

28 – 31 March 2021

Documentation of the Work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) NMUN Simulation\*



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## Conference A

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# Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

## Committee Staff

<b>Director</b>	Anthony Basse
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Ryan Prieto

## Agenda

- I. Promoting the Political Participation of Women.
- II. Protecting Women in Migration from Human Trafficking, Sexual Slavery, and Sexual Exploitation.
- III. Empowering Women Through Entrepreneurship.

## Resolutions adopted by the Committee

<b>Code</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Vote</b>
CSW/1/1	Promoting the Political Participation of Women	Adopted by Acclamation
CSW/1/2	Promoting the Political Participation of Women	Adopted by Acclamation
CSW/1/3	Promoting the Political Participation of Women	Adopted by Acclamation

## Summary Report

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

- I. Empowering Women Through Entrepreneurship
- II. Promoting the Political Participation of Women
- III. Protecting Women in Migration from Human Trafficking, Sexual Slavery, and Sexual Exploitation.

The session was attended by representatives of 28 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted its agenda as II, III, I, beginning discussion with “Promoting the Political Participation of Women”. The CSW spent the second day identifying ways to bolster global women’s political participation. On Tuesday, the committee progressed in merging two working papers, with two more focusing on other aspects of the topic.

On Wednesday, the committee spent the day incorporating feedback from the Dais and finalizing their working papers. These working papers were then approved as draft resolutions by the Dais. As a result of their cooperation, delegates debated on these draft resolutions without any amendments, and all three were adopted by acclamation.

The conclusion of voting procedure left time for brief formal and informal sessions on addressing problems facing women migrants. Delegates worked hard to develop two working papers on the second topic, although the session came to an end after some deliberations. Delegates were passionate about the topics and worked hard to find solutions to global challenges in a collaborative manner.



**Code:** CSW/1/1

**Committee:** Commission on the Status of Women

**Topic:** Promoting the Political Participation of Women

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*Commission on the Status of Women,*

*Reaffirming* the philosophies outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 5.5 and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* (1979), which include emphases on gender equality and a decrease in violence towards women,

*Noting* HRC resolution 35/22 (2017), which states that women's political representation is essential to preparing, equipping, and allowing girls and women to achieve their educational potential, and General Assembly resolution 66/130 (2011) emphasizing early education's impact on women's abilities in participating in policymaking, harboring peace, and sustainable development,

*Recognizing* the efforts of the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality (UN FGE) which works towards improving the political participation of women, particularly in the field of education and vocational training, helping women obtain skills that are necessary for entering executive office and running election campaign,

*Appreciating* the success of regional programs, such as Africa Center for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership (ACTIL), Asia Women Leaders Program (AWLP), the HeforShe program, Emily's List, and the National Democratic Institute of the African region in providing leadership training and mentoring for women wishing to participate in politics,

*Bearing in mind* General Assembly resolution 58/142 (2003) which calls for the protection of a woman's right to participate in the government with complete equality,

*Alarmed* that according to the study *Violence Against Women in Politics* published by UN Women in 2014, 60% of women do not participate in politics due to fear of violence, thus necessitating the creation of violence-free environments for women to partake in politics,

*Acknowledging* the set of indicators on women, peace and security set by the UN Secretary-General Report S/2010/498 for tracking and monitoring the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) which reaffirms the importance of equal female participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace,

*Expressing deep concern* that according to UN Women, gender parity in the highest political levels will not be reached for another 130 years at the current rate of inclusion,

1. *Encourages* Member States who have not ratified CEDAW to consider doing so;
2. *Recommends* the protection of the right of women to an accessible education by:
  - a. Inviting all Member States to implement transportation programs that allow women and girls to get to and from school, such as the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) program established by the European Union or the partnership between the Latin American region and the International Finance Corporation (IFC);
  - b. Encouraging Member States to eliminate all forms of gender discrimination and harassment in classrooms to ensure a safe learning environment for all students;
  - c. Ensuring free quality education is available to girls across Member States, specifically those in rural regions;
  - d. Suggesting that pertinent UN organizations such as UN Women offer funding and infrastructural support for this initiative;

3. *Supports* the creation of educational programs for public school students that focus on the political participation of women, with emphasis on:
  - a. The connotations and implications of quotas throughout Member States, with specific emphasis on how they greatly increase women's involvement;
  - b. Increased visibility for women's political history and societal contribution in primary and secondary education with support from related non-governmental organizations and pertinent UN bodies;
  - c. Promoting images of successful and powerful women who are at the top of their fields to de-stigmatize their presence in broader society;
4. *Urges* the creation of regional workshops and education programs that would work with pre-existing local non-governmental organizations and UN bodies and programs such as the UN HeforShe program, Emily's List, ASEAN's Asia Women's Leaders Program, and the National Democratic Institute of the African region to:
  - a. Address the variety of derogatory stereotypes and norms that may be hindering women's abilities from freely participating in politics;
  - b. Stress the importance of women participating in voting, leadership, and local politics, especially in rural areas;
  - c. Educate communities on the benefits of bolstering women as political leaders, civic activists, and voters through awareness raising campaigns that are distributed to all Member States;
  - d. Offer an increase in opportunities to connect with mentors and gain needed leadership experience through webinars and seminars;
5. *Suggests* the establishment of national helplines under the auspices of UN Women and the financial support of the FGE for women who have experienced violence or threats of any kind before, during or after their political engagement by:
  - a. Providing free, confidential, and independent legal and psychological assistance offered by regional female staff to the victims as well as the opportunity to connect with other victims;
  - b. Reporting the collected cases anonymously to the CSW and UN Women to identify critical areas that require assistance;
6. *Further recommends* the augmentation of the Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) indicators on women, peace, and security, through:
  - a. The inclusion of national and regional level candidates in indicator 12b, which measures the political participation of women by looking at the number of women registered to vote, women actually voting and parliamentary candidates;
  - b. Addition of a new indicator measuring violence connected to female political participation, in order for countries to voluntarily supervise their progress in creating safe spaces for women to participate in politics;

7. *Further invites* UN Women to establish an international monitoring and partnership system based on the augmented indicators to identify critical areas and grant them the possibility to seek support and partnership, in regard to the number of women registered to vote, women actually voting, female regional, national and parliamentary electoral candidates and reported cases of violence against women engaged in politics;
8. *Further encourages* the implementation of an optional gendered quota system at the local, regional, and national level for all Member States, which will:
  - a. Calculate quotas based on the percentage of women already in political office so that Member States are not mandated to reach parity immediately, but instead are able to incrementally obtain parity;
  - b. Incentivize gendered quotas by collaborating with local, regional, and national bodies to which Member States belong to decrease their dues to these respective organizations as their female political participation increases;
  - c. Place Member States on a shortlist for receiving the hosting duties of future CSW and UN Women events;
  - d. Reevaluate and empirically measure quotas after a period of time relative to the duration of the offices' term in each respective Member State;
  - e. Distribute the findings on the efficacy of gender quotas to the pertinent organs of all Member States, with specific attention to those who have yet to adopt gender quotas.



**Code:** CSW/1/2

**Committee:** Commission on the Status of Women

**Topic:** Promoting the Political Participation of Women

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*Commission on the Status of Women,*

*Concerned with* the lack of incorporation of chapter IV (G) in the *Beijing Declaration* (1995) as discussed in the Commission on The Status of Women's 64th session (2019-2020) Beijing 25+, mainly the points regarding encouragement of political participation of women,

*Referring to* the joint report by the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe and UN Women's *Gender and Security Toolkit: Defence and Gender* (2019) that underpinned the urgent need for change in male dominated military systems to include more women,

*Affirming* the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund's (UNICEF) campaign "Early Moments Matter" which encourages governments and employers to create "family-friendly" policies that are favorable for working women with young children,

*Further recognizing* that eliminating structural and traditional barriers is important to increasing gender equality,

*Taking into consideration* that the HeForShe campaign has held over one thousand community events to actively involve men in gender equality,

*Cognizant of* further complications due to the COVID-19 pandemic when addressing violence against women in political positions as noted in the *Political Declaration on the Occasion of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women* (2020),

*Recognizing* the UN Women and UNDP's joint efforts towards the inclusion of women in political affairs at the local level and in rural areas via the implementation of Women's Network of Mayors and Local Councilors and the Network for Women in Elections,

*Further recognizing* SDG 4 which calls for "ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all",

*Highlighting* the success of Community Learning Centers in the aid of professional development skills and community engagement,

*Drawing attention to* the lack of women's access to higher education, especially in underdeveloped countries,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of safe learning environments and access to primary and secondary education,

*Calling attention to* the importance of creating and promoting female spaces within post-secondary political science and law educational programs,

*Having considered* the importance of mentorship programs to promote women's leadership such as the Young Women and Leadership Project,

*Drawing attention to* agreed conclusions E/2013/27 (2013) and E/CN.6/2013/11 (2011) on the "Elimination and Prevention of All forms of Violence Against Women and Girls",

*Recognizing* that violence against women is a key issue in every country and a major impediment to their participation in politics as highlighted in Strategic Objective D of the *Beijing Declaration and Program of Action*,

*Recalling* that violence against women should be understood in a legal way as including any form of violence as enshrined by the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) (1979),

*Deeply concerned* that 81.8% of women experienced psychosocial violence and 44.4 percent received threats of death, rape, and beatings according the Inter-national Parliamentary Union 2016 Brief *Sexism, Harassment and Violence Against Women Parliamentarians*,

1. *Welcomes* further initiatives to reform discriminatory legislation in conformity with frameworks such as the *Maputo Protocol* (1995) and other regional partnerships through the collaboration of UN subsidiaries;
2. *Supports* regional bodies to expand existing regional HeForShe campaigns to include educational courses available to men to learn the importance of a gender inclusive policy sector and protection of female coworkers from gender-based violence;
3. *Invites* Member States to create an advisory council such as *The Peer Council for Equal Opportunities for Men and Women* focusing on the development of policies and plans to eradicate all forms of gender-based discrimination and ensure gender mainstreaming in the political sphere by monitoring the nomination female civil servants;
4. *Requests* Member States implement national quotas for gender-based candidacy requirements to be met, in order to encourage more women to run for national governments, such as cabinet positions and parliaments, and within local government bodies;
5. *Encourages* Member States to embark on local community initiatives in alliance with non-governmental organizations to further promote voter activity among women;
6. *Recommends* Member States to create social programs that assist women in political participation such as awareness campaigns and free government sponsored affordable childcare;
7. *Recommends* UN Women to establish an international fund that focuses on financially supporting women who newly join politics or find difficulty in continuing political activities due to fiscal reasons by:
  - a. Fully or partially funding election campaigns run by female candidates;
  - b. Subsidizing women who are registered in pay-education programs regarding politics;
  - c. Offering funds for political parties that nominate more than a particular number of female politicians;
8. *Suggests* the implementation of programs recommended by the UN Women in association with the United Nations Development Programme in order to facilitate the work of women in politics such as mayors and councilors, allocating funds for a full-time network coordinators, regular meetings, media outreach and study visits so women leaders can learn from each other;
9. *Urges* all Member States to commit and enforce CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action which ensure the inclusivity of women in all aspects of power and decision-making in all forms of political structures including political parties, trade unions, and local and national parliamentary bodies;
10. *Encourages* Member States to further utilize the iKNOW Politics online forum which is a partnership between the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Inter-Parliamentary Union, UNDP, and UN Women and provides a network space for women political experts to connect globally;



11. *Requests* the UN Women to initiate a study focused on the need for institutional change to promote women's access to military, police, and peacekeeping operations, covering the following aspects:
  - a. Promoting women's participation and decision-making in the military in their respective countries;
  - b. Distinguish the barriers and negative stereotypes that exist within the national military and the most widespread types of violence against women there, both psychological and physical harassment;
  - c. Restriction of women from particular types of regiments, including medical based evidence and statistics on women's physical abilities to serve in all types of regiments;
  - d. Voluntary enlistment process and the main stereotypes that women face during all its stages including receiving the information about their legal rights and access to health checks;
12. *Calls upon* Member States to develop Community Learning Centers (CLCs) in partnership with local UN Women offices for girls and women that are aimed at providing women a safe space to practice their professional skills such as resume writing, interviewing, and others;
13. *Recommends* that the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) expand upon the Higher Education Partnership Program (HEPP) to include all Member States to increase women's access to higher education, strengthen universities, improve teaching methods, develop industry engagement, and provide funding to universities;
14. *Invites* Member States to expand upon the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Malala Fund for Girls and Women to all Member States to expand access to education for girls and women, strengthen policies to ensure safe learning environments, and establish literacy programs to support child learning and development;
15. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring the education of girl children about the significance of political participation through:
  - a. Encouraging girls in elementary schools to one day reach for political positions by hosting career days where women in politics visit elementary schools;
  - b. Inviting partnerships with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to empower women and girls to be leaders of change;
  - c. Shedding light on women and girls in the developing world and work towards making policy changes on a global scale;
  - d. Encouraging Members States to collaborate with Global Partnership for Education to support developing countries in delivering quality education for the children the most in need;
16. *Calls upon* Member States to implement government and civic classes in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools;
17. *Further invites* Member States to partner with Nongovernmental Organizations (NGO's) and regional UN Women offices to expand women leadership programs such as the Asia Women Leaders Program (AWLP) to include a mentorship program for women and girls interested in a career in leadership and politics that is aimed at:

- a. Educating women on leadership skills and effective campaign strategies;
  - b. Helping women gain the opportunity to network within the desired career field;
  - c. Inspiring young girls to pursue a career in politics and leadership;
  - d. Encourages the creation and promotion of political science and law post-secondary scholarship programs and extracurriculars unto female secondary and post-secondary students;
18. *Endorses and calls upon* Member States to implement programs such as the *African Center for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership* which provides participants with the opportunity to practice essential skills necessary for transformational leadership through the use of information and communication technologies, strategic communication, leadership training, and mentoring leaders in politics, business, government, and civil society;
19. *Calls upon* Member States to implement programs such as the *Enhancing Multi-Sectoral Response to Electoral Sexual Violence* based in Kenya where, in cooperation with *The Access to Justice and Women Rights Project*, psychosocial support is given to women who have faced sexual violence when attempting to participate in an election by carrying out investigations and providing legal aid for the survivors with the support of pro-bono lawyers;
20. *Designates* Member States to work with government and civil society partners at the local, national, and international level to tackle the causes and effects of gender-based violence (GBV) such as the *Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence* by:
- a. Building awareness of the rights of women and engaging men into campaigns that promote the role of women in society;
  - b. Partnering with local civil society organizations (CSOs) to monitor and strengthen accountability for the commitments made to legislate laws and combat gender-based violence in political participations;
  - c. Working with UN Joint Programme on GBV to expand the delivery of services such as emergency shelter services for victims of GBV and strengthening information about the availability and accessibility of such services;
21. *Requests* that Member States form deliberative bodies in parliaments and governments in order to make gender-based violence visible at every level with the goal of helping women already involved in politics to have access to a platform that raises awareness about the existence of political violence.



**Code:** CSW/1/3

**Committee:** Commission on the Status of Women

**Topic:** Promoting the Political Participation of Women

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*Commission on the Status of Women,*

*Believing* that education is the root of shaping the behavior and values of society as referenced in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals*, specifically Goal 4 on Quality Education and Goal 5 on Gender Equality,

*Concerned* that Member States in the developing world may need financial assistance to help promote gender-sensitive literacy programs focused on improving reading and writing skills in international languages among women and the girl child,

*Having devoted attention to* the United Nations (UN) General Assembly *Convention on the Political Rights of Women* (1952) that functions as an international standard for women's political rights and thus recognizes the importance of women's participation in politics,

*Alarmed and concerned by* systematic structures of patriarchal oppression discussed in the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at Fourth World Conference on Women* (1995) that hold women in stereotypically submissive and feminine roles throughout society,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the S/RES/1325 (2000) on "Women, Peace and Security" and the UN Women "HeForShe" Campaign that aims to involve men in the process of achieving gender equality through combating gender stereotypes,

*Noting with appreciation* the ratification of the General Assembly Resolution 66/130 "Women and Political Participation" (2011), which acknowledges the importance of female political representation and asks for Member States to encourage more inclusivity for women in the political spheres,

*Fully aware of* the importance of establishing training and networking opportunities to reach Sustainable Development Goal 5.5 on women's full participation and equal opportunities at all levels of decision-making at economic, political, and public life,

*Remembering* the priorities of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979) to encourage women to lead and participate in the governance system with education to address gender stereotypes influenced by some cultures and traditions which restrict the rights of women,

*Cognizant of* the efforts of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations in sustaining peace and security in conflict affected areas for the promotion of women's political participation during all stages of conflict resolution including the recovery of democratic institutions,

1. *Encourages* the creation of gender-sensitive common education programs within each Member State that focus on literacy while taking into account the specific needs, values, and challenges of each nation;
2. *Recommends* collaboration between Member States, non-governmental Organizations, and the United Nations Economic Social Council (ECOSOC) in providing funding for literacy programs for women and the girl child by:
  - a. Supporting the creation of a monetary board that regulates the use of international funds from Member States, non-governmental Agencies, and ECOSOC, as pertaining to the improvement of literacy;
  - b. Creating an international research study to analyze the effectiveness of the funding provided from Member States, non-governmental Agencies, and ECOSOC through:

- i. Generating a scale methodology that measures the degree of effectiveness of funding in improving literacy rates within Member States;
    - ii. Recommending improvements for underperforming Member States to continue increasing literacy rates throughout civil society;
3. *Calls upon* Member States to generate awareness regarding women in the political sphere and to create opportunities for them by:
  - a. Advocating for women to recognize the potential for participation in the political sphere and act to involve themselves through:
    - i. Amplifying the voices of female leaders to make their presence in the political sphere known;
    - ii. Advertising the importance of women's input on issues that directly affect them and encouraging women to use their voices to address these issues;
    - iii. Generating interest in holding public office among women through programs that encourage them to take on leadership positions;
  - b. Addressing the obstacles that women face in political participation by eliminating the issue of gender based political violence directed towards those who seek to use their voices;
4. *Directs attention to* fighting misconceptions about women as emotional, weak, and indecisive, which keep women out of the political sphere, through educating the public about strong female leadership;
5. *Encourages* men to become advocates for the empowerment of women and to participate in the promotion of gender equality through:
  - a. Taking paternity leave to provide women with the opportunity to continue efforts within their political and economic careers;
  - b. Breaking down traditional gender roles which keep women in domestic work while men provide economic stability by actively engaging in the household;
6. *Further recommends* developing global, regional, and national focused online platforms to transfer knowledge between women participating in politics by:
  - a. Expanding the model of the GEPLP Online Platform: Gender Equality Political Leadership Education Project in developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) around the world;
  - b. Creating an accessible online platform for women to participate globally in discussion forums, cross-party networking opportunities, sharing learning videos, and training programs;
  - c. Enhancing capacity-building for developing countries to fund technical developments of the online platform and programs;
7. *Suggests* developing an annual Network Forum of Women Leaders on an international scale funded by the UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, which coordinates regional and national meetings in person to transfer knowledge about women's political participation by:

- a. Using the experience of the Women's Leadership Programme implemented by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the African Women Leaders Network;
  - b. Enabling the dialogue between women interested in political positions and women working in politics with the help of gender focal points;
  - c. Drawing women's attention to the possibility of political influence through elections;
  - d. Focusing especially on the regional and national meetings in LDCs as traditional gender roles are still very persistent;
8. *Fully supports* efforts towards educating students on the importance of women in politics and eradicating outdated gender stereotypes as this mission is essential to increasing awareness and encouraging girls and women to consider participating in politics;
9. *Proposes* the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to conduct the educational program for women in conflict affected areas for the purpose of their political participation during all the stages of conflict resolution, including such areas of action as:
- a. Education for primary and secondary education among girls in conflict-affected areas to achieve competence in political science and relevant knowledge for engaging into youth activism for political participation;
  - b. Training for women in conflict affected areas on how to apply for executive office and run electoral campaigns, further attracting the financial assistance of the European Commission - UNDP Joint Task force on Electoral Assistance.