

2. **To identify emerging women's issues** brought on by globalization, the fast development of Internet and other new technologies, climate change & all of its consequences, migration and demographic changes, rising trafficking and violence against women, and more generally, the multiple crises affecting our increasingly interconnected world.
3. **To provide input for the current discussions on the Post-2015 Agenda**, on how a stand-alone goal on gender equality could be crafted and how women's issues could be best streamlined in all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are expected to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015.

Additionally, the NGO Forum aims to **create a space for open dialogue among NGOs, civil society and other stakeholders** from the 56 ECE member countries on the realities impacting women in this very diverse region. The Forum will facilitate a candid exchange of views and information, the open voicing of concerns, establishment of common positions, sharing of best practices, and more.

Expected Outcome

The NGO Forum's expected outcome is a **comprehensive report with a set of action-oriented recommendations that**

- will be presented through oral interventions at the governmental Beijing+20 UN ECE Regional Review Meeting, taking place immediately after the NGO Forum, and
- will be included in the final ECE report.

The report will outline the issues, discussions and conclusions of the Forum; recommendations will focus on shortcomings of the implementation of the BPfA, current challenges and emerging issues facing women in the ECE region, as well as, government accountability for commitments made to women's rights, equality and empowerment initiatives.

Program & Participants

The NGO Forum will convene over three days, from 3 - 5 November 2014 (Mon. – Wed.) and take place at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva.

- **Day 1:** afternoon opening ceremony and plenary review of major achievements and challenges for gender equality in the ECE region
- **Day 2:** breakout sessions on critical substantive issues, including emerging issues with a sub-regional perspective
- **Day 3:** continued meetings on substantive issues, conclusions and recommendations; closing ceremony at the Palais des Nations.

The envisioned format will include the presentation of issues via topical short films, followed by panel discussions, leading to conclusions and recommendations.

Participants will include national & international women's rights advocates, UN agencies, academic institutions, media and private sector actors from the 56 countries of the UN ECE region and other countries. Adequate geographical coverage and thematic expertise will be ensured.

Organizing Committee & Partners

Established at the dawn of the first World Conference on Women, **the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva** brings together UN representatives of more than 40 international NGOs in consultative relationship with the United Nations, working together to advocate for women's rights, women's empowerment and gender equality. Several of its current members were in Beijing 20 years ago.

The NGO CSW Geneva has a long history working on women's rights: it was an active participant of all 4 World Conferences on Women, and a key contributor to the 1995 Beijing conference and its outcome document, the Beijing Declaration. The NGO CSW Geneva has also subsequently organized, in close collaboration with the UN ECE, NGO Forums

for the UN ECE regional reviews of Beijing+5, Beijing+10 & Beijing+15.

Under the leadership of its Bureau, the Committee has set up a “Beijing+20 Task Force” led by 4 co-chairs, with working groups on substantive issues, logistics, communications & outreach, and finance & fundraising. The Task Force will work in close collaboration with the UN ECE in the planning of the NGO Forum, will invite UN Women to play a key role, and welcome the participation of sister NGO CSW committees in New York and Vienna.

Budget & Sponsors

A budget has been estimated that will cover the costs of the venue, program, speakers, publicity, communications, organization, secretariat, interpretation and translation, as well as, sponsorship of selected participants.

The NGO CSW Geneva will invite select partners and sponsors among UN entities, country missions, “gender certified” corporations and other institutions to take part in this milestone event.

Geneva International

Home to a multitude of international organizations, including approximately 30 UN entities and specialized agencies, 172 permanent country missions, more than 250 international NGOs, foundations, academic and research institutions, plus many private sector actors and generous citizens of good will, Geneva is emerging as a key center for the promotion of human rights, development and peace, the development of international norms, and the resolution of global issues.

The Geneva NGO Forum will be a high-level event, on par with this Geneva International cluster of excellence. The NGO CSW Geneva will thus, seek collaboration with the Office of the Presidency of Geneva International and the authorities of Geneva.

Let's work together to **act** | **advance** | **achieve** | **women's rights!**



NGO CSW Geneva members meeting with UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka on 15 January 2014



Geneva NGO FORUM - Beijing+20
UN ECE Regional Review
3-5 November, 2014 – Geneva, Switzerland
act | advance | achieve | women's rights

NGO Forum Beijing+20 Review - Organizing Committee

Chair + Communications & PR: **ZONTA International** / *Simone Ovard*
Finances & Sponsoring: **FAWCO** / *Sara von Moos*
Substantive issues: **WWSF** / *Elly Pradervand*
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Vice-President: **Make Mothers Matter International (MMM)** / *Valerie Bichelmeier*
Treasurer: **The Salvation Army** / *Sylvette Huguenin*
Secretary: **Soka Gakkai International (SGI)** / *Hayley Ramsay-Jones*
Secretary: **Inter African Committee (IAC)** / *Adebisi Adebayo*