



NMUN • NY

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2012

Written By: María Luisa Ortega, Kathy Yoon, Hallen Korn, Angela Shively



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Please consult the FAQ section of 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 2012 Important Dates

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To make hotel reservations, you must use the forms at 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 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm Attendance & Delegate Count. (Count may be changed up to 1 March) • Make Transportation Arrangements - DON'T FORGET! (We recommend confirming hotel accommodations prior to booking flights.)
15 February 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Updates Posted to www.nmun.org
1 March 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Any Changes to Delegate Numbers Must be Confirmed to: outreach@nmun.org • Preferred deadline for submission of Chair / Rapp applications to Committee Chairs • 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. • Two Copies of Each Position Paper Due via E-mail (See Delegate Preparation Guide for instructions).
NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2012	<p>1 - 5 April – Sheraton New York 3 - 7 April - New York Marriott Marquis</p> <p>The 2013 National Model UN Conference 17 - 21 March & 24 - 28 March (both at Sheraton; Sun-Thurs)</p>

POSITION PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 1 MARCH 2012

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.

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for more information

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General Assembly Third Committee.....	ga3rd.sheraton@nmun.org
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Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty	att.sheraton@nmun.org

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Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	apec.marriott@nmun.org
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International Criminal Court	icc.marriott@nmun.org
Peacebuilding Commission.....	pbcs.marriott@nmun.org
Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty	att.sheraton@nmun.org

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Entire Set of Delegation Position Papers	positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org
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Dear Delegates,

We welcome you to the 2012 National Model United Nations (NMUN) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). We look forward to serve as your committee directors, and are confident that you, as delegates, as long with your head delegates and faculty advisors, have been working hard on preparing for the conference, thus we promise to do our best to ensure that it will be a valuable and gratifying experience for all of you.

The Director of the CSW at the Sheraton Venue is María Luisa Ortega. María Luisa is from Quito, Ecuador. She is a post-graduate student on International Relations with a focus on Security and Human Rights, and is currently working as a foreign policy analyst in security issues at the Ecuadorian Intelligence Department. María Luisa is also teaching Sociology at college level. Hallen Korn will be serving as the Assistant Director for the Sheraton Venue. Hallen was born in New York and he is currently studying Political Science, History, and Sustainable Development at Columbia University, and working at the Saltzman Institute for War and Peace Studies at Columbia University. The Marriott venue's Director is Kathy Yoon. She is from Seoul, South Korea and is currently working for Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), which deals with grant-aid and technical cooperation for developing countries. She is in charge of training government's officials on the development of Korea, especially in gender matters. The Marriott venue's Assistant Director is Angela Shively. Angela resides in Houston, Texas, and she is working on a degree in Government and History.

The CSW is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). As we will further detail in this background guide, the CSW represents the primary global policy-making body aiming at promoting gender equality and empowering women worldwide. Its activities and findings are not only of relevance to its forty-five Member States, but have important implications for the international community as a whole. Moreover, the CSW also makes recommendations to the Security Council on pressing issues requiring urgent attention in the field of women's political, economic, civil and social rights.

This year's topics for the CSW's are as follows:

1. Integrating a Female perspective in the Planning and Implementation of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration
2. Improving Women's health as a means to Achieve Gender Equality
3. Women's Economic Empowerment in the Context of the Global Economic and Financial Crisis

With this guide, we will assist you in your preparation by offering an overview of the topics and provide you with a preliminary point for your own research. As delegates, you will find that each topic is relevant to current discussions within the international community, and are therefore encouraged to avoid limiting your research to the sources found within this background guide, as new information is constantly available.

Every delegation is required to submit a position paper prior to attending the conference. Please refer to the message from your Director-General explaining NMUN's position paper requirements and restrictions in this guide. If you have any questions regarding preparation, please feel free to contact any of the CSW staff or the Under-Secretaries-General for the Department of the Economic and Social Council, Kristina Mader and Vera Todorova. We look forward to meeting you in New York and wish you all the best until then.

Sincerely,

Marriott Venue

Kathy Yoon

Director

Angela Shively

Assistant Director

csw.marriott@nmun.org

Sheraton Venue

María Luisa Ortega

Director

Hallen Korn

Assistant Director

csw.sheraton@nmun.org

Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2012 NMUN Conference

At the 2012 NMUN New York Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee to which it is assigned. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee affects 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 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 should establish precise policies and recommendations about the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in entirely original material. *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 it 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 one 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 format required) **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, 2011. 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 or 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, 2012 (GMT-5) 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 D'Amico, Director-General, Sheraton venue, or Nicholas Warino, Director-General, Marriott venue at 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 it 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,

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Nicholas Warino
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**Delegation from
The United Mexican States**

**Represented by
(Name of College)**

Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion; Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions; as well as The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. The Mexican Delegation first would like to convey its gratitude being elected and pride to serve as vice-president of the current General Assembly Plenary session.

I. The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion

The principles of equal sovereignty of states and non-interference, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, have always been cornerstones of Mexican foreign policy. The legitimate right to interfere by the use of coercive measures, such as economic sanctions, is laid down in Article 41 of the UN-charter and reserves the right to the Security Council.

Concerning the violation of this principle by the application of unilateral measures outside the framework of the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador to the United Nations Enrique Berruga Filloy underlined in 2005 that the Mexico strongly rejects “the application of unilateral laws and measures of economic blockade against any State, as well as the implementation of coercive measures without the authorization enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.” That is the reason, why the United Mexican States supported – for the 14th consecutive time – Resolution (A/RES/60/12) of 2006 regarding the *Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*.

In the 1990s, comprehensive economic sanctions found several applications with very mixed results, which made a critical reassessment indispensable. The United Mexican States fully supported and actively participated in the “Stockholm Process” that focused on increasing the effectiveness in the implementation of targeted sanctions. As sanctions and especially economic sanctions, pose a tool for action “between words and war” they must be regarded as a mean of last resort before war and fulfill highest requirements for their legitimate use. The United Mexican States and their partners of the “Group of Friends of the U.N. Reform” have already addressed and formulated recommendations for that take former criticism into account. Regarding the design of economic sanctions it is indispensable for the success to have the constant support by all member states and public opinion, which is to a large degree dependent the humanitarian effects of economic sanctions. Sanctions must be tailor-made, designed to effectively target the government, while sparing to the largest degree possible the civil population. Sanction regimes must be constantly monitored and evaluated to enable the world-community to adjust their actions to the needs of the unforeseeably changing situation. Additionally, the United Mexican States propose to increase communication between the existing sanction committees and thus their effectiveness by convening regular meetings of the chairs of the sanction committees on questions of common interest. An example is the case of negative spill-over effects of economic sanctions on neighboring countries, in which affected countries additionally need to be enabled to voice their problems more effectively, as addressed in the resolution *Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions* (A/RES/54/107). Non-state actors have in the last years tremendously grown in their political importance, especially with regard to the international fight against terrorism. Their position and the possibilities of the application of economic sanction on non-state actors is another topic that urgently needs to be considered.

II. Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions

As a founding member of the United Nations, Mexico is highly engaged in the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights all over the world, as laid down in the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR)* in 1948. Especially since the democratic transition of Mexico in 2000 it is one of the most urgent topics to stand for Democratization and Human Rights, and Mexico implements this vision on many different fronts.

In the Convoking Group of the intergovernmental Community of Democracies (GC), the United Mexican States uphold an approach that fosters international cooperation to promote democratic values and institution-building at the national and international level. To emphasize the strong interrelation between human rights and the building of democracy and to fortify democratic developments are further challenges Mexico deals with in this committee. A key-factor for the sustainable development of a post-conflict-region is to hold free and fair election and thus creating a democratic system. Being aware of the need of post-conflict countries for support in the preparation of democratic elections, the United Mexican States contribute since 2001 to the work of the International Institute for Democracy

and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization operating at international, regional and national level in partnership with a range of institutions. Mexico's foreign policy regarding human rights is substantially based on cooperation with international organizations. The Inter American Commission of Human Rights is one of the bodies, Mexico is participating, working on the promotion of Human Rights in the Americas. Furthermore, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the regional judicial institution for the application and interpretation of the *American Convention of Human Rights*.

The objectives Mexico pursues are to improve human rights in the country through structural changes and to fortify the legal and institutional frame for the protection of human rights on the international level. Underlining the connection between democracy, development and Human Rights, stresses the importance of cooperation with and the role of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the reform of the Human Rights Commission to a Human rights Council.

Having in mind the diversity of challenges in enforcing democracy and Human Rights, Mexico considers regional and national approaches vital for their endorsement, as Mexico exemplifies with its *National Program for Human Rights* or the *Plan Puebla Panama*. On the global level, Mexico is encouraged in working on a greater coordination and interoperability among the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the development of common strategies and operational policies and the sharing of best practices in civilian crisis management should be encouraged, including clear frameworks for joint operations, when applicable.

III. The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa

The United Mexican States welcome the leadership role the African Union has taken regarding the security problems of the continent. Our delegation is furthermore convinced that The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can become the foundation for Africa's economic, social and democratic development as the basis for sustainable peace. Therefore it deserves the full support of the international community.

The development of the United Mexican States in the last two decades is characterized by the transition to a full democracy, the national and regional promotion of human rights and sustainable, economic growth. Mexico's development is characterized by free trade and its regional integration in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Having in mind that sustainable development is based not only on economic, but as well on social and environmental development, President Vicente Fox has made sustainable development a guiding principle in the Mexican Development Plan that includes sustainability targets for all major policy areas.

The United Nations Security Council has established not less than seven peace-keeping missions on the African continent, underlining the need for full support by the international community. In post-conflict situations, we regard national reconciliation as a precondition for a peaceful development, which is the reason why Mexico supported such committees, i.e. in the case of Sierra Leone. The United Mexican States are convinced that an other to enhance durable peace in Africa is the institutional reform of the United Nations. We therefore want to reaffirm our full support to both the establishment of the peace-building commission and the Human Rights Council. Both topics are highly interrelated and, having in mind that the breach of peace is most often linked with severest human rights' abuses, thus need to be seen as two sides of one problem and be approached in this understanding.

As most conflicts have their roots in conflicts about economic resources and development chances, human development and the eradication of poverty must be at the heart of a successful, preventive approach. Lifting people out of poverty must be seen as a precondition not only for peace, but for social development and environmental sustainability.

The United Mexican States want to express their esteem for the decision taken by the G-8 countries for a complete debt-relief for many African Highly-Indebted-Poor-Countries. Nevertheless, many commitments made by the international community that are crucial for Africa's sustainable development are unfulfilled. The developed countries agreed in the *Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development* (A/CONF.198/11) to increase their Official Development Aid (ODA) "towards the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0,15 to 0,20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries". Furthermore, the United Mexican States are disappointed by the result of the Hong Kong Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which once more failed to meet the needs of those, to whom the round was devoted: developing countries and especially African countries, who today, more than ever, are cut off from global trade and prosperity by protectionism.

With regard to the African Peer Review Mechanism, the United Mexican States want to underline that good governance is an integral part of sustainable development. Therefore, we support all efforts by African countries to make the mechanism obligatory to increase transparency and accountability in all African countries.

Committee History

“... We call on the Governments of the world to encourage women everywhere to take a more active part in national and international affairs, and on women who are conscious of their opportunities to come forward and share in the work of peace and reconstruction as they did in war and resistance.” – Eleanor Roosevelt to the United Nations General Assembly, 1946¹

Introduction

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) deals with women’s rights, women’s issues, gender equality, and gender mainstreaming within the context of human rights. Gender mainstreaming is a specific term that covers a broad spectrum in the mission to eradicate gender inequality. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) stated in 1997 that “[Mainstreaming] is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.”²

The CSW is committed to ensuring gender equality in many areas, but specifically regarding peace and security, access to healthcare, economic empowerment, education, leadership, political participation and more. The Commission addresses inequality, disadvantages to women on local, regional, and global levels, and presents innovative solutions for numerous generalized and specific issues to the global community.

Initially represented by 15 Member States, the CSW today is composed of 45 Member States that are elected “on the basis of equitable geographical 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.”³ Each representative is elected to serve on the Commission for four years.

Establishment

The United Nations (UN) established its determination to resolve issues of gender inequality as seen in the preamble to the Charter of the UN, which states that the UN has “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...”⁴ On June 21, 1946, with the passing of Resolution 11 (II), the CSW became a fully functioning sub-commission under the Economic and Social Council.⁵ The resolution states the purpose of establishing the CSW as “[preparing] recommendations and reports to the Economic and Social Council on promoting women’s rights in political, economic, social, and educational fields. The Commission shall also make recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women’s rights.”⁶ The mandate for the CSW has been updated and expanded after sixty-five years of dedicated work and numerous achievements since the Commission’s establishment. The CSW mandate was expanded through ECOSOC Resolutions (E/1987/22) and “Follow Up to the Fourth World Conference” (E/1996/6) and currently states that the CSW:

“Assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at all levels, and should advise the Council thereon; Continue to ensure support for mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities and develop further its catalytic role in that regard in other areas; Identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needed to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination function; Identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that required consideration and make substantive recommendations thereon; Maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Platform for Action.”⁷

¹ United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History on the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006, p.1.

² United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Gender Mainstreaming: Extract from Report of the Economic and Social Council*, 1997, p.2.

³ United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, *Membership and Composition*, 2011.

⁴ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice*, 2008, p.3.

⁵ United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History on the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006, p.2.

⁶ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Resolution 11(II)*, 1946, p.525-526.

⁷ United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, *Mandate*, 2011.

Achievements

The 65 years of dedication to women's rights and gender equality has led to an impressive list of achievements. The Commission's founding members set a standard in the language used regarding gender mainstreaming and gender equality in terms of legal documentation and delicate or "gender-sensitive" vocabulary and phrases.⁸ An example of this achievement is the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which addresses the "human family" and the rights of each individual.⁹ The Commission promptly began addressing women's political inequality in the early years of its work. Half of the United Nations' original Member States did not allow women equal voting rights, nor did they allow women the rights to run in elections or hold public office in 1946.¹⁰ *The Convention on the Political Rights of Women* was debated but was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1952.¹¹ *The Convention* states that women are entitled to actively participate in the political atmosphere of their local and national governments, which includes but is not limited to voting, participating in elections, and hold public office just as men in their countries do.¹²

In 1963, the General Assembly (GA) requested the CSW to draft a declaration that would compose the numerous achievements in women's rights and equality into one work. This included triumphs for women in respect to politics, education, social issues and more. This declaration became *the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*.¹³ CEDAW is known as "[defining] what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination."¹⁴ CEDAW was officially adopted by the General Assembly in 1979.¹⁵ Another highly notable document that was adopted by the GA regarding women's rights is the *Declaration for the Elimination of Violence against Women*.¹⁶ The inspiration for this Declaration came from CEDAW and the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights* among others.

CSW held four World Conferences where members of the global community came together to form cohesive plans in solving ongoing conflicts in women's rights, gender mainstreaming, gender equality and the many specific topics such as women's roles in economics, social status, health, education, cultural roles and political rights. The First World Conference on Women (1975) took place in Mexico City, Mexico.¹⁷ Among the outcomes of this world conference (which was held during what the United Nations dubbed "International Women's Year") was the establishment of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), "which serve as an institutional framework for research, training and operational activities in the area of women and development."¹⁸ The Second World Conference on Women (1980) was held in Copenhagen, which determined that there is an ongoing universal struggle between declaring women's rights and their ability to embrace those said rights.¹⁹ The conference also determined the need for greater emphasis on healthcare and access to healthcare, education and training, and access to employment opportunities.²⁰ The Third World Conference on Women (1985) was held in Nairobi, Kenya.²¹ At this conference, the Member States recognized a desire for greater success in the ongoing endeavors in women's issues. The objectives of the decade were equality, development, and peace.²² The participants defined new goals and were

⁸ United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History on the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006, p.4.

⁹ United Nations Department of Public Information, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 2007.

¹⁰ United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History on the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006, p.5.

¹¹ United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History on the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006, p.5.

¹² United Nations Treaty Collection, *Convention on the Political Rights of Women*, 1953.

¹³ United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, 2009.

¹⁴ United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, 2009.

¹⁵ United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, *Short History on the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006, p.7-8.

¹⁶ United Nations General Assembly, Resolution (A/RES/48/104), 1993.

¹⁷ UNWomen, *Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year*, 1975.

¹⁸ United Nations, *Outcomes on Gender and Equality*, 2011.

¹⁹ UNWomen, *Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace*, 1980.

²⁰ United Nations, *Outcomes on Gender and Equality*, 2011.

²¹ UNWomen, *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development, and Peace*, 1985.

²² United Nations, *Outcomes on Gender and Equality*, 2011.

determined to calculate the advancement regarding each goal. These particular issues are “constitutional and legal measures, equality in social participation, and equality in political participation and decision-making.”²³

The Fourth World Conference on Women was held in September 4 through 15, 1995, in Beijing.²⁴ The *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA)* came out of the Fourth World Conference and became a mission to address all of the topics on women’s issues from the past and future works in the field of gender equality. The CSW continues to measure its works under this document, which specifically lists areas of critical concern for women’s issues, strategies to overcome those issues, and ways to finance resolutions to women’s issues.²⁵ The most recent review and appraisal of *BDPfA*, the Fifteen-Year Review and Appraisal, was held in March 2010 during the 54th Session of the CSW and the 23rd special session of the General Assembly.²⁶ During this session, attention was paid to regional accomplishments and concerns, the organizations that contribute to maintaining and propelling efforts in women’s issues, and an emphasis on reaching the Millennium Development Goals.²⁷ Since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the global community has measured its progress in gender issues according to the *BDPfA* and it continues to create innovative ways to conquer gender inequalities and empower women.

Current Actions

The CSW persists in analyzing and finding solutions for specific issues such as; economic struggles, social inequalities, education and training needs, conquering political obstacles, lack of healthcare, violence against women, and striving to reach the goals outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).²⁸ The CSW is also dedicated to its working relationship with UNWomen (a newer United Nations entity) and with UNWomen strives for the advancement of women and resolving issues against women’s rights.²⁹ At the 55th Session for the CSW in March 2011, the central themes of the session were gender, education, science and technology, and employment.³⁰ The Commission’s upcoming 56th Session in 2012 will be centered on rural women, empowerment, poverty reduction, and rural development. The CSW has recently been submersed in the mission to improve healthcare and access to healthcare, women’s roles, and necessity of recovery from conflict and post-conflict situations, and economic empowerment, education, and training.

Annotated Bibliography

Committee History

United Nations. *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. (1995). Retrieved August 14, 2011 from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA) became the main outline by which gender mainstreaming and resolving women’s issues are measured by. The BDPfA was created during the Fourth World Conference on Women. This document lists several specific gender issues, emphasizes women’s rights and equality under the umbrella of human rights, and provides actions and motives of implementation of programs. The Platform for Action also addresses financing for innovative programs and ways to accomplish its goals on local, regional, national, and international levels.

²³ United Nations, Outcomes on Gender and Equality, 2011.

²⁴ United Nations, *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1*. 1995.

²⁵ United Nations, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

²⁶ United Nations, *Fifteen Year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly*, 2010.

²⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and its contribution to shaping a gender perspective in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals*, 2010.

²⁸ United Nations Millennium Development Goals, 2002.

²⁹ United Nations, UNWomen, 2011.

³⁰ United Nations, *Commission on the Status of Women Fifty-fifth Session*, 2011.

United Nations. 2008. *Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice*. New York, New York/ United States of America: United Nations Department of Public Information.

The Charter of the United Nations is the founding document upon which the United Nations was created. The Charter, with the Statute of the International Court of Justice, is the legally binding document by which the organization continues to function within the guidelines that were set forth. By reading The Charter, one can understand the structure of the UN and its functions and processes. The Charter, along with the Statute of the International court of Justice is also available at <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (2011). *Short History on the Commission on the Status of Women* (2006). Retrieved August 8, 2011 from

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

This document, located on the web site for the Commission on the Status of Women via external link, gives a brief overview of the establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women. It provides a more thorough description of original priorities of the Committee and highlights some of the Committee's works through the 1970s, the people involved in the creation of CSW, and the momentum that CSW continues to maintain in addressing women's issues.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (July 13, 1946). *Resolution 11(II) (1946)*. Retrieved August 8, 2011 from http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/pdf/CSW_founding_resolution_1946.pdf

This resolution is the founding resolution with which the Commission on the Status of Women became a fully functioning committee under the Economic and Social Council Department instead of a sub-commission to the Commission on Human Rights. The resolution also contains the purpose, duties, and interests of the committee and This resolution also includes the original mandate for the Commission.

United Nations. *UNWomen*. (2011). Retrieved on August 19, 2011 from <http://www.unwomen.org/>

The UNWomen Web site is the most convenient way to obtain the most accurate and up to date information on women's issues. UNWomen was created to be the main entity to manage and combine the works of the Commission on the Status of Women, Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI). Documents and articles surrounding women's empowerment, education, economics, peace, leadership and more may be accessed here.

I. Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Planning and Implementation of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Processes

“Successful and inclusive DDR offers a rare opportunity to transform a war-torn community where combatants can become citizens and civilians can begin to rebuild shattered lives under the protection of the rule of law. To leave women and girls behind in such a crucial moment is not only to violate their right to participate but also to undermine the very objectives of DDR, namely sustainable and equitable development.”³¹

³¹ Heyzer, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 1

Introduction

In today's world, with some form of conflict present in almost every region, there is a growing recognition that women and security issues are inextricably intertwined.³² Women can be active participants in the perpetration of conflict; however, far more often, they are among those who suffer the greatest harm resulting from it.³³ In fact, during violent conflicts, beyond 70% of the casualties are civilians – principally women and children.³⁴ Thus, it is important to recognize three very distinct roles that women can play as actors related to disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) processes: active participants (combatants); associated with fighting forces (non-combatants); and internally displaced persons (IDPs) or refugees.

As active participants and associated with fighting forces, women face specific and devastating forms of violence related to gender, including acts of sexual and gender-based violence, such as rape and sexual slavery, both of which increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.³⁵ As non-combatants, and especially within fragile societies currently experiencing or emerging from conflict, women not only struggle to keep their families together and care for the wounded, but they are also the first ones to be affected by infrastructure collapse and thus forced into survival strategies that, in most of the cases, encompass some form of exploitation.³⁶ Finally, as IDPs and refugees, women are often forcibly displaced and live for prolonged periods of time in refugee camps where they are subjected to different forms of sexual violence; and further, due to the absence of men, who are often engaged directly in fighting, women assume non-traditional responsibilities, and see their domestic tasks intensified in their efforts to secure shelter, food, and security for their children and family.³⁷

It is clear that armed conflicts not only affect women in distinct ways, but also differently than men.³⁸ The latter must be recognized in order to contribute to a complete gender perspective in disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs that would in turn respond to the actual, rather than the assumed, needs of all of those involved: men, women, and children.³⁹

Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration

Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration is a process that contributes to stability, peace, and security in a post-conflict recovery scenario by removing weapons from the combatants' hands, taking them out of military structures and helping ex-combatants to integrate socially and economically into society.⁴⁰ Moreover, DDR activities play an important role in peacekeeping and the post-conflict reconstruction process, often dealing with security problems that develop after the cessation of hostilities, especially when ex-combatants are left without livelihoods or support networks; they are given primacy at the cease of hostilities with the main objective of assisting former combatants settle into peacetime occupations.⁴¹

Disarmament refers to “the collection, documentation, control, and disposal of small arms, ammunition, explosives and light and heavy weapons of combatants and often also of the civilian population. Disarmament also includes the development of responsible arms management programs.”⁴² Demobilization, on the other hand, is “the formal and controlled discharge of active combatants from armed forces or other armed groups. The first stage of demobilization may extend from the processing of individual combatants in temporary centers to the massing of troops in camps

³² UN Women, *Briefing Sheet – Women's Essential Role in Peacebuilding*, 2005, p. 1.

³³ UN Women, *Briefing Sheet – Women's Essential Role in Peacebuilding*, 2005, p. 1.

³⁴ UN Women, *Briefing Sheet – Women's Essential Role in Peacebuilding*, 2005, p. 1.

³⁵ UN Women, *Briefing Sheet – Women's Essential Role in Peacebuilding*, 2005, p. 1.

³⁶ UN Women, *Briefing Sheet – Women's Essential Role in Peacebuilding*, 2005, p. 1.

³⁷ UN DDA, *Gender Perspective on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*, 2001, p. 1.

³⁸ UN DDA, *Gender Perspective on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*, 2001, p. 1.

³⁹ UN DDA, *Gender Perspective on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*, 2001, p. 1.

⁴⁰ UN DDRC, *Introduction to IDDRS: Glossary and Terms*, 2001.

⁴¹ Peacebuilding Initiative, *Disarmament, Demobilization, Reinsertion, & Reintegration: DDR & Peacebuilding Processes*, 2008.

UN Women, *Disarmament, Demobilization & Reintegration*, p. 1.

⁴² Annan, *Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the UN peacekeeping operations (A/C.5/59/31)*, 2005, p. 1.

designated for this purpose (cantonment sites, encampments, assembly areas or barracks).⁴³ The second stage of demobilization includes the support package offered to the demobilized, which is called reinsertion.⁴⁴

Conversely, reintegration refers to the procedure by which ex-combatants acquire civilian status and attain sustainable employment and income. Reintegration is fundamentally an economic and social process with an open time frame, mostly occurring at the local level.⁴⁵

Finally, reinsertion is defined as the assistance provided to ex-combatants during demobilization but previous to reintegration stages. Reinsertion is a form of transitional assistance targeted to cover the basic needs of ex-combatants and their families and may include provisional safety stipends, food, shelter, clothes, medical services, short-term education, employment, training, and tools. While reintegration is a long-term, constant, and uninterrupted social and economic process of development, reinsertion is a short-term material and financial support to meet immediate necessities, and can last up to one year.⁴⁶

Defining Main Actors: Combatant, Non-Combatant, and Displaced Population

DDR programs often perceive “the combatant” as an armed man with or without dependents failing to acknowledge that armed groups are comprised of men, women, and children in both forced and voluntary capacities.⁴⁷ In general terms, a “non-combatant” is a civilian that is not engaged in armed conflict or does not take any part in hostilities.⁴⁸ However, when particularly talking about DDR, the term includes women – daughters, sisters, mothers, partners, and wives of combatants – who can represent direct targets or collateral victims of physical, psychological, and sexual violence.⁴⁹

According to the *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugee* (1951), the term refugee “shall apply to any person who as a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951 and owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”⁵⁰ The *United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* define internally displaced persons as a person or group or persons who have been forced to flee from their homes, particularly, as a result of or in order to avoid the outcomes of circumstances of generalized violence, natural or human-made disasters or violations of human rights, armed conflicts, “and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.”⁵¹

Relevant International Frameworks and Responses, and UN Bodies

Acknowledging the necessity and importance of incorporating a gendered perspective into DDR programs, in October 2000, the UN Security Council recognized the strong link between women, peace, and security, adopting Security Council *Resolution 1325* (2000) on “Women and peace and security.”⁵² *Resolution 1325* represents one of the most significant international directives dealing with the full and equal participation of women in all peace and security enterprises and the mainstreaming of gender matters in armed conflict, peacebuilding, and reconstruction initiatives.⁵³ The resolution recognizes the different roles of women and girls as vital agents in armed conflicts, and particularly heartens all those involved in the planning and execution of DDR processes to contemplate the different necessities of female and male ex-combatants and to consider the needs of their dependents.⁵⁴ Moreover, the resolution recognizes that regardless of whether they are citizens, educators, combatants, widows, soldiers’ wives, or

⁴³ UN DDRC, *What is DDR?*, 2009.

⁴⁴ UN DDRC, *What is DDR?*, 2009.

⁴⁵ Annan, *Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the UN peacekeeping operations (A/C.5/59/31)*, 2005, p. 1.

⁴⁶ Annan, *Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the UN peacekeeping operations (A/C.5/59/31)*, 2005, p. 1.

⁴⁷ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 4.

⁴⁸ International Committee of the Red Cross, *Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions*, 1977.

⁴⁹ IACHR, *Violence and Discrimination against Women in the Armed Conflict in Colombia*, p. 1.

⁵⁰ United Nations Refugee Agency, *Convention Relating the Status of Refugee*, 1951, p. 14.

⁵¹ OCHA, *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, 2004, p. 1.

⁵² Butler, *Women, Peace, and Security Handbook: Compilation and Analysis of UNSC Council Resolution Language*, 2010, p. 43.

⁵³ UN-INSTRAW, *Summary Report: Virtual Discussion on Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2010.

⁵⁴ UN-INSTRAW, *Summary Report: Virtual Discussion on Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2010. United Nations Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1325)*, 2000.

agents of change, women are an essential asset to the attainment of sustainable peace and the successful planning and implementation of DDR process, and must be afforded their right to participate fully.⁵⁵ In this vein, the Security Council has adopted several other important resolutions in the last 10 years, including *Resolution 1674* (2006) on “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” and *Resolutions 1820* (2008), *1888* (2009), *1889* (2009), and *1960* (2010) on “Women, peace and security.”⁵⁶

Key international conventions related to gender and DDR include the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) (1979) and the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (A/CON.177/20 and A/CONF.177/20/Add.1) (1995). Moreover, a significant number of reports, plans, and documents have been adopted within the UN framework to provide guidance on the issue, including the *Secretary-General Note to the General Assembly on the Administrative and Budgetary Aspects of the Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations* (A/C.5/59/31) and the *Women Building Peace Through Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration: Beijing + 10 Review event outcome document*.⁵⁷

There are several UN system actors who are engaged on this issue as well. The UN Security Council – as mentioned previously – the General Assembly Plenary (GA), the General Assembly First Committee, and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) are some of the main UN bodies that have dealt with gender and DDR in previous occasions and have taken action accordingly. The GA, for example, has encouraged the discussion of gender mainstreaming, as well as through its adoption of the outcome document from the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly on *Follow-up to the Platform of Action (A/S-23/10/Rev.1)* (2000) which specifically highlights the importance of integrating a gender perspective in post-conflict reconstruction, dealing directly with the root causes of conflict in a comprehensive and encompassing manner, as well as, addressing the differences in the impact of armed conflict on women and men.⁵⁸ In the last decade, the CSW, which is supported substantively by UN Women, has discussed this issue at three previous sessions, including most recently in 2010 under the agenda item “15-year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly (2000).”⁵⁹

Finally, UN system entities, such as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and its predecessor entities, have examined this issue carefully in numerous occasions. UN Women, which was created by the UN General Assembly in 2010 and merged the work of the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and INSTRAW, has women, peace and security as one of its main focus areas of research and activities.⁶⁰ Within this area, UN Women has recognized that while women remain a minority of combatants and perpetrators of war, they increasingly suffer the greatest harm from it as they are especially prone to face different forms of sexual violence and to be forced to turn to sexual exploitation in order to survive and support their families.⁶¹ Additionally, UN Women has highlighted the fact that women are also the first to be disturbed by infrastructure collapse, as they struggle to preserve families and repair for the wounded.⁶²

Challenges to Integrating a Gender Perspective into DDR Programs

Recent studies focused on gender in DDR programs have underlined the fact that women in conflict and post-conflict situations are frequently “invisible” and their rights and concerns are constantly overlooked.⁶³ For instance, women and girls often related to fighting forces are not always officially married to male combatants, traditionally don’t own a weapon, or fit the profile of an armed combatant who is stereotypically male and over 18, thus making it difficult to identify and integrate them into DDR processes and further benefit from them.⁶⁴ In this spirit, although many efforts have been taken by the UN along with many other policy makers and practitioners, the need to integrate gender perspectives to improve the degree of social change and transformation essential to demilitarize a violent war-torn

⁵⁵ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 2.

⁵⁶ UN-INSTRAW, *International and Regional Laws and Instruments related to Security Sector Reform and Gender*, 2011.

⁵⁷ UNIFEM, *Women Building Peace Through DDR – Beijing + 10 Review Conference*, 2005, p. 1.

⁵⁸ UN DDA, *Gender Perspective on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*, 2001, p. 3.

⁵⁹ UN Women, *Commission on the Status of Women 55th Session*, 2010, p. 1.

⁶⁰ UN Women, *About UN Women*, 2011, p. 1.

⁶¹ UN Women, *Women, War and Peace*, 2011, p. 1.

⁶² UN Women, *Women, War and Peace*, 2011, p. 1.

⁶³ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 2.

⁶⁴ UNIFEM, *Gender-aware Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): A check list*, 2008, p. 4.

society has not materialized yet.⁶⁵ In fact, ongoing DDR processes continue to undermine gender perspectives thus destabilizing both peace and sustainability.⁶⁶

For instance, demobilization activities often are not suited to recognize and enhance existing skills developed by women combatants during intra or interstate conflicts.⁶⁷ In Zimbabwe, for example, even though women in the armed forces were given considerable informal training as nurses, during demobilization phases they were often unable to qualify for the civilian nursing profession because of their lack of formal training.⁶⁸ It must be acknowledged that albeit the primary aim of demobilization efforts is to remove combatants from their fighting roles, it is also imperative to address how the civilian community will receive returning soldiers.⁶⁹ In many cases, civilian communities can resent returning ex-combatants – be they male or female – as they might see DDR processes as “rewarding the perpetrators of atrocities.”⁷⁰

In the case of reintegration activities, they often fail to meet women’s needs as recipients of assistance or agents in the receiving society.⁷¹ During reintegration stages, poorly designed cantonment sites impair the appropriate procedure of DDR frequently failing to address the necessities of women and girls, whether as ex-fighters or dependents.⁷² Women fighters regularly do not feel safe enough to participate in DDR activities partially since cantonment sites do not provide them with security, nor do they offer fundamental health or day-care services.⁷³ The geography of cantonment sites should be re-conceived to address the security and humanitarian needs of women and girls, and to accommodate the ages and sexes of ex-fighters.⁷⁴ Likewise, reintegration stages need to account for discrimination against women in employment and education.⁷⁵ Special attention must be directed to the reintegration of women who have refused to be part of the traditionally patriarchal structure of their societies, or who are isolated because they have been rejected by their families and/or their communities.⁷⁶

Proper water distribution, secure food, and adequate provision of health, including reproductive health services, are also indispensable.⁷⁷ Furthermore, reintegration programs more often focus merely on economic reintegration while combatants and their families require other types of support, including socio-cultural appropriate psychological trauma therapy, and counseling in order to reintegrate to society.⁷⁸ This is particularly important from a gender equality perspective as there are often high rates of domestic violence and rape related with returned combatants, and different levels of post-traumatic stress symptoms for female and male ex-combatants.⁷⁹ Moreover, the sexual violence and gender-based views that women and girls suffer during situations of armed conflict often continue in post-conflict transition periods and in some cases the incidence of domestic violence even increases.⁸⁰ On the other hand, it is also important to take into account the internal population displacement resulting of armed conflicts as an important element of reintegration stages. In fact, in many conflicts, women constitute the overwhelming majority of the displaced population. On average, 65% of the IDPs are women, many of them suffering traumatic experiences including bombings and the loss of their belongings.⁸¹ In this regard, successful DDR initiatives should be flexible, adapt intermediations to the specific needs of different target groups; balance ex-combatants' necessities with those of the entire community, and overall aim to acknowledge that not all ex-combatants have the same needs.⁸²

Long-term Transformation Programs

⁶⁵ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 9.

⁶⁶ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 2.

⁶⁷ UN DDA, *Gender Perspective on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*, 2001, p. 2.

⁶⁸ UN DDA, *Gender Perspective on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*, 2001, p. 2.

⁶⁹ UNIFEM, *Gender-aware Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): A check list*, 2008, p. 6.

⁷⁰ UNIFEM, *Gender-aware Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): A check list*, 2008.

⁷¹ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 8.

⁷² UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 7.

⁷³ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 7.

⁷⁴ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 7.

⁷⁵ Fusato, *Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants*, 2003.

⁷⁶ Fusato, *Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants*, 2003.

⁷⁷ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 7.

⁷⁸ UN DDA, *Gender Perspective on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*, 2001, p. 2.

⁷⁹ UN DDA, *Gender Perspective on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*, 2001, p. 2.

⁸⁰ UN DDAI, *Gender Perspective on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*, 2001, p. 1.

⁸¹ The Georgian Association of Women in Business, *Empowering Displaced Women in Post-Conflict Areas*.

⁸² Fusato, *Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants*, 2003.

In post-conflict societies, prevention of further conflict depends heavily on the willingness and readiness of armed groups to put down their arms, disband fighting structures, and return to civilian life.⁸³ When leaders refuse to take steps to disarm and demobilize, peace becomes challenging.⁸⁴ Thus, DDR programs should work as important mechanisms marking the beginning of long-term transformation processes demilitarizing societies.⁸⁵ Focusing efforts on disarming combatants regardless of their gender, while considering the fact that women can play vital roles in maintaining and enabling armed groups, and demilitarizing economies represent essential elements of DDR as transformation programs that yield best practices.⁸⁶ Gender sensitive DDR initiatives are especially important as providers of an opportunity for armed groups, political parties, men, and women to reestablish, reconstruct their identities and foster their relationships⁸⁷.

Acknowledging that each conflict is unique, DDR programs are designed slightly different each time.⁸⁸ While DDR planners should universally be assisted in designing and implementing gender-sensitive short-term goals, and in incorporating future-oriented long-term transformation peace support instruments in every DDR program; each DDR initiative should, at the same time, respond separately to every country's particularities – for instance, the causes of conflict and the content of peace agreements.⁸⁹ Such approach should stress on practical ways in which women – including women combatants, war widows, soldiers' wives, and other civilian women affected by conflict – can be integrated in disarmament and demobilization stages, and be recognized in the vital roles they play during reintegration phases.⁹⁰ If these activities are actually accomplished, women would start feeling safe and welcomed in DDR processes and they would be more prone to “self-demobilize” and to speak to support workers, especially, for example, when intimate healthcare issues must be addressed.⁹¹

Women and Post-Conflict Reconstruction Societies

Women bear a substantial and important burden in conflict and post-conflict communities, both as a result of experiencing sexual and gender-based violence and as actors taking part in the difficult task of reconstructing disintegrated post-conflict societies.⁹² The international community, including the UN and other state and non-state actors, have recognized the important roles that women play as “agents of change” rebuilding communities affected by conflict, and have acknowledge the increasing link between post-war reconstruction and the reconfiguration of gender roles and positions in the wake of war.⁹³ Fostering women's participation in post-conflict societies can provide a window of opportunity to take advantage of the different skills of women in peacemaking, promote gender equality, and improve women's position in conflict-affected scenarios.⁹⁴

In this regard, effective disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of female and ex-combatants encompass a key component in post-conflict and successful recovery of war-torn societies, contributing towards realizing sustainable peacebuilding and preventing conflict resurgence.⁹⁵ Moreover, the emerging political, economic, and social environment should be conducive to women's empowerment in post-conflict reconstruction by encouraging women's essential role in peacebuilding initiatives.⁹⁶ In fact, peacebuilding has become a high priority within the international community coming progressively to the forefront in the commitment and enrollment of the UN, and other international actors in peace and reconciliation processes.⁹⁷ The UN has recognized in numerous occasions the

⁸³ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 2.

⁸⁴ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 2.

⁸⁵ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 2.

⁸⁶ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 3.

⁸⁷ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 2.

⁸⁸ UNIFEM, *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*, 2004, p. 3.

⁸⁹ UNIFEM, *Gender-aware Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): A check list*, 2008, p. 6.

Escola de Cultura de Pau, *DDR 2009 Analysis of the World's DDR Programs in 2008, 2009*, p. 8.

⁹⁰ UNIFEM, *Gender-aware Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): A check list*, 2008, p. 2.

⁹¹ UNIFEM, *Gender-aware Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): A check list*, 2008, p. 4.

⁹² Suthanthiraraj, *Promoting Women's Participation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies*, 2010, p. 3.

⁹³ Sørensen, *Women and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Issues and Sources*, 1998, p. 1.

Suthanthiraraj, *Promoting Women's Participation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies*, 2010, p. 3.

⁹⁴ Suthanthiraraj, *Promoting Women's Participation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies*, 2010, p. 3.

⁹⁵ Sørensen, *Women and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Issues and Sources*, 1998, p. 15.

⁹⁶ Sørensen, *Women and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Issues and Sources*, 1998, p. 18.

⁹⁷ Suthanthiraraj, *Promoting Women's Participation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies*, 2010, p. 14.

importance of women's participation in all stages of post-conflict development with the Secretary-General stating that bringing women to the peace table advances the quality of agreements and upsurges its effective implementation.⁹⁸ Within peacebuilding efforts, DDR initiatives have also become key security components of post-war rehabilitation.⁹⁹ In fact, all peacebuilding processes have a particular purpose from the signing of agreements to peace accords to disarm the combatants, demilitarize their military, and reintegrate them into civilian life.¹⁰⁰

Conclusion

Despite taking on a myriad of roles in conflict – ranging from combatants to displaced persons – women have mostly remained on the periphery of DDR processes. In the last few years, recognition has increased that the latter not only breaches the rights of women to participate in decisions that affect their lives, but that for achieving a sustainable peace, women must undertake an equal role in shaping and displaying it. The latter would in turn signal a shift in understanding the importance of incorporating a gendered nature to conflict and post-conflict scenarios.¹⁰¹ Therefore, it is clear that women's perspectives and experiences in conflict are essential for achieving stability, peace, and inclusive governance.¹⁰²

The attainment of sustainable peace and development within torn war societies represents a very complex process that must essentially involve all members of the community.¹⁰³ DDR activities that merely focus on one segment of society (e.g. former male combatants) without taking into consideration how such group interacts with women and children has had limited effects so far.¹⁰⁴ Integrating a gender perspective into DDR processes entails not only empowering and advancing women rights worldwide but understanding how societies can rebuild themselves in such a way that increases the possibilities for lasting and sustainable peace.¹⁰⁵ When researching this topic, delegates should attempt to address CSW's role in successfully implementing DDR strategies within conflict torn communities and further recognizing the importance of women's different roles in conflict and post-conflict scenarios. Are there actual international or regional mechanisms in place to significantly involve and represent women in DDR planning and implementation, especially when these efforts take place as part of peace negotiation processes?¹⁰⁶ What initiatives can be undertaken by the Commission in order to get men involved as agents for change supporting and acknowledging women's roles in DDR?

Annotated Bibliography

I. Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Planning and Implementation of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Processes

Annan, K. (2005). *Note by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the Administrative and Budgetary Aspects of the Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, A/C.5/59/31*. Retrieved September 23, 2011, from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A%2FC.5%2F59%2F31&Submit=Search&Lang=E

This note outlines the working definitions utilized by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in the preparation of peacekeeping mission budgets that include a DDR component previously allocated by the Security Council. The definitions comprise the following terms: disarmament, demobilization, reintegration, and reinsertion. Such definitions are being used in the United Nations inter-agency working group on DDR in an effort to standardize them throughout the United Nations system in the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS). The note provides delegates with a useful first entry for accomplishing a far-

⁹⁸ Suthanthiraraj, *Promoting Women's Participation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies*, 2010, p. 14.

⁹⁹ Escola de Cultura de Pau, *DDR 2009 Analysis of the World's DDR Programs in 2008, 2009*, p. 8.

¹⁰⁰ Conflict Study Center, *Global Practices of DDR-SSR: Military Services SSR in Nepal*, 2009, p. 3.

¹⁰¹ UN Women, *Briefing Sheet – Women's Essential Role in Peacebuilding*, 2005, p. 1.

¹⁰² UN Women, *Briefing Sheet – Women's Essential Role in Peacebuilding*, 2005, p. 1.

¹⁰³ UN DDA, *Gender Perspective on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*, 2001, p. 1.

¹⁰⁴ UN DDA, *Gender Perspective on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*, 2001, p. 1.

¹⁰⁵ UN DDA, *Gender Perspective on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)*, 2001, p. 1.

¹⁰⁶ UNIFEM, *Gender-aware Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): A check list*, 2008.

reaching understanding on how the UN currently approaches DDR and which are the exact definitions that the different UN entities, agencies and programs utilize to address the issue nowadays.

Butler, M., K. Mader, and R. Kean. (2010). *Women, Peace, and Security Handbook: Compilation and Analysis of United Nations Security Council Resolution Language*. Retrieved July 8, 2011, from http://www.peacewomen.org/security_council_monitor/handbook/introduction

This handbook is the result of the Peace Women's Security Council Monitor: Resolution Watch initiative, a project aimed to track the implementation of Resolution 1325 (2000) within the Council. The document is of particular importance because it provides delegates with significant data from 2000 to 2010 showing that the SC has progressively integrated language on women and gender into country-specific resolutions over the past decade. The document includes many chapters addressing different issues like: peacekeeping; conflict prevention; sexual and gender-based violence; reconstruction and peacebuilding; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR); and others. Finally, the handbook is a helpful source for delegates since it is aimed to provide an exhaustive analysis of the progress, or lack thereof, made in the Council's internalization of women, peace, and security visions and insights.

Conflict Study Center. (2009). *Global Practices of DDR-SSR: Military Services SSR in Nepal*. Retrieved October 6, 2011, from http://api.ning.com/files/6AmRhGOfQbJmFoLLJOMnbph68OTNBZPFyCbdb7k9fKLAcAdhr10Py77cjiHSWbP7BJ81Y88IXizPCYSCaJYVp0yijxCFZnG*/SituationUpdate87GlobalPracticesforSSR.pdf

The article discusses relevant information regarding the link between the Security Sector Reform (SSR) and DDR. It presents the SSR as an ongoing process relevant to all Member States, including politically and economically stable developed, and developing states, as well as, fragile and post-conflict countries. Further on, the article outlines the situation of Nepal and debates how there is an urgent to undergone deep structural SSR shift in that specific country. Later, the document discusses peacebuilding initiatives and the role of DDR activities within SSR and peacebuilding efforts, and includes some valuable examples of post-conflict countries conducting DDR and/or SSR programs, such as Albania, Angola, Burundi, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti, Rwanda, South Africa, inter alia. Finally, the article draws on the different scenarios posed by countries without mandatory military service and by countries holding military strength, and includes a detailed summary of the meaning and principal aims of the culture of militarization. This article would provide delegates with an overreaching and wide-ranging acknowledgment of the relation between the SSR and DDR processes and why they are both important in war-torn societies.

Escola de Cultura de Pau. (2009) *DDR 2009 Analysis of the World's Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programs in 2008*. Retrieved October 6, 2011, from <http://escolapau.uab.cat/img/programas/desarme/ddr/ddr2009i.pdf>

This report is a comparative analysis of DDR programs that took place in the year 2008 aiming to offer a broad scenario regarding DDR programs, and to widen the general and latest conceptual understanding of such initiatives. The document discusses DDR as a process that focuses on a determinate number of combatants in order to disarm, demilitarize and reintegrate them into civilian life. It also includes the definitions of disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion, and reintegration. Moreover, the report acknowledges the necessity of planning and implementing each DDR program accordingly to the particular needs of every country while assembling those aspects, which are common to all DDR programs. Such aspects are the following: the inclusion of DDR in peace agreements, the types of DDR programs adopted, and the features of disarmament and demobilization. Among other issues, the document represents an analytical summary of DDR activities in 15 countries located in different continents which serves delegates in allowing them to organize a great deal of work in comparison between regions and further research.

Fusato, M. (2003). *Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants*. Retrieved October 6, 2011, from <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/demobilization/>

This Web site represents a comprehensive understanding of DDR as a first step in the transition from war to peace by guaranteeing a safe environment, bringing combatants back to civilian life

and empowering people to earn livelihoods through peaceful means. However, the site further recognizes the complexity of DDR activities in a post-conflict scenario when fighting groups face a security dilemma. The article additionally affirms that the three phases of DDR are interconnected and that the successful implementation of each phase is vital to the success of the others. Lastly, the document includes relevant information on some of the short and long-term goals of DDR processes, its necessary preconditions – security, inclusion of all warring parties, political agreement, comprehensive approach, sufficient funds – and its targeting.

International Committee of the Red Cross. (1977). *Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions*. Retrieved September 23, 2011, from <http://www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/FULL/470?OpenDocument>

The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols represent the essential of international humanitarian law aiming to regulate the conduct of armed conflict and war, and to limit its devastating effects on the civilian population. Both the Conventions and their Additional Protocols were created with the specific purpose of protecting people who do not take part in hostilities – civilian, workers, and aid workers – and those who are no longer participating in armed conflict such as wounded, sick, and stranded soldiers, and prisoners of war. Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions was adopted in 1977 in order to strengthen the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and place limits on the ways wars are fought.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. (n.d.) *Rapporteurship on the Rights of Women: Violence and Discrimination against Women in the Armed Conflict in Colombia*. Retrieved September 23, 2011, from <http://www.cidh.org/women/Colombia06eng/part3co.htm>

This document is a detailed summary completed by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights regarding the manifestations of violence against women aggravated by armed conflict, and based on an IACHR Rapporteur visit to Colombia. The investigations carried out by the later affirms that 43 out of every 100 Colombian women affected by the internal conflict have been victims of different forms of violence based on their gender. Moreover, the Rapporteur discovered that violence against women is used as a strategy of war by the actors of the internal armed conflict in their fight to control territories and communities, and that non-combatant women – daughters, sisters, partners, mothers and wives of combatants – are direct targets or collateral victims of physical, psychological and sexual violence in Colombia. While very country-specific, this document would serve delegates as a case study relating the planning and future implementation of DDR processes in war-torn societies.

The Peacebuilding Initiative. (2008). *Disarmament, Demobilization, Reinsertion, & Reintegration: DDR & Peacebuilding Processes*. Retrieved October 7, 2011, from <http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index.cfm?pageId=1819>

This Web site is important for delegates when researching the topic as it acknowledges DDR programs as playing an essential role in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction stages. The site highlights the relevance of DDR activities as a preventive intervention, a post-conflict reconstruction initiative, and a central component of peace agreements while recognizing the complexity of the context in which DDR programs are currently being run. Furthermore, the document sketches the link between the Security Sector Reform (SSR) and DDR; it outlines the common objectives in disarmament, the control of small arms and weapons and demining; and it also discusses the economic dimensions of DDR, the political transformation of ex-combatants, the psychosocial reintegration of ex-combatants, the link between DDR programs and transitional justice initiatives, the comprehensive monitoring of the DDR process, beyond others relevant topics.

Schirch, L. and M. Sewak. (2005). *The Role of Women in Peacebuilding*. Retrieved July 8, 2011, from <http://www.gppac.net/uploads/File/Resources/GPPAC%20Issue%20papers/The%20Role%20of%20Women%20in%20Peacebuilding.pdf>

This issue paper is part of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict and works perfectly as a background for the discussion on the relation between women and peacebuilding in post-conflict reconstruction societies and also serves as a mechanism of further research on the regional meetings and conferences on the issues that took place between 2004 and 2005. The document provides delegates with a well-written and in-depth overview and history on women and

peacebuilding while acknowledging the current debate on the topic and addressing issues such as Why should women be involved in peacebuilding? What do women do for peacebuilding? And what are the main challenges to women's role in peacebuilding?

Sorensen, B. (1998). *Women and Post-Conflict Reconstruction Issues and Sources*. Retrieved July 8, 2011, from [http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/0/631060b93ec1119ec1256d120043e600/\\$FILE/opw3.pdf](http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/document.nsf/0/631060b93ec1119ec1256d120043e600/$FILE/opw3.pdf)

This paper is a review of literature discussing political, economic, and social reconstruction from a gender-based perspective. One of its aims is to go beyond traditional images of women as victims of war and to show the many diverse ways in which women can make a contribution to the rebuilding of societies arising from armed conflicts. The document focuses on women's priority concerns, on their capacities and resources, and on the situational and structural factors that undermine their participation and inclusion in reconstruction and DDR processes. This paper is very useful for delegates since it sheds light on how post-war reconstruction initiatives influence the reconfiguration of gender roles and positions in the wake of war and how women's role shape the construction of post-war social communities.

Suthanthiraraj, K. and C. Ayo. (2010). *Promoting Women's Participation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies*. Global Action to Prevent War, NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, & Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Retrieved July 8, 2011, from http://www.peacewomen.org/portal_resources_resource.php?id=1058

This report aims to show how women worldwide have not only survived through threats and conditions of violence but also have initiated transformative processes within conflict and post-conflict societies. The report affirms that although undeterred by rebel groups, authoritarian regimes, cultural restrictions, or resource limitations, women continue pursuing peace and security in their communities. Moreover, the paper explores different community-based initiatives carried out by women's organization and civil society aimed to promote women's participation in peace processes. Special attention is given to women's involvement in two essential elements of the peace process: peacemaking and early post-conflict peacebuilding. The document will provide delegates with valuable information on the existing barriers that women face in order to achieve full participation in their societies, and also recommends some actions on the enhancement of women's inclusion in all stages of peace processes.

The Georgian Association of Women in Business. (2009). *Empowering Displaced Women in Post-Conflict Areas*. Retrieved July 8, 2011, from <http://www.infodev.org/en/Article.358.html>

This article is a publication from The Georgian Association of Women in Business, a non-profit organization with 10 years of experience in providing business incubation services and supporting small business development. Although brief, this article addresses the issue of internally displaced women as a result of armed conflict and includes some initiatives towards empowering women in post-conflict areas. The document also outlines the work of the The Georgian Association of Women in partnership with The Gori Business Incubator. This article is an excellent starting point for delegates to research the effects of armed conflict on women and some of the initiatives already taken in this regard.

United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs & Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women. (2001). *Gender Perspectives on Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR)*. Retrieved July 8, 2011, from www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/gender/docs/note4.pdf

This paper tries to answer the question of how and why are gender perspectives relevant to DDR of former combatants. In doing so, the authors present an encompassing explanation on disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration activities and their given priorities. The document focuses on how conflict affects women and men differently; it outlines ex-combatants as a heterogeneous group and affirms that both women and men have taken up arms in different conflict situations. Finally, the paper sheds light on the need of psychological rehabilitation within reintegration stages and acknowledges that a gender perspective in DDR activities raises some questions as: What are the goals of the initiatives? Who is eligible? What is offered? How can greater learning and understanding of gender dimensions of DDR be encouraged? The article will

assist delegates in informing themselves about the adequate role of women in DDR implementation and execution and will also serve as a catalyst for questions and analysis.

United Nations Development Fund for Women. (2004). *Getting it Right, Doing it Right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*. Retrieved July 8, 2011, from http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/reliefweb_pdf/node-22295.pdf

This document contains a full description of the DDR processes and efforts, including the definitions of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration, as well as some reflections, recommendations, lessons learned, case studies, and practical guidance in the form of a model standard operating procedure. The paper also addresses Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), and acknowledges the importance of it as a key component for the discussion of women and security issues under the UN framework. The document is one of the most important sources of research for delegates regarding the efforts and further recommendations made by UNIFEM, now part of UN Women, in the last decade providing substantial information on the importance of incorporating a gender perspective in the planning and execution of Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration programs.

United Nations Development Fund for Women. (2005). *Women Building Peace Through Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration – Beijing + 10 Review Conference*. Retrieved July 8, 2011, from http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/Resources/UN/unifem_buildingpeaceDDR_2005.pdf

This document is the result of a panel where five female participants working in DDR processes from four different sectors – civil society (Liberia), former combatants (Rwanda), national institutions (Sudan), and the international framework (UNIDIR) – explained their views and outlined their personal insights on ongoing DDR efforts. The panel was atypical in that it was a conversation amongst the panelists as much as it was a conversation between the panel and the audience. In this regard, the Liberian and Rwandese women outlined the lessons learned from their experiences and offered their guidance to the Sudanese women who were at the genesis of their own process. Although the article is not detailed, it will serve delegates as a point of departure to analyze the differences between country-specific post-conflict scenarios and the further implementation of DDR actions.

United Nations Development Fund for Women. (2008). *Gender-aware Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR): A Check List*. Retrieved July 8, 2011, from http://www.peacewomen.org/portal_resources_resource.php?id=254

This document addresses important issues such as DDR and the promotion of women's rights in post-conflict periods; ex-combatant women in demobilization, and reintegration; civilian women in demobilization, and reintegration; women in disarmament processes; gender-sensitive implementation of demobilization, and reintegration support; networking to assist reintegration; beyond others. Moreover, the paper highlights the essential role of women in DDR processes and the work done so far by the UN and other agencies involved in DDR and other post-conflict reconstruction activities. The document is important to delegates because it provides them with an inclusive and in-depth background analysis on gender awareness in all aspects of peacekeeping initiatives urging women's informed and active participation in DDR processes.

United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Resource Center. (2009). *What is DDR?* Retrieved October 7, 2011, from <http://www.unddr.org/whatisDDR.php>

This Web site represents a valuable source for delegates since it provides them with a wide-ranging explanation of what is DDR, and aims to answer important questions such as: what definitions are used by the UN? Who is eligible to enter a DDR program? Who is in charge of planning and implementing a DDR program in the field? What are the key strategic considerations for the planning and implementation of DDR? How is gender addressed in DDR? Moreover, the site discusses the main difference between reintegration and reinsertion, the roles that NGOs play within DDR initiatives; it further highlights the specific ways in which HIV/AIDS is incorporated into DDR activities; and finally outlines the major financing mechanisms for DDR programs – trusts funds; bilateral, multilateral and national funding; assessed budgets, beyond others.

United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Resource Center. (2010). *Introduction to IDDRS: Glossary and Terms*. Retrieved September 23, 2011, from <http://www.unddr.org/iddrs/01/20.php>

This Web site is a primary entry to understanding the main definitions associated to DDR processes within the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS) framework, which represents an inclusive set of guidelines and procedures covering 24 different areas of DDR. The IDDRS aims to consolidate policy guidance on the issue at hand, offering a United Nations joined approach on the planning and implementation of DDR initiatives. Additionally, the IDDRS are also the broadest repositories and best practices drawn from the experience and previous undertakings of several UN departments, agencies, and programs dealing with DDR. The site includes wide-ranging definitions of the main terms within DDR processes such as: arms control, asylum seeker, conflict reduction, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, crisis management, empowerment, etc. Such definitions are not provided in this background guide due to space limitations, but are extremely useful for delegates to reach a comprehensive understanding of DDR processes, its current dynamic and interlinks.

United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. (2010). *Summary Report: Virtual Discussion on Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*. Retrieved July 8, 2011, from http://www.peacewomen.org/portal_resources_resource.php?id=862

This brief summary highlights the importance of S/RES/1325 (2000) as the main international mandate encompassing the full and equal participation of women in all peace and security activities and the mainstreaming of gender issues in conflict, peacebuilding, and reconstruction programs. Moreover, the summary addresses the DDR processes as a vital element in post-conflict stability and successful recovery of war torn communities in order to achieve sustainable peace and stability. However, the document affirms that the success of such processes demands the cooperation of all actors: civil society, government, and the international community. This summary is a first entry for delegates to start researching on ongoing and future UN-INSTAW projects, actions, and proposals, specifically the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan Recommendations.

United Nations Refugee Agency. (1951). *Convention Relating the Status of Refugee*. Retrieved September 22, 2011, from <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/3b66c2aa10.pdf>

The UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees was adopted in 1951; it entered into force on April 1954 and currently represents the core of international refugee protection. The Convention was based in article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which acknowledges the right of persons to seek asylum from persecution in other countries. It was subjected to only one amendment in the form of a protocol that, in turn, removed its geographic and temporal limits. The 1951 Convention was initially limited to events occurring before January 1, 1951 and within Europe. The 1967 Protocol removed these limitations and therefore provided the Convention with universal coverage. Previously used as a merely post-Second World War tool, nowadays the Convention represents a clear sign of the development of international human rights law, and it is currently been enhanced by the implementation of refugee protection regimes in different regions.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2004). *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*. Retrieved September 22, 2011, from <http://www.idpguidingprinciples.org/>

This particular document would be of utmost usefulness and convenience for delegates when investigating the topic at hand since it represents a overreaching and inclusive set of policies and procedures based upon international humanitarian and human rights law, and aimed at protecting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in internal conflict situations, natural disasters and other situations of forced displacement while serving as an international framework to guide state and non-state actors in delivering assistance and protection to IDPs. The Guiding Principles recognize the rights of IDPs and accordingly guarantee their protection, safe return, resettlement and reintegration. Finally, albeit the Principles do not comprise a binding instrument for governments, they are firmly consistent with international refugee law.

UN Women. (2005). *Briefing Sheet – Women’s Essential Role in Peacebuilding*. Retrieved July 8, 2011, from http://www.unifem.org/materials/fact_sheets.php?StoryID=303

This briefing sheet highlights the facts that 70% of the casualties are civilians, most of them women and children, and that women face devastating forms of violence related to gender,

including rape as a weapon of sexual slavery and war. The document also discusses the struggle of women to keep their families together within war torn economies, and Resolution 1325 as a reaffirmation of the vital role that women play in peacebuilding in post-conflict communities. Finally, the sheet includes the actions undertaken by UNIFEM, now part of UN Women, until 2005 in countries such as Sudan and Afghanistan. This source is helpful for understanding specific aspects of the overall role of UNIFEM, now part of UN Women, in increasing women's visibility and participation in peace processes ongoing in different regions of the world.

UN Women. (2010) *Commission on the Status of Women 55th Session*. Retrieved September 23, 2011, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm>

This web site is an extensive and detailed summary of the 55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from February 22, 2011 to March 4, 2011, and on March 14, 2011. The site is divided in numerous sections including the following: news and announcements, participants, documentation, general discussion, priority theme, review theme, statements, organization of the session, emerging issues, panels, parallel events, agreed conclusions, outcomes, preparation, beyond others. Moreover, the site incorporates the speeches and oral presentations of all the participants of the different panels that took place during the CSW 55th Session. Among other issues, this site is an important illustration on how the CSW addresses different topics related to women matters and its interrelationship, dynamic, links, challenges and possible short, medium and long-term solutions, and how the CSW has approached DDR in the past.

UN Women. (2011). *About UN Women*. Retrieved September 22, 2011, from <http://www.unwomen.org/about-us/about-UN-Women/>

The above mentioned web site is a executive summary of the origins and creation of UN Women and how the latter represents an historic step in accelerating the aims of the organization regarding gender equality and the empowerment of women while merging the relevant work of four formerly distinct entities within the UN system: the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Further on, the site includes the main roles of UN Women and its principal work related to gender issues. Although it is mainly a quick overlook on the entity, the site would serve delegates achieving an overall perspective on the mandate and activities of UN Women.

UN Women. (2011). *Women, War and Peace*. Retrieved September 22, 2011 from http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_war_peace/

This Web site outlines relevant information on how armed conflict affects women and men differently and on how women, while remaining a minority of combatants and perpetrators of war, suffer the highest harm. Additionally, this short article discusses how women in war-torn communities face different forms of sexual violence deployed systematically with military or political purposes. Further on, the site acknowledges that even after war has ended, the effects of sexual violence continue, including sexually transmitted diseases and undesired pregnancies, preventing a great deal of the female population to access education, participate in the government and benefit from peacebuilding efforts. Such exclusion leads to a failure in appropriately addressing women's main fears and distresses, such as gender-based violence, women's rights and post-conflict liability. Finally, the article considers the five UN Security Council Resolutions focusing on strengthening women's participation in decision-making, ending sexual violence and impunity, and providing an accountability system.

UN Women. (n.d.). *Disarmament, Demobilization & Reintegration*. Retrieved July 8, 2011, from http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_war_peace/disarmament_demobilization_reintegration.php

This short article is essential to understand the basics of the link between women and DDR processes. It includes a basic introduction on the complexity of dealing with security issues that rise during the transition from conflict to peace, especially when female ex-combatants are not only not taken into consideration but also left without livelihoods or support networks. While the document is not region specific, it provides an overall view on the objective of women's contribution to post-conflict security and stability in war torn societies and includes a brief

explanation of the concepts of disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion, and reintegration. The article also includes a segment on UN Women's Approach to DDR programs which will help delegates to acquire an understanding on the work that the UN has done in three main categories: promoting understanding on women's multiple roles during and after conflict; increasing awareness and advocacy aimed at ensuring women's participation; and supporting the development of minimum standards on the inclusion of women and gender perspectives in DDR processes.

II. Improving Women's Health as a means to Achieve Gender Equality

"Sexual and reproductive health, an indisputable key component of MDGs 4, 5, and 6, is essential for general wellbeing, quintessential to women's equality and empowerment, and necessary for socio-economic development."¹⁰⁷

Introduction

The lack of access to healthcare for millions of women is both a product and a driver of gender equality globally, and thus it is essential to address both issues in relation to each other. In this regard, the opportunities for improving women's health and thus contributing to the overall achievement of gender equality are many, ranging from strengthening health services, scaling up effective interventions, promoting and protecting reproductive rights, and investing in sexual and reproductive health.¹⁰⁸ These responses to the current situation for women's health, when integrated into existing efforts to improve public health globally, and address development agendas, such as through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), can be extremely effective.¹⁰⁹

Examples of both the challenges and opportunities for improving women's health and achieving gender equality can be seen predominantly in the area of reproductive health. Access to "sexual and reproductive health services, including those for maternal health, are a fundamental human right, and a significant determinant of global health status."¹¹⁰ Women often lack access to contraception, have less choice and control over the circumstances of sexual encounters, and are more adversely affected by HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).¹¹¹ Furthermore, over half a million women die every year due to entirely preventable complications during pregnancy.¹¹² An additional, yet major challenge is violence against women. Violence against women is "pervasive, affecting an estimated one in three women," and is in itself a "human rights violation" as well as a significant economic cost within the health system.¹¹³ The consequences of violence are "varied and devastating both physically and emotionally," and include the direct health outcomes of "unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortion, miscarriages, sexually transmitted infections (including HIV), high risk pregnancy complications, gynecological problems (including obstetric fistula) and psychological trauma."¹¹⁴ Through addressing women's health, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has a unique and important role to play in providing concrete guidance which contributes to the improvement of health systems and delivery for women, thus promoting and improving gender equality.

¹⁰⁷ Collins, *Gender perspectives on global public health*, 2009.

¹⁰⁸ UNDP, *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*, 2010, p. 93.

¹⁰⁹ Collins, *Gender perspectives on global public health*, 2009.

¹¹⁰ Collins, *Gender perspectives on global public health*, 2009, p. 2.

¹¹¹ WHO, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 43.

WHO, *Sexually transmitted infections*.

¹¹² WHO, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 40.

¹¹³ Collins, *Gender perspectives on global public health*, 2009, p. 5.

¹¹⁴ WHO, *WHO Multi-Country study on women's health and domestic violence: Summary Report*, 2005, p.17.

WHO, *Gender Inequalities and HIV*, 2011, p. 3.

International Framework

Women's rights to equal health outcomes are enshrined in several international agreements and policy frameworks.¹¹⁵ A human rights-based approach, coupled with gender mainstreaming, can contribute a great deal to improving women's health outcomes by employing a normative lens aiming to reduce gender-based – and other – health inequities.¹¹⁶ For instance, the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995) explicitly recognized the right of all women to “control all aspects of their health, in particular their own fertility and consecrated international commitments to ensure equal access to and equal treatment of women and men in (...) health care.”¹¹⁷ On the other hand, the *International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR) (1976) recognizes the right of everyone — including women — to the “highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.”¹¹⁸ The *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) (1979) states that signatories to the convention “shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health-care services, including those related to family planning.”¹¹⁹ Furthermore, the International Conference on Population and Development Programme for Action (ICPD) (1994) specifically recognizes the need for targeted government interventions to improve women's health and reduce maternal mortality rates.¹²⁰ The Commission on the Status of Women has also focused on women's health in previous sessions, specifically addressing maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, and reporting on international agreements aiming to improve women's health.¹²¹

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also provide a set of internationally agreed upon principals that recognize the importance of women's right to health and equality. To successfully address MDG 1 – Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger – it will be essential to combat the feminization of poverty due to gender-inequality, and improve the nutritional concerns of women.¹²² Likewise, if the international community is looking to achieve MDG 3 – Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women – then any effort to do so will have to address women's health.¹²³ Furthermore, the MDG that has seen the least amount of progress, but if improved upon would have a multiplier effect in achieving many of the other MDGs, is MDG 5 – Improve Maternal Health.¹²⁴ Likewise, MDG 6 – Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other Diseases – if approached with a solid gender perspective, will not only to be more effective (an estimated 5.4 million youths are living with HIV and about 59% of them are girls), but reducing the impact of these diseases will be central to achieving gender equality and achieving the rest of the MDGs by the year 2015.¹²⁵ The lack of progress made in these MDGs is a “failure not only for public health, but it compromises the advancement of women and girls, and retards [progress made towards their] greater equality.”¹²⁶

To these ends, the United Nations, in conjunction with its bodies and agencies, Member States, international organizations, and an array of private sector enterprises, have joined together in support of the UN Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health.¹²⁷ Through an approach that centers around country-led health plans, integrated health care that address several needs at once, strengthening and coordinating of national health systems with

¹¹⁵ Cook, *Women's Health and Human Rights: The Promotion of Women's Health through International Human Rights Law*, 1999.

International Women's Health Coalition, *Key Conferences and Agreements*.

¹¹⁶ WHO, *Human rights and gender equality in health sector strategies: How to assess policy coherence*, 2011, p.11.

¹¹⁷ United Nations, *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, 1995, p.3.

United Nations, *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, 1995, p.4.

¹¹⁸ United Nations, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 1976, p.4.

¹¹⁹ United Nations, *The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*, 1976, Art. 12.1.

¹²⁰ International Conference on Population and Development, *ICPD Programme for Action*, 1994. Chap. 8.

¹²¹ UN CSW, *Eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women (E/CN.6/2010/L.6)*, 2010.

¹²¹ UN CSW, *Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (E/CN.6/2010/L.2/Rev.1)*, 2009.

UN CSW, *Gender perspectives on global public health: implementing the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.6/2009/CRP.9)*, 2010.

¹²² WHO, *Joint Action Plan for Women's and Children's Health*, 2010, p.2.

¹²³ WHO, *Joint Action Plan for Women's and Children's Health*, 2010, p.2.

¹²⁴ WHO, *Joint Action Plan for Women's and Children's Health*, 2010, p.2.

¹²⁵ WHO, *Joint Action Plan for Women's and Children's Health*, 2010, p.3.

¹²⁶ Collins, *Gender perspectives on global public health*, 2009, p. 6.

¹²⁷ United Nations, *UN Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health*, 2010, p. 20.

international efforts, and building the capacity of health workforces, this new UN strategy hopes to integrate a gender perspective in the international community's efforts in achieving the MDGs.¹²⁸

The World Health Organization (WHO), in particular, has made enormous strides by “increasing knowledge and strengthening the health sector response” on issues related to gender, women and health.¹²⁹ WHO has grounded its work in the *Constitution of the World Health Organization* (1946) and the *WHO Strategy for integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of WHO*.¹³⁰ The current global agenda for the organization on this issue includes strengthening institutional responses and building leadership capacity at a national level, “making health systems work better for women, leveraging changes in public policy, and building the knowledge base and monitoring progress.”¹³¹ The work of the WHO contributes to and reinforces the work of the CSW on this issue, and has been a strong partner in implementing many elements of CSW decisions on the ground.¹³²

Reproductive Health

While there are many challenges facing women's global health and gender equality, the multi-faceted problem — and prevalence — of “unsafe sex” is a central and crosscutting aspect that must be considered. While the World Health Organization defines and uses the specific term “unsafe sex” as “sexual behaviors that increase the risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease,” the health risks faced by women who cannot protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy or control their fertility because of lack of access to contraception should also be considered.¹³³ The reason that “unsafe sex” is so central to women's health is due both to the fact that it is a symptom and product of gender inequality and a leading health risk for women.¹³⁴ Women, due to social and economic inequality, often lack access to contraception, have less choice and control over the circumstances of sexual encounters, and are more adversely affected by HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.¹³⁵ For these, and a variety of other reasons, “lack of contraception and unsafe sex” is the leading risk factor for death and disability in women of reproductive age — defined by the WHO as between the age of 15 and 44 — in middle and low-income countries.¹³⁶

The lack of access to and use of contraception, such as the pill, barrier methods, sterilization, or intrauterine device, is the result of a combination of gender, economic, and social barriers.¹³⁷ While an estimated 63% of women in developing countries who are married or in another type of union use some form of contraception; across the world the figures range greatly.¹³⁸ For example, in the United States of America, 6.6% of women who are fertile, sexually active, and do not wish to have children, are not using any method of contraception; while in Uganda that number is 40.6%, in Haiti 37.5%, and in Samoa 45.6%.¹³⁹ The greatest disparity is regionally between Africa, where only 14% of women use contraceptives, and high-income countries, where 64% of women utilize some form or another.¹⁴⁰ According to the World Health Organization, if all the women in these respective areas who wanted to use modern-contraception were able to, those numbers would change to 46% and 83% respectively.¹⁴¹

Moreover, one of the most detrimental effects of “unsafe sex” is the disproportional impact that HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have on women compared to men. Such disproportional impact can largely be attributed to the inferior societal status too often accorded to women, their lack of social and economic rights, and poor education on reproductive health; all of which contribute to unattained, but nonetheless necessary, care and testing.¹⁴² These problems manifest themselves most clearly in Sub-Saharan Africa, where “61% of all people living

¹²⁸ United Nations, *UN Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health*, 2010, p. 7.

¹²⁹ WHO, *Department of Gender, Women and Health: About Us*.

¹³⁰ World Health Assembly, *Constitution of the World Health Organization*, 1946.

WHO, *Gender equality is good for health*, 2010.

WHO, *Integrating gender analysis and actions into the work of WHO*, 2006.

¹³¹ WHO, *Gender equality is good for health*, 2010.

¹³² WHO, *Strategy For Integrating Gender Analysis And Actions Into The Work Of WHO (WHA60.25)*, 2007.

¹³³ WHO, *Global health risks: mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks*, 2009, p. 19.

¹³⁴ WHO, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 39.

¹³⁵ WHO, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 43.

¹³⁶ WHO, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 39.

¹³⁷ WHO, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 43.

¹³⁸ WHO, *World health statistics 2011*, 2011, p. 19.

¹³⁹ WHO, *World health statistics 2011*, 2011, p. 31.

¹⁴⁰ WHO, *Global health risks: mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks*, 2009, p. 19.

¹⁴¹ WHO, *Global health risks: mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks*, 2009, p. 20.

¹⁴² WHO, *Integrating gender into HIV/AIDS programmes in the health sector*, 2009, p. XII.

with HIV are women, [and] young women (15–24 years) are three to six times more likely to be infected than men in the same age group.”¹⁴³ Only 8% of young women (15–24 years) in Chad and in the Congo are sufficiently knowledgeable about how to protect against HIV/AIDS.¹⁴⁴ This problem is not confined to Africa however, as the same is true of 20% of young women in India, 19% of young women in Peru, and 21% of young in the Philippines.¹⁴⁵ Young women and adolescent girls (age 15-19) are particularly at risk of HIV infection both because this lack of information is particularly acute in this demographic – globally only 38% can correctly describe the best ways to avoid infection – and because they are the most at risk of having “unsafe and often unwanted sexual activity that leads to HIV/AIDS.”¹⁴⁶

Furthermore, while HIV/AIDS is the number one cause of death among adult women (age 20-59) in low and middle-income countries, this impact is compounded by the fourth and seventh leading cause of death in the same demographics: tuberculosis, a disease often associated with and brought on by HIV infection.¹⁴⁷ Even more unfortunately, it is not the disease burden of HIV alone that disproportionately affects women and girls; those infected with the HIV virus “tend to become even more vulnerable economically and socially [and] are frequently discriminated against and exposed to greater levels of violence and abuse.”¹⁴⁸ It is in this way that addressing and improving HIV/AIDS infection rates in women and girls will contribute to gender equality.

Finally, another issue that arises due to “unsafe sex” in women’s health is cervical cancer. Cervical cancer only affects women, results from sexual transmission of the human papilloma virus, “accounts for 11% of global deaths due to unsafe sex, and is the leading cause of cancer death in the African Region.”¹⁴⁹ It is also one of the few diseases that effects women (age 20-59) in low and high-income countries to a similar degree — ranking as the tenth leading cause of death in both demographics, albeit with a much greater impact in low-income countries.¹⁵⁰

Maternal Health

The international community will be unable to substantially improve women’s global health without also addressing maternal and reproductive health, as “more than half a million maternal deaths occur every year and, of these, 99% happen in developing countries.”¹⁵¹ In developed countries where healthcare systems are more responsive and able to provide better care, there are on average only nine maternal deaths per 100,000 live births per year; whereas that figure skyrockets to as high as 1,000 deaths per 100,000 live births yearly in many low-income countries.¹⁵² In developing regions, half of all maternal mortalities are caused by hemorrhaging and hypertension, which can be easily prevented if a skilled health-care provider is present.¹⁵³ However, there are also many examples of Member States with similar levels of wealth that produce drastically different results in maternal health. This indicates that a myriad of social, political, and policy factors also contribute to these disparities.¹⁵⁴ For example, while Iran has a higher per capita income than Costa Rica, its maternal mortality rate is four and half times higher.¹⁵⁵ Likewise, Indonesia and Mongolia enjoy similar per capita incomes, but Indonesia’s maternal mortality rate is more than nine times higher than Mongolia’s.¹⁵⁶ Similarly, despite both being high-income countries, the maternal mortality rate in the United States are eleven times as high as Ireland’s.¹⁵⁷ These disparities show that there are a myriad of context and country-specific factors that contribute to, or adversely affect, maternal health outcomes.¹⁵⁸

Another major factor of maternal health is unsafe abortions. Unsafe abortions — often as a result of unplanned pregnancies, which are a result of a lack of contraception — are estimated to be one of the highest contributors to the

WHO, *Integrating gender into HIV/AIDS programmes in the health sector*, 2009, p. XI.

¹⁴⁴ WHO, *World health statistics 2011*, 2011, p. 34.

¹⁴⁵ WHO, *World health statistics 2011*, 2011, p. 34.

¹⁴⁶ World Health Organization, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 31 - 34.

¹⁴⁷ WHO, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 51-52.

¹⁴⁸ UNFPA, *HIV Preventions Gains Momentum: Successes in female condom programming*, 2011, p. 9.

¹⁴⁹ WHO, *Global health risks: mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks*, 2009, p. 19.

¹⁵⁰ WHO, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 52.

¹⁵¹ WHO, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 40.

¹⁵² WHO, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 40.

¹⁵³ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals Report*, 2010, p. 31.

¹⁵⁴ UNDP, *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*, 2010, p. 91.

¹⁵⁵ UNDP, *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*, 2010, p. 91.

¹⁵⁶ UNDP, *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*, 2010, p. 91.

¹⁵⁷ UNDP, *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*, 2010, p. 91.

¹⁵⁸ Stewart, *Examining gender equity in health policies in a low, middle, and high income country in the Americas*, 2009, p. 441.

global burden of disease (GBD) attributable to a lack of contraception.¹⁵⁹ Nearly 70,000 deaths each year are due to the complications of unsafe abortion, and a large portion of these deaths and the disease burden that is associated with unsafe abortions are due to the high rates of unsafe abortion amongst young women.¹⁶⁰ This is true in Africa where young women and adolescent girls (aged 15–19) account for 25% of women who seek unsafe abortions.¹⁶¹ The risks associated with unsafe abortions are “strongly related to the legality of abortion in the country concerned.”¹⁶²

Lack of pre- and post-natal care is another major challenge to improving women’s health and achieving gender equality. Between the years 2000–2010, 80% of pregnant women worldwide received antenatal care at least once, but a mere 53% received the WHO’s recommended minimum of four antenatal-care visits.¹⁶³ While there is still much to be done, progress has been made. Worldwide in 1990, only 58% of pregnancies were attended by health workers; that number rose to 68% in 2008.¹⁶⁴ Unfortunately that progress did not reach Africa and South-East Asia where the number remained low, with only an estimated 50% of deliveries attended by skilled health personnel.¹⁶⁵

These inequalities between access to health-care providers during pregnancy do not only exist between countries, but are persistent within national borders where economically driven gaps in coverage persist. For example, in developing countries, women from wealthy households are three times as likely as women in the poor households to have a professional health-care provider present during childbirth.¹⁶⁶ Long-standing disparities between the access that women in rural areas and women in urban areas have had to health-care providers during pregnancy is another aspect to consider.¹⁶⁷ While this gap has decreased since 1990, in South-East Asia, for example, a woman living in an urban center is still twice as likely as a woman living in a rural area to have a health-care professional present at childbirth.¹⁶⁸ In this regard, one of the major health impacts associated with a lack of antenatal care is iron, vitamin A, or iodine deficiency-induced anemia, which contributes to maternal mortality.¹⁶⁹ It is estimated that 42% of pregnant women worldwide suffer from anemia, which has long-term health consequences for both mother and child.¹⁷⁰

The relationship between maternal health and gender equality can be seen in the Gender Inequality Index of the Human Development Report. The report finds that countries that have a higher percentage of births attended by professionals, a higher prevalence of contraception, and lower maternal mortality rates, also receive higher marks in other gender-equality indicators like female political participation, education levels, and labor force participation.¹⁷¹ Countries that have poor reproductive health outcomes tend to have high adolescent fertility rates, which contribute to increasing health risks for both mother and child and prevent young women from pursuing an education.¹⁷² “Regional patterns reveal that reproductive health is the largest contributor to gender inequality around the world.”¹⁷³

Violence against Women as a Health Issue

The prevalence of violence against women is another major challenge. The ways in which violence against women negatively influences women’s health are varied, ranging from decreasing their likelihood of seeking antenatal care to increasing the probability of contracting HIV.¹⁷⁴ A WHO study found that women who have experienced violence from an intimate-partner were more likely to contemplate “suicide than women who had never experienced abuse and that they were significantly more likely to report recent symptoms of mental distress than women who had never

¹⁵⁹ WHO, *Global health risks: mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks*, 2009, p. 20.

¹⁶⁰ WHO, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 31.

¹⁶¹ WHO, *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*, 2009, p. 31.

¹⁶² WHO, *Global health risks: mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks*, 2009, p. 20.

¹⁶³ WHO, *World health statistics 2011*, 2011, p. 16.

¹⁶⁴ WHO, *World health statistics 2011*, 2011, p. 16.

¹⁶⁵ WHO, *World health statistics 2011*, 2011, p. 16.

¹⁶⁶ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals Report*, 2010, p. 31.

¹⁶⁷ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals Report*, 2010, p. 31.

¹⁶⁸ United Nations, *Millennium Development Goals Report*, 2010, p. 31.

¹⁶⁹ WHO, *Global health risks: mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks*, 2009, p. 34.

¹⁷⁰ WHO, *Global Burden of Disease: 2004 Update*, 2004, p. 112.

¹⁷¹ UNDP, *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*, 2010, p. 160.

¹⁷² UNDP, *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*, 2010, p. 91.

¹⁷³ UNDP, *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*, 2010, p. 93.

¹⁷⁴ WHO, *WHO Multi-Country study on women’s health and domestic violence: Summary Report*, 2005, p. 17.

WHO, *Gender Inequalities and HIV*, 2011, p. 3.

experienced violence.”¹⁷⁵ Globally, suicide is one of the leading causes of death amongst women (ages 20-59), and the fourth, fifth, and ninth leading cause of death in high, medium, and low-income countries respectively.¹⁷⁶ The study also observed correlations between early sexual abuse and an “increased risk of re-victimization in adulthood, earlier sexual debut, early marriage, unwanted or mistimed pregnancies, suicide ideation, and a number of lifetime sexual partners,” all of which contribute to the increased risk of poor health and entrench gender inequality.¹⁷⁷

In addition, one of the most acute and damaging forms of violence against women is female genital mutilation (FGM), a cultural tradition present in communities in 28 countries in Africa and other countries in Asia and the Middle East.¹⁷⁸ “In the world today there are an estimated 130–140 million girls and women who have been subjected to the operation and 3 million girls are at risk of undergoing the practice every year.”¹⁷⁹ FGM is a serious violation of girls’ and women’s human rights and has short and long-term health consequences, which include but are not limited to, death caused by hemorrhage or infection, chronic pelvic infections, an increased risk of complications during childbirth, and urinary and menstrual problems.¹⁸⁰ There are also a host of long-term mental health complications such as post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, and psychosexual problems that are caused by FGM.¹⁸¹

Women’s access to basic health care services

Another major obstacle to improving women’s global health is access to basic health care services and increasing gender-responsive budgeting to ensure that adequate resources are meeting the basic health needs of women and girls.¹⁸² There are many gender-based inequities in basic health services, ranging from gaps in women’s coverage to interpersonal interactions that demean patient dignity and cause women to seek needed health services less frequently.¹⁸³ An expert panel held by the CSW named: “Gender perspectives on global public health: Implementing the internationally agreed development goals,” put it succinctly when it stated that “despite their potential to promote health equity, health systems can generate health inequity and entrench social stratification which disproportionately affects women’s access to health care. Efforts to improve equity in health systems should take gender equality into account.”¹⁸⁴

Next Steps

While there are innumerable entry points and ways to approach the challenges that face women’s health and equality, CSW has the ability to play an important leadership role. One aspect of women’s health that needs to be addressed is access to not only condoms but female condoms in particular. Currently, the female condom is “the only HIV prevention method that women can initiate and control.”¹⁸⁵ It is in this way that the female condom is capable of both improving women’s health and empowering women by providing them more control over contraception.

There is also a need to improve access to health care services and expand health care coverage. Achieving universal healthcare coverage, or even merely stronger health care systems, at the local or national level has been shown to not only reduce health related gender-inequalities, but provides an essential framework through which intersectional strategies to improve health and gender-equality can be implemented.¹⁸⁶ Some have advocated for innovative business or funding models that aim to lower the price of drugs and other medical supplies and expanding access to health services and products by establishing public-private partnerships and utilizing non-traditional distribution networks.¹⁸⁷

¹⁷⁵ WHO, *WHO Multi-Country study on women’s health and domestic violence*, 2005, p. 86.

¹⁷⁶ WHO, *Women and health: Today’s Evidence Tomorrow’s Agenda*, 2009, p. 52.

¹⁷⁷ WHO, *WHO Multi-Country study on women’s health and domestic violence*, 2005, p. 88.

¹⁷⁸ WHO, *An update on WHO’s work on female genital mutilation (FGM): Progress report*, 2011, p. 1.

¹⁷⁹ WHO, *An update on WHO’s work on female genital mutilation (FGM): Progress report*, 2011, p. 1.

¹⁸⁰ WHO, *An update on WHO’s work on female genital mutilation (FGM): Progress report*, 2011, p. 3.

¹⁸¹ WHO, *An update on WHO’s work on female genital mutilation (FGM): Progress report*, 2011, p. 3.

¹⁸² UN CSW, *Gender perspectives on global public health*, 2009, p.4.

¹⁸³ WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health, *Challenging Inequity Through Health Systems*, 2007, p. 14.

¹⁸⁴ UN CSW, *Gender perspectives on global public health*, 2009, p.2.

¹⁸⁵ UNFPA *HIV Preventions Gains Momentum: Successes in female condom programming*, 2011, p. 12.

¹⁸⁶ WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health, *Final Report: Knowledge Network on Health Systems*, 2007, p. 16.

¹⁸⁷ Innovating for every woman, every child, *Thematic Report: The Global campaign for the health Millennium Development Goals*, 2011, p. 11.

Another strategy that has been consistently advocated for is to strengthen international agreements on women's health and pursue a rights-based approach. Such an approach which would rely "on corresponding State obligations established by international law," would be relevant due to its inherent focus on "the inequalities, discriminatory practices (de jure and de facto), and unjust power relations which are often at the heart" of these health challenges.¹⁸⁸

Conclusion

The above suggestions reflect a small portion of the approaches that the UN and the international community have taken, or wish to take, in their effort to improve women's global health and equality. As delegates to the Commission on the Status of Women, there are an innumerable variety of strategies that could be employed to address the challenges and persistent inequalities that define this issue. In formulating responses to these immensely difficult problems, it will be essential to bear in mind the dynamic and interlinked nature of these challenges, and avoid unspecific and overly-general responses. While these issues affect women on a global scale, the causal and determinant factors are often local.

Because of this, delegates would be best served by developing detailed and specific responses that fully and appropriately utilize the UN system and its various agencies. What explains, and what can CSW do about, the disparities in women's health between similarly economically developed countries? What should role can men play be in addressing these problems and to what extent should they be targeted and incorporated into health interventions? What is the best way for an international organization to promote the proper use of contraception at a local level? By grappling with these, and the many other questions implicitly posed here, delegates should formulate specific, original, and forward looking solutions to improve women's health as a means to achieve gender equality.

Annotated Bibliography

II. Improving Women's Health as a means to Achieve Gender Equality

Innovating for Every Woman, Every Child. (2011). *Thematic Report: The Global campaign for the health Millennium Development Goals*. Retrieved September 19, 2011, from <http://download.thelancet.com/mmc/journals/lancet/PIIS0140673611613937/mmc1.pdf?id=40bade4753939e7f:3209b2a5:132843fda07:3f01316482280999>

This report details some of the most recent, innovative, and successful attempts to improve women's health. There is a large focus on the sustainability of these new approaches that is an essential element to any successful health intervention. These approaches reflect the development field's new, post-recession, economic environment and the innovation that it has spurred and required. While the specific information contained in this document might not be valuable in and of itself, for any delegate pursuing market driven or private enterprise associated responses to these issues, the ideas and strategies detailed here could provide a great deal of inspiration.

United Nations. (2010). *Every Woman, Every Child: Recommendations on Human Rights*. Retrieved August 8, 2011, from http://www.who.int/pmnch/activities/jointactionplan/100922_3_humanrights.pdf

This report, which is part of the new UN framework "Every Woman, Every Child," explains the centrality of women's health to achieving the MDGs and details the ways in which human rights are integral to that effort. It is a very succinct explanation of the various ways the MDGs and human rights compliment each other, and the great opportunity that exists for any effort that addresses both, simultaneously, and in relation to the other. Conceptually, it is a very valuable tool for understanding how the MDGs reflect human rights, and thus will best be solved by utilizing a rights based approach.

United Nations Population Fund. (2011). *HIV Preventions Gains Momentum: Successes in female condom programming*. Retrieved August 8, 2011, from <http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2011/MomentumPDFforWeb.pdf>

This is an extremely comprehensive report on a relatively niche issues: female condoms. It details the successes that distributing female condoms has provided, the strategies employed in that distribution, and the challenges that still exist. This report could be useful, not only for the

¹⁸⁸ WHO, *A Rights-Based Approach to Health*, 2008, p. 1.

information it provides on female condoms, but also for the different strategies and interventions that it explains. Dealing with local and diverse social stigmas is an underlying issue throughout all the challenges that face women's health and equality; this report—although through a narrow focus—does a good job of speaking to those challenges in a way that is not present in most reports or discussions of these issues.

United Nations Development Program. (2010). *Human Development Report 2010: The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*. Retrieved August 16, 2011, from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2010/>
This report marked the 20th anniversary of the first Human Development Report, however, the 2010 iteration was the first to be published with the new Gender Inequality Index. While these reports typically focus on a myriad of indicators regarding the barriers to progress in human development, thus making it relevant to any discussion of women's health, the addition of the Gender Inequality Index makes this document especially useful. This version delves deeper into the question of how health produces inequality than other reports and underlines the complicated nature of improving women's health by showing the differences in inequality and health within economic demographics—not just between them.

United Nations. (2010). *Millennium Development Goals Report*. Retrieved August 22, 2011, from http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2010/MDG_Report_2010_En_low%20res.pdf
This report, assembled by nearly every UN body and agency, is the latest assessment of the progress made in, and remaining challenges to, achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Broken down by each MDG, this document offers a comprehensive and honest assessment of where the most progress has been made, and where it most needs to be made. Considering the centrality of women's health and equality to achieving the MDGs, the information and analysis that this report presents is invaluable to any effort to improve women's health outcomes; both because it provides said data and because it illustrates the crosscutting nature of women's health and equality.

World Health Organization. (2009). *Women and health: Today's Evidence Tomorrow's Agenda*. Retrieved August 8, 2011, from http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241563857_eng.pdf
This World Health Organization Report addresses the greatest health risks and needs of women throughout the world. The report uses regionally, economically, and age-desegregated data to show the various challenges that face women's global health and analyze the root causes. The document is broken down into four main sections: young girls, adolescents, women of reproductive age, and older women. It then juxtaposes regional and economic differences over these various age groups in order to show the complicated nature of the challenges facing women's health. This is by far the most up-to-date and comprehensive report on women's health and thus an invaluable resource for any delegate who hopes to improve women's global health outcomes.

World Health Organization. (2009) *Global Health Risks: Mortality and Burden of Disease Attributable to Selected Major Risks*. Retrieved August 8, 2011, from http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/GlobalHealthRisks_report_full.pdf
This report represents a comprehensive approach to studying the leading health risks in the world. The document defines "health risk" as "a factor that raises the probability of adverse health outcomes." It also discusses "the burden of disease," which it defines and measures in terms of "lost years of healthy life using the metric of the disability-adjusted life years"—or DALYs. The DALY combines years of life lost due to premature death with years of healthy life lost due to illness and disability. While it does not focus solely on women's health, it is an impressive and incredibly useful study of the impact that a vast array of different living conditions have on health.

World Health Organization. (2005). *WHO Multi-Country study on women's health and domestic violence*. Retrieved August 8, 2011, from http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/
This is a study of the extent to which violence against women by their intimate partners affects women's health. It clearly shows that violence against women is a public health concern by detailing the impact that domestic violence has on women both in terms of the immediate harm it causes and the lasting effects it has on all aspects of women's future health. The ways that violence affects women's overall health is a subtle and complicated issue. Because of this, any delegate who wishes to address domestic violence as a health concern would be well served by reading this

report, and would gain a better understanding of the intersections of health and violence against women by doing so.

World Health Organization. (2011). *Human rights and gender equality in health sector strategies: how to assess policy coherence*. Retrieved August 8, 2011, from

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HRandGenderEqualityinHealthSectorStrategies.pdf>

This report provides an in depth explanation on how to best utilize a human rights approach to improve women's health. It contains relevant international frameworks, highlighting select passages, an explanation of the importance of a rights-based approach, and delves into the diverse ways in which programs and health interventions can and should be analyzed in a human rights framework. In this way, this report is an essential jumping off point for any attempt to integrate human rights into improving women's health and equality.

World Health Organization. (2009). *Integrating gender into HIV/AIDS programmes in the health sector: tool to improve responsiveness to women's needs*. Retrieved August 22, 2011, from

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241597197_eng.pdf

This report details the specific challenges that women and girls with HIV/AIDS face, and proposes a series of tools and lens with which to approaching these issues. In this way, it is extremely valuable both for what it contributes empirically and methodologically. This report provides an understanding of the challenges in integrating a gender perspective into HIV/AIDS interventions and the approach that the WHO and the UN are already taking in this regard. As a framework that could both be improved upon itself and used to guide the response that delegates improvise, this report could prove extremely valuable to any attempt to address HIV/AIDS specifically.

III. Women's Economic Empowerment in the Context of the Global Economic & Financial Crisis

"About 1,700 people used to work here and all are unemployed now. Many women were pregnant; many are ill and are left with nothing. It's been three months since the factory closed and we haven't paid anything, no severance, no social fund payments." – Ana Ruth Cerna, El Salvador¹⁸⁹

Introduction

The world's poverty and recent turmoil in global financial markets in the past few years shows us that women are at risk of hunger because of the discrimination within the society, in education, healthcare and employment.¹⁹⁰ Poverty also leaves women without any basic rights including access to sanitation, medical care and decent employment, which also means that they have very little protection from social violence.

The recent statistics have shown that women represent 70% of the world's poor.¹⁹¹ Women are often paid less than men from their work and they tend to face discrimination when they apply for businesses or self-employment.¹⁹² In the year 2008, the statistics have showed that the average economic gap between women and men were 17 percent.¹⁹³ In sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, it also showed that due to global economic changes and financial crisis, eight out of ten women workers are out of the employment.¹⁹⁴ Women usually work in export-led factories in developing countries and they are main resources for service industries. The International Labour Organization (ILO) also states that the financial crisis has led to "22 million or more" unemployed women in the year 2009, which led to the loss of women's economic empowerment that gained in the last few decades.¹⁹⁵

¹⁸⁹ Oxfam International Discussion Paper, *Paying the Price for the Economic Crisis*, 2009, p.4.

¹⁹⁰ UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics*, 2011

¹⁹¹ UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics*, 2011

¹⁹² UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics*, 2011

¹⁹³ UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics*, 2011

¹⁹⁴ UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics*, 2011

¹⁹⁵ UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics*, 2011

To empower women's economic prospects, the international community and organizations made strong and comprehensive commitments through various instruments. From the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 to United Nations (UN) Conference on World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development in 2009, international community focuses on "gender-sensitive macroeconomic policies, employment opportunities for women and women's equal access to and control over financial and economic resources and markets."¹⁹⁶

Important international measures focusing on women's economic development

In the *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*, under the Strategic Objective A.1-4 calls for Member States, International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations to take necessary action to "review and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies" for women and poverty and "revise laws and administrative practices to ensure women's equal right to access."¹⁹⁷ It also demands international actors to provide women with access to economic measures, such as savings and credits, and develop gender-based methods and conduct researches that will address the poverty.¹⁹⁸ Due to the Conference, the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* focused on achieving gender equality and open more opportunities for women, which show a clear commitment by international community on achieving standards of equality between men and women.¹⁹⁹

Other instruments are the *Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration*. These two instruments are important tools and measures for developed countries as they help assisting in economic policies of developing countries; economic policies further determine the rights of women at home, in the work places, and in the society. The Monterrey Consensus, the outcome of the 2002 Monterrey Conference in Mexico, focused on the "mobilization and channeling of financial resources to meet the various commitments that the international community has agreed to" over the past decade, particularly the 2000 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).²⁰⁰ In regards to gender, the Consensus recognizes the essential role "sustainable, gender-sensitive, people-centered development" has in achieving the goals of the international community, as well as the importance of mainstreaming "the gender perspective into development policies at all levels and in all sectors."²⁰¹

To follow-up on the *Monterrey Consensus*, the *International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus* was held in 2008 and adopted *Doha Declaration on Financing for Development*.²⁰² The *Doha Declaration* calls for "a strong commitment by developed countries to maintain their Official Development Assistance (ODA) targets irrespective of the current financial crisis."²⁰³ It also made a decision that the United Nations Conference at the highest level should be involved with making impacts on current financial and economic crisis for future development.²⁰⁴ The Declaration also mainly highlighted on "domestic mobilization, mobilizing international resources for development, international trade as an engine for development external debt and comprehensive reforms of the international financial system and institutions."²⁰⁵

Other international instruments, such as numbers of Conventions from ILO and international human rights treaties, including the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* and the *International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights*, also contains commitment on promoting women's economic empowerment.²⁰⁶ In both documents, there is an increasing concern on the implication of financial and

¹⁹⁶ Commission on the Status of Women, *Interactive expert panel on "Women's economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crisis,"* 2010, p.1

¹⁹⁷ United Nations, *Report of the Fourth Conference on Women*, 1996, P. 20-24

¹⁹⁸ United Nations, *Report of the Fourth Conference on Women*, 1996, P. 24-25

¹⁹⁹ United Nations, *Report of the Fourth Conference on Women*, 1996

²⁰⁰ United Nations, Division on the Advancement of Women, *Financing for Development, Gender Equality, and the Follow-Up to the Monterrey Consensus*, 2007

²⁰¹ United Nations, International Conference on Financing for Development, *Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development*, 2002

²⁰² United Nations, *Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation*, 2008

²⁰³ United Nations, *Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation*, 2008, p.7

²⁰⁴ United Nations, *Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation*, 2008, p.7

²⁰⁵ United Nations, *Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation*, 2008, p.18

²⁰⁶ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for the Advancement of Women, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, 1979

Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 1976

economic crisis and impact on gender equality and development.²⁰⁷ Also, it recognizes that the gender equality is very closely related to the economic empowerment of women and the slow progress could have an impact on reaching the MDGs and implementing *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* in many developing countries.²⁰⁸

The 2009 *United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development* recognized that the economic crisis burdens more on women and acknowledged that women's insecurity in income and difficulties in caring for their families in times of crisis.²⁰⁹ In its resolution, "Recovering from the Crisis: A Global Jobs Pact," adopted in June 2009, the International Labour conference noted, "the current economic crisis should be viewed as an opportunity to shape new gender equality policy responses."²¹⁰ The Conference also adopted wide range of suggestions on gender equality, concerning employment and social protection.²¹¹

The General Assembly, in its resolution *A/RES/64/217* on women in development outlined measures to facilitate women's economic empowerment in a range of areas, concerning "the macroeconomic environment, full employment and decent work, land and other productive resources, financial services and social protection."²¹² It also expressed concern over the negative impact of the financial crisis on women and their equality in several areas.²¹³

Although these instruments have been introduced to Member States and IOs, for many countries it has been a dilemma in empowering women's rights and secures their economic rights. The CSW recognizes difficulties, and strongly urges Member States and IOs to use and act on gaining women's economic rights.²¹⁴

It has always been a priority of the UN Women to advance women's economic security and rights.²¹⁵ In more than forty countries, UN Women supports national and local programs to include gender perspective in budgeting processes, and "to collect and use sex-disaggregated data in public policy formulation to ensure that macro-economic policy frameworks address women's priorities."²¹⁶ UN Women also closely works with developing countries to strengthen and create women's rights to land and inheritance.²¹⁷

Gender-Responsive Budgeting

A gender-responsive budget is a budget, which "acknowledges the gender patterns in society and allocates money for implement policies and programs that changes these patterns in a way that moves towards a more gender equal society."²¹⁸ Over the past decade, advocacy efforts carried out by organizations and Member States, changed the way budgeting is carried out, from a view of budgeting as an "exclusive exercise carried out by ministries of finance" to "an understanding the impact budgetary decisions have on gender relations and gender equality on a national level."²¹⁹ A commonly accepted definition of gender budgeting, developed by the Council of Europe's Group of Specialists on gender mainstreaming, is "an application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating gender perspectives at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality."²²⁰

²⁰⁷ Commission on the Status of Women, *Interactive expert panel on "Women's economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crisis,"* 2010, p.2

²⁰⁸ Commission on the Status of Women, *Interactive expert panel on "Women's economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crisis,"* 2010, p.2

²⁰⁹ United Nations, *United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,* 2009

United Nations, *United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,* 2009

²¹⁰ International Labour Organization, *Recovering from the crisis: A Global Jobs Pact,* 2009

²¹¹ International Labour Organization, *Recovering from the crisis: A Global Jobs Pact,* 2009

²¹² United Nations, General Assembly, *Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly: Women in Development,* 2009

²¹³ United Nations, General Assembly, *Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly: Women in Development,* 2009

²¹⁴ Commission on the Status of Women, *Interactive expert panel on "Women's economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crisis,"* 2010, p.2

²¹⁵ UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics,* 2011

²¹⁶ UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics,* 2011

²¹⁷ UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics,* 2011

²¹⁸ Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, *Concept and Definition of Gender Budgeting,* 2011, Chapter 2, p. 3

²¹⁹ Elson, *Budgeting for Women's Rights: Monitoring Government Budgets for Compliance with CEDAW,* 2006.

²²⁰ Council of Europe, Directorate General of Human Rights, Equality Division, *Gender Budgeting: Final Report of the Group of Specialists on Gender Budgeting (EG-S-GB),* 2005

Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), initiated by the UN Women, not only creates separate budgets for women, but it ensures that the public resources are allocated and carried out in a way that is effective and contribute to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.²²¹ GRB is based on in-depth analysis that could be an effective intervention for governments in implementing policies and laws that could advance women's rights.²²² It also gives tools "to assess the different needs and contributions of men and women, and boys and girls within the existing revenues, expenditures and allocation and calls for adjusting budget policies which benefit all groups."²²³

As the leading agency of global advocacy for application of GRB, the UN Women partnered with other international organizations to advance its efforts at the country level, and demonstrate GRB's relevance to the MDGs, aid effectiveness, public sector reform and financing for development.²²⁴ For example, in Morocco, every other woman in the country does not know how to read or write.²²⁵ In order to improve the literacy rate of women, the Ministry of Education in Morocco decided to allocate its funds to expand the school feeding programs, extend medical services within schools, distribute books, and provide transportation for students living in remote areas.²²⁶ In 2006, measures were included in the gender budget statement as an annex to the national budget.²²⁷ This example outlines how allocating public resources address gender equality process, and because of the partnership with the UN Women, in the national budget reform process, GRB is completely incorporated and more than "22 ministries are taking part in preparation of the gender report."²²⁸

There are other successful cases like Morocco; countries such as Philippines and India also successfully implemented GRB into all national budgets.²²⁹ However, these efforts cannot be done without the strong support from the public and each Member States should advise their government to take into a consideration at the national level. One of the major challenges that many countries, including developed and developing, faces is that the Ministry of Finance or Planning within each country does not reflect and integrate gender perspective when they are planning an annual budget. Most of the time, these Ministries are not very cooperative and leave very small room for an alternative avenue.²³⁰ In order to achieve gender equality and empower women in their economic status, it is very important for each Member States to make sure that their Ministries include GRB into their national budgets and increase the capacity of those who are in charge of budgeting, so that they can be aware of its importance. GRB is essential for women's economic empowerment, as it will determine the economic status of men and women.

Women's Land & Property Rights

In many developing countries, women's rights to property are very limited due to "social norms" and "customs" that hampers with their "economic status and opportunities to overcome poverty."²³¹ It can be also seen in countries where seventy-five percent of women are at agricultural work that they are not even guaranteed to own the land they cultivate and which they are dependent to raise their families.²³² Especially, in conflict and post-conflict situations, "the number of women-headed household often increases sharply as many men have either been killed or are absent."²³³ Without their household, which are usually fathers, husbands or brothers, women find themselves to be denied from access to their house and property by male family members.²³⁴

The UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate housing addresses the situation of women, land and housing situation as: "In almost all countries, whether 'developed' or 'developing,' legal security of tenure for women is almost entirely dependent on the men they are associated with. Women headed households and women in general are far less secure

²²¹ UN Women, *Gender Responsive Budgeting*, 2011

²²² UN Women, *Gender Responsive Budgeting*, 2011

²²³ UN Women, *Gender Responsive Budgeting*, 2011

²²⁴ UN Women, *Gender Responsive Budgeting*, 2011

²²⁵ UN Women, *Gender Responsive Budgeting*, 2011

²²⁶ UNIFEM, *UNIFEM's Work in Support of Gender Responsive Budgeting*, 2008, pg. 10

²²⁷ UNIFEM, *UNIFEM's Work in Support of Gender Responsive Budgeting*, 2008, pg 10

²²⁸ UNIFEM, *UNIFEM's Work in Support of Gender Responsive Budgeting*, 2008, pg 10.

²²⁹ UNIFEM, *UNIFEM's Work in Support of Gender Responsive Budgeting*, 2008, pg 3.

²³⁰ United Nation, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division of the Advancement of Women, *Report from the Online Discussion on Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*, 2007.

²³¹ UN Women, *Women's Land and Property Rights*, 2011.

²³² UN Women, *Women's Land and Property Rights*, 2011.

²³³ UN Women, *Women's Land and Property Rights*, 2011.

²³⁴ UN Women, *Women's Land and Property Rights*, 2011.

than men. Very few women own land. A separated or divorced woman with no land and a family to care for often ends up in an urban slum, where her security of tenure is at best questionable”.²³⁵

Owning the land and property empowers women and gives women more income and security.²³⁶ Without the land, women would have limited rights within their households, which lead to less participation in decision making process at home, and potentially leaving women without any resources of income.²³⁷ In the last few years, the international community and agreements have continuously restated the importance of women’s land and property rights.²³⁸ International instruments such as the *Beijing Platform for Action* and *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* affirms and states that women’s right to inheritance and ownership of land and property should be recognized.²³⁹ Women’s right to property is very important and significant in achieving MDGs Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and Goal 3 on gender equality.²⁴⁰

UN Women has worked to gain women’s property and land rights in CIS region, including Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.²⁴¹ UN Women helped with a process of legal analysis, advocacy and partnership building which led to “adopting gender amendments in the Land Code in Tajikistan and in the Law on Land Management in Kyrgyzstan.”²⁴² Working with local partners, UN Women states that “current efforts are focused on overcoming two common barriers to women’s ownership rights: the precedence given to tradition over modern laws, and women’s own lack of awareness about their entitlements.”²⁴³

Various positive developments like above have taken place in terms of law and policy reform in many developing countries, yet most of other countries have not taken such steps.²⁴⁴ It is advised that a more inclusive approach is still needed “in the reform of laws and policies that links to inheritance and the division of marital property to laws and policies on land, housing, credit and gender.”²⁴⁵ When these laws and policies are being created, gender and empowerment should take into a consideration, also included in the budgeting.²⁴⁶ Implementing such laws and policies still remain a big challenge and requires concrete efforts from local to national levels in order for women to gain their rights to the property and land, which leads to gaining economic empowerment.²⁴⁷

Conclusion

Women can be a driving force for economic recovery; however it must be meaningfully implemented in economic and workforce development strategies. Also, it is very important that all states take on their role in addressing gender equality and impact of the financial and economic crisis on women and girls. Gender-responsive budgets can systematically ensure that adequate public resources are put in to achieve gender equality and empowerment within the context of economic crisis. According to the UN Women, “the principles underpinning macroeconomic policy tend to conflict with the gender agenda leading to limited resources allocations.”²⁴⁸ This means that a sector-wide approach needs to be taken in gender budgeting so that more resources and funds are allocated to social sector that benefits both women and girls.²⁴⁹

²³⁵ UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, *Study on Women and Adequate Housing*, 2002, p. 9.

²³⁶ UN Women, *Women’s Land and Property Rights*, 2011.

²³⁷ UN Women, *Women’s Land and Property Rights*, 2011.

²³⁸ UN Women, *Women’s Land and Property Rights*, 2011.

²³⁹ UN Women, *Women’s Land and Property Rights*, 2011.

²⁴⁰ UN Women, *Women’s Land and Property Rights*, 2011.

²⁴¹ UN Women, *Women’s Land and Property Rights*, 2011.

²⁴² UN Women, *Women’s Land and Property Rights*, 2011.

²⁴³ UN Women, *Women’s Land and Property Rights*, 2011.

²⁴⁴ Benschop, Women in Human Settlements Development: Challenges and Opportunities, *Women’s Rights to Land and Property*, 2004, pg 6.

²⁴⁵ Benschop, Women in Human Settlements Development: Challenges and Opportunities, *Women’s Rights to Land and Property*, 2004, pg 6.

²⁴⁶ Benschop, Women in Human Settlements Development: Challenges and Opportunities, *Women’s Rights to Land and Property*, 2004, pg 6.

²⁴⁷ Benschop, Women in Human Settlements Development: Challenges and Opportunities, *Women’s Rights to Land and Property*, 2004, pg 6.

²⁴⁸ UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics*, 2011.

²⁴⁹ UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics*, 2011.

In terms of social empowerment, there has been a substantial progress towards gender equality in school enrollment for basic education.²⁵⁰ However, due to increasing work load on the women at the household level, there is a retention that girls are still dropping out of the school rather than boys.²⁵¹ This recognizes that more in the form of socio-economic empowerment of women needs to be funded.²⁵²

In time of world financial crisis like most of countries are dealing with today, it is very important that women's rights and equality is not affected in a way that women lose their economic status. Commitments to gender equality by each Member States is needed and it must be "translated into policies and programs and sufficient resources must be allocated for their implementation."²⁵³ Delegates should consider the following questions, but not limited to, researching on this topic:

1. What measures have been taken into consideration when addressing women's economic empowerment and what are the important measures?
2. What measures have been taken to make sure that women and girls are not disproportionately affected by the financial and economic crisis? What has your national government taken into consideration?
3. Is the recovery plans and stimulus packages are gender-sensitive? If not, what are some measures that the government or international community should take?
4. What's the government's policy on gender-sensitive budgeting and how much it has been implemented? What could be done in the national level that could bring gender equality and economic empowerment of women? How can the international community take upon the issue of gender-sensitive budgeting and what can be done in the level?
5. What's the government's policy on women's land and property ownership? Is the law gender-sensitive? What are some measures that the government should consider in revising the law? How can international community help to empower women in terms of their economic ownership?

Annotated Bibliography

III. Women's Economic Empowerment in the Context of the Global Economic & Financial Crisis

Benschop, Marjolein. (2004). *Women's Rights to Land and Property*. Retrieved August 25, 2011 from http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/1556_72513_CSDWomen.pdf

This paper exclusively discusses on the women's rights to land and property and policy implementation in the developing countries. It analyzes the situation with the women's rights in land policy and laws and international instruments dealing with the issue. Moreover, it lays out on underlying causes of women being discriminated in the right to own the land, which will help delegates to look at the situation differently. .

Commission on the Status of Women. (2010). *Women's economic empowerment in the context of the global economic and financial crisis*. Retrieved August 13, 2011 from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/outcomes/crp/crp8e.pdf>

This Moderator's summary comes from the fifty-fourth session on the "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly." The Twenty-Third GA session focused on "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" and discussed on implementation of the strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives. It also reviewed the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. At the fifty-fourth session, the member states recognized the situation of women and poverty, and their development, and discussed on the possible development in women's empowerment. Also, it emphasizes on the importance of women's economic empowerment in times of financial crisis.

²⁵⁰ UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics*, 2011.

²⁵¹ UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics*, 2011.

²⁵² UN Women, *Women, Poverty & Economics*, 2011.

²⁵³ United Nations, Division on the Advancement of Women, *Financing for Development, Gender Equality, and the Follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus*, 2007.

International Labour Organization. (2009). *Recovering from the Crisis: A Global Jobs Pact*. Retrieved August 15, 2011 from http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_115076.pdf

On 19, June 2009, the International Labour Conference, with the participation of Government, Employers' and Workers' delegates from the ILO's member states adopted A Global Jobs Pact. This policy instrument addresses the social and employment impact of the international financial and economic crisis. It promotes a productive recovery centered on investments employment and social protection. Also, the Global Jobs Pact proposes a balanced and realistic set of policy measures that countries, with the support of regional and multilateral institutions, can adopt to strengthen their on-going efforts to address the crisis while pursuing economic, social and environmental sustainability.

UN Women. (2011). *Women, Poverty & Economics*. Retrieved August 25, 2011 from http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_poverty_economics/

This website to the UN Women's Women, Poverty & Economics gives detailed information and sources on how the UN Women and the CSW worked to achieving gaining women's economic empowerment. Delegates may find facts and figures on women and poverty, issues dealing with women's economic empowerment, such as gender-responsive budgets, women migrant workers, women's land & property rights, and financing for gender equality. Also, there are wide range of papers and books on the website which can help with researching on cases dealing with each Member States in relation to the topic.

United Nations. (1995). *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women*. Retrieved August 15, 2011 from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/Beijing%20full%20report%20E.pdf>

The Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women contains important and detailed information on the initiation of women's economic development and their rights. The Fourth World Conference on Women held on 4-15 September 1995, in Beijing, China. The principal themes were advancement and empowerment of women in relation to women's human rights, women and poverty, women and decision-making, the girl-child, violence against women and other areas of concern. The overriding message of the Conference was that the issues addressed in the Platform for Action are global and universal. Deeply entrenched attitudes and practices perpetuate inequality and discrimination against women, in public and private life, in all parts of the world. Accordingly, implementation requires changes in values, attitudes, practices and priorities at all levels. Delegates will be able to identify the international norms and standards of equality between men and women and gender mainstreaming through the report.

Oxfam. (2009). *Paying the Price for the Economic Crisis*. Retrieved August 30, 2011 from <http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/paying-the-price-for-global-economic-crisis.pdf>

This paper discusses on hidden parts of the global economic crisis and its impact on women workers in developing countries. Study has shown the crisis is having a devastating impact on their livelihoods, their rights, and their families, because women are the first to be laid off. Delegates will be able to use this source in identifying the problem and situation of women and their economic status in times of financial crisis.

United Nations. (2008). *Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus*. Retrieved August 25, 2011 from <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/index.htm>

The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, concluded with the adoption of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and discussed on the development of developing countries during the economic crisis. This document can be a key in addressing the financial crisis and what each stakeholders should take charge during the time of economic crisis.

United Nations. (2002). *Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development*. Retrieved August 8, 2011 from <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/monterrey/MonterreyConsensus.pdf>

The report on Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development addresses important issues for governments and international organizations on the effectiveness of ODA and achieving economic

equality for all. This paper underlines the importance of economic development and welfare of developing countries.

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Rules of Procedure Commission on the Status of Women

Introduction

1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the Commission on the Status of Women (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 Plenary Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Director-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Director-General or her or his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, “President” shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the 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 the Members of the Commission at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - *Adoption of the agenda*

The agenda provided by the Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the 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 means those delegates, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote.

Rule 5 - *Revision of the agenda*

During a session, the 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. No additional item may, unless the Commission decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee has reported on the question concerned.

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

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum

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

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the 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, and generally perform all other work which the Commission may require.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat

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

Rule 10 - Selection of the President

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

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President

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

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

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

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

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

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

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 14 - Quorum

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

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

Rule 15 - General powers of the President

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the 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. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she 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 her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference. For purposes of this rule, the President's power to propose to the Commission entails her/his power to entertain motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.

Rule 16

The President, in the exercise of her or his functions, remains under the authority of the 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 meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 18

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

Rule 19 - Speeches

1. No one may address the 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 her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Commission may limit the time allowed to speakers and all representatives may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives favoring and two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call her or him to order without delay.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, if the President determines that the 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 her/his discretion, and on the advice and consent of the Secretariat, may rule as dilatory any additional motions to change the limits of the speaker's time.

Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers

Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the 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 speakers' list is within the purview of the Commission and the President should not act on her/his own motion.

Rule 21 - Right of reply

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

For purposes of this rule, a remark that impugns the integrity of a representative's State is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Commission 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 session the following year, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and in furtherance of its educational mission, the President will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last meeting of the 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 to two representatives favoring and two opposing adjournment, after which the motion shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. If a motion for adjournment passes, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken on it.

Rule 25 - Closure of debate

A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her/his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the 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 23, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

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

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with the names of twenty percent of the members of the Commission 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 Commission for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, all proposals shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Commission by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Commission. These draft resolutions 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 means those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion is voted upon by the body.

VI. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

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

Rule 31 - Request for a vote

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

Rule 32 - Majority required

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

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

Rule 33 - Method of voting

1. The 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.

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

Rule 34 - Explanations of vote

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

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

Rule 35 - Conduct during voting

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

Rule 36 - Division of proposals and amendments

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

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

Rule 37 - Amendments

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

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

Rule 38 - Order of voting on amendments

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

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

Rule 39 - Order of voting on proposals

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

Rule 40 - The President shall not vote

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

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 41 - Credentials

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

Rule 42

The 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.