



Committee on the Status of Women, NY

A Committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO)

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Dear friends and colleagues,

Thank you for your very thought provoking letter handed to us during the morning briefing last CSW 58. I apologize for this late response, but we have had numerous urgent activities related to Beijing + 20. We have reviewed your concerns and noted the sequence of events that caused concern such as confusion about a draft amendment and lack of clarity about consensus.

We noted the positive suggestions you made to improve the process and hope to take the suggestions forward such as a more extensive description of the caucus process, training, and diversity among facilitators. Indeed, we would welcome any training materials you have that might be useful.

As you know, among all of the caucuses, the N. America/Europe caucus has grown fastest under varied tutorship. We believe that we can benefit from criticism and constructive dialogues. Indeed, without these, we lose not only political leverage as a group, we will diminish a diversity of views.

As you know, the NGO CSW Forum designates caucus facilitators who act in their own capacities. We are committed to a democratic process that requires each caucus group to work collectively in the process. We hope that you will continue to engage in the caucuses and feel free to put forward your suggestions directly to the group. We take your remarks very seriously and will continue to consult on ways to improve engagement by all.

Looking forward to the Geneva NGO Forum in November, we will once again work collaboratively with our European sisters. I hope to see you there, or possibly in Malmo at the Nordic Women's Forum next week.

Best,

Chair: Soon-Young Yoon, *International Alliance of Women*

Vice Chair: Susan O'Malley, *International Federation of Business and Professional Women* · **Treasurer:** Mary Ann Tarantula, *Zonta International* · **Recording Secretary:** Angeline Martyn, *Save the Children* ·

Communications Secretary: Dr. Padmini Murthy, *Medical Women's International Association* ·

Members-at-Large: Houry Geudelekian, *Armenian Relief Society* · Bette Levy, *Soroptimist International*

Past chair, ex-officio: Dr. Vivian Pender, *International Psychoanalytical Association*