SOROPTIMIST IN THE CITY

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW 62)

MARCH 12 – 23, 2018

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS - NYC

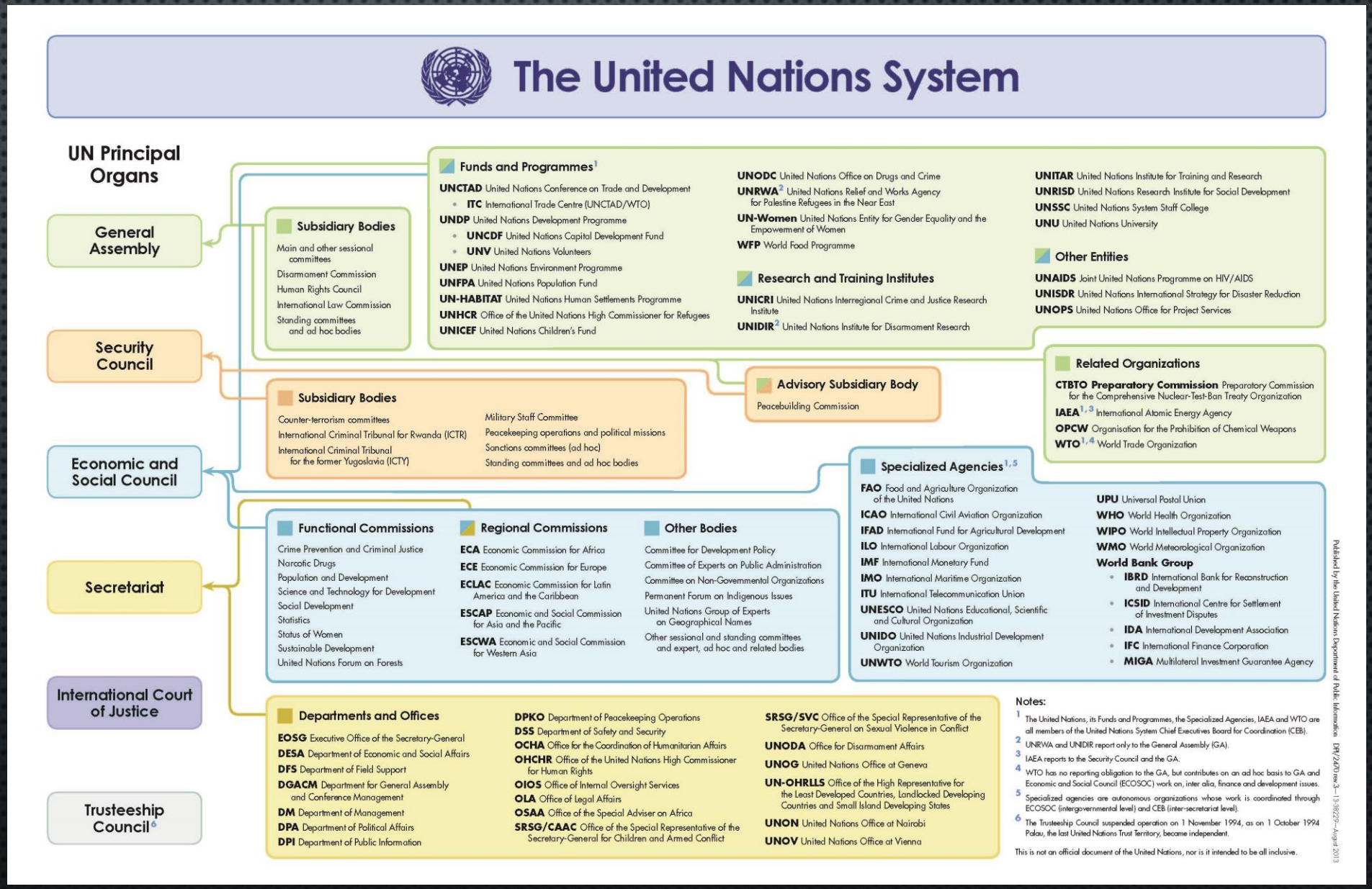
AS SOROPTIMIST MEMBERS WE HAVE THE UNIQUE **OPPORTUNITY** TO PARTICIPATE IN **ADVOCATING** FOR WOMEN AT AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

IT HAPPENS EVERY YEAR AT AN EVENT CALLED THE **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**, WHICH TAKES PLACE AT THE **UNITED NATIONS** IN **NEW YORK**

AND YOU CAN
BE A PART OF IT.
BUT WHAT, EXACTLY,
IS IT ALL ABOUT?????

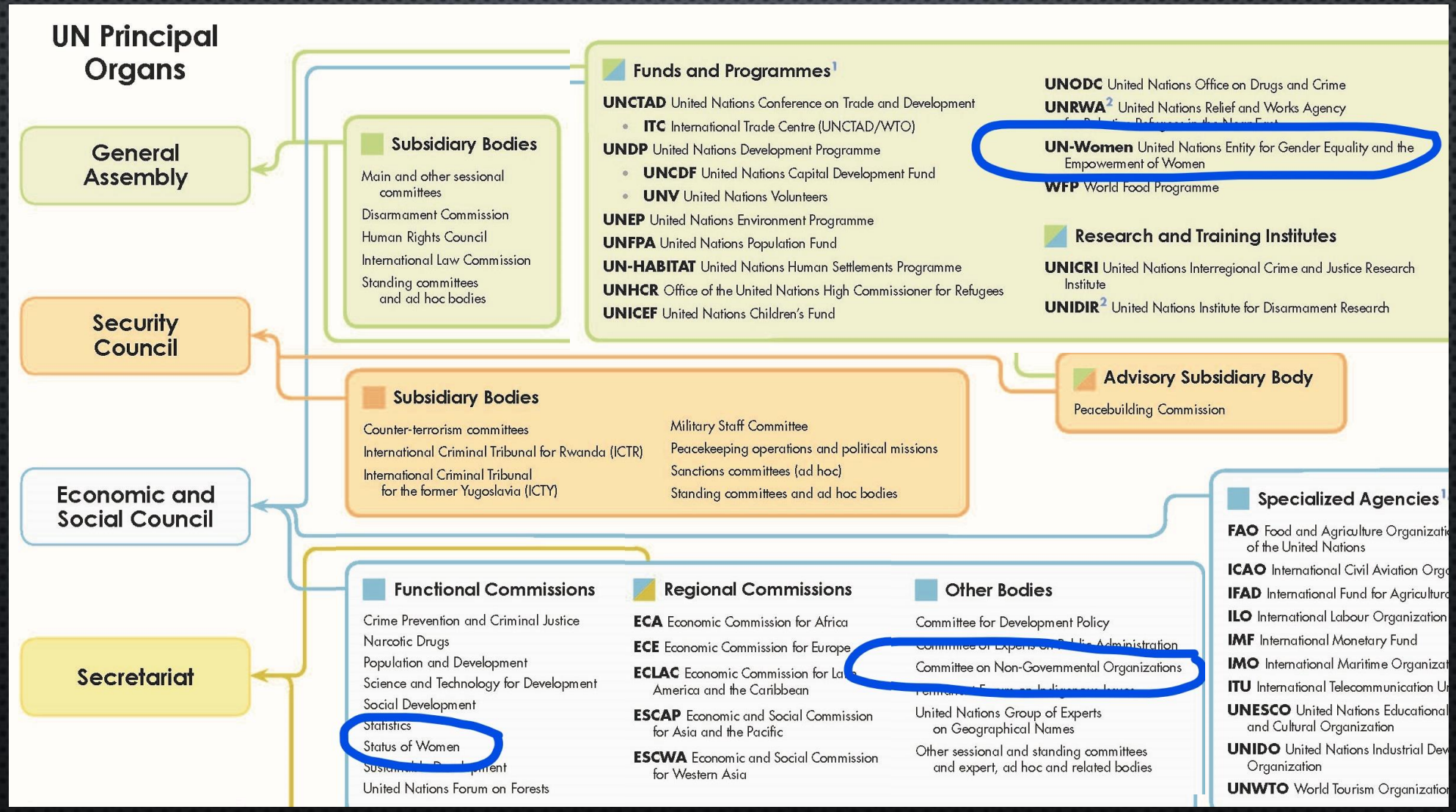
LET'S START WITH A BRIEF RUNDOWN OF HOW THE UNITED NATIONS IS ORGANIZED…

- There are 6 “Organs” of the UN
- Those Organs oversee 13 “Funds” or “Programmes”
- There are also dozens of “Bodies”,”Offices”, “Commissions”, “Organizations,” and “Agencies” in the UN.
- You are correct, it is overwhelming



FORTUNATELY, WE'RE ONLY CONCERNED WITH

- 1 Programme: **UN Women**
- 1 Commission: **Status of Women**
- And 1 Body: **Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations**



UN-WOMEN IS MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM **41 MEMBER STATES** ELECTED TO **THREE-YEAR TERMS** BY THE UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC). **CURRENT MEMBERS ARE:**

African States
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Comoros
Gabon
Liberia
Namibia
Nigeria
Rwanda
Tunisia
Zambia

Asia-Pacific States
Bahrain
China
Islamic Republic of Iran
Japan
Pakistan
Republic of Korea
Samoa
Turkmenistan
United Arab Emirates
Yemen

Eastern European States
Belarus
Croatia
Montenegro
Russian Federation

Latin American And Caribbean States
Antigua And Barbuda
Brazil
El Salvador
Guyana
Panama
Trinidad And Tobago

Western European And Other States
Canada
Finland
Portugal
Netherlands
New Zealand

Contributing Countries
Norway
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States

Contributing Countries Not Members Of The Oecd/Dac
Chile
Turkey

UN WOMEN

WHAT DOES UN WOMEN DO?

THEY ARE DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN.

PRIORITY AREAS ARE:

1. LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
2. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

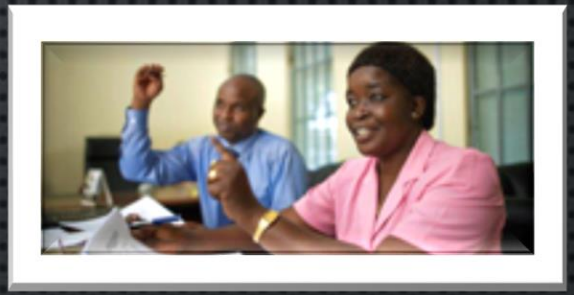
3. ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

4. PEACE AND SECURITY

5. YOUTH & GENDER EQUALITY

6. HUMANITARIAN ACTION

7. GOVERNANCE AND NATIONAL PLANNING



8. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

9. HIV/AIDS

HOW DO NGO'S FIT IN?

An NGO is a Non-Governmental Organization

IN 1946,

41 NGO'S

WERE GRANTED CONSULTATIVE STATUS BY THE UN'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC). TODAY THERE ARE OVER

5000 NGO'S

WITH CONSULTATIVE STATUS

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS, AN NGO MUST HAVE:

1. BEEN IN EXISTENCE TWO YEARS
2. AN ESTABLISHED HEADQUARTERS
3. A CONSTITUTION
4. AUTHORITY TO SPEAK FOR ITS MEMBERS
5. A REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURE
6. APPROPRIATE MEASURES OF ACCOUNTABILITY
7. TRANSPARENT DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF CONSULTATIVE STATUS

General

Special

Roster

THERE ARE OVER 1 MILLION NGO'S WORLDWIDE

5000 NGO'S HOLD CONSULTATIVE STATUS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

134 OF THAT TOTAL HOLDS GENERAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS

GENERAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS IS RESERVED FOR LARGE INTERNATIONAL NGO'S WHOSE AREA OF WORK COVERS MOST OF THE ISSUES ON THE AGENDA OF THE ECOSOC.

GUESS WHICH STATUS IS HELD BY SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL???

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL HAS **GENERAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS** WHICH MEANS:

- **Can attend UN meetings**
- **Are invited to UN Conferences**
- **Can propose items for ECOSOC's agenda**
- **Can speak at ECOSOC itself**

WITH THAT STATUS, SOROPTIMIST IS ALLOWED REPS TO THE UN

- 18 **SOROPTIMIST MEMBERS** SERVE AS REPS TO THE UN AT THE 7 UN OFFICES: GENEVA, PARIS, ROME, NAIROBI, VIENNA, BANGKOK AND **NEW YORK** ❤
- THEY LIAISON BETWEEN UN AND SI.
- THEY PROVIDE A SOROPTIMIST VOICE ON A CONTINUAL BASIS AT THE UN.
- THEY ARE **VOLUNTEERS** AND MUST LIVE WITHIN TRAVELING DISTANCE OF THE UN OFFICE.

WHAT IS CSW?

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

ANNUAL 2 WEEK CONFERENCE AT THE UN

SESSIONS AND SEMINARS PERTAINING TO THE YEAR'S THEME

NGO'S ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND PRESENT

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CSW?

EACH YEAR THERE IS A **THEME** AND THE **GOAL** OF THE COMMISSION IS TO **REACH A CONCLUSION ABOUT THAT THEME**.

WHO CAN ATTEND CSW?

REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL **193 MEMBER STATES**

REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL **5,083 NGO'S**

EACH NGO IS ALLOWED TO SEND 20 REPS

THAT MEANS…

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF ATTENDEES OVER THE 2 WEEKS

WHAT DO YOU **DO** AT CSW?

DELEGATES CAN ATTEND:

SIDE EVENTS – EVENTS ON UN PREMISES PUT ON BY MEMBER STATES

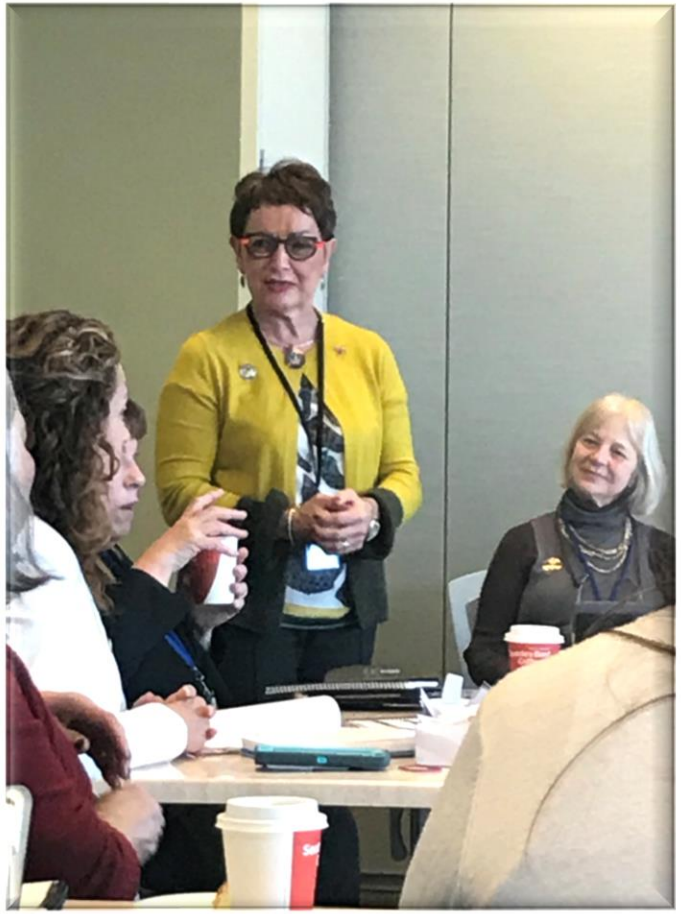
AND

PARALLEL EVENTS – EVENTS OFF UN PREMISES PUT ON BY NGO'S

THIS YEAR THERE WERE MORE THAN **400 SIDE EVENTS** AND **450 PARALLEL EVENTS**

THAT MEANS, ON AVERAGE, THERE WERE **MORE THAN 60 EVENTS AVAILABLE TO ATTEND EVERY DAY**

AND THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE OTHER ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS THE **SI RECEPTION**, THE CSW **RALLY**, THE CSW **CRAFT SALE**, **UN WOMEN DAILY BRIEFINGS**, AND **SI DAILY BRIEFINGS**



AND YOU HAVE TO DO SOME SIGHTSEEING…..

PRIOR TO THE COMMISSION, NGO'S WITH CONSULTATIVE STATUS AT THE UN ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE A "STATEMENT" AT CSW REGARDING THE CURRENT YEAR'S THEME

EACH NGO COULD HAVE VARYING OPINIONS IN THEIR STATEMENTS, SO UNWOMEN MUST REVIEW THESE STATEMENTS IN ORDER TO REACH A CONCLUSION. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE A CONCLUSION WILL BE REACHED.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL WAS ALLOWED TO GIVE AN ORAL STATEMENT, READ BY SI ADVOCACY MANAGER CAROLYN MORGAN

Soroptimist International advocates education as a powerful driver of sustainable development and a critical tool for empowering individuals and their communities, especially in rural areas. When implementing the sustainable development goals, a unified and integrated approach is required due to the cross-cutting nature of the goals, especially in relation to gender equality. Rural women and girls are often unable to access education due to an array of underlying root causes, which must be tackled through clear policies and commitments from government institutions, working hand in hand with CSO/ NGOs, who, are often able to provide situation specific educational interventions in challenging and remote situations. As men largely control resources and social discourse in many rural communities, it is critical to acknowledge the crucial role they play in the empowerment of rural women and girls. Rigid notions of stereotypes must be addressed through targeted interventions on the importance of educating women, and the positive implications this can have for their families and communities. Rural communities are increasingly being affected by the impacts of encroaching urban development, and through the loss of their younger generations to more developed areas. This shift in demographic distribution has a significant impact on the accessibility of education, therefore, targeted, gender sensitive strategies should also be put in place to fund rural women's and girls' access to education and acknowledge previous acquired competences. To achieve this, the following actions are recommended: • Direct financial services, support and credit, to empower rural girls to continue their education and pursue entrepreneurial opportunities; and to facilitate female teachers; • Develop livelihood enhancing initiatives through access to technical and nontraditional (secondary) vocational education and life skills training, including financial, digital and legal literacy for all women and girls throughout the lifecycle; • Eradicate discriminatory or patriarchal economic practices which limit rural women from formal education and experiential learning. Education contributes to the independence, autonomy, self-sustainability, and economic and social empowerment of women and girls, and is one of the most effective tools for alleviating the multi-layered challenges faced by women in rural communities. Without access to quality, safe, inclusive and life-course education and training, rural women and girls of all ages will not be equal participants and contributors to society at every level.

Full text of statement can be found on the SoroptimistInternational.org website

A TEAM OF SOROPTIMIST LADIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD REVIEWED THE STATEMENT LINE BY LINE TO ENSURE THE DOCUMENT CONTAINED THE LANGUAGE TO SUPPORT THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

AFTER ALL STATEMENTS WERE PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION COMPLETED BY UN WOMEN, THE CHAIR SAID "I HEAR NO OBJECTIONS" MEANING THAT THE CONCLUSIONS BY CONSENSUS WERE AGREED. THIS WAS A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION BECAUSE LAST TIME THIS ISSUE WAS CONSIDERED THERE WERE NO AGREED CONCLUSIONS FOR RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Final outcome is a 20 page document which can be found on the UN website

DOES THIS SOUND FASCINATING??? WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF THE 90 MEMBER STRONG SI DELEGATION ATTENDING CSW???

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEXT CSW, THESE ARE THE STEPS TO TAKE:

THE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER SOROPTIMIST SUMMARY LETS MEMBERS KNOW THE APPLICATION WINDOW IS OPEN. CLICK ON THE LINK AND COMPLETE THE APPLICATION.

MEMBERS ONLY HOME | ACCESS DIRECTORIES | MEETINGS/CONVENTIONS | CALENDAR | CONTACT US | GOOGLE TRANSLATOR

SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®

Soroptimist Summary

An electronic newsletter published by
Soroptimist International of the Americas

Program

Leave a reply

Commission on the Status of Women

The 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York, March 12-23, 2018. Every year, Soroptimist sends a delegation of leaders and members interested in advocating for the Soroptimist position, learning more about the UN, and networking with other women's organizations. The delegation is made up of Soroptimists from around the world and is a unique experience to learn, network and advocate. If you are interested in attending at your own expense, click here to learn more and register your interest. Please note that space is very limited.

IF SELECTED, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED IN DECEMBER

Dear Denise,

I'm Sue Riney, and I'm representing SIA on the Soroptimist International Advocacy Committee. Part of my role is to coordinate the SIA delegation to CSW. Thank you for your interest and willingness to take part in this impactful and important annual event!

I'm pleased to let you know you have been selected to register as a delegate for the 2018 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York in March! I've had the honor of attending CSW for the past three years and I hope you find the experience to be as educational and inspiring as I have.

Our first order of business is for you to complete your official registration. The deadline to register is January 27, 2018, but our goal is to have all registrations complete by January 1 if at all possible. In case you are not aware, a new process has been implemented by UN Women this year; each delegate will need to establish an "account" and complete the registration process online. I've created the attached instructional document to walk you through the process, and I can assist you with any questions you may have along the way.

To complete the CSW Registration process you need to have on hand:

1. Your Passport
2. A recent digital head shot of yourself you can upload
3. The address of where you will be staying while in New York, if you know it at this time. If you do not know it, you can enter a temporary address but will need the correct address entered in your profile by January 27, 2018.
4. Confirmation of the Institution for which you will be a delegate (either Soroptimist International or Women for Water Partnership, as noted in the first part of this email).

THEN GET READY TO BE OVERWHELMED!!!

Hotel Reservations

Webinars from SIA

Over 50 emails

Flight Plans

NGO Orientation Video Series

Fitting in Sightseeing

Getting UN Grounds Pass

NGO Consultation Day

NGO Daily Briefing

Soroptimist Reception

Government Receptions

NGO Reception

What's the difference between Side and Parallel events?

READ THROUGH ALL THE EMAILS THAT COME YOUR WAY, ASK QUESTIONS AND JUST ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE! EVERYTHING WILL MAKE SENSE WHEN YOU ARE THERE.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL HAS TREMENDOUS GLOBAL PRESENCE, AND ALL SOROPTIMIST MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS THIS ADVOCACY IN ACTION.

SOROPTIMIST IN THE CITY

Michelle Volonte and Denise Middleton

If you have any questions, please contact us through our club website

www.sicorona.org