



IFUW Update -27 November 2012

IFUW Strategic Plan Smart Objective 4.3.1.



IFUW programmes and
activities

AIM 5: EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE

To create an effective and efficient organisation, with the Board, Committees, Staff and Members working together to create a strong global network and implement the IFUW strategy.

The defined SMART objective for this aim are:

1. To strengthen the governance function.
2. To develop and support the staff team.
3. To facilitate members' effective participation and representation.
4. To set up effective internal systems and processes.
5. To establish effective internal and external communications systems.

Looking at the 23 IFUW programmes and activities 7 of them can support the realisation aim 5:

- Conference plenary
- Representatives at UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
- Representatives at ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council)
- Representatives at ILO (the International Labour Office)
- IFUW online discussions
- IFUW blogs
- Twinning

To get an impression what each of these seven IFUW programmes and activities are all about see:

<http://www.ifuw.org/what/ifuw-strategic-planning/>

For example: **Representatives at UNESCO**

In Paris, work is confined to one organization, the [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#). IFUW is pleased to be one of the few women's NGOs with consultative status. Each representative has a specific area of responsibility: Adult Education, Literacy and Education for All; Higher Education in the 21st Century and Women, Science and Technology, Poverty and follow-up to the

Habitat II Conference on Human Settlements. Françoise Sauvage currently serves as the President of the NGO Conference to UNESCO, which is the body representing non-governmental organizations with formal relations with UNESCO.

The representatives at UNESCO are part of our **Circle of Influence**:



The influence of the International Federation of University Women depends on active participation of members at all levels. Members at the local level begin the process by identifying issues and problems confronting communities the world over. These issues are taken up by IFUW's national affiliates and presented at the international level in the form of resolutions. Resolutions adopted at IFUW's Triennial Conferences, along with issues identified in the triennial Action Programme, form IFUW policy and serve as the basis for IFUW advocacy work at the United Nations (UN) and other international inter-governmental organizations.

In the next phase, IFUW's teams of UN representatives work actively to ensure that these priority issues are taken into consideration in international debate. Because of IFUW's special consultative status, these representatives have an official presence at the meetings and conferences where new international conventions and agreements are drafted and adopted. There they are able to highlight members' concerns through oral and written statements, special presentations and intense discussions with individual government delegates.

In these efforts, IFUW works in close partnership with other international non-governmental organizations with similar aims, giving greater strength to our voice.

To complete **the circle of influence**, decisions taken by governments at UN meetings and conferences must be implemented at the national and local levels. Members and national affiliates have a key role in monitoring the follow-up actions of their respective national governments to see whether they ratify and apply the standards set out in these important international agreements.

IFUW and its national and local members can also advance these important international goals by taking action to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and our own IFUW Action Programme projects, programmes, and seminars at the local and regional levels.

Working together we can ensure an effective and complete circle of influence.

30th Anniversary of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, was established by the CEDAW to monitor the implementation of the Convention by States parties, held its first session in October 1982. This year the Committee is **celebrating 30 years** of dedicated work in assisting States parties in complying with their international treaty obligations under the Convention to protect and promote women's rights.

The 23 CEDAW Committee members met in Istanbul between 1-3 November 2012 to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of CEDAW and to discuss new General Recommendations on gender related dimensions of refugee status, asylum and statelessness, economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution, women's access to justice, rural women and the use of the CEDAW Optional Protocol and recent cases.

The CEDAW Committee is working on six different General Recommendations all of which refer to critical and "burning issues" in the area of women's human rights and gender equality.

They are:

- General Recommendation on Protection of Women's Human Rights in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations
- General Recommendation on Rural Women
- General Recommendation on Women's Access to Justice
- General Recommendation on Economic Consequences of Divorce
- General Recommendation on Refugees, Asylum and Statelessness
- CEDAW& CRC General Recommendation/ General Comment on Harmful Practices

[Click here](#) to read the Statement by Ms. Kang Kyung-Wha, Deputy High Commissioner and Assistant Secretary-General on the 30th Anniversary of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women,, Istanbul, 1 November 2012

[Click here](#) to read the Statement by Ms. Silvia Pimentel, Chair on the 30th Anniversary of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Istanbul, 1 November 2012

[Click here](#) to read the Statement by Ms. Feride Acar, Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women,

NFA News and Announcements

The 9th Triennial Conference of the UNIVERSITY WOMEN OF ASIA (UWA)

UWAS President Sandra Segeram and Dr Theresa W. Devasahayam represented UWAS at the 9th Triennial Conference of the University Women Of Asia (UWA) held at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand from 16 to 18 November 2012. The theme of the Conference was "The Roles of Women as Peace Makers". The conference was organised and hosted by the Thai Association of University Women

(TAUW), a member association of UWA.

Dr Devasahayam presented the paper entitled "Catholic Nuns against Gender-based Violence" detailing the role and efforts of a Catholic religious congregation in Timor-Leste in addressing gender-based violence.



Dr Theresa W. Devasahayam

Website Maintenance

The migration of the IFUW website has been completed and is now back online. We are receiving email again, however there are still some small adjustments to be made, therefore some e-mail correspondence may continue to be slower than usual. The online discussion has resumed and the current question for discussion has been extended until the end of November. We would like to thank our new Communications Officer, Maribel Mapanao for making these improvements possible through her hard work and dedication.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your understanding and patience during this time.

The IFUW Office Team

www.ifuw.org