



The United Nations and the women's human rights

The six main bodies

- The General Assembly
- The Security Council
- The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- The Secretariat
- The International Court of Justice
- The Trusteeship Council (suspended in 1994)

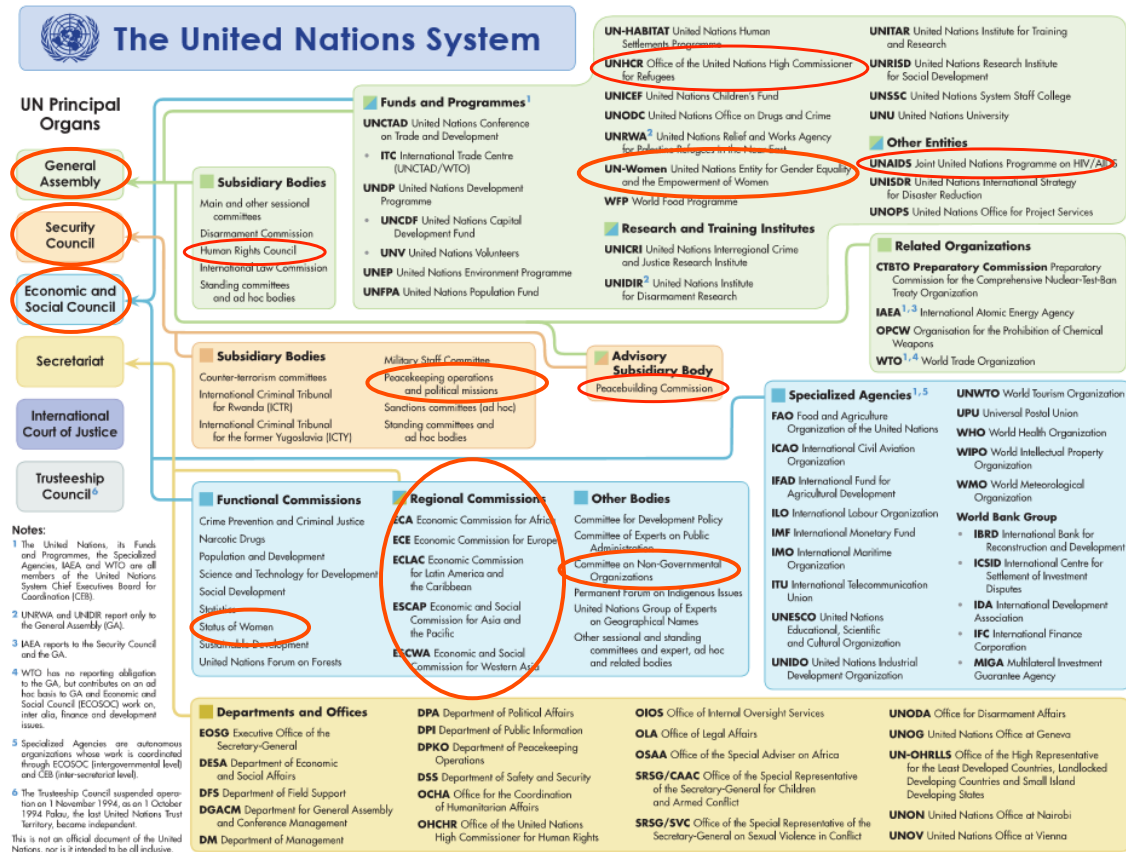


The relevant entities for the Women's humanrights

- The General Assembly
 - The Human Rights Council
- The Security Council
- The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
 - The Commission on the Status of Women
 - UN Women
- The Secretariat
- The International Court of Justice
- The Trusteeship Council (suspended in 1994)



The global structure of the UN



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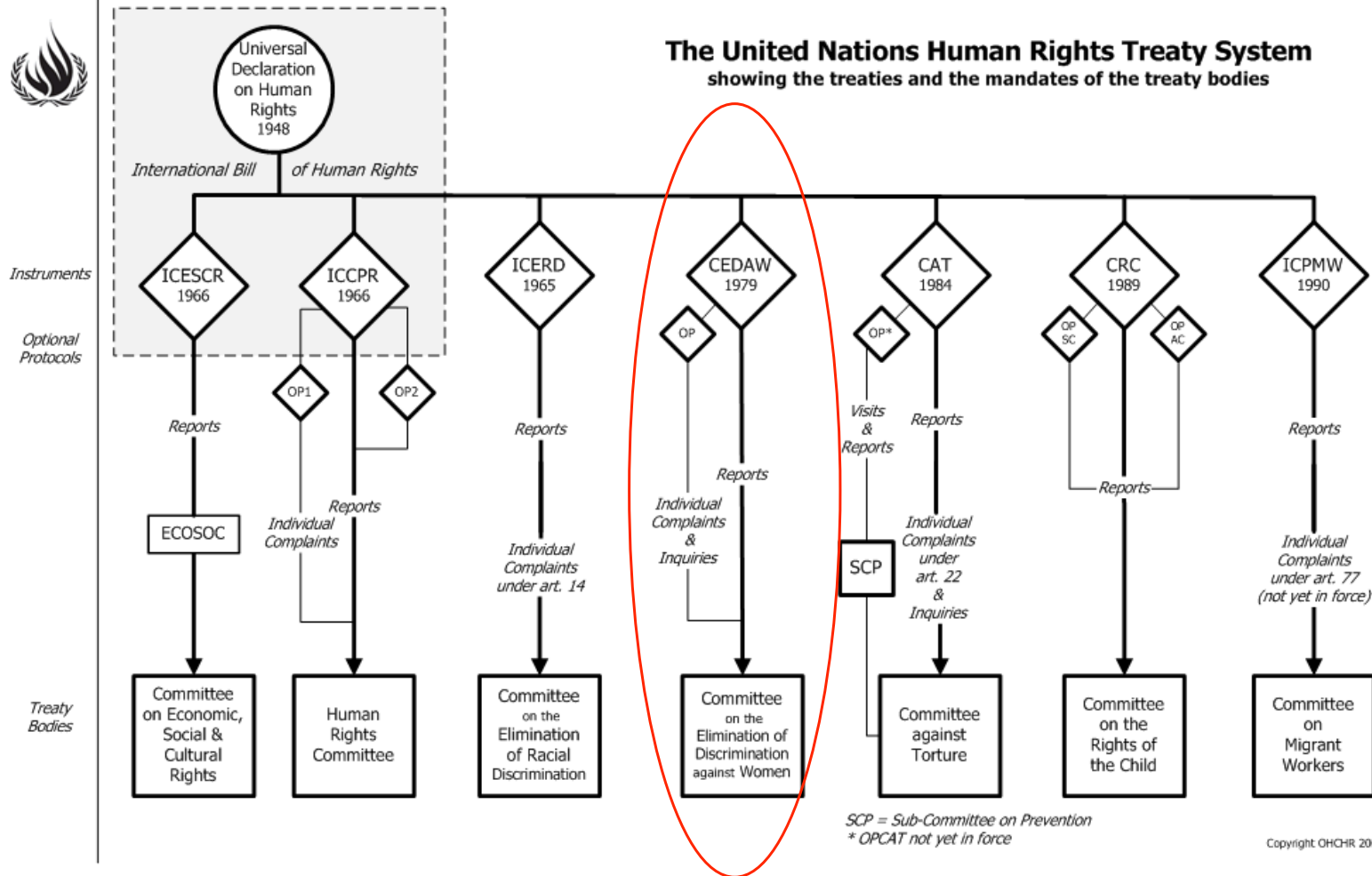


Evolution of Women's Human Rights

Through the Conferences and Legal Agreements



The United Nations Human Rights Treaty System showing the treaties and the mandates of the treaty bodies



Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights



- 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
 - 1967 Declaration
 - 1999 Optional Protocol.
- Key Principles
 - Substantive Equality
 - Non-discrimination
 - State Obligation

World Conferences on Women	
The United Nations' First World Conference on Women, Mexico City, 1975	World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year: offered a comprehensive set of guidelines for the advancement of women through 1985.
The United Nations' Second World Conference on Women, Copenhagen, 1980	A Programme of Action: called for stronger national measures to ensure women's ownership and control of property + improvements in protecting women's rights to inheritance, child custody and nationality.
The United Nations' Third World Conference on Women, Nairobi, 1985	Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women: outlined measures for achieving gender equality at the national level and for promoting women's participation in peace and development efforts.
The United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995	The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action: agenda for women's empowerment and considered the key global policy document on gender equality (adopted unanimously by 189 countries).
The United Nations' Fifth World Conference on Women	Not yet decided...but under discussion



Issues of Today

- Patriarchy and norms
- Sexual division of labor
- Macroeconomics/trade
- Environment, natural resources & climate change
- Decent work
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)
- Land and tenure rights
- Indigenous people
- Plus...





Language = Power

Language is not just semantics

Language is political power

- The power of language is multi-faceted
- MEANING
 - Similar words can mean VERY different things
 - Context is crucial
 - Commas make a difference
 - Verbs have varied strength
- POLICY IMPLICATIONS & NORM SETTING
 - Defines what countries will implement and legislate
 - Influences how policies are implemented
 - Can be interpreted
 - Later becomes “agreed language”
- WHO SAYS IT? And WHY?





Actors of the negotiations

Who speaks and who does not...

(based on the case study of CSW 58's agreed conclusions)

Only the members of the CSW?



An agreed text is agreed by

- all Member States of the UN
- even the observers: Holy See and State of Palestine
- No NGO/CSO, no UN entity

Language and agreed language

What language to bring to the delegations when intervening

(based on the case study of CSW 58's agreed conclusions)

What do they mean by “agreed language”?



- A text that has been agreed on at the multilateral level such as CSW agreed conclusions, Human Rights Council Resolutions, ICPD and UNFCCC agreed conclusions, etc.
- An agreed text is considered as a base for the future
- This agreed language should not be open for discussion again. It can be reiterated or it can be used to build from
- This is why the negotiations are so important

Women's Human Rights



- All texts about Women's Human Rights:
- General Assembly resolutions
- Security Council resolutions (1325 and later)
- Human Rights Council resolutions
- CSW agreed conclusions

- Last update: September 2nd 2014



- www.womenshumanrights.ch



Thank you!!

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