CSW 62

- 62nd Session of CSW convened from 12-23 March.
- Main UN Forum to progress WE/GE. Over 4,000 representatives from 170 Member States and 600 civil society organisations attended.
- Theme: Challenges and Opportunities in achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls.
- Almost half the world resides in rural areas; one-third depend on agriculture for survival.
- Theme particularly relevant to the African continent - more than 80% of women and girls live in rural areas.
Ireland chair of the Bureau of CSW for 2018/2019

First agreed language on rural women and girls under CSW; 2012 saw no agreed conclusions

Member States concerned with increasing challenges, exacerbating disadvantages and inequalities – humanitarian emergencies, armed conflicts, adverse impacts of climate change

The Commission emphasised that rural women and girls are essential to sustainable development – rights and empowerment to be prioritised
Agreed Outcomes (1)

- Recognition of the diversity of rural women’s situations; particular needs; appropriate responses

- Eliminate discriminatory laws and norms for women => equal access to economic and productive resources - land and natural resources, property and inheritance rights (countries with legislation)

- Speed up progress towards improved educational environments – close gender gaps in secondary and tertiary education in rural areas

- Strong language on unpaid care work which disproportionately affects women and girls living in rural areas - provision of quality social and care services & role of men and boys in sharing burden at the family level
Agreed Outcomes (2)

- Increase essential rural infrastructure and technology
- Ensure rural women have access to decent jobs with equal pay for work of equal value - opps broader than just agricultural production
- Scale up universal health coverage, including access to sexual and reproductive health care
- Reiteration that violence against women and girls, including those in rural areas, is major impediment to GE
- Accelerate action to end all forms of violence against women, including harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation
Agreed Outcomes (3)

- Affirmation of the impact of conflict on rural women - "meaningful participation in peace processes" & men and boys as partners in promoting this participation

- Stronger reference to women human rights defenders – critical at time of shrinking civil society space

- Strong language on providing support to families, the role of families in addressing harmful practices

- Recognition of contribution of rural women to CC mitigation and adaptation
- Strengthen resilience to respond to CC through infrastructure, technology, social protection, humanitarian relief
- Adopt gender-responsive strategies to CC though health promotion, decision-making, sustainable livelihoods
Some gaps....

- Migration
- No stand alone paragraph on young women and girls
- Narrative at the global level – from rural women and girls to women and girls living in rural areas
- No link between 1325 and disarmament
Build on CSW 62…

- Largely seen as progressive outcome document
- Blueprint to ensure the rights and development of rural women and girls
- CSW 63 - Social Protection Systems