The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the highest level international forum on gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Commission meets annually in New York. CSW60 will be held from 14 to 24 March 2016.

Each year, CSW examines a priority theme and a review theme. In 2016, the priority theme will be:

*Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development*

Through the review theme, CSW will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from its 57th session on:

*The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls*

Australia typically sends a high level delegation to CSW each year. The Australian Government hosts and co-hosts a range of side events related to the priority and review themes, as well as Australian domestic priorities for women, alongside emerging and innovative topics.

Non-Government organisations are invited to put forward short expressions of interest of no more than two pages providing an outline of a proposed event and how it relates to the selection criteria. Expressions of interest may be shortlisted with further information sought from those applicants.

The Australian Government’s priorities for gender equality include:

- The prevention of violence against women and their children
- Increasing women’s economic security, particularly increasing women’s workforce participation
- Progressing and monitoring the implementation of sustainable development goals
- Supporting the women, peace and security agenda.

Expressions of Interest will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Demonstrated ability to deliver a relevant, high quality, focussed event of up to an hour to an international audience.
- Relationship of the proposed event to the priority and/ or review themes.
- Relationship of the proposed event to Australia’s priorities for women’s empowerment and gender equality.
- Diversity and profile of proposed list of speakers.
- Number, diversity and profile of expected audience and how the event will be promoted.
- The extent to which the event focusses on marginalised groups including Indigenous women, women with a disability, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, youth and women from marginalised groups.
- Focus on emerging topics or innovations, that can be used to promote gender equality.
- Event budget including support sought from the Office for Women.
All proposed side events must include a speaking role for an Australian Government participant at the Ministerial level for events held in the first week of CSW and at official level during week two.

**Funding and other support:**

The Australian Government may be able to provide modest funding or in kind support, which could include the use of a room in the UN building or the Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. Modest funding may also be available to support the provision of materials such as pamphlets at the event. No support is available to assist event organisers to travel to CSW or for accommodation in New York. All proposals must include a budget where financial support from the Office for Women is proposed.

Side event proposals selected as Australia’s official side events will be developed in partnership with the non-government organisations.

This is a two-step process whereby, the expression of interest will be used to identify a shortlist of events. The Australian Government will then work with the successful applicant to further develop the side event concept and any accompanying materials.

The final list of side events hosted by the Australian Government is contingent upon a number of factors, including the availability of event space and other resources.

Expressions of interest and any queries regarding side events for CSW60 should be emailed to [WomensBranchInternational@pmc.gov.au](mailto:WomensBranchInternational@pmc.gov.au).

Applications close 11:59 pm AEDT Sunday 30 November 2015.