a global voice for women

Soroptimist International

SI PRESIDENT
Maureen Maguire

SI PRESIDENT ELECT
Siew Yong Gnanalingam

SI TREASURER
Kathy King

SI DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY
Leigh Ellwood Brown

GLOBAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Deborah Thomas

The Agreed Conclusions for CSW67 on the priority theme "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls" were confirmed by Member States on 17 March 2023. They will be submitted to ECOSOC in September for final agreement.

The Advance Unedited Version was issued by the Bureau/Secretariat on 30th March 2023 and can be found on the UN Women website.

The document is 26 pages long, with over 100 individual paragraphs outlining the outcome of the discussions.

This paper highlights three areas of particular concern to Soroptimists: Education & Training, STEM/STEAM, and Gender Based Violence offering suggested action for Soroptimists in each of these areas. Further information can be obtained in SI's Position Papers.

Topic	Relevant Para Advanced Unedited March version	Summary for suggested Soroptimist Action + Resources
Education and Training	At CSW67 Important recognition given by Member States to the changes needed in education systems globally to challenge the gender divide gaps of knowledge and skills among women and girls as well as access to relevant technology. See Agreed Conclusions for detail. ***Para 86 Fostering gender-responsive digital and science and technology education in the digital age*** (hh) (ii) (jj) (kk) (ll) (mm)	**Action:** - Continue to raise awareness nationally and locally of the importance of the role of lifelong education and training for women and girls including technology. - Advocate for funding for gender-responsive, quality, equitable and inclusive education, lifelong learning, reskilling, vocational training and studies, and ensure that women and girls diversify their educational and occupational choices. - Advocate for improved access to electronic devices and connections for women and girls. - Support grassroots education & training progammes especially for digital literacy and numeracy and STEAM opportunities. - Promote the training and employment of appropriately qualified teachers for digital technology at all levels, including continuing education. **SI Resources:** https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/WWSS-Education-and-Training.pdf https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Approved_SI-BM-15-May-2020_WWSS-Lifelong-Learning-Continued-Education.pdf https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/WWS_Women_and_Technology_Feb-2023.pdf https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Soroptimist-International_Advocacy-Resource-Pack_CSW67_2023_.pdf https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Soroptimist_International_Written_Statement.pdf
STEAM	STEM or sometimes STEAM was recognised by CSW67 as playing an important role along with education &	**Action** Advocate for improved digital access through free or low cost internet facilities

SI (SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL) LIMITED

REGISTERED OFFICE: 8a ROMSEY TERRACE, CAMBRIDGE CB1 3NH UK COMPANY NUMBER 08670477

E-mail: hq@soroptimistinternational.org Website: www.soroptimistinternational.org

In General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, United Nations (ECOSOC); Operational Relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); Special List of the International Labour Organisation (ILO),

Official Relations with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO); Consultative Status with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO); Consultative Status with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

.

	training in making progress in the digital field for women and girls. Digital literacy was acknowledged but not digital numeracy which is an important omission. See Agreed Conclusions for detail. ***Para 86 Promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership as well as full employment of women in technology and innovation*** (qq)	• Encourage national Governments to provide through life, women and girls with equal access and support to quality learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects which are traditionally taken up by boys and men. • Advocate for promotion of role models, mentors, family support, and teacher encouragement for STEM/STEAM subjects and careers • Advocate for Member States to raise awareness of ensuring clear equitable job descriptions which do not influence women applicants negatively by using terms like 'manpower, fearless and ambitious' which are known to discourage women. • Advocate for Member States to raise awareness regarding the barriers in employment such as an isolating, unwelcoming workplace environments. • Advocate for women to be offered job satisfaction, retention and opportunities for upward mobility or, If employed in a gig economy, not subject a woman to have to accept shorter contracted hours and lower per-hour payment than men. • Advocate for women's leadership in digital and technological research planning, design and development. **SI Resources** https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/WWS_Women_and_Technology_Feb-2023.pdf https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Soroptimist-International_Advocacy-Resource-Pack_CSW67_2023_.pdf https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Soroptimist_International_Written_Statement.pdf
Gender based violence	CSW667 discussions struggled over definitions of on-line GBV and technology-facilitated GBV. There was a big push from UN Women and experts to understand this as a continuum and interrelation between offline	**Action** • Continue to campaign for elimination of violence against women and girls, especially in digital and virtual spaces. • Advocate for national legislation which protects women and girls online, ensuring all digital platforms have effective monitoring and reporting of offences.

and online violence, harassment and discrimination against women and girls. <u>However, the final agreement on recognising the importance of this, still needed to clarify definitions and to protect women and girls.</u> See Agreed Conclusions for detail. ***Para 86 Preventing and eliminating all forms of violence, including gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technologies*** (kkk (lll) (mmm) (nnn) (ooo) (ppp) (qqq) (rrr)	• Lobby mega media corporates to increase surveillance and protection on line for women and girls with accessible reporting mechanisms. **SI Resources** https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SI-Approved_Where-We-Stand-Position-Paper_Cyberbullying_Feb-2023.pdf https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/SI-WWS-Gender-Based-Violence.pdf https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Soroptimist-International_Advocacy-Resource-Pack_CSW67_2023_.pdf https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Soroptimist_International_Written_Statement.pdf