



BPW International

International Federation of Business & Professional Women

URL: www.bpw-international.org

E-mail: presidents.office@bpw-international.org

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) would like to invite you to co-sign recommendations on the Methods of Work for the CSW.

For many years, lobbying at the CSW by NGOs has been ineffective, despite the fact that many NGOs are in touch with the grassroots and with the real problems. Some of the problems we face are as follows:

1. The real decisions are made by the Commission in closed meeting in which NGOs are not allowed to participate. Most of us find the official UN decisions on resolutions on the web site after the fact.
2. The documents that NGOs receive for comments are often out of date (old versions).
3. Despite the fact that NGOs monitor the situations / issues in their countries, the contributions that they can offer to the UN have boiled down to negotiating a few words in agreed conclusions. This is a waste of opportunity for the UN and a waste of energy for NGOs.

It is not clear how useful the agreed conclusions are, since, unlike resolutions, they do not lead to decision making. They never go on the path to ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

In order to enhance NGO participation and to enable the UN to benefit MORE from the NGOs' work, I would like to suggest that:

1. For each CSW meeting, the Division for the Advancement of Women publish a statistical report on the "Status of Women" with respect to the thematic issue under discussion, based on recent CEDAW reports and other UN documents.
2. The UN encourage NGOs to submit data resulting from their monitoring process on the thematic issues - as opposed to just making general recommendations. Quality data useful to the general public should be considered for publication on the UN web site.
3. The Division for the Advancement of Women provide a platform AHEAD of time for NGOs to discuss the thematic issues interactively with the people who prepare documents for the Commission. A web discussion group would be fine.
4. Return to the practice of giving each speaker at the Expert Panels during the session MORE time, so that the expert can really adequately transfer information to participants at the CSW. Longer and more thorough analyses from fewer experts would be preferable to three-minute speeches from a long list of experts.
5. In consultation with NGO and grassroots organizations, the OUTCOME of the CSW should under the chosen theme identify the five highest priority issues that demand the immediate attention of UN member countries, and provide a rationale for their selection.
6. The two year review should AT LEAST report implementation progress/effectiveness with respect to the five highest priority issues to see whether the problems have been mitigated. NGO participation in these monitoring activities and NGO shadow reports would be welcome.

We are looking forward to a more effective CSW in 2007.

Chonchanok Viravan
BPW International President