



BPW International

2021-2024 Theme "New Actions through Cooperation"

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women is an influential international network of business and professional women with members from over 90 countries in 5 continents with Consultative Status at ECOSOC/United Nations. Founded in 1930, BPW International develops the professional, leadership and business potential of women on all levels through our mentoring, networking, skill building and economic empowerment programs and projects around the world.

2022 Report on Activities to BPW International UN-Committee- Int. President and V.President
by CRISTINA GORAJSKI VISCONTI – BPW MAIN REPRESENTATIVE to FAO – Rome –

Part 1- Communication Information

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[FACEBOOK : BPW SC Agriculture 2021-2024 and also](#)

Part 2 - General reflections

With regular attendance to meetings in Rome, BPW has accumulated knowledge through the discussions with other NGOs and Civil Society organisations that can help reflecting on the issue 'Role of Women in achieving the objectives contained in the 2030 Agenda' (the well-known SDGs)

We assure attendance at FAO Conference, Civil society Forums (through the CSIPM), Sessions of the CFS (Committee for Food Security). Most of these among the most important opportunities for the UN-system to work with Member States and other institutions (together with Movements, Academia, Private sector) are now held in hybrid mode or totally online, since 2021.

We were not able to participate in person to recent meetings organized in Rome, but all the INGOs Representatives as members of the Ad Hoc Group are financing and feeding the website created in 2018 www.ahgingos.org with links to the major international agencies of the UN system.

I witnessed in the last five years how clear is the importance of Agriculture as an irreplaceable human activity; but also that has long been said that 'there will be no food security without Rural Women'.

Because of the very interesting inputs and outcomes from the meetings and resolutions is important to tackle the situations in various countries where the International Federation is present, and solicit the local commitment to deal with the SDGoals issues and Agenda 2030.

Globally, governments are taking actions to save lives, stem the spread of the pandemic, protect jobs, counter economic disaster and ensure peoples' basic needs are met..

At FAO (UN system agency related to Food and Agriculture since 1946) all the efforts are in progress to achieve Changes and transform the food systems. For producing healthy food we need healthy soils, healthy seeds, better trade. Global challenges need solutions at national level where traditional knowledge is to be included.

Part 3 - Our Activities

As BPW representative we are invited to participate in zoom meetings of the various constituencies organized by the Mechanism involving civil society organizations working for advocacy. (CSIPM)

In April 2022 the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has launched an online consultation on its new report "Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition". Requesting cooperation for a report, which will be presented at the 51st plenary session of the CFS in October 2023. We are invited to be part of the CFS working group on food.

There is also The FAO Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum): an open platform for multistakeholder dialogue using different but complementary approaches to access and share knowledge, experiences and ideas, adapting them (as needed) to the specific themes, needs and geographical context of the internal and external partners. Activities are held in one or more UN languages.

Many important papers are posted on our www.ahgingos.org website.

In terms of commitment, if previously we had one meeting a month in the FAO headquarters in Rome, currently we work every two weeks for a couple of hours remotely with FAO, CFS, CSIPM, the AdHocGroup and other meetings on Agenda 2030!

Part 4 - CONCLUSIONS

Generally considered, the efforts meeting SDGs of defeating hunger and poverty have been thrown off back by Covid, which has devastated lives and livelihoods.

The state of global food security and nutrition is worrying. An estimated 702 to 828 million people globally were affected by hunger in 2021 – about 150 million more since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, an estimated 149 million children under age five were stunted, 45 million were wasted and 39 million were overweight, while nearly 571 million women experienced anemia in 2019. With only eight years left to 2030, SDG 2 targets are unlikely to be achieved in many parts of the world unless we drastically change course.

My conclusion is a quote from the FAO- DG speech at the World Food Day 2022 in October ""So what can we do collectively to bring all this about at various levels? The bottom line is that all of us can act effectively and efficiently, in a coherent manner and with greater compassion, by speaking up and influencing decision-makers to ensure NO ONE is left behind. We can also waste less food, eat nutritious, seasonal food and care for our natural resources like soils and water.""

BPW in a good position

I consider that due to the growing commitment of the BPW Federations, our engagement at UN Women and, the contribution through the BPW-Standing Committee Agriculture, we also can be involved in the necessary transformation of Agrifood systems, Leaving no one behind.

Crop and livestock farmers, fishers, pastoralists, producers and also small retailers -especially women- are turning to innovative ideas and digital technologies. Improvements in production and less waste keep more money in their pockets also helping to reverse environmental degradation. We can help bolster capacities to make achieving gender equality central to programs and policies, and advocate for greater resources. Rome-Ancona, January 2023

I here declare my interest and intention to continue working for BPW International as UN Representative in Rome, in FAO and, if necessary also in the Rome Based Agencies: IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and WFP (World Food Programme). Also through the Standing Committee Agriculture, until 2024 I can offer assistance/advice to the Federation at international level to improve communications on the topics related to Zero Hunger Challenge and SDGoals among our consistent Membership.

Cristina Gorajski Visconti