



NMUN • NY

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS  
OF WOMEN  
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2010



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NATIONAL MODEL  
UNITED NATIONS

28 March - 1 April 2010 - Sheraton  
30 March - 3 April 2010 - Marriott

WRITTEN BY: Lindsay Erickson, Sasha Sleiman, Janet Oropeza Eng, Kristina Getty

## CONTACT THE NMUN

Please consult the FAQ section of [www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org) for answers to your questions. If you do not find a satisfactory answer you may also contact the individuals below for personal assistance. They may answer your question(s) or refer you to the best source for an answer.

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### NMUN•NY 2010 Important Dates

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** To make hotel reservations, you must use the forms at [www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org) and include a \$1,000 deposit. Discount rates are available until the room block is full or one month before the conference – whichever comes first. **PLEASE BOOK EARLY!**

31 January 2010	31 January 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm Attendance &amp; Delegate Count. (Count may be changed up to 1 March)</li> <li>• Make Transportation Arrangements - DON'T FORGET! (We recommend confirming hotel accommodations prior to booking flights.)</li> </ul>
15 February 2010	15 February 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Updates Posted to <a href="http://www.nmun.org">www.nmun.org</a></li> </ul>
1 March 2010	1 March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotel Registration with FULL PRE-PAYMENT Due to Hotel - Register Early! Group Rates on hotel rooms are available on a first come, first served basis until sold out. Group rates, if still available, may not be honored after that date. See hotel reservation form for date final payment is due.</li> <li>• Any Changes to Delegate Numbers Must be Confirmed to: <a href="mailto:karen@nmun.org">karen@nmun.org</a></li> <li>• Two Copies of Each Position Paper Due via E-mail (See Delegate Preparation Guide for instructions).</li> <li>• Preferred deadline for submission of Chair / Rapp applications to Committee Chairs</li> </ul>
1 March 2010	1 March 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Conference Fees Due to NMUN for confirmed delegates. (\$125 per delegate if paid by 1 March; \$150 per delegate if received after 1 March. Fee is not refundable after this deadline.</li> </ul>
NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS		<p>The 2010 National Model UN Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28 March - 1 April – Sheraton New York</li> <li>• 30 March - 3 April – New York Marriott Marquis</li> </ul>

## POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

**Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 1 MARCH 2010**

### 1. TO COMMITTEE STAFF

A file of the position paper (.doc or .pdf) for each assigned committee should be sent to the committee e-mail address listed below. Mail papers by 1 March to the e-mail address listed for your particular venue. These e-mail addresses will be active when background guides are available. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt. Please put committee and assignment in the subject line (Example: GAPLEN\_Greece).

### 2. TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

- Each delegation should send one set of all position papers for each assignment to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org. This set (held by each Director-General) will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments.

*Note:* This e-mail should only be used as a repository for position papers.

- The head delegate or faculty member sending this message should cc: him/herself as confirmation of receipt. (Free programs like Adobe Acrobat or WinZip may need to be used to compress files if they are not plain text.)

- Because of the potential volume of e-mail, only one e-mail from the Head Delegate or Faculty Advisor containing all attached position papers will be accepted.

Please put committee, assignment and delegation name in the subject line (Example: Cuba\_U\_of\_ABC). If you have any questions, please contact the Director-General at dirgen@nmun.org.

[www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org)  
for more information

### COMMITTEE

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General Assembly Third Committee .....	ga3rd.sheraton@nmun.org
Security Council .....	sc.sheraton@nmun.org
Security Council 2 .....	sc2.sheraton@nmun.org
SC Working Group: Children and Armed Conflict .....	caac.sheraton@nmun.org
International Court of Justice .....	icj.sheraton@nmun.org
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Committee for Development Policy .....	cdp.sheraton@nmun.org
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Commission on the Status of Women .....	csw.sheraton@nmun.org
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International Atomic Energy Agency .....	iaea.sheraton@nmun.org
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### COMMITTEE

### EMAIL - MARRIOTT

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General Assembly Third Committee .....	ga3rd.marriott@nmun.org
Security Council .....	sc.marriott@nmun.org
Security Council 2 .....	sc2.marriott@nmun.org
SC Working Group: Children and Armed Conflict .....	caac.marriott@nmun.org
International Court of Justice .....	icj.marriott@nmun.org
ECOSOC Plenary .....	ecosoc.marriott@nmun.org
Committee for Development Policy .....	cdp.marriott@nmun.org
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Association of Southeast Asian Nations .....	asean.marriott@nmun.org
North Atlantic Treaty Organization .....	nato.marriott@nmun.org
Organisation of The Islamic Conference .....	oic.marriott@nmun.org

### OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Entire Set of Delegation Position Papers .....	positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org
(send only to e-mail for your assigned venue) .....	positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org
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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2010 National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference! We are very excited to serve as your Directors and Assistant Directors for the simulation of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the Marriott and Sheraton venues this spring.

First, we would like to introduce ourselves, as we will be your first contacts at the conference for questions or clarifications which we will be more than happy to receive. At the Sheraton Venue, Sasha Sleiman is your Director and Kristina Getty your Assistant Director. Sasha is currently pursuing a M.A. in Mediterranean Politics at Balamand University in Lebanon. Sasha has been involved with Model UN for five years and this is her second year staffing NMUN. Kristina graduated from the University of Colorado with a B.A. in International Affairs with Spanish Language and Germanic Studies. Kristina has been involved with Model UN at the University of Colorado for four years, and this is her first year on NMUN staff. At the Marriott Venue, Lindsay Erickson is your Director and Janet Oropeza is your Assistant Director. Lindsay graduated from the University of Montana with a B.A. in Political Science with options in American Politics and Public Administration. Lindsay has been involved with Model UN for four years, and this is her second year on NMUN staff. Janet is currently pursuing her M.A. in Political Science at the University of Waterloo in Canada. Janet has been involved in Model UN since 2005 and this is her first year on NMUN Staff.

This year's topics are:

1. Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution and in Post-conflict Peacebuilding
2. Women's Role in Capacity Building within Civil Society Movements
3. Fifteen Year Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the unique opportunity CSW presents to delegates. CSW is integral in assessing, developing, and executing efforts globally to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, and thus is at the forefront of policymaking initiatives within the UN system. We urge you to remain aware of this point, and become familiar with CSW's mandate and its relationships with other organizations within the UN system. In addition, as the topics are linked by the core issue of women's rights, we encourage delegates to extensively research the main documents and events pertaining to the gender equality and women's rights movement, as they will be central to your work within the committee.

This background guide will serve as an introduction to the topics listed above. Please keep in mind it is not meant to be an all-inclusive analysis of the topics but rather a framework for your own analysis and research. You are encouraged to not only utilize the resources used in the background guide and to use the guide to narrow your focus on the topic but to also seek out other sources in your researching process including scholarly materials, international news, the CSW website, and UN documents.

Each delegation must submit a position paper. NMUN will accept position papers via e-mail **01 March 2010** for both venues. Please refer to the guide for a message from your Director General explaining the NMUN position paper requirements and restrictions. The NMUN experience can be demanding, but it will be incredibly rewarding. We wish each of you the best as you prepare.

Happy researching!

*Sheraton Venue*

Sasha Sleiman, Director

Kristina Getty, Assistant Director

[csw.sheraton@nmun.org](mailto:csw.sheraton@nmun.org)

*Marriott Venue*

Lindsay Erickson, Director

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## **Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2010 NMUN Conference**

At the 2010 NMUN New York Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee it is assigned to. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee impacts the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as representatives of Member States, some may also serve as observers, NGOs or judicial experts. To understand these fine differences, please refer to the Delegate Preparation Guide.

Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee.

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

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

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

- All papers must be typed and formatted according to the example in the Background Guides
- Length must **not** exceed two single spaced pages (one double sided paper, if printed)
- Font **must** be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Margins must be set at 1 inch for whole paper
- Country/NGO name, School name and committee name clearly labeled on the first page; the use of national symbols is highly discouraged
- Agenda topics clearly labeled in separate sections

To be considered timely for awards, please read and follow these directions:

1. **A file of the position paper** (.doc or .pdf) **for each assigned committee** should be sent to the committee email address listed in the Background Guide. These e-mail addresses will be active after November 15, 2009. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.

2. Each delegation should also send **one set of all position papers** to the e-mail designated for their venue: [positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org](mailto:positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org) or [positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org](mailto:positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org). This set will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. These copies will also be made available in Home Government during the week of the NMUN Conference

Each of the above listed tasks needs to be completed no later than **March 1, 2010 for Delegations attending the NMUN conference at either the Sheraton or the Marriott venue.**

**PLEASE TITLE EACH E-MAIL/DOCUMENT WITH THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE, ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION NAME (Example: AU\_Namibia\_University of Caprivi)**

*A matrix of received papers will be posted online for delegations to check prior to the Conference. If you need to make other arrangements for submission, please contact Amanda Williams, Director-General, Sheraton venue, or Ronny Heintze, Director-General, Marriott venue at [dirgen@nmun.org](mailto:dirgen@nmun.org). There is an option for delegations to submit physical copies via regular mail if needed.*

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

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

Each delegation can submit a copy of their position paper to the permanent mission of the country being represented, along with an explanation of the Conference. Those delegations representing NGOs do not have to send their position paper to their NGO headquarters, although it is encouraged. This will assist them in preparation for the mission briefing in New York.

Finally, please consider that over 2,000 papers will be handled and read by the Secretariat for the Conference. Your patience and cooperation in strictly adhering to the above guidelines will make this process more efficient and is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff, though as we do not operate out of a central office or location your consideration for time zone differences is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*Sheraton Venue*

Amanda Williams, LCSW

Director-General

[amanda@nmun.org](mailto:amanda@nmun.org)

*Marriott Venue*

Ronny Heintze

Director-General

[ronny@nmun.org](mailto:ronny@nmun.org)

## Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. While delegates are encouraged to use the front and back of a single page in order to fully address all topics before the committee, please remember that only a *maximum* of one double-sided page (or two pages total in an electronic file) will be accepted. Only the first double-sided page of any submissions (or two pages of an electronic file) will be considered for awards.

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*Delegation from*

Canada

*Represented by*

(Name of College)

### *Position Paper for General Assembly Plenary*

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

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

Canada endorses the Kimberly Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. We believe the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourage all Member States to contribute to market accountability by seeking membership, participation, and compliance with its mandate. Canada urges Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2007 Kimberley Process Communiqué to strengthen government oversight of rough diamond trading and manufacturing by developing domestic legal frameworks similar to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We call upon participating States to act in accordance with the KPCS's comprehensive and credible systems of peer review to monitor the continued implementation of the Kimberley Process and ensure full transparency and self-examination of domestic diamond industries. We draw attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urge Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in A/RES/55/56. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberly Process and encourages States to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in A/RES/58/290. We urge Member States to act in accordance with A/RES/60/182 to optimize the beneficial development impact of artisanal and alluvial diamond miners by establishing a coordinating



mechanism for financial and technical assistance through the Working Group of the Kimberly Process of Artisanal Alluvial Producers. Canada calls upon States and NGOs to provide basic educational material regarding diamond valuation and market prices for artisanal diggers, as recommended by the Diamond Development Initiative. Canada will continue to adhere to the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and is dedicated to ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective regulation of the rough diamond trade through the utilization of voluntary peer review systems and the promotion of increased measures of internal control within all diamond producing States.

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

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through our Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. We view the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Control (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations to Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. We emphasize the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy technologies. Canada views dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy Declaration as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. We call upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to our \$1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages States to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies. We call upon Member States to provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada urges States to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into State specific strategies called for in A/62/419/Add.9 will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

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

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African States to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. We recommend Member States cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement A/RES/61/228, Canada believes developed States must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. We urge Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medicines by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative. We emphasize the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations

rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA's contribution of \$26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross' Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits.

## History of the Commission on the Status of Women

### *Introduction*

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was created by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946; its mandate is to “prepare recommendations and reports to the ECOSOC on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields” and on urgent problems related to women that require immediate attention.<sup>1</sup> The Commission’s foundation is laid in the Charter of the United Nations’ preamble that reaffirms the belief in the equal rights of men and women.<sup>2</sup>

The Commission’s mandate has been modified several times.<sup>3</sup> The resolution E/1987/22 gave the Commission authority to review and appraise the progress made at the national, regional, and global levels; monitor the advancement of women; and promote the objectives of equality, development, and peace.<sup>4</sup> In 1996, the Commission’s mandate was expanded again in resolution E/1996/6.<sup>5</sup> Among the most important responsibilities granted to the Commission in that year were the right to supervise and evaluate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action at all levels; to promote the adoption of a gender perspective in the United Nations (UN); and to identify and address emerging and urgent topics and issues affecting the situation of women.<sup>6</sup>

The CSW is one of the nine functional commissions of the ECOSOC.<sup>7</sup> It receives substantive support from the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) and works closely with other related UN agencies, organizations, and funds.<sup>8</sup> Currently, the international agencies addressing issues related to women are the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM); the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); the DAW, which assists the CSW and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI).<sup>9</sup>

### *Structure and membership*

The CSW is composed by 45 Member States of the United Nations (UN) elected by the ECOSOC for a period of four years with the following regional distribution: thirteen members from Africa; eleven from Asia; nine from Latin America and Caribbean; eight from Western Europe and other States; and four from Eastern Europe.<sup>10</sup>

From the beginning, the Commission has built a strong relationship with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which participate as accredited observers in the annual sessions.<sup>11</sup> Also, historically, many NGOs’ contributions have been incorporated in the agreed conclusions or resolutions.<sup>12</sup>

The Commission meets annually for a period of 10 working days in late February or early March.<sup>13</sup> During this annual session, the CSW addresses one specific priority theme previously established in the multi-year programme

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Economic and Social Council, *Resolution establishing the Commission on the Status of Women (E/11-2/1946)*.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, June 26, 1945.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Overview*.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, Economic and Social Council, *Measures to strengthen the role and functions of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1987/22)*.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Overview*.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, Economic and Social Council, *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/1996/6)*.

<sup>7</sup> Cabrera-Balleza, M., Johnson, T., and Schalatek, L. (editors), *UN Reform: What's in it for Women?*, 2006, p. 11.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations, Division for the Advancement of Women, *About the Division*.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, President of the General Assembly, *Consolidated response regarding questions raised following discussions of the paper "Further Details on Institutional Options for Strengthening the Institutional Arrangements for Support to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women"*, 2009, p. 1.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Overview*.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations, Division for the Advancement of Women, *NGO Participation*.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, pp. 2-3.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Overview*.

of work and one emerging relevant issue.<sup>14</sup> It is important to note that, since 1997, the Commission has focused on reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action at its annual sessions.<sup>15</sup> The main outcome of each annual session are the agreed conclusions, which “contain an analysis of the priority themes and a set of concrete recommendations for Governments, intergovernmental bodies and other institutions, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders, to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local level.”<sup>16</sup> The Commission also evaluates the progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from a previous annual session. In addition, the CSW adopts a number of resolutions on a range of other issues and then recommends their adoption to the ECOSOC and the General Assembly.<sup>17</sup> The report prepared by the CSW is submitted to the ECOSOC for adoption in the form of resolutions.<sup>18</sup>

### ***Evolution of the CSW and major achievements***

During its first two decades, the CSW identified and addressed different topics, such as political rights, access to education, discrimination in marriage, equal remuneration for work, among others, that limited the advancement of women worldwide.<sup>19</sup> One of the major successes of the CSW came in 1967 when the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which became a legally binding Convention in 1979 and was further enforced in 1999 with the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW.<sup>20</sup>

In 1975, the First World Conference on Women was organized in Mexico; its outcome was the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace.<sup>21</sup> This conference was followed by other two conferences, the Second World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace held in 1980 in Copenhagen and the Third World Conference to review and appraise the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Quality, Development and Peace held in 1985 in Nairobi.<sup>22</sup> These two World Conferences were important because they adopted the Copenhagen Program for Action 1980-1985 and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.<sup>23</sup> In 1995, the Fourth World Conference was held in Beijing.<sup>24</sup> One major result of this conference was the Beijing Platform for Action, which identified twelve critical areas of concern, set strategic objectives, and proposed concrete actions to achieve these objectives.<sup>25</sup> To monitor the implementation and progress of the Platform, a five year review cycle

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<sup>14</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Overview*.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Overview*.

<sup>16</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Overview*.

<sup>17</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Overview*.

<sup>18</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, p. 16.

<sup>19</sup> Fraser, A. S., *Becoming Human: The Origins and Development of Women's Human Rights*, 1999, pp. 888-889.

<sup>20</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, p. 8 and Gaer, F., *Women, International law and international institutions: The case of the United Nations*, 2009, pp. 62-63.

<sup>21</sup> United Nations, *Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace (E/CONF.66/34)*, July 1975.

<sup>22</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, pp. 11-13; and United Nations, *Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (A/ CONF.94/35)*, Copenhagen 1980.

<sup>23</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, pp. 11-13; and United Nations, *Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (A/ CONF.94/35)*, Copenhagen 1980.

<sup>24</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women: Follow-up to Beijing*.

<sup>25</sup> United Nations, *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/ CONF.177/20/Rev.1)*, Beijing, 1995. The twelve critical areas of concern are: the burden of poverty on women; the inequalities and inadequacies in and the unequal access to education, training, health care, and related services; violence against women; the effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women; the inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources; the inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels; the insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women; the lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women; stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems; gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment; and persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child.

was established.<sup>26</sup> The five-year review and appraisal was held at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Beijing+5).<sup>27</sup> The Beijing Platform for Action was carried out by the Commission at its forty-ninth session in 2005 and the fifteen-year review and appraisal will be held during the fifty-fourth session of the CSW in 2010.<sup>28</sup>

Finally, the CSW has also collaborated with other UN agencies on the adoption of relevant resolutions concerning women's rights.<sup>29</sup> In 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna acknowledged that the human rights of women and of the girl-child were part of universal human rights.<sup>30</sup> Also, in 2000, built on the previous work of the CSW on the topic, the Security Council adopted resolution S/RES/1325 that addresses the topic of sustainable peace and women's contributions to conflict resolution.<sup>31</sup>

### **Reforming the CSW**

In the last years, the CSW has received several critiques. Some of them are part of a broader debate regarding the reform and structure of the United Nations System as a whole.<sup>32</sup> Several NGOs have pointed out that the four UN committees and agencies that deal exclusively with women's issues are under-funded to perform their work: UNIFEM, DAW, OSAGI, and INSTRAW.<sup>33</sup> Another recurrent critique is that the UN gender system is fragmented, since the four entities carry out gender equality functions and this produces overlaps and inefficiencies.<sup>34</sup>

To address those shortcomings, the High-level panel on UN System-wide Coherence, created in 2006, has conducted several consultations with NGOs and Member States and has proposed the creation of a new centralized entity, headed by an Executive Director at the Under-Secretary-General level.<sup>35</sup> This unit would be adequately resourced and with authority and capacity to support the UN system and hold it accountable for gender mainstreaming.<sup>36</sup> As of June 2009, the Secretary General declared that "there is a compelling need to take decisive action without further delay in order to better equip the United Nations with an adequate institutional capacity to fully realize the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women."<sup>37</sup>

### **Must reads**

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women: Follow-up to Beijing*. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/critical.htm>

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<sup>26</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women: Follow-up to Beijing*.

<sup>27</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women: Follow-up to Beijing*.

<sup>28</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women: Follow-up to Beijing*.

<sup>29</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, pp. 19-20.

<sup>30</sup> United Nations, *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/ CONF.157/23)*, World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, July 12, 1993.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations, Security Council, *Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (S/RES/1325)*.

<sup>32</sup> Cabrera-Balleza, M., Johnson, T., Schalatek, L. (editors), *UN Reform: What's in it for Women?*, 2006, p. 1.

<sup>33</sup> Cabrera-Balleza, M., Johnson, T., Schalatek, L. (editors), *UN Reform: What's in it for Women?*, 2006, p. 2.

See also: Rao, A., *Gender Equality Architecture and UN Reforms*, 2008, pp. 3-4. Cabrera-Balleza, Johnson, and Schalatek have shown that in 2006 the women's components of various UN agencies including the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) received only US\$66.5 million out of the organization's US\$18 billion budget. According to Rao, the creation of a new women's agency would cost about US\$1 billion.

<sup>34</sup> Rao, A., *Gender Equality Architecture and UN Reforms*, 2008, p. 31.

<sup>35</sup> United Nations, President of the General Assembly, *Consolidated response regarding questions raised following discussions of the paper "Further Details on Institutional Options for Strengthening the Institutional Arrangements for Support to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women"*, 2009, p. 2. The entity has not been created, since consultations between the UN, NGOs, and Member States have been taking place for the last three years.

<sup>36</sup> United Nations, President of the General Assembly, *Consolidated response regarding questions raised following discussions of the paper "Further Details on Institutional Options for Strengthening the Institutional Arrangements for Support to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women"*, 2009, p. 2.

<sup>37</sup> United Nations, President of the General Assembly, *Consolidated response regarding questions raised following discussions of the paper "Further Details on Institutional Options for Strengthening the Institutional Arrangements for Support to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women"*, 2009, p.12.

*This web page describes the Four World Conferences that the Commission has been responsible for organizing and following up, the Commission's working methods, and the process for selecting priority themes. Delegates would find here many useful links to reports and official documents of the World Conferences on Women. In addition, this website is helpful for delegates who want to familiarize themselves with the Commission's method of working, themes, and resolutions.*

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women: Overview*. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/index.html>  
*The home page of the Commission on the Status of Women provides an excellent overview of this UN organization. It gives brief descriptions of the Commission's history, evolution, mandate, membership and composition, annual sessions, outputs, the role of the bureau, among others. This page has many links to UN official documents, resolutions, and reports, which delegates might find useful while doing their research.*

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women: Sessions* [Official documents for the CSW sessions]. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from United Nations Web site: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/session.htm>  
*This Web site contains official documents and resources from the 36th to the 52nd CSW Annual Sessions. Some of the information and resources that can be consulted in this website include the Reports and Agreed Conclusions of each Session, the Participants, the Statements, the General Discussion, the Themes and emerging issues covered, among others. Delegates may consult this resource to review the previous Annual Sessions and Reports.*

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women* [Background note on the CSW]. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/CSW60YRS/CSWbriefhistory.pdf>  
*This article describes the history of the Commission on the Status of Women from the period of 1946 to 2006. It analyses the major changes that the Commission experienced over the years, the outcomes that it has achieved in ensuring the advancement of women, and the most important challenges that it will face in the future. This is a very useful source for delegates, since it provides an excellent overview of the evolution of the Commission and its present stage of development.*

United Nations. Security Council, *Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (S/RES/1325)*. Retrieved from <http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/1325.html>  
*This resolution, adopted by the Security Council, is relevant for delegates since it is directly related to the topic of sustainable peace and women participation and prevention of conflicts. The resolution urged governments to increased representation of women in all decision-making levels for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts. This resolution enhances delegates' understanding of the topic of sustainable peace and will be useful for their research.*

## **Topic 1: Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution and in Post-conflict Peacebuilding**

*"To achieve sustainable and durable peace, the full and equal participation of women and girls and the integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding is essential"<sup>38</sup>*

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<sup>38</sup> UNCSW, Agreed Conclusions on 'Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding,' 2004 paragraph 6.



## ***Introduction***

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has acknowledged that while both men and women suffer from the consequences of armed conflict, there is a notable difference between the impact on women and girls who often suffer from specific forms of violence that men and boys do not.<sup>39</sup> According to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action women and children represent “80% of the world’s millions of refugees and other displaced persons” a number which illustrates the alarming disproportionate impact conflict has on women.<sup>40</sup> The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action also declares that special and frequent attention should be paid to sexual violence against uprooted women and girls generally employed as a means of persecution in terror and intimidation tactics; forcing members of particular ethnic, cultural or religious groups to flee their homes.<sup>41</sup> Women, men, girls and boys experience and take action differently in the context of armed conflict, peacekeeping and reconstruction.<sup>42</sup> Women and girls in particular have become strategic targets in armed conflict, especially through sexual violence. However, rather than portray all women as helpless victims of war and violence, it is essential to take into account the active roles that they play as combatants, peace-builders, politicians and activists.<sup>43</sup>

Sustainable peace is only truly realized when a country is able to address systematic injustices and inequities leading to conflict. As a historically marginalized population but increasingly recognized valuable group – women are absolutely essential in the achievement of peace in every sense of the word, as well as to the fundamental stability and success of a nation. Women’s participation in conflict and post-conflict processes is necessary, due to the fact that whether or not a country will achieve the peace it desires is based on their ability to develop a roadmap for their future during that critical time period that will be inclusive, forward thinking, and have work for its citizens.<sup>44</sup> Women’s participation takes many different forms: from being participants at the peace table, to driving civil society movements; from running and being elected to public office, to serving as police officers and within peacekeeping troops. In addition to women’s direct participation, a gender perspective needs to be incorporated into every facet of peacebuilding processes, ranging from accounting for women’s political and economic participation in peace treaties, to ensuring that social services are adequate and budgeted for.<sup>45</sup> The inclusion of a gender perspective does not need, nor should it, be carried out by women alone, thus it is critical to make men partners in the achievement of gender equality in every way possible.

## ***International framework***

International and regional organizations have, in recent years, attempted to address the issue of women’s participation in post-conflict reconstruction, peacebuilding, and the protection of women’s rights through a variety of non-binding agreements and suggested best practices. The most important of these documents are the Agreed Conclusions of the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2004), Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) and the Beijing Platform for Action (1995).

### ***CSW Agreed Conclusions***

The Commission on the Status of Women’s (CSW) forty-eighth session, held on March 1-12, 2004, endorsed 16 Agreed Conclusions dealing with women’s equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution, and in post conflict peacebuilding.<sup>46</sup> In particular, paragraph 11 informs governments and the United Nations system including those entities that have mandates regarding peace and security and other international and

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<sup>39</sup> UNCSW, Agreed Conclusions on ‘Women’s equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding,’ 2004, paragraph 7.

<sup>40</sup> United Nations. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. 1995. *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*. n.a.

<sup>41</sup> United Nations. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. 1995. *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*. n.a.

<sup>42</sup> Valasek, Kristen, *Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security* 2005. n.a.

<sup>43</sup> Valasek, Kristen, *Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security* 2005. n.a.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). *Women Peace and Security*. (n.d.) n.a.

<sup>45</sup> United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). *Women War, Peace and Conflict Prevention and Early Warning*. (n.d.) n.a.

<sup>46</sup> UNCSW, *Women’s equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding. Agreed Conclusions*. 2004, n.a.

civil society organizations that they “especially have a responsibility for advancing gender equality and ensuring women’s full and equal participation in all aspects of peace processes and in post-conflict peacebuilding, reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation.”<sup>47</sup> The Agreed Conclusions of the CSW also declared that the full and equal participation of women and girls in all aspect of conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post conflict peacebuilding essential to achieving sustainable peace.<sup>48</sup> Each of the 16 Agreed Conclusions endorsed by the CSW enhances the overall goals and implantation of objectives expressed by Security Council Resolution 1325 adopted in October of 2000. The Agreed Conclusions are important because more so than resolutions, they present Member States with concrete, actionable steps that should be taken on this issue, therefore they are often utilized as the basis for Member States own policy and programs on the specific topic at hand.

#### *Security Council Resolution 1325*

At the end of October 2000, the Security Council, under the Namibian presidency, unanimously passed Resolution 1325 Women, Peace and Security.<sup>49</sup> Prior to the passage of Resolution 1325, the Namibian government, along with other supportive Member States, teamed up with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security to actively lobby the Security Council towards the adoption of a resolution pertaining to this specific issue.<sup>50</sup> The Resolution has critical implications for the protection of women in both conflict zones as well as their involvement in the all aspects of civil society and women’s groups throughout the peace process due to its linking the success of peace processes with the direct participation of women in the design and implementation of peacebuilding processes.<sup>51</sup> This resolution is a landmark for many reasons, not the least of which is that it is the foundational document for Member States and civil society in advocating for the women, peace and security agenda, as it presents a framework for action on an issue that was previously ignored.

#### *Security Council Resolution 1820*

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 1820 in October of 2008 to specifically address the protection of women from sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.<sup>52</sup> The resolution itself reaffirms and recalls both UNSC Resolution 1325 and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and then moves on to specifically discuss sexual violence.<sup>53</sup> The Resolution specifically discusses the use of rape as a weapon of war and urges states to protect women from such gender-based crime.<sup>54</sup> Diverse peacebuilding processes are suggested as the way in which women can be protected from such crimes, including such measures as the inclusion of women in conflict resolution and prevention as well as an increase in the number of women in peacekeeping operations and security forces.<sup>55</sup> Sexual violence in post conflict situations, not just in immediate times of conflict are roadblocks for sustainable peace; with this being acknowledged, post-conflict peace building strategies a means to address sexual violence are key and stressed within S/RES/1820.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> UNCSW, Agreed Conclusions on ‘Women’s equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding,’2004, paragraph 11.

<sup>48</sup> UNCSW, Agreed Conclusions on ‘Women’s equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding,’2004, paragraph 6.

<sup>49</sup> Schmeidl, Susanne and Fyzi Ismail. International Alert and Swiss Peace Foundation. *Implementing the United Nations Security council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security: Integrating Gender to Early Warning Systems: Report on First Exper Consultative Meeting.* 2001. n.a.

<sup>50</sup> Schmeidl, Susanne and Fyzi Ismail. International Alert and Swiss Peace Foundation. *Implementing the United Nations Security council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security: Integrating Gender to Early Warning Systems: Report on First Exper Consultative Meeting.* 2001. n.a.

<sup>51</sup> Schmeidl, Susanne and Fyzi Ismail. International Alert and Swiss Peace Foundation. *Implementing the United Nations Security council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security: Integrating Gender to Early Warning Systems: Report on First Exper Consultative Meeting.* 2001. n.a.

<sup>52</sup> International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. *Women, Gender & Peacebuilding Processes.* (2007-2008) pg. 2.

<sup>53</sup> United Nations. Security Council. *Resolution 1820- Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1820).* (19 June 2008). Pgs 1-2.

<sup>54</sup> International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. *Women, Gender & Peacebuilding Processes.* (2007-2008) pg. 2.

<sup>55</sup> International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. *Women, Gender & Peacebuilding Processes.* (2007-2008) pg. 2.

<sup>56</sup> United Nations. Security Council. *Resolution 1820- Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1820).* (19 June 2008). Operative Clause 11.

### *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*

The seminal document outlining women's rights in a variety of critical areas, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was the first international document to address the impact of conflict on women, and the need for a basic level of women's participation and was a result of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China in 1995.<sup>57</sup> Within the document, six strategic objectives are outlined in regards to women and armed conflict.<sup>58</sup> Three of the objectives specifically touch on issues regarding conflict resolution and women's role in fostering a culture of peace, which are pertinent to this topic. The first objective calls on governments and international and regional intergovernmental organizations to promote and integrate gender perspectives and participation of women at decision-making levels in the resolution of armed or other conflicts as well as peacekeeping and building activities.<sup>59</sup> The other two objectives relevant to this topic deal with non-violent forms of conflict resolution and the need to reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations; and the promotion of women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace.<sup>60</sup>

### *Participation in conflict prevention*

The role of women in conflict prevention is crucial due to the fact that preventative measures have the ability to halt disputes prior to their eruption into a violent conflict and as the population disproportionately affected in a negative way by armed conflict, this is an important goal.<sup>61</sup> Initiatives that support women's role in conflict prevention include local organizing carried out by women and also the full involvement and participation of women in decision-making roles not only in politics, but in the design of all preventative measures.<sup>62</sup>

There are often similar characteristics within countries that lead to violent conflict. These characteristics include: low participation by women in government as well as the "formal" labor sector; restrictive cultures which condone and allow violence against women and other discriminatory practices; low levels of female literacy; increasing gender-specific human rights violations, specifically "rape, abductions, trafficking, domestic violence sexual harassment, abuse by security forces, killings and disappearances of women, and elections-related violence."<sup>63</sup> As well as, weak or ineffective justice mechanisms which fail to prosecute perpetrators of violence against women or human rights violations; and significant shifts in "gender roles" and rewards within a community for aggressive behavior, hyper-masculinity, and the protection of traditional patriarchal structures.<sup>64</sup>

### *Gender and conflict early warning*

Civil society organizations have long promoted the importance conflict prevention techniques being truly "engendered" by engaging both men and women in the design of early warning processes.<sup>65</sup> Early warning processes include collection of information using specified indicators, analyzing information, formation of best or worst case scenarios and response options and finally communication to decision makers.<sup>66</sup> The inclusion of women in developing early warning systems as well as utilizing women and women's networks or organization as

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<sup>57</sup> International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. *Women, Gender & Peacebuilding Processes*. (2007-2008) pg. 2.

<sup>58</sup> United Nations. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, 1995. n.a.

<sup>59</sup> United Nations. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, 1995. n.a.

<sup>60</sup> United Nations. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, 1995. n.a.

<sup>61</sup> United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). *Women War, Peace and Conflict Prevention and Early Warning*. (n.d.) n.a.

<sup>62</sup> United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). *Women War, Peace and Conflict Prevention and Early Warning*. (n.d.) n.a.

<sup>63</sup> United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). *Women War, Peace and Conflict Prevention and Early Warning*. (n.d.) n.a.

<sup>64</sup> United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). *Women War, Peace and Conflict Prevention and Early Warning*. (n.d.) n.a.

<sup>65</sup> Schmeidl, Susanne and Fyzi Ismail. International Alert and Swiss Peace Foundation. *Implementing the United Nations Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security: Integrating Gender to Early Warning Systems: Report on First Exper Consultative Meeting*. 2001.

<sup>66</sup> Schmeidl, Susanne with Eugenia Piza-Lopez. *Gender and conflict Early Warning: A Framework for Action*. International Alert and Swiss Peace Foundation. (June 2002). Pg. 4.

agents for peace is one hypothesis that early warning activities will be made more effective.<sup>67</sup> In addition to this hypothesis proposed by Susanne Schmeidl and Fyzi Imail is the argument that “the use of gender-lens enriches early warning analysis and allows for more appropriate response options equally benefiting men and women.”<sup>68</sup> This argument however is not to be used to just acknowledge the plight of women but to enhance early warning systems in general.<sup>69</sup>

#### *Support of women’s non-governmental organizations in respect of preventing conflict*

According to the UN Secretary General, the exclusion of women from conflict prevention inhibits social transformation towards more peaceful and gender equal societies.<sup>70</sup> As this social transformation is a fundamental requirement for sustainable peace, addressing this issue is crucial, and thus the recommendations of Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, including to fully incorporate local women’s women in both national and United Nations conflict prevention frame works is something that should be addressed more systematically by Member States in all conflict prevention work.<sup>71</sup> Despite some progress, in most conflict and post-conflict societies women remain excluded from conflict prevention and gender-based early warning indicators are largely ignored.<sup>72</sup>

#### *Participation of women in conflict management and resolution at decision making levels*

The regulation and management of conflict in non-violent and constructive ways, is a critical endeavor of the international community that has entry points for women’s participation as well. The United Nations sees this area as one of the “pre-eminent areas in which the UN can serve its Member States,” through in particular: (1) strengthening governance institutions; (2) “enhancing mechanisms” for participation of women; (3) supporting the “development of mediation facilities and other forms of alternative dispute resolution”; and (4) providing the necessary training in order to develop national policy and practice that utilizes “conflict resolution principles, tools and techniques” which will “better harness development as a vehicle for sustainable peace.”<sup>73</sup>

#### ***The Role of Women in Peace Processes and Mediation***

A critical step in any peace process is mediation and negotiation. Women still remain excluded from many negotiations although many women attempt to contribute to conflict areas or participate at decision making levels.<sup>74</sup> When this happens in negotiation and mediation processes, the impact of the decisions on men and women and the differences between them are not fully understood.<sup>75</sup> When women do contribute to these processes in whatever capacity they are able to, including merely advisors or outside lobbyists, their contributions are noteworthy.<sup>76</sup> Many times women act as catalysts for change or bring up subjects that are rarely discussed, for example women in many countries use protests as a means for starting public discourse. In both Argentina, after many disappeared in the 1980s, and in the Middle East prior to the Oslo peace process Israeli and Palestinian women rose up in protests and advocacy initiatives.<sup>77</sup>

Women’s views on issues being included in the peace agreement i.e. reparations for victims of sexual violence both monetary and social services; accounting for women who need to be demobilized who were actors in the

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<sup>67</sup> Schmeidl, Susanne with Eugenia Piza-Lopez. *Gender and conflict Early Warning: A Framework for Action*. International Alert and Swiss Peace Foundation. (June 2002). Pg. 7.

<sup>68</sup> Schmeidl, Susanne with Eugenia Piza-Lopez. *Gender and conflict Early Warning: A Framework for Action*. International Alert and Swiss Peace Foundation. (June 2002). Pg. 7.

<sup>69</sup> Schmeidl, Susanne with Eugenia Piza-Lopez. *Gender and conflict Early Warning: A Framework for Action*. International Alert and Swiss Peace Foundation. (June 2002). Pg. 7.

<sup>70</sup> United Nations. Security Council. *Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security (S/2008/622)*, 2008. n.a.

<sup>71</sup> United Nations. Security Council. *Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security (S/2008/622)*, 2008. n.a.

<sup>72</sup> United Nations. Security Council. *Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security (S/2008/622)*, 2008. n.a.

<sup>73</sup> United Nations Public Administration Programme. *Capacity-Building in Conflict Management*. (n.d.) . n.a.

<sup>74</sup> Anderlini, Sanam Naraghi and Victoria Stanski. *Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: A Toolkit for Action- Conflict Prevention, Resolution, and Reconstruction*. International Alert; Women Waging Peace. 2004. Pg. 22.

<sup>75</sup> Anderlini, Sanam Naraghi and Victoria Stanski. *Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: A Toolkit for Action- Conflict Prevention, Resolution, and Reconstruction*. International Alert; Women Waging Peace. 2004. Pg. 22.

<sup>76</sup> Anderlini, Sanam Naraghi and Victoria Stanski. *Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: A Toolkit for Action- Conflict Prevention, Resolution, and Reconstruction*. International Alert; Women Waging Peace. 2004. Pg. 24.

<sup>77</sup> Anderlini, Sanam Naraghi and Victoria Stanski. *Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: A Toolkit for Action- Conflict Prevention, Resolution, and Reconstruction*. International Alert; Women Waging Peace. 2004. Pg. 24.

conflict (not just victims); ensuring that the new government will have quotas or something for women; ensuring that social services such as health, education, etc. are going to be a priority; and ensuring that economic reconstruction is inclusive is also vital for a truly inclusive peace process.<sup>78</sup> Women often times have a more holistic approach to solving conflict than their male counterparts, most likely stemming from a desire to create a peaceful future for their children.<sup>79</sup> There are several documents one can look to for proof of international support for the involvement of women in the peace process as negotiators and mediators. These documents include the Convention of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDWA), the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and Security Council Resolution 1325.<sup>80</sup>

### ***Women's Participation in Peace building***

In regard to post-conflict peacebuilding, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) called on Governments, as well as all other relevant participants in these processes in its 2004 Agreed Conclusions concerning elections: to ensure equal access of women in all stages of the electoral process; and to ensure equal access for women to voter and civic education, provide women candidates with full support, training and financial resources and eliminate discriminatory practices hampering women's participation either as voters or candidates.<sup>81</sup> In regards to reconstruction and rehabilitation the CSW calls upon Governments: to ensure the full participation of women on equal bases in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process; to ensure the equal access of women to social services, in particular health and education and to promote the provision of adequate health care and health services and assistance for women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations and counseling for post-conflict trauma; and to facilitate equal employment opportunities for women to achieve their economic empowerment.<sup>82</sup> CSW also concluded in 2004 that women's full and equal participation and the integration of gender perspectives are crucial to democratic electoral processes in post-conflict situations; as well as ensuring a gender-sensitive constitutional and legal framework, especially electoral laws and regulations, is necessary to ensure that women can fully participate in such processes.<sup>83</sup>

#### *Women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace*

Women, regardless of their actual role in their community or family, traditionally are regarded merely as war-victims and left out of the peacemaking and peacebuilding processes.<sup>84</sup> Oftentimes women's work rebuilding their communities and overcoming the trauma of conflict is overlooked or even ignored in regards to official peacebuilding techniques.<sup>85</sup> Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan acknowledged this often overlooked role of women by stating: "In war-torn societies, women often keep societies going. They maintain the social fabric. They replace destroyed social services and tend to the sick and wounded. As a result, women are the prime advocates of peace."<sup>86</sup> In areas which are recovering from conflict schools are the places where new curricula that are geared towards peace and citizenship in a new society can be taught.<sup>87</sup> This transformation of classrooms means the ability to create safe places for healing to take place in a community. As teachers in these schools, women have

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<sup>78</sup> Anderlini, Sanam Naraghi and Victoria Stanski. *Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: A Toolkit for Action- Conflict Prevention, Resolution, and Reconstruction*. International Alert; Women Waging Peace. 2004. Pg. 25-27.

<sup>79</sup> Anderlini, Sanam Naraghi and Victoria Stanski. *Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: A Toolkit for Action- Conflict Prevention, Resolution, and Reconstruction*. International Alert; Women Waging Peace. 2004. Pg. 25.

<sup>80</sup> Anderlini, Sanam Naraghi and Victoria Stanski. *Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: A Toolkit for Action- Conflict Prevention, Resolution, and Reconstruction*. International Alert; Women Waging Peace. 2004. Pg. 27-28.

<sup>81</sup> UNCSW, Agreed Conclusions on 'Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding,' 2004, paragraph 14.

<sup>82</sup> UNCSW, Agreed Conclusions on 'Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding,' 2004, paragraph 14.

<sup>83</sup> UNCSW, Agreed Conclusions on 'Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding,' 2004, paragraph 10.

<sup>84</sup> International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. *Women, Gender & Peacebuilding Processes*. (2007-2008). Pg. 3.

<sup>85</sup> International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. *Women, Gender & Peacebuilding Processes*, (2007-2008). Pg. 3.

<sup>86</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Gender Approaches in Conflict and Post Conflict Situations*. 2002. Pg. 2.

<sup>87</sup> Kirk, Jackie. *Promoting a Gender-Just Peace: The Roles of Women Teachers in Peacebuilding and Reconstruction*. Gender and Development, Vol. 12, No. 3, Peacebuilding and Reconstruction. (November 2004). Pg. 53.

particularly important roles within their communities to play as they can share perspectives and experiences with their students in a critical time of change.<sup>88</sup> Women as teachers and schools as safe havens can transform communities from post-conflict war zones to communities that embrace a culture of peace.

#### *Impact of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women's role in peace building*

Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 is the cornerstone document for mandating the increased inclusion of women in peacebuilding work.<sup>89</sup> Resolution 1325 has significant impact on women's role in peacebuilding because it, for the first time in international history, recognizes women as actors in the prevention and resolution as conflict, not just victims.<sup>90</sup> Resolution 1325 also specifically "urges" Member States to increase the representation of women at all decision making levels and by doing so Member States would increase the participation of women in peacebuilding activities.<sup>91</sup> In a recent statement, the President of the Security Council reaffirms the commitment of the Council to women's participation by saying, "the Security Council remains concerned about the under-representation of women at all stages of a peace process and in peacebuilding, and recognizes the need to facilitate the full and effective participation of women in these areas, given the vital role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding."<sup>92</sup>

#### **Case study: Cyprus**

The Republic of Cyprus, divided between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots has a history of ineffectively protecting human rights amongst its citizens.<sup>93</sup> The women of Cyprus have increasingly insisted on being a part of post conflict reconstruction and peace building efforts through the formation of different groups and organizations that highlight women's perspectives on conflict and political strife.<sup>94</sup> Cyprus has a unique conflict to overcome that involves the unification of two ethnic groups whose conflict between each other is so deeply rooted that even after a political solution is reached, it will take more than one generation to evolve a culture of multiculturalism and co-operation.<sup>95</sup> A problem that still exists and exacerbates the conflict in the country is the lack of integrated schools, and the fact that national histories and narratives emphasize crimes committed against the other, reinforced the conflict mentality.<sup>96</sup> Building a peace mentality demands the deconstruction of the conflict mentality, and for this to happen the mobilization and participation of all segments of the population is needed.<sup>97</sup> Women are able to uniquely help foster a peace mentality due to their role as mothers and many Cypriot women have expressed their concern over raising their children in conditions of insecurity as well as expressing feelings of failure at not taking advantage of their role as mothers to contribute to peace building.<sup>98</sup>

Cypriot women have revealed that the most important changes to be made in Cypriot society are for women to be respected as individuals and share responsibilities and trust their judgment.<sup>99</sup> This desire for cultural change is a basic necessity for fostering a culture that allows women to become more involved with decision making and serving their community at higher levels of governments. In regards to post conflict and reconciliation in Cyprus,

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<sup>88</sup> Kirk, Jackie. *Promoting a Gender-Just Peace: The Roles of Women Teachers in Peacebuilding and Reconstruction*. Gender and Development, Vol. 12, No. 3, Peacebuilding and Reconstruction. (November 2004). Pg. 53.

<sup>89</sup> International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. *Women, Gender & Peacebuilding Processes*. (2007-2008). Pg. 2.

<sup>90</sup> International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. *Women, Gender & Peacebuilding Processes*. (2007-2008). Pg. 2.

<sup>91</sup> United Nations. Security Council. *Resolution 1325-On Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325)*. (31 October 2000). Operative Clause 1.

<sup>92</sup> United Nations. Security Council. *Statement by the President of the Security Council*. (S/PRST/2008/39), 2008.

<sup>93</sup> Hadjipavlou, Maria. *Cyprus: Peace is Too Precious to be left to Men Alone*. (2005). Pg. 121.

<sup>94</sup> Hadjipavlou, Maria. *Cyprus: Peace is Too Precious to be left to Men Alone*. (2005). Pg. 121-126.

<sup>95</sup> Hadjipavlou, Maria. *Cyprus: Peace is Too Precious to be left to Men Alone*. (2005). Pg. 122.

<sup>96</sup> Hadjipavlou, Maria. *Cyprus: Peace is Too Precious to be left to Men Alone*. (2005). Pg. 124.

<sup>97</sup> Hadjipavlou, Maria. *Cyprus: Peace is Too Precious to be left to Men Alone*. (2005). Pg. 119.

<sup>98</sup> Hadjipavlou, Maria. *Cyprus: Peace is Too Precious to be left to Men Alone*. (2005). Pg. 123.

<sup>99</sup> Hadjipavlou, Maria. *Cyprus: Peace is Too Precious to be left to Men Alone*. (2005). Pg. 128.



women have been reminded to acknowledge that men suffer from social pressures themselves and that regarding men as the problem rather than seeing them as part of the solution, only increases the distance between men and women.<sup>100</sup> In Maria Hadjipavlou's paper *Cyprus: Peace is too Precious to be left to Men Alone* she suggests that if Cyprus is to become a "truly democratic, inclusive society and create multicultural spaces where gender equality and diversity can flourish and where women and men can work in partnership and as individuals, then the present power structures that still govern relationships must be challenged."<sup>101</sup>

## **Conclusion**

The equal participation of women in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution, and in post-conflict peace building is necessary to the advancement of women and wholistic approach to international peace building operations. In order to systematically address the role of women in conflict prevention, management, and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding, women's needs, issues, and concerns need to be systematically integrated into the design and implementation of all these processes. Women need to have the opportunity to be active participatns in both an official and unofficial capacity, and there needs to be an awareness on the part of all policymakers of the impact of their actions on both men and women. This includes areas which are usually overlooked as having an impact on women, such as security sector reform, government budgetary processes, and disarmament and demobilization of combatants.<sup>102</sup> It is important to note that the exclusion of women entirely from the peace process significantly jeopardizes the ability to achieve sustainable peace.<sup>103</sup> How can the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) advance this issue further than it has done in the past? What areas of conflict prevention, management, conflict resolution and post-conflict peace building are women still vastly under represented that the CSW can help improve? What specific countries or regional blocks can improve the involvement of women and how can countries with more equal participation rates help these countries improve? How does the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war harm women's abilities to participate in conflict resolution and post-conflict peace building and what can the CSW do to help women in these situations?

## **Must Reads**

Anderlini, Sanam Naraghi and Victoria Stanski. (2004). *Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: A Toolkit for Action- Conflict Prevention, Resolution, and Reconstruction*. International Alert; Women Waging Peace.

*This chapter of the report by International Alert Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: a Toolkit for Advocacy and Action is dedicated to conflict prevention, resolution and reconstruction which aligns well with this topic. This specific chapter goes into specific topic areas that are useful for delegates to read as background for understanding this topic fully such as why it is necessary to include gender in early warning and situation analysis, why negotiation processes exlude women, women's perspectives on peace and security and much more. This is just one of many chapters in the report, all of which focus on different aspects of women waging peace. The information provided in this specific is good background for delegates to have before writing their position papers for their specific countries.*

United Nations. Commission on the Status of Women. (1-12 March 2004) *Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding. Agreed Conclusions*. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw48/ac-wp-auv.pdf>

*The Agreed Conclusions of the Forty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women is essential for this topic. The Agreed Conclusions from 2004 will serve the topic in a similar way as described for the 1995 strategic objectives in the 4th world conference on women. It will be a resource that shows what has been done so that delegates have useful tools to decide where to take their topic, based on what has already been accomplished. It can also be used as a monitor to see if, 5 years later, anything has truly been accomplished.*

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<sup>100</sup> Hadjipavlou, Maria. *Cyprus: Peace is Too Precious to be left to Men Alone*. (2005). Pg. 128.

<sup>101</sup> Hadjipavlou, Maria. *Cyprus: Peace is Too Precious to be left to Men Alone*. (2005). Pg. 130.

<sup>102</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Gender Approaches in Conflict and Post Conflict Situations*. 2002. Pg. 11.

<sup>103</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Gender Approaches in Conflict and Post Conflict Situations*. 2002. Pg. 11.

United Nations. Commission on the Status of Women. (4-15 September 1995). *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from PeaceWomen Website <http://www.peacewomen.org/un/UN1325/Beijingchpt.html>

*This report outlines a series of strategic objectives that fall under the category of Women and Armed conflict; including the increased participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels, non-violent forms of conflict resolution and the promotion of women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace. This is an important document for the topic because it created strategic objectives that directly relate to the topic at hand. This report will be used in the background guide to outline what objectives have already been established, and if I can find them the status of those objectives now. This source should also help delegates in their research of what has been done and where to go with their own objectives.*

United Nations. Security Council. (31 October 2000). *Resolution 1325-On Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325)*. Retrieved July 24, 2009 from United Nations Website,

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/720/18/PDF/N0072018.pdf?OpenElement>

*Resolution 1325 is one of the two major Security Council Resolutions passed in the last decade regarding Women, Peace and Security. The document was used in several places as examples of what has already been accomplished on the topic and what goals have been set. In some cases the goals set in this Resolution have yet to be achieved and are important for delegates to know as a resource in order to come up with solutions they can work towards in the simulation.*

United Nations. Security Council. (19 June 2008). *Resolution 1820- On Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1820)*. Retrieved July 24, 2009 from United Nations Website,

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/391/44/PDF/N0839144.pdf?OpenElement>

*Resolution 1820 is one of the two major Security Council Resolutions written in the last decade in regards to Women, Peace and Security, however Resolution 1820 specifically discusses the use of sexual violence as a weapon in war. This resolution, although newly adopted, is extremely important to achieving a greater level of women participating in conflict prevention, management, resolution and peacebuilding. Resolution 1820 is important for delegates to understand in order to understand the situation of women all over the world. This resolution along with Resolution 1325 will be taken very seriously in regards to this topic and should be used often and wisely as an important resource.*

## **II. Women's Role in Capacity Building within Civil Society Movements**

*"Today the given arena for women is civil society, in both war and peace. It is here that women emerge as actors."<sup>104</sup>*

### **Introduction**

Directing much of the United Nation's work since their inception, the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, call for poverty eradication and equal opportunities for women and men.<sup>105</sup> These two aspects of the MDGs bring together the issues of development and women's empowerment, which are linked by women's role in capacity building. As the United Nations Economic Council for Europe (UNECE) concludes, research by various UN and international organizations demonstrates how gender inequalities limit economic growth and development.<sup>106</sup> UNECE also reports that the "[United Nations Development Programme] (UNDP) found a strong correlation between its Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) and its Human Development Index (HDI)" and that "Overall, there is strong evidence that gender equality is a critical component of any development strategy."<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Söderberg Jacobson, A., *Rethink! A Handbook for Sustainable Peace*, 2004, p.10.

<sup>105</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Millennium Development Goals Website*, 2009.

<sup>106</sup> United Nations Economic Council for Europe, *Support Systems for Women Entrepreneurs*, 2008, p.3.

<sup>107</sup> United Nations Economic Council for Europe, *Support Systems for Women Entrepreneurs*, 2008, p.3.

Thus, when aiming to provide for development and achieve the MDGs, the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is crucial.

The Commission on the Status of Women, guided by its mandate to empower women and advance gender equality, strives to improve the status of women and girl-children worldwide.<sup>108</sup> Strategic Objective G of the Beijing Platform for Action, Women in Power and Decision-making, further authorizes the CSW to debate and consider the issue of women's roles in capacity building within civil society movements.<sup>109</sup> The Economic and Social Council's Resolution 1996/6 which mandated that the CSW also address and include "emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting equality between women and men" also underlines the ability of the CSW to address this issue.<sup>110</sup> Historically, women have been instrumental in shaping and changing history through their participation in movements concerning issues ranging from women's rights and family policy to genocide and war.<sup>111</sup> Furthermore, since the 1990s, political changes, for example, in post-Soviet states have made it easier and more likely for women to become involved in the "third sector" or civil society sector.<sup>112</sup> Indeed, because many governments in newly developing and developed countries tend to be male dominated, women have turned to participation in the civil society and often dominate civil society.<sup>113</sup> In post-conflict situations there are also increasing means through which women may become involved in creating sustainable peace.<sup>114</sup> Lastly, new technology advances and availability in the developing world makes civil society movements more effective.<sup>115</sup> All of these aspects of the emerging civil society arena make women's role in capacity building within civil society movements a new and emerging trend. Exploring, as well as analyzing, this new trend is therefore the responsibility of the Commission to aid in the UN's achievement of the MDGs.

### ***Capacity Building***

The concept of capacity building was introduced in a report written at a meeting between the UNDP and the International Institute for Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering (IHE).<sup>116</sup> Entitled "A Strategy for Water Sector Capacity Building" the report stresses the need for a new concept known as capacity building to replace what was then called "institution building."<sup>117</sup> The UNDP defined capacity building as: "The creation of an enabling environment with appropriate policy and legal frameworks, institutional development, including community participation (of women in particular), human resources development and strengthening of managerial systems."<sup>118</sup> Since its conception, this definition from the UNDP with minor revisions has been utilized by all UN agencies. This definition, however, is rather broad and hard to define, meaning capacity building might constitute programs from women's leadership classes to water pump operating diagrams.<sup>119</sup> To this end, while many recognize the importance of education and education as a means of building capacity, capacity building is more than simple education and is especially more than training skill sets.<sup>120</sup> Effective capacity building programs, especially for women, must also ensure that depth of teaching increases and not simply number of individuals involved.<sup>121</sup> For example, women should be taught more, increasingly complex skills for a wide variety of jobs and positions; it is not enough to simply teach more women how to sew. In the context of capacity building for civil society there is normally a goal of sustainability as well, meaning resources are given to include "strategic engagement of volunteers, training in organizational management, use of online peer group networking, building alliances, and improvement of fundraising and donor relationship skills."<sup>122</sup> Despite the breadth of its definition

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<sup>108</sup> United Nations, *Commission on the Status of Women Website*, 2009.

<sup>109</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

<sup>110</sup> United Nations, *Commission on the Status of Women Website*, 2009.

<sup>111</sup> Tambiah, Y., *The Impact of Gender Inequality on Governance*, 2003, p.59-95.

<sup>112</sup> Tohidi, N., *Women, Civil Society, and NGOs in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan*, 2004.

<sup>113</sup> Anderlini, S.N. and J. El-Bushra, *Civil Society*, 2009, p.50.

<sup>114</sup> Powley, E., *Strengthening Governance: The Role of Women in Rwanda's Transition*, 2003.

<sup>115</sup> Lageao, M., *Capacity Building Guide*, 2003.

<sup>116</sup> Hartvelt, F., *Capacity Building Programme for Sustainable Water Sector Development*, 1996, p.408.

<sup>117</sup> Hartvelt, F., *Capacity Building Programme for Sustainable Water Sector Development*, 1996, p.408.

<sup>118</sup> Hartvelt, F., *Capacity Building Programme for Sustainable Water Sector Development*, 1996, p.408.

<sup>119</sup> Lageao, M., *Capacity Building Guide*, 2003.

<sup>120</sup> Olatokun, W., *Gender and National ICT Policy in Africa: Issues, Strategies, and Policy Options*, 2008, p.58.

<sup>121</sup> Marcelle, G., *Thinking BIG to Accelerate Gender Equality and Transformation in the ICTs Arena*, 2004, p.43.

<sup>122</sup> Lageao, M., *Capacity Building Guide*, 2003.

and its broad applications, capacity building nonetheless must be understood because it is “the essential lubricant of development, more important even than finance.”<sup>123</sup>

### ***Civil Society Movements***

If capacity building is a way to exponentially empower women, then civil society movements act as a venue through which women may develop skills to act on behalf of the needs of their communities or their individual beliefs and lobby for broad-level change. As previously mentioned, civil society movements have historically shaped the course of events, but currently, as key scholars on the role of civil society and extremism explain, civil society movements and NGOs have emerged as dominant actors in public advocacy on social and economic issues.<sup>124</sup> Formally, a civil society movement may be defined as “an organized set of constituents pursuing a common political agenda of change through collective action.”<sup>125</sup> In context, some civil society movements include the global campaign to ban landmines, the movement against the US invasion of Iraq, worldwide networks in support of women’s rights and many more groups related to various dimensions of war and peace.<sup>126</sup> These examples typically have positive connotations and most civil society movements are seen as ways to advance international norms, promote human rights, protect the environment, advocate for development, support democratic governance and call for conflict prevention. However, because civil society as a whole is extremely diverse and tends to develop organizations and movements that purport deeply held beliefs, civil society organizations and movements may work against UN ideals such as peaceful democratic change.<sup>127</sup> One example of this may be extreme nationalist movements.<sup>128</sup> Also, because civil society movements may support a wide variety of views and tend to work with discriminated peoples on the fringe of society, many states distrust civil society movements because they may be seen as subverting political power.<sup>129</sup> This is often seen in specifically authoritarian regimes or “managed democracies” such as China.<sup>130</sup>

In addressing civil society movements relating to women, it is important to distinguish between civil society movements and the Women’s Movement.<sup>131</sup> The Women’s Movement is one specific type of civil society movement that has been seen globally and represents a push for women’s rights and gender equality.<sup>132</sup> This means that, as best explained by scholar Nayereh Tohidi: “Many women work in NGOs that do not address women’s concerns, and many NGOs that are not identified as women’s NGOs deal with problems specific to women or gender issues.”<sup>133</sup> For example, there have been efforts led by women in Mexico that focus on indigenous rights as well as civil society movements led by women that focus on increasing women’s rights in Iran, the second only representing the Women’s Movement.<sup>134</sup> Thus, civil society movements may often include women’s issues, but women do not only have to be involved in civil society movements devoted to women’s issues.

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<sup>123</sup> Lagcao, M., *Capacity Building Guide*, 2003.

<sup>124</sup> Cortright, D., G. Lopez, A. Millar, and L. Gerber-Stellingwerf, *Friend Not Foe: Civil Society and the Struggle against Violent Extremism: A Report to Cordaid from the Fourth Freedom Forum and Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame*, 2008, p.10.

<sup>125</sup> Batliwala, S., *Changing Their World: Concepts and Practices of Women’s Movements*, 2008, p.10.

<sup>126</sup> Cortright, D., G. Lopez, A. Millar, and L. Gerber-Stellingwerf, *Friend Not Foe: Civil Society and the Struggle against Violent Extremism: A Report to Cordaid from the Fourth Freedom Forum and Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame*, 2008, p.10.

<sup>127</sup> Cortright, D., G. Lopez, A. Millar, and L. Gerber-Stellingwerf, *Friend Not Foe: Civil Society and the Struggle against Violent Extremism: A Report to Cordaid from the Fourth Freedom Forum and Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame*, 2008, p.10.

<sup>128</sup> Anderlini, S.N. and J. El-Bushra, *Civil Society*, 2009, p.49.

<sup>129</sup> Cortright, D., G. Lopez, A. Millar, and L. Gerber-Stellingwerf, *Friend Not Foe: Civil Society and the Struggle against Violent Extremism: A Report to Cordaid from the Fourth Freedom Forum and Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame*, 2008, p.10.

<sup>130</sup> Cortright, D., G. Lopez, A. Millar, and L. Gerber-Stellingwerf, *Friend Not Foe: Civil Society and the Struggle against Violent Extremism: A Report to Cordaid from the Fourth Freedom Forum and Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame*, 2008, p.10.

<sup>131</sup> Tohidi, N., *Women, Civil Society, and NGOs in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan*, 2004.

<sup>132</sup> Naciri, R., *The Women's Movement and Political Discourse in Morocco*, 1998.

<sup>133</sup> Tohidi, N., *Women, Civil Society, and NGOs in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan*, 2004.

<sup>134</sup> Batliwala, S., *Changing Their World: Concepts and Practices of Women’s Movements*, 2008, p.10.

## ***Women's Role in Civil Society Movements***

### *Case Studies: Africa*

As mentioned, there are many examples of women becoming involved in civil society movements, many of them due to colonial rule throughout Africa and Southeast Asia as women fought for both rights and independence. For brief examples, in Mali, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Niger, women were instrumental in protesting against authoritarian rule.<sup>135</sup> Women in Kenya also more specifically led protests to support imprisoned human rights activists and campaigned more generally against human rights abuses.<sup>136</sup> All of these women created movements for peace and change. Also, another prime example is in Niger, where several thousand women rallied against the exclusion of women from a key governmental commission in 1991.<sup>137</sup> Another detailed case of women's involvement and potential in civil society movements was in Liberia. In 2003, armed conflict in Liberia might have occurred, but women's groups across the country decided they would not passively watch or become victims of the war and so lobbied to end the fighting.<sup>138</sup> These women formed their own anti-war, anti-violence social movement. As Catherine Barnes explains in her work at the European Centre for Conflict Prevention/International Secretariat of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict:

"Ignored initially, the power of their message spread to become a popular song and unifying theme. As their advocacy campaign became a serious force for change, they forged links with other civil society sectors, such as church leaders and NGOs. Their persistent presence mobilized public pressure and shamed the international community. They called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, dialogue for a negotiated settlement, and a peacekeeping force. To promote these demands, they learned how to effectively use the media and to lobby the international community. Even President Charles Taylor agreed to meet with the group after considerable pressure had mounted."<sup>139</sup>

This example shows the potential of women in leading civil society movements and the need to better attain them to negotiate and use technology. The example of Rwanda also provides proof of women's power and potential. Following the genocide, women found themselves not only leading government, but also leading in civil society movements.<sup>140</sup> Women acted to create cross-sectoral change and led the country in creating peace and recovery movements as well as support the women's movement to empower women in government and further support women in civil society.<sup>141</sup> More specifically, women's NGOs worked to provide for women and ensure that various NGOs worked together under a "Pro Femmes" umbrella.<sup>142</sup> At present, "Their [women's] participation is increasingly recognized as critical to the long-term security and stability of the country."<sup>143</sup>

### *Benefits*

In light of these examples, there are many reasons to support women's roles in capacity building and civil society movements. On a general level, making programs for women and young people is effective because these groups are increasingly known to be important agents for poverty reduction and economic improvements.<sup>144</sup> Increasing women in civil society movements tends to aid in bringing women's issues to the forefront and in gender mainstreaming. Secondly, when women become involved in building and developing civil society movements, studies have suggested their priorities may be different than men's.<sup>145</sup> Considering financing, for example, increasing women's roles in capacity building and in civil society movements changes where funding goes, maybe directing it more towards women, children, or family concerns.<sup>146</sup> There is also evidence that women approach capacity building differently, meaning that women often manage and approach situations differently, focusing, for

<sup>135</sup> Tadesse, Z., *In Search of Gender Justice: Lessons From the Past and Unraveling the 'New' in NEPAD*, 2002, p.17.

<sup>136</sup> Tadesse, Z., *In Search of Gender Justice: Lessons From the Past and Unraveling the 'New' in NEPAD*, 2002, p.17.

<sup>137</sup> Tadesse, Z., *In Search of Gender Justice: Lessons From the Past and Unraveling the 'New' in NEPAD*, 2002, p.17.

<sup>138</sup> Barnes, C., *Agents for Change: Civil Society Roles in Preventing War and Building Peace*, 2006, p.44.

<sup>139</sup> Barnes, C., *Agents for Change: Civil Society Roles in Preventing War and Building Peace*. 2006, p.45.

<sup>140</sup> Powley, E., *Strengthening Governance: The Role of Women in Rwanda's Transition*, 2003, p.1.

<sup>141</sup> Powley, E., *Strengthening Governance: The Role of Women in Rwanda's Transition*, 2003, p.2.

<sup>142</sup> Powley, E., *Strengthening Governance: The Role of Women in Rwanda's Transition*, 2003, p.28.

<sup>143</sup> Powley, E., *Strengthening Governance: The Role of Women in Rwanda's Transition*, 2003, p.2.

<sup>144</sup> Lagcao, M., *Capacity Building Guide*, 2003.

<sup>145</sup> Tohidi, N., *Women, Civil Society, and NGOs in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan*, 2004.

<sup>146</sup> Tohidi, N., *Women, Civil Society, and NGOs in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan*, 2004.



example, on smaller projects that have a very defined impact.<sup>147</sup> Women also tend to rely more on their roles as mothers and caregivers in civil society roles, acting as nurturers to others.<sup>148</sup> Studies demonstrate they are more likely to manage differently and work to create broad, even international coalitions and increase actors or peoples included in the process.<sup>149</sup> This allows for civil society organizations to become more wide reaching and, perhaps, more effective in the fight for social or political change.

Villagrasa's study and observations of the role of women in environmental and Kyoto negotiations demonstrates these unique characteristics of women and acts as one example of many of these express benefits. He writes: "Women were able to play a strong and generally positive role for climate protection based on their networking and interpersonal skills, and their ability to think and plan for the long term, even though they were generally underrepresented in the decision-making positions of their respective communities."<sup>150</sup> Ultimately, women were willing to interact with one another beyond formal sessions and work to incorporate those with limited resources to be in all meetings; women were skilled at team-building.<sup>151</sup> Lastly, as Villagrasa determined, women "thrive on complexity and interlinked issues."<sup>152</sup> These identified characteristics make women uniquely predisposed to work towards forming large coalitions of civil society organizations as civil society movements and address the concerns of globalization, a benefit previously mentioned.

Similar skills were also observed by Nayereh Tohidi in Azerbaijan, who observed that Azerbaijani women had "better communication skills, foreign language proficiency, and stronger informal networking abilities" than men.<sup>153</sup> These skills mean women are more likely to have contacts with foreign donors who can aid in grant writing and mobilizing resources.<sup>154</sup> In the case of Rwanda, Powley also stresses that women were better at recovery and reconciliation.<sup>155</sup> Furthermore, women were able to work across party and ethnic lines to develop strong civil society movements of all kinds, largely focused on women's rights and transparency.<sup>156</sup> All of these reasons explain why women's involvement in civil society movements should be valued and why programs building their capacity should be implemented, especially those that use women to empower other women, because women are often more receptive and less timid to learning from other women.<sup>157</sup>

#### *Methods of Supporting Women's Role in Capacity Building within Civil Society Movements*

Powley's case study on Rwanda best explains the prevailing opinion on capacity building for women and civil society movements: "Training should be provided to strengthen women's skills in leadership and governance."<sup>158</sup> Given women's unique approaches to capacity building, in that when involved in capacity building the actively seek to involve more women, there are many ways this body may consider aiding in the capacity building for involvement with civil society movements. Possible avenues may include mobilizing NGOs or other UN bodies to work with women and keep them on as trainers or project leaders and mentors or forming Public Private Partnerships in which large organizations may help train women to develop civil society movements.<sup>159</sup> Other UN bodies have also initiated and developed similar and noteworthy programs. For example, UNECE has partnered with the Israeli government to develop a training center and conferences devoted to teaching entrepreneurship skills related to women to women and men.<sup>160</sup> The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC), as the partnership is called, works to train women in community work from areas in which participation in civil society is new and emerging.<sup>161</sup> Its conferences are available in English, French, Spanish, Russian or Arabic and aim to develop and improve skills and knowledge devoted to new methods for tasks of community workers,

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<sup>147</sup> Anderlini, S.N. and J. El-Bushra, *Civil Society*, 2009, p.50.

<sup>148</sup> Anderlini, S.N. and J. El-Bushra, *Civil Society*, 2009, p.50.

<sup>149</sup> Villagrasa, D., *Kyoto Protocol Negotiations: Reflections on the Role of Women*. 2002, p.41.

<sup>150</sup> Villagrasa, D., *Kyoto Protocol Negotiations: Reflections on the Role of Women*. 2002, p.41.

<sup>151</sup> Villagrasa, D., *Kyoto Protocol Negotiations: Reflections on the Role of Women*. 2002, p.41-42.

<sup>152</sup> Villagrasa, D., *Kyoto Protocol Negotiations: Reflections on the Role of Women*. 2002, p.42-43.

<sup>153</sup> Tohidi, N., *Women, Civil Society, and NGOs in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan*, 2004.

<sup>154</sup> Tohidi, N., *Women, Civil Society, and NGOs in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan*, 2004.

<sup>155</sup> Powley, E., *Strengthening Governance: The Role of Women in Rwanda's Transition*, p.1.

<sup>156</sup> Powley, E., *Strengthening Governance: The Role of Women in Rwanda's Transition*, p.1.

<sup>157</sup> Anderlini, S.N. and J. El-Bushra, *Civil Society*, 2009, p.50.

<sup>158</sup> Powley, E., *Strengthening Governance: The Role of Women in Rwanda's Transition*, 2003, p.1.

<sup>159</sup> Lagcao, M., *Capacity Building Guide*, 2003.

<sup>160</sup> United Nations Economic Council for Europe, *Support Systems for Women Entrepreneurs*, 2008, p.1.

<sup>161</sup> United Nations Economic Council for Europe, *Support Systems for Women Entrepreneurs*, 2008, p.1.



including teachers, administrators and supervisors.<sup>162</sup> Following elections in 2005 in Afghanistan, Women Waging Peace and Women for Afghan Women partnered together as well to conduct a four-day workshop for Afghan women leaders in the human rights and democratization movements in Kabul, Afghanistan.<sup>163</sup> At the workshop, the organizations worked to build the capacity of Afghan women by “enhancing their communications, problem-solving, negotiation, and mediation skills, and to help them strategize and successfully advocate for their needs in their country.”<sup>164</sup> To take the conference a step further, in addition to teaching skills, the workshop served as a forum in which relationships between civil society leaders and ministry officials were developed to strengthen and empower Afghan women.<sup>165</sup>

Despite these successes, caution must still be exercised when the international community and local communities work together because often international groups dictate local programs instead of working alongside community organizations.<sup>166</sup> Furthermore, many international organizations that aim to improve civil society by professing to include women, often fail to fully implement their missions.<sup>167</sup> It has also been observed that foreign organizations also do not often take local women’s organizations as independent forces to be reckoned with, leaving these organizations often excluded.<sup>168</sup> Ultimately, change and improvement must be dictated by a process of collaboration and not manipulation or coercion.

### ***Conclusion and Committee Directive***

The Committee on the Status of Women proceeds with its work on the basis that it is endowed with the special mandate to address new and emerging trends that concern women’s empowerment and gender equality. Combined with the UN’s support of the MDGs and the CSW’s desire to support women in power and decision-making to aid in development, the CSW should direct its efforts towards addressing the role of women in capacity building within civil society movements. All women can play unique roles in society, bring unique skills to organizational management and negotiation, and act as important voices for issues of societal concern. Through supporting women in capacity building within civil society movements, the CSW has the ability to support training women and girls to be effective leaders, networkers and agents of empowerment for other women especially within civil society movements. Furthermore, at this crucial time, when many fledgling civil society movements are developing around the world, many headed by women such as in the case of Iran, there is no time to waste.

The Commission needs to focus on the role of women in capacity building and determine if there are ways in which it can and should help women develop and lead civil society movements. Yet, in attempting to do so, the Commission is confronted with a myriad of questions. For example, how exactly can the CSW provide for capacity building for women to strengthen their roles in civil society movements? Which are the best ways to support the unique way women approach capacity building, management and leadership? On a larger scale as well, especially in agreement with the CSW’s mission towards gender-mainstreaming, how best can the Commission encourage communities to become involved in capacity building for women? In addressing these issues, the Commission must also keep in mind the lessons learned from examples of women in civil society movements as well as projects already developed to teach capacity building in civil society movements. Only in aggregating all of the information before the Commission, past and present, can the Commission on the Status of Women aim to move forward in its important work of improving not only the situation of girl-children and women, but also men, boys, and the large percentage of the world’s population living in poverty.

### ***Must Reads***

Barnes, Catherine. (2006, September). *Agents for Change: Civil Society Roles in Preventing War*

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<sup>162</sup> United Nations Economic Council for Europe, *Support Systems for Women Entrepreneurs*, 2008, p.1.

<sup>163</sup> United States Institute for Peace, *Capacity Building Workshop for Afghan Women Leaders*, 2005.

<sup>164</sup> United States Institute for Peace, *Capacity Building Workshop for Afghan Women Leaders*, 2005.

<sup>165</sup> United States Institute for Peace, *Capacity Building Workshop for Afghan Women Leaders*, 2005.

<sup>166</sup> Thomasson, R., *To Make Room for Changes: Peace Strategies from Women Organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, 2006, p.7.

<sup>167</sup> Thomasson, R., *To Make Room for Changes: Peace Strategies from Women Organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, 2006, p.7.

<sup>168</sup> Thomasson, R., *To Make Room for Changes: Peace Strategies from Women Organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, 2006, p.7.

*and Building Peace*. Issue Paper 2. The Netherlands: European Centre for Conflict Prevention/International Secretariat of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict.

*This highly detailed and extensive piece by Barnes looks at many different aspects of the role of civil society in, as the title implies, preventing war and building peace, while providing solid background information for understanding conflict and civil society concepts at large. In this way, it is important as she provides many examples of social movements against war and for peace, many, including the well-detailed case of Liberia, expounding upon the specific role of women. Her statements about Liberia are the most important as she explains how it was women's groups who decided they did not want to remain passive as war broke out. Moreover, she makes the interesting comment that women learned how to "effectively use the media and to lobby the international community" which are aspects of capacity building that must be further considered (45).*

Lagcao, Michael. OneWorld.net. (2003). *Capacity Building Guide*. Retrieved from <http://uk.oneworld.net/guides/capacitybuilding>.

*This independent guide is published has been recently updated by OneWorld.net UK, a not for profit company that is a member of the One World Network which advocates for social justice and acts for NGO and citizen led-change. This document is an important document to read in understanding what capacity building is, its limitations, and how it may be utilized, detailing public to private partnerships and the need for NGO partnerships. It is also a useful document because it has effectively organized subsections that highlight capacity building in civil society and community development, both highly relevant to the issue of women in capacity building and civil society movements.*

Powley, Elizabeth. (2003). *Strengthening Governance: The Role of Women in Rwanda's Transition*. Sanam Naraghi Anderlini (Ed). Hunt Alternatives Fund.

*Elizabeth Powley's case study of Rwanda for the Women Waging Peace program, an independent program devoted to advocating for women's roles peace, provides an important look at how women's roles in civil society and government at large differ from the roles of men. Specifically, through interviews she explains how women are seen as being more able to forgive and care for individuals, leading them in the case of Rwanda to being better able to work towards reconciliation after the genocide. More generally, she also introduces the idea that women are effective and necessary in civil society movements and organizations for their ability to work across different groups, sectors, and address more and more important societal issues that are no longer just women's issues.*

Villagrasa, Delia. (2002). *Kyoto Protocol Negotiations: Reflections on the Role of Women Gender and Development*, 10(2), 40-44.

*This short piece by Villagrasa provides a unique perspective on how women influence and affect negotiation processes in regards to the Kyoto Protocol. Despite the abstract relation of this to civil society movements, Villagrasa reflects on women's networking skills and stresses how they need to be harnessed specifically in business and the NGO sector. Overall he explains how this can occur through capacity building as well.*

United Nations. Commission on the Status of Women. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/>.

*This website, the clear online headquarters of the CSW, is essential as it provides an overview of the committee's history and its mandate. More specifically, however, it is important as it provides a full text version of the Beijing Platform for Action and identifies the CSW's strategic objectives. This website ought to be utilized by delegates for delegates to gain an initial understanding of the CSW and for delegates to delve into key CSW founding documents.*

### **III. Fifteen Year Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

*"We must keep building on the energy and extraordinary experience of Beijing to demonstrate that empowering women means not only better lives for women, but better lives for all"<sup>169</sup>*

#### **Introduction**

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<sup>169</sup> Annan, K. in United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document*, 2001, p.182.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, sets as goals gender equality, development, and peace, in addition to establishing the empowerment of all women as the main objective of the Platform.<sup>170</sup> The 12 critical areas of concern, as identified by the Platform for Action, are at the heart of the reviews and appraisals that have occurred every five years since the Beijing Declaration.<sup>171</sup> The governments committed to the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women continue to gather and review and appraise progress, identify obstacles in implementation, and discuss further actions that may create and ensure additional gender equality, development, and peace.<sup>172</sup> These actions and initiatives are designed for local, national, regional, and international levels and their goal is to accelerate overall achievement.<sup>173</sup> The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a functional Commission under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and its annual sessions are devoted to the substantive discussion on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.<sup>174</sup> Formal review and appraisal sessions have been held following Beijing in both 2000 and 2005, and these reviews have identified challenging aspects to implementation in addition to advancement and empowerment of women and girls.<sup>175</sup> Although the United Nations (UN) has shown its continued commitment to gender equality and the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, further actions must be taken in order to ensure global progress in the ultimate goal, the empowerment of women.<sup>176</sup>

### **Background**

As stated in the Preamble of the Charter of the United Nations, the UN is determined “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small.”<sup>177</sup> It was not until the UN Charter that women and men were formally acknowledged to have equal rights by an international treaty.<sup>178</sup> The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) by Resolution E/RES/2/11 of 21 June 1946.<sup>179</sup> With this ECOSOC resolution came the United Nations’ commitment to matters concerning the promotion of women’s rights in the political, economic, social and educational fields, one of the two basic functions of the CSW.<sup>180</sup> The second basic function of the Commission is to make recommendations to ECOSOC on problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women’s rights.<sup>181</sup> The mandate of the CSW remained largely unchanged until 1987, when the mandate was expanded to include advocacy for equality, development and peace.<sup>182</sup> In addition to the expanded mandate, the CSW was given the task of monitoring the implementation of internationally agreed measures for the advancement of women; this progress was reviewed and appraised at the national, regional, and global levels.<sup>183</sup>

### **Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995 and the 12 Critical Areas of Concern**

Given its global perspective and ongoing commitment to women’s issues, the CSW is responsible for organizing the World Conferences on Women in Mexico (1975), Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985), and Beijing (1995).<sup>184</sup>

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<sup>170</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action*, 2000.

<sup>171</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action*, 2000.

<sup>172</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action*, 2000.

<sup>173</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action*, 2000.

<sup>174</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p.1.

<sup>175</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women—Follow-Up to Beijing, 2000-2009*.

<sup>176</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women—Follow-Up to Beijing, 2000-2009*.

<sup>177</sup> United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Preamble.

<sup>178</sup> United Nations Association of the United States of America, *A Guide to Delegate Preparation*, 2004.

<sup>179</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*.

<sup>180</sup> United Nations Handbook 2008/09, *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Purpose*, 2008.

<sup>181</sup> United Nations Handbook 2008/09, *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Purpose*, 2008.

<sup>182</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p.1.

<sup>183</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p.1.

<sup>184</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women—Follow-Up to Beijing, 2000-2009*.

The outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, was of particular significance to the CSW, with the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.<sup>185</sup> The General Assembly, following this Fourth World Conference on Women, mandated the Commission on the Status of Women to integrate into its current program a regular review of the critical areas of concern, as identified by the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA).<sup>186</sup> According to the BPFA, a review of progress since the Nairobi Conference in 1985 shows that particular areas of urgent concern stand out as priorities for action.<sup>187</sup> As a way to concretely identify these areas, the BPFA continues by stating that strategic action must be taken in the following 12 critical areas of concern: the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women; inequalities and inadequacies in unequal access to education and training; inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services; violence against women; effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation; inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources; inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels; insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women; lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of human rights of women; stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially media; gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment; and persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child.<sup>188</sup>

At its annual sessions, the Commission reviews progress in implementation of these twelve areas of concern and has adopted action-oriented recommendations in the form of agreed conclusions.<sup>189</sup> In 1996, the Commission adopted a work program for the years 1996-1999 in order to monitor the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.<sup>190</sup> Between 1996 and 1999, the CSW considered each of the 12 areas of concern.<sup>191</sup> Interactive expert panels organized by the Commission are used to “stimulate exchange of experience, lessons learned and good practices at the national level” with respect to the specific themes under consideration with each session.<sup>192</sup> Included in the agreed conclusions are major obstacles to implementation along with the most urgent measures that are needed to ensure full implementation of each critical area of concern.<sup>193</sup> There are a number of common challenges to implementation, among them, low participation of women in the decision-making process, lack of human and financial resources, and persistence of gender stereotypes that affect the design and implementation of policies and programs in each critical area.<sup>194</sup>

In February and March of 2000, during the CSW's 44<sup>th</sup> session, no agreed conclusions were adopted; the bulk of the Commission's work went towards preparations for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly to take place later that year, entitled “Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”.<sup>195</sup>

### ***Five-Year Review and Appraisal***

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<sup>185</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action*, 2000.

<sup>186</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women*, 2000-2009.

<sup>187</sup> United Nations, *Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women*, 1995.

<sup>188</sup> United Nations, *Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women*, 1995.

<sup>189</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women—Follow-Up to Beijing*, 2000-2009.

<sup>190</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p.1.

<sup>191</sup> *The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p.3.

<sup>192</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p.2.

<sup>193</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p.2.

<sup>194</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p.2.

<sup>195</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p.3.

The Five-Year Review and Appraisal of the commitments made in Beijing in 1995, referred to as Beijing+5, took place at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York from 5 June to 9 June 2000 during the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.<sup>196</sup> The Commission on the Status of Women acted as the Ad-hoc Preparatory Committee for the special session.<sup>197</sup> At the conclusion of the session, the General Assembly adopted by consensus a Political Declaration (A/RES/S-23/2) and “Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action” (A/RES/S-23/3), the latter being referred to as the Outcome Document.<sup>198</sup> The Political Declaration is brief in comparison to the Outcome Document and includes 10 points which essentially reaffirm commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.<sup>199</sup> The Outcome Document identifies achievements, obstacles and challenges in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of the Platform for Action in addition to outlining actions and initiatives to overcome obstacles and to achieve the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.<sup>200</sup>

The preparatory process plays a crucial role in the success of a review and appraisal conference, in particular, regional preparatory meetings.<sup>201</sup> In advance of the General Assembly (GA) twenty-third special session, the GA in its resolution A/RES/54/142 of 17 December 1999 encouraged all regional commissions and other intergovernmental regional organizations to carry out activities in support of the preparatory process.<sup>202</sup> These meetings would ensure a regional perspective on implementation and on further actions and initiatives in addition to providing a report in 2000 to the Commission on the Status of Women, which acted as the preparatory committee.<sup>203</sup> During the five months of October 1999 to February 2000, preparatory meetings were held by each of the five regional commissions: the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).<sup>204</sup>

The special session outcome resulted in 199 agreed-upon actions to be taken at the national and international levels by Governments, the UN system, international and regional organizations, including international financial institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other actors of civil society.<sup>205</sup> New target goals were established and existing ones were reconfirmed, and issues were identified which had gained importance since the Beijing Conference.<sup>206</sup> These areas included the need to address gender issues in humanitarian crises; women’s access to decision-making, including in peace-making and peace-keeping; violence against women, in particular the impact of armed conflict on women; the economic impact on women of globalization; trafficking in women and girls; women’s access to new information and communication technologies; and the impact of women of the global HIV/AIDS crisis, and their crucial role in fighting the pandemic.<sup>207</sup>

### ***Ten-year Review and Appraisal***

During the forty-ninth session of the CSW held from 28 February to 11 March 2005, the Ten-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action, known as the Beijing+10, was carried out.<sup>208</sup> The Commission considered two themes

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<sup>196</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Beijing+5 Process and Beyond, 2000-2009*.

<sup>197</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women—Follow-Up to Beijing, 2000-2009*.

<sup>198</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p.3.

<sup>199</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document*, 2001, pp. 185-186.

<sup>200</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p.3.

<sup>201</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Regional 15-year review processes, 2000-2009*.

<sup>202</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Beijing+5 Process and Beyond, 2000-2009*.

<sup>203</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Beijing+5 Process and Beyond, 2000-2009*.

<sup>204</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Beijing+5 Process and Beyond, 2000-2009*.

<sup>205</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Beijing+5 Process and Beyond, 2000-2009*.

<sup>206</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Beijing+5 Process and Beyond, 2000-2009*.

<sup>207</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document*, 2001, p.182.

<sup>208</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women—Follow-Up to Beijing, 2000-2009*.

during the session: a review of progress in implementing both the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document that emerged from the GA session five years prior, as well as current challenges and strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.<sup>209</sup>

Leading up to the Beijing+10, 134 countries submitted information to the UN regarding what they had done to promote gender equality and implement the BPFA recommendations.<sup>210</sup> Similar to the Beijing+5, work was done in advance of the session during intergovernmental regional meetings organized by the UN Economic Commissions in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and West Asia and also using interactive on-line discussion groups.<sup>211</sup>

During the forty-ninth session, the focus was on the sharing of national experiences on implementation, including lessons learned and good practices.<sup>212</sup> A number of interactive events occurred, among them, a high-level roundtable on innovations in institutional arrangements for promoting gender equality at the national level, and seven expert panels.<sup>213</sup> Current challenges were highlighted and the Commission adopted a declaration in which it reaffirmed both the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the GA; the declaration emphasized that full and effective implementation was essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, which would include those identified in the UN Millennium Declaration.<sup>214</sup> The declaration called upon the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, civil society including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and all women and men, to be fully committed to the outcome of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the GA.<sup>215</sup> NGOs, in particular, played a significant role in the Beijing+10 review and appraisal process. NGOs were eligible to designate representatives to attend the session, and close to 600 NGO organizations sent participants; there were over 2,700 individual NGO participants.<sup>216</sup>

### ***Implementation Obstacles***

The Beijing Platform for Action calls upon Member States to take decisive action with regard to the 12 critical areas of concern, and as a result, a number of organizations have published reports outlining the progress made in those areas as well as the obstacles.<sup>217</sup> One such review which was published by the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), entitled “Women and the Economy: New Challenges”, specifically addresses the Beijing Platform for Action as it applies to women and the economy around the time of the Beijing +10 review.<sup>218</sup> In their assessment, INSTRAW targets the critical area of concern involving the inequality in economic structures and policies and breaks down implementation according to advances or setbacks made in each of six strategic objective areas.<sup>219</sup>

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<sup>209</sup> United Nations, *Beijing at ten* [Press release].

<sup>210</sup> United Nations, *Beijing at ten* [Press release].

<sup>211</sup> United Nations, *Beijing at ten* [Press release].

<sup>212</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p.159.

<sup>213</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, pp. 159-160.

<sup>214</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p. 4.

<sup>215</sup> The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*, p. 4.

<sup>216</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *NGO Participation, 2000-2009*.

<sup>217</sup> United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), *Women and the Economy: New Challenges*.

<sup>218</sup> United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), *Women and the Economy: New Challenges*.

<sup>219</sup> United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), *Women and the Economy: New Challenges*.



According to this review and appraisal, women have less access to different levels of income, job security, benefits, collective bargaining, job training, or other education activities because they have less access to formal, regulated, and paid employment within the traditional labor market.<sup>220</sup> According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), over 60 percent of women workers in developing countries are employed in the informal economy which includes home-based work, street vending, workshops, sub-contracted work, day labor, and other unregistered and unregulated work; this type of employment, although a valuable source of employment for women, does not provide women additional benefits, job security, or the opportunity for promotion or job training.<sup>221</sup> Further, the World Development Report estimates that women make up seventy to ninety percent of workers in export processing zones (EPZs), which in 2004 employed over forty-million people, mostly in the developing world, and are known for excessive working hours with little pay under harsh and often dangerous conditions.<sup>222</sup> Globally, women represent sixty percent or more of part-time workers and are also the majority of workers in the sex sector and the reproductive or care economy.<sup>223</sup>

In 2005, a fifth book in a series was published by the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), highlighting their report indicating governments have failed to turn the Platform into action.<sup>224</sup> WEDO assessed governments' progress in implementing the commitments they made at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, and this report from 2005 consists of reports from women in 150 countries representing every region of the world.<sup>225</sup> According to the executive summary, these "realities" sharply contrast the official reports of their governments, and the core of the critique is that "governments worldwide have adopted a piecemeal and incremental approach to implementation that cannot achieve the economic, social and political transformation underlying the promises and vision of Beijing."<sup>226</sup>

In the publication, a combination of global trends is made responsible for creating an environment that has become more and more hostile to the enforcement of women's human rights, including the predominance of the new-liberal economic framework, growing militarization, and rising fundamentalism.<sup>227</sup> Despite any policy changes and efforts to advance women's rights at a national level, WEDO claims many women in all regions are actually worse off than they were 10 years before, in 1995.<sup>228</sup> Although the focus is on the BPFA, the report reflects the understanding that new issues have emerged more forcefully, notably peace and security, trade and finance rules, sustainability and HIV/AIDS, and that the critical issues can be placed into seven themes: Human Rights; Peace and Security; Power and Decision-Making; Poverty Eradication; Education; Natural Resources and Environmental Security; and Health.<sup>229</sup>

The report gives examples of the goal in each critical issue area along with central struggles from the past decade. In human rights, the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) had been ratified by 179 countries in 2005, up from 146 in 1995.<sup>230</sup> Despite this significant advance, Beijing Betrayed points out that the United States was still not among the CEDAW ratifying countries, issues still remain due to cultural and religious denial of women's rights, and the human rights of women affected by trafficking are not adequately protected.<sup>231</sup> The Peace and Security aspect is reflected largely in Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000, which emphasizes the importance of women's role in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution

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<sup>220</sup> United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), *Women and the Economy: New Challenges*.

<sup>221</sup> United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), *Women and the Economy: New Challenges*.

<sup>222</sup> United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), *Women and the Economy: New Challenges*.

<sup>223</sup> United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), *Women and the Economy: New Challenges*.

<sup>224</sup> Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), *Beijing Betrayed—Executive Summary*, 2005.

<sup>225</sup> Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), *Beijing Betrayed—Executive Summary*, 2005.

<sup>226</sup> Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), *Beijing Betrayed—Executive Summary*, 2005.

<sup>227</sup> Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), *Beijing Betrayed*, p. 7.

<sup>228</sup> Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), *Beijing Betrayed—Executive Summary*, 2005.

<sup>229</sup> Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), *Beijing Betrayed*, p. 8.

<sup>230</sup> Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), *Beijing Betrayed*, p. 11.

<sup>231</sup> Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), *Beijing Betrayed*, p. 12.

and peace-building.<sup>232</sup> Governments have now adopted laws barring violence against women, and international law now recognizes rape and sexual coercion during conflicts as crimes against humanity, yet few measures actually address the root cause of violence, and further, public awareness of Resolution 1325 is minimal.<sup>233</sup> In each of the seven areas identified in WEDO's *Beijing Betrayed*, critical challenges still remain as formidable roadblocks to the advancement and empowerment of all women and girls.<sup>234</sup>

### ***Fifteen-Year Review of the Beijing Platform for Action***

The Fifteen-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action will be during the fifty-fourth session of the CSW, to take place in March 2010.<sup>235</sup> The review will place emphasis on the sharing of experiences and good practices, overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission decided in its program of work for 2010-2014 that the review would also assess its contribution towards the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals.<sup>236</sup> The session itself and a series of parallel events will give participating Member States, NGO and UN entity representatives an opportunity to exchange information and network.<sup>237</sup> In preparation for this session, each of the five UN regional commissions is preparing regional review reports, and intergovernmental meetings are being organized, both of which will feed into the CSW's fifty-fourth session in March.<sup>238</sup>

In a statement read on the concluding day of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali proclaimed: "Now the momentum of Beijing must be translated into concrete action. We must all ensure that the decisions reached in Beijing will change the world... Let us tell the world—and let us tell it with pride: the empowerment of women is the empowerment of all humanity!"<sup>239</sup> The preparation that is currently taking place for the Fifteen-year review of the BPFA indicates this momentum will continue well into the CSW's fifty-fourth session, largely due to the of the Commission and its five regional commissions.<sup>240</sup> The fifty-fourth session in March 2010 will allow for continued work towards a number of important issues, including but not limited to: shaping a gender perspective in the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals; improving gender equality in order to strengthen respect for human rights, reduced poverty, and stimulated economic growth and health; advancing women in society and eliminating discrimination in the political and economic spheres; equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS; and the continued efforts to address the gender dimension of the current financial crisis to ensure that achievements made since the Fourth World Conference on Women are not reversed.<sup>241</sup>

In preparation for the fifteen-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, each Member State is urged to consider the following questions:

In which regional forum would your country participate? What are the main issues surrounding the Beijing Platform for Action as they apply to your country? What are the main issues surrounding the Beijing Platform for Action as they apply to your regional bloc? How have the primary issue areas changed over time in your country? How have the primary issue areas changed over time in your region? What gains has your country experienced in the 12 critical areas of concern? What setback has your country experienced in the 12 critical areas of concern? What initiatives can be considered "best practices"? What were the main topics of concern in the NGO forum in your region?

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<sup>232</sup> Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), *Beijing Betrayed*, p.16.

<sup>233</sup> Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), *Beijing Betrayed*, p.16.

<sup>234</sup> Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), *Beijing Betrayed—Executive Summary*, 2005.

<sup>235</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women* [Overview], 2000-2009.

<sup>236</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Global 15-year review process in the 54<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women* [Overview], 2000-2009.

<sup>237</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000)*, 2000-2009.

<sup>238</sup> Division for the Advancement of Women, *Regional 15-year review processes*, 2000-2009.

<sup>239</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document*, 2001, p.4.

<sup>240</sup> United Nations Office at Geneva, *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions and Decisions on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in All Policies and Programmes in the UN System* [Press release], 2009.

<sup>241</sup> United Nations Office at Geneva, *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions and Decisions on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in All Policies and Programmes in the UN System* [Press release], 2009.

## Must Reads

Division for the Advancement of Women. (n.d.). *Ten-year Review and Appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly held during the forty-ninth session of the CSW, from 28 February to 11 March 2005*. Retrieved July 18, 2009, from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Web site:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/Review/english/49sess.htm>

*The Ten-Year Review and Appraisal will be imperative to the understanding and research of a Fifteen-Year review, as required in this topic for the CSW. This Web Page is dedicated solely to that Ten-year review, and similar to other sites by the Division for the Advancement of Women, provides valuable hyperlinks for delegates. Hyperlinks include the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Beijing Conference on Women, CSW main page, and the Political Declaration, as adopted by the UN General Assembly at its twenty-third special session in June 2000.*

Division for the Advancement of Women. (2000-2009). *15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000)*. Retrieved September 9, 2009, from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Web site: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html>

*The Division for the Advancement of Women has established this Web site in preparation for the 15-year review provides delegates with a number of links that are invaluable to their research. The questionnaire regarding implementation, including the responses of Member States, is available, in addition to regional preparatory information and links related to the 54<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW. This Web Site acts as a starting point for delegates' research for this particular topic and gives a general overview of what is to be expected at this review and appraisal.*

PeaceWomen. (n.d.). *Beijing+10 Review and Appraisal*. Retrieved August 4, 2009, from

<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/Beijing10%20/beijing10index.html>

*This Web site created by PeaceWomen is an incredible source of UN documents, NGO documents and Web sites, press releases, regional perspectives, etc. With its staggering number of links to relevant information, this source serves as a great starting point for delegate research. The general lay-out of the site is easy to understand, making it simple for delegates to find the information they need for the topic.*

United Nations. (1995). *Beijing Declaration*. Retrieved August 8, 2009, from Fourth World Conference on Women Web site: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/declar.htm>

*Reading and studying the Beijing Declaration will be crucial for delegates in the CSW, regardless of the topic area that is selected. The Beijing Declaration, and also the Platform for Action, are now cornerstones to the CSW and its work during sessions. In the bibliography, the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action have been separated to highlight the significance of each one during the delegate research process.*

United Nations. (1995). *Platform for Action*. Retrieved August 8, 2009, from Fourth World Conference on Women Web site: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/plat1.htm#concern>

*The Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) is one of the most important documents of the CSW. It makes clear that the main goal is the empowerment of women, and very importantly, outlines the 12 critical areas of concern. These critical areas help to shape review sessions and are therefore an important piece of research for delegates when gather information on Topic III.*

## Annotated Bibliography

### *Committee History*

Cabrera-Balleza, M., Johnson, T., and Schalatek, L. (editors). (2006). *UN Reform: What's in it for Women?*, Washington D. C.- New York: Heinrich Böll Foundation-The International Women's Tribune Centre. Retrieved from The International Women's Tribune Centre, [http://www.iwtc.org/reform\\_report.pdf](http://www.iwtc.org/reform_report.pdf)

*This book is the outcome of a panel discussion organized in 2006 by the International Women's Tribune Centre and the Heinrich Böll Foundation during the session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It has several articles on the UN Reform debate and offers different perspectives on the topic from a variety of approaches and authors, most of them from the civil society sector. Delegates would deeply benefit from this source, since it presents the current situation of the UN gender architecture and reform and identifies the main barriers to achieve the advancement of women.*

Fraser, A. S. (1999). Becoming Human: The Origins and Development of Women's Human Rights. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 21(4), 853-906.

*In this work, Fraser traces the evolution of women's human rights over the centuries. In the last part of it, he addresses the importance and implications that the legally binding treaties, conventions, and world conferences promoted by the CSW have had for the women's human rights development and consolidation. This article provides a complete overview of the relationship between the CSW and the advancement of women human rights.*

Gaer, F. (2009). Women, international law and international institutions: The case of the United Nations. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 32, 60-66.

*Gaer's article familiarizes delegates with the most important women's rights concepts and mechanisms within the United Nations. This work also provides a good historical account of the Commission's evolution over the decades. Delegates should find this article useful, since it examines the dilemma of enforcement that the UN still faces with respect to women's human rights.*

Rao, A. (2008). *Gender Equality Architecture and UN Reforms*. Retrieved August 9, 2009, from the Center for Women's Global Leadership Web site:

<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/globalcenter/policy/unadvocacy/Gender%20Equality%20Architecture%20and%20UN%20Reforms%20July%202006.pdf>

*Commissioned by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) and Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and signed by 116 civil society organizations, this work was submitted to the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on System-wide Coherence and outlines the successes and failures of the current UN system in addressing gender equality. The author puts forth several principles and characteristics that are critical to reforming the gender equality architecture in order to deliver consistent positive gender equality outcomes. This work comes from the civil sector society and, thus, provides delegates with innovative and insightful ideas on the UN Reform debate.*

United Nations. *Charter of the United Nations*, June 26, 1945.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

*The Preamble of the UN Charter lays the foundation for the work of the ECOSOC and for the Commission on the Status of Women, as it reaffirms the faith in the equal rights of men and women. Delegates should familiarize with the content of the Charter, as it outlines the mandate and structure of the UN and contains several articles related to the topics that the Commission on the Status of Women will be discussing. The importance of the Charter is reflected in the fact that it has been ratified by every Member State.*

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Commission of the Status of Women: Agreed Conclusions* [Agreed Conclusions of the Annual Sessions]. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/agreedconclusions.html>

*This Web site contains the Agreed Conclusions of the CSW from 1996 to 2008. The Agreed Conclusions are the principal outcome of the Commission and guide its future actions. For this reason, it is crucial that Delegates*

review and become familiar with the structure and content of the Agreed Conclusions of previous years, as they are expected to produce a similar final document.

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session 2010*. Retrieved August 9, 2009, from

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/CSW%20Membership%2054.pdf>

*This document provides a list of the Member States attending the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session in 2010. The list indicates the year in which each member's term expires. Delegates can consult this document in order to observe the current and future regional distribution of the Commission.*

United Nations. *Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace (E/66/4)*, July 2, 1975. Retrieved from <http://www.un-documents.net/mex-dec.htm>

*The Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and Their Contribution to Development and Peace adopted in 1975 during the First Women World Conference ratified the importance of the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the attainment of equality, development and peace. This Declaration laid the foundation for the subsequent Women World Conferences in 1980 and 1985. Delegates would benefit from this Declaration, since it provides useful background information for understanding the importance of the World Conferences.*

United Nations, Division for the Advancement of Women. *Division for the Advancement of Women: About the Division*. Retrieved August 9, 2009, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/daw/index.html>

*The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) provides substantive support to the CSW, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations intergovernmental processes focused on gender equality and empowerment of women in the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Delegates should familiarize with the work of the DAW and, in general, with the UN gender architecture. In addition, the home page of the DAW has many useful links to publications, reports, and official documents that Delegates may find useful while doing their research.*

United Nations, Division for the Advancement of Women. *NGO Participation*. Retrieved August 9, 2009, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw53/NGO.html>

*NGOs play a major role as accredited observers in the sessions of the CSW. This website of the DAW provides information about the process that NGOs follow to designate representatives and attend the annual sessions of the Commission on Status of Women. After checking this web site, Delegates will understand the framework in which civil society and the Commission interact and how the former nurture and enriches the CSW work*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Resolution establishing the Commission on the Status of Women (E/11-2/1946)*.

*This ECOSOC resolution of 1946 is relevant because it established the CSW as the main policy-making body dedicated to the achievement of women's rights and gender equality. The resolution laid the foundation for the Commission and enumerated its original terms of reference and scope. Delegates may find useful this resolution, as it clarifies the relationship between the ECOSOC and the Commission.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Resolution follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, (E/1996/6)*.

[http://www.un.org/ecosoc/docs/resdec1946\\_2000.asp](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/docs/resdec1946_2000.asp)

*This resolution is relevant to Delegates, as it deeply expanded the Commission's mandate and terms of reference. The 1996 ECOSOC resolution gave the Commission the authority to monitor, review, and appraise the progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action at all levels; to ensure support for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the UN; to identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that require urgent consideration, among others. By reading this resolution, Delegates will understand the role that the CSW has played at the international arena since 1996.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Resolution to strengthen the role and functions of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1987/22)*.

[http://www.un.org/ecosoc/docs/resdec1946\\_2000.asp](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/docs/resdec1946_2000.asp)

*In 1987, the CSW experienced major changes in its method of work, mandate, role and functions, composition, among others. In particular, this resolution strengthened the status and leadership of the Commission in the United Nations System. Delegates might find this resolution useful because most of the changes implemented in this resolution remained in place nowadays.*

United Nations, President of the General Assembly. *Consolidated response regarding questions raised following discussions of the paper "Further Details on Institutional Options for Strengthening the Institutional Arrangements for Support to Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women."* Retrieved August 9, 2009, from <http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/issues/swc/consolidatedresponse030609.pdf>

*In a detailed and clear manner, this document presents the official proposal for strengthening the UN Gender System. This work summarizes the debates and conclusions of the High Level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence. After reading this document, delegates will understand the ongoing debate around the UN System Reform, particularly in regards to gender architecture.*

United Nations. *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/177//.1)*, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/official.htm>

*This report contains the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action that identified twelve critical areas of concern, set strategic objectives, and proposed concrete actions to achieve these objectives. This report defined the work of the CSW for the last fifteen years and, thus, is very relevant. Delegates should familiarize themselves with the content of the Platform for Action and focus on those critical areas related to sustainable peace, armed conflict, and capacity building.*

United Nations. *Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen 1980 (A/CONF.94/35)*. Retrieved August 9, 2009, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/otherconferences/Copenhagen/Copenhagen%20Full%20Optimized.pdf>

*This report is the outcome of the Second Women World Conference held in 1980. The conference adopted a Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women (1980-1985) and emphasized the importance of three subthemes: employment, health, and education as significant components of development. This report illustrates the shift that the CSW experienced during the eighties, in which socio-economic development became the most important goal to achieve.*

United Nations, *Vienna Declaration and Program of Action (A/CONF.157/23)*, Vienna, July 12, 1993. Retrieved from [http://www.unhcr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/\(Symbol\)/A.CONF.157.23.En?OpenDocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/(Symbol)/A.CONF.157.23.En?OpenDocument)

*Delegates would benefit from consulting this Declaration, since it ratified the importance of the promotion and protection of human rights. The Declaration also set a detailed Programme of Action to achieve this task. In regards to women, the Vienna Declaration recognized for the first time that the human rights of women and of the girl-child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights; and that the full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life and the eradication of all forms of discrimination against them were priority objectives of the international community.*

### ***I. Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution and in Post-conflict Peacebuilding***

Etchart, Linda and Rawwida Baksh. (2005) *Applying a Gender Lens to Armed Conflict, Violence and conflict Transformation*. In *Gender Mainstreaming in Conflict Transformation Building Sustainable Peace*. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from [http://www.thecommonwealth.org/shared\\_asp\\_files/uploadedfiles/8C21EB83-8A6E-418D-8D9C-361E3AFAAC1B\\_Gender-and-Conflict-resolution.pdf](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/shared_asp_files/uploadedfiles/8C21EB83-8A6E-418D-8D9C-361E3AFAAC1B_Gender-and-Conflict-resolution.pdf)

*This chapter is within a larger report that contains a lot of different information on gender and conflict. This specific chapter however is useful for delegates to get a specific understanding of gender in armed conflict and conflict transformation. This source was used to retrieve a general understanding of how gender plays a role in conflict situations and how men and women differ in conflict situations. There are also subtopics within this chapter that include information on women as peacemakers, gender biased conflict and much more. It is recommended that delegates read this particular source for obtaining a good background in the topic before*



*focusing specifically on what their country would do about the topic at hand. The authors also do a good job at utilizing various other sources which will help delegates find more research opportunities.*

Hadjipavlou, Maria. (2005). *Cyprus: Peace is Too Precious to be left to Men Alone*. In Gender Mainstreaming in Conflict Transformation Building Sustainable Peace. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from [http://www.thecommonwealth.org/shared\\_asp\\_files/uploadedfiles/8C21EB83-8A6E-418D-8D9C-361E3AFAAC1B\\_Gender-and-Conflict-resolution.pdf](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/shared_asp_files/uploadedfiles/8C21EB83-8A6E-418D-8D9C-361E3AFAAC1B_Gender-and-Conflict-resolution.pdf)

*This report covers a wide variety of issues relating to gender mainstreaming in conflict transformation building sustainable peace. One specific chapter, listed in this citation, discusses these issues in relevance to the situation in Cyprus. I decided to explore Cyprus as a case study because of the relevant information in this chapter that relates to each segment of this topic. Other chapters of this report will most likely be used in regards to the effects of armed conflict on women as well as peace building and peace keeping.*

International Association for Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. (2007-2008) *Women, Gender & Peacebuilding Processes*. Retrieved July 26, 2009, from Peacebuilding Initiative Website [www.peacebuildinginitiative.org](http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org)

*This website, specifically the introduction to peacebuilding, was used to write about and understand the role of women as peacebuilders and peacemakers. It also has a useful breakdown of important documents including UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other Millennium Development Goals. The documents used from this website are useful for delegates to comprehend the many roles women can play in conflict and post conflict situations; as well as understand where they can participate more equally in certain areas.*

Kirk, Jackie. (November 2004). *Promoting a Gender-Just Peace: The Roles of Women Teachers in Peacebuilding and Reconstruction*. Gender and Development, Vol. 12, No. 3, Peacebuilding and Reconstruction. Pg. 50-59. Retrieved July 27, 2009, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable4030655>

*This article discusses the role of women as teachers in their community and the capacity they serve for promoting peace in communities. The author discusses education and its ability to transform conflict areas to peaceful ones and the role women can have in achieving these goals as well as teaching children to move beyond stereotypes and gender roles. Education is also a means for more women to become professionals rather than being kept in the home. Educating others provides an education to the women who are needed to fill the teaching jobs.*

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Ministerial Council. (6 December 2005). *Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation*. Decision No. 14/05. Retrieved August 27 2009, from [http://www.osce.org/documents/mcs/2005/12/17432\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/documents/mcs/2005/12/17432_en.pdf)

*This source was more used for background information while researching for the topic rather than fully used within the background guide as a prominent source. This organization is important to the topic in Europe and its work worth noting. This specific decision cited discusses conflict prevention, management and rehabilitation, all of which pertain to the topic at hand. It will be a useful decision for delegates to become familiar with so they have an understanding of what has been done before and what they could potentially build off of.*

Potter, Antonia. (October 2005). *We the Women; Why Conflict Mediation is not Just a Job for Men*. Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. Retrieved July 26, 2009, from Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue Website [www.hdcentre.org](http://www.hdcentre.org)

*This report focuses specifically on conflict mediation and women. The report answers questions such as who mediators are at the UN, what they do, impediments they experience, failures they have, and the difference women mediators would make. A specific area the report discusses within a UN context is the failure of the UN to get serious about gender like they do with regional diversity. The report calls for more women to participate in mediation and highlights the differences they can and would make if there were more women mediators.*

Schmeidl, Susanne with Eugenia Piza-Lopez. (June 2002). *Gender and conflict Early Warning: A Framework for Action*. International Alert and Swiss Peace Foundation.

*This report was used specifically for its information on early warning and gender and more specifically for the author's three hypothesis about gender and early warning systems. The report discussed a lot about systems and analysis for gender and early warning.*



Schmeidl, Susanne and Fyzi Ismail. (May 7, 2001). *Implementing the United Nations Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security: Integrating Gender to Early Warning Systems: Report on First Expert Consultative Meeting*. International Alert and Swiss Peace Foundation. Retrieved August 12, 2009, from, [http://www.peacewomen.org/resources/early\\_warning/implementing1325.html](http://www.peacewomen.org/resources/early_warning/implementing1325.html)

*The intent of this paper is to create awareness among organizations and individuals working in conflict prevention and influence the development of early warning systems. The paper outlines the background of women, peace and security including a short synopsis of how the SC/RES/1325 was adopted and some of the historical pretenses to its existence. It also identifies key issues in conflict prevention then goes on into discussing women's involvement in early warning systems specifically as well as early warning at the community level, in theory and practice and then closes with recommendations and questions raised by participants. This source is a great back to basics type source that does a good job of outlining the specific issues of conflict prevention and early warning as well as recommendations delegates could potentially use as starting points to their own countries approach to solutions.*

United Nations. Development Programme. (October 2002). *Gender Approaches in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*. Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. Retrieved July 26, 2009, from UNDP Website [www.undp.org/bcpr](http://www.undp.org/bcpr)

*This report by the UN Development Programme was used in this background guide for its information on women in the peace process and post conflict situations as well as information on violence against women. The report talks about sexual violence against women in post conflict situations which is not explicitly stated within the topic but is an essential component to understanding this topic. The overall usefulness of this report is the reader gains an understanding of gender policies and analysis as well as women's rights and political participation and more.*

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). (n.d.) *Women War, Peace and Conflict Prevention and Early Warning*. Retrieved July 27, 2009, from Women, War and Peace Website, <http://www.womenwarpeace.org/node/12>

*This website was a tremendous resource in researching this topic and delegates would be wise to become very familiar with the information provided on it. UNIFEM's website has a lot of information on various treaties, key terms that one should understand when discussing women and conflict and much more. The website was used throughout the background guide because of its variety in information. This specific section of the website is devoted to conflict prevention and early warning and the institutions, treaties and terminology affiliated with understanding this specific topic. There is also a helpful introduction to help the reader understand what exactly is going to be discussed within the section of the website.*

United Nations. General Assembly. Security Council. (12 September 2003). *Interim report of the Secretary-General on the prevention of armed conflict (A/58/365-S/2003/888)*. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from [http://www.peacewomen.org/resources/Early\\_Warning/SGInterimReport2003.pdf](http://www.peacewomen.org/resources/Early_Warning/SGInterimReport2003.pdf)

*This report is an analytical assessment of conflict prevention and the UN's role in improving it. In the report the Secretary-General provides recommendations on ways in which to strengthen the UN's ability to assist Member States in conflict prevention. This source will be important to the topic in regards to prevention because it will reflect the UN system's ability and goals in achieving conflict prevention.*

United Nations Public Administration Programme. (n.d.) *Capacity-Building in Conflict Management*. Retrieved July 26, 2009, from the UN Public Administration Programme Website, <http://www.unpan.org/conflictmanagement.asp>

*This source was important for gaining information on conflict management, an aspect of the topic that wasn't necessarily discussed in other documents. The overall website was used when writing about this topic. Different areas of the website provided different types of information and would be a great resource for delegates to gain a general understanding of what conflict management is and how women fit into it.*

United Nations. Security Council. (25 September 2008). *Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security (S/2008/622)*. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/523/14/PDF/N0852314.pdf?OpenElement>

*This report was the foundation of a debate in the United Nations Security Council on the topic of women, peace and security. The Secretary-General's report details comprehensive efforts undertaken throughout the UN system to ensure coherent implementation of resolution 1325, from strengthening gender equality policies to designing handbooks and capacity-building initiatives to train and raise awareness of the resolution. While highlighting*

*measurable progress, the report notes that there is still far more to be done and recommends a more robust reporting, monitoring and accountability system to advance fuller implementation of 1325. This report is important in articulating the most recent findings related to women, peace and security.*

United Nations. Security Council. (13 June 2008). *Resolution 1818-The Situation in Cyprus (S/RES/1818)*. Retrieved July 27, 2009 from United Nations Website,

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/381/14/PDF/N0838114.pdf?OpenElement>

*This resolution was more used in my personal research on the situation in Cyprus before writing the case study in this background guide. I find it useful for delegates to use if they are inspired to do extra research on the situation in Cyprus and the role of women within the negotiation process. Each one of the three resolutions gives a different amount of information on where the country of Cyprus is in their negotiation and peace building process so it is important to look at all three for a historical and up to date perspective on the topic.*

United Nations. Security Council. (12 December 2008). *Resolution 1847- The Situation in Cyprus (S/RES/1847)*. Retrieved July 27, 2009 from the United Nations Website,

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/645/26/PDF/N0864526.pdf?OpenElement>

*This resolution was more used in my personal research on the situation in Cyprus before writing the case study in this background guide. I find it useful for delegates to use if they are inspired to do extra research on the situation in Cyprus and the role of women within the negotiation process. Each one of the three resolutions gives a different amount of information on where the country of Cyprus is in their negotiation and peace building process so it is important to look at all three for a historical and up to date perspective on the topic.*

United Nations. Security Council. (2008). *Statement by the President of the Security Council. (S/PRST/2008/39)*

Retrieved August 12, 2009, from [http://www.peacewomen.org/un/8thAnniversary/Open\\_Debate/PRST\\_Oct\\_08.pdf](http://www.peacewomen.org/un/8thAnniversary/Open_Debate/PRST_Oct_08.pdf)

*This source, although short is one that is of particular importance to understanding women, peace and security. This statement given by the President of the Security Council falls on the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SC/RES/1325. In the statement the President both reaffirms SC/RES/1325 as well as underlines issues that the body should still be concerned with and uses the statement to urge Member States to continue working towards raising the level of participation of women in conflict prevention, management, and conflict resolution. The President also calls upon the Secretary-General to appoint more women to offices within the UN System.*

Valasek, Kristen, (2005). *Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security*. United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) Retrieved August 12, 2009, from Peace Women Website <http://peacewomen.org/resources/1325/1325ActionPlans.pdf>

*This source again was a source used mainly for obtaining background information during research and would be a helpful source for delegates to become familiar with before securing specific country policies on the topic. The main theme that should be taken away from this source that is vital for delegates to understand before coming to committee is the necessity of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security. Many nations are beginning to create these action plans and thus would be appropriate for delegates to know which countries have and haven't done so and if that is something their country would encourage others to do within the Commission on the Status of Women.*

## **II. Women's Role in Capacity Building within Civil Society Movements**

Anderlini, Sanam Naraghi and Judy El-Bushra. (2009). Civil Society. *Inclusive Security: A Curriculum for Women Waging Peace* (48-63). The Institute for Inclusive Security and the Hunt Alternatives Fund.

*This chapter of a larger handbook for women waging peace focuses on the critical role of civil society in providing opportunities for women and in development. It is primarily important for its general analysis on civil society and its explanations of how and why women have turned to civil society to create change. Finally, it details many of the strengths of women in running and organizing civil society organizations and movements, such as their role as mothers and caregivers.*

Batliwala, Srilatha. Association for Women's Rights in Development. (2008). *Changing Their World: Concepts and Practices of Women's Movements*. New Delhi, India.

*Batliwala's report focuses specifically on various women's movements, but is important to the larger issue of women in civil society movements because it details and analyzes exactly what constitutes a movement. The author also provides valuable information and in depth case studies on various women's movements, for example in Mexico and Iran. Lastly, this work provides exceptionally comprehensive analysis on what has made these women's movements successful and key characteristics of women's movements.*

Cheru, Fantu (2000). The Local Dimensions of Global Reform. Jan Nederveen Pieterse (Ed.) *Global Futures: Shaping Globalization* (119-132). London: Zed Books, Ltd.

*As a section of a larger work on the relationship between globalization and regionalism, Cheru provides an overview to the situation of civil society movements. More specifically, he speaks to the relationship between democratization, civil society and capacity building. Cheru advocates in favor of larger based civil society movements and explains that these must be formed by increasing connections between smaller movements. Lastly, he also stresses that one aspect of strengthening these movements and increasing democracy is training for men and women.*

Commission on the Status of Women. (1995) Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

*This document provides for the foundation of the Commission on the Status of Women. It is important especially because it enumerates and specifically outlines the goals and key objective areas of work for the Commission. Though some of these objectives have had their language slightly modified, the document still remains relevant and should be read in full before utilizing the web-versions of the Platform for Action.*

Cortright, David, George A Lopez, Alistair Millar, and Linda Gerber-Stellingwerf. (October 2008). *Friend Not Foe: Civil Society and the Struggle against Violent Extremism: A Report to Cordaid from the Fourth Freedom Forum and Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame*.

*Although the central focus of this report is on how civil society may be seen as a positive force in preventing violent extremism, David Cortright and other aiding authors also provide a detailed overview of civil society and civil society movements. Most important in this overview is the authors' ability to critically evaluate civil society movements and detail why certain governments would not support civil society initiatives. Combining these strengths with the main purpose of this article, this report is valuable for those wishing to understand how to work with civil society movements and organizations to achieve desired goals.*

Finn, Janet. (2002). Raíces: Gender-Conscious Community Building in Santiago, Chile. *Afilia* 17(4), 448-470.

*This article examines and narrates the history of a women's collective called Raíces in Chile that aims to promote community development through education of the working and lower classes. It is important overall because it represents a unique type of social movement that women in South America have been very influential in shaping. Philosophically, this Finn's work is also noteworthy because, like many other authors who analyze other organizations, she views Raíces as a group which stresses that women should be seen as actors, as those capable of bringing about change, and not simply those affected by policy.*

Hartvelt, Frank. (1996). Capacity Building Programme for Sustainable Water Sector Development. *Water Resources Development*, 12(4), 407-411.

*Written by as a member of a UN division, Hartvelt offers an optimistic view and provides a historic narrative on the UNDP's program of capacity building that was relatively new when the article was written. More specifically, Hartvelt's journal article is valuable as it provides the definition of "capacity building". This definition the author follows by a detailed look at capacity buildings objectives, implementation strategies and overviews of how it is being applied across the developing world.*

Marcelle, Gillian. (2004). Thinking BIG to Accelerate Gender Equality and Transformation in the ICTs Arena. *Gender, Technology and Development*, 8(1), 31-52).

*Marcelle's article is of importance as it represents one specific aspect of capacity building for women: capacity building in relation to information and communication technologies. Specifically,*

*she devises and provides a plan for how gender equality may be supported through support of ICT. In greater relevance to the topic at hand, however, she explains how civil society must be engaged to ensure that there is work in the ICT development policy arena and provides the example of how NGOs have been working for this goal of increased civil society involvement.*

Naciri, Rabéa. (1998, March). The Women's Movement and Political Discourse in Morocco. Occasional Paper 8. Geneva: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

*This paper is important for understanding the continuity of the way women's issues have been addressed in the United Nations and in UN research. Written in 1998, this paper acts as a follow up to the 1995 Beijing and is in conjunction with other work done to evaluate gender in development policy. More specifically, Naciri's work is of relevance as she narrates and explains the emergence of civil society in Morocco and details one type of social movement relevant to women, namely the women's movement. She ultimately concludes that, because of the way women's groups and organizations were able to make women's issues political, they were able to establish themselves as important civil society actors and organizations supporting change in the government and women's causes.*

Nussbaum, Martha. (2003). Gender and Governance: An Introduction. *Essays on Gender and Development*. Human Development Resource Center and United Nations Development Program: 1-20.

*This introduction to the UNDP collection of Essays on Gender and Development written by Martha Nussbaum, a noted philosopher from the University of Chicago, acts as a great starting point for understanding key issues and terms in relation to women, development and civil society. Specifically, she defines gender and development in ways that crystallize how complex the issues are. Most importantly, she also provides a background for understanding the difference between social movements and the women's movement and explains that just because something is lead by women does not mean it necessarily supports women. Lastly, Nussbaum in her section also provides normative view of the issue and summarizes the other authors opinions, namely explaining that capabilities and rights of women must be discussed in looking at the women's movement.*

Olatokun, Wole. (2008). Gender and National ICT Policy in Africa: Issues, Strategies, and Policy Options. *Information Development* 24(1), 53-65.

*Similar to Marcelle's work, Olatokun also addresses in his piece the importance of information and communication technologies, but he provides a more narrow focus by looking specifically at Africa and addressing national policies. His work is of note because and use because he provides many examples of areas in which ICT should be developed and elaborates on how women and other members of society need to create an environment in which ICT can grow and have a positive impact on society and communities. Lastly, his work stresses that there is a need to invest in human capability and that basic education is still the most important way in which ICT and women may be supported.*

Söderberg Jacobson, Agneta. Anna Lithander (Ed.) The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation. (2004). *Rethink! A Handbook for Sustainable Peace*. Johanneshov, Sweden.

*The author of this report contributes to an understanding of the ways in which civil society may be strengthened on a variety of levels with the participation of women. Specifically, as it is designed as a handbook for those working in areas of war and peace, it provides recommendations for how civil society and women can be supported on, for example, both the national and community level. It is also useful for Söderberg Jacobson also focuses on the general theme of sustainable peace through civil society therefore stressing the importance of civil society.*

Tadesse, Zenebework. (2002). In Search of Gender Justice: Lessons From the Past and Unraveling the 'New' in NEPAD. Paper prepared for the African Scholars' Forum Meeting 2002. Ethiopia: Forum for Social Science Studies.

*In providing for case studies, this paper indirectly deals with the issues of capacity building and development in Africa by analyzing the NEPAD program for African development. Tadesse, in one important argument, explains how women need to be proactive for their own benefit to support gender mainstreaming and support for capacity building programs that affect women. He further argues that NEPAD is one specific in road for women to achieve their own goals. Apart from this, in his conclusion, Tadesse also gives several other means by which women should be empowered such as increasing their role as teachers and working to change the social perceptions of women and their abilities.*

Tambiah, Yasmin. (2003). The Impact of Gender Inequality on Governance. *Essays on Gender and Development*. Human Development Resource Center and United Nations Development Program: 59-95.

*This essay on development is useful for its consideration of not just the women's movement, but women in other social movements. Specifically, Tambiah's section V on women in social movements is excellent for providing analysis as to women's roles in social movements and explaining, like other authors did in the case of Africa, how women's involvement in social movements in Southeast Asia is in large part linked to colonialism and the women's movement; as women have needed to fight for their own rights, so they have become involved in other types of social movements, political, economic, or environmental. Finally, Tambiah's work is important to consider for in it is explained and stressed that civil society does not necessarily mean pro democratic or pro-feminist, civil society may in fact hinder women's efforts.*

Téllez-Rojo, José, Urquieta-Salomón, Ana María Tepichin-Valle and Martha María. (2009, February). Poverty and Gender Perspective in Productive Projects for Rural Women in Mexico: Impact Evaluation of a Pilot Project. *Evaluation Review*, 22(1), 27-53.

*This report evaluates a project in rural Mexico designed to reinterpret and redesign the ways in which income-increasing programs are designed for women by training them and promoting capacity building activities. A complex study, in relation to women and capacity building in civil society movements, the authors conclude that ultimately change will take time and that training women for activities cannot overcome educational gaps and societal roles of women. Also, this paper is important in how it stresses that empowerment is what should be advocated as there is a need to see women as agents of change and not just those affected by policies.*

Thomasson, Ristin. Annika Flensburg (Ed.) The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation. (2006). *To Make Room for Changes: Peace Strategies from Women Organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina*. Johanneshov, Sweden. Thomasson in this report sponsored by an organization dedicated to women in areas affected by war and armed conflict details the case study of women's organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This work while primarily focused on the way women's civil society organizations and groups is crucial because it elaborates on the relationship between civil society development and the international community. To this end, the author stresses that the international community is vital to supporting women's efforts in many regions of the world, however, it has often not done so and may work in ways that ultimately negatively impact both women and their efforts.

Tohidi, Nayereh. (2004). Women, Civil Society, and NGOs in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan. *The International Journal of Not-for-Profit Law*. 7 (1).

*This article, written by an associate professor of women's studies at California State University, on a cursory level provides a case study of women's issues in NGOs and civil society in post-Soviet states. More importantly, however, this article provides analysis that explains the crucial difference between the Women's Movement and civil movements led by women. The unique skill sets of women as compared to men in the third sector, or NGOs and civil society, are also stressed and agree with other conclusions and observations of other referenced authors.*

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs. Sustainable Development: Capacity development. [http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt\\_capabuilintegovedeci.shtml](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_capabuilintegovedeci.shtml)

*This website provides a general context for understanding the key documents and texts relating to how the UN conceives of the role of capacity building and especially its necessity for sustainable development. More specifically, it looks at the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation dedicated to capacity building. This webpage is therefore instrumental in understanding the work of other UN agencies in relation to capacity building and its link to sustainable development.*

United Nations Development Programme. Millennium Development Goals. <http://www.undp.org/mdg/> Information that presents in a most accessible and understandable form the work of the Millennium Declaration in the form of the UN Millennium Development Goals can be found on this website. Understanding these goals is essential for understanding the work of all main UN bodies in the last decade. Lastly, this website is useful for instead of just listing the goals, it provides details including relevant work done by the UNDP that should also be of concern to the Commission on the Status of Women as a partner organization.

United Nations Economic Council for Europe. (2008). *Support Systems for Women Entrepreneurs*. Retrieved from: [http://www.unece.org/oes/gender/capacity\\_build\\_workshops.htm](http://www.unece.org/oes/gender/capacity_build_workshops.htm)



*This booklet produced by the United Nations Economic Council for Europe (UNECE) to highlight its gender activities and provides details about an available conference and illustrates one example of a program that has been developed with the support of UNECE in Israel. It details the goals and ideals of the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center located in Haifa in bringing women and men together to assist women in becoming better prepared for all types of community work. This work is also of note because it explicitly explains as well the relevance of capacity building and women's equality to the UN and more specifically the Millennium Development Goals.*

United States Institute for Peace. (2005). *Capacity Building Workshop for Afghan Women Leaders*. Retrieved from: <http://www.usip.org/in-the-field/capacity-building-workshop-afghan-women-leaders>

*This brief piece highlights an example of how women may be taught capacity building schools to improve civil society organizations and movements. Though it is published by the US Institute for Peace which was established and funded by the United States Congress, the organization is an independent and nonpartisan institute that effectively works to increase capacity building, conflict resolution and development. This article explains how the organizations Women Waging Peace and Women for Afghan Women taught skills during a four day workshop to women who were leaders in the human rights and democracy movements in Afghanistan.*

Wild, Leni. (2006, April). *Strengthening Global Civil Society*. Paper presented at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Study and Conference Centre in Italy. London: Institute for Public Policy Research.  
*Wild's presentation on the role of civil society is useful in the way Wild effectively provides a pragmatic look at civil society movements. While other authors simply advocate the benefits of civil society movements, Wild advocates for questioning their role and not over relying on their effectiveness. In the context of women as well, Wild provides useful examples of women's civil society groups that have also affected movements.*

### **III. Fifteen Year Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

23rd Special Session, U. N. G. A. (2000, June 10). Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. In "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" [Unedited final outcome document as adopted by the plenary of the special session]. Retrieved July 20, 2009, from <http://www.womensciencenet.org/admin/media/588458632726e1f0ddf786f715a19744040234.pdf>  
*Taking into account the importance of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform of Action, this 45-page document details each area and achievements and obstacles that have been made. As with similar sources, this document available online provides general background information prior to delving into the conclusions of the special session. Delegates will easily identify the 12 areas of concern in addition to understanding their advancements and obstacles as June 2000.*

*Charter of the United Nations* [Charter]. (1945, October 24). Retrieved August 4, 2009, from United Nations Web site: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>  
*The UN Charter is the main governing document for the UN and its principal bodies. Delegates will use this source as a tool for further understanding of the UN's duties and goals. In particular, the UN Charter identifies the role of the CSW as it relates to ECOSOC, giving delegates of the Commission a more thorough understanding of its responsibilities and powers.*

Commission on the Status of Women. (2005). *Final Report on the forty-ninth session of the CSW*. Retrieved July 30, 2009, from United Nations, Economic and Social Council Web site: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw49/documents.html>  
*In order to fully comprehend the upcoming 15 year review and appraisal, delegates must study the reports of previous review sessions. This final report comes from the Beijing+10 review and is found on a Web site among other official documents from that session. With this report, delegates have access to all actions and recommendations made by the CSW for their forty-ninth session.*

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). (2008). In *United Nations Handbook 2008/09* (p. 129). Wellington, New Zealand: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.  
*Published by the New Zealand government, this extremely helpful handbook provides delegates with an in-depth look into nearly any aspect of the United Nations. For purposes of this topic, the handbook highlights the*

*Commission on the Status of Women and discusses how the mandate has evolved since its establishment in 1946. The handbook also lists the years Member States have been on the Commission in addition to those Member States currently participating in the Commission.*

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for the Advancement of Women. (2006). *Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action 1996-2005*. New York: United Nations.

*Critical Areas of Concern are imperative to the general understanding of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, making this publication a valuable resource for delegates. This United Nations publication provides access to the agreed conclusions adopted at the annual sessions of the Commission of the Status of Women from its fortieth session in 1996 to its forty-ninth session in 2005. An introduction is included, highlighting the history of the CSW and its ties to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.*

Department of Public Information. (2001). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document*. New York: United Nations.

*The words of former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (1992-1996) begin this publication and focus the reader on "Translating the momentum of Beijing into action". Delegates will find this resources useful for both the quick access to the actual Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the way in which the sections are divided within the book. As a helpful addition, the Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document are included, complete with words from another former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan.*

Division for the Advancement of Women. (n.d.). Beijing and its Follow-Up. In *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. Retrieved July 18, 2009, from United Nations Web site:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/index.html>

*This Web Site, provided through the UN Division for the Advancement of Women, serves as a starting point for delegates as they begin researching the special sessions and resulting documents as they related to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This page begins to explain the connection between the CSW and the world conferences on women, in addition to providing hyperlinks to the various conferences. Most importantly, links to the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing), the Beijing+5, and the Ten-Year Review are easily retrievable for delegates' research needs.*

Division for the Advancement of Women. (n.d.). 1946: Birth of the Commission on the Status of Women. In *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*. Retrieved September 6, 2009, from United Nations website:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/CSW60YRS/CSWbriefhistory.pdf>

*Understanding the role of the CSW as it relates to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is the first step in understanding this 15-year review process. This Web site, provided by the Division for the Advancement of Women, gives an overview of the Commission and its history. In combination with the Committee History, this source provides great background information for the CSW and can be of great use to delegates.*

Division for the Advancement of Women. (2000-2009). *Beijing+5 Process and Beyond*. Retrieved August 9, 2009, from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Web site:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/bfbeyond.htm>

*Also maintained by the Division for the Advancement of Women, this Web Site on the Beijing+5 provides insight into the planning stages of the Beijing+5 review and appraisal in 2000. This assists delegates in understanding the lead-up process to the reviews. In addition, the structure and nature of the review becomes evident.*

Division for the Advancement of Women. (2000-2009). *Commission on the Status of Women [Overview]*.

Retrieved July 30, 2009, from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Web site:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/index.html>

*The Division for the Advancement of Women is an incredible source for information relating to the CSW, and this Web site overviewing the Commission is no exception. When researching, it will be helpful to delegates to see how the Beijing Platform for Action has been incorporated into the mandate of the CSW. This site lays out the details and typically is updated so that information continues to be current. Additionally, links to sessions and other aspects of the CSW are available on this Web site.*



Division for the Advancement of Women. (2000-2009). *Follow-up to Beijing*. Retrieved August 5, 2009, from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Web site:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/critical.htm#beijing>

*Within the text of this Web site, the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) has linked multiple documents relating to the various conferences on women and Beijing five- and ten-year reviews. Like other Web sites by the DAW, there are ample links for delegates to use in their research. In addition to providing links, the site discusses the multi-year program of work, methods of work, and gender mainstreaming.*

Division for the Advancement of Women. (2000-2009). *Global 15-year review process in the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women* [Overview]. Retrieved September 9, 2009, from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs website: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/overview.html>

*Similar to many of the Web sites maintained by the DAW, this also provides delegates with a variety of links to assist in their research. Links to the BPFA, the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the GA, and the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the CSW are all available on this main page. In addition, this source provides insight into the Commission's two issues that will be the focus of the program of work for the period 2010 to 2014.*

Division for the Advancement of Women. (2000-2009). *NGO Participation*. Retrieved August 11, 2009, from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Web site:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/Review/english/ngoparticipation.htm>

*NGO participation information is key when researching this topic. This Web site, maintained by the Division for the Advancement of Women, was actually a source of information for NGO participants during the actual forty-ninth session of the CSW and contains a wealth of information related to their involvement. This page also provides links to other aspects of the forty-ninth session of the CSW which took place in 2005.*

Division for the Advancement of Women. (2000-2009). *Regional 15-year review processes*. Retrieved September 9, 2009, from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs website:

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/regional\\_review.html](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/regional_review.html)

*The regional review process is of great importance to the overall BPFA review and appraisal. This Web site provides insight into the regional review process and even provides delegates with the links to each regional commission's Web site for their respective meetings. As with many other DAW Web sites, this page also provides useful links for delegates to conduct their thorough research into the topic.*

United Nations. (n.d.). *Beijing at ten* [Press release]. Retrieved August 10, 2009, from

<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/Beijing10%20UNPressB10.pdf>

*As provided by the United Nations prior to the Beijing+10 session, this press release will help delegates understand more about this particular session of the CSW in addition to learning which areas were of concern were of most interest. The press release also gives a glimpse into the events that take place during a typical review session. A Web site and contact information are included at the end, and may be of use to delegate research.*

United Nations. (1996). *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*. Retrieved July 30, 2009, from

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/Beijing%20full%20report%20E.pdf>

*This full report, conveniently available on-line through the UN website, contains the full text of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The report also contains a detailed break-down of committee work at the Conference. Although this document is 223 pages, an index in the front helps to guide delegates to parts of the report that will be the most beneficial for research.*

United Nations Association of the United States of America. (2004). Commission on the Status of Women. In *A Guide to Delegate Preparation* (pp. 58-59). New York, NY: Author.

*Not only does this book give delegates relevant information for the CSW and its Topic III, but this Guide to Delegate Preparation overviews other useful information for any Model United Nations delegate. No matter his or her experience, this book is a useful tool, as it gives a general view of many facets of the UN. Included are key documents in the UN along with a glossary of terms and acronyms.*

United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). (n.d.). *Women and the Economy: New Challenges*. Retrieved from

<http://www.un-instraw.org/en/beijing-review/beijin-review/women-and-armed-conflict/view.html>

*This report from INSTRAW gives a specific view of one aspect of the critical areas of concern: women and the economy. Each strategic objective under this particular area of concern is addressed and appraised based on any gains or setbacks experienced by women across the globe. INSTRAW's report provides delegates with an in-depth look into a particular critical area of concern and how its intended goals have or have not been implemented globally.*

United Nations Office at Geneva. (2009, July 28). *ECOSOC Adopts Resolutions and Decisions on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in All Policies and Programmes in the UN System* [Press release]. Retrieved October 3, 2009, from [http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear\\_en\)/9411D69CA8B1F718C125760100477713?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/9411D69CA8B1F718C125760100477713?OpenDocument)

*This press release from July 2009 provides delegates with a source filled with issues likely to be discussed in the upcoming fifty-fourth session of the CSW. In addition, the Web site can act as a starting point for additional research through the United Nations Office at Geneva. The current issues relating to gender are evident in this source and will certainly benefit any delegate wishing to learn of the topics at the forefront of debate.*

Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO). (2005, March). *Beijing Betrayed*. New York, NY: Author. Retrieved August 6, 2009, from <http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/gmr2005.pdf>  
*Beijing Betrayed offers delegates a contrasting view of the progress made by national governments in implementing policy as described in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This book, also conveniently available on-line free of charge, has taken an in-depth look into the lapses of national governments as seen by women within those governments. This book is a great source for delegates wishing to research about regional perspectives and their contrasting viewpoints of Beijing implementation.*

Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO). (2005, March). *Beijing Betrayed—Executive Summary*. New York, NY: Author. Retrieved August 6, 2009, from <http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/beijingbetrayedhtm.html>

*Although the book is over 200 pages long, this executive summary very briefly summarizes key findings and concepts from Beijing Betrayed. Delegates can observe key points from the reading, and can then locate the information in the book that is relevant to their country and topic(s) of interest. The Executive Summary breaks down*

# **Rules of Procedure**

## **Committee for Development Policy**

### **Introduction**

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

### **I. SESSIONS**

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

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

#### **Rule 2 - Place of Sessions**

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

### **II. AGENDA**

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

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to members of the United Nations at least 60 days before the opening of the session.

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

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

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

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

During a session, the Commission may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Permission to speak on a motion to revise the agenda shall be accorded only to three representatives in favor of, and three opposed to, the revision. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Commission so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

*For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item as of “important and urgent character” is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Commission to be placed on the agenda. The votes described in this rule are substantive votes, and as such, observers are not*

*permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, "the members present and voting" means members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.*

**Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum**

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

III. SECRETARIAT

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

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

**Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat**

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

**Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat**

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

**Rule 10 - Selection of the President**

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

**Rule 11 - Replacement of the President**

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

IV. LANGUAGES

**Rule 12 - Official and working language**

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

**Rule 13 - Interpretation**

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

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

**Rule 14 - Quorum**

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

*For purposes of this rule, "members of the Commission" and "members of the body" are based on the number of total members (not including observers) in attendance for the first night's session*

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

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Commission and over the maintenance of order at its meetings.

She or he shall rule on points of order. She or he may propose to the Commission the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

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

#### **Rule 16**

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

#### **Rule 17 - Points of order**

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

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

#### **Rule 18**

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

#### **Rule 19 - Speeches**

1. No one may address the Commission without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Commission, and the President may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him or her to order without delay.

*In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, if the President determines that the Commission in large part does not want to deviate from the limits to the speaker's time as it is then set, and that any additional*

*motions will not be well received by the body, the President, in his or her discretion, and on the advice and consent of the Secretariat, may rule as dilatory any additional motions to change the limits of the speaker's time.*

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

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

*The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and should not be the subject of a motion by the Commission. A motion to close the speaker's list is within the purview of the Commission and the President should not on his own motion move the body.*

**Rule 21 - Right of reply**

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the President may permit a right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal.

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

**Rule 22- Suspension of the meeting**

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

**Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting**

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

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

**Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate**

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

**Rule 25 - Closure of debate**

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

#### **Rule 26 - Order of motions**

Subject to rule 21, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

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

#### **Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments**

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

*For purposes of this rule, "representatives present" is based on the number of total representatives (including observers) in attendance at the first night's session. For purposes of this rule, all "proposals" shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Commission by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of that working paper. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution/report. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution/report and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Commission. These draft resolutions/reports are the collective property of the Commission, and as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form.*

#### **Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions**

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

#### **Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic**

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



*For purposes of this rule, “those present and voting” mean those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.*

## V. VOTING

### **Rule 30 - Voting rights**

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

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

### **Rule 31 - Request for a vote**

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

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

### **Rule 32 - Majority required**

1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting. *All members declaring their representative states as “present and voting” during the attendance roll call for the session during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain.*

### **Rule 33 - Method of voting**

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

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

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

### **Rule 34 - Explanation of vote**

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed. The representatives of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote

thereon, except if it has been amended, and the member has voted against the proposal or motion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Rule 37 - Amendments**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## VII. CREDENTIALS

**Rule 41 - Credentials**

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

**Rule 42**

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

## VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled:

- a) To be represented at meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary organs;
- b) To participate, without the right to vote, through their representatives, in deliberations with respect to items of concern to them and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Commission or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

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

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer

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