Thank you to everyone who attended our December monthly meeting both in-person and online! As part of the Beijing+25 thematic clusters, the December meeting focused on environmental conservation, rehabilitation and protection. Through speakers from the United Nations, the private sector and civil society, the meeting analyzed how climate crisis and other environmental destruction directly and disproportionately impact women, as well as actions that can be taken toward solutions. The meeting was moderated by Azadeh Khalili, the NGO CSW/NY Communications Secretary and UN representative for the International Alliance of Women; and Pamela Morgan, an NGO CSW/NY Member-at-Large and a UN representative for Zonta International. The featured speakers were: H.E. Pennelope Beckles, the Permanent Representative to Trinidad & Tobago to the UN; Allison Kelly, Sustainable Development and UN Representative for ACT Alliance; Amy Hall, Vice President of Social Consciousness at Eileen Fisher; and Molly Gerke, Executive Assistant and Assistant UN Representative at UNANIMA International.

H.E. Pennelope Beckles whose country of Trinidad and Tobago is no stranger to climate change and its effects, emphasized that scarcity, displacement and economic issues are interrelated and consequences of climate change, as well as how this interrelation is also a women’s issue. It affects their livelihood and also threatens their families as a result. In the same way gender impacts politics and economics, it is also significant to climate change policies. She closed her remarks by urging the importance of a gender action plan that incorporates a gender based approach to climate policies and conversations. This plan would include outread and knowledge-sharing between grassroot organizations, women’s and indigenous groups; promoting women’s leadership and capacity building; and monitoring progress on gender related matters.

Allison Kelly from ACT Alliance started by bringing attention to the structural injustice against women affected by climate change. She stressed that it is imperative to work toward solutions,
but it is equally imperative to do so with a clear justice lens to assure that those who have contributed the least to climate change are not the most impacted. The consequences of climate change are most felt by those who do the least to cause it. Like H.E. Beckles, Allison also discussed a revised gender action plan because gender is severely underplayed in climate processes currently. The starting point for gender inclusion is slow, less than half of the main themes address gender, and decisions that do mention gender are skewed. She invited everyone to challenge themselves to incorporate climate advocacy and support for climate advocacy into our own work because no area of work isn’t affected by climate change in some way.

**Molly Gerke** from UNANIMA International shifted the conversation to individual experiences and on-the-ground personal accounts. She shared heartbreaking stories about personal experiences of being impacted by climate change around the globe, many having to do with homelessness. By doing so, she demonstrated the urgency of climate action for many women’s individual lives. Molly also shared some common themes she had observed while working on these issues and interviewing people: lack of security; violence against women; lack of shelter and food; and homelessness. Similarly to Allison Kelly’s point that climate change affects everyone’s area of work, Molly emphasized that all of these themes must be addressed in the conversation about climate change.

**Amy Hall**, the Vice President of Social Consciousness at the company, Eileen Fisher, brought the private sector perspective into the conversation. She started her presentation by highlighting two of Eileen Fisher’s four “Simple Truths;” 1) Sustainability is woven in; and 2) Women are at the heart of what we do. The company focuses on finding the intersection between what they care about at Eileen Fisher and what the world’s greatest and most unmet needs are. After interviewing experts and studying written resources, the company developed their three-tiered framework:

- The World’s Need: planetary balance and health through inclusive, equitable and sustainable systems for all people
- Our Strategy: Advancing women and girls as leaders in the wellbeing of our planet
- Our Leverage Points: Engagement of women in the sustainable economy; increasing women’s participation in decision-making; training women in climate change adaptation, mitigation and advocacy
Amy also discussed seven grants which Eileen Fisher gave recently to organizations that focus on women and the environment/climate change. She ended her presentation by discussing Eileen Fisher’s next steps including working with regenerative agriculture, involvement in policy and building their principles into their business practice.

**NGO CSW/NY Updates**

- **Parallel events**: Notifications were sent out on 12 December. Most of the 550 applications were scheduled, with some having to be put on a waitlist. The deadline to accept or decline your assignment is 10 January. No refunds are given to declined/cancelled events.

- **Code of Conduct**: Outlines NGO CSW’s expectations of participants and process on how to deal with harassment, discrimination or intimidation. Tagline is “Respect for all” to create a safe space for participants.

- **Artisan Fair**: Applications are open. Deadline is 31 January. 80 tables at $80 each. Artisan Fair will be on 12 March at the Armenian Convention Center from 10 - 5PM.

- **Conversation Circles**: Schedule out now. Space will be for discussion, strategy, refreshment and relaxation. fwMAP sessions (2 per day), brown bag lunches, different each day.

- **Women of Distinction**: 5 Awardees have been announced. More details about each awardee will be sent out soon.

- **Orientation Videos**: Have been coming out every Friday. Only a couple left.

- **Handbook**: the printer has been decided

- **Next planning committee meeting is on 13 January**

- **fwMAP**: Maestro online meeting on 7 January at 3PM