**Report of post-CSW meeting 4 May 2016**

This was a useful meeting of parliamentarians and NGOs to consider CSW60, the progress made and what still needs to be done. It was divided into two halves, the first half dealing with the detail of the negotiations, and the second the impressions of some of those who attended.

**Charles Ramsden**, Head of EU and International Policy, Government Equalities Office was the first to speak, and I think gave us the most valuable insight. He was involved with the negotiations throughout. He said he considered the highlights of the final agreement were:

1. Many references to girls as well as women were included;
2. There were strong mentions of Human Rights;
3. Economic empowerment got a good mention;
4. There were good references to the role of men and boys;
5. Good language on social norms and societal attitudes (although no agreement as to what social norms are);
6. Violence against Women and Girls had a good reference, including a list of what violence includes;
7. Civil Society was mentioned, including a list of types of organisations;
8. Good mentions of women and girls with disabilities.

Another good point was that the EU team worked well together and stayed united for the agreed conclusions.

However there were some difficulties, some countries, particularly the African group, Russia and the Holy See raised objections to some of the wording. The specific omissions he mentioned were:

1. There is nothing on sexual orientation and gender identity.
2. There was no real progress on sexual and reproductive health and rights.
3. There were major difficulties agreeing the paragraph including the definition of family, although compromise was reached eventually.

Overall he concluded that there was no real progress in difficult areas, but some good progress in other important areas. He also acknowledged the importance of civil society on the process, particularly as investigators and in providing information, and he would like this collaboration to continue.

**Magdalene Lagu**, who is an adviser on Gender Policy and Evidence at DFiD, then gave us a similar update on the negotiations on the resolution with regard to HIV and AIDS in women and girls, which was being negotiated at the same time. The successes she listed as:

1. Girls being included as well as women;
2. Sexual education was included;
3. The key populations at risk were listed.

Although there were compromises in some areas this agreed resolution will help in future agreements.

**Zarin Hainsworth** from the UKNGOCSW Alliance then spoke about the importance of the role of NGOs, who are there to call their own governments to account and note the sticking points. She thought the main failure of CSW was in failing to raise awareness, and the audience agreed with her – more publicity is needed.

In the second half five speakers gave their individual experiences of CSW, including 2 MPs and 2 young women (one from WAGGS, one from Young Women’s Alliance). Although all took something different from the event, all agreed it was a great experience for learning, and for networking with like-minded people and organisations.

**Glenys Hunt**

**Vice-chairman**

**UKPAC**