

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

STANDING COMMITTEES' PLANS OF ACTION 2022- - 2025

ACRONYMS:

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
e.g.	for example
ICW-CIF	International Council of Women – Conseil International des Femmes
i.e.	that is
NC	National Council
NC(s)W	National Council(s) of Women
NCDs	Non-Diseases
SC	Security Council
SCR	Security Council Resolution
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
STEAM	Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics
UN	United Nations

ICW-CIF STANDING COMMITTEES' PLANS OF ACTION 2022-2025

Triennial Theme; “Women’s Empowerment: Peace and Sustainable Development”

STATUS OF WOMEN

Working on this Plan of Action National Councils are urged to be mindful of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), particularly 5, 13 and 16, the Beijing Platform for Action and applicable UN Conventions and look to running workshops on topics/issues of importance to you.

i) HUMAN RIGHTS

National Councils to:

- Monitor and report on the situation of violence against women and girls in their respective countries.
- Formulate and implement programmes to urge governments and international organizations to take stronger measures against violence, including stronger criminal penalties, anger management programmes and the protection of victims.
- Monitor and report on the discrimination of women and girls' equal access to all levels of education including rural and remote areas.
- Promote change in attitude, tolerance and respect for universally shared values – human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Involve the media in the implementation of the Plan of Action so that communications work in favour of the peaceful resolution of conflicts – giving women a clearer voice and clearer message.

ii) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PEACE

National Councils to:

- Promote peaceful co-existence and international understanding by peace education through school programs and establishing appropriate mechanisms and frameworks for effective peace building.
- Create dialogue among women from conflict zones by developing professional exchanges and organizing educational and cultural events and developing joint projects.
- Initiate training activities/workshops/seminars for women's involvement in decision-making at all levels.
- Monitor the implementation of SCR 1325, SCR 2122 and related SC Resolutions.
- Promote tolerance and respect for universally shared values – human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Involve the media in the implementation of the Plan of Action so that communications work in favour of peaceful resolution of conflicts – giving women a clearer voice and clearer message.

iii) LEGISLATION

National Councils to:

- To formulate and implement programmes to realise the legislation on political and economic equality and the empowerment of women.
- Formulate and implement programmes to legislate for stronger measures against violence including female genital mutilation, early marriage, and trafficking of women and girls.

iv) IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVENTIONS

National Councils to:

- Monitor and report on the implementation of gender equality under CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention.
- To develop programmes to implement the international conventions.
- Formulate and implement programs to improve the economic empowerment of women including job creation and entrepreneurship.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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i) ECONOMICS

National Councils to:

- Encourage governments to introduce policies and budget for programs and protection of women.
- Encourage economic freedom of women through programmes in their countries e.g., selling of goods.
- Distribute information and hold courses on micro-management loans.
- Encourage peaceful and sustainable use of resources.
- Promote gender balanced investments.

ii) WOMEN AND EMPLOYMENT

National Councils to:

- Promote women's access to all forms of decent employment.
- Promote policies to reduce gender pay gap and increase access to pensions.
- Prevent exploitation of part time and casual workers.
- Promote policies for family friendly flexible work and work life balance.
- Advocate for job security for those returning from maternity leave.
- Ensure that women return at the same level of employment and promotional opportunities.
- Advocate for the retraining of women returning to the workforce.

iii) CONSUMER AFFAIRS

National Councils to advocate:

- For protection of purchasing goods and for payment systems via the internet.
- For the distribution of information to women of their rights as purchasers of goods and services.
- To encourage manufacturers, packing houses, marketers and retailers of consumer goods to provide accurate simple information about products and to give adequate recourse for defective goods.
- To encourage networking between women on issues relating to consumer affairs.
- To ensure disadvantaged women have access to financial assistance and support.

iv) RURAL AND URBAN WOMEN

National Councils to:

- Promote equal representation of women in the community, at all levels of government and agencies.
- Promote equality and peace in all spheres of life.
- Advocate for ready access to markets to sell produce.
- Advocate for readily and accessible services e.g., transport, health, education and legal.

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GENERAL WELL-BEING

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i) HEALTH

In working to empower women and enhance their general status by improving both their mental and physical health and therefore well-being across the lifespan; being mindful to the health of every woman is crucial to the peaceful development of their nation.

Ensure culturally appropriate, accessible, affordable and quality health care for all women and their families and that the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals are adhered to.

Suggested areas of work by National Councils are to:

- Improve maternal and infant health.
- Improve the physical and mental health of women and girls.
- Improve access to adequate and equitable sanitation, clean water and hygiene with special attention to the needs of women and girls.
- Ensure the accessibility to appropriate health care pertaining to sexual and reproductive health in all stages of life.
- Improve access to preventative health, i.e., education and screening programmes over the entire lifespan.
- Work to eliminate harmful practices affecting the health of women and girls such as Female Genital Mutilation.

ii) ENVIRONMENT:

To empower women to embrace the importance of environmental issues in relation to SDGs and to collaborate with and give support to those organisations and governments at local, regional and national levels working toward healthy ecosystems.

Suggested areas of work by the National Councils are to:

- Promote the acceptance of the rights of women and girls and of their obligations to be equally represented in all decision-making processes in relation to the environment and challenges of climate change.
- Promote effective mechanisms to mitigate and adapt to climate change related issues, particularly focusing on the safety of women and girls in extreme weather events.
- To promote and educate the community, particularly women and girls, to be prepared in the event of a natural disaster e.g., storms/cyclones, floods, droughts heatwaves, and earthquakes.
- Promote environmental conservation and sustainability.

iii) HABITAT:

- To empower women toward capacity building on awareness of housing rights and give them control over land and property.
- To encourage and ensure the participation of women in decision making policies including environmentally friendly housing.
- To provide access to clean, safe drinking water and good water management.
- To make cities and human settlements affordable, inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Suggested areas of work by the National Councils are to:

- Reduce poverty and homelessness for women and girls and their families and provide access to adequate safe housing and basic services.
- Promote good town planning including clean water, sanitation and waste management.
- Promote proactive policies in favour of strengthening effective women's rights to land and shelter.
- Urge governments to give women and girls full and equal rights to own land and other property including inheritance rights.
- Work with respective governments at all levels to ensure good governance in all habitat matters and that the principles of Sustainable Development Goals nos. 9 and 11 are adhered to.

iv) NUTRITION

- To promote the importance of food security.
- To educate and promote the prevention of food wastage.
- To network with other NCWs and to share their successful experiences.
- To promote a healthy lifestyle and prevent non communicable diseases (NCDs) through better access to nutritious food and regular physical activity.
- To provide comprehensive evidence-based information and education about nutrition through the communication channels available.
- To create sound policy frameworks, at regional and national levels, to address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older women based on the principles of Sustainable Development Goal no. 2.

Suggested areas of work National Councils are to:

- Emphasize importance of an adequate nutritious diet for women and children.
- Address the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women.
- Promote breastfeeding.
- Promote healthy lifestyle throughout all stages of life
- Attain healthy lives for all by strengthening work on the prevention of alcohol, tobacco and substance abuse.
- Promote food security; ensure access to nutritionally adequate safe culturally appropriate and affordable food.
- Ensure availability and sustainable use of water and sanitation for all: achieve safe and affordable drinking water.
- Promote the understanding of food labelling to include the value of nutrition content.

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COMMUNICATION

Working on this Plan of Action National Councils are urged to be mindful of the SDG's, particularly 5, 13 and 16, the Beijing Platform for Action and applicable UN Conventions and look to running workshops on topics/issues of importance to you.

i) ARTS AND LETTERS – is a way to communicate peacefully to inspire, empower and protect women and girls to achieve the best possible outcome for themselves and their families, in a world of sustainability.

National Councils are urged to communicate with their members and others by:

- Encouraging action and interaction by public speaking, art exhibitions, poetry and essay competitions for all ages.
- Using print and electronic media to promote social protection and peace in all fields, including education, affirmative action, women's entrepreneurship and good health practices. They can, e.g., promote hand washing and also lifestyle choices without having a common language.
- Performing arts to lift the spirits of all - particularly the isolated, the sick, the elderly and very young.
- Use of Arts and Letters as therapy in all that you do.

ii) EDUCATION

National Councils to advocate for:

- The importance of education from early childhood.
- The importance of support and appropriate education to cater for all forms of disabilities/needs.
- Equal access to all forms of training such as career advice, vocational training, and higher education e.g., Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).
- The importance of good teaching and the updating of skills.
- Education of young women in everyday life skills.
- Education of gender equality to promote human rights and therefore peace.

iii) MASS MEDIA

National Councils to advocate for:

- Appropriate use of Mass Media to promote gender equality and in the prevention of violence, pornography and human trafficking and protection for women and girls.
- Responsible reporting of violence against all women and girls.
- Promoting good well-being including health issues, recreation and body image.
- The sustained development of good relations with local, national and international media.
- Balanced reporting of men and women e.g., Sports role models.

iv MUSIC

National Councils to:

- Promote equal access for women musicians to apply for positions in the field of music including education.
- Raise awareness of empowerment through self-confidence.
- Recognize music as a form of communication e.g., to promote health, wellbeing and peace.
- Promote women composers and performers.
- Insist on equal pay when negotiating salaries and contracts.
- Promote traditional folk music.

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SOCIAL ISSUES

Working on this Plan of Action, for this Triennium, National Councils are urged to be mindful of the SDG's, particularly 5, 13 and 16, the Beijing Platform for Action and applicable UN Conventions and look to running workshops on topics/issues of importance to you.

i) CHILD AND FAMILY

National Councils to:

- Improve the well-being of children and their families including health, housing and education.
- Protect the girl from all forms of discrimination and violence including child marriage and treatment of young widows.
- Protect children from all forms of abuse, including that via the internet, to ensure a safe and secure environment.
- Foster positive parenting.

ii) YOUTH

National Councils to:

- Recognise young people, including those with disabilities, as an asset to their societies.
- Encourage the development of education and training systems.
- Advocate for the needs of Indigenous youth including their cultural heritage.
- Empower youth to become future leaders.
- Advocate for a proportion of all relevant departmental budgets to youth development.
- Promotion of a healthy lifestyle free from all forms of abuse.
- Recognise the mental and physical health needs, including reproductive and sexual health.
- Implement programmes for economic empowerment.
- Engage youth to support and promote the women's cause.

iii) AGEING

Being aware that the percentage of the elderly population is increasing, National Councils should:

- Develop and apply at international, regional and national levels policies designed to enhance the lives of the aged.
- Promote national and international understanding of the humanitarian and developmental issues related to ageing and the importance of peace.
- Advocate for appropriate and affordable housing.
- Advocate for appropriate and affordable health care.
- Advocate for the expenditure on ageing to be considered as a lasting investment.
- Promote positive ageing and an age-friendly community.
- Protect the older population from discrimination.

iv) MIGRATION

National Councils to:

- Work towards supporting and caring for refugees including asylum seeking women and children.
- Encourage, monitor, and advocate for good policies in their adopted countries (including registration).
- Be mindful of the International Conventions to improve the protection of people against smuggling and trafficking.
- Prevent exploitation of migrant women and girl workers.
- Prevent negative attitudes e.g., hate speech, with regard to refugees.
- Work for peace.