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Commission on the Status of Women
Background Guide 2020

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Nada Nassereddin, Assistant Director, with contributions from Alejandro Borja Gallegos

NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2020 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, Commision on the Status of Women (CSW). This year's staff is: Directors Miranda Coleman (Conference A) and Nayab Khan (Conference B), and Assistant Director Nada Nassereddin (Conference B). Miranda has a Bachelor Degree in History with an emphasis on Human Rights Violations and an Education Degree. She is currently an educator in Alberta. Nayab has a Bachelor Degree in International Relations with a minor in Middle Eastern Studies from Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs and recently completed her MBA focusing on Management and Data Analytics concentrations with a certificate in Human Resources. She currently works as a Policy Advisor for the U.S. Government. Nada recently completed her BA in International Relations at the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates and she is currently an intern at the Policy and Conflict Resolution Studies Center in Palestine.

The topics under discussion for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) are:

1. Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship
2. Promoting the Involvement of Women in Political Participation
3. Protecting Women in Migration from Human Trafficking, Sexual Slavery and Sexual Exploitation

CSW is the principal intergovernmental body dedicated to the advancement and advocacy of gender equality and the empowerment of women around the globe. CSW prepares reports presented to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the status of women's equality and its progress in furthering this cause. Additionally, it produces Agreed Conclusions on the priority theme discussed at its annual plenary meeting. It will be key for delegates to emulate the normative and best practice-setting approaches of the Commission's annual plenary meetings.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 1 March 2020 in accordance with the guidelines in the Position Paper Guide and the NMUN•NY Position Papers website.

Two resources, available to download from the NMUN website, that serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions are the:

1. NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide - explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not start discussion on the topics with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. NMUN Rules of Procedure - include the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory NMUN Conduct Expectations on the NMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the ECOSOC Department, Aiskell Roman (Conference A) and Marleen Schreier (Conference B), at usg.ecosoc@nmun.org

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Sincerely,

Conference A
Miranda Coleman, *Director*

Conference B
Nayab Khan, *Director*
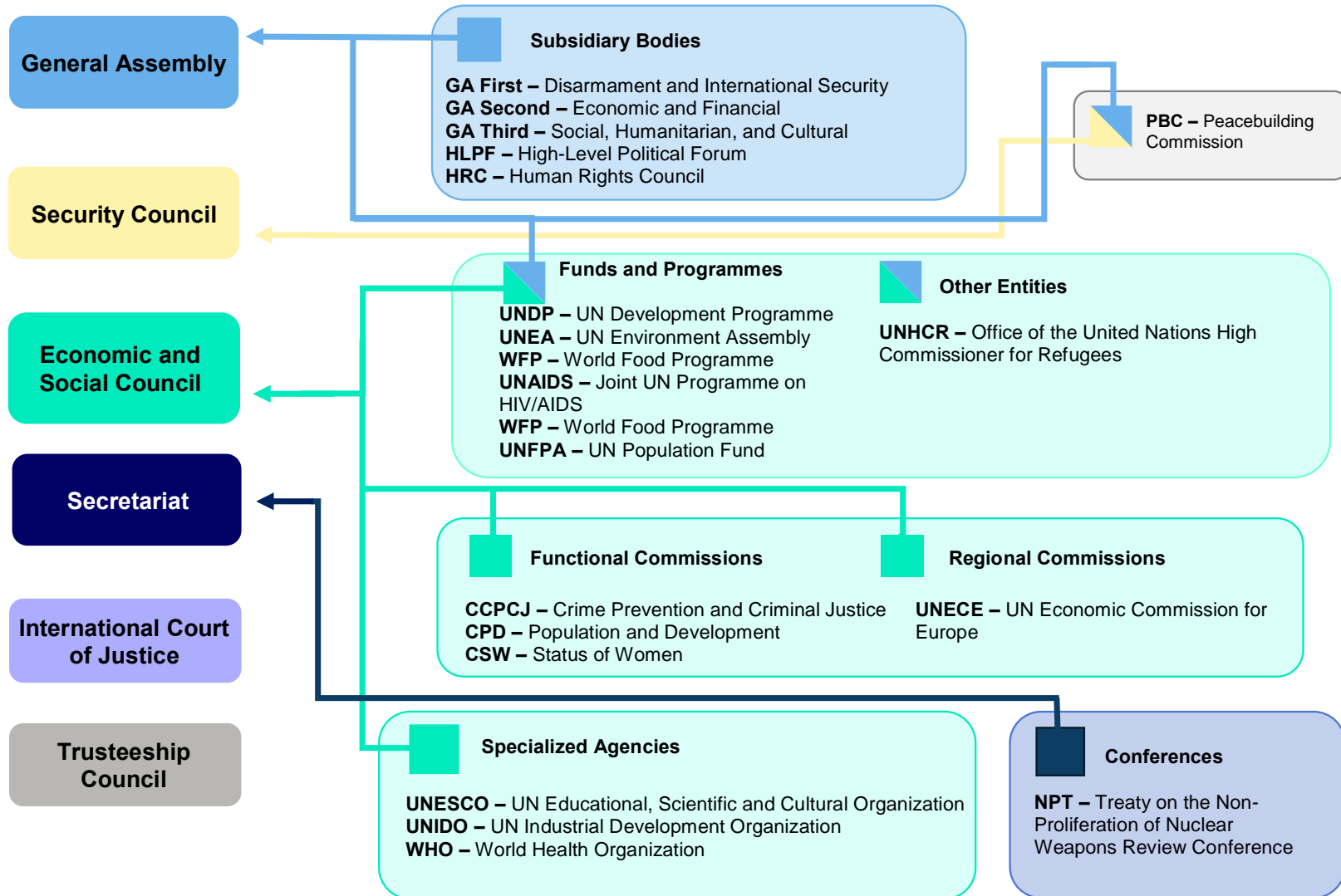Nada Nassereddin, *Assistant Director*

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United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the UN system simulated at NMUN•NY and demonstrates the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the UN system.

General Assembly

Security Council

Economic and Social Council

Secretariat

International Court of Justice

Trusteeship Council

Subsidiary Bodies

GA First – Disarmament and International Security
GA Second – Economic and Financial
GA Third – Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural
HLPF – High-Level Political Forum
HRC – Human Rights Council

PBC – Peacebuilding Commission

Funds and Programmes

UNDP – UN Development Programme
UNEA – UN Environment Assembly
WFP – World Food Programme
UNAIDS – Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS
WFP – World Food Programme
UNFPA – UN Population Fund

Other Entities

UNHCR – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Functional Commissions

CCPCJ – Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
CPD – Population and Development
CSW – Status of Women

Regional Commissions

UNECE – UN Economic Commission for Europe

Specialized Agencies

UNESCO – UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIDO – UN Industrial Development Organization
WHO – World Health Organization

Conferences

NPT – Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conference

Committee Overview

Introduction

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is the principal international body for discussion on gender equality and the empowerment of women.[1] CSW and its secretariat, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), have increasingly become major entities in the international system, especially as there is widespread agreement on the need for the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women but slow progress.[2] In 1946, the first efforts by the United Nations (UN) to address issues of gender equality were carried out in a sub-commission of the Commission on Human Rights.[3] As a result of the debates in 1946, CSW was established as a fully functional commission under the auspices of ECOSOC through ECOSOC resolution 11(II).[4] The CSW's main priority is to mainstream gender equality within the UN system and link women's empowerment to sustainable development; it reports to ECOSOC annually on its efforts.[5] UN-Women provides support throughout all features of the work performed by CSW and, furthermore, serves to help facilitate civil society actors' participation in the Commission.[6]

CSW has been a main forum for discussion in the ongoing process of creating and implementing international norms and standards related to the advancement of women.[7] CSW's work is mainly guided by the principles of the 1979 *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the 1993 *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*, the 1995 *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (BPfA), and the outcome document of the 23rd Special Session of the UN General Assembly as a follow-up to BPfA, entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century" (2000).[8] The BPfA is particularly significant in guiding CSW's work, as it outlined the goals that the international community set in order to achieve gender equality, such as ensuring the full implementation of women's human rights and promoting women's economic independence.[9] CSW is also influenced by various UN Security Council resolutions, with resolution 1325 (2000) on "Women and Peace and Security" among the most significant.[10]

Beijing+20, a conference held in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, was held in 2015, the same year in which the international community was transitioning from the Millennium Development Goals to the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a collection of 17 goals set out by the UN as part of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.[11] Beijing+20 drew particular attention to 12 critical areas of concern for the continued empowerment of women: poverty, education and training, health, violence against women, armed conflict, women and the economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, the media, the environment, and the girl child.[12] The challenges toward the implementation of the BPfA were addressed during CSW's 59th Session, which concluded with an

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[1] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*, 2015.
[2] UN-Women, *Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2018; UN-Women, *A Brief History of the CSW.*
[3] UN-Women, A *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006, p. 1.
[4] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*, 2015.
[5] Ibid.; New Zealand, Foreign Ministry of Trade and Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017.
[6] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*, 2015; New Zealand, Foreign Ministry of Trade and Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017.
[7] UN-Women, *A Brief History of the CSW.*
[8] UN-Women, A *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006, pp. 9-15.
[9] UN Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.
[10] ECOSOC, *Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution and in post-conflict peace-building (ECOSOC/2004/12)*, 2004.
[11] UN-Women, *CSW59/Beijing+20 (2015)*, 2015.
[12] UN-Women, *Summary Report: The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action Turns 20*, 2015.

examination of potential opportunities for the global community to achieve gender equality in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.[13] The overall work of CSW and this body aligns with SDG 5 (gender equality).[14] Among other targets, SDG 5 aims to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, and to adopt policies and legislation promoting gender equality.[15]

Governance, Structure, and Membership

CSW consists of 45 Member States elected for four-year terms.[16] The allocation of seats follows proportional geographical distribution and is comprised of 13 African states, 11 Asia-Pacific states, four Eastern European states, nine Latin American and Caribbean states, and eight Western European and Other states.[17] The Chair and the four Vice-Chairs of CSW's Bureau rotate without specific geographical regulations and are elected for two-year terms.[18] The Bureau is supported in its actions by UN-Women, which provides CSW with reports on the discussed topics, as well as national and regional reviews on the implementation of the policies set forth by CSW and ECOSOC.[19]

In 2010, the UN restructured its operational framework for women's issues in order to improve efficiency and streamline its work on gender equality.[20] The four major UN agencies that addressed women's issues merged and resulted in the establishment of UN-Women.[21] UN-Women is the Secretariat of CSW and provides guidance on operational activities aimed at the advancement of women.[22] UN-Women supports the work of CSW substantively by providing annual documentation on critical areas of concern regarding gender equality and facilitates interaction between the Commission and civil society organizations (CSOs) at its annual meeting.[23] Moreover, the Commission has a Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women, which produces an annual report to CSW identifying "trends and patterns of reliably-attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women."[24]

In June 2016, ECOSOC adopted resolution 2016/3 to provide recommendations and define the future organization and methods of work of CSW.[25] This resolution had not only officially set forth the priority themes to be addressed throughout the CSW's 61st, 62nd, and 63rd sessions, it also requested CSW to deliver recommendations during its 62nd Session for priority areas for the year 2020 "so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."[26] Finally, ECOSOC asked CSW to coordinate and deliver thematic reviews during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to determine the progress on the SDGs relating to women's empowerment.[27] The Forum, held in July 2018, discussed the importance of achieving gender equality through safeguarding the human rights of women and girls, and encouraging the inclusion of women in society to increase sustainable development.[28] The importance of gender equality to the realization of all SDGs was also re-emphasized.[29]

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[13] UN-Women, *CSW59/Beijing+20 (2015)*, 2015.
[14] UN-Women, *SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all women and girls*.
[15] Ibid.
[16] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*, 2015.
[17] New Zealand, Foreign Ministry of Trade and Affairs, *United Nations Handbook 2017-18*, 2017.
[18] Ibid.
[19] UN General Assembly, *System-wide coherence (A/RES/64/289)*, 2010, pp. 9-11.
[20] Ibid., pp. 8-14.
[21] Ibid., pp. 8-9.
[22] Ibid., pp. 8-10.
[23] Ibid., p. 9.
[24] UN-Women, *CSW59/Beijing+20 (2015)*, 2015.
[25] UN ECOSOC, *Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/RES/2016/3)*, 2016.
[26] Ibid.
[27] Ibid.
[28] PeaceWomen, *Sustainable Development 2018*, 2018.
[29] Ibid.

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The original mandate of CSW, adopted in 1946, was to provide "recommendations and reports to ECOSOC on promoting women's rights in political, economic, social, and educational fields... [and] urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights."[30] This mandate was substantially expanded as a follow-up to the UN Decade of Women from 1975 to 1985 and the Third and Fourth World Conferences on Women in Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995.[31] As a result of the Fourth World Conference and the adoption of the BPfA, ECOSOC decided in its resolution 1996/6 that CSW, as its primary responsibility, must take actions to mainstream "a gender perspective in policies and programs," as well as assist ECOSOC and Member States in the implementation and achievement of the goals set in the BPfA.[32] This was re-emphasized at the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000, which set the goal of achieving full gender equality.[33] CSW works together with the General Assembly and ECOSOC in a multi-tiered intergovernmental process to provide normative guidance to achieve gender equality.[34]

The main functions and primary responsibilities are outlined in the original mandate of CSW, its expansions, and several ECOSOC resolutions on the methods of work of the Commission.[35] These methods of work have been examined and expanded several times by ECOSOC over the years, most recently in ECOSOC resolutions 2015/6 and 2016/3, in order to ensure coherence with the work of the Council.[36] The aim of these expansions was to set an effective approach to mainstream gender within the entire UN system and engage in discussions with governmental representatives, experts, and non-governmental actors to identify gaps and challenges to gender equality.[37] At its annual meetings, CSW adopts resolutions that are included in an annual report to ECOSOC.[38] The Bureau of CSW addresses all necessary preparation for the annual meetings of CSW, identifying emerging issues, trends, focus areas, or possible new approaches to implementing the BPfA and all other relevant policy guidelines, and provides its findings as a summary of the Chair.[39] This work is done in consultation with all the Member States of the Commission and the regional groups, experts, and other relevant stakeholders, promoting interactive dialogue, such as high-level ministerial panels or expert group meetings for interactive dialogue on "steps and initiatives to accelerate implementation and measures to build capacities for mainstreaming gender equality across policies and programmes."[40]

CSW meets annually to provide policy guidance to UN Member States and other relevant UN entities in the form of Agreed Conclusions on its priorities and review theme and resolutions on emerging issues and trends in gender equality and women's empowerment.[41] CSW continues to organize the Beijing reviews, which are often used as a platform to foster political will for actions that promote gender equality

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[30] UN ECOSOC, *Commission on the Status of Women (Res. 11(II))*, 1946, p. 525.

[31] UN-Women, A *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006, pp. 9-15.

[32] UN ECOSOC, *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/RES/1996/6)*, 1996; UN General Assembly, *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/RES/55/71)*, 2000.

[33] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*, 2015.

[34] UN General Assembly, *Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017: Programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women (A/69/6 (Prog.14))*, 2014, p. 2.

[35] Ibid., p. 2.

[36] UN ECOSOC, *Multi-year Programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/RES/2016/3)*, 2016; UN ECOSOC, *Future Organization and Methods of Work of the Commission on the Status of Women (A/RES/2015/6)*, 2015.

[37] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*, 2015.

[38] Ibid.

[39] UN CSW, *Report on the fifty-ninth session (E/2015/27-E/CN.6/2015/10)*, 2015, pp. 11-15.

[40] Ibid.

[41] UN ECOSOC, *Future Organization and Methods of Work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/RES/2015/6)*, 2015, pp. 2-3.

and recommit Member States to relevant frameworks and goals.[42] CSW also contributes to the annual theme of ECOSOC, strengthening the Council's impact, and works closely with all other gender-specific UN entities, such as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to augment their work.[43]

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

At the 62nd CSW Session, draft resolution E/CN.6/2018/L.6 on the "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women" formally declared the Commission's plans to review Member States' implementation of the BPfA at its 64th Session in the year 2020, with the goal being to identify the current obstacles which continue to hinder the achievement of gender equality globally.[44] The 64th Session, scheduled to be held between 9 to 20 March 2020, will mark the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the *Beijing Declaration* and the 5-year anniversary of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.[45] The 64th Session will also have a strong focus on healthcare, its role in empowering women, and improving women's access to quality medical services.[46]

In its most recent 63rd Session, held between 11 to 22 March 2019, CSW adopted Agreed Conclusions (E/CN.6/2019/L.3) on the priority theme, *Social Protection Systems, Access to Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls*.[47] CSW called on Member States to adopt policies that focus on improving infrastructure to increase women's access to social services and safety, as well as policies that focus on improving current infrastructure to make it safer for women.[48] Several other topics debated and discussed at the session included the importance of properly valuing women's contributions in the household, making transportation safer for women, and increasing women's access to social protection.[49] At the session, Secretary-General António Guterres said in his opening statement "the CSW could equally be called the 'Commission on the Status of Power'" while female civil society representatives addressed the Commission asking "for basic social protections to be extended to women and girls around the world, based on need, and in line with their inalienable human rights."[50] On 24 and 25 September 2019, the first UN summit on the SDGs since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda took place with a number of side events and themes related to women and girls.[51] In the concluding Political Declaration, Heads of State and government noted that progress towards women's empowerment is too slow and "reaffirm[ed] that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets."[52]

Conclusion

CSW has been working towards achieving gender equality by setting global standards, establishing a legally binding framework, and promoting women's rights in all its projects and communications.[53] For several years, the international community has increased its focus on achieving equality for women and

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[42] UN ECOSOC, *Future Organization and Methods of Work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/RES/2015/6)*, 2015, pp. 2-3.

[43] Ibid., pp. 2-5.

[44] UN CSW, *Future Organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2018/L.6)*, 2018.

[45] UN CSW, *Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls: Agreed Conclusions (E/CN.6/2019/L.3)*, 2019.

[46] Ibid.

[47] Ibid.

[48] Ibid.

[49] Ibid.

[50] UN DGC, *Annual UN-Women activists' summit opens with focus on services, infrastructure*, 2019.

[51] UN DESA, *SDG Summit 2019*, 2019.

[52] UN General Assembly, *Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (A/HLPF/2019/L.1)*, 2019.

[53] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*, 2015.

reaching the SDGs through women's empowerment and equal participation on society.[54] The Commission has developed education and training programs, and gathered data to help improve and define avenues for achieving gender equality.[55] With the help of CSOs, its annual meetings, and support from UN-Women, CSW can continue to identify new challenges to gender equality and to effectively advise ECOSOC to take action to empower women.[56]

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2019). *Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls: Agreed Conclusions (E/CN.6/2019/L.3)*. Retrieved 10 April 2019 from: https://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2019/L.3
> *The 2019 Agreed Conclusions offer a summarized review of decisions and conclusions arrived at during CSW63, including strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks as well as access to social protection and public services. Additionally, it gives an update on the status of women and how certain ongoing gender equality goals are progressing versus others. This is a great resource for seeing CSW's most up-to-date goals and perspectives to help with steering delegations during conference.*

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2018). *Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2018/L.6)*. Retrieved 5 August 2018 from: http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2018/L.6
> *This resolution, adopted during the CSW's 62nd Session, addresses particular areas of improvement in order to achieve the progressive realization of gender equality across the global arena. This resolution is one of the most recently adopted by CSW and demonstrates its ability to use discussions and turn them into global, concerted action. Delegates will find this very useful in researching CSW's mandate and current points of focus.*

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). *CSW59/Beijing+20 (2015)*. Retrieved 28 August 2017 from: http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015
> *This source is a useful introduction to Beijing+20 and to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The implementation of the Beijing Declaration comes in a crucial moment for the UN as a whole, being related to several of the SDGs. The Declaration and its implementation are leading the work of CSW through the achievement of the SDGs by 2030. This brief overview of Beijing+20 is a useful source for further research on the issues the Commission is dealing with.*

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). *Commission on the Status of Women*. Retrieved 27 August 2018 from: http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw
> *This website is an ideal starting point for understanding CSW and serves as the first overview on its foundation, mandate, methods of work, and multi-year programs of work. It is a great source for information on the various priorities and reviews themes the Commission has dealt with in recent years, especially the 62nd (2018) and 63rd (2019) sessions. For further research, it provides links to the history, official outcome documents, and non-governmental organization participation, as well as the CSW Communications Procedure of the Working Group.*

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[54] UN DGC, *Economic and Social Council Adopts Texts on Sustainable Development Goals, Women, Non-communicable Diseases, as Coordination, Management Session Commences* (*ECOSOC/6846*), 2017.
[55] Ibid.
[56] ECOSOC, *Ways and means to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2014/14)*, 2013.

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I. Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) discusses women's entrepreneurship as a process by which barriers to women owning businesses are dismantled and the resources and skills necessary to be economically independent are accessible.[57] The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor surveyed 48 economies in 2008 and found that of all the total early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA), female entrepreneurs represented close to half (between 40-45%) in only six of the states surveyed.[58] In half of the economies surveyed new female entrepreneurs made up less than 6% of the total state TEA.[59] Women are underrepresented among entrepreneurs because they face many barriers such as often lacking decision-making powers in the home, access to educational opportunities or financing for entrepreneurial activities.[60] In 2018 United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) assessed 189 economies and found in at least 18 of them that men have the legal power to prevent their wives and daughters from working.[61] Over 2.7 billion women are not legally allowed to do the same work as men, limiting the participation of women in the workforce to 63% globally.[62] Women are also expected to take on the bulk of domestic work such as child care, food preparation, and cleaning, taking up much of their time that could be spent on paid work or gaining skills and the education necessary to take on entrepreneurial activities.[63] Financial autonomy for women is essential in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.[64] The SDGs are paramount to increasing entrepreneurial opportunities and resources for women, particularly SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), and SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure).[65] CSW's role, as a recommending body, is to call attention to the gaps in gender equality, such as female entrepreneurship, and make suggestions to other bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and Member States.[66]

International and Regional Framework

In 1967 the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 2263 (XXII), the *Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*, in which Article 10 states that women have the right to work in any field of their choosing without facing discrimination.[67] This Declaration led to the adoption of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) in 1979.[68] Article 11 of CEDAW outlines a woman's equal right to employment opportunities, choice of profession and job security, especially in the event of pregnancy.[69] Articles 10 and 14 discuss the barriers that women face, particularly rural women, and assures them the right to access to education, to form resource-sharing cooperatives, and the right to self-employment.[70] In UN General Assembly resolution 66/288 "The Future We Want", adopted in 2012, the leadership role of women is discussed in addition to outlining the

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[57] CSW, *Report on the Sixty-first Session (E/CN.6/2017/21),* 2017.
[58] GEM, *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2018/2019 Global Report*, 2018.
[59] Ibid.
[60] UN-Women, *Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment*, 2019.
[61] Ibid.
[62] OECD, *Measuring Women's Economic Empowerment: Time Use Data and Gender Inequality*, 2019.
[63] Ibid.
[64] UN-Women, *Monitoring Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges*, 2015.
[65] Ibid.
[66] Ibid.
[67] UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/2263 (XXII))*, 1967.
[68] UN General Assembly*, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.
[69] Ibid.
[70] Ibid.

importance of equal contribution from women and men for sustainable economies.[71] In the section titled "Promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all and social protection," the body notes the need to recognize unpaid domestic work and to provide women with support to take on building small businesses and cooperatives.[72] In 2015 the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* was adopted, explaining that although women's rights have improved globally, women are still drastically underrepresented within the financial and employment sectors.[73] The document states that an inefficient use of 50% of the population in the global economy will likely lead to a major financial crisis.[74] The *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* discusses the importance of women starting and participating in micro, small, and medium enterprises, and the role that NGOs and Member States have in assisting these startups and improving access to financial services to support their long-term success.[75]

The *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.[76] CSW, as a commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is responsible for implementing the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* by making recommendations to mainstreaming gender perspectives in the UN.[77] The 1995 Beijing Declaration calls to action the need to implement policies and increase access to resources to empower women to become entrepreneurs, creating more jobs, and independence for women.[78] The document outlines the role of governments, financial institutions, NGOs, and intergovernmental organizations in encouraging the creation of female owned businesses to achieve objective A.4, which highlights the feminization of poverty.[79] In 2015, and the 59th Session of CSW, the commission conducted a 20 year review of the Beijing Declaration to commend the steps taken toward gender equality and to draw attention the work still needing to be done.[80] Section 5 recognizes that new challenges arose for women in the economy and recommends that NGOs and Member States take steps to enhance women's economic empowerment.[81]

Role of the International System

CSW meets as the largest forum on gender equality to annually to review and discuss a priority theme and to typically adopt agreed conclusions rather than resolutions.[82] Adopted in 2011, the theme for CSW's 55th Session was "access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work."[83] In Section 5, titled "supporting the transition from education to full employment and decent work," CSW discusses the role of women's education and skill development in empowering women to take on the risks of entrepreneurship.[84] In 2017 at CSW's 61st Session, the commission outlined women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work as its theme.[85] Section 3 of CSW61, "Implementing economic and social policies for women's economic empowerment," outlines the importance of women's entrepreneurship and the role of Member States and NGOs in facilitating and strengthening women

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[71] UN General Assembly, *The Future We Want (A/RES/66/288)*, 2012.
[72] Ibid.
[73] UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015.
[74] Ibid.
[75] UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015.
[76] UN Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.
[77] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*, 2019.
[78] UN Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.
[79] Ibid.
[80] CSW, *Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2015/3)*, 2015.
[81] Ibid.
[82] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*, 2019.
[83] CSW, *Report on the Fifty-Fifth Session (E/CN.6/2011/12)*, 2011.
[84] Ibid.
[85] Ibid.

owned businesses.[86] Member States are encouraged to create social policies that promote the full employment of women and the redistribution of unpaid domestic work.[87]

UN-Women serves as the Secretariat of CSW and manages programs with NGOs, supporting and carrying out the work of CSW, actively working toward gender conscious achievement of all the SDGs, particularly women's economic empowerment which is essential to achieving gender equality.[88] UN-Women facilitates the participation of NGOs in CSW, who submit statements on the progress of women's empowerment at each session.[89] The NGOs attending CSW sessions have a responsibility to report on progress and hold Member States accountable.[90] In UN-Women's *2018-2021 Strategic Plan* (UNW/2017/6/Rev.1), the body outlined its role to provide substantive support in CSW's call for increasing women's economic autonomy and address gender perspectives in entrepreneurial policies.[91] UN-Women has a close partnership with the International Labour Organization to create tangible change to economic and labor policies and systems for women, including the promotion of women creating their own economic opportunities and businesses.[92] In 2015, after the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, UN-Women published *Monitoring Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges*, the first document to specifically outline how to achieve gender equality for every target and every SDG.[93] To further mainstream the gender perspective, UN-Women published *Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in 2018 to shine light on the economic role that women have in industries.[94] It discusses, for example, the role of women in aquaculture, where women make up 90% of the secondary fish processing work force, but are paid a fraction of their male counterparts, if at all.[95] The section goes on to explain that with over 80% of fish harvesters being male, women are significantly less likely to create and maintain aquaculture enterprises due to gender discrimination, despite having the related field skills.[96]

Recognizing the Informal Economy to Increase Women's Economic Autonomy

The informal economy is refers to economic activity that is not state regulated, so there is no accountability system to monitor and ensure the fulfillment of labor rights, job security, or access to old-age pensions.[97] Of the 2 billion people globally working in the informal economy, in positions such as domestic workers and street vendors, 93% of informal work is in developing states.[98] Approximately 58% of all working women work within the informal economy, which amounts to 740 million women worldwide.[99] Most women in the informal economy are self-employed or "own-account" entrepreneurs, meaning they have become entrepreneurs out of necessity and lack the ability to hire employees, and are typically in the most vulnerable positions.[100] To better support women in the informal economy, strong social and legal protections are necessary, which they often lack entirely.[101]

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[86] Ibid.
[87] Ibid.
[88] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*, 2019.
[89] UN-Women, *NGO Participation*, 2019.
[90] Ibid.
[91] UN-Women, *United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (UNW/2017/6/Rev.1)*, 2017.
[92] UN-Women, *Decent Work and Women's Economic Empowerment: Good Policy and Practice*, 2012.
[93] UN-Women, *Monitoring Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges*, 2015.
[94] UN-Women, *Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2018.
[95] Ibid.
[96] Ibid.
[97] WIEGO, *Informal Economy*.
[98] ILO, *Women and men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture*, 2018.
[99] Ibid.
[100] ILO, *Empowering Women Working in the Informal Economy*, 2018.
[101] Ibid.

Women working in the informal economy sector often have demanding unpaid care and domestic work expected of them, limiting their work options.[102] Women and girls are often expected to maintain the home through food preparation, cleaning, and the collection of water, as well as the care of vulnerable persons such as children and seniors, in the home.[103] While it can include paid labor, such as a nanny or maid, it is often an unpaid gendered responsibility of women and girls.[104] In addition, gender norms often restrict women to home based informal employment, which are typically low paying jobs that lack social protections.[105] In the 2030 Agenda, SDG Target 5.4 states the need to "recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate."[106] In UN-Women's 2018 gender report of the 2030 Agenda, the body states that investments in infrastructure, such as public transportation and increasing access to running water would dramatically decrease the amount of time that women and girls spend on domestic duties such as traveling long distances to gather water.[107] Access to safe running water also decreases the likelihood of health complications in young and elderly family members that women and girls are tasked with caring for.[108]

Local laws and public policy typically penalize participation in the informal economy, especially for self-employed and own-account entrepreneurs, often resulting in local authorities harassing workers and confiscating their goods, leading to loss of property and further instability.[109] Inclusive informal work legislation, such as the opportunity for street vendors to apply for permits, guarantees women on the informal sector a right to conduct business, typically with an area reservation which opens them up to consistent customers in a safe place.[110] Government regulated minimum wages are proven to be beneficial as it decreases involvement in forced entrepreneurialism and narrows the pay gap between men and women.[111] In light of the continued efforts needed to improve women's protections in the informal economy, CSW's 63rd Session (2019) adopted agreed conclusion recommended that Member States and NGOs further "invest [in] social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure to support the productivity of women's work, including in the informal economy."[112]

Increasing Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Rural and Remote Women

Rural women and girls make up more than one quarter of the global population but have very limited access to resources, making them disproportionately affected by poverty with few channels for economic mobility.[113] Typically, rural women are the primary domestic laborers within the home and spend much of their time gathering food, fuel, and clean water in addition to having agricultural labor responsibilities on land that they do not hold property rights over.[114] The Food and Agriculture Organization notes that although most rural and remote women undertake informal entrepreneurial activities in saturated or high risk markets with low return rates, micro and small enterprises, like cooperatives, can be very beneficial to rural and remote women as work hours are flexible and increase decision-making power and overall

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[102] ILO, *Empowering Women Working in the Informal Economy*, 2018.
[103] OECD, *Measuring Women's Economic Empowerment: Time Use Data and Gender Inequality*, 2019.
[104] Ibid.
[105] ILO, *Empowering Women Working in the Informal Economy*, 2018.
[106] UN General Assembly, *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES70/1)*, 2015.
[107] UN-Women, *Turning promises into Action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2018.
[108] Ibid.
[109] ILO, *Empowering Women Working in the Informal Economy*, 2018.
[110] Ibid.
[111] Ibid.
[112] UN-Women, *UN Commission on the Status of Women Delivers Roadmap on Ensuring Women's Social Protection, Mobility, Safety, and Access to Economic Opportunities*, 2019.
[113] UN-Women, *The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action Turns 20*, 2015.
[114] Ibid.

empowerment.[115] Increasing financial autonomy through entrepreneurial activity leads to an increase of control over other resources, which women typically use to invest in vulnerable family members such as children, improving the overall quality of life for all household members.[116]

Articles 10 and 14 of CEDAW encourage the financial empowerment of rural and remote women through state, NGO, and local collective supported enterprises.[117] Female labor plays a major role to the survival of family within rural family dynamics, especially as it relates to domestic care work.[118] Land and property rights play a major role in financial autonomy and remote agricultural enterprises undertaken by women and girls.[119] Fewer than 20% of women worldwide own land, despite land and property making up an average of 75% of a state's wealth.[120] This dramatically reduces women's access to infrastructure and security.[121] Without assets, women are most vulnerable to poverty and financial instability.[122]

In 2018, CSW met for their 62nd Session where Member States discussed the empowerment of women and girls through participation in economic activity by improving access to education, healthcare, and resources.[123] The agreed conclusions deliberate on the necessity to facilitate and encourage entrepreneurial activity among rural women and girls to expand opportunities, particularly in sustainable agriculture and aquaculture where women are already heavily involved in the processing of goods.[124] The document also recommends increasing access to financing and skill development to transition women and girls out of informal self-employment and into formal entrepreneurship.[125] CSW also encourages Member States to pass legislation allowing rural women and girls to form unions, cooperatives, and business associations to promote empowerment through collective bargaining.[126] For instance, rural women in Ethiopia improved their economic stability through agricultural cooperatives.[127] Ethiopian women are entitled to land inheritance and are free to join female farmer cooperatives that share resources, such as agricultural equipment, reducing their physical labor and reliance on livestock.[128] Increasing the amount of rural and remote female entrepreneurs would directly combat gender inequalities and stereotypes, as well as pave the way for economic independence for all women.[129]

Conclusion

Today, there are more female entrepreneurs than there has ever been in the past, but women continue to have lower incomes and fewer employment opportunities than men.[130] Economists estimate that it will take more than 170 years to close the economic gender gap.[131] The international community and CSW continue to make great strides in encouraging women into formal economic sector and in highlighting the benefits of women creating their own micro and small enterprises.[132] CSW recommends that other UN bodies, NGOs, and Member States work cooperatively to prioritize addressing the informal economy and

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[115] FAO, *Gender and Rural Employment Policy Brief #3*, 2010.

[116] Ibid.

[117] UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.

[118] Ibid.

[119] Ibid.

[120] Villa, *Women Own Less Than 20% of the World's Land. It's Time to Give Them Equal Property Rights*, 2017.

[121] Ibid.

[122] Ibid.

[123] CSW, *Report on the Sixty-second Session (E/2018/27-E/CN.6/2018/20)*, 2018.

[124] Ibid.

[125] Ibid.

[126] Ibid.

[127] UN-Women, *Women's Cooperatives Boost Agriculture and Savings in Rural Ethiopia*, 2018.

[128] Ibid.

[129] FAO, *Gender and Rural Employment Policy Brief #3*, 2010.

[130] OECD, *Measuring Women's Economic Empowerment: Time Use Data and Gender Inequality*, 2019.

[131] UN-Women, *United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 (UNW/2017/6/Rev.1)*, 2017.

[132] ILO, *Empowering Women Working in the Informal Economy*, 2018.

encouraging an increase of entrepreneurial opportunities for rural and remote women, further closing the income and financial security gap between men and women.[133]

Further Research

Keeping in mind the mandate of CSW, as a recommending body, delegates should consider questions such as: How can participation in the informal economy sector help women? What are the challenges unique to women in informal work? What partnerships can be made between UN bodies, NGOs, and Member States to bring security to informal workers? What recommendations can members of CSW and UN-Women make to minimize the risks of self-employment and entrepreneurial activities? How can micro enterprises improve rural women's quality of life? What recommendations can CSW make to improve access to resources for rural women? How can CSW utilize its partnership with UN-Women and other bodies to encourage social and legal policies that protect women owned enterprises?

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> *In 2019 the OECD published this document to outline policy and program changes that increase women's economic empowerment by decreasing and reallocating unpaid domestic work. OECD makes recommendations to support the achievement of the SDGs while supporting women's economic autonomy. Delegates will find this document to be a comprehensive introduction to the recognition, redistribution, and reallocation of unpaid care and domestic work. The document analyzes data on unpaid domestic work from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Peru, and South Africa.*

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> *This guiding document was published by UN-Women to provide strategies that combat gender inequalities while supporting the Beijing Declaration. The document outlines five strategic priorities, including an increase in income security, decent work, and economic autonomy for women. Delegates will find this document helpful in identifying actionable strategies that narrow economic gender gaps. Outcome three contains the priorities and direction of UN-Women and CSW mutual goal of women's economic empowerment, as well as additional information regarding the specific SDGs relevant to the outcome.*

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2018). *Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved 18 June 2019 from: http://www.onumulheres.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/SDG-report-Gender-equality-in-the-2030-Agenda-for-Sustainable-Development-2018-en.pdf
> *This report completed by UN-Women provides gender indicators with actionable recommendations for implementation. The document classifies the gender-specific targets of the 2030 Agenda between three tiers to showcase the conceptual clarity, quality of progress data collection, and established methodology and achievement standards. The document directly analyzes the proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, providing data on the age and location of women globally. Delegates will find this document to be an excellent resource in identifying, which targets have gendered, gaps, as well as steps to address those gaps.*

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[133] CSW, *Report on the Sixty-second Session (E/2018/27-E/CN.6/2018/20)*, 2018.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). Monitoring Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges. Retrieved 20 June 2019 from: https://www.educategirls.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Monitoring-Gender-Equality.pdf

> *This report published by UN-Women identifies gender gaps in the SDG indicators to monitor implementation of the 2030 Agenda for women and girls. This document suggests achievement indicators for all the SDG targets as well as allocates the responsibility of data collection, outlining the role of UN-Women and its partnerships. Goal five discusses the need for equal access to economic resources to achieve gender equality and goal eight highlights the right to full and productive work by listing average wages by occupation for women and men. Delegates will gain a greater understanding of what UN-Women, the Secretariat of CSW, is doing within their mandate to address the 2030 Agenda.*

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> *This Agreed Conclusion's theme is women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, containing the most recent recommendations for female entrepreneurship. Delegates will find section 3, "Implementing economic and social policies for women's economic empowerment," to be particularly informative on the challenges that women face in achieving economic autonomy. This section outlines the importance of women's entrepreneurship and the role of Member States and NGOs in facilitating and strengthening women owned businesses.*

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II. Promoting the Involvement of Women in Political Participation

"It is impossible to realize our goals while discriminating against half the human race. As study after study has taught us, there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women."[134]

Introduction

In 2003, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted resolution 58/142 titled "Women and political participation," marking the first time the UN General Assembly highlighted the importance of increasing *women's participation* in positions of power and decision-making.[135] Resolution 58/142 considers political participation of women to include: women engaging in political activities, taking part in the conduct of public affairs, associating freely, assembling peacefully, expressing one's opinions, and seeking, receiving, and imparting political information and ideas freely.[136] Voting in elections and public referendums, being eligible for election to publicly elected bodies, participating in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof, holding public office, and performing public functions at all levels of government are also means of political participation.[137] The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) affirms that equal access of men and women to power, decision-making, and leadership at all levels of political affairs is necessary to make governments more representative of the composition of society and to ensure that the interests of women are taken into account in policy-making.[138] Further, the participation of women in politics is a form of women's empowerment and it is essential to the protection of women's political rights and the achievement of gender equality, sustainable development, peace, and democracy.[139]

Women's representation in political decision-making continues to improve slowly.[140] Based on the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) annual report, which tracks women's participation in parliament and monitors its progress and trends, as of 2019, 24.3% of all national parliamentarians are women, a slow increase from 11.3% in 1995.[141] On the contrary, women's representation in top-level leadership has decreased since 2017, from 7.2% of elected Heads of State to 6.6% and from 5.7% of Heads of Government to 5.2%.[142] On the level of ministers, as of 2019, 20.7% of government ministers are women, who most commonly hold portfolios in social affairs.[143] According to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), women in political positions are more likely to address issues of gender equality, such as the elimination of gender-based violence, parental leave and child-care, and pensions.[144] UN-Women also presents evidence that women's leadership in political decision-making processes can make a change in society.[145] For instance, in Norway, a direct causal relationship was found between the presence of women in municipal councils and the number of municipal child-care

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[134] Annan, *Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations*, 2007.
[135] UN-Women, *Global norms and standards: Leadership and political participation*.
[136] UN General Assembly, *Women and Political Participation (A/RES/58/142)*, 2003, pp. 1-5; UN-Women, *Global norms and standards: Leadership and political participation*.
[137] UN General Assembly, *Women and Political Participation (A/RES/66/130)*, 2011, pp. 1-5; UN-Women, *Global norms and standards: Leadership and political participation*.
[138] UN ECOSOC, *Commission on the Status of Women: Report on the Fourteenth session (E/3360-E/CN.6/367)*, 1960; UN-Women, *The Beijing Platform for Action Turns 20: Women in power and decision-making*.
[139] Women Deliver, *Strengthen women's political participation and decision-making power*; UNDP, *Women's equal political participation*.
[140] UN-Women, *One in five ministers is a woman, according to a new IPU/UN-Women Map*, 2019.
[141] Inter-parliamentary Union, *New IPU report shows well-designed quotas lead to significantly more women MPs*, 2019; UN-Women, *Facts and figures: Leadership and political participation*, 2019.
[142] UN-Women, *Facts and figures: Leadership and political participation*, 2019; UN-Women, *One in five ministers is a woman, according to new IPU/UN-Women Map*, 2019.
[143] UN-Women, *Facts and figures: Leadership and political participation*, 2019.
[144] Ibid.
[145] Ibid.

services.[146] Similarly, in India, the number of drinking water projects was 62% higher in areas with women-led councils rather than men-led councils.[147]

International and Regional Framework

The *Charter of the United Nations* and the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) proclaim equal rights of men and women.[148] Equality in political participation is specifically fundamental to Article 21 of the UDHR, which declares that all people have the right to participate in the government of their country and to access public services.[149] Following in 1953, the General Assembly adopted the *Convention on the Political Rights of Women* to protect the equal status of women to exercise political rights, one of which is the participation of women in political decision-making positions.[150] In 1979, the General Assembly adopted the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* to further emphasize the necessity of gender equality.[151] In the last three decades, new international standards were set, including the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (BPfA), adopted by the international community at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, which tackles 12 areas in women's rights, including women in power and decision-making.[152] The BPfA calls on governments to take measures to ensure women's full participation in political structures and to increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership.[153] Furthermore, in 2000, Security Council resolution 1325, an influential landmark document on the topic of women, peace, and security, stressed the importance of women's equal and full participation as active agents in politics, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding.[154]

In 1990, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted resolution 1990/4, highlighting the importance of equality in political participation and decision-making, urging the advancement of women be considered a priority in national decision-making, as well as calling for women to be active agents in those decisions.[155] Similarly, ECOSOC resolution 1990/15 emphasized that governments, political parties, trade unions, and professional and other representative groups must aim to increase the proportion of women in leadership positions to at least 30% by 1995 to achieve a more equal representation between men and women.[156] Over the last decade, progress was made to reach this goal; however, no country reached the 30% goal.[157] The UN General Assembly adopted two landmark resolutions in 2003 and 2011 that highlighted the importance of women's political participation.[158] In 2003, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 58/142 urging Member States to protect the right of women to participate in their government at all levels and to eliminate laws that prevent or restrict women's participation in the political process.[159] Similarly the 2011 UN General Assembly resolution 66/130 asks

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[146] Ibid.
[147] Ibid.
[148] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948.
[149] UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948.
[150] UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Political Rights of Women* (*A/RES/640 (VII))*, 1953.
[151] UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.
[152] UN-Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome*, 2014.
[153] UN-Women, *Summary Report: The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action Turns 20*, 2015.
[154] UN Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*, 2000.
[155] UN ECOSOC, *Equality in political participation and decision-making (E/RES/1990/4)*, 1990, pp. 8-9.
[156] UN ECOSOC, *Recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000 (E/RES/1990/15)*, 1990, pp. 14-18.
[157] UN-Women, *Facts and figures: Leadership and political participation*, 2019; Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Women in Parliament: 20 years in review*, 2015.
[158] UN General Assembly, *Women and Political Participation* (*A/RES/58/142*), 2003, pp. 1-5.; UN General Assembly, *Women and Political Participation* (*A/RES/66/130*), 2011, pp. 1-5.
[159] UN General Assembly, *Women and Political Participation* (*A/RES/58/142*), 2003, pp. 1-5.

Member States to respect women's right to participate in public office and to review the impact of their electoral systems on the political participation of women.[160]

Most recently in 2015, the UN adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, providing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aiming to reduce poverty, protect human rights, ensure greater gender equality and inclusive societies, and enhance access to basic services.[161] Gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental to achieve the SDGs and are integrated across the 2030 Agenda.[162] However, there is also the stand-alone SDG 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls in all areas.[163] SDG target 5.5 strives to ensure women's full participation and equal opportunities at all levels of decision-making in economic, political, and public life.[164] Based on the 2019 report of the UN Secretary-General on the progress of the SDGs, low levels of political participation and the underrepresentation of women at all levels of political leadership undermine the ability to achieve SDG 5.[165]

Role of the International System

Many UN entities are involved in promoting political participation of women, including the Security Council, UN-Women, CSW, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). CSW's role in promoting the involvement of women in political participation is to review the progress made and problems persisting in the area of women in power and decision-making outlined in the BPfA.[166] CSW also writes policy recommendations and agreed upon standards for the international community, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs), who help advance women's participation in political processes.[167]

In 2014, the CSW's 58th Session tackled the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, preceding the SDGs, for women and girls.[168] The conclusions adopted in the session call on governments and other actors to implement policies and actions to ensure women's full and equal participation at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors.[169] At the 59th Session, CSW reviewed the implementation of the BPfA and accentuated that greater efforts are required to support women's political participation through capacity building, training, and gathering quality data.[170] The session also encouraged governments to develop dedicated gender equality structures, such as gender equality offices/units, gender equality networks, and ombud services, to promote and monitor gender equality.[171] Furthermore, the session discussed particular gaps to women's political participation such as the lack of attention given to women's participation and influence in trade unions, which are important for prioritizing issues concerning gender equality and advocating for women's rights at the

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[160] UN General Assembly, *Women and Political Participation (A/RES/66/130)*, 2011, pp. 1-5.
[161] UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.
[162] Ibid.
[163] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*, 2019.
[164] UNDP, *Goal 5 Targets*.
[165] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*, 2019.
[166] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*.
[167] Ibid.
[168] UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Commission on the Status of Women: report on the fifty-eighth session (15 March 2013 and 10-21 March 2014) (E/2014/27-E/CN.6/2014/15)*, 2014.
[169] Ibid.
[170] UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Commission on the Status of Women: report on the fifty-ninth session (21 March 2014 and 9-20 March 2015)*, 2015; UN ECOSOC, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2015/3)*, 2015.
[171] UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Commission on the Status of Women: report on the fifty-ninth session (21 March 2014 and 9-20 March 2015)*, 2015; GENDER-NET, *Plans and initiatives in selected research institutions aiming to stimulate gender equality and enact structural change*, 2015.

workplace.[172] The adopted conclusions of the session also reiterated the barriers to women's political participation, which include poverty, the lack of access to education and healthcare, and the threat of violence and intimidation.[173] The upcoming 64th Session of CSW in March 2020 focuses on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the BPfA after 25 years, where the protection of the political rights of women will be addressed.[174]

UN-Women plays a more direct role in assisting the implementation of programs and initiatives, such as providing training for women political candidates to build their capacities and to run more efficient political campaigns.[175] UN-Women also advocates for legislative reforms to guarantee women's fair access to the political sphere and facilitates meetings with CSOs to initiate programs that ensure elections uphold women's rights and are free from electoral violence.[176] For instance, in the 2013 elections in Kenya, UN-Women provided training to nearly 900 female candidates, increasing the number of women legislators by more than 20%.[177] Moreover, UN-Women integrates gender equality in governance and national planning (GNP) by establishing gender-responsive capacities, systems, and resources that reflect an understanding of the realities of women's lives and addresses their issues.[178] A corporate evaluation of the UN-Women GNP portfolio showed that UN-Women expanded policy or political spaces for gender responsiveness and enabled government stakeholders, CSOs, and women machineries, a form of institutionalized or bureaucratic representation of women, to capitalize on those spaces.[179] UN-Women cooperates with national women's machineries established as formal government structures of Member States to advocate and support for policies that promote the advancement of women.[180] UNDP also encourages gender responsiveness of political institutions and supports women's access to opportunities to exercise their political rights through the training of female candidates, awareness campaigns, and promoting gender parity in electoral management bodies.[181]

In 2016, ECOSOC adopted resolution 2016/2, which urged the UN system, its agencies, funds, and programs, to mainstream a gender perspective into all UN policies.[182] In 2017, the General Assembly called upon the entities of the UN, Member States, and NGOs, to accelerate the effective mainstreaming of a gender perspective in its resolution 72/234.[183] A 2018 UN Secretary-General report on mainstreaming gender in the UN system reviewed country programs to monitor and track the implementation of gender mainstreaming.[184] The report showed that progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women in country programs better support Member States in removing the legal, economic, and political structural barriers that discriminate against women.[185]

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[172] UN ECOSOC, *Report of the Commission on the Status of Women: report on the fifty-ninth session (21 March 2014 and 9-20 March 2015)*, 2015.
[173] Ibid.; UN ECOSOC, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2015/3)*, 2015.
[174] UN-Women, *CSW64 / Beijing+25 (2020)*.
[175] UN-Women, *Women's Leadership and Political Participation*, 2013.
[176] Ibid.
[177] Ibid.
[178] UN-Women, *Gender Equality: A Governance Matter*, 2013, p. 1.
[179] UN-Women, *Corporate Thematic Evaluation of UN-Women's Contribution to Governance and National Planning,* 2019.
[180] Ibid.; UN-Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome*, 2014.
[181] UNDP, *Women's equal political participation*.
[182] UN ECOSOC, *Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/RES/2016/2)*, 2016.
[183] UN General Assembly, *Women in Development (A/RES/72/234)*, 2017.
[184] UN ECOSOC, *Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, Report of the Secretary-General (E/2018/53)*, 2018.
[185] Ibid.

Additionally, NGOs and CSOs are often involved in empowering women to participate in politics. The Femmes Africa Solidarité is an NGO that promotes women's equal access and opportunity to participate in decision-making and politics, where its conceptual framework is based on Security Council resolution 1325.[186] The International Women's Democracy Center (IWDC) is another NGO established to strengthen women's global leadership by focusing on increasing the participation of women in policy and decision-making within their own governments; and is granted consultative status to ECOSOC.[187] IWDC achieves its objectives by setting up training programs and workshops such as the Campaign Management Workshop, which trains women leaders the skills and tools to stand as candidates for elected office.[188] Other regional NGOs, like the Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics, are similarly involved in promoting equal participation of women in politics by organizing and hosting global conferences on women in politics.[189] In 2017, as part of a joint program between the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the Community of Democracies, and UNDP, regional consultations took place in Africa, America, the Arab Region, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe to analyze the main policies in place to advance the political empowerment of women.[190] Moreover, the European Union (EU) developed the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, which looks at enhancing women's political participation in national parliaments and subnational elected offices and supporting the political participation of the indigenous population.[191] Other regional organizations, like the Arab Women Organization, prioritize the enhancement of women's political participation by collecting data regarding the status of women in the region, coordinating local and national efforts pertaining to women's issues, and organizing seminars and workshops to coordinate joint regional action regarding women's issues.[192]

Political Exclusion of Women from Marginalized Groups

While Member States reaffirmed the BPfA in 2015, progress since then has been slow and uneven, where no country has fully achieved equality and empowerment for women.[193] Many women experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, vulnerability, and marginalization throughout their life.[194] Gender inequalities intersect with other forms of inequality, which leads to uneven progress in the lives of women as they combat the multiple inequalities they experience.[195] Women often make up the most disadvantaged group within marginalized groups with limited access to land, credit, and even decision-making processes.[196] Major gaps exist for poor women and girls living in rural areas and in poor urban settlements, women with HIV/AIDS infections, and women with disabilities.[197] Further, indigenous women,

[186] Femmes Africa Solidarité, *Origin of FAS*; UN Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*, 2000.

[187] IWDC, *About*.

[188] IWDC, *Programs*.

[189] Center for Asia-Pacific Women, *About CAPWIP*.

[190] International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Permanent Secretariat of the Community Democracies, & UNDP, *Regional Organizations, Gender Equality and the Political Empowerment of Women*, 2017.

[191] European Commission, *EU Gender Action Plan II Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020*, 2018.

[192] International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies, & UNDP, *Advancing Women's Political Participation: Middle East and North Africa Consultation on Gender Equality & Political Empowerment*, 2017.

[193] UNDP, *Progress in the implementation of UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021*, 2019; UN ECOSOC, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2015/3)*, 2015.

[194] Ibid.

[195] UN ECOSOC, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2015/3)*, 2015.

[196] UN ECOSOC, *Commission on the Status of Women: Report on the Fourteenth session* (*E/3360-E/CN.6/367*), 1960.

[197] UNDP, *Women's equal political participation*; UN General Assembly, *Women and political participation (A/RES/66/130)*, 2011.

migrant women, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender women, domestic female workers, and women from ethnic, cultural, or religious minorities face additional barriers in accessing and participating in politics and decision-making.[198]

Statistics collected to monitor progress and shortcomings on gender equality are usually only disaggregated by sex, thus overlooking differences and inequalities among women based on other factors.[199] Research disaggregated across a range of demographic characteristics to account for inter- and intra-group differences is important to assess and analyze gender issues and to reveal multidimensional deprivations that are hidden by averages and aggregations.[200] Furthermore, laws, policies, and efforts are needed to ensure that the needs, interests, and perspectives of marginalized groups of women and girls are integrated across all policy areas and that such groups of women participate in the shaping of policies.[201] It is also important to equip women with the necessary tools such as education, training, and personal resources to strengthen the role of all women in political and public life.[202]

Many Member States have made efforts to increase women's participation in decision-making, but there still exists a stark gap in regards to ensuring the participation of particularly marginalized women in political decision-making forums.[203] A number of actions illustrating how to overcome political exclusion of marginalized women include: for example, the introduction of constitutional and legislative reforms paired with community education initiatives as piloted in Uganda.[204] This effort tackles the political exclusion of people with disabilities and promotes attitudinal and behavioral change to overcome systemic obstacles to the inclusion of marginalized groups of women.[205] In Kenya, for example, Wajir women overcame political and social exclusion by organizing themselves into the Wajir Women Association for Peace, where they worked with local governments to achieve greater democratic inclusion, promote peacebuilding, and secure future attitudinal changes towards women in decision-making positions.[206] Strengthening civil society's support for marginalized groups through formal organization into coordinated structures assists campaigns and promotes women's political participation.[207] Lastly, in Kosovo, shuttle services to and from courts and court liaison officers for ethnic groups facilitate access to courts addressing female minorities being excluded from accessing the judiciary system.[208]

Challenges to Women's Political Participation

Women face disproportionate challenges to actively participate at all levels of politics and decision-making relative to their male counterparts.[209] Challenges include discriminatory socio-cultural and religious practices that keep women in a subordinate position and disregard their decision-making

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[198] UN General Assembly, *Women and political participation (A/RES/66/130)*, 2011.
[199] UN ECOSOC, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2015/3)*, 2015.
[200] Equal Measures 2030, *Harnessing the Power of Data for Gender Equality: Introducing the 2019 EM2030 SDG Gender Index*, 2019.
[201] UN General Assembly, *Women and Political Participation (A/RES/58/142)*, 2003, pp. 1-5.
[202] UN-Women, *Women in power and decision-making: Strengthening voices for democracy*, 2014.
[203] UN ECOSOC, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2015/3)*, 2015.
[204] IDEA, *Overcoming political exclusion*, 2013, p. 28.
[205] Ibid.
[206] IDEA, *Journeys from Exclusion to Inclusion: Marginalized women's successes in overcoming political exclusion*, 2013, p. 16.
[207] IDEA, *Overcoming political exclusion*, 2013, p. 32.
[208] UNDP, *Marginalized minorities in development programming*, p. 48, 2010.
[209] UN General Assembly, *Women's Participation in Exercise of Political Power Cannot Be Disputed, General Assembly President Stresses as She Opens High-Level Event (A/61/122/Add.1)*, 2019.

power.[210] According to UNDP, in many countries, traditions continue to portray women's primary roles as mothers and housewives, restricting them to those roles which are often unrecognized as work and unpaid.[211] This, for instance, hinders women from entering politics themselves and can influence their voting decisions on election day, if the male head of household tells them how to vote.[212] Furthermore, women on average are financially poorer than men, lacking access to and ownership of land, bearing disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work, and being paid less or more likely being unemployed.[213] The poorer financial disposition of women is a critical challenge for their participation in politics since seeking elective positions is expensive, requiring large financial involvement which many cannot afford.[214] Not only do women consider the costs of running a campaign, but they also consider the costs in the domestic sphere to cover their absence such as child-care costs.[215] Canada, for instance, adopted legislation at the electoral level which places child-care expenses as part of the expenses of a candidate for election because child-care costs impose an unequal burden on many women seeking elected office.[216]

According to OHCHR, risky political environments where women could face violence, assassinations, threats, and blackmail are another challenge to women's participation in politics because they scare away women from active participation in politics.[217] The lack of prosecution of violent attacks against women in politics also discourages the participation of women in politics.[218] Additionally, political party discrimination against women occurs deliberately to humiliate and frustrate women into losing focus and excluding them from active participation.[219] Since many women are vulnerable to political violence, they are unlikely to attend frequent political meetings that occur late in the night.[220] Results from IPU's 2016 study on violence against women (VAW) in parliament of 39 countries showed that 44.4% of women received threats of death, rape, beatings or kidnapping, 25.5% experienced physical violence in the parliament, and 46.7% feared for their security and that of their family.[221] Efforts by Member States to end VAW in politics include parliamentary response and organized campaigns that call attention to widespread sexual and physical harassment of women in politics.[222] Amongst others, challenges faced by women also include the negative social perceptions about the leadership ability of women and the lack of support from families and the media.[223] Repeated exposure to female elected officials improves perceptions of women's ability and effectiveness in politics and leads to future electoral gains and support for women.[224]

[210] Ibid.

[211] UNDP, *Public perceptions on gender equality in politics and business*, 2013; UN-Women, *Redistribute unpaid work*.

[212] Kunovich et al., *Gender in politics*, 2007.

[213] UN-Women, *Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment*, 2019.

[214] UN ECOSOC, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2015/3)*, 2015.

[215] Women's Environment & Development Organization, *Women Candidates and Campaign Finance*, 2007.

[216] Ibid.

[217] OHCHR, *Violence against Women in Politics*, 2018; UN ECOSOC, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2015/3)*, 2015.

[218] OHCHR, *Gender based violence against women in politics and during elections must be eradicated, warns UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women*, 2019.

[219] Kunovich et al., *Gender in politics*, 2007; Shames, *Barriers and Solutions to Increasing Women's Political Power*, 2015.

[220] Shames, *Barriers and Solutions to Increasing Women's Political Power*, 2015.

[221] Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians*, 2016.

[222] OHCHR, *Violence against Women in Politics*, 2018.

[223] UN ECOSOC, *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2015/3)*, 2015.

[224] Women Deliver, *Strengthen women's political participation and decision-making power*; UNDP, *Women's equal political participation*.

Legislative, electoral, and constitutional laws also challenge the representation of women and their political participation.[225] Legislation governing political parties can discriminate against women by placing provisions on candidate registration.[226] Those include high candidate deposit costs or requirements that are difficult to fulfill because of women's unequal political and socio-economic power in comparison to men.[227] However, as of 2016, over 120 countries have established quota policies to ensure more women have leadership roles in government, where the range targeted in quotas varies across countries.[228] For instance, in Niger, the goal is 10% of female representation in parliament, while in Panama, the target is 50%.[229] While some Member States implement quota systems to increase the women's participation in government, quotas still do not ensure enough women are elected in political parties.[230] For voting and elections, women may face obstacles in casting their vote, for instance, as polling stations are located in remote or unsafe areas, which makes women reluctant to use them.[231]

One path to change has been through the social, economic, and political transformations that have offered greater opportunities for women to assume different roles and opened way for new political institutions.[232] More specific strategies of change can be seen in Senegal in 2012, where CSOs and UN-Women launched an awareness campaign and a training program on the electoral process to educate and encourage female candidates.[233] The outcome of the elections resulted in a near balance between men and women in the National Assembly.[234] Similarly, in 2013, increased access of women to the political decision-making process in Cameroon was gained through placing participatory neighborhood structures that worked with local government and other state actors.[235] In Georgia, in 2014, with the support of UNDP, mechanisms to increase networking and develop the capacities of women politicians included establishing a local forum.[236] Moreover, in 2015, the National Council for Women in Egypt developed a website for women candidates to provide a platform for all women candidates to promote their electoral campaigns, which increased their reach to voters and decreased their campaign costs.[237] In a last example, following the civil war in Liberia in 2003, a women-led peace movement, paired with gender-sensitive donor nations, and a UN mission with a mandate to incorporate gender mainstreaming, resulted in gender-sensitive police reforms.[238] This led to the recruitment of female police officers and a new unit to respond to gender-based violence was created.[239]

Conclusion

All women need to equally participate in the political process of their countries to ensure a democratic and inclusive national society.[240] Inclusive participation of women in government influences the extent of emphasis on gender equality in policy and practice.[241] CSW, alongside UN-Women, established, supported, and financed many initiatives to work towards equal participation, to implement the BPfA, and

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[225] UN-Women, *Women's Leadership and Political Participation*, 2013.

[226] OSCE, *Handbook on Promoting Women's Participation in Political Parties*, 2014.

[227] Ibid.

[228] UNESCO, *Global Education Monitoring Report: Gender inequality persists in leadership positions*, 2017.

[229] Ibid.

[230] UNSD, *Power and decision-making*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Women's Participation in Exercise of Political Power Cannot Be Disputed, General Assembly President Stresses as She Opens High-Level Event (A/61/122/Add.1)*, 2019.

[231] UN-Women, *Elections*.

[232] Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Women in Parliament: 20 years in review*, 2015.

[233] Women Deliver, *Strengthen Girls' and Women's Political Participation and Decision-Making Power*, 2016.

[234] Inter-Parliamentary Union, *Women in Parliament: 20 years in review*, 2015.

[235] IDEA, *Overcoming political exclusion*, 2013, p. 32.

[236] UNDP, *Strengthening women's political participation*, 2016.

[237] OECD*, Women's political participation in Egypt*, 2018.

[238] Bacon, *Liberia's gender-sensitive police reform: Improving representation and responsiveness in a post-conflict setting*, 2015.

[239] Ibid.

[240] UN ECOSOC, *Equality in political participation and decision-making (E/1990/4)*, 1990.

[241] UNESCO, *Global Education Monitoring Report: Gender inequality persists in leadership positions*, 2017.

to achieve SDG 5.[242] While measures have been taken to empower women politically, many barriers still exist that prevent women from full and equal participation in the political life.[243] Working towards achieving equal political participation of women will remain one of the priorities for CSW in order to ensure gender equality.[244]

Further Research

While researching this topic, delegates should consider the following questions: How can CSW and other UN entities work with Member States to achieve equal representation for women in local, national, and international governance bodies? How can CSW shape norms and policies that address the causes of low political participation of women such as poverty, gender-based violence, lack of access to education, and the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work? What role can men play as advocates in empowering women? How can governments provide resources to facilitate involving marginalized groups in governmental practices? How can the UN remain sensitive to cultural practices while ensuring the voices of women are heard in decision-making processes? How can CSW shape policies to encourage the implementation of a gender-sensitive political structure? What capacity-building activities should occur within Member States, CSOs, and intergovernmental organizations to fill implementation gaps?

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> *The IPU report shows statistics of women's participation in parliament and other domains of government. The latest report of 2018 is based on countries that held elections in 2018. Furthermore, the IPU data confirms that the global share of women in parliament continues to slowly rise. It also shows that electoral quotas for women have spread to all regions and that well-designed quotas increase gender equality. However, the report elaborates that country-level experiences with quotas have shown that not all quotas are equally effective. This report is important for delegates as a source for statistics and for information on electoral law and quotas.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2015). *Report on the Commission on the Status of Women, fifty-ninth session* (*21 March 2014 and 9-20 March 2015*) (*E/2015/27- E/CN.6/2015/10*). Retrieved 18 August 2019 from: https://undocs.org/E/2015/27
> *The 2015 report of CSW to the ECOSOC is a summary of the work that CSW has accomplished the past years, especially the Beijing+20 national and regional review processes. This document is essential for delegates since it provides information on the organizational structure of CSW and the pressing themes it addresses. It also provides a draft resolution on the "future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women," and presents gaps to women's political participation. Further, the report includes a list of considered documents during the session.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2015). *Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2015/3)*. Retrieved 18 August 2019 from: http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2015/3
> *This is a summary of the report that was made to provide a review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on its 20th anniversary. It highlights matters such as VAW, access to employment and education, and women in power and decision-making. The BPfA continues to act as the main framework for women's*

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[242] UN-Women, *Progress 20 years on: Beijing+20 reviews are underway*, 2014.
[243] Ibid.
[244] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*.

empowerment and it presents the priorities for future action and for accelerated implementation. It is also a great resource for the peripheral issues of this topic including the political exclusion of marginalized groups, electoral quotas, and the political VAW.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2013). *Women's Leadership and Political Participation.* Retrieved 17 August 2019 from: https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2013/12/un%20womenlgthembriefuswebrev2%20pdf.pdf?la=en

> *This website presents how women are underrepresented as voters as well as in leading positions in politics. It offers an overview of the role of UN-Women in relation to the restriction in the political participation of women. Several obstacles to participating in political life including structural barriers through discriminatory laws and institutions are mentioned as well as several solutions that could be implemented to tackle the issue. The website also shows examples of Member States with facts and figures that demonstrate improvements in political participation. The source is useful for delegates since UN-Women and CSW constantly work together to achieve common goals, including encouraging the involvement of women in politics.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-sixth session. (2011). *Women and political participation (A/RES/66/130).* Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/66/455 and Corr. 1). Retrieved 16 August 2019 from: https://undocs.org/A/RES/66/130

> *This UN resolution is the latest one that fully tackles the issue of women in political participation. It provides several clauses about the importance of addressing the topic and the reason it is a threat to democracy. Furthermore, it offers operative clauses that encourage Member States to take certain steps to promote the involvement of women in the political sphere. Most importantly, it also tackles concepts of conflict resolution, gender quotas, and minority groups. This resolution is helpful for delegates since it presents the acts that constitute political participation and it offers recommendations that the delegates should keep in mind when stipulating further measures for addressing the topic.*

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III. Protecting Women in Migration from Human Trafficking, Sexual Slavery, and Sexual Exploitation

Introduction

Migration describes the movement of people, often for the purpose of cultural exchange or improvement of quality of life, but can also refer to displacement due political and economic crises, resource scarcity, or organized crime.[245] Globally, there are approximately 272 million migrants, making up 3.5% of the population.[246] Nearly 70.8 million current migrants have been forcibly displaced, among these, more than 25 million are refugees and over 40 million are Internally Displaced Persons.[247] Displaced women and girls are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence (GBV), human trafficking, and sexual exploitation.[248] Migration often exacerbates discrimination that women and girls face within their cultural and socio-economic status while decreasing personal security and protections.[249] Women and girls often migrate alone or with children and are also less likely to exercise their rights.[250] Frequently, female migrants travel long distances on foot or through unsafe methods of transportation via human smugglers.[251] In regions with high numbers of forcibly displaced people, criminal groups often gather near borders, blocking migrants from fleeing.[252] These groups commonly conduct sexual violence and trafficking against female migrants, as well as theft, leaving surviving women injured and without resources or assets.[253] Traffickers and smugglers lure migrant women and girls into sex trafficking and slavery by promising safety, food security, and shelter.[254]

Human trafficking consists of the recruitment, transportation, harboring, receipt and commerce of persons for the purpose of exploitation.[255] Sexual exploitation includes prostitution, commercial surrogacy, and forced or servile marriage, where a particular person or organization benefits financially from these activities.[256] Globally, women account for 71% of trafficker's victims.[257] Females make up 96% of trafficking victims used for sexual crimes, while girls make up 72%.[258] At the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) the priority theme was the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, where the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children gave a statement outlining trafficking as an act of violence against women.[259] CSW is committed to identifying the gaps in protecting women migrants from GBV, human trafficking, sexual slavery and sexual exploitation, and discussing solutions with Member States and other stakeholders on this issue.[260]

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[245] IOM, *Report Overview: Making Sense of Migration in an Increasingly Interconnected World*, 2018.
[246] *The Number of International Migrants Reaches 272 Million, Continuing an Upward Trend in All World Regions, Says UN*, UN DESA, 2019.
[247] UNHCR, *Figures at a Glance: Statistical Yearbook*, 2018.
[248] UNHCR, *Handbook for the Protection of Women and Girls*, 2006.
[249] Ibid.
[250] Ibid.
[251] *Five Reasons Migration is a Feminist Issue*, UNFPA, 2018.
[252] Joint Internally Displaced Persons Profiling Service, *Honduras*, 2019.
[253] Ibid.
[254] Ibid.
[255] UNODC, *Human Trafficking*, 2019.
[256] UNODC, *The International Legal Definition of Trafficking in Persons: Consolidation of Research Findings and Reflection on Issues Raised*, 2018, p. 16.
[257] *Five Reasons Migration is a Feminist Issue,* UNFPA, 2018.
[258] ICAT, *The Gender Dimensions of Human Trafficking*, 2017, pp. 1-2; *Five Reasons Migration is a Feminist Issue,* UNFPA, 2018.
[259] CSW, *Speech by UN Special Rapporteur Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children at 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women on 11 March 2013, in New York*, 2013.
[260] CSW, *Report on the Fifty-Seventh Session (E/CN.6/2013/11)*, 2013.

International and Regional Framework

In 1949, the General Assembly adopted the resolution 62 (I) titled "Refugees and Displaced Persons" outlining the rights of migrants and displaced persons, with no distinctions based on sex, gender, and nationality.[261] The document also called for the formation of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, established in 1950, to report on forced migratory flows and the challenges they face.[262] In 1979, the General Assembly adopted the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, which recognized the equal rights of movement for men and women.[263] In 1995, the *Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action* was adopted to address gender inequality.[264] The Beijing Declaration outlines the challenges that migrant women face, exacerbated by gender inequality, such as sexual violence and human trafficking.[265] The implementation of the Beijing Declaration is the primary responsibility of CSW, who calls attention to gaps in gender equality outlined in the Declaration, and encourages its stakeholders and UN-Women to implement change.[266] During the official statement of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children at CSW's 57th Session, the special rapporteur Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo discussed the "long standing failure to protect women from gender based violence" particularly when discussing the factors making women particularly vulnerable to trafficking such as migration.[267] The statement notes that restrictive immigration policies have created trafficking and sexual exploitation channels that could be minimized by implementing safe migration policies.[268]

In 2000 the General Assembly adopted the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and its *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children* (UN TIP Protocol).[269] The Protocol defines human trafficking and outlines the role that Member States have in combatting and preventing the trafficking of women and girls.[270] The document also ensures that victims are not prosecuted for any activities derived from their captivity, and provides States parties with guidelines for the criminalization and prosecution of traffickers.[271] In 2010, the General Assembly adopted resolution 64/293 on the "United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons" to promote a comprehensive international response to human trafficking.[272] The resolution supported the creation of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, which supports survivors of human trafficking with humanitarian and legal aid.[273] In 2016, the General Assembly adopted the *New York Declaration of Refugees and Migrants and* the *Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework* where it reinforced the importance to protect women in migration from trafficking and related crimes.[274] In 2018 the General Assembly adopted the "Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees," further recognizing the urgency to fight against trafficking and protect migrant girls and women [275]. Most recently, the General Assembly adopted resolution 73/146, titled "Trafficking in Women and Girls," urging states to take further action to implement

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[261] UN General Assembly, *Refugees and Displaced Persons (A/RES/62 (I))*, 1946.
[262] Ibid.
[263] UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.
[264] UN Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.
[265] Ibid.
[266] UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*, 2019.
[267] CSW, *Speech by UN Special Rapporteur Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children at 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women on 11 March 2013, in New York*, 2013.
[268] Ibid..
[269] UN General Assembly, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (A/RES/55/25)*, 2000.
[270] Ibid.
[271] Ibid.
[272] UN General Assembly, *Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/64/293)*, 2010.
[273] Ibid.
[274] UN General Assembly, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1)*, 2016.
[275] UN General Assembly, *Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees–Part II: Global Compact for Refugees (A/73/12 (Part II))*, 2018.

gender and aged-sensitive measures to prevent underlying causes of trafficking.[276] The resolution also encouraged Member States to work together with the international community to build awareness about the dangers of human trafficking, specifically affecting migrants, and provide support to victims.[277] It also encouraged Member States to improve legal frameworks by incorporating measures to protect migrants from human trafficking and human right violations by incorporating a gender perspective into their national policies.[278]

In 2015, the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* highlighted the urgency to promote gender equality and it reaffirmed CSW's commitment to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its efforts to protect and empower women and girls.[279] SDG 5 (gender equality) is key to achieving SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduce inequalities), SDG 16 (peace and justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnership for the goals).[280] These goals are paramount in promoting gender equality and human rights and protecting women from GBV to facilitate orderly and safe international migration.[281]

Role of the International System

In 2007, the General Assembly created the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) to facilitate the coordination and cooperation between UN agencies and other international organizations.[282] ICAT's primary mandate is to prevent trafficking and protect victims.[283] Some of the ICAT members are, among other agencies, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). [284] In 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted the *Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons* (PoA), which is the main international framework for an international response to human trafficking.[285] The PoA highlights the urgency to prevent, suppress and punish human trafficking, and gives emphasis on the protection of women and children.[286] The relevance of the PoA was reiterated by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2015 on its resolution 2015/23, titled "Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons," where it requested the CSWmembers of the ICAT to work towards the effective implementation of the plan.[287]

UN-Women is leads the fight against the traffic of girls and women in migration and is advocating for the improvement of international migration governance mechanisms to protect them.[288] As part of the UN-Women, CSW facilitates international discussion of possible actions on this matter.[289] For example, at CSW 61, the representatives of UN-Women and the European Union (EU) presented a set of expert recommendations derived from the application of the joint program Promoting and Protecting Women Migrant Workers' Labor and Human Rights.[290]

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[276] UN General Assembly, *Trafficking in Women and Girls (A/RES/73/146)*, 2019, p. 4.
[277] Ibid., p.13.
[278] Ibid., p.13.
[279] CSW, *Women's Empowerment and the Link to Sustainable Development: Agreed Conclusions*, 2016, p. 4.
[280] Ibid., pp. 4-5.
[281] IOM, *Migration in the 2030 Agenda*, 2017, pp. 60-62.
[282] ICAT, *The Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons*, 2019.
[283] Ibid.
[284] Ibid.
[285] UN General Assembly, *Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/64/293)*, 2010.
[286] Ibid.
[287] UN ECOSOC, *Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (E/RES/2015/23)*, 2015.
[288] *Towards a Global Compact on Migration that Works for Migrant Women*, UN-Women, 2017.
[289] Ibid.
[290] Ibid.

On its 63rd Session Agreed Conclusions, the CSW recognized that women and girls are vulnerable to human trafficking in scenarios of deep social and gender-based issues, such as poverty, unemployment, lack of social opportunities, inequality, and violence.[291] These are the same underlying causes that motivate migration and, consequently, migrant girls and women are also vulnerable to become victims of trafficking networks.[292] CSW's recommendations called for Member States to work towards the enhancement of a widely extended public awareness of the issue and design public policy programs for reducing the vulnerability of girls and women, strengthen cooperation amongst all relevant actors, track illicit financial flows used for trafficking purposes and protect victims at all stages of their migratory status.[293] In addition, CSW emphasizes the importance of migrant women to the achievement of sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination.[294] However, CSW also identified that migrant girls and women are vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination, and experiencing different forms of GBV, and it recognizes the importance of social and economic inclusivity to protect migrant women from these threats.[295]

Other agencies also contribute to the fight against the trafficking, particularly on migrant women and girls, such as the International Organization for Migration that provides protection and assistance to victims and supports governments by enhancing their capacity to prevent human trafficking.[296] UNHCR's works to prevent the trafficking on refugees, to identify victim's needs, and to assist Member States in ensuring that migrant victims receive identification and legal protection.[297] Both agencies work together in regions currently affected by deep migratory flows, such as Latin America, Eastern Europe and South East and Pacific Asia.[298] Furthermore, the EU takes human trafficking very seriously and considers it a form of "structural violence" that affects women and girls in particular.[299] To build awareness and increase targeted financial resources and support to combat violence against women and girls, the EU in cooperation with the UN established the Spotlight Initiative.[300] Based on the principals of the 2030 Agenda, the Spotlight Initiative encourages Member States to commit to recognizing SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 16 (partnerships) in their efforts to address trafficking of women and girls.[301] Furthermore, the EU fights against human trafficking and provides protection to victims through its main binding legislation EU Anti-trafficking Directive (2011/36/EU).[302] The Directive aims to provide support to victims of human trafficking by identifying and reducing the causes of trafficking and working in collaboration with Member States to develop anti-trafficking legislation.[303] The Directive promotes gender-specific assistance and legislation to protect and assist women and girls since they may face different challenges such as sex and labor exploitation.[304]

The African Union (AU) works in cooperation with the EU through different actions such as the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings Especially Women and Children (2006) to prevent illicit migration and trafficking in Africa.[305] The Ouagadougou Action Plan recognizes that poverty and challenging socio-economic conditions are drivers of human trafficking and any actions

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[291] CSW, *Social Protection Systems, Access to Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls: Agreed Conclusions (E/CN.6/2019/L.3)*, 2019, p. 4.

[292] Ibid., pp. 8-9.

[293] Ibid., p. 11.

[294] Ibid., p. 8.

[295] Ibid., p. 8.

[296] IOM, *Counter-Trafficking*, 2019.

[297] UNHCR, *Human Trafficking*, 2019.

[298] *Refugees and migrants from Venezuela top 4 million: UNHCR and IOM*, UNHCR, 2019.

[299] European Commission, *EU Legislation: Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings*, 2019.

[300] Ibid.

[301] Ibid.

[302] Ibid.

[303] EU, *Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Protecting its Victims, and Replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA (2011/36/EU)*, 2011, p. 1.

[304] Ibid.

[305] AU, *AU.COMMIT Campaign: When the Fight Against Trafficking Becomes a Priority for Africa*, 2018.

taken should recognize the gender perspective.[306] In addition, the Action Plan encourages Member States to adopt prevention measures to improve the lives of individuals vulnerable to human trafficking, provide support to victims, and enforce criminal justice mechanism.[307] To encourage the adoption and implementation of the Ouagadougou Action Plan, the AU created the African Union Commission Initiative Against Trafficking (AU.COMMIT).[308] To further strengthen these efforts, the AU launched the AU Horn of Africa Initiative in 2014 with the goal of promoting the important objectives of the Ouagadougou Action Plan and AU.COMMIT while also gathering data, shared experiences and proved mechanisms to protect migrants and combat human trafficking.[309]

Protecting Migrant Women through Sustainable Development and Progress Tracking

Given that migration profoundly impacts development, consideration of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* can bring coherence among efforts to provide safe migratory solutions and long-term protections and opportunities for migrants, especially for women.[310] For instance, SDG target 5.2 calls for the elimination of all forms of violence against women, including sexual exploitation and human trafficking.[311] According to the UNODC, women trying to leave volatile socio-economic conditions can be easily contacted and deceived into smuggling and trafficking, accepting fraudulent job offers in neighboring countries or fraudulent marriage proposals for exploitation purposes.[312] Adoption of a gender-based approach to national migratory policies can help reduce discriminatory and exploitative practices.[313] Thus, mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 5 (gender equality), into national migratory policies and efforts dedicated to protect migrant women from human trafficking, sexual exploitation can serve as a way to provide them with sustainable long-term inclusive socio-economic opportunities and greater human right protections for women and girls.[314] Furthermore, in order to ensure the sustainability of these policies, it would also be essential to adopt monitoring and data collection systems.[315]

While over the last ten years detection of trafficking victims has significantly increased worldwide, the UNODC in 2016 received national reports on human trafficking advancements from 97 Member States.[316] These reports reflected that almost 30,000 migrants were victims of trafficking organizations, of which most of them were women.[317] Today, many states have notably improved their capabilities for identifying victims and tracking traffickers and they are able to report more accurate data to relevant UN organizations and partnerships.[318] By 2018, 65 states reported to have anti-trafficking and data-collecting institutions.[319]

Collection of data is of utmost importance for a comprehensive understanding of the different dimensions of human trafficking since it allows Member States and relevant organizations to identify measures to better protect rescued victims and, based on testimonies, track potential new trafficking victims.[320] The Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela is a current

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[306] AU, *Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children as Adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development, Tripoli, 22-23 November 2006*, 2006, pp. 2-4.

[307] Ibid.

[308] AU, *Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018 – 2030)*, 2018, p. 51.

[309] Ibid., p. 51.

[310] IOM, *Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners*, 2018, pp. 11-12.

[311] Ibid., p. 24.

[312] UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018*, 2018, p. 12.

[313] IOM, *Migration in the 2030 Agenda*, 2017, p. 61.

[314] Ibid., pp. 60-62.

[315] Ibid., p. 61.

[316] UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018*, 2018, p. 7.

[317] Ibid., p. 7.

[318] Ibid., p. 8.

[319] Ibid., p. 8.

[320] Ibid., p. 15.

example of how sharing information can facilitate cooperation and coordination amongst relevant actors of 16 states to prevent human trafficking, sexual slavery and sexual exploitation on migrant women.[321] In this particular case, collecting and sharing data also permits relevant actors to identify people living under exploitation and transnational criminal organizations that traffic humans, particularly girls and women.[322] Collecting and sharing data can also contribute to the creation and improvement of national anti-trafficking policies in accordance with international human rights law and a gender-based perspective by prioritizing the protection of girls and women in migration, and the effective prosecution of traffickers and the reduction of impunity.[323]

Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution

The UN TIP Protocol called on Member States to enhance their national capabilities in order to prevent trafficking, protect victims and witnesses, and prosecute perpetrators.[324] These measures represent an international political framework for the protection of victims and vulnerable persons such as girls and women in migration.[325] Cooperation among relevant institutions play a key role in the identification of trafficking patterns, routes, and organizations with the ultimate goal to prevent and take systematic action against trafficking in persons.[326] For instance, ICAT serves as a platform for members such as the UN-Women, IOM, and UNHCR to assist Member States in their efforts to improve international response and support to combat human trafficking by focusing on the objectives put forth by the UN TIP Protocol.[327] UN Agencies and Member States work together to effectively strengthen their national capabilities to combat human trafficking, especially by protecting migrant girls and women, through the advance of early-detection mechanisms, the creation of specialized anti-trafficking institutions, the reduction of impunity on identified cases, and fostering the cooperation with other national or international relevant actors working with persons in migration.[328]

Protection of migrants, especially girls and women, requires response efforts should focus on the prevention of discrimination and the creation of a favorable social, political and legal environment for social and economic inclusion of migrants in transit and hosting countries.[329] Women and girls in migration are victims of discrimination simply based on their migratory status and this represents a major barrier for their inclusion in host communities and labor markets.[330] In addition, women also suffer mistreatment, sexual harassment, and stigma, which may facilitate trafficker's recruitment of victims and the confinement of the latter's sexual slavery and exploitation.[331]

Furthermore, measures to protect migrant women necessitate that national efforts also include protections for victims of trafficking by ensuring and respecting their human rights.[332] Instead of criminalizing victims, Member States are called to act accordingly to international instruments in order to facilitate return or the effective integration of victims within hosting communities and economies.[333] For instance, easy process to obtain identification documents is an imperative to protect victims.[334] Also,

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[321] UNHCR, *Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela*, 2019, p. 108.
[322] UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018*, 2018, p. 15.
[323] Ibid.
[324] UN General Assembly, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (A/RES/55/25)*, 2000.
[325] Ibid.
[326] UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018*, 2018, p. 8.
[327] ICAT, *The Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons*, 2019.
[328] UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018*, 2018, pp. 7-9.
[329] UNHCR, *Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela*, 2019, pp. 108-109.
[330] *Five Reasons Migration is a Feminist Issue*, UNFPA, 2018.
[331] Ibid.
[332] OHCHR, *Human Rights and Human Trafficking Fact Sheet 36*, 2014, p. 17.
[333] UN General Assembly, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (A/RES/55/25)*, 2000.
[334] UNHCR, *Human Trafficking,* 2019.

witness protection is also important for data collection and accelerating the detention of traffickers and prosecuting them for criminal actions.[335] Prosecution and conviction of traffickers is another essential element to prevent trafficking and protect victims.[336] Prosecution and convictions of trafficking cases are still low and not all Member States have incorporated the all the provisions of the UN TIP Protocol into their national legal frameworks.[337] Stronger legal frameworks that uphold the objectives of the UN TIP Protocol can help to close the gaps in the judicial process for the criminalization of trafficking-related crimes by ensuring that enforcement of anti-trafficking laws and prosecution of criminals and providing protection and social welfare support to victims, including migrants.[338]

To provide a comprehensive response for the protection of migrant women, CSW encourages the adoption of stronger social systems for the empowerment of women.[339] To achieve this, CSW has recommended that Member States strengthen their normative, legal and policy frameworks through the implementation of comprehensive anti-trafficking and law enforcement strategies based on a human rights, sustainable development, gender-based, age-based and migratory-status perspective.[340] CSW has further encouraged Member States to adopt, increase or improve policies related to criminal offences, frameworks for extradition, foster legal and technical cooperation with other states, and to increase the training for capacity building of national authorities working on this matter.[341]

Conclusion

Even though human trafficking is a crime that affects both men and women, yet it particularly affects girls and women in migration.[342] Today's world is facing an unprecedented migration flow due to the multiple and diverse conflicts taking place in almost all regions.[343] Human trafficking has increased parallel to migratory trends and more girls and women are being recruited or abducted by criminal organizations.[344] This reality demands a more effective action from international organizations, governments, and other relevant actors in order for them to widen the effective implementation of the of the measures set by the UN TIP Protocol and other mechanisms for the prevention of trafficking of migrant girls and women; the protection of identified and rescued victims; and the prosecution and conviction of traffickers, sexual enslavers and exploiters.[345] In addition, cooperation and coordination can lead to a strong response and victim protection to the increasing rates of trafficking, sexual slavery and sexual exploitation of migrant girls and women.[346]

Further Research

As delegates consider the different dimensions of the needs of women and girls' victims experiencing human trafficking and related crimes, they should consider questions such as: What recommendations in relation to the prevention of the trafficking in migrant girls and women, can the CSW make to strengthen international cooperation? How can Member States improve the implementation of the of the UN TIP

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[335] UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018*, 2018, p. 15.

[336] UN General Assembly, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (A/RES/55/25)*, 2000.

[337] UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018*, 2018, pp. 8-10.

[338] Ibid.

[339] Ibid.

[340] CSW, *Social Protection Systems, Access to Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (E/CN.6/2019/L.3)*, 2019.

[341] UN General Assembly, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (A/RES/55/25)*, 2000.

[342] UNFPA, *Five Reasons Migration is a Feminist Issue*, 2018.

[343] UNODC, *UNODC on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants*, 2019.

[344] UNFPA, *Five Reasons Migration is a Feminist Issue*, 2018.

[345] UN General Assembly, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (A/RES/55/25)*, 2000.

[346] CSW, *Social Protection Systems, Access to Public Services and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (E/CN.6/2019/L.3)*, 2019.

Protocol, in particular the protection, prevention and prosecution measures? What kind of actions would facilitate the cooperation amongst states for the identification of transnational migrants' trafficking networks? How can states improve their mechanisms of data collection? What kind of recommendations can the CSW make to Member States in order for them to improve their law enforcement and prosecution of traffickers? How can states respond to large migratory movements where girls and women are particularly vulnerable? How can states improve or enhance their mechanisms of protection to victims?

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International Organization for Migration. (2019). *Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners*. Retrieved 29 October 2019 from: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/sdg_en.pdf
> *This extensive guide provides an overview on how migration affects development and vice versa. The guide emphasizes that improved migration policies can have a positive effect in development while overreaching development policies can improve the socio-economic situation for migrants. This guide connects the (SDGs) with challenges faced by migrants, including human trafficking and sexual violence and provides recommendations on how to overcome those challenges. Delegates will find this source useful as they determine how can sustainable development can aid in the prevention and protection of migrant women and girls from human trafficking and sexual violence.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-fifth session. (2000). *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (A/RES/55/25)*. Retrieved 25 August 2019 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/55/25
> *This Protocol is the core international binding instrument on the matter. It includes all the legal definitions, prescriptions and obligations that States parties should follow in order to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute criminals. In addition, it highlights the importance of cooperation and support among Member States to achieve these objectives. Delegates can use this document to have a deep understanding of this approach and the implications of the current mechanisms that exist for the international response to human trafficking and related crimes such as sexual slavery and exploitation.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth-third session. (2019). *Trafficking in Women and Girls (A/RES/73/146)*. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/73/582). Retrieved 19 July 2019 from: https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/73/146
> *This resolution provides important information related to the UN efforts towards the prevention and sanction of the trafficking in women and girls. It addresses the relation that exists between high migratory flows and the increase of human trafficking activities globally. It also makes further recommendations to Member States regarding prevention and protection of women and girls from transnational organized crime. These recommendations include mainstreaming the issue of human trafficking into their national policies and programs, and warranting victims the right to effective remedy. It also requests the CSW to address the needs of women and girls subjected to human trafficking. Delegates can use this source in order to understand the current political significance of this topic.*

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2018). *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. Retrieved 20 July 2019 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf
> *This report presents technical, quantitative, and qualitative information that reveals the current status of crimes related to trafficking in persons, including women and girls. This report includes relevant data regarding migration and its links with trafficking. This information was developed by the International Organization for Migration Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative. Delegates will find this report insightful as it provides a deep understanding on how migration is correlational to the increase of trafficking, especially in those regions with high levels of conflict, impunity and migration outflows. In*

this report, delegates can find updated human trafficking information about all regions of the world.

Five Reasons Migration is a Feminist Issue. (2018, April 9). United Nations Population Fund. Retrieved 27 August 2019 from: https://www.unfpa.org/news/five-reasons-migration-feminist-issue
> *This article contains relevant data related to how women are vulnerable when they are in migration. This source contributes with up-to-date information and provides a socio-economic insight to the female migratory reality. This document explains five main reasons why migration should be handled from a gender perspective. Delegates can see updated information and facts that reflect the conditions and threats that women have to face during a migratory process. This source contains synthetized information that can provide delegates with a broad understanding of the topic.*

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