• UN-NY & UN-Geneva Rep
• Past UN Liaison
• Focal point for CEDAW and FAWCO’s advocacy to ratify
• New role: special projects and exploring new partnerships with key women’s organizations
• NGO CSW, Geneva
• FAWCO Human Rights and Education Task Forces
CEDAW – The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world.

- CEDAW is a practical blueprint for each country to achieve progress for women and girls.
What can CEDAW do?
• CEDAW can make a difference for women and girls, specifically to:
  • Reduce sex trafficking & domestic violence
  • Provide access to education & vocational training
  • Ensure the right to vote
  • End forced marriage & child marriage & ensure inheritance rights
  • Help mothers and families by providing access to maternal health care
  • Ensure the right to work & own a business without discrimination
• The CEDAW agreement was adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly and entered into force in 1981.
• Almost all countries have ratified CEDAW - 187 out of 194 countries.
• Only seven have not ratified including the United States, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Iran, and two small Pacific Island nations (Palau and Tonga).
• The Carter Administration signed the treaty in July 17, 1980 and transmitted it to the Senate in November of 1980.
• In 1994, Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved (13 to 5)
• In 2002, Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted to approve (12 to 7)

• However, it has never been brought to a vote of the entire Senate.
• The Senate needs to approve the treaty by a vote of 67 votes.
• Purpose of the US CEDAW Committee is to urge ratification of the Treaty by the US Senate.
Current partnerships
• Eleanor Roosevelt Girl’s Leadership Worldwide
• UN Women

Potential Partnerships
• Vital Voices
• Clinton Foundation / Gates Foundation – ‘No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project’
UN Rep in Geneva since 2008
UN Liaison since Jan. 2014
Vice-President, NGO CSW, Geneva since Jan. 2014
Co-Chair, Beijing+20 NGO Forum Task Force
UN bodies and specialized agencies addressing issues on women and girls in Geneva:

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) and monitoring mechanisms
  - Human Rights Council (HRC)
  - Human Rights Committee
  - Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
  - Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- International Labor Organization (ILO)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Food Program (WFP)
- UNICEF
NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva

Principal aim: gender equality in all spheres of life.

Objectives:
→ To work in partnership with the United Nations and its specialized agencies to monitor women’s rights and ensure that governments respect the commitments they have made at world conferences and through international human rights treaties and principles
→ To influence international decision-making and maintain a global momentum for the advancement of women’s rights, gender equality, peace and development.
UN Women Executive Director’s visit

NGO CSW, Geneva informal meeting and open dialogue with UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Jan. 2014
NGO CSW, Geneva Dinner with CEDAW Experts

NGO CSW, Geneva dinner with Committee of 23 CEDAW experts during the 57th session convened in Geneva, Feb 2014.
NGO CSW, Geneva will host the Beijing+20 NGO Forum, prior to the UN ECE Regional Review next November at the Palais des Nations. The Forum, which will take place 3-5 Nov. 2014, will bring together hundreds of women’s rights advocates and members of civil society from the 56 UN ECE countries, including the USA, to review progress made on the 12 critical issues of the Beijing Platform for Action. The outcome report will be delivered at the opening of the UN ECE Regional Review Meeting and contribute to the ECE Regional Report as well as the 2015 Beijing+20 Global Report.

FAWCO members invited to take part.
Stacy Lara
• UN-Geneva Rep since 2010.
• Personal interests: human rights, environment & technology.
• Follows the Human Rights Council; three sessions per year – March, June & Sep; 4 weeks per session.
• Follows ECOSOC activities.
Member of CoNGO Geneva Human Rights Committee.
Member of NGO CSW, Geneva; involved in organization of Beijing+20 NGO Forum, as part of the Communications Committee.
Works together with the FAWCO Human Rights Task Force.
Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room. Room is intended to be a place where all countries, large and small, developed and developing, can air their grievances, highlight their aspirations and, in the end, find consensus. Ceiling sculpture is by the prominent contemporary Spanish artist Miquel Barceló.
A Word from Stacy

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXXC-F3eHRA&list=Pl7yo2iffHe3g13RU1yoxwWuWycA6BVfn&index=6
Anne Riz
• UN-Geneva Rep since 2013.
• Focal point for Women’s Health
• NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva
• Beijing+20 NGO Forum Task Force
• White Ribbon Campaign
• FAWCO Health Task Force
Women’s Health

- Women’s Health is a priority in both the Millennium Development Goals and the Beijing Platform for Action
- Focus on Improving Maternal Health
- Providing Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services
- Reducing Childhood Pregnancies
- Ending Harmful Practices – FGM
- Fighting Infectious as well as Non-Communicable Diseases like heart disease, cancer and diabetes which are lifestyle related.
An estimated 70,000 adolescents in developing countries die each year from complications during pregnancy and childbirth.
- Girls who become pregnant before age 15 in low- and middle-income countries have double the risk for maternal death and obstetric fistula than older women, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.
-While these health issues are more severe in developing countries where access to Sexual and Reproductive Health services is limited,
-There are also 680,000 births to adolescents yearly in developed countries. Half of them occur the United States.
An extreme form of Violence against Women

- Violates Girls’ Human Rights:
  - Right to highest attainable standard of Health,
  - Right to freedom from Violence and Torture
  - Right to life itself, in cases which lead to death by bleeding, infection, birth complications...

- Spreading with immigration to other parts of the world.
- Serious later mental and physical health problems: Risk of Infections, Scarring, Fertility Problems, Labor and Birth problems.
In Developed countries, NCD's account for 80% of deaths. They include cancers and heart disease which have been shown to be in part preventable.

- Smoking, overweight and lack of physical exercise all contribute to poor health outcomes.
- The UN Team supports the Health Task Force’s initiative „Clubs in Motion“ to get our members moving and gives a „thumbs up“ to those clubs who are already participating! Mens Sana in Corpore Sano...
• UN-Geneva Rep since Jan. 2014
• Area of focus is Education
  - Involved in empowerment of girls & women through education all my life.
  - Education drives the achievement of all MDGs.
• Follow activities of UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, WORLD BANK
• Member of NGO CSW, Geneva; will become involved with education initiatives.
• Share information and collaborate on initiatives & projects with FAWCO Education Task Force
MDG #2 - Universal Primary Education

- Progress has been made - 50% more children are in school today.
- Female enrollments have increased faster than those of males at all levels.
- Two thirds of countries have achieved gender parity at primary level and one third at both primary and secondary level.

Unfortunately, MDG #2 will not be reached globally by 2015.
- 123 million youth still lack basic reading and writing skills, of which 61% are young women.
MDG 2: Universal Primary Education
Challenges

Challenges – reasons why MDG#2 has not been achieved:
- Poverty, Child Labor, Slavery
- Conflict and Wars
- Cultural practices - Child marriages thus motherhood
- Rise of fundamentalism
- Violence against women & girls
- Disabilities
- Climate change
The future is hopeful. UN agencies will continue to make efforts to accelerate progress, working together with government, partner organizations and civil society. Focus will be on empowerment of girls by tackling discrimination, violence and exclusion of girls from education. Examples:

- Somalia: scholarships help keep girls in school UNICEF-supported programs.
- Brazil: An online tool tackles violence against women & girls
- UN WOMEN, UNICEF and HABITAT launched an online website which also works as a smart phone App that brings information on support services for girls & women who are survivors of violence.
- UNESCO partners with Proctor & Gamble to empower girls through literacy programs. Similar efforts are being made taken by UNESCO in Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Tanzania, with partners including Packard Foundation.
- World Food program initiative to keep girls in school
• UN-Geneva Rep
• Past UN Liaison
• Focal point for Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and FAWCO advocacy for ratification.
• Focal point for Women and Food Security – new addition to UN Team portfolio as it is an emerging issue brought on by our changing world that disproportionately impacts women and girls and is receiving more coverage at the UN.
• NGO CSW, Geneva
• CoNGO Human Rights Committee
• FAWCO Human Rights and Environment Task Forces
The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- Ratified by every country except: USA, Somalia and South Sudan
- Children - People with Human Rights
- The Family - Fundamental Group of Society
Why ratify?

- Children Need Protection
- Children Have Human Rights
- U.S. Leadership Role
FAWCO Action

- Tell the World
- Write Lawmakers
  - 2/3 majority of Senate (67 votes) needed
- Endorse Child Rights
Food Security: the problem

- Today **800 million** People are Malnourished
- In 2050 the World Population Will be **9 Billion**
- UN Estimates **70% increase** in Production Needed
Women & Food Security

- Make up 43% of rural farmers
- Produce 90% of the food in Africa
- Produce 50% of all Food Worldwide
- Play a Major Role all along the Food Chain - from Field to Plate
- Often Lack Access to Resources
Food Security = Solutions

- Empowering Women with Resources and Information
- Women’s Access to Land, Education and Finance
- Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture
- Reduce Nutrient and Food Waste and Loss
- Consumers Decide What is Produced