

10-14 April 2022

Documentation of The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) NMUN Simulation*



Conference B

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The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Committee Staff

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Chair	Johany Madrid

Agenda

- I. Women as Drivers of Economic Recovery and Resilience
- II. Combating Gender Inequality to End Poverty

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

CODE	TOPIC	VOTE (FOR-AGAINST-ABSTAIN)
UN Women/1/1	Women as Drivers of Economic Recovery and Resilience	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Women as Drivers of Economic Recovery and Resilience
- II. Combating Gender Inequality to End Poverty

On Sunday, the committee discussed setting the agenda, which was set at I, II prior to the end of the session. The committee then started forming working groups to discuss multiple themes pertaining to the topic. On Monday, the committee continued discussing the topic in their working groups. There were three established working groups, and each of them submitted its first draft discussing themes such as education for women, improving policies concerning unpaid care, providing micro-loans to women-owned small-medium enterprises (SMEs), and supporting gender-based reforms.

On Tuesday, the body diplomatically collaborated on shared ideas and solutions. Through continuous and diligent negotiations, the three working groups actively initiated merging into one working paper. On Wednesday, one merged paper was received by the Dais. This working paper focused on strengthening reforms for unpaid and paid care work, supporting women to achieve leadership positions in the workplace, and promoting post-pandemic recovery by granting women access to low-interest micro-loans. This was accepted as draft resolution 1/1. The committee then went into voting procedure, where the draft resolution was adopted without a vote. The committee then initiated a quality debate on the second topic prior to the conclusion of the last Committee session.



Code: UN WOMEN 1/1

Committee: The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Topic: Women as Drivers of Economic Recovery and Resilience

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), specifically articles 23, 25, and 26 which focus on the right to work without discrimination, the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to education,

Bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 on quality education, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, and SDG 17 on partnership for the Goals by taking actions to increase educational programs and financial literacy in order to have economic growth and sustainability,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), which focuses on ensuring that the outlined goals are accessible for rural communities, including several objectives such as promoting economic rights and independence, providing training and access to jobs, and eliminating occupational segregation,

Taking into consideration the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979), as well as, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women (1994), also known as the Belém do Pará Convention, which denounces discrimination and violence against women,

Having adopted the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and Security Council resolution 2493 (2019), which stresses that women play a crucial role in maintaining peace and security,

Underlining the United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 (1990), which has emphasized the importance of women being represented in leadership positions with a view to achieving equal representation,

Commending organizations partnered with United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) that maintain a commitment to initiatives pushing for an increase of representation within governmental bodies, including both appointed and elected positions,

Welcoming further collaboration with the Commission on the Status of Women on the topic of disaster and risk reduction,

Recognizing both the work of international entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that support the effort in furthering the status of women in private and cultural sectors,

Fully aware of the diverse financial abilities of Member States to implement specific measures to help center women and gender minorities in economic recovery and resiliency and the need for a joint effort among Member States of all income levels toward achieving gender parity,

Conscious of the Member States' continued support of UN Women's joint education program together with The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), The United Nations Sexual and Reproductive Health Agency, and the World Bank focusing on Security and Safety, Health, Employment, Legislation and Law Enforcement, and Finance (SHELF) for female equality solutions, along with gender empowerment,

Keeping in mind the Reducing Risk & Building Resilience of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to Disasters report by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020, SMEs are crucial to local and national economic resiliency and recovery from disasters,

Taking note of the persistent salary disparity between men and women despite working in the same fields and a paucity of women's representation in high-paying jobs,

Emphasizing that it is important to address the underlying roots of women's under-representation in the economic workforce, such as women's traditional main responsibility for unpaid housework and caring, *Noting* with deep concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has set goals for achieving gender parity back decades,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 74/270 (2020) and 74/274 (2020) regarding the importance of global responsiveness in dealing with COVID-19 as well as the need for equal access to vaccines, medicines, and medical equipment for fields where women are highly employed including the care and informal sectors,

Having considered that over one in ten women in employment do not have access to social insurance, according to the International Labour Organization report from 2016,

Aware of the UN Women and United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker, which states that less than 16% of all 4,968 COVID-19 relief measures support women's economic security and unpaid care work,

Deeply concerned that, according to UNESCO, 129 million girls are out of school, including 32 million primary school age, 30 million lower-secondary school age, and 67 million upper-secondary school age,

Recognizing that, according to the World Bank, one of the primary reasons for women leaving schools at an early age is early pregnancy; therefore, programs about sex education as well as packages containing the necessary elements to implement those lessons should be distributed without any cost among girls,

Taking note with satisfaction that various mentorship programs provide access to women for continued learning while sharing their experiences with a younger generation of women,

Considering the existing barriers for young women and girls in rural communities to participate in high-quality education,

Bearing in mind the underrepresentation of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, and consequently in STEM careers, given they account for only 27% of the global workforce,

Reiterating the UN Women Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) to address global data gaps and paint a more accurate picture of international gender disparities,

Acknowledging the Generation Equality Forum's 5-year journey Global Acceleration Plan, which aims to enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women,

1. *Favors* collaboration between international corporations and local NGOs with UN Women working as an intermediary between the two groups to:
 - a. Highlight the importance of acting in line with existing local frameworks regarding cultural attitudes towards work and the preservation of traditional industries, thereby bringing about sustainable change with respect to heritage;
 - b. Prioritize women's voices in local communities and give them the opportunity to guide programs that are designed to benefit them;
 - c. Include gender perspectives into all labor policies to strengthen community leadership and contribute to sustainable development;
2. *Endorses* Member States to empower women in the workforce and entrepreneurship by:
 - a. Recommending inventing and improving policies concerning maternity leave and child support to promote women into leadership positions and supporting non-traditional careers by

teaching technological education and financial literacy to stimulate women-owned online businesses;

- b. Suggesting creation of a training and educational program called STRIVE (S) Stopping Stereotypes; (T) Tackling sexual violence and domestic; (R) Reforming the economic system (I)Improving healthcare (V) Valuing women’s roles in the society (E) Equality and equity to end poverty, an education initiative by leveraging resources of existing UN Women Training Center that will aim to improve women’s skills and help them reach their goals;
 - c. Expanding the Women’s Empowerment Principles set forth by the United Nations (UN) Global Compact and UN Women through voluntary funding from Member States for minority-owned businesses;
 - d. Ensuring women have equal access to and control over productive resources such as land, capital, and online courses;
3. *Advises* all Member States to incentivize women’s labor participation in higher-income-yielding fields by:
 - a. Inviting women that have been forced to leave the workforce due to COVID-19 to financial relief through a 5% tax credit to women that earn their respective countries’ livable wages;
 - b. Suggesting a tax credit cap once a woman becomes a top 30% earner in their country;
4. *Invites* Member States to provide women with the opportunity to promote post-pandemic recovery by granting access to micro-loans for women starting small healthcare-related businesses that will contribute to women’s economic growth through:
 - a. Regulating the access to these microloans to the unemployed or low-income individuals or groups who otherwise would have no other access to financial services;
 - b. Targeting women who earn \$750-\$1500 annually, who are the most financially vulnerable;
 - c. Providing funding between \$200-\$3000 based on proposed healthcare projects;
 - d. Requesting women submit proposals and outlines of their projects that can drive economic growth for their families and communities and create opportunities for all women;
 - e. Suggesting that the monetary loan will be provided to a bank account under the legal name of the woman who will be receiving the benefit of the loan and, if there is no access to a bank account, this loan will be given through physical monetary stipends or materials as needed;
 - f. Partnering with The World Bank, The International Monetary Fund, UNDP, and corporate funding partners including Finance & Credit Providers, United Way International, International Year of Microcredit, Institutional Investment Providers, and Alternative Investment Fund Partners to fund this loan program in order to continue and contribute to the healthcare field and further aid in combating COVID-19;
5. *Welcomes* Member States to increase the number of women in government leadership positions within their various levels of government structures by 5%, gradually aiming for 50% equality to be reached through:
 - a. Increasing elected representative candidates and government-appointed officials to have women in each election;
 - b. Monitoring the budget political candidates can spend on campaign-related advertising and marketing in order to increase gender and socio-economic diversity;
6. *Suggests* Member States address the effects COVID-19 has had on the gap of unpaid domestic care work by:

- a. Commending the feminization of providing childcare and encouraging the implementation of the UN Women's policies to support young children's healthy development by expanding goals established by the Global Alliance for Care;
 - b. Extending an international framework similar to Brazil's Bolsa Familia Program, which provides stipends for women who are heads of household as an incentive for keeping children in school and maintaining regular health check-ups;
 - c. Expanding the current cash relief and job placement program designed by UN Women and the World Food Programme to specifically target single-parent households during times of global crisis such as COVID-19;
 - d. Affirming commitments to promote comprehensive childcare systems that encourage co-responsibility between all genders for areas such as parental leave, adequately-funded access to educational opportunities, and medical care systems for all women and girls;
7. *Invites* Member States to install social support through safety nets which include:
- a. Implementing parental leave, flexible work schedules, and the security to regain the same work position after the time of absence;
 - b. Recommending policies that prevent discrimination against pregnant women to provide them with the opportunities to develop and advance their careers;
 - c. Emphasizing the importance of funded childcare in order to simultaneously support motherhood and employment;
 - d. Establishing unemployment insurance for all women who have lost their employment due to unexpected circumstances including but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and workplace discrimination;
 - e. Affirming Member States in promoting shared responsibility in the household allowing all genders to participate equally in both the domestic and professional spheres;
8. *Recommends* that Member States reinforce the importance of keeping girls in the educational system through at least secondary school to address the correlation between early pregnancy and education dropout rates by:
- a. Requesting a minimum of 10% of all funding received in public schools to be reserved for the promotion of gender parity;
 - b. Proposing to partner with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund to expand upon programs about sex education as well as distributing financial packages to implement those lessons without any cost to the beneficiaries;
 - c. Stressing the need for incentivizing exploration into a variety of forms of educational and institutional avenues help to decrease the youth pregnancy rate;
 - d. Promoting and leveraging governmental funds to decrease the rate of youth pregnancy;
9. *Encourages* fellow Member States to further implement initiatives aiming to mitigate the key barriers that prevent women and girls' advancement in STEM by:
- a. Expanding the initiatives implemented by the UN program Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women by developing technological spaces to provide online schooling to women and girls who are unable to access educational institutions;
 - b. Supporting national partners and organizations to address the gender gaps that exist in educational choices and achievements of women;

- c. Creating national associations composed of professional gender specialists that work specifically to increase the ratio, representation, and decision-making roles of women in scientific research and innovation;
 - d. Designing and facilitating additional work opportunities for women in the science and technology field by promoting early science education and investing in research;
10. *Stresses* the importance of creating and supporting education programs that comprise key areas of intervention required to secure the future empowerment and employment of women by:
- a. Promoting gender-inclusive education focusing on gender discrimination and prevention of sexual harassment in universities and the workplace;
 - b. Endorsing the creation of social media campaigns and inviting international cooperation in partnership with public organizations to raise awareness about gender inequality that women face in the workforce;
11. *Further recommends* Member States collaborate to expand on the existing Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Project framework and UN Women flagship program Making Every Woman and Girl Count by:
- a. Giving all underrepresented groups of women from different socioeconomic statuses a forum to voice their concerns;
 - b. Establishing a unified annual survey that remedies the inaccuracies of past data collection.