

National Model United Nations

Week A

March 17 – March 21, 2013



**Commission on the Status of Women
Documentation**

Commission on the Status of Women

Committee Staff

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Agenda

1. Economic, Social, and Political Empowerment of Women in the Context of Political Transition
2. Fostering a Gender-Sensitive Perspective on Sustainable Development
3. Eliminating Preventable Maternal Mortality through the Empowerment of Women

Resolutions adopted by the committee

Document Code	Topic	Vote (Y/ N/ Abstention/ Non-Voting)
CSW/1/1	Economic, Social, and Political Empowerment of Women in the Context of Political Transition	Acclamation
CSW/1/2	Economic, Social, and Political Empowerment of Women in the Context of Political Transition	26/6/7
CSW/1/3	Economic, Social, and Political Empowerment of Women in the Context of Political Transition	33/2/4
CSW/1/4	Economic, Social, and Political Empowerment of Women in the Context of Political Transition	34/1/4

Summary Report

Commission on the Status of Women Summary Report

The Commission on the Status of Women held its annual session to consider the following agenda items: I. Economic, Social, and Political Empowerment of Women in the Context of Political Transition, II. Fostering a Gender-Sensitive Perspective on Sustainable Development, and III. Eliminating Preventable Maternal Mortality through the Empowerment of Women.

The session was attended by representatives of 40 States.

The session opened with the informal debate on topic selection, resulting in the Commission adopting the agenda in the order of I, III, II. Several statements were made concerning the lack of women's political inclusiveness. During the second session, the Committee broke into Working Groups with an economic, social, and political focus. Further discussion on specific issues ensued, including micro-financing, preserving cultural identity, and education. By the end of the third session, two working papers were submitted.

During sessions three through five, the Committee developed eight working papers on the three broad focus areas of economic, social, and political empowerment of women in the context of political transition. Speeches and discussion encompassed a variety of concepts including addressing sexual and gender based violence, vocational training, the use of information communication technology (ICT) access to land rights. The fifth session ended with a push for mergers and cooperation to consolidate Committee Working Papers.

The sixth session opened with Delegation speeches made highlighting working papers and mergers. A motion was rejected to close the speaker's list, as formally, no draft resolutions were on the floor. Early in the seventh session, four draft resolutions were introduced to the committee and a motion to close debate was accepted by 4pm. The Committee then moved into voting bloc, adopting the four Draft Resolutions:

Resolution 1/1 was adopted by acclamation, focusing on economic programs and policies through education and vocational training for women in political transition. Resolution 1/2 highlighted the significance of health care and social media in providing aid for women, and was adopted by roll call vote. Resolution 1/3 focusing on the integration of women into the workforce, including policing and civil service, was adopted through a roll call vote. A motion was made to divide operative clause 3 of the Resolution, which failed at the procedural vote. Resolution 1/4 was also adopted through roll call vote, requesting the Secretary General to develop guidelines through UN Women on the enhancement of the status of women through political empowerment in times of political transition.

Code: CSW/1/1

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Subject: Economic, Social, and Political Empowerment of Women in the Context of Political Transition

1 *Bearing in mind* the fact that women's economic empowerment is a prerequisite for the
2 achievement of all Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),
3

4 *Believing* that women's participation in economic, social and political life is essential for
5 countries in the transition period, targeting women in post-conflict, politically
6 transitioning governments, and developing countries,
7

8 *Recognizing* the importance of the diversity between Member States and their rights to
9 individual sovereignty as outlined in General Assembly resolution 50/172,
10

11 *Further recognizing* the critical role and contribution of rural women, including
12 indigenous women, who are disproportionately affected by conflict and economic
13 instability in political transition, in enhancing agricultural and rural development,
14 improving food security and eradicating rural poverty, problems which are also
15 exacerbated in times of political conflict, as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on
16 the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,
17

18 *Noting with alarm* that the share of women in waged and salaried work only grew from
19 42 percent in 1997 to 46 percent in 2007,
20

21 *Aware* that enterprise development, and government and private sector investment
22 policies that are sensitive to gender disparities are absolutely vital in establishing a
23 cooperative political process,
24

25 *Acknowledging* the success of microfinance initiatives and encouraging their integration
26 into the national formal financial systems in order to provide marginalized groups,
27 including women, with a sustainable source of livelihood,
28

29 *Fully aware* that the opportunity women have to become involved with microfinance will
30 allow them to gain social capital and be empowered to exercise political authority in the
31 post-transition environment,
32

33 *Emphasizing* the importance of providing access to employment opportunities for women
34 in order to increase national economic prosperity and facilitate the ability of women to
35 independently adapt to the changes that occur when a state enters a period of political
36 transition,
37

38 *Further emphasizing* that educating children, specifically girls, in situations of political
39 transition will allow them to participate and occupy leadership positions in national
40 political transformations,
41

42 *Further acknowledging* that investments in gender equality have the highest returns of all
43 development investments,

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45 *The Commission on the Status of Women,*

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47 1) *Endorses* Member States' efforts to increase access to secondary and
48 postsecondary education, and promotes free primary education to improve literacy
49 rates for both genders through methods such as removing school fees, providing
50 financial incentives, funds allocated from the national government's ministry of
51 education, as well as recommending the private sector's participation in allocating
52 proportional funds;

53

54 2) *Invites* Member States to incorporate gender equality into their national action
55 plans or public financial management systems by forming initiatives such as but
56 not limited to:

57

58 a. Setting aside a minimum of 5 percent of national and local government
59 budgets to be allocated to support gender equality,

60

61 b. Incorporating informal microcredit organizations into the formal financial
62 system and providing them with readily available and sustainable revenue;

63

64 c. Initiating microfinance institutions that:

65

66 i. Educate women in the essentials of managing micro-financed loans,

67

68 ii. Recommend the private and public sector to allocate funds on a
69 proportional level by encouraging government agencies to cooperate with
70 the private sector to create a sustainable fund for the allocation of
71 microfinance loans;

71

72 3) *Suggests* that states implement specific training for women in rural areas such as:

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74 a. Strengthening employment training that includes sustainable production
75 techniques specialized for women, simultaneously furthering development in
76 their countries,

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78 b. Promoting awareness of the potential of women in rural areas, and increasing
79 their opportunities to develop economically and socially,

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81 c. Improving the development of rural infrastructure such as transportation and
82 sanitation,

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84 d. Fostering the basic capacity to use already established mechanisms of rural
85 economic utilities;

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- 4) *Encourages* Member States to emphasize the importance of improving women’s access to land and property rights by:
 - a. Providing producers in rural areas with technical and legal assistance or grants or loans to purchase land,
 - b. Fostering land access and equal participation of members in enterprises in rural areas that are managed by women, and land management training that contributes to greater gender equality,
 - c. Improving the development of rural infrastructure.

Code: CSW/1/2

Committee: The Commission on the Status of Women

Subject: Economic, Social and Political Empowerment of Women in the Context of Political Transition

1 *Stressing* that maintaining women's health is essential to including and promoting
2 women during and after political transition, as emphasized in the *Convention on the*
3 *Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*,

4
5 *Highlighting* the need to promote women's physical, mental, and reproductive health care
6 in order to increase a gender-sensitive perspective in political transition,

7
8 *Recognizing* the importance of the Millennium Development Goal 3, which focuses on
9 increasing women's empowerment through general and health education, primarily to
10 assist women in safe and effective transition during times of political unrest,

11
12 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 49/9, which notes concern of the need to
13 eliminate unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one Member State
14 against another, which affect the free flow of international trade,

15
16 *Acknowledging* that reduction in the free flow of international trade contributes to the
17 difficulty of governments' ability to effectively develop its healthcare system,

18
19 *Further acknowledging* the indirect and detrimental effects that economic sanctions can
20 have during times of electoral processes and political reconstruction, which include
21 negative effects on the health of women and girls,

22
23 *The Commission on the Status of Women*,

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25 1) *Encourages* the need for increased education through providing access to media
26 technologies in rural areas during political transition, and to allow women to be
27 informed on transitional issues, such as sexual and gender-based violence and
28 government transparency by using Information and Communication Technology
29 (ICT) to allow Member States to broadcast educational messages over vast
30 distances and to populations in rural areas;
31
32 2) *Advocates* for the creation of a mobile emergency health support system, led by
33 men and women, that caters to the health needs of women in rural areas in order
34 to give greater aid during transitional periods;
35
36 3) *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue a report detailing the indirect effect of
37 sanctions on women's health, food security, and access to water, as the access to
38 these services is usually difficult and limited in situations of political transition.

Code: CSW/1/3

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Subject: Economic, Social, and Political Empowerment of Women in the Context of Political Transition

1 *Affirming* the progress and spirit of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,
2 *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*
3 (CEDAW), and the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women,

4
5 *Bearing in mind* Articles 7 and 8 of CEDAW, which emphasizes increasing the political
6 participation of women in political transition,

7
8 *Recalling* the essential role of women in political transition, defined by the United
9 Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA) as “the evolution of a country’s
10 political background towards the creation of durable and sustainable political and
11 economic institutions as well as the promotion of good governance through elections and
12 the rule of law”,

13
14 *Aware* of the beneficial contribution of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and
15 local communities in assisting education programming,

16
17 *Noting* the importance of furthering the participation of women in the advancement of
18 education for women through Rio Principle 10, which emphasizes the need for training
19 and access to information in the context of situations of political instability.

20
21 *Acknowledging* General Assembly resolutions 66/216 and 58/142 as well as Security
22 Council resolutions S/RES/1820, S/RES/1888, and S/RES/1889 which highlight the
23 important role of women as agents in peace processes and decision-making,

24
25 *Recognizing* the special needs of women and girls for rehabilitation, reintegration, and
26 post-conflict reconstruction in political transition and peacekeeping,

27
28 *Bearing in mind* the inclusion and significance of women in law enforcement and peace-
29 building activities throughout the international community, as emphasized in Security
30 Council resolution S/RES/1325,

31
32 *Alarmed by* the disproportionate impact of conflict on females, who have historically
33 been overlooked in traditional peace processes,

34
35 *Regretting* disproportionate gender representation within governmental and educational
36 systems,

37
38 *The Commission on the Status of Women,*

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40 1) *Encourages* Member States in political transition to implement permanent
41 policies in the light of the gender mainstreaming approach to:

- 42 a. Increase informed consideration of gender differences and inequalities,
43
44 b. Provide equal opportunities for women’s participation in legislative and
45 governmental activities, facilitating a reduction in current gender gaps within
46 political systems,
47
48 c. Address the issue of disproportionate representation of women in domestic
49 political structure;
50
- 51 2) *Suggests* that Member States include discussion on gender equality and the rights
52 of women in the drafting of permanent, foundational legislation in post-political
53 transition, with respect to state sovereignty;
54
- 55 3) *Calls upon* Member States to strongly consider action in domestic law
56 enforcement and situations of political transition, such as:
57
- 58 a. Development of training programming for domestic police forces, focusing on
59 the involvement and representation of women in the provision of policing
60 services,
61
62 b. The creation and continued development of training programs for women in
63 internal politics, and preparation for entry into civil service and leadership,
64
65 c. Promoting activism to encourage women’s involvement in peace negotiations,
66
67 d. Promoting the active participation of women in negotiation operations,
68
69 e. Providing information about political participation, activism, and women’s
70 rights to all the population in communities,
71
72 f. Applying the participation and training measures respecting cultural
73 differences;
74
- 75 4) *Encourages* Member States to provide support to all humanitarian aid, refugee,
76 and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps in countries undergoing post-
77 conflict reconstruction or political transition by:
78
- 79 a. Establishing educational programs within the camps themselves for adults and
80 children,
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82 b. Recommending educational programs be made available to women who are in
83 need of primary education,
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85 c. Focusing women’s higher education programs on training women to become
86 educators themselves and aid in provision of education in camps,

- 87 d. Further recommending the amplification of Gender Equality and Female
88 Empowerment Policy with assistance which aims to promote equality around
89 the world and participation of women in all sectors;
90
- 91 5) *Suggests* that actions be undertaken by Member States in political transition to
92 increase the participation of women across societal sectors in the context of
93 development, including the:
94
- 95 a. Provision and increase of primary and secondary education and vocational
96 training and awareness of disproportionate impacts across gender lines,
97
- 98 b. Encouragement of mentorship for women with political leaders to increase the
99 numbers of women serving in political roles;
100
- 101 6) *Requests* that post-conflict negotiations should:
102
- 103 a. Encourage Member States to follow the three principles of UN Peace
104 Operations (Consensus, Impartiality, and Non-Use of Force) and to enforce
105 these principles in all negotiations regarding political transition,
106
- 107 b. Create a secure and stable environment while strengthening each Member
108 State's ability to provide security, with respect for the rule of law and human
109 rights;
110
- 111 7) *Supports* the establishment by sovereign Member States of internal emergency
112 response systems, with an emphasis on the provision of support to women in
113 need, including but not limited to focus on gender mainstreaming in the
114 establishment of response systems that:
115
- 116 a. Emphasize the creation of family counseling programs by national
117 governments in communities where ex-combatants are living that take
118 women, girls, and children specifically into account,
119
- 120 b. Encourage Member States to make efforts to provide vocational training and
121 psychological attention for ex-combatant women to help them re-enter their
122 communities and be empowered to re-enter the workforce;
123
- 124 8) *Establishing* special social programs supporting the integration of female ex-
125 combatants into the community to:
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- 127 a. Provide special funding for female-headed households,
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- 129 b. Encourage labor force participation,
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- 131 c. Support women's rights of legal ownership and share in the post-war
132 redistribution of land;

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- 9) *Encourages* Member States in political transition to implement permanent policies in the light of the gender mainstreaming approach to:
- a. Increase informed consideration of gender differences and inequalities,
 - b. Provide equal opportunities for women’s participation in legislative and governmental activities, facilitating a reduction in current gender gaps within political systems,
 - c. Address the issue of disproportionate representation of women in domestic political structure,
 - d. Alleviate economic hardships during economic transition and promote income-generating activities among women;
- 10) *Calls upon* initiatives to empower women to raise public awareness by utilizing their unique roles in society.

Code: CSW/1/4

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Subject: Economic, Social and Political Empowerment of Women in the Context of Political Transition

1 *Keeping in mind* that the recommendations proposed within this document maintains
2 respect for national sovereignty as well as traditional cultural and religious values and
3 beliefs,

4
5 *Emphasizing* the Beijing Platform for Action of 1995, in particular Strategic Objective
6 B.3. for the improvement of women's access to vocational training, science and
7 technology, and continuing education,

8
9 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 58/142 which recognizes the importance of
10 education from an early age and encourages that women fully participate in the social and
11 political process by developing knowledge, skills, confidence and ethical values,

12
13 *Reaffirming* Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 which confirms the need to
14 take into account the full diversity of the non-governmental organizations at the national,
15 regional and international levels and acknowledges the breadth of non-governmental
16 organizations' expertise and the capacity of non-governmental organizations to support
17 the work of the United Nations,

18
19 *Observing* the directions of E/CN.6/2011/12 in strengthening and increasing the access to
20 technology for rural women,

21
22 *Referring* to Security Council resolution S/RES/1820 which demands the immediate and
23 complete cessation by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence against
24 civilians with immediate effect,

25
26 *Affirming* General Assembly resolution 51/75 which highlights the importance and the
27 purely humanitarian and non-political role of the Office of the United Nations High
28 Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and strengthen its efforts for the protection and
29 education for women,

30
31 *Recognizing* the work the UN Women have accomplished concerning women's
32 empowerment in crises situations, conflict, post conflict and restructuring periods,

33
34 *Condemning* sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in political transition as
35 expressed in Security Council resolution S/RES/1325,

36
37 *Encouraging* the implementation of the *Convention Eliminating All Forms of*
38 *Discrimination (CEDAW)* by states that have ratified it,

39
40 *The Commission on the Status of Women,*

41

- 42 1) *Suggests* the creation of information centers in all Member States that emphasize
43 the education of women and girls in the following areas:
44
- 45 a. Considers education as a relevant premise to face the issue of gender equality
46 in a context of political transition and calls upon all willing member states and
47 NGOs to assist in implementation,
48
 - 49 b. Recommends special curriculum to sensitize equal rights of women,
50 emphasize equal civil responsibilities, and promote women’s confidence-
51 building,
52
 - 53 c. Encouraging the creation of the local advisory bodies consisting of volunteers
54 that will focus on helping women learn about their rights through community
55 outreach programs,
56
 - 57 d. Implements the assessment of women’s access to education in pre- and post-
58 conflict environment in a country,
59
 - 60 e. Make recommendations regarding the correction of the major educational
61 needs in the country,
62
 - 63 f. Promote programs regarding microfinance systems that encourage and help
64 women become entrepreneurs in order to be economically independent;
65
- 66 2) *Using* technology including but not limited to, radio, internet, social media and
67 cell phone devices, to allow women to network with other women in political
68 positions to inspire and motivate as a mode of communication:
69
- 70 a. Acknowledging the role technology plays in having communication lines
71 open between citizens, thereby, allowing women specifically to engage in the
72 political transition and stabilization in their country,
73
 - 74 b. Recognizing the impacts and benefits that modern technologies have on the
75 lives of women during times of political transition, allowing them to remain
76 aware and educated about ongoing conflicts,
77
 - 78 c. Providing technology used to access such social media outlets to rural and
79 impoverished areas while also using already existing technologies (i.e. radio
80 and television),
81
 - 82 d. Encouraging the inclusion of the private sector in the investment of modern
83 technologies, such as, but not restricted to, mobile phones, to mutually benefit
84 the receiving countries and respective donors;
85

- 86 3) *Recommends* Member States to deploy efforts towards promoting women’s health
87 with the aid of local authorities, women’s groups and other NGOs that cater to the
88 health needs of women in rural areas in order to aid during transitional periods by:
89
- 90 a. Establishing counseling and support centers that ensures the security of
91 victims, provides healthcare aid, information and resource services to promote
92 the protection and assistance of SGBV victims,
93
 - 94 b. Encouraging the implementation of health programs that address social and
95 psychological needs of women in the context of political transition;
96
- 97 4) *Encourages* the Secretary General to initiate the a drafting processes under UN
98 Women for guidelines including the following recommendations on the
99 enhancement of the status of women through political empowerment in times of
100 political transition, hereafter referred to as Policy for a Shared Future (PSF):
101
- 102 a. In the early period of political transition women and men are to be treated
103 equally by the standards postulated by the Universal Declaration of Human
104 Rights,
105
 - 106 b. The period of political settlement and the process of constitutional drafting,
107 which includes all aspects of female integration in every facet of human life,
108 especially in political and social fields,
109
 - 110 c. Transition in national legislation, as it concerns all citizens, disregarding
111 gender, of the respective country, should be accomplished through the
112 combined work of men and women and should strive to promote gender
113 parity,
114
 - 115 d. Especially in times of political transition, women must be considered part of
116 the decision making process, as well as the involvement in regional, if not
117 national, political movements,
118
 - 119 e. Countries undergoing reformation of legislative, governmental and public
120 bodies are encouraged to increase female involvement in the political
121 stabilization process by facilitating ample opportunities for women
122 guaranteeing their involvement in all aspects of the domestic sphere,
123
 - 124 f. Countries should seek qualified women candidates to conduct campaigns that
125 promote public speaking, fundraising, and parliamentary procedure in line
126 with suggestions put forth by General Assembly resolution 58/142,
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 - 128 g. During political transition it is stressed that all citizens be actively informed
129 on an equal basis of accurate and relevant information regarding political
130 party platforms, candidates, voting procedures including voting registration
131 and electoral law;

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- 5) *Emphasizes* the importance of international humanitarian aid during periods of severe political crisis, especially through:
 - a. Ensuring funding is dispersed to support the immediate needs of women and girls,
 - b. Encouraging the international community to protect women against violence, to meet their specific political, economic and social needs, and to support women to play a full part in peace building, as detailed in Security Council resolution S/RES/1325;
- 6) *Calls upon* the need to counteract the obstacles in conflict stages or post-conflict daily life through specifically focusing on Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), but keeping in mind refugees, asylum seekers or stateless populations, through:
 - a. Encouraging the reinforcement of security surrounding refugee and IDP camps, recognizing that the protection of IDPs and refugees has a direct correlation with the ability to educate and train said persons,
 - b. Inviting willing UN Member States to advise, prepare and educate current refugees, IDPs, asylum seekers or stateless populations which are suffering from displacement, as a result of political transition and civil conflict through political capacity training programs supported by advisors of the UNHCR staff,
 - c. Providing primary education, in cooperation with NGOs working with displaced persons such as: in refugee camps for women and young girls by encouraging developed countries to cooperate with countries undergoing phases of political transition, specifically armed conflict and post-conflict regions, as a means to empower women,
 - d. Capacity training programs and educational initiatives within refugee camps to provide IDPs with content specifically focused on political, constitutional, and governmental aspects, keeping in mind a gender sensitive perspective that will further the role of women in reformed governments.