

UN-Commission on the Status of Women 63, March 11-22, 2019 at UN New York

The priority theme of the 63rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women March 11 – 22 2019 is very comprising: “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”.

This year over 9000 persons from civil society registered for the NGO-CSW, about 5200 were admitted. Many individuals were refused visa, so that for the first time a petition among the NGO-CSW was started, collecting signatures, asking for an equal treatment for all persons who register to join the NGO-CSW. The signatures were brought during the session to Washington D.C., the White House.

Social protection is, according to UN-Women, a set of minimum guarantees, including basic income security for children, working-age adults, older people and people with disabilities, as well as essential health care for all. Social protection means not only adequate paid maternity leave, sexual and reproductive health care or high quality education, but also the right of work. Social protection is also a new concept and expression. The facilitator of this years’ session, representing the African states at the CSW-Bureau, diplomat Ms Koki Muli Grignon (Kenya) affirmed that “social protection” also takes into consideration sustainability and infrastructure from a gender perspective. Social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure are concerns and tasks of the UN-member states.

The advancing of the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030) and the pressure for implementation find opponents and reluctance not only from various member states but also from NGO’s and civil society. This years’ session experienced for the first time a shitstorm addressed against the facilitator Koki Muli two days before the end of the session, before the agreed conclusions were finalized, in order to influence the outcome resp. to weaken the position of the facilitator. Koki Muli received about 1000 harassing emails and electronic messages in a short time which came apparently from right wing and conservative NGO’s and were directed against her person and function as facilitator. Among them is apparently an institute which maintains and defends values of white male supremacy, another organization, forwarding and supporting Christian-fundamentalist values, organized a bus with propaganda against the already achieved and agreed conclusions in using a simplified language and therefore spreading incorrect information about the work of the UN, CSW.... especially concerning sexual health and reproductive rights.

Althemore in 2020 some jubilees will come up and be celebrated:

25 years ago, in 1995, the 4th un-world conference took place in Beijing

20 years ago, in 2000, the resolution 1325 of the un-security council was accepted

10 years ago, in 2010, un-women was created.

It is the right time to remind all what is yet decided and rests unfulfilled like e.g. resolution 1325: to admit women to peace talks and negotiations in conflict situation, at all levels.

Un women is planning together with the civil society a global forum in June 2020 which might take place in France and Mexico, who invited.

It was obvious that the tendency towards backlash and right-wing, towards conservative and fundamentalistic or nationalistic politics and religious arguments is increasing. It seems that the collaboration with forward oriented governments, religions and faith-based organisations will also become closer. The work of diplomacy, of communication and lobbying within a polarizing world is of great value and importance. Reconciliation, justice and leaving no one behind are the values to maintain and put forward.

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