# April 2016

March has been an interesting and busy month.

The launch of the Federation project, Meru Women's Garden Project, coincided with International Women's Day and several club celebrated both events in style.



Raising the awareness of problems facing women and girls was also a key factor in the Commission on the Status of Women ( CSW) in New York, the key theme being based on women's Empowerment and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and the review theme being Violence Against Women.

Having attended two previous CSW events I was still amazed at the scale of the negotiations, side events, people involved and issues facing women around the world, see PAM for more information on CSW

At one event I learned that widows and their dependants account for almost 1 billion of the world's population that is a staggering number and makes up approximately 1/7 of the current world population. In many countries these women have no rights to land, support or financial assistance and this is something that we should be concerned about.



From comments I have received the new SIGBI Programme Database meets with the approval of most of you, however I have discovered that a few are still entering information on to the old SI Programme database- please revisit the letters sent out in January and February regarding this and if you have any further questions please let me know.

For many clubs now is a time of change, new Presidents and perhaps a new Programme team. For those incoming I welcome you all and those staying in post thank you for all your hard work.

We have so much to interest us and inspire action to Educate, Enable and Empower women be the project small or large, at home or abroad. The United Nations acknowledges the work of civil society in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals so as we start another year of Programme let us ensure that our voice is heard and that we continue to be the leading women International organisation, one that others will be proud to join.

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