present at the Beijing + 20 review will be invited to share their takeaways; participants will be invited to also share their reflections on progress or backpedaling on the 12 areas of concern.</p>
15:30-15:45	Break
15:45-16:45	<p><i>Session Four: Expectations for Beijing + 25 review processes</i></p> <p>Group discussion on what the collective civil society expectations and demands are for the Beijing + 25 review at the national, regional and global levels, and points to share in the intergovernmental meeting on 13-14 February. (15 minutes discussion, 15 minutes reporting back).</p>
16:45-17:00	Closing
12 February (full day)	
08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-	<i>Session Five: Introduction to CSW63 themes and preparations</i>

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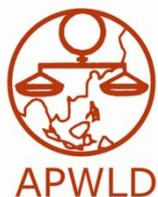
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09:30	This session will introduce CSW within the context of other international human rights mechanisms. It will also share with the participants the background work behind CSW63, including the Secretary General's report and the Expert Group Meeting report, and connecting the three components of the theme to both the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.
09:30-10:45	<i>Session Six: Identifying our advocacy priorities</i> <u>Group sharing exercise.</u> Participants divide into groups with assigned rapporteur. Participants invited to share their work in relation to the three thematic areas. Participants identify 3-5 key issues per group, make recommendations where possible, and report back. Rapporteurs to share notes and work over lunch to consolidate the key priorities. (15 minutes explaining the process and dividing groups, 30 minutes discussion, 30 minutes reporting back.)
10:45-11:00	Break
11:00-12:15	<i>Session Seven: Open discussion on plans for New York</i> This session invites participants to share their plans for New York, whether they have side events planned, and if they can commit to meeting with their delegates and sharing the priorities from this workshop.
12:15-13:15	Lunch
13:45-14:30	<i>Session Eight: Sharing of consolidated advocacy priorities and discussion of the agenda for the Asia-Pacific Regional High-Level Meeting.</i> Rapporteurs will present the consolidated priorities. Participants to agree on the key points and identify a woman speaker for the opening of the High-Level Meeting.
14:30-15:30	<i>Session Nine: Discussion with UN Women on how to take forward advocacy priorities regionally and in New York</i> Discussion with Lopa Banerjee, Chief, Civil Society Section of UN Women, on how to take forward shared advocacy priorities at the regional level to the global discussions; support role of UN Women during CSW and how to ensure civil society voices are included in the preparations and process of Beijing + 25 in 2020; how to share our priorities for the next themes of CSW which will be determined at CSW64.
15:30-15:45	Break

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15:45-
16:30

Session Ten: Q&A and closing

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