



6-17 March 2023 **INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE**
CSW67 **EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE**
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN Progress toward gender equality

CFUW CSW67 DELEGATES' REPORT

- 2023 -

Volume 1



WHAT IS THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN?



“The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.” It is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), that was established in 1946. CFUW, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) has special consultative ECOSOC status (accredited, 1998) which enables us to have up to 20 delegates attend CSW.

“The CSW is instrumental in promoting women’s rights, documenting the reality of women’s lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.”

Each year there is a priority theme and a review theme.

CSW67 2023:

- **Priority theme:** Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
- **Review theme:** Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-second session).

From UN WOMEN





VP IR, Barb DuMoulin, and CFUW President, Joy Hurst, at CSW67

CFUW AT THE CSW

In October 2022, CFUW prepared a written statement to address this year's priority on digital education, technology and gender equality. [Click here to read the written statement.](#)

Work on the written statement begins early in the year (soon after the end of the previous CSW in March). NGO statements must be submitted in October using the format and word count prescribed by the UN. Normally, the members of the IR committee, the President, VP of International Relations and depending on the theme, Advocacy and Education VPs and the Advocacy coordinator all contribute. The Advocacy Coordinator does the wordsmithing. This past fall, with the 2022 AGM in August we got a late start, and the process was truncated. My thanks to everyone who pitched in with research and to our Advocacy Coordinator, Paige Inglis, who pulled it together. Thank you, Paige for your assistance to us throughout the entire CSW process.

Thank you to the IR Committee CSW parallel event planning committee - Linda Coles, Sandy Thomson and Grace Hollett for their work in planning and carrying out this very successful event.

Barbara DuMoulin, VP International Relations

CSW67 - POST-PANDEMIC - HOW WAS IT DIFFERENT?

It had been three years since an in-person event had been organized. Not surprisingly, there were changes. Restaurants had closed making it difficult to organize a CFUW dinner; the NGO forum was reluctant to book an expensive theatre for consultation day, to have an in-person orientation or to host a gala night. It was, as Joy commented, 'CSW --light'. Yes, consultation day and orientation day still happened, but they were virtual; there were still uplifting speeches, watch parties, and entertainment, but it just wasn't quite the same. The opportunities to network still happened, but those took place during lunches, meetings, and dinners. Hopefully next year will be smoother.

CFUW'S DELEGATION

Amy Linthorne, Charlottetown, PEI
Barbara DuMoulin, Salt Spring Island, BC & Canada GWI
Elana Freeman, Windsor, ON
Grace Hollett, St. John's, NL & Canada GWI
Hally Siddons, Ottawa, ON
Jill Bester, Nanaimo, BC
Joy Hurst, Edmonton, AB
Linda Coles, St. John's, NL
Marcia Brauny, Belson & District, BC
Marina Huissoon, Milton & District, ON
Roberta Balmer, Kanata, ON
Sandra Millen, Winnipeg, MB
Sandra Thomson, Kincardine, ON and Oakville, ON
Valerie Campbell, Charlottetown, PEI
Lynne Kent, UWC Vancouver, BC



170+

Total number of
sessions CFUW
delegates
attended

CFUW'S DELEGATION CONTINUED



Valerie Campbell and Amy Linthorne

- 7 delegates were attending CSW for the first time; 6 were from the International Relations Committee and Lynne Kent registered as a GWI delegate, but was part of our group.
- We had our first mother-daughter attendees, Amy Linthorne and Valerie Campbell!
- See Volume 2 for reports from the Delegates!

Thank you delegates for your commitment to CSW67 and to CFUW's participation in it. You were such an enjoyable and enthusiastic group to work with.

Barbara

THE PLANNING PHASE

Delegate applications opened in October and members were approved by the Board at the beginning of January. It was full speed ahead after that. For our CFUW delegates getting prepared to attend the Commission on the Status of Women 67 (CSW67) started early, ironing out registration problems (with both UN Women and the NGO forum, Whova, platform), holding briefings prior to leaving Canada.

- **WhatsApp:** Surprise, surprise! Even though most of us were neophytes on WhatsApp Chat we quickly realized its value for staying in touch and organizing dinners and meetups when we were in New York. Many of us also joined the Beijing +25 group (our Canadian sister organizations) as well as the GWI group. Given that the theme was digital technology, this was most apt!
-

OUR CFUW CSW67 EXPERIENCE: A DAILY JOURNAL

Our first weekend in New York, prior to the opening on March 6th:

With delegates from across Canada and arriving on different days, at different times and staying in different locations, the logistics were a bit challenging. We indulged in sightseeing, some saw shows, others explored the city.

On Sunday night we held a caucus meeting at the Sonesta Shelburne hotel giving out CFUW scarves, pins and business cards and talking about what to expect for the week. Especially for those attending for the first time this was important. A great sense of anticipation!



A few of us visited the UN on Friday after getting our official UN "grounds pass".

MONDAY MARCH 6TH

CSW67 OPENING STATEMENT: DIGITAL RIGHTS ARE WOMEN'S RIGHTS



The highlight of March 6th was the opening of the General Assembly. The UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Sima Bahous, gave the opening statement ([read it here](#)). Our president, Joy Hurst, attended the official opening!

- **Secretary-General warns of 'baked-in' gender discrimination in technology, decries rights roll-backs, opening commission on status of women**

OPENING DAY CONTINUED

Many of us chose to attend the early morning briefing with Canadian Senator Marilou McPhedran. She began the session with everyone in the room introducing themselves. What stood out was the presence of young women delegates from various Canadian organizations and how passionate and articulate they were. Truly heartening to see!



Senator Marilou McPhedran with CFUW Delegate Marcia Braundy

DAY 2: MARCH 7TH, A VERY BUSY, EXCITING DAY FOR US ALL

Morning: FEMU (the Mexican NFA) hosted a parallel event entitled, "Sharing experiences and good practices in innovation, technological change, and education in the digital age to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls" at the Mexican Mission just prior to the CAMEUS event. Dr. Linda Coles, one of our delegates, spoke about education in Canada at this session. Joy spoke to the dedicated work by CAMEUS members, but especially to that of Grace Hollett and Lucía Guzmán.



CAMEUS hosted an on-site event at the Mexican Mission following the FEMU session celebrating the signing of the Collaboration Agreement (MOU) between the CFUW, the FEMU, and the WG-USA. Immediately following there was a celebratory lunch hosted by WG-USA.

DAY 2 CONTINUED

CAMEUS: THE SIGNING



Left to right: Grace Hollett, Joy Hurst, (Dr. Elise Russo and Sally Chamberlain WG-USA), Barbara DuMoulin, (Dr. Mirella Feingold, Glenda Hecksher & Back Row, Prof. Lucía Guzmán, all from FEMU)

We had been meeting informally for several years on issues and concerns that we share, such as migration, but at last, we have a formal signed document delineating the relationship. [Click here for excerpts from the MOU.](#)



What is CAMEUS? and Why is it important?

CAMEUS is an alliance or collaboration of CFUW, Canada; FEMU, Mexico and WG-USA, the United States. The acronym CAMEUS is derived from the initial letters of the names of the three countries. This year at CSW67 we formalized the relationship with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the three equal sister organizations.



DAY 2 CONTINUED CFUW'S IN-PERSON PARALLEL SESSION

The poster features a green border with a purple play button icon at the bottom left. At the top left, a purple bar contains the text 'CFUW PRESENTS'. The main title 'EVENING THE ODDS IN DIGITAL EDUCATION' is in large, bold, black letters on an orange background. Below it, 'FOR MARGINALIZED WOMEN AND GIRLS' is in smaller black letters. A circular inset shows a young girl using a tablet. In the top right corner, a circular logo for 'CFUW-FCFUDU' includes the text 'The power of women working together' and 'Le pouvoir de femmes ensemble pour réussir'. The event details 'MARCH 7 2023 4:30-6:00PM ET' and 'CCUN, 8TH FLOOR' are listed. A paragraph of text describes the event's focus on digital education for marginalized groups. Below this, a purple bar says 'WITH SPEAKERS' and an orange bar says 'A UNCSW67 NGOCSSW/NY PARALLEL EVENT WHOVA'. Four speaker profiles are shown, each with a circular portrait and a colored text box: Shirley Randell (orange), Beverley Park (red), Lisa Kearney (orange), and Stephanie Jill Hodge (red). A purple play button icon is at the bottom left of the poster.

CFUW PRESENTS

EVENING THE ODDS IN DIGITAL EDUCATION

FOR MARGINALIZED WOMEN AND GIRLS

MARCH 7 2023 4:30-6:00PM ET 📍 **CCUN, 8TH FLOOR**

The pandemic has triggered an unprecedented move to online education and learning. Access to learning tools, computers, and the internet is critical to the changes in the world, especially for rural, marginalized, and indigenous women and girls, who frequently lack resources. The "Digital Divide" exacerbates the online risks they face and limits their economic/social opportunities. Marginalized women and girls are often targeted by cybercriminals as they are perceived to be vulnerable/less tech-savvy. This multifaceted session will consider technology's role in delivering online education – from experiences in Australia, Rwanda, Gambia, and Canada.

WITH SPEAKERS **A UNCSW67 NGOCSSW/NY PARALLEL EVENT WHOVA**

Shirley Randell
Professor, AO, PhD, Past CIR
Australian Graduate Women

Beverley Park
Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF),
Director, International and Social
Justice Program

Lisa Kearney
President & CEO, Women
CyberSecurity Society (WCS2)

Stephanie Jill Hodge
International Program Evaluation
Consultant and Senior Advisor to
UN funds and programs

CFUW hosted an event entitled, "Evening the Odds in Digital Education for Marginalized Women and Girls", held 7 March 2023 at the Church Center of the United Nations.

One of our speakers came down with covid and couldn't be with us. Despite this, we received very positive feedback- "Best organized and informative session!"—I brought 80 copies of our handout to the session, and none were leftover.

- [See the hand out here](#)
- [See the pdf of the powerpoint here](#)



DAY 2 EVENING

CFUW held its CSW67 dinner with guests from our Australian affiliate. Both Jaya Dantas, President AGW and Shirley Randall, Past CIR had been speakers at our session. This was the best type of networking!



DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!

"DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality"

- The International Women's Day event was a celebration by 1800 attendees on the strength of women.
- See writeups by both Hally Siddons and Marina Huissoon in Volume 2.
- [Online video of the IWD event viewable here.](#)



The Observance celebrated the contributions of women and girls committed to building gender-responsive innovations and advancing innovation and digital technology. It featured statements by the Secretary-General and other high-level United Nations dignitaries, and a panel discussion offering reflections on the day's theme.

- Hally Siddons





The day was capped by a concert celebrating **International Women's Day!**

DAY 4: THURSDAY, MARCH 9TH

Several of us were at the UN in the General Assembly Hall to listen to ministerial statements by various member states including that by the Honourable Marci Len, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth. [Click here to read her statement.](#)

Thursday evening, Joy, Sandy Millen and I attended the Canadian Reception at the Canadian Mission with UN Ambassador Bob Rae and Minister Len. Both spoke about the importance of the CSW and about the positive involvement of Canadian NGOs. It was another chance for us to network. [Click here for Canada's involvement with the UN.](#)



**Minister Len
and UN
Ambassador
Bob Rae**



**Sandra
Millen and
Mary Scott
with Minister Len**

DAY 5: FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH

Friday was the last in-person day for many, although several of us stayed and enjoyed a last dinner together Friday night. Joy stayed until Monday and Marcia Braundy was lucky and stayed for two weeks. We left CSW sad but incredibly thankful for the experience and what we learned.

BACK HOME: THE SECOND WEEK OF CSW67

The highlight for us was the virtual CAMEUS session which CFUW hosted. Each of the three countries, presented perspectives on education within their country, both in K-12 but also in terms of life-long learning assisted by digital platforms (FEMU).

The theme of this event was, "Digital Education: Lessons Learnt and Innovations Introduced". [Click here to watch a recording of this exciting session.](#)

A UNCSW67 NGOCSW/NY PARALLEL VIRTUAL EVENT

DIGITAL EDUCATION: LESSONS LEARNT AND INNOVATIONS INTRODUCED

From Canada, USA and Mexico, hear how a high school teacher, an administrator, and a visual artist, all educators, problem-solved to engage and empower learners in meeting challenges presented by the pandemic.



15 MARCH 2023

3:00-5:00PM ET

[REGISTER HERE
ON ZOOM](#)

Again, this was well received by an international audience (one of the advantages of the virtual platform) In particular, the presentation by Alison Edwards teacher and English Department Head from Mt. Pearl, Newfoundland on how she changed her teaching process to being one determined by the interests of her students was enlightened and inspiring. It almost made me want to be back in the classroom.

CSW67: IN CONCLUSION



THE GLOBAL GOALS

AGREED CONCLUSIONS: WHAT ARE THEY? WHAT IS THE PROCESS? WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

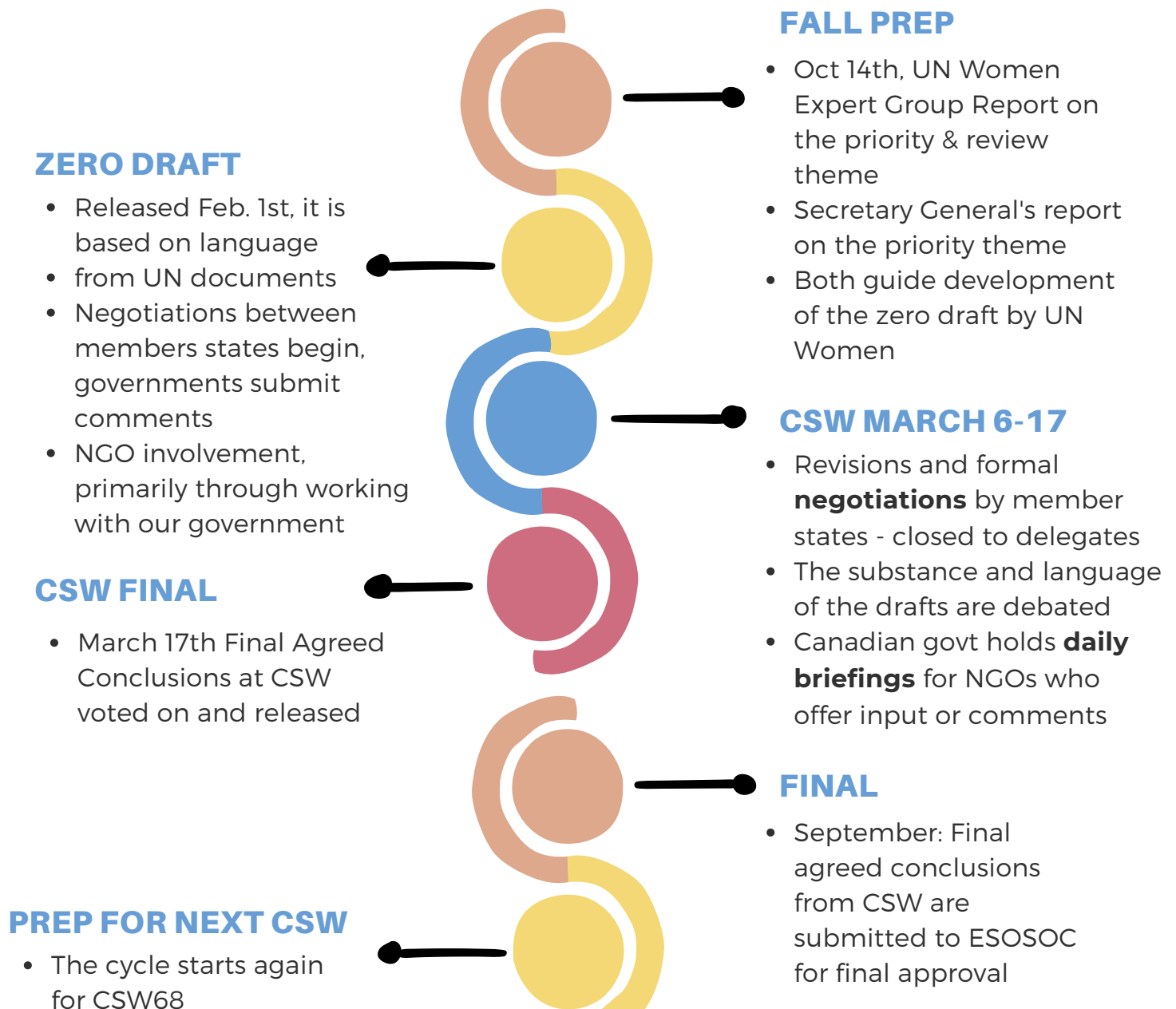
The most important document arising out of CSW: The Agreed Conclusions for CSW67 on the priority theme “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls” were voted on by UN member states in the wee hours of the night of March 17th (actually 2 am on the 18th). Like past years, the negotiations started well before CSW but weren’t seriously debated on until CSW started in March.

NGOs have input, primarily through their government representatives as well as with other like-minded NGOs lobbying theirs. For example, the NGOCSW NY forum put forward recommendations. The actual negotiations at the UN take place behind closed doors; these meetings are between member states. This is why our Daily Briefings with the Canadian government representatives are so important so that we are kept abreast of the developments.

The final document centers on the priority theme and presents a set of recommended actions to be implemented by government and civil stakeholders at the international and national level.



THE TIMELINE



CSW67 - THIS YEAR'S AGREED CONCLUSIONS

CSW67 Closing Statement: Game-changing Agreed Conclusions for a more equal and connected world for women and girls

Ms. Sima Bahous, Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), [in her closing remarks](#), said:

“This year’s agreed conclusions are game-changing and bring forward our vision of a more equal and connected world for women and girls in all their diversity...the ultimate success of these Agreed Conclusions lies beyond their finalization today, in how we will collectively take them forward. They bring us a vision of a more equal world. Let us translate them into reality for all women and girls.” - Ms. Sima Bahous

CSW67 - THIS YEAR'S AGREED CONCLUSIONS

The [full agreed conclusion document](#) is 26 pages and over 100 paragraphs long.

The key action items for governments and stakeholders to effect and for CFUW to monitor are: (see paragraph 86 and its key subparagraphs)

- Prioritizing digital equity to close the gender digital divide
- Leveraging financing for inclusive digital transformation and innovation towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls
- Fostering gender-responsive digital and science and technology education in the digital age
- Promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership as well as full employment of women in technology and innovation
- Adopting gender-responsive technology design, development, and deployment
- Strengthening fairness, transparency and accountability in the digital age
- Enhancing data science to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls should be strengthened to

LOOKING FORWARD - CSW68

The International Relations committee, while preparing for the CFUW year-end is already looking at the priority and review themes for next year. We welcome the input of members, especially in suggesting organizations with a focus on poverty that we might partner with and on institutions that merit strengthening to achieve gender equality. Employing a gender perspective in financing programs would enable women and children who are most affected by poverty to be the focus of aid.

- **Priority theme:** Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.
- **Review theme:** Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-third session).

Follow-up updates: CFUW is attending a follow-up discussion of CSW67 with Global Affairs Canada, during which they "will provide a briefing on the negotiations and session, as well as plans for CSO on CSW68" on May 18th.

For Articles and Delegates' responses, See Volume 2.

