

24-28 March 2019

Documentation of the Work of the Commission on the Status of Women



Conference A

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Committee Staff

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Chair	Nahla Almbaid
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Agenda

- I. Advancing Economic Parity for Rural Women
- II. Access to Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality
- III. Promoting Women's Access to Information and Communications Technology

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
CSW/1/1	Advancing Economic Parity for Rural Women	Adopted without a vote
CSW/1/2	Advancing Economic Parity for Rural Women	Adopted without a vote
CSW/1/3	Advancing Economic Parity for Rural Women	25 votes in favor, 5 votes against, 2 abstentions

Summary Report

The Commission on the Status of Women held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Promoting Women's Access to Information and Communications Technology
- II. Advancing Economic Parity for Rural Women
- III. Access to Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality

The session was attended by representatives of 33 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of II, III, I and organized working groups to discuss the topic of "Advancing Economic Parity for Rural Women." On Tuesday, the Dais received five working papers that each provided various proposals to address the advancement of economic opportunities for rural women worldwide. Those included promoting female entrepreneurship, the role of NGOs in gender mainstreaming, improving access of rural women to education and training, the digital divide in the rural societies, as well as funding efficiency.

By Wednesday delegates agreed on merging their ideas into three working papers, which were further approved by the Dais as draft resolutions. None of them received amendments, and two out of three were adopted by acclamation. Further, delegates moved to discussion of the second topic of "Access to Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality". The tone of CSW embraced principles of diplomacy, inclusiveness, consensus-building, and commitment to addressing the topics comprehensively.



Code: CSW/1/1

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Advancing Economic Parity for Rural Women

- 1 *The Commission on the Status of Women,*
2
3 *Reiterating* the principles outlined in Article III of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) which enshrines
4 international cooperation in order to discuss solutions and promote action to reinforce human rights and
5 specifically, gender equality,
6
7 *Reaffirming* the importance of the *Geneva Declaration on Rural Women* (1992), the *Beijing Declaration*
8 *and Platform for Action* (1995) and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination*
9 *against Women* (1979) as key instruments to achieving economic parity for rural women,
10
11 *Recognizing* the significance of the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG 4
12 and SDG 5 in line with the Outcome Documents of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly,
13
14 *Considering* the precarious situation for rural women and the need for an environment that promotes and
15 provides female empowerment and safety, as well as financial independence, inspired by educational
16 mentors and role models in the agricultural and business sector,
17
18 *Stressing* that international, national, regional, and local collaborations between United Nations (UN)
19 bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Member States are of primary importance in order
20 to increase the decision-making power of rural women, guarantee their financial security and improve
21 living standards within their communities,
22
23 *Approving* bilateral cooperation between Member States in order to promote public-private partnerships
24 and investment to help women reach autonomy and self-determination, as exhibited by the International
25 Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) which connects producers, the private sector, governments and
26 other players as appropriate,
27
28 *Recognizing* the previous efforts undertaken by the Joint-Programme on Accelerating Progress Towards
29 the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women launched in 2012 by the United Nations Entity for Gender
30 Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Food Programme, and IFAD,
31
32 *Taking into account* UN-Women's 2013 report on the financial standing of rural women showing that
33 micro-funding and financial assistance for rural women is already available but inefficiently used,
34
35 *Emphasizing* the continuous misuse of existing schemes and that the creation of new double structures
36 will further worsen the financial situation of rural women,
37
38 *Supporting* the efforts of the Financial Inclusion Support Framework of the World Bank Group to
39 accelerate and increase the effectiveness of financial reforms and other state-led actions to achieve
40 financial equality, specifically regarding rural women,
41
42 *Acknowledging* the successful cooperation between national agencies and the UN in providing financial
43 assistance to rural women, such as the promotion of agribusiness by the joint-initiatives with the United
44 Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO),
45
46 1. *Encourages* Member States to implement already existing legal frameworks and programs aimed at
47 empowering young women, guided by the UN-Women's Strategic Plan, the Youth and Gender
48 Equality Strategy (LEAP) (2015); the Women's Leadership in Politics Initiative (2014), and the Equal
49 Opportunities with Women Entrepreneurs Initiative (2016);

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2. *Recommends* Member States create professional networks in rural communities in collaboration with international, national, and local NGOs as appropriate:
 - a. Thus benefiting from the experience and knowledge of women in these networks, and stress their lighthouse effect as role models to tutor, mentor, and supervise women in rural areas;
 - b. These networks will enhance entrepreneurship and sustainable development in the rural sector by utilizing the knowledge of successful women in business as mentors to rural women;
 - c. Through collaboration of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which is encouraged to provide the necessary funding, with NGOs and national agencies as suitable in a national and regional context;
 - d. With the ILO designing the mentorship program together with NGOs and national agencies subject to conditions in the respective regions and states;
 - e. With the ILO reporting back to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) every 10 years in order to recognize noticeable trends and improvements made to revise policies and establish new goals in advancing economic parity for rural women;
3. *Proposes* the implementation of an additional international mentoring program connecting women living in the diaspora with rural women from their state of origin:
 - a. Which shall provide rural women with successful role models from a host of different careers, thus combating potential biases and self-selection among women through a series of workshops and conferences, benefiting rural women, local communities and, ultimately, state economies;
 - b. Thus providing rural women with opportunities and building a basis in the fight against “brain drain”, highly trained individuals leaving the state in search of employment abroad;
 - c. Set up by UN-Women in accordance with NGOs and agencies active in supporting rural women in the respective regions;
 - d. With funding being made available through an international donors’ conference in Addis Ababa to be organized by the ILO and held every two years, first held in March 2020 with the potential donor Member States, NGOs, and companies active in development being invited;
 - e. Utilizing funds to finance first joint projects, assist women in joining the conferences and reimbursing mentors, with the mentoring program ultimately becoming self-sufficient;
4. *Encourages* the expansion of the UN-Women’s Global Flagship Initiative Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces to rural areas:
 - a. By promoting progressive environments to foster spaces that inspire and support women;
 - b. Through partnerships with mayors’ offices, national governments, women’s groups, and other community partners available in rural areas;
 - c. By expanding the outreach, the initiative has through mass exposure and promotion to areas that are in need of these partnerships by the initiative’s and Member States’ standards;

- 104 5. *Recalls* the importance of a rightful and equal resettlement of funds, helping and supporting rural
105 women in the pursuit of their financial empowerment by:
106
- 107 a. Providing collateral for women when applying for loans through the Global Banking Alliance
108 for Women;
 - 109
 - 110 b. Revitalizing local economies and businesses by expanding the Fund for Gender Equality
111 promoted by UN-Women, and in order to secure private investments into businesses of rural
112 women and fostering private partnerships between companies;
 - 113
- 114 6. *Proposes* that UN-Women create an evaluation and monitoring force, named the United Nations
115 Funding Efficiency Monitoring Force (UN-FEM) drawing from UN-Women, the ILO, and the World
116 Bank experts:
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- 118 a. Aimed to ensure that existing funding schemes by Member States, UN bodies, the World
119 Bank, and NGOs for rural women are accessible and received by rural women;
 - 120
 - 121 b. Also aiming to conduct surveys on the use of funding authorized by the United Nations and
122 the World Bank for rural women in order to ensure the legitimate and efficient use of financial
123 resources, these surveys would evaluate:
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 - 125 i. How readily accessible micro-funding is to rural women;
 - 126 ii. The social and economic challenges faced by rural women in accessing distributed
127 funds;
 - 128 iii. The availability and access to funds;
 - 129 - 130 c. UN-FEM, in cooperation with UN regional offices, non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
131 and UN-Women, shall determine regionally-specific, individual methods of engaging in
132 dialogue with rural women to gather data in accordance with national legislation;
 - 133
 - 134 d. Improving existing schemes by providing donors with regional guidelines on how to efficiently
135 distribute funding to rural women;
 - 136
- 137 7. *Encourages* Member States to use pre-existing national and international legal frameworks, as well
138 as to share their technological capabilities to voluntarily support the set-up of UN-FEM in its financial,
139 technical, or organizational capacities;
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- 141 8. *Calls upon* UN-FEM to provide a formal report of data collected during the initial three years of the
142 aforementioned UN-FEM surveys which shall be published by UN-Women, addressing:
143
- 144 a. The accessibility, availability, and use of funds to rural women;
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 - 146 b. The difference in efficiency of micro-funds in different rural areas;
 - 147
 - 148 c. Solutions to ensure that rural women have a full access to the micro-funds;
 - 149
 - 150 d. With further steps to be taken after the initial three years to be decided upon by UN-Women;
 - 151
- 152 9. *Recommends* that UN-FEM in collaboration with experts from UN-Women and the World Bank
153 reconvene within six months of the publication of the report data to:
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- 155 a. Address inefficiencies that were discovered by the surveys;
 - 156
 - 157 b. Deliberate possible solutions;
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- 159 c. Determine the duration and frequency of future surveys based on results and progress in
160 regards to improving the efficiency;
161
- 162 10. *Suggests* funding for UN-FEM be made available through an annual international donors' conference
163 in Geneva organized by UN-Women, to be first held in February 2020 with the potential donors
164 Member States, NGOs, and companies active in development being invited while additional funding
165 shall be made available through the UN-Women budget subject to decision by UN-Women;
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- 167 11. *Emphasizes* that all measures undertaken by UN-FEM shall be in accordance with the will of the host
168 nation of agencies, NGOs, and local companies, and those active in development internationally,
169 providing funding to rural women.



Code: CSW/1/2

Committee: The Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Advancing Economic Parity for Rural Women

1 *The Commission on the Status of Women,*
2
3 *Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and its principles of equity between men*
4 *and women, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Geneva*
5 *Declaration for Rural Women (1992) and General Assembly resolution 58/146 of 2003 that highlights the*
6 *needs of rural women and girls, ensuring their access and participation in developing and implementing*
7 *global information and communication technology and the vital role of rural women,*
8
9 *Guided by the principles of the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women*
10 *(CEDAW), that unjust social association and gender role establishing interferes with women's potential*
11 *and their initiative to undertake influential roles in business or occupational settings,*
12
13 *Calling attention to the continued importance of General Assembly resolution 64/289 (2010) and its*
14 *acknowledgement of prioritizing active efforts to shift cultural schemas in advancing economic parity for*
15 *rural women and that solutions must meet the unique needs of each Member State,*
16
17 *Cognizant of the prevalence of cultural traditions in rural communities that favor men as primary earners,*
18 *which can render rural women particularly financially vulnerable and counters women's interests as*
19 *described in General Assembly resolution 70/219 (2015),*
20
21 *Recognizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), especially Sustainable Development*
22 *Goal (SDG) 5.A that specifies the importance of women's rights to land and property, setting a specific*
23 *target for equal rights to ownership and control over land by 2030,*
24
25 *Bearing in mind that, as stated by the strategic framework produced by the African Union within the*
26 *Agenda 2063 of 2013, access to administer productive assets and financial services will empower rural*
27 *women in economic and political realms,*
28
29 *Deeply conscious of General Assembly resolution 73/166 (2018) which stresses the importance of the*
30 *financial collaboration between Member States for the right of economic development of rural women,*
31
32 *Mindful of the utility of women-focused and market-sensitive banking technology that connects Member*
33 *States to rural women seeking self-sufficiency through financial services, as exemplified by the World*
34 *Women's Banking products,*
35
36 *Believing in the importance of the identity of rural women reiterated by the 62nd session of the*
37 *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2018,*
38
39 *Fully aware of the ongoing disparities in female political representation affecting the economic and social*
40 *independence of rural women at both local and national levels, as well as General Assembly resolution*
41 *70/219 (2015), which enhances participation in the political sector for rural women,*
42
43 *Stressing the importance of General Assembly resolution 73/165 (2018) that encourages states to protect*
44 *and respect the rights of rural women as well as securing their right to the safe and secure use of*
45 *resources necessary for furthering sustainable development,*
46
47 *Emphasizing that unpaid care work is predominantly done by women especially rural women and thus an*
48 *enhancement of care facility distribution will increase the quality of their lives as well as increase their*
49 *opportunities to pursue paid work,*

50 *Highlighting* the need to challenge socio-cultural norms and stereotypes that demean the significance of
51 female leadership positions in the rural sector, as emphasized at the 62nd session of the CSW,
52

53 *Seeking* multinational corporations to assist local communities in achieving higher economic status by
54 providing infrastructure and machinery to rural communities at a low cost, as stated in the sixth principle
55 of the United Nations Global Compact,
56

57 *Expressing its appreciation* of rural women's unique and valuable skills utilized in the creation of regional
58 handmade goods to honor cultural traditions and provide income that advances women's interests in their
59 communities as described in General Assembly resolution 70/219 (2015),
60

61 *Considering* the importance of educating rural women in the agricultural sector to aid them in overcoming
62 knowledge in entering and remaining competitive with other actors in the financial sector of the market,
63

64 *Noting with deep concern* that of the over 800 million women worldwide who are menstruating on any
65 given day, a significant portion, primarily in rural or underdeveloped areas, have little or no access to
66 menstruation products, which in turn renders many women and girls unable to attend school or work in
67 order to further their progress towards economic parity,
68

69 *Alarmed by* the underdeveloped health systems that are unable to address rural women's needs
70 adequately, and drain their economic resources, such as the access to primary health care providers and
71 contraceptives, according to the World's Women 2015: Trends and Statistics Report, impeding them from
72 achieving their full educational and economic potential,
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- 74 1. *Strongly encourages* Member States to implement educational programs in rural communities
75 focusing on the dynamics and opportunities in information and communications technology (ICTs) in
76 order to address the gender gap in access to education and to increase their participation within local
77 communities and public life even through technological instruments that can provide voluntary
78 contribution to help them towards their educational paths, such as by:
79
- 80 a. Inviting Member States to create an app aiming at financing women and young girls'
81 education in rural areas, resembling the World Food Program (WFP) app Share the Meal,
82 which targets the population of all Member States that has access to mobile devices, through:
83
 - 84 i. The administration of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the
85 Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) office;
 - 86
 - 87 ii. The presentation from Member States of a plan related to the investment of money,
88 in order to encourage transparency on the intended use of the financial support,
89 depending on previous approval of the UN-Women office;
 - 90
 - 91 iii. Giving the opportunity to its users to donate any amount of money to contribute
92 educating women and young girls in rural areas;
 - 93
 - 94 iv. Building infrastructure such as schools or centers and giving them a platform to have
95 control over the handling, marketing and selling of their products;
 - 96
 - 97 b. Providing specific courses on communication and technological devices, and information
98 databases and educating people in schools to use ICTs in order to combat misconceptions
99 about women working in the technological industry;
 - 100
 - 101 c. Partnering with NGOs in order to create educational activities such as panels, workshops and
102 conferences addressed to rural women of different age ranges, with the purpose of making
103 ICTs available and accessible in order to develop their role in agricultural production and to
104 reduce inequalities in rural communities;
 - 105

- 106 2. *Suggests* that Member States implement women's empowerment training workshops to educate and
107 train them to become leaders and help them develop a role independent from stereotypes, by:
108
- 109 a. Encouraging their involvement in businesses and leadership roles through mentorship
110 programs to reshape the unjust gender role association;
 - 111
 - 112 b. Tracking and following the educational training program to follow through and guide the
113 participants to become economically independent by acquiring stable workplace positions;
 - 114
 - 115 c. Improving and maintaining the diverse assignment of rural women to influential public
116 positions in the various industries, promoting them to confidently present their ideas and
117 opinions without reservations through the implementation of gender quotas;
 - 118
- 119 3. *Advises* Member States to focus on combating gender stereotypes which surround rural women
120 through implementing curriculum into existing educational programs for the purpose of improving
121 female self-image and increasing female knowledge of politics to promote increased female
122 participation in political processes which advance the economic parity of rural women through:
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- 124 a. Primary school activities which prioritize gender equality education at the governmental level
125 to empower young girls and promote the concept of gender equality for all children, including
126 boys, by using positive action and conflict resolution;
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 - 128 b. Secondary school activities to promote career empowerment and leadership skills for young
129 women and normalize the idea of rural women in authority;
 - 130
 - 131 c. Including a focus on creating male allies through education and dissolving traditional views of
132 gender to further advance economic parity;
 - 133
- 134 4. *Expresses its hope* that rural women will be put in a position to be financially independent through the
135 implementation of:
136
- 137 a. Classes and workshops that focus on the importance of financial literacy, including topics
138 such as:
139
 - 140 i. Entrepreneurship, managing personal finance, basic banking and budgeting and
141 micro business learning;
 - 142
 - 143 b. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) education initiatives and similar
144 programs that teach rural women how to capitalize on their skill sets and create their own
145 sources of income as well as enhance their success by developing entrepreneurial coworking
146 spaces for women to create a business around a regional specialty;
 - 147
 - 148 c. Classes, workshops, and initiatives should be created for the benefit of adult women in rural
149 areas who have already entered the workforce but may not have the vocational knowledge to
150 enhance their personal success, and will be carried out alongside simultaneous education
151 programs for younger people to ensure comprehensive, immediate improvement for rural
152 women of all ages;
 - 153
- 154 5. *Supports* UN-Women citizenship initiative and the efforts made by UN organizations and programs,
155 such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High
156 Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Working Group for Women and Land Ownership
157 (WGWLO), in order to guarantee access to rural women in agricultural resource management;
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- 159 6. *Emphasizes* the importance of Member States promoting financial and technological programs that
160 offer rural women the opportunity to have access to formal financial institutions through a mobile
161 phone in which:

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- a. A SIM card will be used in order for women to be able to deposit, withdraw, transfer money and pay for goods and services easily through a SMS message;
 - b. Includes residents who have no access to banks or who cannot afford the required minimum deposits in the digital banking era, which will be acquired by the NGOs that support programs such as these;
 - c. In partnership with Public-Private Partnerships and NGOs, Member States will be able to implement such programs in order to give women the opportunities to perform formal financial actions;
7. *Further suggests* Member States to strengthen the cooperation between national microloan plans, governmental microfinance institutions, NGOs and CSOs to increase the reach of low-interest loans to rural women for income generating activities:
- a. Member States may look at examples of self-help group bank linkage programs as implemented in South Asia, which allow women to have easier access to loans by forming into groups;
 - b. Further recommends to provide accompanying services to consult rural women on financial matters to ensure the efficient utilization and allocation of loans to promote capacity-building;
8. *Calls for* the creation of an app administered by UN-Women aiming to finance the education of women and young girls in rural areas, resembling the WFP app Share the Meal, which targets the population of all Member States that has access to mobile devices:
- a. This app gives the opportunity to its users to donate an amount of money of their choice to contribute to educating women and young girls in rural areas by:
 - i. Enabling user discretion in choosing a cause they wish to support, such as: construction of educational infrastructure such as schools or centers and supply of ICTs to further their education;
9. *Further supports* national services that provide women-specific opportunities to gain legal identification, along with expanding specific South Asian biometric identification practices internationally to provide:
- a. Rural women with constant access to their identification;
 - b. Safe transportation to rural women to and from identification centers with an emphasis on registration online or via email;
 - c. Specific biometric practices to be expanded include and should be exclusionary to fingerprinting and iris scans;
10. *Welcomes* all Member States to:
- a. Develop specific public policies for rural women, reflecting their social, economic, and cultural needs respective to each Member State;
 - b. Promote full participation and encourage female leadership through the creation of a governmental department specifically addressing the needs of rural women within the Ministry of Agriculture and Development;

- 217 c. Emphasize the importance of civil society organizations (CSOs) and the inclusion of ICTs
218 through initiatives which have been implemented in Latin America to achieve an integration of
219 women in the political process thereby ensuring that rural women are part of forming
220 legislature that influences their social, economic, and political stance by:
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222 i. Encouraging rural women to join political processes to ensure that their perspectives
223 are taken in account;
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225 ii. Promoting a model of affirmative action for women in rural areas to be given the
226 opportunity to become politically involved by training rural women to mobilize,
227 organize, and run political campaigns that benefit their constituents without fear of
228 violent repercussions and disownment;
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- 230 11. *Encourages* governments to give leave to rural women to hold land in their own name, as well as hold
231 political status within their communities, through:
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233 a. Further development of current UN resolutions;
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235 b. Creating culturally appropriate incentive programs for countries who have land that is
236 proportionally divided among men and rural women;
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238 c. Creating specific programs to merge the gap in the distribution of land ownership between
239 men and women;
240
241 d. Allowing rural women to own land in their own name that is proportionate, in order to increase
242 autonomy and land ownership for rural women in the attempt to increase equity throughout
243 the globe;
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- 245 12. *Proposes* that Member States measure the amount of unpaid care and domestic work through data
246 collection and surveys as well as differentiation between kinds of unpaid care work, to create an
247 overview that would reveal where care facilities are needed to enhance infrastructure in rural areas;
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- 249 13. *Calls upon* corporations and CSOs to implement mentorship programs by women in successful
250 leadership positions to rural girls and women that:
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252 a. Encourage women and rural girls to become leaders in community management and
253 agricultural markets;
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255 b. Utilize best practices similar to those in Latin America that have exemplified the success and
256 reliability of female farm management;
257
- 258 14. *Invites* international machinery companies to create a lending program with rural areas to provide
259 machineries specially utilized for agriculture and in good condition with the hope of promoting
260 sustainable agricultural practices by:
261
262 a. *Advancing* and encouraging rural women to engage in said programs to increase crop yield
263 and promote a surplus;
264
265 b. *Incentivizing* further upkeep of machinery by the original owner for a profit share determined
266 on a yearly basis at the discretion of the two parties;
267
- 268 15. *Further advises* that NGOs develop business and entrepreneurial coworking spaces for women to
269 create a business around a regional specialty and use their skills for profit with financial support to
270 come through the United Nations Development Fund for Women;
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- 272 16. *Recommends* the expansion of farmer field schools, modelled after schools in North Africa, which
273 provide women with education on best practices for farming, including:
274
- 275 a. Additional workshops on fair sale to empower women with knowledge about local market
276 prices, infrastructure, and supply and demand;
277
 - 278 b. Information for rural women on climate change and natural disaster adaptation strategies in
279 order to prevent economic calamity caused by the effects of droughts, food insecurity, and
280 other maladaptive weather patterns;
281
 - 282 c. Education about sustainable farming and irrigation techniques to combat food insecurity,
283 including the importance of crop diversification and rotation;
284
 - 285 d. Courses on how to select and operate technology that could help women's economic activity
286 by being more efficient in technical crop management;
287
 - 288 e. Financial support to come through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in
289 conjunction with the private sector;
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- 291 17. *Further recommends* that Member States with the financial means work with NGOs and programs to
292 ensure that rural women have access to menstruation products in order to facilitate their ability to
293 attend school and work, by distributing menstrual cups to those in need and selling them to those who
294 can afford it by giving away one cup for each cup sold;
295
- 296 18. *Further encourages* partnerships between government and private for-profit health institutions for the
297 provision of select health care services for rural women, to free up resources such as time and
298 income that can be used towards enhancing the lives of rural women, specifically focusing on:
299
- 300 a. Human immunodeficiency virus, antiretroviral therapy, and tuberculosis;
301
 - 302 b. Subsidizing and/or exempting payments for specified services and products (access to
303 primary healthcare providers, contraceptives, and menstruation products) through:
304
 - 305 i. Government funding and private sector suppliers.



Code: CSW/1/3

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Advancing Economic Parity for Rural Women

1 *The Commission on the Status of Women,*
2
3 *Recognizing* Article 26 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) stating that everyone has the
4 right to education and that education at the fundamental and high primary stages shall be free and
5 accessible for all,
6
7 *Emphasizing the importance* of Article 10 of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of*
8 *Discrimination Against Women* (1979), which grants women the same opportunities to benefit from
9 scholarships and other study grants as men,
10
11 *Guided by the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development* (2015) and the values of Sustainable
12 Development Goal (SDG) 5, regarding gender equality objectives, such as aiming to end all forms of
13 discrimination against women and girls and enhancing the use of technology, particularly regarding
14 improving competencies in the use of information and communications technology (ICTs), as 250 million
15 fewer women than men have access to the Internet, to further promote the economic empowerment of
16 rural women,
17
18 *Cognizant of* General Assembly resolution 56/129 of 2002, which mentions the need for all Member
19 States to identify and share their best practices to ensure that rural women have access to ICTs,
20
21 *Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 60/210 of 2005, which recognizes the use of microfinance to
22 provide loans to rural women, and emphasizing the fact that microfinancing aids in generating
23 employment opportunities for women in rural areas,
24
25 *Welcoming* the development and improvement of labor codes by Member States, legislating equal pay
26 between men and women in all categories of employment,
27
28 *Recognizing* that worldwide, the work of rural women is often unpaid and unrecognized, contributing to
29 the vulnerable financial state of rural women and girls, and their continued dependence on men who
30 traditionally control household's finances,
31
32 *Drawing attention to* the importance of women's unique health needs, and recognizing the lack of health
33 care establishments that are accessible to rural women, particularly regarding prenatal and maternal
34 healthcare, and acknowledging that poor health can negatively impact rural women's financial solvency,
35 as a person's overall health impacts their ability to participate in the global workforce,
36
37 *Concerned* about systemic barriers such as societal attitudes towards women's abilities and the
38 traditional unpaid domestic responsibilities of women within rural households, which impact rural women's
39 abilities to improve their economic status through entrepreneurial endeavours,
40
41 *Acknowledging* that financial literacy programs have been helpful in improving women's economic
42 autonomy,
43
44 *Bearing in Mind* that in developing economies, women are 20% less likely than men to have an account
45 at a formal financial institution, impeding their financial agency, especially in rural areas, where women
46 are excluded from making financial decisions,
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48 *Approving* the International Labour Organization (ILO) Decent Work Agenda and its focus on the
49 international labor standards and pay equality,

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1. *Welcomes* initiatives from Member States to build schools in rural areas, allowing more girls to attend schools at all education levels, and to develop online schools and vocational training allowing rural women to access new employment opportunities;
 2. *Advises* Member States to develop high-quality primary education systems, implementing compulsory education programs for children ages 6-14, as quality education from a young age has proven benefits in the lives of women’s economic solvency over time;
 3. *Encourages* Member States to allocate funding for the establishment of Women’s Resource Centers through collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), dedicated to improving rural women’s digital literacy, as improved access to ICTs is advantageous in furthering education, increasing employment opportunities, and improving knowledge of the right to health;
 4. *Recommends* that Member States expand cooperation with development-related bodies, such as the UNDP and the World Health Organization to advance healthcare centers in rural areas, specifically for women, further recognizing that good health is necessary to improve women’s earning capacity and contributes to the advancement of economic parity through implementing initiatives such as:
 - a. Centers with special adaptations for women with disabilities;
 - b. Culturally sensitive healthcare to ensure women’s willingness to seek out basic care for health problems that is copacetic with their cultural practices;
 - c. Programs, that focus on providing high quality prenatal and postpartum care;
 5. *Suggests* that Member States implement egalitarian employment development programs in rural areas, specifically devoted to improving the employment prospects of women, including:
 - a. Policy initiatives to improve wages for rural women, as outlined in the ILO Decent Work Agenda;
 - b. Employment training for rural women in the area of digital literacy, encouraging collaboration between Member States and UNDP, which aim to increase digital literacy of women by increasing their competency with ICTs;
 6. *Invites* Member States to implement development initiatives that specifically work towards achieving economic parity for rural women, designating funding for programs, encouraging higher levels of women’s attendance at school, including:
 - a. Scholarships designated for rural women, to encourage the equal participation of women in both fundamental and vocational education;
 - b. Free and safe public transportation to and from schools with designated areas specifically for women;
 7. *Encourages* Member States to support the development of entrepreneurship opportunities by providing loans and business development training to rural women for starting their own businesses, acknowledging the mutual advantages existing for both women and Member States when women’s business initiatives are supported;
 8. *Calls upon* Member States to combat the unjust treatment of rural women in the workforce through:
 - a. Recognizing the unpaid work rural women perform daily such as domestic and agricultural work;

- 106 b. Implementation of practices and procedures that ensure safe working conditions for all
107 women, particularly those working in an unpaid capacity by developing partnerships and
108 working in conjunction with UN initiatives and bodies such as the International Labour
109 Organization's Better Work programme and the Food and Agricultural Organization;
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- 111 9. *Fully supports* Member States in promoting the implementation of the M-PESA program, which gives
112 rural women access to a formal financial institution through a mobile phone with a SIM card, allowing
113 them to deposit, withdraw, transfer money, and pay for goods and services via a text message,
114 thereby providing those rural women who have no access to banks or lack the required minimum
115 deposits to open traditional bank accounts to access vital financial services;
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- 117 10. *Welcomes* initiatives from Member States to implement strategies that encourage the financial
118 empowerment of rural women in developing countries and to prioritize their unique needs by offering
119 resources, such as financial education courses and