



**AAA was represented at the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 10 – 22 March 2024 in New York.**

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The session's priority theme focused on **"Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty, and strengthening institutions and financing from a gender perspective."** The review theme delved into **"Social protection systems, access to public services, and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."**

This year marked a significant milestone for Cameroon, as it led the African group. The African negotiating team comprised representatives from Cameroon, Egypt, South Africa, and Tanzania. Together, they maintained a unified stance on critical issues such as the right to development, reform of the international financial architecture, food security, water availability, energy, and menstrual health. .

An impressive turnout of 140,000 individuals participated in the NGO CSW NY Forum, which welcomes NGOs that are not yet accredited with ECOSOC status. Initially, the first week's proceedings were not available online, sparking a call for hosting similar forums in Africa, where attendance would be more feasible for many women. Subsequently, key sessions were recorded and shared online, and they remain accessible along with the interactive handbook at [www.ngocsw.org](http://www.ngocsw.org). **AAA is contemplating sponsorship recognition, as the forum's global visibility continues to grow annually.**

**SIDE EVENTS:**

- ◆ **Empowering Pastoralist Women in Mountain Areas: Navigating Environmental and Gender Challenges – Consultation Day under the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) - <https://iyrp2026>**

The meeting was sponsored by UNEP Vienna Office of the Carpathian Convention, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Vienna, the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development Vienna and the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with the support of Eurac Research.

Key points were integrating research and data collection, a deeper understanding and participation on research questions, capacity building and partnership, a deeper understanding of gender issues in pastoralism and equitable right to access and use land. The Mountain Partnership (since 2002) includes 568 members, 66 Governments, 22 intergovernmental organisations and 480 major groups (FAO. mountain-partnership). Entrepreneurial skills like providing sustainable tourism activities (e.g. [www.helgasalm.at](http://www.helgasalm.at), [www.bersteigerdoerfer.org](http://www.bersteigerdoerfer.org), [www.unsere-almen.at](http://www.unsere-almen.at), [www.wipptal](http://www.wipptal))

- ◆ **Gender Bias in Economic Policy - [www.NGOCSW.org](http://www.NGOCSW.org) ; [www.womenfirstfund.oar](http://www.womenfirstfund.oar)**

**Shaila Rao Mistry** from the STEM-Institute asks for equity from Classroom to the Board Room. 41% of businesses are small businesses, therefrom 46% are led by women. It is important to extent intentionally the opportunities for women and girls in education and also entrepreneurial endeavours. **"We cannot wait to be asked to sit on the table, we have to start to build our own table"**. Key issues are digital and financial literacy, FemTech, Medical Health Care for Women, etc.... It starts with dismantling barriers. **98% of funding goes to male tech enterprises.** In **Nigeria there are already 11 banks with female CEOs.** In 2025 is an International Conference on Finance planned.

The Summit for the Future in September of this year and the Pact for the Future of the NGO CSW/New York is an opportunity to revitalize CSW. The statements of participants could be divided in those concerning the process of CSW including: **Better access for NGO in the meetings; CSW should concentrate more on the implementation of the agreed conclusions; Men and boys should be included in the work of CSW, they should be invited to speak; the meetings of CSW should rotate around the globe, / thus being more inclusive; CSW should call for more accountability of Member States and International Organizations in the field.**

For more information: [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org) / [www.ngocsw.org](http://www.ngocsw.org)



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