



**To: The Co-Facilitators of the intergovernmental process to explore options to revitalise the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

Zonta International:

- reaffirms the vital importance of the nine NGO CSW/NY recommendations, which have been developed through a thorough consultation process; and
- makes the following recommendations to be added to those nine:

***Additional recommendations on content***

- **Mandate Climate justice as a standing item at CSW.** The window of opportunity to address global warming is closing at an unprecedented rate. Given the increasing number of climate-related disasters and their drastic impact on human rights, especially those of women and girls, the time is NOW for effective and transformative political, economic and financial action at the international, national, regional and local levels, as adopted in the UN Pact for the Future, and for the full implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement in line with the Beijing Platform for Action. Making this world a better place for women and girls means creating a sustainable earth for all and a future for generations to come.
- **Mandate Ending Child Marriage as a standing item at CSW.** Child marriage directly hinders eight of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. While the prevalence of child marriage is declining, efforts to address this human rights violation must be significantly scaled up.

***Additional recommendations on process***

- **Accessibility of CSW.** The convenors of CSW should canvass all options to ensure that accessibility to CSW is maximized at a time of a significant global change. Options include reviewing the need for the two-week timeline; convening regional CSW meetings; and considering venues (from the Global North and the Global South) other than the UN Headquarters in New York.

- **Streamline the presentation of the Agreed Conclusions.** The Agreed Conclusions should be restructured such that they record at the outset optimally three to five points (with a maximum of 10). which focus on actions to be taken for the next year. These points should form the basis for implementation by governments, intergovernmental bodies and other relevant stakeholders, and for the accountability and reporting of Member States.
- **Elevate the status of the Agreed Conclusions.** Against the backdrop of significant global change, governments, intergovernmental bodies and other relevant stakeholders should be urged to make exceptional efforts to ensure the Agreed Conclusions are implemented at the international, national, regional and local levels. The best examples of implementation should be showcased at successive CSWs. Likewise, inaction by Member States should be called out.
- **Review the effectiveness of having a priority and secondary theme.** As part of the overall review of CSW and the need for action at a time of a significant global change, the approach of having priority and secondary themes should be reviewed to ensure that it is effective. In particular, the review should examine whether a one theme approach would garner more focus for action by governments, intergovernmental bodies and other relevant stakeholders.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Salla', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Salla Tuominen  
President  
Zonta International