



# NMUN • LATIN AMERICA

## GALAPAGOS 2013

### COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN BACKGROUND GUIDE 2013

Written By: Carolina Contreras, Director; Nadia Atala, Assistant Director



# NMUN • LATIN AMERICA

[nmun.org/nmun\\_latinamerica13.html](http://nmun.org/nmun_latinamerica13.html)

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UNIVERSIDAD SAN FRANCISCO





## **Message from the Secretary-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2013 NMUN-LatAm Conference**

At the 2013 NMUN-LatAm Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee assignment. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee impacts the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as representatives of Member States, some may also serve as NGOs. To understand these fine differences, please refer to the Delegate Preparation Guide.

Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. NMUN/NCCA will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism. In this regard, the NMUN Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incidents of plagiarism to the Secretariat.

Delegation's position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the sample position paper below this message for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. All papers must be typed and formatted in the same manner as this example. The following format specifications are required for all papers:

- Length must not exceed two single-sided pages (use standard size for your home region: A4 or 8.5x11).
- Margins must be set at 1 inch for the whole paper.
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Body of the paper must be single-spaced.
- Country/NGO name, school name, and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page.
- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections.
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers.

To be considered for awards, position papers need to be submitted by e-mail in .pdf or .doc formats by 1 December 2012. As proof of submission, include yourself as an e-mail recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: CSustD\_Cuba\_Mars College).

1. Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country/NGO assignments to the Secretary-General at [secgen.latam@nmun.org](mailto:secgen.latam@nmun.org).
2. Send a copy of your position paper for each assigned committee to the corresponding committee e-mail address listed below. Please note, the e-mail addresses will be active on 1 October 2012.

Committee	E-mail Address (after 1 Octt.)
Commission on Population and Development (CPD)	<a href="mailto:cpd.latam@nmun.org">cpd.latam@nmun.org</a>
Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)	<a href="mailto:cstd.latam@nmun.org">cstd.latam@nmun.org</a>
Commission on Sustainable Development (CSustD)	<a href="mailto:csustd.latam@nmun.org">csustd.latam@nmun.org</a>
Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)	<a href="mailto:csw.latam@nmun.org">csw.latam@nmun.org</a>
Security Council (SC)	<a href="mailto:sc.latam@nmun.org">sc.latam@nmun.org</a>

Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff use the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents.
- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints.
- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations.
- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide.
- Outline of official policy aims within the committee's mandate.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff.

Sincerely,

Nicole Galindo  
Secretary-General  
NMUN-LatAm

## Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. Papers may be no longer than two single-sided pages. Only the first two pages of any submissions will be considered for awards.

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*Delegation from*  
**Canada**

*Represented by*  
**University of Jupiter**

### *Position Paper for General Assembly Plenary*

The topics before the General Assembly Plenary are: Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict; the Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy; and the Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. Canada is dedicated to collaborative multilateral approaches to ensuring protection and promotion of human security and advancement of sustainable development.

#### **I. Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict**

Canada endorses the Kimberly Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. We believe the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourage all Member States to contribute to market accountability by seeking membership, participation, and compliance with its mandate. Canada urges Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2007 Kimberley Process Communiqué to strengthen government oversight of rough diamond trading and manufacturing by developing domestic legal frameworks similar to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We call upon participating States to act in accordance with the KPCS's comprehensive and credible systems of peer review to monitor the continued implementation of the Kimberley Process and ensure full transparency and self-examination of domestic diamond industries. We draw attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urge Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in A/RES/55/56. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberly Process and encourages States to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in A/RES/58/290. We urge Member States to act in accordance with A/RES/60/182 to optimize the beneficial development impact of artisanal and alluvial diamond miners by establishing a coordinating mechanism for financial and technical assistance through the Working Group of the Kimberly Process of Artisanal Alluvial Producers. Canada calls upon States and NGOs to provide basic educational material regarding diamond valuation and market prices for artisanal diggers, as recommended by the Diamond Development Initiative. Canada will continue to adhere to the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and is dedicated to ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective regulation of the rough diamond trade through the utilization of voluntary peer review systems and the promotion of increased measures of internal control within all diamond producing States.

#### **II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy**

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through our Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. We view the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Control (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations to Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. We emphasize the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy technologies. Canada views dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy Declaration as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. We call

upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to our \$1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages States to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies. We call upon Member States to provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada urges States to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into State specific strategies called for in A/62/419/Add.9 will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

### **III. Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa**

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African States to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. We recommend Member States cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement A/RES/61/228, Canada believes developed States must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. We urge Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medicines by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative. We emphasize the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA's contribution of \$26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross' Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits.



Dear Delegates,

It is our immense pleasure to welcome you to the 2013 National Model United Nations Latin America Conference. With an impressive roster of universities and institutions in attendance, an array of intriguing topics, and a unique location in the Galapagos Islands, this year promises to be truly memorable. You and your team are integral in making the 2013 NMUN LatAm Conference historic.

The Director of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is Carolina Contreras. She is a post-graduate student on Environmental Sciences at Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO). This is the second time Carolina will be serving as staff on NMUN LatAm. Nadia Atala will be serving as the Assistant Director. She has recently obtained her B.A on Multimedia Journalism. She is currently working as Research Assistant for Ecuador Ministry of Tourism.

The agenda topics for discussions this year are as follows:

1. The Role of Women in the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goal Number 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability
2. The Empowerment of Rural Women and their role in rural development: Strategies and Current Challenges

The CSW is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The committee is responsible for promoting the empowerment of women, based on various strategies focused on the development of social policies directed towards the achievement of gender equality worldwide. In this sense, the CSW is the body that handles and manages all issues related to women. Additionally, the Commission is able to submit recommendations to the Security Council in the event of any urgent issues related to the respect and exercise of women's rights.

With the present guide is our desire to provide an initial approach to the topics to be addressed at the Conference. Thus, we have conducted extensive research on the issues of women's empowerment and their contribution to environmental sustainability. In addition, we have elaborated a comprehensive study on the living conditions of rural women as well as their role in environmental sustainable management. In this sense, the topics are a reflection of the current world dynamics but addressed from a gender approach. Therefore, it is our goal that this document be used as a guide for future research to be conducted by the delegates.

The background guide herein will serve as a brief introduction to the topics listed but cannot replace substantive research of your own. Use it as a springboard for a deep analysis into each topic so that your delegation is empowered to harness the Commission on the Status of Women venue to engender greater prospects for women empowerment.

Each delegation must submit a position paper that identifies its viewpoints on the agenda topics. NMUN will accept position papers via e-mail by December 01, 2012. Please refer to the background guide for a message from your Secretary-General explaining the NMUN position paper requirements and restrictions. Delegates' adherence to these guidelines is crucial. NMUN can be one of the most rewarding academic experiences of your college career. We hope that this year's Conference will not only intrigue you to participate again, but also that you find it as beneficial as we have.

If you have any questions regarding your preparation, please feel free to contact any of the Commission on the Status of Women substantive staff or the Secretary-General, Nicole Galindo. Good luck in your preparation for the conference. We look forward to seeing you in January!

Sincerely,

Carolina Contreras  
Director

Nadia Atala  
Assistant Director

## History of the Commission on the Status of Women

*"...the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields."*<sup>1</sup>

### **Introduction**

A year after the creation of the United Nations (UN), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established as a functional body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).<sup>2</sup> The Commission provided relevance to gender issues within the UN structure, ascribing clear responsibilities under the primary goal of establishing the issue of women's empowerment as a global priority.<sup>3</sup> During its first session, the CSW determined as its pivotal principle "to raise the status of women, irrespective of nationality, race, language or religion, to equality with men in all fields of human enterprise, and to eliminate all discrimination against women in the provisions of statutory law, in legal maxims or rules, or in interpretation of customary law."<sup>4</sup> In this spirit, the CSW became highly responsible of encouraging relations based upon equity among human beings, but at the same time recognizing the individual experience that every woman has in accordance to the context in which they inhabit. Additionally, the nature and dynamics of work carried out by the CSW include handling a diversified composition of its members by incorporating NGOs as observers, who -as active representatives of civil society- are able to provide different perspectives and ideas, nurturing the work of the Commission as a whole.<sup>5</sup>

### **History and Mandate**

Through Resolution 11 (II) adopted on June 21, 1946, the ECOSOC decided "to confer upon the Sub-Commission the status of a full commission to be known as Commission on the Status of Women [CSW]."<sup>6</sup> The Commission was mandated to report directly to ECOSOC on "Promoting women's rights in political, economic, social and education fields."<sup>7</sup> Additionally, the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the ECOSOC on urgent issues related to women's rights.<sup>8</sup> Since its creation, the mandate of the CSW has gone through substantial amendments. The first expansion to its mandate took place in 1987 when the ECOSOC, through its Resolution (E/1987/22), changed the CSW original mandate attributing to it the monitoring of the activities of all conferences under the UN umbrella to be held on women.<sup>9</sup> Thus, the CSW was made responsible for monitoring the establishment of objectives regarding the advancement and empowerment of women, their implementation and the elaboration of periodical feedback.<sup>10</sup> The second expansion occurred in 1996, through ECOSOC Resolution (E/1996/6) "Follow Up to the Fourth World Conference", when the ECOSOC modified the functions of the CSW to make it responsible to assist the ECOSOC in monitoring objectives and plans made at the Beijing Conference (1995); to present the subject of women at the UN bodies; to maintain public awareness of the issue, and to bring to the Council new issues and strategies on the empowerment of women.<sup>11</sup> ECOSOC Resolution (E/1996/6) entitled the CSW to:

“Assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at all levels, and should advise the Council thereon; continue to ensure support for mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities and develop further its catalytic role in that regard in other areas; identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needed to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination function; identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that required consideration and make substantive recommendations

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, 1979.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *About the Commission: Overview*, 2006

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *About the Commission: Overview*, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Resolution 11(II)*, 1946.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Resolution 11(II)*, 1946.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Resolution 11(II)*, 1946.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *About the Commission: Overview*, 2006.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *About the Commission: Overview*, 2006.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *About the Commission: Overview*, 2006.

thereon; maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Platform for Action."<sup>12</sup>

In terms of the membership of the CSW, it currently has forty-five members that respond to a regional-geographical representation: "thirteen members from Africa, eleven from Asia, nine from Latin America and the Caribbean, eight from Western Europe and other States, and four from Eastern Europe."<sup>13</sup>

### ***Achievements Over Time***

One of the first achievements of the CSW was its participation in drafting the document of the Declaration of Human Rights in December 1948.<sup>14</sup> Within this context, the CSW discussed the equitable management of language within the UN spheres, the one that appointed an initial change on language as advancement towards achieving the visibility of an equal status for both men and women.<sup>15</sup> This specific adjustment laid the groundwork for a political possibility that would give place to new achievements in gender issues.<sup>16</sup> Its next step was to fortify this body with data and analysis on gender related issues; the ones that were obtained through an investigative process, which resulted in the development of country-by-country profiles, hence determining the legal status of women around the world, and thereby establishing a baseline to be taken into account in future.<sup>17</sup> During the mid-40s and thereafter, another area of interest of the CSW was centered on the political rights of women.<sup>18</sup> However, in 1945 about 25 of the 51 original members of the United Nations did not allow equal participation of women and men to exercise the right to vote.<sup>19</sup> This particular situation showed that equity still remained a subject of discourse rather than a reality.<sup>20</sup> For this reason, the CSW submitted to the General Assembly (GA) the document of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1952), which was the one adopted by the GA recognizing the equality of political conditions between men and women, ensuring women the right not only to vote but also to be an active participant in public spaces as a candidate to any public office at a national level.<sup>21</sup>

### ***Current Actions***

Within the areas of influence of the CSW, its priorities remain focused on the empowerment of women, both in the public and private sphere, as well as taking actions against gender violence.<sup>22</sup> In addition, the CSW has concentrated its efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), highlighting the role of women as manager of its own future.<sup>23</sup> Significantly, during the 56th session of the Commission, several issues were discussed, making a special focus on the role of rural women in development, and the importance of women empowerment in poverty reduction worldwide.<sup>24</sup> Additionally, the Commission addressed issues related to the empowerment of women in the political sphere of their countries. Moreover, the CSW also discussed the need to firmly eradicate gender violence.<sup>25</sup> The next date for the completion of the 57th session will be March 4-5, 2013, in which the priority theme will be the "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls."<sup>26</sup> In this sense, the CSW provides a dynamic and comprehensive approach in order to empower women through a sustained work, which is focused on giving women the necessary tools towards their independence from structural constraints.

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<sup>12</sup> United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, *Mandate*, 2011.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Women, *About the Commission: Overview*, 2006.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>16</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>17</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>18</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>19</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>20</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>21</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>22</sup> United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), *Report on the fifty-sixth session*, 2012.

<sup>23</sup> United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), *Report on the fifty-sixth session*, 2012.

<sup>24</sup> United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), *Report on the fifty-sixth session*, 2012.

<sup>25</sup> United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), *Report on the fifty-sixth session*, 2012.

<sup>26</sup> United Nations Women Watch, *CSW57: Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls*, 2012.



## Annotated Bibliography

### *Commission on the Status of Women*

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). (1946, July 13). Resolution 11(II) (1946). Retrieved July 4, 2012 from [http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/pdf/CSW\\_founding\\_resolution\\_1946.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/pdf/CSW_founding_resolution_1946.pdf)

*This resolution is of key importance to the current functionality and relevance of the work of CSW, as it establishes the Commission as a body with clear responsibilities and functions under the umbrella of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Additionally, this document contains the basis that legalizes the CSW establishment and functionality, thus it presents its mandate, as well as its areas of work, principles and objectives.*

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). (2012). *Report on the fifty-sixth session (14 March, 2011, 27 February-9 March and 15 March 2012)*. Retrieved August 22, 2012 from [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/2012/27](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2012/27)

*Through this report prepared by the CSW, delegates are able to access to a short but highly explanatory reading on the topics discussed in the 56th session. In this sense, this document presents the priorities addressed by the Commission, such as the empowerment of rural women and their influence on development. Additionally, it highlights the topics of interest that have taken place in 2012, such as the issue of gender violence in Palestine and the role of women in the political sphere.*

United Nations Women (UN Women). (2012). *About the Commission: Overview*. Retrieved June 26, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/>

*Throughout this page we can find a range of relevant information that addresses the stage of development and establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women. This information is critical to understanding both the spirit and the mandate that foreshadows the actions of the Commission. In this sense, the CSW maintains a discourse whose main objective is the empowerment of women both within the private and public sphere. At the same time, this source makes visible the composition of this body as a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), portraying it as a vital institution in charge of implementing a multi-strategic approach towards gender equality.*

United Nations Women (UN Women). (2006). *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*. Retrieved June 26, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/CSW60YRS/CSWbriefhistory.pdf>

*This document sets out in chronological order the creation, formation and strengthening of the CSW. It briefly discusses the creation of the United Nations (UN) and the creation of the CSW in 1946 as a functional commission of the ECOSOC. Throughout this analysis, we are able to see how the working areas of the CSW have expanded including topics such as: gender equality, empowerment of women, role of women in development, fight against discrimination and violence, among others.*

United Nations Women (UN Women). (2012). *Follow-up to Beijing*. Retrieved June 26, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/critical.htm#implementation>

*This page includes a brief explanation of the dynamics of work of the CSW, specifying the functions addressed and how the priorities are set. It places the Beijing Conference (1995) as the starting point in several of the topics covered to date. Within this context, the Commission is responsible for recording the management of gender as a crosscutting theme in the various bodies and organs of the United Nations. Additionally, it is during their annual sessions where the objectives are set and priorities are demarcated. In this line 2012 is substantially focused in the treatment of the topic of "The Empowerment of Rural Women and Their Role in Poverty Eradication and hunger, Development and current Challenges."*

## I. The Role of Women in the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goal Number 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

### *Introduction*

During the last forty years, environment has been positioned as a topic of discussion at a national and international level, making visible the urgent need for change within the structures and traditional development models.<sup>27</sup> Within this context and through several studies, science has been able to identify the areas of environmental vulnerability, the stakeholders and policy measures to be implemented.<sup>28</sup> In front of this scenario, there has been a strong political awareness of the issue; however, the shares have been insufficient to handle current and future environmental problems. In this sense, the Stockholm Resilience Centre has concluded that the concentration of carbon dioxide, the loss of biodiversity and the global nitrogen cycle are three of the vital limits that have already exceeded their equilibrium level.<sup>29</sup> One example of this situation is the level of carbon dioxide, where its safe concentration should not exceed 350 ppm (parts per million). However, today this figure stands at 400 ppm and is presumed to increase by 20 ppm per decade; therefore, the risk of increasing sea level, changing farming systems and losing ice sheets is growing.<sup>30</sup> Faced with this reality, and since the 70's, there has been a tendency to establish a link between the environmental struggle and the feminist struggle, both gaining international political recognition and spaces for debate.<sup>31</sup> Thus, several feminist theories have arisen -Ecofeminism, Feminist Environmentalism, among others- addressing this issue from different perspectives and providing a variety of studies on the problems related to nature.

### *Core Issues*

As explained in the 1987 Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, also known as the Brundtland Report, headed by former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, sustainable development is defined as “humanity ha[ving] the ability to make development sustainable to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”<sup>32</sup> Since the conceptualization of this term, it has become an essential part of the environmental discourse. However, the definition has been criticized for remaining as a concept rather than a mechanism for environmental management.

The role of women in the achievement of the aforementioned concept has been marked by the efforts of the United Nations in mainstreaming women in development-related activities. In this regard, the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) clearly determines the extents of fundamental importance to UN Women, the ones that are permanently monitored by the CSW.<sup>33</sup> Within this context, the Conference recognized the following areas as a priority: including women in decision-making processes, mainstreaming the needs of women in the environmental agenda, and understanding the impacts of development on women as well as in the environment.<sup>34</sup> The Conference also acknowledged that “women have an essential role to play in the development of sustainable and ecologically sound consumption and production patterns and approaches to natural resource management”<sup>35</sup>, echoing the recognition given at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and at 1994 the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).<sup>36</sup>

Additionally, it is vital to note that as acknowledged in the Fourth World Conference on Women, poverty is linked to the human capacity to conserve the environment, by acknowledging that poverty conditions force people to hold

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<sup>27</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011.

<sup>28</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011.

<sup>29</sup> United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), *One Planet, How Many People?: A Review of Earth's Carrying Capacity*, 2012.

<sup>30</sup> United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), *One Planet, How Many People?: A Review of Earth's Carrying Capacity*, 2012.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011.

<sup>32</sup> United Nations Documents, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*, 1987.

<sup>33</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women*, 199

<sup>34</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women*, 199

<sup>35</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women*, 199

<sup>36</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women*, 1995.

unsustainable practices within their livelihood<sup>37</sup>, thus affecting the habits and practices of both men and women. Moreover, this Conference outlined a number of factors that clarify the understanding of environmental issues, recognizing women as a key player, since through their daily practices women help to the implementation of sustainable practices.<sup>38</sup>

### ***Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals: Their Commitment to Women and the Environment***

#### *Brief introduction to the Millennium Declaration*

The Millennium Declaration is a resolution signed under the framework of the United Nations General Assembly (GA) in September 2000.<sup>39</sup> One of the cornerstones of this Declaration is the implementation of the concept of equity to all areas of social life.<sup>40</sup> In this sense, it highlights the importance of working for the most vulnerable populations worldwide with a focus on children and women.<sup>41</sup> Additionally, although globalization is recognized as a source of opportunities, the document states that benefits are not evenly distributed throughout the global community.<sup>42</sup> Thus, it introduces the goal to work for a common future in which all –including states, governments and civil society in general, play an important role in the world’s sustainability.<sup>43</sup> Therefore, equality is one of the main principles highlighted in the Declaration, both between nations and between men and women.<sup>44</sup> Along equality, the principle of respect for nature is set as a key value that has emerged as response to the current model of production and consumption that, according to current studies and figures, does not follow a pattern of sustainability.<sup>45</sup> Additionally, the Declaration drives attention to the current conditions established by poverty, which presuppose extreme situations that tend to dehumanize vulnerable societies; making it impossible for governments to implement policies and measures of global sustainability.<sup>46</sup> The document therefore sets the eradication of poverty as one of the first steps towards a sustainable future.<sup>47</sup> In this sense, it addresses the issue of good governance as a baseline for the strengthening of states’ and civil society structures, since they depend on the implementation of democratic strategies towards a more equitable and sustainable future.<sup>48</sup>

The Declaration also addresses the problems related to environment, echoing the provisions of Agenda 21<sup>49</sup> by setting goals for the management and preservation of natural resources, and recognizing that human action is responsible for the ongoing environmental degradation.<sup>50</sup> This precision made within a document of global impact is presented as a reaffirmation by the international community of the need to modify and adapt the existing model of development along with the consumption patterns globally.<sup>51</sup>

#### *Millennium Development Goal Number 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability*

Taking into account the 1996 Declaration on the Right to Development (General Assembly Resolution 41/128), development is understood as:

comprehensive economic development, social, cultural and political process, which at the constant improvement aims of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women*, 1995.

<sup>38</sup> United Nations Women (UN Women), *The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women*, 1995.

<sup>39</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution 55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>40</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution 55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>41</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution 55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>42</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution 55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>43</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution 55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution 55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>45</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution 55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>46</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution 55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>47</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution 55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>48</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution 55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>49</sup> United Nations, *Agenda 21*, 1992.

<sup>50</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution 55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>51</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *United Nations Millennium Declaration (Resolution 55/2)*, 2000.

<sup>52</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Declaration on the Right to Development (Resolution 41/128)*, 1986.

In this sense, the Declaration establishes the legitimate right of states to decide on the administration of its natural wealth.<sup>53</sup> However, currently it is necessary to recognize the limited capacity of nature to support the modern practices of production; this is due to the current production rate, as it is difficult to manage the extraction processes at its current pace.<sup>54</sup> As a response to this scenario and as an initiative from the international community, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were set to be followed as guidelines to a common and better future. Among these goals, MDG 7 addresses the need to work towards a sustainable environment.<sup>55</sup> In this sense, “MDG 7 cannot be analysed out of the general context of the MDGs as an integrated development strategy, with specific priorities.”<sup>56</sup> According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) “sustainable development is grounded in the recognition of the role played by the environment and natural resources in providing the material and environmental basis, the ecosystems, and the energy on which economic processes depend.”<sup>57</sup> With this conceptual approach it is clear that the definition of sustainability addresses the conservation and preservation of the system as a whole<sup>58</sup>. Therefore social phenomena as natural disasters, population growth, fluctuations in the market, among others, are all factors that influence the environment at a different level, by this understanding the environment as system that includes both nature and human being.<sup>59</sup> In this sense, sustainable development is set as a top priority, due to the fact that development is understood as sustainable not only in terms of its impact on nature, but also as result of international cooperation.<sup>60</sup> “This is to say, environmental sustainability is associated with the building of global partnerships, given that, in today’s world, all countries are interconnected and interdependent.”<sup>61</sup>

With this general basis, MDG 7 includes four specific targets which are: Target 7.A “Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources”; Target 7. B “Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss”; Target 7.C “Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation”, and Target 7.D “Achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers”.<sup>62</sup> In this regard, it is clear that MDG 7 addresses the environmental issue through a holistic perspective, working on a wide range of targets that reflect the importance and interdependence among biodiversity and water accessibility, both understood as pivotal life resources. For purposes of measuring the advancement on the targets previously noted, several indicators have been established; among the most important we can include the “proportion of land covered by forest; CO2 emissions, total, per capita and per US\$1 GDP (PPP); consumption of ozone-depleting substance; proportion of population using an improved drinking water source [...]”<sup>63</sup> In front of the world’s changing situation some other indicators have been incorporated in the recent years by including “proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits; proportion of total water resources used; proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected [, and] proportion of species threatened with extinction.”<sup>64</sup>

Based on facts and figures provided by the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Report, “the rate of deforestation shows signs of decreasing, but is still alarmingly high”<sup>65</sup>, linking deforestation mainly to the conversion of forest into agricultural land.<sup>66</sup> However, thanks to tree-planting programmes “the net loss of forest area over the period 2000-2010 was reduced to 5.2 million hectares per year, down from 8.3 million hectares per year in 1990-2000.”<sup>67</sup> In

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<sup>53</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Declaration on the Right to Development (Resolution 41/128)*, 1986.

<sup>54</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Declaration on the Right to Development (Resolution 41/128)*, 1986.

<sup>55</sup> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability*, 341.

<sup>56</sup> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability*, 341.

<sup>57</sup> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability*, 341.

<sup>58</sup> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability*, 341.

<sup>59</sup> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability*, 341.

<sup>60</sup> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability*, 341.

<sup>61</sup> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability*, 341.

<sup>62</sup> United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), *MDGs and Gender: Goal 7, Ensure environmental sustainability*, 2012.

<sup>63</sup> United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), *MDGs and Gender: Goal 7, Ensure environmental sustainability*, 2012.

<sup>64</sup> United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), *MDGs and Gender: Goal 7, Ensure environmental sustainability*, 2012.

<sup>65</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*, 2010.

<sup>66</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*, 2010.

<sup>67</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*, 2010.

terms of biodiversity the Report states that “the world has missed the 2010 target for biodiversity conservation, with potentially grave consequences”<sup>68</sup>, visible in the decreasing environmental capacity to offer ecosystem services that respond to human needs, by this “increasing the vulnerability of the poor and reducing their options for development.”<sup>69</sup> On the subject of access to safe drinking water, the goal is being reconsidered as it not only should measure access, but also take into consideration water quality.<sup>70</sup> In this sense, the debate addresses the contamination of water sources, with this bringing the attention on water pollution considered as one of the main problems to worsen further in the future.<sup>71</sup>

### *Environmental Sustainability and the Empowerment of Women*

The aforementioned documents reflect the impact of the concept of environmental sustainability as conceptualized by the *Brundtland Report*.<sup>72</sup> At the current time, environmental sustainability becomes a transverse axis of both international discourses as well as of the public policies to be implemented.<sup>73</sup> Once environment sustainability was stated as a principle, it gained key importance to establish holistic strategies for achieving the environmental sustainability. According to the 2011 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Report, sustainability is “inextricably linked to basic questions of equity—that is, of fairness and social justice and of greater access to a better quality of life.”<sup>74</sup> In this vein, human development is understood as “expanding people’s choices, build on shared natural resources [; therefore,] promoting human development requires addressing sustainability locally, nationally and globally.”<sup>75</sup> Environmental sustainability is of key importance, since life conditions in many communities around the world are highly dependent on the environment.<sup>76</sup> In fact, “about 1.3 billion people, or 40 percent of the economically active people worldwide, work in agriculture, fishing, forestry, and hunting or gathering.”<sup>77</sup> Children and women are actively involved in these economic processes, playing certain roles regarding the access and management of natural resources.<sup>78</sup>

The 2011 Human Report has made an important analysis of the impact that gender has in the decision-making process –especially regarding environmental discussions-.<sup>79</sup> For example, investigations have proven that “countries with higher female parliamentary representation are more likely to ratify international environmental treaties, according to a study of 130 countries with about 92 percent of the world’s people.”<sup>80</sup> In addition, surveys conducted in developed countries have suggested that women show greater openness and willingness to “engage in environment sensitive behaviors [in terms of] recycling, conserving water and avoiding harmful products.”<sup>81</sup> However, the presence of women in decision-making processes is not a sufficient indicator of empowerment, since it is more important to determine the quality of participation of women in the public sphere, due to the fact that in many cases activities of inclusion seek to maintain the status quo instead of pursuing a substantial change.<sup>82</sup> Another common point between environment and gender is the issue of violence, as it is argued that “violence is the greatest obstacle to development.”<sup>83</sup> In fact, this threat is recognized in the Declaration of the Millennium Development Goals (2000), where the General Assembly of the United Nations resolved “to combat all forms of Violence Against Women and to

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<sup>68</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*, 2010.

<sup>69</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*, 2010

<sup>70</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*, 2010

<sup>71</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*, 2010

<sup>72</sup> United Nations Documents, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*, 1987.

<sup>73</sup> United Nations Documents, *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*, 1987.

<sup>74</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011.

<sup>75</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011.

<sup>76</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011.

<sup>77</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011.

<sup>78</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011.

<sup>79</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011.

<sup>80</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011.

<sup>81</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011.

<sup>82</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report*, 2011.

<sup>83</sup> World Health Organization, *Addressing Violence against Women and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 2005.

Implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [1979]," which pursue the principle of equality between men and women from the legal equality within states to the respect of women rights within the private sphere.<sup>84</sup> Additionally, one of the fundamental links between environmental degradation and women is precisely the livelihood conditions of women.<sup>85</sup> In fact, one of the most common activities among rural women and children is to fetch water; this task becomes increasingly complex, demanding more time and effort, because of the degradation of water sources.<sup>86</sup> Consequently, with scarce water sources countless number of conflicts can be triggered, which directly involve children and women, who are deprived of access to water, and therefore, their livelihood is compromised.<sup>87</sup> It becomes evident that violence against nature has tangible impacts on people's lives, placing women in double disadvantage, as they not only suffer gender discrimination but women are also forced to confront the violence that environmental degradation implies.<sup>88</sup>

Through a study led by United Nations Women Watch, it has been noted that "rural women play a key role in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income, and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being".<sup>89</sup> Therefore, women cannot be overlooked within global processes, instead women should be acknowledged as true and key players in achieving the MDGs.<sup>90</sup> However, both girls and women have been constantly excluded from the public and international spheres due to "structural constraints that prevent them from fully enjoying their human rights and hamper their efforts to improve their lives as well as those of others around them."<sup>91</sup> Thus, rural women live within static structures, the ones that hinder their participation in decision-making processes, particularly decisions ruling environmental services. Even though, "women's involvement has been associated with better local environmental management; their mere presence in institutions is not enough to overcome deep-rooted disparities."<sup>92</sup>

### ***Case Study: The Philippines***

This case study addresses one of the most sensitive topics that is the management and use of ancestral knowledge, both being pivotal areas that include women participation in conservation processes.<sup>93</sup> In 2003, in the Sub Andean Community of Western Mindanao (Philippines), the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry provided a grant for further study and documentation of traditional use of rice.<sup>94</sup> Through this study, they identified not only the agricultural system of the community, but through an ethnographic analysis of the farming culture found, they were able to determine the species of rice that were endangered and most likely to disappear.<sup>95</sup> Throughout this research the role of women was essential, since women are considered as key actors in the process of transmission of knowledge, which provide them with vital information for the conservation of fragile ecosystems.<sup>96</sup> At the same time, the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry managed to address the ethical handling of ancestral knowledge, making the community a third party entitled to the benefits to be gained from these studies.<sup>97</sup> In this respect, this case study allows us to address the linkages between conservation, agriculture and women, ties that are based on a gender analysis in the sense that genre allows us to address a more specific relationship between humans and the environment.<sup>98</sup> Thus, agricultural practices based on ancient knowledge deposited in women lead to an environmental preservation that is true to the original characteristics of the area, as their sustainability involves the

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<sup>84</sup> World Health Organization, *Addressing Violence against Women and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 2005.

<sup>85</sup> World Health Organization, *Addressing Violence against Women and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 2005.

<sup>86</sup> World Health Organization, *Addressing Violence against Women and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 2005.

<sup>87</sup> World Health Organization, *Addressing Violence against Women and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 2005.

<sup>88</sup> World Health Organization, *Addressing Violence against Women and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 2005.

<sup>89</sup> United Nations Women Watch, *Facts & Figures: Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012.

<sup>90</sup> United Nations Women Watch, *Facts & Figures: Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012.

<sup>91</sup> United Nations Women Watch, *Facts & Figures: Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012.

<sup>92</sup> United Nations Women Watch, *Facts & Figures: Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012.

<sup>93</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Enhancing the Role of Indigenous Women in Sustainable Development*, 2010, p.5.

<sup>94</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Enhancing the Role of Indigenous Women in Sustainable Development*, 2010, p.5.

<sup>95</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Enhancing the Role of Indigenous Women in Sustainable Development*, 2010, p.5.

<sup>96</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Enhancing the Role of Indigenous Women in Sustainable Development*, 2010, p.5.

<sup>97</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Enhancing the Role of Indigenous Women in Sustainable Development*, 2010, p.5.

<sup>98</sup> Norad, *Report from a fact finding mission: Women, Gender and Conservation Agriculture in Zambia*, 2011

implementation of methods of coexistence.<sup>99</sup> In this case, traditional agriculture not only ensures a sustainable conservation of the ecosystems, but it also provides women with a secure livelihood that will enable greater independence of women, with this encouraging women's social participation in private and public spheres.

### ***CSW Recent Work on the Topic***

During the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW held at the United Nations Headquarters from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Commission addressed several topics of key importance.<sup>100</sup> Within this context, the common denominator was the primary goal of empowering women, which is presented as a cross cutting issue for the Commission.<sup>101</sup> In this regard it is important to understand that empowerment of women is presented as the starting point for any action taken in the future, because if women do not have the position and status they deserve in a community, any future process will be hindered by the lack of equality in participation.<sup>102</sup> Therefore, targeting the issues related to the role of women in agriculture, in the decision making process and the inclusion of young women and men in issues of gender equality are of primordial importance for the CSW.<sup>103</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

“The role of gender factors in environmental problems is a much discussed issue, but its precise connotations depend on the way the relationship is framed.”<sup>104</sup> The genre is a useful tool for the analysis between human and nature, as it shows a series of links and relationships that are not sensitive to traditional indicators. In this sense, gender suggests that women can maintain a close bond with nature in terms of direct subsistence, and given the social structure in which we live, women have been assigned a key role regarding food security. With this responsibility in their hands, women show greater interest in preserving nature, as it is understood as their main source of subsistence. Although nature is the source of life for humankind in general, this relationship is more evident given the level of dependency for women in terms of their daily activities. “In this context, it has been stated that women's full participation as resource managers is essential for the attainment of sustainable development.”<sup>105</sup>

The remaining challenges respond to key issues addressing: access and management of natural resources, status of women within countries in crisis, proposals and strategies for the empowerment of women and their incidence on environment sustainability, and the role of women in the conservation of traditional knowledge and practices for environmental management. In this regard, some questions are still on the table: What is the applicability of the concept of sustainable development within the world's current conditions? What is the current position of International Society towards the environmental management? How do the different UN bodies endorse environmental sustainability? What is the level of incidence of women in the conservation of the environment? Which are the areas of social life that need to be democratized to enable the role of women in public decision making? How visible is the role of women within the global environmental arena? How able is the International Society to agree upon a global environmental management framework?

## **Annotated Bibliography**

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*FAO has managed to elaborate a specific webpage that concentrates a variety of links, the ones that contain fundamental information for the studying of the environment. The page provides an individual profile by country in terms of issues such as water availability, land-related agriculture and the management of forest reserves, among others. This information is of key importance for the future development of documents*

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<sup>99</sup> Norad, *Report from a fact finding mission: Women, Gender and Conservation Agriculture in Zambia*, 2011

<sup>100</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), *Fifty-sixth Session of the CSW*, 2012.

<sup>101</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), *Fifty-sixth Session of the CSW*, 2012

<sup>102</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), *Fifty-sixth Session of the CSW*, 2012

<sup>103</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), *Fifty-sixth Session of the CSW*, 2012

<sup>104</sup> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability*, 364.

<sup>105</sup> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability*, 364.

*reflecting the conditions and interests of countries both in international forums and within their public policy.*

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). (2004). *National Strategies for Sustainable Development: Challenges, Approaches and Innovations in Strategic and Co-ordinated Action*. Retrieved June 26, 2012 from [http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2004/measure\\_nat\\_strategies\\_sd.pdf](http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2004/measure_nat_strategies_sd.pdf)

*The document published in 2004 provides a comprehensive analysis performed in 19 developed and developing countries; they are studied in depth in terms of sustainable development. For this purpose it is essential to establish gaps and areas of vulnerability of the countries in question, information that will reflect the reality and context planned to address. This paper sets out strategies for solutions for problems from a specific human group, along with the strategies based on a common thread that is sustainable development, to be applied in a variety of socio-economic realities.*

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). (2010). *Enhancing the Role of Indigenous Women in Sustainable Development*. Retrieved June 26, 2012 from <http://www.ifad.org/english/indigenous/pub/documents/indigenouswomenReport.pdf>

*This text covers topics directly related to the female experience in the management of resources, specifically within the agricultural sector. It analyzes specific experiences that have taken place in countries like the Philippines and Vietnam, as well as case studies in the Andean Region. Throughout this text, the authors recover the value attributed to the transmission of ancestral knowledge and its impact on environmental conservation.*

United Nations Documents. (1987). *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*. Retrieved June 26, 2012 from <http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>

*The Brundtland Report conceived in the late 80's is one of the documents most relevant to the environmental analysis in the international political arena. One of the key contributions of this report is the socio-economic definition of sustainable development, a concept that has marked the discourse and actions of various sectors and groups worldwide. Additionally, this document presents a series of analyses on topics such as: food security, the role of economics in the environmental sustainability and future strategies to be applied. Although the report was elaborated over 20 years ago, it provides several analyses that remain relevant today.*

United Nations Environment Programme. (2012). *One Planet, How Many People?: A Review of Earth's Carrying Capacity*. Retrieved June 25, 2012 from [http://www.unep.org/pdf/UNEP\\_GEAS\\_June\\_2012.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/UNEP_GEAS_June_2012.pdf)

*This particular document addresses the issue of the Earth as a system; therefore, it depends on the actions and activities of its members. The study shows some figures about planet's levels of equilibrium, determining pollution, and resource exploitation and population growth as the three factors with increased incidence on the vulnerability of the ecosystem. In front of these challenges the document presents and addresses some strategic responses and measures to be taken in order to achieve the expected and vital ecosystemic equilibrium.*

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). (n/a). *MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability*. Retrieved August 22, 2012 from <http://www.unfpa.org.br/lacodm/arquivos/mdg7.pdf>

*The document analyzes the environmental sustainability from a combined perspective between population and the environment. Within its first few paragraphs it addresses the conceptualization of sustainability, a concept that is explained in depth, taking into account the ecosystemic nature of this principle. Additionally, important analyses are performed on the link between population growth and environmental degradation, also incorporating other phenomena such as migration, which is also considered as an environmental event. Finally, it addresses the role of gender in environmental conservation, explaining in detail the implications of gender and the role of women in the management of environment.*

Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. (2010). *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010*. Retrieved August 22, 2012 from

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202010%20En%20r15%20-low%20res%2020100615%20-.pdf#page=57>



*In this report made by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, delegates are able to find an important basis for analysis; as it provides a clear look towards the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals. Being a study conducted in 2010, it shows figures from 2000 and changes that have been made to date. This report makes evidences the poor international response to the MDGs, even though progress has been made, it is clear that the global commitment has still pending tasks. An example of this is the continued loss of biodiversity worldwide, which is a reflection of the current model of production and consumption, the one that demands for more arable land, which means a sustained reduction of forests. Thus, this paper provides a clear analysis of the status of the MDGs in order to foreshadow future actions.*

## **II. The Empowerment of Rural Women and their Role in Rural Development: Strategies and Current Challenges**

### ***Introduction and Historical Overview***

Contribution of rural women to development can be decisive as they “play a key role in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being.”<sup>106</sup> Rural women represent one fourth of the world’s population and an important agricultural labor force<sup>107</sup>, producing from 60% to 80% of the food in developing countries but own a small portion of the land or agricultural resources.<sup>108</sup> Women’s contributions are crucial for the subsistence of families and rural communities. However, their contributions and necessities remain overlooked.<sup>109</sup> Rural women still have limited access to resources and services like education, labor rights and control over resources.<sup>110</sup> According to the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Committee of the Status of Women, women receive less than 10% of all loans and 5% of technical assistance resources.<sup>111</sup> Furthermore, rural women’s production is vulnerable to “the economic and financial crisis, volatile food prices and export-driven agriculture.”<sup>112</sup> Therefore, fulfilling rural women potential can accelerate poverty and hunger elimination, thus contributing to development.<sup>113</sup>

Concerns regarding the role of rural women in development have been discussed for decades within the United Nations Organization (UN). In 1979, the General Assembly approved the *Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, which recognized, among other things, the fragile condition of rural women. Article 14 of the Convention states that “States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy [...]”<sup>114</sup> It further indicates the role of States in assuring rural women the right to have access to development planning, adequate health care services, education and training programs, employment opportunities, credit facilities, among other opportunities that guarantee rural women adequate living conditions.<sup>115</sup>

Rural women’s necessities continued to gain attention in 1992 when the First Ladies Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women in Geneva adopted the *Geneva Declaration for Rural Women*. The Declaration calls upon governments, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector agencies, United Nations agencies and other donor agencies to “allocate greater resources to promote the economic and social advancement of rural women.”<sup>116</sup> In 1995, the United Nations Conference on Women, organized by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) adopted the *Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action*. Among other issues, the Platform determined specific strategic objectives to be adopted by different entities to empower rural women. With the aim of pursuing macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address women poverty issues, the Platform

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<sup>106</sup> Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012

<sup>107</sup> UN Women, *Commission on the Status Women*, 2012.

<sup>108</sup> NGO Committee on the Status of Women NY, *NGO/CSW Forum at CSW56*, 2012.

<sup>109</sup> UN Women, *Commission on the Status Women*, 2012.

<sup>110</sup> UN Women, *Commission on the Status Women*, 2012.

<sup>111</sup> NGO Committee on the Status of Women NY, *NGO/CSW Forum at CSW56*, 2012.

<sup>112</sup> UN Women, *Commission on the Status Women*, 2012.

<sup>113</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Women and Rural Development*, 2012.

<sup>114</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, 1979.

<sup>115</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, 1979.

<sup>116</sup> Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, *Geneva Declaration for Rural Women*, 1992.

advocates governments to:

“Formulate and implement policies and programmes that enhance the access of women agricultural and fisheries producers (including subsistence farmers and producers, especially in rural areas) to financial, technical, extension and marketing services; provide access to and control of land, appropriate infrastructure and technology in order to increase women's incomes and promote household food security, especially in rural areas and, where appropriate, encourage the development of producer-owned, market-based cooperatives.”<sup>117</sup>

Likewise, the Platform for Action, regarding the matter of women's access to credit, endorses governments to “enhance the access of disadvantaged women, including women entrepreneurs, in rural, remote and urban areas to financial services through strengthening links between the formal banks and intermediary lending organizations, including legislative support, training for women and institutional strengthening for intermediary institutions with a view to mobilizing capital for those institutions and increasing the availability of credit”<sup>118</sup> and to “encourage links between financial institutions and non-governmental organizations and support innovative lending practices, including those that integrate credit with women's services and training and provide credit facilities to rural women.”<sup>119</sup>

### ***The Work of the CSW Regarding Rural Women***

In the 1960's the Commission on the Status of Women, as it began to focus in the role of women in development, came to realize the disproportionate effects of poverty on women.<sup>120</sup> In this sense, the Commission “centered on women's needs in community and rural development, agricultural work, family planning and the impact of scientific and technological advances.”<sup>121</sup> Since then, the Commission has been working to empower women to become agents and beneficiaries of development.<sup>122</sup>

In fact, in 2009, a multi-year program was adopted with the Economic and Social Council Resolution 2009/15, which decided the Commission's agenda for the period 2010-2014. The Resolution established that “In 2012, at its fifty-sixth session, the priority theme will be ‘The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges.’”<sup>123</sup> Although the 56<sup>th</sup> session took place from February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup>, no agreed conclusions regarding the established priority theme were reached.<sup>124</sup> The Chair's Summary of the 56<sup>th</sup> session on the CSW pointed out that “after many hours of deliberations and negotiations, divergent views were not bridged, and the Commission was unable to adopt agreed conclusions on this year's priority theme for the benefit of rural women who had hoped that the Commission would achieve something concrete for them.”<sup>125</sup>

### ***Strategies***

#### ***Providing Access to Micro-Credit and Financial Resources***

In 2000, at its twenty-three special session, the General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/S-23/3 entitled “Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action”. The resolution recognized that “Microcredit and other financial instruments for women have emerged as a successful strategy for economic empowerment and have widened economic opportunities for some women living in poverty, in particular in rural areas.”<sup>126</sup> The importance of rural women's access to financial resources was reaffirmed in the Commission's 54<sup>th</sup> session (March 2010), on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World

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<sup>117</sup> The United Nations World Conference on Women, *Beijing Platform for Action*, 1995.

<sup>118</sup> United Nations World Conference on Women, *Beijing Platform for Action*, 1995.

<sup>119</sup> United Nations World Conference on Women, *Beijing Platform for Action*, 1995.

<sup>120</sup> Un Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>121</sup> Un Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>122</sup> Un Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

<sup>123</sup> Economic and Social Council, *Resolution 2009/15*, 2009.

<sup>124</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, *Agreed Conclusions of the CSW on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (1996 - 2011)*, 2012.

<sup>125</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges, Chair's summary*, 2012.

<sup>126</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, A/RES/S-23/3*, 2000.

Conference on Women, where Resolution 54/4 on Women's Economic Empowerment was adopted. The pertaining document underlines the "importance of strengthening domestic financial sectors as a source of capital by making them inclusive to women living in poverty, in particular women living in poverty and women living in rural and/or remote areas, thus expanding their access to financial services."<sup>127</sup> This follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action urged States to adopt concrete measures aimed to eliminate the obstacles women face in the access to financial and credit services, giving especial attention to poor women in urban and rural areas.<sup>128</sup> It also invites states and international organizations, in joint venture with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to work to strengthen agricultural cooperatives by supporting women's rights to finance and property, as well as mechanisms to increase production, and investing in infrastructure and irrigation.<sup>129</sup>

### *Strengthening Women Needs and Women Roles in the Decision-Making Process*

One of the largest gaps between men and women is seen in decision-making processes and leadership in governance as well as within their household.<sup>130</sup> Affirmative action measures, like establishing quotas in local government institutions, increase the participation and leadership of women in decision-making processes. This involvement facilitates rural women's priorities to be included in macroeconomic policies and programmes for agricultural and rural development.<sup>131</sup> The 2011 Secretary General Report on the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions identifies three realms for gender-responsive governance: the government or policy makers, the public institutions and the civil society that hold politicians accountable.<sup>132</sup> Regarding the role of national government, the Report points out the efforts to mainstream a gender perspective in legal frameworks and national policies in countries like New Zealand, Denmark, Finland, Timor-Leste and Mauritius, especially in agricultural and rural development plans.<sup>133</sup> Furthermore, gender mainstreaming applied in local governments, planning and budgeting processes is expected to make policies and services more responsive to rural women needs.<sup>134</sup> Likewise, strengthening the voice and leadership of women in rural organizations help increase the responsiveness of national and local policies to rural women necessities.<sup>135</sup> In Bolivia, women organizations have gathered to raise their voice in the lawmaking process after the approval of the 2009 Constitution to assure women demands, like parity in the parliament and recognition of unpaid work, are included in future legal frameworks.<sup>136</sup>

### *Enforcement of the Legal System*

The Chair's summary on the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW encourages states to "continue to strengthen policies relevant for women's empowerment aimed at addressing inequalities affecting women and girls throughout the life-cycle, in particular those that may arise from sex, age, marital status, race, disability, because they are indigenous women, or are women living with HIV and AIDS, and other factors."<sup>137</sup> Women participation in decision-making processes can be advanced through legal frameworks for gender equality. Such is the case of 2000 Denmark's Gender Equality Act that requires public planning to take equality into account.<sup>138</sup> In Finland, the Act on Equality between Women and Men regulates the implementation of gender-equality plans within the Rural Development Programme.<sup>139</sup> Similarly,

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<sup>127</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, *Resolution 54/4 on "Women's economic empowerment"*, 2010.

<sup>128</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, *Resolution 54/4 on "Women's economic empowerment"*, 2010.

<sup>129</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, *Resolution 54/4 on "Women's economic empowerment"*, 2010.

<sup>130</sup> UN Women, *CSW56 – Facts and Figures on Rural Women*, 2012.

<sup>131</sup> UN Women, *Commission on the Status Women*, 2012.

<sup>132</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Secretary General Report "Empowerment of rural women: the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions"*, 2011

<sup>133</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Secretary General Report "Empowerment of rural women: the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions"*, 2011

<sup>134</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Secretary General Report "Empowerment of rural women: the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions"*, 2011

<sup>135</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Secretary General Report "Empowerment of rural women: the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions"*, 2011

<sup>136</sup> UN Women, *Rural Women in Bolivia Make Their Demands Heard, and Their Presence Felt*, 2012

<sup>137</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, *The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges, Chair's summary*, 2012.

<sup>138</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Secretary General Report "Empowerment of rural women: the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions"*, 2011

<sup>139</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Secretary General Report "Empowerment of rural women: the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions"*, 2011

the legal framework of Estonia requires the Ministry of Agriculture to consider gender equality when developing programmes and allocating resources of rural and agricultural policies.

### ***Case Study: Rural Women Employment in India***

In 2009, UN Women launched a two-year programme in order to increase access to guaranteed wage employment for women in India through the advancement of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA).<sup>140</sup> The Act provides a programme guaranteeing 100 days of paid employment per year to each rural household, reserving 33% of workdays for women workers at equal wage between men and women.<sup>141</sup> Under the Act, applicants can claim unemployment allowance if the requested duty bearers do not supply employment within 15 days of demand to work.<sup>142</sup> Even if the programme is financed by central and provincial governments and implemented at national and local levels by the Ministry of Rural Development,<sup>143</sup> Dalit women, considered to belong to the “untouchable” caste -of whom 80% live in rural areas- are largely unaware of their rights contained in the Act.<sup>144</sup>

The remedial measure UN programme started in eight districts of Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.<sup>145</sup> Dalit’s women access to waged work under the Act after the implementation in the 102 selected villages varied from 2811 in 2009 to 14174 in 2011.<sup>146</sup> The initiative, implemented in cooperation with Gender at Work, Dakit Stree Sakthi (DSS) and Mitra Service Society, proved to be successful thanks to the key role local organizations like Lok Samiti, Parmath Seva Sansthan, Sahajani Shiksha Kendra and Venangana played in creating awareness and forming women collectives and syndicates.<sup>147</sup> From 2009 to 2011, membership of Dalit women unions and collectives in the programme-selected areas registered an increase of 95%, empowering women to demand work.<sup>148</sup> Likewise, the creation of 3500 bank accounts under the name of Dalit women demonstrate the increased control of women over financial resources.<sup>149</sup> Studies demonstrate that the MNREGA has enhanced women’s participation in household decisions.<sup>150</sup>

However, even though the success of the UN programme and the MNREGA, unawareness of the entitlements provided by the Act or lack of capacity for demanding these entitlements remain as challenges.<sup>151</sup> Likewise, even if the Act has increased the number of employed women and men, the MNREGA does not guarantee 100 days of work due to peak-seasonal months when large scale employment is offered.<sup>152</sup> Furthermore, employment for women generated by the Act has increased the burden of work for women as they continue to manage household work and children care.<sup>153</sup>

### ***Current Challenges***

#### ***Overlooking Rural Women’s Needs and Contributions for Development***

The mainstreaming of gender responsive governance is challenged by the remaining underrepresentation of rural women, including indigenous women, in national parliaments and public institutions.<sup>154</sup> This lack of representation is exacerbated by lack of education of women, insufficient leadership skills, structural inequality and marginalization

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<sup>140</sup> UN Women South Asia, *Expanding Jobs for Rural Women in India*, 2012.

<sup>141</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Secretary General Report “Empowerment of rural women: the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions”*, 2011

<sup>142</sup> UN Women South Asia, *Expanding Jobs for Rural Women in India*, 2012.

<sup>143</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Secretary General Report “Empowerment of rural women: the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions”*, 2011

<sup>144</sup> UN Women South Asia, *Expanding Jobs for Rural Women in India*, 2012.

<sup>145</sup> UN Women South Asia, *Expanding Jobs for Rural Women in India*, 2012.

<sup>146</sup> UN Women South Asia, *Expanding Jobs for Rural Women in India*, 2012.

<sup>147</sup> UN Women South Asia, *Expanding Jobs for Rural Women in India*, 2012.

<sup>148</sup> UN Women South Asia, *Expanding Jobs for Rural Women in India*, 2012.

<sup>149</sup> UN Women South Asia, *Expanding Jobs for Rural Women in India*, 2012.

<sup>150</sup> UN Women South Asia, *Economic Empowerment Programmes*, 2012

<sup>151</sup> UN Women, *MNREGA & Women’s Empowerment*, 2012

<sup>152</sup> UN Women, *MNREGA & Women’s Empowerment*, 2012

<sup>153</sup> UN Women, *MNREGA & Women’s Empowerment*, 2012

<sup>154</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Secretary General Report “Empowerment of rural women: the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions”*, 2011

of women from decision-making spheres.<sup>155</sup> Continued overlooking of rural women's contribution in development is demonstrated in the absence of rural women-related Resolutions adopted in the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW or of agreed conclusions related to the priority theme.

### *Remaining Inequalities between Women and Men*

Although women hold equal property rights as men in 115 countries and equal inheritance rights in 93 countries, disparities between men and women are seen in every region of the world because of the lack of implementation of existing laws.<sup>156</sup> Gaps between men and women are also seen in unpaid work rural women do and in the difficulty women have in "gaining access to public services, social protection, employment opportunities and local and national markets and institutions."<sup>157</sup> If rural women enjoyed the same access to productive resources as men, "they could increase yields on the farms by 2 percent to 30 percent, raising total agricultural output in these [developing] countries by 2.5 to 4 percent. This would reduce the number of hungry people in the world by around 12 to 17 percent."<sup>158</sup> The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has indicated that "If women's access to productive resources were the same as men's, women's contribution could reduce the total number of hungry people by 12 to 17%."<sup>159</sup>

### *Unpaid Care, Farming and Subsistence Work*

Much of the activities women and girls do in rural areas, such a fetching water or domestic responsibilities, do not bring with them remuneration.<sup>160</sup> Furthermore, the load of unpaid work impedes them to engage in small entrepreneurship or income-generating opportunities.<sup>161</sup> "Gender norms and work roles prevailing in rural societies assign women and girls a wide range of responsibilities, from domestic tasks such as caring for children, collecting water and firewood, cooking meals, processing and storing food to providing unpaid work on family farms for subsistence agriculture or cash crop production".<sup>162</sup> In November 2008, UNDP agreed in a conceptual framework to address unpaid work, which consists of three main pillars: recognition, reduction and redistribution.<sup>163</sup> Because unpaid work is not considered in national accounting systems, it is not taken into account in GDP calculations, national planning, policies, allocation of resources and service provision.<sup>164</sup> Reducing tasks like water collection and food preparation by increased access to infrastructure and public services can reduce the time women and girls spend in unpaid work.<sup>165</sup> Also, as some unpaid work is not easy to reduce (e.g. child, disabled or sick care), redistribution measures like flexible work arrangements can promote a balanced share of family and work responsibilities between women and men.<sup>166</sup>

### *Lack of Education*

Statistics show that only a 39 percent of rural girls receive secondary education compared to the 45 percent of rural boys and the 59 percent of urban girls who attend secondary school.<sup>167</sup> Lack of education of rural women affect their understanding of the importance of prevention HIV/AIDS and related diseases, as well as the importance of family planning.<sup>168</sup> Further evidence shows that "every additional year of primary school increases girl's eventual wages by 10-20 percent."<sup>169</sup> One of the projects that mainly works to address these issues at the local level is the IFAD-funded

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<sup>155</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Secretary General Report "Empowerment of rural women: the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions"*, 2011

<sup>156</sup> UN Women, *Commission on the Status Women 2012*, 2012.

<sup>157</sup> UN Women, *Commission on the Status Women 2012*, 2012.

<sup>158</sup> UN Women, *CSW56 – Facts and Figures on Rural Women*, 2012.

<sup>159</sup> NGO Committee on the Status of Women NY, *NGO/CSW Forum at CSW 56*, 2012.

<sup>160</sup> UN Women, *Commission on the Status Women 2012*, 2012.

<sup>161</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Women and Rural Development*, 2012.

<sup>162</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Secretary General Report "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges"*, 2011.

<sup>163</sup> United Nations Development Program, *Policy Brief: Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction*, 2009

<sup>164</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Secretary General Report "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges"*, 2011.

<sup>165</sup> United Nations Development Program, *Policy Brief: Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction*, 2009

<sup>166</sup> United Nations Development Program, *Policy Brief: Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction*, 2009

<sup>167</sup> UN Women, *CSW56 – Facts and Figures on Rural Women*, 2012.

<sup>168</sup> UN Women, *CSW56 – Facts and Figures on Rural Women*, 2012.

<sup>169</sup> UN Women, *CSW56 – Facts and Figures on Rural Women*, 2012.

Badja Rangelands Development Project that works to improve the incomes of Bedouin herders in Syria.<sup>170</sup> Nevertheless, more projects at a wider scale regarding mechanisms like literacy classes and training courses for women need to be implemented since they have proven to improve and create job opportunities.<sup>171</sup> Moreover, income-earning activities and increased economic autonomy has reduced the pressure of girls to marry at young ages, which shows that projects aiming at increasing the level of education of rural women can significantly improve their prospects for the future.<sup>172</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Even though women have achieved equal property rights in several countries, rural women still face disparities regarding land-holding. In addition, rural women still have limited access to credit and micro-finance, public protection, education and social services and waged work. Lack of general information disaggregated not only by sex, but by rural and urban areas represents a challenge to monitor the progress of the MDGs achievement for all people.<sup>173</sup> Much work remains to be done to improve the situation of rural women. One must ask, what other strategies, besides political and economic empowerment can contribute to the development of women in rural areas? How can structural gender roles and norms be adapted to assure the wellbeing of rural women? How can structural and cultural constraints be tackled to achieve empowerment of rural women? What is the importance on family planning for the empowerment of rural women? How does waged work and land-holding by rural women contribute to the advancement of development? What is the way to achieve further and effective inter-agency strategies to achieve empowerment of rural women as key players in development? What is the role of rural women in advancing economic, environmental and social sustainable development?

## **Annotated Bibliography**

### **II. The Empowerment of Rural Women and their Role in Rural Development: Strategies and Current Challenges**

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*Although no agreed conclusions were achieved in the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Chair's summary provides a perspective on global concerns of States regarding the empowerment of women and their role in the eradication of poverty. The document provides an insight of the action-oriented recommendations States are willing to pursue as it emerges from the deliberations made. These recommendations are key as they point out current approaches regarding the empowerment of rural women, underlining the importance of integrated strategies for sustainable development in the context of the Rio+20 Summit.*

Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women. (2012). *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*. Retrieved June 27, 2012 from <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/an479e/an479e.pdf>

*This source is important as it analyzes the challenges and contributions of rural women regarding each Millennium Development Goal (MDG). Discussing the role of rural women in development using the MDG's as indicators helps understand the role of women at different levels. It consists of a fact sheet product of an inter-agency task force including the WHO, UNESCO, UNAIDS, WFP, UNDP, UN Women, FAO, among others, which provides a multidimensional view of the role rural women have in development.*

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). (2011). *Women and Rural Development*. Retrieved June 28, 2012 from [http://www.ifad.org/pub/factsheet/women/women\\_e.pdf](http://www.ifad.org/pub/factsheet/women/women_e.pdf)

*This source is relevant as it focuses in agricultural development, a strategic alternative for achieving food security in rural areas, where women are key decision-makers and producers and represent a major labor force. The document insists in recognizing women as the protagonists of rural development, since men are*

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<sup>170</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Women and Rural Development*, 2011

<sup>171</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Women and Rural Development*, 2011

<sup>172</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development, *Women and Rural Development*, 2011

<sup>173</sup> Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women. *Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals*, 2012.

*frequently forced to migrate to urban areas searching for jobs. Strategies for empowering women focus on the importance of investing resources for developing women's skills and reducing women's workloads as it would help them become more productive and have access to income-earning activities as well as small profitable enterprises.*

UN Women. (2012). *Rural Women in Bolivia Make Their Demands Heard, and Their Presence Felt*. Retrieved July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from <http://www.unwomen.org/2012/02/rural-women-in-bolivia-make-their-demands-heard-and-their-presence-felt/>

*This example of good practice is important because it refers to the empowerment strategy that has continuously been pointed out in different UN Agencies reports: the advancement of women participation in decision-making processes. This initiative focuses on achieving parity in the parliament and legally recognizing unpaid work. It represents a concrete example on how the participation of women in decision making processes help advance rural women priorities.*

UN Women South Asia. (2012) *Expanding Jobs for Rural Women in India*. Retrieved June 30, 2012 from <http://www.unwomensouthasia.org/2012/expanding-jobs-for-rural-women-in-india/>

*This is a relevant source as it demonstrates that actions to empower rural women do not necessarily need to design new strategies but to enforce existing national policies. Furthermore, it shows that the challenges for advancing the empowerment of women are not always lack of equal rights, but the lack of knowledge of women's rights. The document shows an example of concrete and simple measures that need to be taken to empower women before implementing more complex programs. Equally important as is the access to education, finances, technology and land, is the access and comprehension of civil rights.*

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*This source is important as it collects information of recent work and current challenges and recommendation regarding the empowerment of women to make them key players in achieving development. The actuality of the document is useful as it brings together the conclusions of a multi-UN agencies expert group meeting on "Enabling rural women's economic empowerment: institutions, opportunities and participation" that took place in September 2011. It complements the debate of the role of rural women as it highlights the role and situation of rural girls.*

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). (2012). *The Future Women Want: A Vision of Sustainable Development for all*. Retrieved June 28 from <http://www.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/The-Future-Women-Want.pdf>

*This source is relevant as it is a document in the context of Rio+20 and portrays the inclusion of rural women as contributors and beneficiaries in strategies and efforts to achieve sustainable development in social, economic and environment realms. In discussion regarding development, is it impossible to exclude the debate about sustainability. Therefore, discussing about women's role in rural development should include an integrated approach bringing together economic, social and environmental sustainability.*

United Nations General Assembly. (1979). *Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*. Retrieved July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>

*The Convention is an essential tool when addressing women related issues as one of the major challenges women still face is discrimination. The CEDAW is particularly important because, adopted in 1979, highlights the vulnerability and key role of rural women. This international instrument endorses rights that rural women continue to lack in order to achieve development.*

United Nations General Assembly. (2011). *Report A/66/181 "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas"*. Retrieved June 29, 2012 from <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/429/61/PDF/N1142961.pdf?OpenElement>

*This report is essential for understanding the current situation regarding the empowerment of women because it encompasses actions taken by the States, the United Nations and other actors. Despite the absence of agreed conclusions related to rural women's issues at the Commission on the Status of Women in its 56<sup>th</sup> session, this report provides an integrated perspective of the necessities of rural women and what*

can be done. It provides a guide of the direction Member States are willing to take regarding recommendations to improve the situation of rural women.

United Nations World Conference on Women. (1995). *Beijing Platform for Action*. Retrieved July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/>

*The Beijing Platform for Action is the most essential instrument when dealing with women concerns. The General Assembly mandated the Commission on the Status of Women to follow-up and review critical areas of the Platform. Regarding rural women's empowerment, the Platform focuses on the importance of economic empowerment of women.*

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# **Rules of Procedure**

## **Economic and Social Council Plenary**

### ***Introduction***

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the Economic and Social Council Plenary (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”) and shall be considered adopted by the Council prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Plenary Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Director-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Director-General or her or his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, “President” shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the Council.

### I. SESSIONS

#### ***Rule 1 - Dates of convening and adjournment***

The Council shall meet every year in regular session, commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary-General.

#### ***Rule 2 - Place of sessions***

The Council shall meet at a location designated by the Secretary-General.

### II. AGENDA

#### ***Rule 3 - Provisional agenda***

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to the Members of the Council at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

#### ***Rule 4 - Adoption of the agenda***

The agenda provided by the Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the Council by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

*The vote described in this rule is a procedural vote and, as such, observers are permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, those present and voting means those delegates, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote.*

#### ***Rule 5 - Revision of the agenda***

During a session, the Council may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Permission to speak on a motion to revise the agenda shall be accorded only to three representatives in favor of, and three opposed to, the revision. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Council so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Council decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee has reported on the question concerned.

*For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an important and urgent character is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Council to be placed on the agenda. It will, however, not be considered by the Council until a committee has reported on the question. The votes described in this rule are substantive vote, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting means members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.*

#### ***Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum***

Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if

possible, by basic documents.

### III. SECRETARIAT

#### ***Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General***

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Council.
2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Council and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings.

#### ***Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat***

The Secretariat shall receive, print, and distribute documents, reports, and resolutions of the Council, and shall distribute documents of the Council to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Council may require.

#### ***Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat***

The Secretary-General, or her/his representative, may make oral as well as written statements to the Council concerning any question under consideration.

#### ***Rule 10 - Selection of the President***

The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall appoint, from applications received by the Secretariat, a President who shall hold office and, *inter alia*, chair the Council for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

#### ***Rule 11 - Replacement of the President***

If the President is unable to perform her/his functions, a new President shall be appointed for the unexpired term at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

### IV. LANGUAGE

#### ***Rule 12 - Official and working language***

English shall be the official and working language of the Council.

#### ***Rule 13 - Interpretation (oral) or translation (written)***

Any representative wishing to address any body or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide interpretation or translation into English.

*This rule does not affect the total speaking time allotted to those representatives wishing to address the body in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the interpretation must be within the set time limit.*

### V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

#### ***Rule 14 – Quorum***

The President may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Council are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Council shall be required for any decision to be taken.

*For purposes of this rule, members of the Council means the total number of members (not including observers) in attendance at the first night's meeting.*

#### ***Rule 15 - General powers of the President***

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Council, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Council and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Council the closure of the list of speakers, a

limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

*Included in these enumerated powers is the President's power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the President is to use her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference. For purposes of this rule, the President's power to propose to the Council entails her/his power to entertain motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.*

**Rule 16**

The President, in the exercise of her or his functions, remains under the authority of the Council.

**Rule 17 - Points of order**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President. Any appeal of the decision of the President shall be immediately put to a vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

*Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. Any questions on order arising during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech, or can be addressed by the President, sua sponte, during the speech. For purposes of this rule, —the members present and voting mean those members (not including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.*

**Rule 18**

A representative may not, in rising to a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

**Rule 19 - Speeches**

1. No one may address the Council without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Council, and the President may call a speaker to order if her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Council may limit the time allowed to speakers and all representatives may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives favoring and two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call her or him to order without delay.

*In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, if the President determines that the Council in large part does not want to deviate from the limits to the speaker's time as it is then set, and that any additional motions will not be well received by the body, the President, in her/his discretion, and on the advice and consent of the Secretariat, may rule as dilatory any additional motions to change the limits of the speaker's time.*

**Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers**

Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Council, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the Council.

*The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and should not be the subject of a motion by the Council. A motion to close the speakers' list is within the purview of the Council and the President should not act on her/his own motion.*

**Rule 21 - Right of reply**

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the President may permit that representative to exercise

her/his right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal.

*For purposes of this rule, a remark that impugns the integrity of a representative's State is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Council by the representative only upon approval of the Secretariat, and in no case after voting has concluded on all matters relating to the agenda topic, during the discussion of which, the right arose.*

**Rule 22 - Suspension of the meeting**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension of the meeting, specifying a time for reconvening. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass.

**Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to the vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. After adjournment, the Council shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

*As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Council's next regularly scheduled session the following year, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and in furtherance of its educational mission, the President will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last meeting of the Council.*

**Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate**

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of debate on the topic under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to two representatives favoring and two opposing adjournment, after which the motion shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. If a motion for adjournment passes, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken on it.

**Rule 25 - Closure of debate**

A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her/his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the Council favors the closure of debate, the Council shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

**Rule 26 - Order of motions** Subject to rule 23, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

- a) To suspend the meeting;
- b) To adjourn the meeting;
- c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
- d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

**Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments**

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with the names of twenty percent of the members of the Council would like the Council to consider the proposal or amendment. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the Council unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated. If the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the proposal shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be taken on the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the Council for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

*For purposes of this rule, all proposals shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Council by the Secretariat.*



*The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Council. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Council and, as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form.*

**Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions**

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

**Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic**

When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Council, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, so decides. Reconsideration can only be moved by a representative who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion to adjourn. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

*For purposes of this rule, those present and voting means those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion is voted upon by the body.*

## VI. VOTING

**Rule 30 - Voting rights**

Each member of the Council shall have one vote.

*This rule applies to substantive voting on amendments, draft resolutions, and portions of draft resolutions divided out by motion. As such, all references to member(s) do not include observers, who are not permitted to cast votes on substantive matters.*

**Rule 31 - Request for a vote**

A proposal or motion before the Council for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Council may adopt proposals or motions without a vote.

*For purposes of this rule, proposal means any draft resolution, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the President may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote.*

**Rule 32 - Majority required**

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Assembly shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

*All members declaring their representative States as “present and voting” during the attendance roll call for the meeting during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain.*

**Rule 33 - Method of voting**

1. The Council shall normally vote by a show of placards, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is randomly selected by the President. The name of each present member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply “yes,” “no,” “abstention,” or “pass.”

*Only those members who designate themselves as present or present and voting during the attendance roll*

*call, or in some other manner communicate their attendance to the President and/or Secretariat, are permitted to vote and, as such, no others will be called during a roll-call vote. Any representatives replying pass, must, on the second time through, respond with either yes or no. A pass cannot be followed by a second pass for the same proposal or amendment, nor can it be followed by an abstention on that same proposal or amendment.*

2. When the Council votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of placards and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. A representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Council shall dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members.
3. The vote of each member participating in a roll call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in the record.

***Rule 34 - Explanations of vote***

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed. The representatives of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended, and the member has voted against the proposal or motion.

*All explanations of vote must be submitted to the President in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the President in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends.*

***Rule 35 - Conduct during voting***

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representatives shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting.

***Rule 36 - Division of proposals and amendments***

Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the President where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If objection is made to the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of those present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are involved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

*For purposes of this rule, most radical division means the division that will remove the greatest substance from the draft resolution, but not necessarily the one that will remove the most words or clauses. The determination of which division is most radical is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.*

***Rule 37 - Amendments***

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal.

*An amendment can add, amend, or delete operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect perambulatory clauses.*

***Rule 38 - Order of voting on amendments***

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on first and then the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

*For purposes of this rule, furthest removed in substance means the amendment that will have the most significant impact on the draft resolution. The determination of which amendment is furthest removed in substance is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.*

**Rule 39 - Order of voting on proposals**

If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Council decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted.

**Rule 40 - The President shall not vote**

The President shall not vote but may designate another member of her/his delegation to vote in her/his place.

VII. CREDENTIALS

**Rule 41 - Credentials**

The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General prior to the opening of a session.

**Rule 42**

The Council shall be bound by the actions of the General Assembly in all credentials matters and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any member.

VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States**

1. The Council shall invite any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Council and any other State, to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
2. A committee or sessional body of the Council shall invite any State that is not one of its own members to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
3. A State thus invited shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the body concerned.

*If the Council considers that the presence of a Member invited according to this rule is no longer necessary, it may withdraw the invitation again. Delegates invited to the Council according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the committee that they were originally assigned to. For educational purposes of the NMUN Conference, the Secretariat may thus ask a delegate to return to his or her committee when his or her presence in the Council is no longer required.*

**Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements**

The Council may invite any national liberation movement recognized by the General Assembly to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that movement.

**Rule 46 - Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies**

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled: a) To be represented at meetings of the Council and its subsidiary organs; b) To participate, without the right to vote, through their representatives, in deliberations with respect to items of concern to them and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

**Rule 47 - Participation of non-governmental organization and intergovernmental organizations**

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer status by the General Assembly and other non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Council on the recommendation of the Bureau, may participate, with the procedural right to vote, but not the substantive right to vote, in the deliberations of the Council on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.