



Documentation of the work of the
Commission on the Status of Women NMUN simulation*



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Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

1. Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls
2. Promoting Gender Equality in Access to Healthcare

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (For-Against-Abstain)
CSW1/1/1	Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls	Adopted without a vote
CSW1/1/2	Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls	31 in favor, 1 against, 5 abstentions
CSW1/1/3	Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls	Adopted without a vote
CSW1/1/4	Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls	29 in favor, 6 against, 2 abstentions
CSW1/1/5	Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls	19 in favor, 17 against, 1 abstention

Summary Report

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

1. Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls
2. Promoting Gender Equality in Access to Healthcare

The session was attended by representatives of 41 Member States and two Observers. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of 1, 2 beginning the discussion on the topic “Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls.”

By Monday, the Dais received a total of seven proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including women in leadership positions, sustainable agriculture, health care, education, domestic violence, financial literacy and microfinance programs, business training, politics, and technology. The negotiations were conducted in a calm, collected, and compromise-oriented manner.

On Wednesday, five draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, four of which had amendments. The committee adopted all five resolutions following voting procedure, two of which received unanimous support from the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including the limited access to health care and education for rural women and girls, the detrimental of unpaid care work and low representation in leadership positions, female genital mutilation and domestic violence as well as lack of technology and digital access.

Overall, open-mindedness and a solution-driven approach championed the work of the body. Approaching the topic holistically, the working groups of the committee highlighted several different perspectives, while still diving into details when necessary, like finding the right terminology regarding sensitive human rights issues such as the augmented hardships of indigenous women.



Code: CSW/1/1

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Underscores the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), as well as the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993),

Upholding the importance of maintaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, specifically targets 1 and 2, which stress the fact to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation,

Recalling the Security Council resolution 889 (2009) on women, peace and security,

Acknowledging that the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, that more than one-third of women encounter violence, specifically, 24% face physical violence from an intimate partner, which includes instances of domestic violence and gender-based violence,

Expressing severe concern over women's lack of economic, social, cultural, civil, and political education,

Highlighting that women and girls, especially in rural areas, need their right to education as emphasized in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), that "Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedom",

Bearing in mind the increase in female-headed households and male alcoholism as a leading cause of gender-based violence, the importance of addressing alcoholism as a primary concern is underscored, alongside providing support for affected families navigating these difficult dynamics,

Remembering that intimate Partner Violence and Alcohol, as highlighted by the WHO, emphasize the critical need for interventions that tackle both substance abuse and the complex interplay of factors contributing to domestic violence,

Recalls the Equal Act of Opportunity (EAO) that combats gender-based discrimination in the workplace and promotes a more environmentally friendly work environment,

Expresses appreciation for United Nations Women's Global Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls initiative that has worked to prevent and respond to sexual harassment against women and girls in public spaces,

Fully supports the extension of a policy in the workplace and school that allows rural women and girls a leave of absence in the case of miscarriage and menstruation,

Expressing concern about the high rate of taxes on menstrual products, reaching up to 11% in some Member States, impacting rural women and girls the most,

Acknowledging that 75% of indigenous women suffer from domestic violence while pregnant, leading to miscarriages or birth complications, further showing the highest levels of domestic violence in the United

States, though many victims do not report crimes due to fear, lack of information on where and how to report, absence of safe houses and other support services, and lack of awareness or inadequacy of existing domestic violence legislation,

Having examined The Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program that seeks to enhance the safety of rural victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking and support projects uniquely designed to address and prevent these crimes in rural areas,

Recognizing that child marriage is a harmful practice that violates the fundamental rights and dignity of children, particularly young girls, and undermines efforts to achieve gender equality, social justice, and sustainable development,

Acknowledges the initiatives of the United Nations Population Fund to help young rural women with menstruation, and giving out dignity kits,

1. *Recommends* reforms in existing judiciary measures by:
 - a. Emphasizing measures related to protecting rural women from injustice to:
 - i. Strengthen laws that protect women in rural areas during work settings against sexual assault and gender-based violence;
 - ii. Consider rehabilitation programs on the theme of equality in the workforce and the importance of the inclusion of all women and girls, without distinction related to their origin, religion, beliefs, or socio-economic provenance;
 - iii. Draw attention to the supporting projects that address and prevent crimes in rural areas;
 - b. Encouraging the development of laws empowering rural women in all stages of life;
 - c. Advising Member States to create coalitions where survivors of domestic violence who became lawyers can provide mental health services and educational empowerment for rural women and girls women who are seeking jobs in the legal profession;
 - d. Encouraging women to seek help by giving them access to free judicial services like pro-bono services with volunteer lawyers, so everyone can have access to good and equal lawyers that would guide them throughout the entire process;
2. *Suggests* the implementation of financial literacy classes, recommended to the General Assembly to be financially supplied by the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP), nationwide to empower rural women economically, enabling them to make informed financial decisions and improve their socio-economic status:
 - a. Further advises current finance and business students, graduated business professionals, and other individuals educated in financial literacy to hold lectures and seminars educating rural girls and women;
 - b. Providing courses that educate rural women on credit card fluency, and landownership processes;
3. *Further requests* holding national and regional conferences to discuss policies encouraging Member States and other actors to invest in accessible women's reproductive health resources, especially in rural and underserved areas by:
 - a. Encouraging menstrual dispensaries for women living in areas farther than 50 kilometers from cities;

- b. Educating women on reusable alternatives regarding menstrual products so that rural women can be assured to always have access to them;
4. *Inquires* to initiate campaigns for alcoholism in the prevention of domestic violence against women in rural areas by recognizing the rise in female-headed households, where evidence shows that male unemployment, often stemming from alcoholism, plays a significant role, underscoring the importance of addressing alcoholism as a primary concern, alongside providing support for affected families navigating this difficult dynamic;
5. *Encourages* efforts from any Member State that aligns with the provision of increased funding from Non-Governmental Organizations such as Survival International, to further empower and support the health and lives of rural indigenous women, specifically for Member States recognizing indigenous women's rights, in order to:
 - a. Promote the widespread awareness of the violence that indigenous women in rural areas face on a daily basis;
 - b. Enact the implementation of educational and training courses that aim to protect rural women against the threat of domestic violence;
6. *Further encourages* Member States to expand anti-domestic abuse initiatives like The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) in India to reverse the culture of misogynistic ideals through:
 - a. Emphasizing the high rates of domestic violence and implementing programs for primary school students to prevent the further spread of abuse;
 - b. Recommending required anti-domestic violence and abuse programs prior to a new occupation for men and women;
7. *Further invites* the Member States to recognize the National Development Plan: Vision 2030 (NDP) implemented by South Africa to create a long-term solution towards addressing the issues of domestic violence and sexual offenses towards women in the African Region that will:
 - a. Accommodate appropriate programs Member States in the African Region are able to implement as a long-term solution with programs such as the TEARS Foundation and Thuthuzela Care Center (TCC);
 - b. Suggest the ADAPT (Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training) NGO as a rehabilitation plan for supporting rural women;
8. *Further recommends* providing accessibility and transportation towards resources specified in preventing and protecting rural women against domestic violence, through:
 - a. Recommending governmental financial support to provide no-cost transportation to and from domestic shelters and support facilities;
 - b. Recognizing the importance of rural outreach, such as; grassroots workshops, designated facilitators and mentors responsible for engaging and teaching rural communities about domestic violence awareness;
 - c. Encouraging an in-depth training process for individuals to learn and understand techniques for the prevention of domestic violence;
9. *Further requests* UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund to work with regional blocs to provide sexual assault clinics that adapt to the needs of rural women and girls;

10. *Requesting* the expansion of local public defender advocates that represent rural disabled women in domestic violence and abusive predicaments to:
 - a. Encourage increased governmental children and women advocates for disabled rural women and girls who are more susceptible to sexual violence;
 - b. Advocate for increased public legislative forums where disabled women and girls can directly speak to state officials to enhance the lives of rural women and girls with disabilities;
11. *Affirms* what Gender equality should be modeled as in social, domestic, economic, and political structures to alleviate the tribulations women endure:
 - a. Spreading awareness that not all rural women and girls' version of success is found within leadership and managerial positions, and therefore fostering an inclusive and healthy domestic space for all rural women and girls, and providing rural women and girls the power of choice;
 - b. Encouraging member states to reverse gender equality perspectives that hinder rural women and girls from participating in economic, domestic, social, or political avenues;
12. *Advocates* for all member states to enact and enforce robust legislation aimed at eradicating child marriages, ensuring the protection and promotion of the rights of young girls:
 - a. Supporting the suggestion of legal frameworks of consented authorization, such as the availability of a legislative committee, when undergoing the marriage process when involving children, especially girls in rural areas;
 - b. Providing girls victims of forced child marriages with refuge in women-based shelters;
13. *Advises* a collaboration with UN Women and experts from the US Program to operationalize the Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Program, which:
 - a. Provides specialized training for law enforcement officers, healthcare professionals, and social workers, on how to identify signs of abuse, provide appropriate support to victims, and effectively respond to incidents of violence in rural areas;
 - b. Involves workshops, seminars, and informational materials distributed through community centers, schools, and local events;
 - c. Strengthens victim support services by establishing hotlines, crisis intervention programs, and support groups specifically tailored to meet the needs of rural victims, for example through providing transportation assistance, temporary housing, and legal advocacy services;
14. *Advocates* for the adoption of initiatives such as the Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Assistance Programs which aim to allocate funds to:
 - a. Identify, evaluate, and respond appropriately to individuals of all ages, which includes child, youth, and adult victims, who have experienced victimization, collaborating with a network of partners such as Domestic Violence Shelters, for instance: Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE), within rural communities to deliver legal aid, healthcare services, and essential resources to those affected;
 - b. Establish and enhance nonprofit, nongovernmental, state, tribal, territorial, and local government support services for victims in rural areas, with a focus on children, youth, and adults who have experienced trauma such as the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV);

- c. Enhance the safety and welfare of rural women and children by directly and promptly addressing issues of violence, implementing comprehensive intervention strategies such as Futures Without Violence;
 - d. Enhance, expand, and refine sexual assault forensic medical examination and sexual assault nurse examiner programs to ensure quality care and support for survivors such as the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN);
- 15. Recommends the integration of accessible food banks in rural communities to prevent violent domestic and sexual crimes against women who face food insecurity, due to climate change, which impacts Rural Women and Girls who are at higher risk of sexual and domestic violence;
- 16. *Advises* the implementation of cost-free mental health centers in rural communities, recommended to the General Assembly to be financially powered by USAID and inspired by the Joint Program on Violence against Women in partnership with medical professionals from American Universities that aim to provide support to those in need, such as women in rural communities, through the following initiatives:
 - a. Teletherapy services so that women can access healthcare services remotely;
 - b. Psychiatric and psychological services to women such as individual counseling;
 - c. Educational workshops to raise awareness about mental health issues, reduce stigma, and provide information about available resources and coping strategies for women in rural areas;
- 17. *Invites* the international community to aim for the goal of 90% coverage for the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine uniformly across the globe and to do so through a gender-inclusive educational campaign on sexual and reproductive healthcare services.



Code: CSW/1/2

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Emphasizing the sentiments supported by the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)*, that all humans are born free and that equal rights and opportunities should be ensured for both men and women,

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

Encouraged by General Assembly resolution 62/163 (2007), which recognizes the crucial role of rural women in the advancement of agricultural and rural development, improving food security, and ending rural poverty,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/128 (1986), which acknowledges the existence of serious obstacles to women's involvement in the development process,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 72/148 (2017), which calls attention to the limited access or lack of access to quality education for rural women and girls,

Recognizing the vital role women play in supporting their households and communities, generating income, and contributing to rural enterprises as well as local and global economies,

Recalling Article 2 and 23 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)*, stating there can be no distinction based on gender, including the right to equal pay,

Taking note of the lack of sufficient physical and mental health services for rural women and girls in many Member States,

According to the National Institutes of Health, there are approximately 1.5 billion women who lack access to necessities such as food and shelter,

Reiterating that a maternal fatality occurs every two minutes, resulting in 800 avoidable deaths linked to pregnancy and childbirth,

Affirming the need for mobile health providers in rural areas to support women who cannot travel due to the lack of transportation, oppressive households, providing family care, and/or health issues,

Acknowledging that women and girls, especially in fragile, conflict-affected, and vulnerable settings (FCV) and persons with disabilities do not have the freedom to make decisions about their bodies,

Declaring the need for investment in cutting-edge technology for the prevention, diagnosis, palliation, and treatment of gender-specific diseases,

Noting with concern the unequal access to reproductive health care such as contraceptives, sexually transmitted infection (STI), and sexually transmitted disease (STD) screening, with special regard to HIV/AIDS,

Fully aware that SDG 5.3 and General Assembly resolution 73/149 (2018) denounce female genital mutilation (FGM) as a violation of basic human rights, especially among rural women and girls,

Recognizing that civic education is central to increasing women's participation in government and voting,

Disheartened that 815 million people in the world suffer from hunger, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), and that this number could be significantly reduced if rural women in agriculture were provided the same resources as men,

Distressed by the existence of legislation and social pressures that prevent rural women from pursuing political office and participating in voting,

Noting further that countries must make concentrated efforts to increase the number of women in political office,

Fully aware that not all women have formal legal or constitutional rights equal to men,

Recognizing the efforts being made by Member States to elevate the status of rural women,

Bearing in mind the importance of sexual and reproductive health rights as well as menstrual health and hygiene, and drawing attention to the fact that on any given day, more than 300 million women worldwide are menstruating, while an estimated 500 million lack access to menstrual products and adequate facilities for Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM),

1. *Suggests* that Member States consider the implementation of infrastructure, such as:
 - a. Mobile clinics operated by university-sent medical and nursing students, furnished and supplied by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as UN Women that support the cause;
 - b. Medical infrastructure in rural areas dedicated to providing women with sexual and reproductive health services, funded by International Development Loans (IDA), which are zero to low-interest loans aiming to boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions around the world;
2. *Recommends* that the General Assembly suggests to Member States the creation of certain programs funded by government-allocated budgets to tailor the programs to each Member State's specific needs, such as:
 - a. National cancer control plans targeting gender-specific diseases such as breast and ovarian cancer, achieved through international medical exchange programs to provide needed support to rural women who do not receive cancer care or screening, to:
 - i. Increase screening technology in hospitals and clinics, including PET and MRI scanning, which many rural communities lack, via the support of WHO funding;

- ii. Improve cancer awareness programs, bringing special attention to the risks posed to rural women, who are among the most affected;
 - b. Educational campaigns to:
 - i. Dispel myths and misconceptions about health-related issues that affect women, such as endometriosis, polycystic ovary syndrome, breast cancer, and ovarian cancer;
 - ii. Sensitize men and women about lesser-known symptoms of common and rare diseases affecting women differently than men;
 - iii. Prevent the spread of STIs and STDs via educational materials in print and audio forms, especially targeting HIV/AIDS;
 - c. Voluntary community-based initiatives providing access to necessary information on healthcare as well as improving the availability of basic female hygiene products and contraceptives specifically reaching out to indigenous women, bearing in mind the intersectionality of gender-specific access to healthcare with discrimination targeted at indigenous people and the importance of traditional, indigenous medical knowledge;
- 3. *Reinforces* the importance of the eradication of FGM in all practiced communities, in alignment with General Assembly resolution 73/149 (2018);
- 4. *Supports* an inclusive response to improve gender equality in healthcare accessibility through national eHealth portals inspired by Denmark's national ePortal, aiming to establish a universally accessible ePortal that:
 - a. Bridges healthcare gaps for all genders by ensuring equitable distribution of resources, services, and information;
 - b. Empowers citizens to engage in their own healthcare decisions;
- 5. *Suggests* the adoption of the Health Access Monitoring System, implemented by UN Women in collaboration with WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the United Nations Development Programme, to monitor progress and evaluate initiatives aimed at reducing gender-based healthcare disparities in rural communities by:
 - a. Standardizing data collection and streamlining knowledge sharing across Member States through:
 - i. Implementing a standardized data collection protocol within rural healthcare facilities as well as ensuring uniformity in the types of data collected and the methods used for gathering information;
 - ii. Utilizing digital platforms integrated into existing healthcare systems to facilitate efficient data collection and sharing;
 - iii. Establishing a centralized database accessible to all Member States, allowing for easy sharing of best practices, lessons learned, and successful interventions;

- b. Actively engaging with healthcare providers, policymakers, and communities to facilitate a collaborative approach to addressing these challenges;
 - c. Providing an open-source site that can be accessed by all communities around the world while:
 - i. Ensuring that the platform is available in multiple languages and optimized for use on various devices to maximize accessibility;
 - ii. Continuously updating the platform with the latest data, research, and interventions to support ongoing learning and collaboration;
6. *Recommends* Member States to collaborate with WHO and Doctors Without Borders to implement telehealth services in rural areas to provide women and girls with healthcare when they do not have adequate transportation by:
- a. Providing technology such as computers with cameras and headphones to local outreach centers in rural areas which women and girls can visit when they need medical advice;
 - b. Inviting medical students and doctors in residency to rural areas to provide consultations and basic training to local rural women concerning standard healthcare practices to work in local outreach centers;
 - c. Providing rural women who acquire local training to work in health outreach centers to empower them with job opportunities and thus help them to become more independent;
 - d. Connecting women with certified health workers online to address more severe health concerns through communication services such as Zoom, Skype, Microsoft Teams, Facetime, etc.;
 - e. Equipping health outreach centers with the materials necessary to serve as a local pharmacy and treat basic medical conditions;
 - f. Collaborating with mobile health clinics to ensure a basic stock of medical supplies, to receive quality checks and regular training in local health outreach centers, and to receive support in addressing serious health issues;
7. *Requests* continued collaboration with UN Women or the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide opportunities for rural women to take active roles specifically targeting women in rural Least Developed States, Landlocked Developing States, and Small Island Developing States by:
- a. Providing rural women with financial literacy and agricultural educational support and the proper materials via radio, picture flyers, and social workers collaborating with local leaders to educate their communities and engage in the economy;
 - b. Offering workshops within rural communities on the subject of female leadership and reproductive and sexual health at local health outreach centers;
8. *Affirms* the Beijing Platform For Action and its work to enshrine equal rights for women and promote women's participation in the civic process by providing them with the necessary

information and tools to help them participate in civic activities such as running for office and voting;

9. *Encourages* Member States to empower rural women to pursue political office and other positions of power as many rural women do not have input in the policies that affect them by:
 - a. Including civic education as part of Member States' education systems;
 - b. Creating programs for those who are not enrolled in or have aged out of formal education, as many rural women have, similar to the program "Civic Education and Empowerment for More Women in Leadership, from Villages to Parliament in Fiji;
10. *Recommends* that Member States improve access to menstrual products for rural women, improving MHM and enabling better participation in social and economic processes during menstruation;
11. *Encourages* countries to expand existing programs through the creation of the Gender Equality Expansion Program through UN Women to provide a platform for sharing successes across member states and communities, securing funding, and promoting projects addressing challenges faced by rural women;
12. *Advocates* for increased funding to further promote support for prioritizing rural women and their health, to:
 - a. Spread awareness of the violence committed against women in rural areas through the implementation of educational and training programs aimed at empowering rural women;
 - b. Acknowledge the psychological effects of gender-based violence committed against rural women;
 - c. Implement self-defense courses that aim to provide rural women with protective measures against domestic violence;
13. *Requests* collaboration with UN Women to provide economic and educational leadership opportunities for rural women, and conduct extensive research on the prevalence and severity of the gender pay gap for women and girls across rural communities;
14. *Recommends* to the General Assembly to organize funds carried out by entities such as UN Women or UNFPA that are supplied by international funds such as The Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund which will ensure access to high-quality reproductive health and protection services for women and girls in areas where needs are most severe, such as rural areas by building or enhancing telecommunications infrastructure such as internet cable that will enable women to access healthcare services remotely via video consultations, mobile apps, or online portals powered by private sectors.



Code: CSW/1/3

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reiterating article 1 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), stating that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966) as well as the *Declaration on the Right of Development* adopted by General Assembly resolution 41/128 (1986),

According to UN Women, there are currently 796 million illiterate individuals worldwide, with over two-thirds of this demographic being women residing in rural areas,

Reiterating the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979) and the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995) cornerstones in the process of achieving gender equality,

Acknowledging Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, from the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015),

Emphasizing especially SDG 5.b to “enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communication technology, to promote the empowerment of women”,

Emphasizing also SDG goal 5.6 to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls with a specific focus on digital health services,

Alarmed by the fact that multidimensional poverty, affecting 1.6 billion people, 80 percent of which reside in rural areas is a primary obstacle standing in the way of attaining gender equality,

Alarmed by the fact that only 19 percent of policy documents from 86 countries in 2023 relating to rural development included policy goals related to gender,

Highlighting UN Women’s Fund for Gender Equality (FGE), which aids women-led organizations in achieving the SDGs and women’s economic and political empowerment,

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 74/235 (2019) “Eradication of poverty and other issues: women in development,” setting the precedent for women’s crucial participation in financial resilience,

Highlighting that inequitable working conditions and persistent economic dependencies for women and girls in rural areas remain a key challenge in empowering rural women and girls,

Acknowledging that according to the International Labour Organization (ILO) more than 60 percent of the world's employed population earn their livelihoods in the informal economy,

Recognizing the significant role of the ILO in setting standards for women's labor rights and remaining committed to the promotion of women's rights in political, economic, and social fields,

Affirming the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Women in the Digital Economy Fund (WiDEF) joint program designed to accelerate progress on closing the gender digital divide as well as promote women-led solutions that improve women's livelihoods, economic security, and resilience,

Recalling that the gender gap in developing states accounts for \$2 trillion in annually lost agricultural productivity in Member States,

Acknowledging the importance of free and accessible wifi for education and training and the availability of affordable technology devices,

Emphasizing that the neglect of rural women's access to productive resources could lead to a devastating 20-30 percent reduction in agricultural yields, exacerbating global hunger by 12-17 percent,

Underlining that if women were equally employed, global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would increase by 26 percent,

Keeping in mind the gender-responsive procurement (GRP) established by the UN Women to strategically create a corporate guide for policy development for women entrepreneurs,

Recognizing the role of the World Bank toolkit Using Digital Solutions to Address Barriers to Female Entrepreneurship in the economic advancement of female entrepreneurs, providing them with guidance to navigate the use of technology, to monitor project outcomes, and to fight gender-based barriers,

Acknowledging the existing United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organizations – Vocational Education (UNESCO-UNEVOC) Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Leadership Program and its ability to advance opportunities for rural women's leadership and entrepreneurship,

Recognizing the need to ensure female integration given that female farmers are responsible for 60 to 80 percent of agricultural productivity in developing countries according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),

Aware of the European Association for Innovation in Local Development's (AEIDL) policy briefs, advocating for gender integration in rural policies and empowering women in labor markets, which address denied land access, services, and gender inequalities, commendably combating gender-segregated development and advancing rural women,

Expressing concern over the importance of promoting rural women's voices by having free access to education and creating frameworks so that all women have access to the programs being put in place,

Highlighting the lack of representation of rural women and girls in education as well as their representation in the spheres of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,

Reaffirming that according to UN Women, 61 percent of rural women do not receive secondary education significantly impeding their capabilities,

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in 2022, 132 million girls worldwide were out of school, with only 36 percent of girls completing lower secondary school with a significant proportion residing in rural areas,

Bearing in mind that much of the educational inequalities faced by rural women and girls stem from the disproportionate burden of household and domestic responsibilities that they take on,

Reaffirming that diversity within education is important and that intersectional learning is crucial for the promotion of rural women and girls,

Recognizing Oxfam International's solar energy program Light Up by setting up solar power panels in rural areas to allow families to continue learning their education later in the evening, along with keeping children healthier, and powering the community to have access to water,

Acknowledging the Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028, an effort to increase digitalization to encourage economic and educational goals,

Aware of the continuing digitalization of the modern world and the subsequent need for inclusive digital infrastructure globally,

According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) 327 million fewer women than men own a smartphone and according to the UN Women's Initiative Cracking the Code to a fairer digital future only 63 percent of women globally have access to the Internet,

Concerned that according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which analyzed 32 countries and territories, for every 100 male youth who have digital skills, only 65 female youth do,

Concerned by the UN Women's Gender Snapshot (2022) report, which notes that women's exclusion from the digital sphere has cut \$1 trillion off the GDP of low- and middle-income Member States,

Recognizing the need for Regional Mobile Resources Centers (RMRCs) intended to provide facilitator functionality in ensuring essential services are provided to rural women,

Encouraged by the 50-and-5, a collaborative country-led advocacy campaign aiming to aid Member States in designing and launching digital public infrastructure (DPI) by 2028,

Reaffirms the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), a global coalition dedicated to lowering the cost of internet access in low- and middle-income Member States,

Cognizant of the CSW principle of collaboration and its distinctive, active involvement with non-governmental organizations (NGOs),

Encourages the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) localization initiative that has created a country-based pool fund that promotes funding going directly to rural women and girls as well as allows initiatives that are being funded to promote rural women and girls,

Recognizing the 2006 UNICEF report, Accessible and Inclusive Digital Solutions for Girls with Disabilities, addressing the digital gender gap amongst girls with disabilities,

Concerned that Indigenous women are disproportionately affected by discrimination and violence according to UN Women,

Encouraged by the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF), a funding instrument designated for Indigenous communities to foster self-driven development,

Recognizing the Second Chance Education Programme created by the UN women that provides practical support and life skills,

1. *Introduces* an awareness campaign called Bridging Disparities to tackle the still persistent disparities rural women and girls are facing conducted by UN Women in cooperation with the Member States and NGOs, by:
 - a. Implementing an online awareness campaign implemented by UN Women and Survival International to highlight rural disparities globally, including those faced by indigenous women;
 - b. Strengthening economic stability and self-determination of rural women and girls by educating them about their country-specific labor rights and social protection measures in the form of workshops;
 - c. Funding it through the United Nations Joint SDG Fund and implementing and supporting it by ILO, UN Women, and the FAO;
 - d. Ensuring the quarterly monitoring by UN Women for the actions of the campaign to ensure its effectiveness;
2. *Recommends* the expansion of the USAID WiDEF joint effort to all willing Member States starting January 1st of 2025, which shall:
 - a. Provide microfinance and business training programs aiming to reduce gender discrimination in business and consumer lending and support rural women-led projects, including small and medium-sized enterprises;
 - b. Ease and secure access to relevant products and tools such as digital platforms and internet connectivity to connect rural women entrepreneurs with larger markets and buyers;
 - c. Involve the oversight of the funding used by local NGOs that will submit an annual report to CSW;
3. *Suggests* the implementation of a program named Skills Boost in collaboration with the UNESCO-UNEVOC TVET Leadership Programme and UN Women, which would:
 - a. Build, establish, and monitor schools that combine part-time education on traditional subjects, such as indigenous language skills, accounting, technology, and media, and part-time technical, practical training to learn specific skills, such as tourism or farming;
 - b. Create specialized TVET schools that focus on the specific needs of rural women and girls;
 - c. Expand the program's initiative to offer programs in digital format;
 - d. Be modeled after existing adult education initiatives among Member States;
 - e. Create awareness and promotion of intersectional learning;

- f. Recommend United Nations bodies to work in collaboration with local rural women to ensure programs are beneficial for all rural girls and women in the area;
4. *Further recommends* social measures and services, such as childcare, elderly care, and home care facilities, to be provided in rural areas to ease the burden of rural women's disproportionate domestic responsibilities, aiming to encourage equality of opportunity and improve the employment rate of rural women;
5. *Recommends* promoting the World Bank toolkit Using Digital Solutions to Address Barriers to Women's Female Entrepreneurship, alongside a monitoring framework for Member States to measure their progress based on the UN Women GRP strategy to ease constraints on women entrepreneurship;
6. *Encourages* the establishment of social safety nets tailored to ensuring the transition of informal rural workers to the formal sector, ensuring greater official capacities;
7. *Calls upon* UN Women to expand the efforts of the Second Chance Education (SCE) Programme by expanding the program mandate to include:
 - a. Mechanisms that empower women who have had limited education and ensure their labor market participation;
 - b. Expanded efforts to provide female education at the secondary and post-secondary levels;
 - c. Accessible e-learning materials regarding topics that intend to empower women;
 - d. Partnerships between educational institutions in the Member States at all levels in urban areas with United Nations representatives and women community leaders in rural areas, where existing educational institutions were encouraged to partially fund the initiative by transitioning programs to be offered in digital format, so that they may be taken even from remote locations;
8. *Suggests* providing cost-free training and vocational programs tailored for rural women, aiming to empower them to attain financial autonomy by:
 - a. Establishing a Community Learning Center by setting up centers in rural areas specifically tailored to provide free vocational training and skill-building courses for women;
 - b. Promoting online learning platforms tailored to the needs of rural women, offering free courses in vocational skills and entrepreneurship so that geographical barriers may be overcome and flexibility is provided for women who may have responsibilities at home or in their communities;
 - c. Collaborating with the SCE program to provide education, offer access to vocational training, teach entrepreneurial skills, and facilitate connections to employment and business opportunities;
9. *Recommends* establishing regional policy briefs based on the benchmark of the AEIDL policy briefs dedicated to providing recommendations on:

- a. Encouraging gender-specific integration in rural policies;
 - b. Empowering rural women and ensuring participation in the labor market;
 - c. Addressing land access concerns faced by female farmers and ensuring the application of gender equality in the primary sector;
 - d. Facilitating gender-segregated development by contributing to shared practices and data sharing on rural women's barriers;
10. *Recommends* the A4AI partner with UN Women to aid in establishing internet access in rural regions, with educational institutions acting as a focal fixed point;
11. *Encourages* the implementation of digital connectivity among rural women, inspired by the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, to further address the human capital and the digital gap, which would be:
- a. Continuing the progress of the U.S. Department of Education program Online for All, a digital equity campaign working to close the digital divide by focusing on internet access, affordability, and equity for students;
 - b. Expanding the Affordable Connectivity Program benefit to ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare, and more;
 - c. Expanding the USAID/Microsoft Airband guide to all Member States in order to bring access to the internet to more women in rural areas and offer recommendations on sustainable gender programs;
12. *Calls attention* to Member States to conduct a comprehensive review to implement necessary provisions within existing legislation to achieve specifically SDG 4.5 and 5.b;
13. *Strongly invites* Member States to support Oxfam International's Light Up program to provide solar panels in rural areas for women and girls to be able to continue their education in unfavorable situations;
14. *Calls upon* Member States to expand their digital infrastructure and provide reliable internet access to rural communities in an effort to achieve equal opportunities for people living in urban and rural areas by:
- a. Initiating collaboration with the Digital Financing Taskforce and including their expertise and encourage funding by them;
 - b. Establishing framework mechanism by relevant experts providing a framework for states that provides recommendations tailored to regional challenges;
 - c. Creating a digital platform for female business owners to connect, find possible future trading partners, and share knowledge;
 - d. Providing telemedicine platforms that will enable women to have access to healthcare for women in rural areas remotely via video consultations, mobile apps, or online portals;

15. *Approves* of Member States advancing digital technology in the agricultural workplace and implementing Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) to make female farming more effective by;
 - a. Introducing a digital platform to enable exchange among female farmers, sharing best practices and newest farming methods;
 - b. Offering modern resources to increase sustainable agricultural productivity in remote areas such as a precise weather forecast, help female farmers make strategic decisions about crop management, and optimize resource allocation;
16. *Recommends* to implement workshops on digital literacy taking place in rural areas and providing rural women and girls with electronic devices by:
 - a. Partnering with NGOs, such as Oxfam International, dispensing “Nomad teachers”, traveling to remote areas, reaching women and girls to oversee and fund the workshops;
 - b. Comprising education on digital skills and literacy, such as how to find and use information on the internet and how to be safe and responsible online;
 - c. Giving access to electronic devices through existing facilities with which the RMCRs have a partnership, making it a constant access point;
17. *Suggests* the 50-in-5 campaign to collaborate with UN Women’s FGE to help connect women-led organizations’ involvement in DPI development;
18. *Recommends* a partnership with the GSM Association (GSMA) and UN Women to establish a recyclable refurbished electronic devices program that aims to provide rural women and girls with smartphones that may be deemed unwanted or outdated and work with GSMA to ensure a spectrum of mobile network operators worldwide;
19. *Advises* FinTech as a tool for rural women's financial inclusion as it is a growing technology seeking to accelerate the rate of digitization, with higher uptake in regions with more young people, by utilizing the United Nations Capital Development Fund contribution Member States can aim to:
 - a. Increase financial literacy in rural areas by providing mentorship programs and workshops on basic mobile and internet skills, understanding of savings, earnings, and transfers of mobile money;
 - b. Encourage accessibility to mobile devices through investments to developing Member States by more developed Member States to boost rural local businesses such as weaving and other local crafts to encourage economic progress for rural communities;
 - c. Promote awareness of the barriers rural women face, such as societal norms that restrict women's mobility for work and traditional savings systems such as committee systems, which ultimately hinder women in that they do not have control over where funds are being allocated, often leading to financial abuse;
20. *Recommends* the establishment of RMRCs based on United Nations regional economic commissions intended to provide essential services, such as:

- a. Providing healthcare services, pharmaceutical goods, and medical care access to impoverished rural women;
 - b. Providing educational resources to ensure that rural women are provided with educational opportunities suited for their reality and ensuring their empowerment;
 - c. Creating traveling teams going directly into rural areas to allow access to education through technology;
 - d. Establishing digital capacities to enable rural women to access global resources;
 - e. Creating opportunities to aid rural women's advancement in policy-making leadership positions;
21. *Encourages* Member States to collaborate to adopt a regional health service digital system that:
- a. Allows women and girls constant connection to a health professional who is educated in reproductive and maternal health;
 - b. Adopts an approach that recognizes the distinctness of different regions and Member States globally;
 - c. Collaborates with the World Health Organization on the Global Strategy for Digital Health with a focus on rural women and their lack of access to technological resources;
22. *Encourages* Member States to collaborate with local NGOs to reference or incorporate a similar framework of Oxfam International's paper-based survey data, which trains enumerators in the use of digital-hand-held devices such as tablets and smartphones;
23. *Expands upon* the IASC's localization initiative by promoting the dialogue between government representatives and rural women to discuss the challenges they face for girls with disabilities to include rural girls;
24. *Encourages* partnerships with local NGOs to provide voluntary funding from Member States for additional digital sign-language and other accessible training like braille for deaf and visually impaired rural women;
25. *Strongly recommends* the focus on narrowing the digital gender gap for girls as outlined in the UNICEF report, *Accessible and inclusive digital solutions for girls with disabilities*, to be expanded to have a specific concentration on girls with disabilities residing in remote and rural areas and making the access sustainable by:
- a. Offering technical assistance so that technology can be used to its full potential;
 - b. Encouraging Member State's resources, support, and help for the establishment of infrastructure such as fiber in order to eventually permit to offer high-speed internet access in rural areas;
26. *Advises* UN Women to diversify efforts to empower rural indigenous women by:
- a. Adapting a culturally sensitive and respectful approach that integrates the traditions and processes of indigenous communities;

- b. Involving indigenous women and girls in the different discussions regarding their empowerment to allow them to advocate for themselves;
- c. Protecting indigenous agricultural spaces and promoting self-sufficient indigenous land ownership;
- d. Facilitating a collaborative effort between UN Women and the IPAF to connect rural indigenous women farmers with grants to be used for women-led community farms.



Code: CSW/1/4

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recognizing the 1948 *Charter of the United Nations* and the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), in particular Article 1, noting that all individuals are born equal and free; Article 16, recognizing the equal rights of women and men; and Article 23, highlighting the right to work, choice of employment, and protection against unemployment, furthermore ensuring favorable working conditions,

Emphasizing the 17 *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, specifically SDGs 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), 13 (climate action), and 15 (life on land),

Guided by the 1995 *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (BDPfA) and its promotion of rural women's economic empowerment and independence,

Calling attention to Article 14 of the *Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), which specifically acknowledges the problems and needs of rural women and girls,

Acknowledging General Assembly resolution 74/126, "Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas," emphasizing the need for programs for women by women,

Underlining the role of the *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification* (UNCCD) in recognizing the crucial role of rural women affected by desertification and the work of the *#HerLand* campaign,

Appreciating the *Joint Programme Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls* (JP RWEE) partnership and its four-goal outcomes, which include food security for rural women, increasing rural women's income, strengthening rural women's voices and supporting gender-responsive legal frameworks, and which is funded by UN Women, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP) and more,

Conscious of previous Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) conclusions, such as CSW60 ("Women's Empowerment and its Link to Sustainable Development") and CSW62 ("Challenges and Opportunities in achieving gender equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls"),

Reminding all Member States that achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is integral to each of the 17 goals, specifically SDGs 5, which focuses on access to good health and quality education,

Calling for gender equality in every Member State, in line with SDG 5, achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,

Recalling the International Monetary Fund (IMG) Gender Strategy to help Member States to adopt pro-gender equality policies,

Encouraging Member States, organizations, and groups to actively promote human rights, especially for women and girls,

Recognizing that the empowerment of rural women is a necessary step in the long-term fight for gender equality worldwide,

Ensuring the recognition of the intersectionality of discrimination stemming from factors like ethnicity, class, religion, or disabilities,

Taking into account the various indigenous cultures and individual needs and traditions of communities that make localized programs imperative,

Recalling the importance of respecting all countries' sovereignty and national priorities in international cooperation on gender equality and women's empowerment,

Acknowledging the unique challenges faced by Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and indigenous communities, especially due to climate change,

Deeply appreciative of the implementation of the Multi-Actor Platform (MAP), which provides feedback and positions to improve understanding of rural communities' needs regarding policy regulation, support, and research,

Underlining the crucial need for land tenure for women, including indigenous women,

Alarmed that the FAO has reported that women farmers produce between 60-80% of all food in developing countries, yet women are 34% less likely to own land than men,

Deeply conscious of the work and the role of indigenous women in the agricultural field,

Being attentive to the persistent gender and cultural disparities in access to agricultural resources, markets, and decision-making processes,

Recognizing that UN Women has identified that in South Asia, over 80 percent of women in non-agricultural jobs are in informal employment; in sub-Saharan Africa, 74 percent; and in Latin America and the Caribbean, 54 percent, therefore losing revenue from their products being sold in the formal economy,

Expressing its grave concern towards unfair labor practices in agricultural-based industries, such as, but not limited to, occupations in farming, fishing, and factories,

Noting with deep concern that less than half of 190 Member States from the World Bank Report provide women with financial support to care for their young children, while women spend an average of 2.4 hours more each day on care work than men,

Recognizing the amount of unpaid labor rural women and girls are doing daily,

Taking into account that closing the gender gaps between men and women in farm productivity and wage pay gap would increase global GDP by about \$1 trillion, reducing food insecure people by about 45 million, targeting SDGs 1 and 2,

Welcoming the important work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), like the Women Microfinance Initiative (WMI), issuing loans to impoverished women to promote their economic participation,

Supporting fully the establishment of entrepreneurship opportunities and agricultural mechanisms to foster indigenous and rural women and girls' participation in leadership roles,

Hoping to implement similar agronomy-based programs for women by women recognizing that initiatives such as Yara's Women in Agronomy (WiA) program, which have made a real difference for women agronomists,

Remembering the establishment of the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) provided by Oxfam to develop holistic risk management to acknowledge that rural women are most affected by natural disasters,

1. *Encourages* the expansion of the JP RWEE by:
 - a. Hoping to achieve Outcome 1 by supporting the integration of food security and sustainable agriculture into global and national policies geared towards rural women and girls as well as indigenous communities, through:
 - i. Policies aimed towards safeguarding both nutritional needs and environmental integrity;
 - ii. Policies in support of comprehensive work programs within the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* with a focus on women's roles as key actors in sustainable development and natural resource management;
 - iii. Integration of agriculture into an international climate change policy discourse to strengthen SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, and 13;
 - b. Promoting Outcome 2 by welcoming a partnership with locally operating NGOs such as *Survival International* or *Oxfam International*, and UN Women to facilitate better the products that rural women contribute into more mainstream and digital markets by:
 - i. Making community forums to ensure a participative and inclusive approach to get a consensus on whether and where the rural women and girls want their products to be sold;
 - ii. Enabling rural women and girls' products such as embroidery, weaving, and other artisanal goods more access to markets through facilitation;
 - iii. Ensuring that rural women and girls are not robbed of the potential revenue that comes from their products by monitoring the work of the facilitator;
 - iv. Acknowledging the important aspects of land ownership and small businesses;
 - v. Reminding all Member States of the importance of upholding rural women's cultural traditions in more climate-friendly ways, for example, weaving with textile waste, and teaching these sustainable practices through a *United Nations Volunteer* (UNV) program to harmonize traditional and green practices;
 - vi. Especially focusing on women-led businesses and investing in catalytic financing and microcredits;

- vii. Reiterating respect for the indigenous way of producing products;
 - c. Aiming to achieve Outcome 3 by gaining skills and access through:
 - i. Offering agronomy workshops and training for women in heavy equipment training for sustainable agricultural needs based on the leadership training and community dialogue within the JP RWEE;
 - ii. Expanding the existing leadership, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship training by the JP RWEE for women to include young girls;
 - iii. Providing women from indigenous communities with opportunities and tools to become self-advocates furthering their ability to contribute to sustainable practices located within the existing community dialogue through the JP RWEE;
 - iv. Extending community centers to create forums where local women from different generations can share traditional as well as new sustainable and technological knowledge about agriculture and the overall production process that focuses on, for example, waste reduction, alternatives to chemical pesticides, optimization of resource allocation to encourage an increased and sustainable practice;
 - d. Securing Outcome 4 by raising awareness of gender biases in the agricultural workplace, like female time use based on crops through:
 - i. Encouraging community forums within the JP RWEE's community dialogue;
 - ii. Promoting education in formal and informal sectors by implementing gender equality topics in school curriculum;
 - iii. Securing the inclusion of stronger policies aiming for gender equality within the workforce;
 - e. Suggesting funding for the expansion of the JP RWEE by:
 - i. Encouraging organizations including, but not limited to, the FAO, the WFP, and the IFAD, to expand their funding towards the expansion of the JP RWEE;
 - ii. Receiving funds from other entities, including but not limited to the *Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund*;
 - iii. Enhancing the promotion of the Programme to broaden the coverage with the help of the organizations mentioned above;
 - iv. Advocating for more Member States to assist through voluntary contributions to enhance JP RWEE, helping to diversify the influence of the program JP GROW by advertising and networking;
2. *Suggests* establishing a data pool by experts and Member States to:
- a. Share best practices when implementing the written goals;
 - b. Support the monitoring and realization of these goals by a designated working group within the JP RWEE;

- c. Reaffirm disseminating information and desegregated data about successful interventions and innovative approaches in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment;
 - d. Encourage networking between different Member States facing similar challenges to facilitate peer learning and regional dialogue;
- 3. *Encourages* Member States and NGOs to promote female land tenure through:
 - a. Collaborating with the *UNCCD #HerLand* campaign, as well as the Stand for Her Land Campaign, to promote women's land ownership and access to resources;
 - b. Assisting rural women, including indigenous women, in achieving land ownership through domestic entities that provide advice and education on the legal, financial, and other aspects of land buying and ownership;
- 4. *Recommends* Member States develop and implement domestic policies on microcredits specifically tailored to the unique needs and circumstances of rural women that encourage land ownership and the acquisition of further sustainable agricultural resources to expand their business, including certain policies on:
 - a. Providing special financial incentives for rural women dedicated to adopting sustainable Agricultural practices in their future usage of the microcredits;
 - b. Establishing a yearly review mechanism by the entities giving out the loans to assess the effectiveness and impact of the microcredit policies on rural women's empowerment and sustainable agricultural practices;
 - c. Offering additional vocational training that includes entrepreneurship and financial literacy seminars to utilize the benefits of the microcredits effectively;
- 5. *Emphasizes* the importance of safeguarding traditional indigenous agriculture practices, such as traditional crop selection, agroforestry, intercropping, and terrace farming, made possible through:
 - a. Restricting land dispossession by stressing the significance of protective policies;
 - b. Utilizing platforms like NGOs, such as *Survival International*, to grow awareness and respect for privacy about practices already established by indigenous women to combat the threat industrialization can pose;
 - c. Revitalization by providing access to tools that allow indigenous women to research how to better their practices on their terms;
- 6. *Recommends* the revitalization of the R4 *Rural Resilience Initiative* provided by OXFAM to integrate both disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation for rural regions to further support women's employment in the agriculture sector while:
 - a. Implementing *UNDRR Sendai Framework in Disaster Risk Reduction*, aimed at the prevention and reduction of existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and, therefore, to the achievement of sustainable development;

- b. Encouraging the development of humanitarian relief funds to ensure economic safety among rural women who are regularly affected by natural disasters that result in the loss of lives, homes, and livelihoods;
- 7. *Encourages* Member States to implement policies in cooperation with the IMF Gender Strategy that are focused on closing the gender pay gap and implementing a secure pay rate for registered businesses in Member States;
- 8. *Focuses* on the well-being of rural women and girls through the enhancement of social and health services tailored to the specific needs women and girls face, with a special focus on groups who are more vulnerable to marginalization, stemming from factors like disabilities, class, religion, ethnicity, or other, by:
 - a. Advocating for mobile health clinics in rural areas following the guidance of existing local models of comprehensive population data collection, such as the EBAIS model, to provide the medical assistance they require;
 - b. Further recommending the implementation of dispersals of healthcare kits with consideration to respected nation’s demographic;
 - c. Focusing on mental health by providing trained professionals who can support rural women and girls in their personal endeavors;
- 9. *Proposes* Member States improve the understanding of the realities of rural women and communities Inspired by the Multi-Actor Platform (MAP) that operates nationally to clearly formulate mapping of land and facilitate local-to-local dialogue:
 - a. Encouraging the expansion to all Member States;
 - b. Recommending policymakers to utilize land use to ensure rural regions are linked to land-use planning in the context of climate change;
 - c. Including women in housing management policies, public space use allocation, and marketplace locations.



Code: CSW/1/5

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Rural Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Acknowledging the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets forth 17 goals aimed at mainstreaming peace, sustainability, and security across all Member States,

Highlighting the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action's (1995) positive integrations of vocational skills and professional training for rural women,

Recognizing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) especially articles 10, 11, and 13 affirming the rights of rural women to non-discrimination in education, employment, and economic and social activities,

Taking into account the lack of women employees in legislative and governmental roles,

Highlighting the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) statistic of a 9% digital divide in internet usage that exists between urban and rural women,

Reaffirming Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 (gender equality), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals), SDG 4 (quality education), as the foundation for advocacy efforts on the equality and empowerment of rural women and girls,

*Acknowledging the efforts carried out by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) initiative *Action Plan To Close The Digital Gender Gap* which sets out a framework for the acceleration of sustainable development through occluding the digital gap,*

Recognizing that progress towards ending poverty must be 26 times faster to achieve the sustainability goals by 2030 according to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN),

*Acknowledging the *Count Me In: Improving Education Outcomes for Girls and Women* initiative, spearheaded by the World Bank, which highlights disparities in education due to the financial and infrastructure constraints, particularly in building permanent schools,*

*Taking note of the gap in the inclusion of rural women in the United Nations Population Fund Handbook: *Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence Core Elements and Quality Guidelines* Module 2, further increasing rural women's despair in accessing healthcare,*

Recognizing the lack of education, identification, and accreditation for rural women which hinders their capacity to find suitable occupations,

Noting the significant strides made by the Belt and Road Initiative carried out development cooperation and contributed to policy, infrastructure, trade, financial, and people-to-people connectivity based on the needs of individual countries, creating space and opportunities for rural Girls and Women,

Deeply alarmed by the lack of accessible mental health care and well-being facilities for rural women, hindering their ability to feel safe and secure in their own communities,

Gravely concerned that nearly 1 in 3 women is subjected to physical/sexual abuse which could lead to mental health issues,

Reaffirming China's Digital Road Initiative which focuses on broadband infrastructure to ensure easy transportation to and from rural areas,

Noting further the increasing number of illiterate women and girls in rural areas given the already 530 million illiterate individuals,

Deeply alarmed by the gray areas surrounding rural women and girls' access to internet and research, considering the fact that a mere 35% of developing countries have internet access,

Taking into account the financial boundaries that hinder the availability of education centers restraining education for 1.5 million rural women and girls,

Recognizing the efficiency of the Young Professional Leadership Program (YPLP) which aims to enhance a population's knowledge of leadership and management skills through study and information sessions,

Reaffirming the work of Huawei Seeds for the Future Program and China's six 100's project enabling rural accessibility tools for online education and offering rural Girls and Women education, training, and scholarships in China,

1. *Recommends* Member States to increase the accessibility of digital economics to rural women by implementing measures, such as:
 - a. Promoting education and training programs for digital skills such as the Huawei Seeds for the Future Program and the Happy Campus Project;
 - b. Supporting women-led start-ups and the creation of an inclusive working environment in the digital economy the Beijing Initiative on Belt and Road International Digital Economy Cooperation supports the major project China-ASEAN Information Harbor and China-Arab Online Silk Road;
2. *Invites* developing Member States to consider strategies and action plans supported by local governments that are built on monitoring, measuring, and including comprehensive legislation to protect women from discrimination and violence;
3. *Calls upon* Member States to continue reviewing and implementing the *Beijing Platform of Action* to continue policy progress in the form of:
 - a. Female-sector pay increases tracked by UN WOMEN;
 - b. Investments in initiatives that promote gender equality such as competitive vocational training directing women to practical and specific training and direct them into

professional and beneficial careers for their future;

4. *Expresses sympathy* for the need to improve gender equality practices, reduce inequalities, and foster collaborative partnerships among Member States to accomplish shared goals;
5. *Advises* narrowing the gender digital divide by way of incorporating broadband infrastructure like China's Digital Road Initiative into civil projects such as roads, bridges, and public buildings has the potential to greatly improve connectivity, particularly in rural and isolated regions to connect rural women to the world;
6. *Suggests* the implementation of initiatives focused on educating rural women on their healthcare rights by making available information regarding the availability of healthcare services in different rural areas through:
 - a. The distribution of leaflets constructed and guided by UN-WOMEN dealing with domestic violence against women, genital mutilation, uninsured motherhood and consequently creates some debate among women about these issues;
 - b. The development of online platforms pushing women to reflect on their condition, assert their rights, and improve their physical and mental health such as China's "Health Project for Women and Children";
7. *Welcomes* the development of workshops, alongside the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and national advisory bodies that would focus on educating women on the allocation and managing of financial resources so they may achieve financial freedom, as well as ensure the sustainability of such workshops;
8. *Suggests* the development of national rural centers where all women can practice their activities, in such a way that they would serve as safe spaces where rural women could foster intergenerational exchange, explore new hobbies, and have access to mental health professionals who could evaluate their situations and refer them to other specialists;
9. *Referring* to the opportunity of partnering with the ITU and establishing internet centers in rural areas with low-bandwidth technologies for essential services like online learning, which would boost access to the internet and its amenities further enabling the mainstreaming of gender;
10. *Expresses hope* for the establishment of a certification-assigning workshop system through pre-existing educational institutions, similar to the Young Professional Leadership Program (YPLP), encompassing all subjects. This system would provide community and support for women in rural areas who have not received secondary education which would:
 - a. Allow for a system of documentation for women's education to be recognized;
 - b. Increase women's competitiveness in vocational pursuits;
 - c. Help rural women implement their knowledge;
11. *Further requests* the World Bank to aid Member States in the construction of mobile training centers under the initiative Count Me In: Improving Education Outcomes for Girls and Women

Initiative boosting literacy levels among rural women and girls, temporarily cutting down on the costs associated with building education centers.