

Advisory Working Group Meeting
4 February 2020 | 5PM EST
Zoom Call

Minutes

I. Updates from the Core Group - Shannon Kowalski

- A. Going to send a set of questions that Core Group needs feedback on from AWG
- B. Latest information on Action Coalitions
 - 1. UN Women released [call for leaders of Action Coalitions](#) on Friday of last week
 - a) Quite a challenge to get to agreement between the different members of the Core Group
 - b) What we put out there for leadership criteria really allows us to push for model of working collectively that's different from what we've done in the past
 - 2. Leadership structure:
 - a) At first, they wanted the 2-2-2 model, but we pushed back on that and were able to change it
 - b) Variety of sectors
 - c) At Least 2 govts
 - d) At Least 2 CS
 - e) In addition, we're pushing very strongly for:
 - (1) Youth-led organizations, networks and movements
 - (a) At least 2, hopefully more
 - (2) Representatives of front-line advocates and human rights defenders
 - (3) Those affected the most by the issues addressed in the Action Coalitions themes
 - 3. Private Sector leadership participation in Action Coalitions
 - a) Making sure there's space for philanthropies
 - b) Weren't able to get everything we were pushing for in the front-line criteria for leaders
 - c) However, were able to get some requirements in addition to the Women's Empowerment Principles (which we feel are not sufficient)
 - (1) Need to endorse and abide by Working Principles on Business and Human Rights
 - (a) One key principle includes respect for ILO fundamental standards
 - d) Were also pushing for a due diligence process
 - (1) For various reasons, weren't able to agree on anything stronger than the UN due diligence principles

- (a) Are very aware of the insufficiencies with that
 - (i) Ex - Once companies have been signed on by the UN, there doesn't seem to be a process to remove them
 - (2) When we're doing the screening of potential private sector leaders we'll really be paying close attention to this
- 4. Applying for Leadership of Action Coalitions:
 - a) Submit a one-page Letter of Intent to actioncoalitions@unwomen.org
 - (1) Should include three things:
 - (a) Your organization's expertise
 - (i) How your organization works on the theme in question
 - (ii) If you have a track record, include that; but you don't *need* a track record - we want to include emerging leaders that may not have that kind of track record
 - (b) One concrete commitment your org can make to advance women's/girls'/gender diverse people's rights in that area
 - (i) Doesn't have to be a funding commitment
 - (ii) Could be: work on a campaign/strategy to change a law/policy; pushing to implement a law/policy; working to support women's movement building; etc.
 - (c) What your organization will do to engage others in the Action Coalition and its work
 - b) Deadline: 21 February
 - c) Critical that we have some feminist organizations in the leadership of the ACs to make sure that they really lead to change
 - d) No organization is too big or too small to apply
 - e) The application is organizational, not individual
 - f) Role of the Action Coalition Leaders: will shape the blueprints for the Action Coalitions (along with others)
 - (1) Will be documents that outline transformative goals for ACs and what it is we're trying to do
 - (2) Set of key actions that actors can take
 - (3) Means of tracking progress
 - (4) Accountability method
 - g) Position = 5 years
 - (1) Don't have to think about long-term commitments, but want to set up a rotational

5. Deadline to apply isn't confirmed, but will know before the CSW
 - a) Probably going to launch ACs in July, so the application will most likely be open-ended with no real cut-off date
 6. If you have recommendations of philanthropy groups, businesses, orgs, etc. - encourage them to apply
 - a) We're having a harder time figuring out who we *do* want to be involved than who we *don't*
 7. Going to be sending a short letter from CSAG that outlines the Action Coalition leadership and what we can do with them
- C. Timeline of MX and France and applications from CS?
1. Have been taking into account AWG's CS participation recommendations
 - a) Deadline for input = end of this week
 2. Coming soon
 3. Recognize people need time to prepare
 4. Right now, no timeline, but at the end of this week will have more info
 - a) mid-February
- D. CSW will be a space where we will engage in GEF and ACs
1. Consultation Day on Sunday, 8 March
 - a) The journey, where we're at, what's coming during the 2 weeks of CSW
 2. Conversation Circles Space - first 3 days of CSW
 - a) ngocsw.org/ngo-csw-forum
 - b) 6 sessions for each Thematic Group
 - (1) Going to be combined with Action Coalitions
- E. Docs coming out of CSW and GEF?
1. CSW - Political declaration published on first day of CSW
 - a) Being negotiated in February - start advocating with your country now
 - b) Email us at info@ngocsw.org; beijing25@ngocsw.org so we can help include your voice
 2. GEF - no outcome document; agreement on the six ACs
 - a) Doesn't mean we're stuck with these 6 AC topics
 - b) Try to pick something we can see real difference with in the next 5 years

II. Updates from Feminist & Women's Movement Action Plan - Soon-Young Yoon

- A. fwMAP is part of this group (AWG) and is separate from NGO CSW/NY
 1. Will exclude people from conversations, which NGO CSW/NY doesn't do
- B. CSW will be the most important space for us because of the limited numbers at MX and Paris
- C. Emphasizing two things:
 1. Breaking silos - importance of horizontal alliances
 2. Bottom-up action - whether it's coalitions or other things that evolve in this process

- a) Grounded in Human Rights
- D. Action Coalitions
- E. A space where we can try new things
 - 1. Imagining that what we're doing goes beyond the 5 years that is mapped by ACs
- F. AWG could be more active
 - 1. Send fwmap2020@gmail.com your suggestions
 - 2. Imagine what we could do in between CSW & Mexico and Mexico & Paris to keep the momentum
 - a) Trying to open GEF up more to engage more and more people
- G. How can rural community and grassroots women get more on board
 - 1. Bottom-up approach opens up approach to local municipalities and villages

III. Regional Updates

- A. Lana Finikin in the Caribbean
 - 1. Faced undemocratic actors in Santiago
 - 2. Leadership (Lana and Mabel) couldn't control the process and the doc was taken over by radical feminists
 - 3. Need to start looking at how collectively we can address the divide and that we work together moving forward
- B. Create a Task Force for figuring out what to do with opposition - how to respond to their tactics
 - 1. Lana, Sandy, Zarin, Marie-Anne and their respective factions
 - 2. Women's Rights Caucus has a working group on pushing back against opposition groups at CSW
 - 3. How to push back and stop the bullying
 - 4. Let us know if you need to get in touch with each other

NEXT MEETING: 18 February @ 1PM EST