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COMMISSION ON THE THE STATUS OF WOMEN BACKGROUND GUIDE 2014

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2014 National Model United Nations Conference and welcome to our committee, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Our aim is to make this year's conference an educational and rewarding experience.

The Directors for this year's Commission are Camille Le Baron (Conference A) and Ardis Smith (Conference B), Auric Kaur (Conference A) and Linda Critzer (Conference B) are the Assistant Directors. Camille graduated with a BA in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Kent in 2013. She is currently in her first year of a Master's program in International Relations with an emphasis on political economy, and security at Sciences Po Lille. Ardis Smith graduated with her BA in History from Brigham Young University and MPhil in Historical Studies from the University of Cambridge. She currently works as a historical consultant in Salt Lake City, Utah. Auric graduated with an degree in Political Science from Bellevue College, in Bellevue, WA. Linda Critzer graduated with her BA in International Relations and French from Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, VA. She currently works with a corporation as a bilingual specialist in Customer Service in Richmond, VA.

This year's topics under discussion for the CSW are:

- I. The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
- II. Addressing the Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in the Post-2015 Agenda
- III. Promoting Women's and Girls' Access to Education, Training, Science and Technology

The Commission on the Status of Women is the core body for addressing matters related to the progress of women's empowerment and gender equality in the international system. As such, we hope the spirit of the Committee is clearly represented in your position papers and continues into your working papers and any adopted resolutions at the Conference.

We hope you will find this Background Guide useful as it serves to introduce you to the topics for this committee. It is not meant to replace further research and we highly encourage you explore in-depth your countries' policies as well as use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation of the conference, each delegation will be submitting a [position paper](#). Please refer to the following pages for details regarding the position paper submission process. Please take note of the [NMUN policies](#) on the website and in the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#) regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct/dress code/sexual harassment, awards philosophy/evaluation method, etc. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the Committee or the Conference itself, please feel free to contact the substantive staff listed below or the Under-Secretaries-General for the ECOSOC Department, Sasha Sleiman (Conference A) and Yvonne Jeffery (Conference B). You can reach either USG by e-mailing usg.ecosoc@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best for your preparation and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Sincerely,

Conference A

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NMUN•NY Position Paper Guidelines

Due 1 March 2014

Each committee topic should be addressed in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned country, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), or expert role. You should identify and address international and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action that are relevant to the policy of your country or NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. A delegate's role as a Member State, Observer State, or NGO should affect the way a position paper is written. To understand these differences, please refer to the [Delegate Preparation Guide](#). It may also be helpful to view a [Sample Position Paper](#).

A position paper should be submitted for each assigned committee.

- The two page position paper should cover all the topics in the background guide, not a separate paper for each topic.
- Do not submit papers for committees not assigned to your country/NGO (see matrix for [Conf. A](#) or [Conf. B](#)).
- No more than two delegates can represent a single country/NGO in a committee. If you assign two delegates to represent a country/NGO on a committee, they submit one position paper jointly, not separate position papers from each individual.

Please pay careful attention to the following guidelines when drafting and submitting your position papers. Only those delegations that follow the guidelines and meet the submission deadline will be eligible for [position paper awards](#).

All papers must be typed and formatted according to the standards below:

- Length must not exceed two pages
- Margins must be set at 1 inch or 2.54 cm. for the whole paper
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Country/NGO name, school name, and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page
- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers

Please note that position papers must be comprised of entirely original writing. **The NMUN Conference will not tolerate plagiarism**, including copying from Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy may result in dismissal from the conference. Although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents.

How to Submit Your Position Papers

Position papers need to be submitted by email in .pdf or .doc formats. As proof of submission, include yourself as an email recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, Conference A or B, and delegation/school name in both the email subject line and in the filename (example: GA1_Cuba_Conf A_State College).

1. Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country/NGO assignments to the Deputy Secretary-General for the conference you are attending:

Conference A: positionpapers.nya@nmun.org

Conference B: positionpapers.nyb@nmun.org

2. Send a copy of your position paper for each assigned committee to the corresponding committee email address listed on the [Committee Background Guides page](#).

Your delegation may wish to submit a copy of their position papers to the permanent mission of the country/NGO headquarters along with an explanation of the conference. This is encouraged if requesting a [briefing](#).

Many, many papers will be read by the Secretariat. Your patience and cooperation in adhering to the above guidelines is greatly appreciated.

Abbreviations

AWID	Association for Women's Right in Development
BPfA	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DAW	Division for the Advancement of Women (now part of UN-Women)
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
FGM	Female genital mutilation
GADN	Gender and Development Network
GEAR	Gender Equality Architecture Reform
HLP	High-Level Panel
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
MASVAW	Men's Action to Stop Violence Against Women
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSAGI	Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (now part of UN-Women)
SDG	Sustainable development goals
STEM	Science, technology, engineering or mathematics
UN	United Nations
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund (now part of UN-Women)
WEDO	Women's Environment and Development Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

Committee History

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with the adoption of resolution 11(II) on 21 June 1946.¹ The Commission is one of several subsidiary bodies established under ECOSOC pursuant to Article 68 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), which allows ECOSOC to establish commissions to work on specific social and economic issues.² From its inception, CSW was visualized as a body that would provide information and recommendations for promoting and protecting women's rights across to ECOSOC and to the international community as a whole.³ This vision has been realized on several occasions, including in the consultations leading up to the adoption of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), and over several decades in the broader, global conversation on the changing role of women in public and private life.⁴

Evolution of CSW

The first session of the Commission occurred in New York in 1947; all representatives were female, which was significant because it was the first organizational body of the UN to include women as delegates.⁵ Currently, ECOSOC provides a forum for CSW to report about significant emerging issues in the economic and social well-being of women.⁶ The CSW addresses urgent new issues and creates initiatives aimed at realizing women's rights.⁷ Another key function of the CSW is to review the outcomes of previous global conferences and monitor progress made since each conference was held; this mandate came from the General Assembly following the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, and was a pivotal moment in the evolution of the CSW.⁸ The result of this conference, the *Beijing Platform for Action* (1995), reaffirms the need to accelerate the advancement of women across all areas of public and private life, reinforcing the need to both protect women's fundamental human rights, while simultaneously empower them to be full participants in decision-making processes.⁹ CSW has hosted other conferences that have encouraged UN bodies to include women's issues as focal points in their own conferences; one result of this was the 2010 ECOSOC meeting on "Emerging Philanthropy to Promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment."¹⁰

Mandate

The mandate of the Commission, as established in ECOSOC resolution 48(IV) and expanded in resolutions 1987/22 and 1996/6, established the body as "the competent intergovernmental body on matters concerning the status of women."¹¹ CSW has the mandate to "promote the objectives of equality, development and peace, monitor the implementation of measures for the advancement of women, and review and appraise progress made at the national, subregional, regional and global levels."¹² Additionally, the body has the task of notifying ECOSOC should an urgent situation arise related to the violation of women's rights.¹³ The most recent change to the mandate gave the Commission more responsibilities in relation to ECOSOC and its role and has created a narrower focus on the

¹ Eichelberger, *Organizing for Peace: A Personal History of the Founding of the United Nations*, 1977, p. 260; UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women* [Website], 2013; UN-Women, *A Brief History of the CSW* [Website], 2011.

² *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; United Nations, *Subsidiary Bodies of ECOSOC* [Website].

³ UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women* [Website], 2013; UN Chief Executive Boards Secretariat, *Gender equality and the empowerment of women* [Website], 2013.

⁴ UN-Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2013.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women* [Website], 2013.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ UN Economic and Social Council, *Engaging Philanthropy to Promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Special Report of the Economic and Social Council*, 2010.

¹¹ UN Economic and Social Council, *Status of women (E/RES/48(IV))* [Resolution], 1947; UN Economic and Social Council, *Enlargement of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/RES/1987/23)* [Resolution], 1987; UN Economic and Social Council, *Measures to strengthen the role and functions of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/RES/1987/22)* [Resolution], 1987.

¹² Galey, *Nondiscrimination Against Women: The UN Commission on the Status of Women*, 1979, pp. 274-276.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 276.

promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.¹⁴ Of particular importance is the alignment of the Commission's work with the outcome of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, the *Beijing Platform for Action*, and the responsibility given to ECOSOC as the central body responsible for follow-up on the Platform.¹⁵

Governance, Structure and Membership

The Commission has forty-five members, divided between the UN regional groups.¹⁶ Before its membership was capped at forty-five, the size of the Commission had changed three times since its creation, beginning with only nine Member States in 1946 and growing to fifteen one year later; followed by 21 in 1987 and finally 45 members where it stands today.¹⁷ It was not until the twenty-first century that the current membership of forty-five Member States solidified.¹⁸

The structure of the Commission is similar to other ECOSOC subsidiary bodies: the entire membership meets for regular sessions in a plenary, with a smaller group of members elected to chair sessions and decide the agenda. This smaller group is called a "Bureau" and their role is to ensure the committee is functioning smoothly in an organized fashion in order to ensure the success of the sessions of CSW.¹⁹ Currently, members of the Bureau serve two years and are elected at the first session of CSW.²⁰

The Commission meets annually for ten consecutive days in either February or March in order to discuss emerging issues related to women's rights and further reflect on the implementation of existing norms.²¹ The Commission specifically addresses one priority theme each year based upon an aspect of the *Beijing Platform for Action*.²²

The UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), established in July 2010 by General Assembly resolution 64/289, acts as the Secretariat for the CSW.²³ This means that UN-Women provides the organization and substantive support for the Commission leading up to and during its annual session.²⁴ This relationship is very important to emphasize, as UN-Women is the primary entity responsible for implementing many of the Commission's decisions, whether that is directly via UN-Women programming or in partnership with other relevant entities.²⁵

Functions and Powers

As laid out in ECOSOC resolution 1996/6, the Commission's functions are to:

- "Assist [ECOSOC] 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 [ECOSOC] 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;"²⁶

¹⁴ Farrior, *United Nations Commission on the Status of Women*, 2008, p. 5.

¹⁵ UN Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995; UN Economic and Social Council, *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/RES/1996/6)* [Resolution], 1996.

¹⁶ Farrior, *United Nations Commission on the Status of Women*, 2008, p. 2-5

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women* [Website], 2013.

²⁰ UN General Assembly, *The Work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Men (A/RES/68/121)* [Resolution], 2013.

²¹ UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women* [Website], 2013; UN General Assembly, *System-wide coherence (A/RES/64/289)* [Resolution], 21 July 2010.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ UN General Assembly, *The Work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Men (A/RES/68/121)* [Resolution], 2013.

²⁴ UN Chief Executives Board Secretariat, *UN-Women* [Website].

²⁵ UN General Assembly, *The Work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Men (A/RES/68/121)* [Resolution], 2013; UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women* [Website].

²⁶ Cite

- “Identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needed to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination function;”²⁷
- “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;”²⁸
- “Maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Platform for Action.”²⁹

As a subsidiary body of ECOSOC, the Commission can make recommendations towards a range of parties, including States; intergovernmental organizations; the private sector; civil society; specialized agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system; and international financial institutions.³⁰ Any conclusions and resolutions written by the Commission are sent to ECOSOC in a report to be adopted.³¹

The Commission reinforces the complementary work on women’s rights that is undertaken by many other bodies within the UN system, such as the General Assembly Third Committee and ECOSOC. Further, the Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, mandated with monitoring the implementation of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* (1979) and the Commission maintain a close relationship, reflecting on each other’s work and having the committee chair of CEDAW participate in CSW sessions.³²

Recent Sessions

The most recent session of CSW, the 57th session, was held in March 2013 under the priority theme “Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence against Women and Girls.”³³ The Commission additionally considered the emerging theme “Key Gender Equality Issues to be Reflected in the Post-2015 Development Framework,” and the review theme “The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS.”³⁴ In the resulting report from the 57th session, CSW affirmed violence against women as being rooted within the historical hierarchy of male domination over women and encouraged all forms of law to be used as a way to combat violence against women and the girl child.³⁵ At this session, the Commission recommended the adoption of two separate draft resolutions by ECOSOC on future organization and methods of work of CSW, and the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women.³⁶ The Commission also accepted ten separate documents that it adopted in accordance with decision 57/10.³⁷

During the 56th session in 2012, the emerging issue was “Engaging Young Women and Men, Girls and Boys, to Advance Gender Equality,” and the priority theme was the “Empowerment of Rural Women and Their Role in Poverty and Hunger Eradication, Development and Current Challenges.”³⁸ This session discussed the importance of helping rural women eradicate hunger, along with reviewing the progression of financing programs to empower women.³⁹ ECOSOC adopted some of the resolutions passed by CSW from the 56th session.⁴⁰

²⁷ Cite

²⁸ Cite

²⁹ UN Economic and Social Council, *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/RES/1996/6)* [Resolution], 1996.

³⁰ UN Population Division, *United Nations Population Information Network: A Guide to Population Information on UN System Web Sites* [Website], 2013.

³¹ UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women* [Website], 2013.

³² UN-Women, Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women, 2013; UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979;

³³ UN Economic and Social Council, *Commission on the Status of Women: Report on the fifty-seventh session (4-15 March 2013) (E/2013/27)*, 2013.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women: NGO Participation* [Website], 2013.

³⁷ UN Economic and Social Council, *Commission on the Status of Women: Report on the fifty-seventh session (4-15 March 2013) (E/2013/27)*, 2013.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ United Nations, *Commission on the Status of Women* [Website], 2013.

⁴⁰ UN Economic and Social Council, *Resolutions and Decisions of the Economic and Social Council (E/2012/99)*, 2013.

The forthcoming 58th session of the Commission, set for March 2014, will discuss the priority theme “Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls,” and the review theme will look at women and girls in education, training, science, and technology.⁴¹

Conclusion

The Commission on the Status of Women has fought for the advancement of women’s and girls’ rights in all areas of social policymaking over the last 50 years.⁴² The Commission works with not only UN bodies, but also non-governmental organizations (NGOs).⁴³ This active collaboration has made many strides in progressing women’s empowerment and equality.⁴⁴ The future of the Commission will involve working with NGOs, along with other intergovernmental and regional organizations and UN organs.⁴⁵ The progression for women’s empowerment and equality continues, as CSW commits to addressing new initiatives to improve and achieve international goals in women’s rights.⁴⁶

Annotated Bibliography

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<http://www.oxfordreference.com/search?siteToSearch=aup&q=Stephanie+Farrior&searchBtn=Search&isQuickSearch=true>

This chapter of the Oxford Encyclopedia of Human Rights and provides information on the Commission on the Status of Women. It specifically gives a synopsis of the history, structure, and functions of the Commission. The paper also provides reactions and actions of the Commission towards certain events of significance to CSW.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. (2013, March 15). *Commission on the Status of Women: Report on the Fifty-seventh Session (E/2013/27)*. Retrieved June 28, 2013 from:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2013/27

This document is the report of the 57th session of CSW. It lists the draft resolutions and reports discussed during the committee’s session. This is a helpful document in showing how to formulate a draft resolution in a proper manner. It also gives the procedures of the Commission and the organization of the session. Some topics discussed at the session included a follow-up from the Fourth World Conference as well as the agenda for the 58th session of the Commission.

UN-Women. (2013). *Commission on the Status of Women: New* [Website]. Retrieved 18 July 2013 from:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

This website is the new CSW website managed by UN-Women for the upcoming sessions of the Commission. It provides a brief history of the CSW along with information on the relationship between UN-Women of the CSW, as well as further procedures related to NGO participation and communication. Along with providing information on the history of CSW, the site also gives information on the upcoming 58th and 59th sessions of the Commission in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

UN-Women. (2013). *Commission on the Status of Women - Old* [Website]. Retrieved June 28, 2013 from:

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

This is the old website for the CSW, which is slowly being phased out of usage. Regardless, this website contains a wealth of historical information and has previously been the primary website for the CSW. This site provides details on the mandate, governance, structure, and membership on the Commission. A list of the Member States, along with information on the world conferences, is

⁴¹ United Nations, *Commission on the Status of Women: 58th Session* [Website], 2013.

⁴² Meyer, *Gender Politics in Global Governance*, 1999, p. 36.

⁴³ UN-Women, *NGO Participation* [Website], 2013.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ United Nations, *Commission on the Status of Women: 58th Session* [Website], 2013.

provided on the site. This source gives specific details regarding previous CSW sessions, side events, and preparatory meetings. It also provides links to helpful documents in doing further research into the Commission, such as background papers produced by experts on the central themes and statements made by high-level participants.

UN-Women. (2013). *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*. Retrieved 31 August 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/CSW60YRS/CSWbriefhistory.pdf>

This document explains the history of the Commission since its establishment in 1946. It is categorized into different sections by year of the Commissions sessions and conferences. This is a significant document because it gives the pertinent facts about the committee and its accomplishments. Some of the most important facts included in this document are the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human rights as well as the progression of women's participation within CSW.

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I. The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

“[M]en must take joint responsibility with women for the promotion of gender equality.”⁴⁷

Introduction

In recent years, much has been accomplished throughout the international community in empowering women and establishing furthered gender equality. However, many barriers continue to prevent women having equal opportunities to men in all aspects of life, including in education, health, employment, and decision-making processes.⁴⁸ For example, female access to education has increased substantially, and women now compose a majority of students in tertiary education worldwide.⁴⁹ Women’s participation in parliament has also significantly increased; women serving in parliament increased a full percentage point in 2012 alone.⁵⁰

Gender equality and empowerment are often thought of as being solely important to women; while it is essential to ensure that women are an active, driving force in the discussion of gender equality and empowerment, it has been shown that the empowerment of women directly contributes to local, national, regional, and international development for both women and men.⁵¹ The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) accordingly states that not only is gender equality “not a ‘women’s issue’,” but that gender equality “should concern and fully engage men as well as women.”⁵² The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) “recognizes the capacity of men and boys in bringing about change in attitudes, relationships and access to resources and decision-making which are critical for the promotion of gender equality and the full enjoyment of all human rights by women;” it has also established that “the negative impacts of gender inequality are borne by society as a whole.”⁵³ The inclusion of men and boys as stakeholders in gender equality has a direct influence on decreasing discrimination, such as violence against women.⁵⁴ The participation of men and boys in empowering women allows for the further improvement of the status of women throughout the world and diminishes ideas and beliefs that may inhibit equality.⁵⁵

International Framework

Gender equality and the empowerment of women have been important foundational principles of the United Nations (UN) since its beginning. The *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) established that human rights were not dependent on sex, and since its creation, CSW has promoted the rights and status of women instilled in the *Charter*.⁵⁶ The 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* confirmed that men and women share “equal rights,” and that all are “entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”⁵⁷ In 1979, the UN General Assembly adopted the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), which emphasizes the need to eliminate gender discrimination and gender-based violence.⁵⁸ CEDAW is one of the most pivotal international documents on establishing gender equality and women’s rights. Another international effort of significance is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

⁴⁷ UN Commission on the Status of Women, Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality (E/2004/INF/2/Add.2), 2004, p. 1.

⁴⁸ UN OHCHR, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights – In Six Cross-Cutting Themes* [Website].

⁴⁹ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 23.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 22.

⁵¹ UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979; UN Division for the Advancement of Women, *The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality*, 2008, p. 4.

⁵² UN OHCHR, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights – In Six Cross-Cutting Themes* [Website].

⁵³ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality: Agreed Conclusions*, 12 March 2004, p. 1; UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Panel Discussion*, 2012, p. 1.

⁵⁴ UNFPA, *Ending Widespread Violence Against Women* [Website].

⁵⁵ European Commission, *The Role of Men in Gender Equality* [Website], 2013.

⁵⁶ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, art. 1; UN-Women, *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2013.

⁵⁷ UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948, art. 2.

⁵⁸ UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979, art. 5.

which is a set of eight development goals agreed upon by Member States for the international community to achieve by 2015. MDG 3 specifically aims to Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women.⁵⁹

The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality has been increasingly discussed in recent years.⁶⁰ In 1995, the *Platform for Action* of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing reiterated that “equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice,” also emphasizing that “a transformed partnership based on equality between women and men is a condition for people-centered sustainable development.”⁶¹ Similarly, the *Programme of Action* of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo encouraged that “special efforts should be made to emphasize men’s shared responsibility and promote their active involvement” in family responsibilities, reproductive health, access to income and education, and preventing violence against women.⁶² The inclusion of men in achieving gender equality was also discussed at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, the 27th and 28th special sessions of the General Assembly in 2001 and 2002, and the Expert Group Meeting of the UN Division for the Advancement of Women (now part of UN-Women) in 2003.⁶³

Role of the United Nations System

As the UN Commission on the Status of Women aims to decrease gender discrimination and improve the conditions of women worldwide, members have discussed in-depth the inclusion of men and boys in efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. These conversations have occurred directly, in discussing the incorporation of men and boys into effective strategies, and indirectly, as the topic connects with many related themes debated by CSW. In 2004, CSW discussed the theme of “The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality,” during its 48th session.⁶⁴ In preparation for the March 2004 meeting, the Secretary-General prepared a report to inform the Commission on the present-day issues related to the inclusion of men and boys in promoting gender equality. Included in the report was information on increased international attention to the inclusion of men, the potential impact of men in changing discriminatory societal and employment practices, the involvement of men in family responsibility and caregiving, and the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS.⁶⁵ At the end of the 48th session, CSW adopted a set of Agreed Conclusions, which contained recommendations on continued inclusion of men and boys, including partnerships between men and women in promoting equality, policies and discussions on shared family responsibilities, and the development and implementation of educational and training programs.⁶⁶

In 2012, the 56th session of CSW discussed “Engaging Young Women and Men, Girls and Boys, to Advance Gender Equality” as its emerging issue.⁶⁷ An Issues Paper for a Panel Discussion on the topic noted the influence of young people, as well as the powerful role of young men, in advancing gender equality, also emphasizing the importance of increased youth participation in international development goals, as youth compose approximately 44% of the world’s population.⁶⁸ The paper also recognized that youth have the ability to more easily change and restructure stereotypical gender and social roles than adult men and women, and so their inclusion in empowerment efforts can allow for the further development of overall gender equality within a short period of time.⁶⁹

⁵⁹ United Nations, *Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women* [Website].

⁶⁰ UN Economic and Social Council, *Thematic Issue Before the Commission: The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2004/9)*, 2003.

⁶¹ UN Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995.

⁶² United Nations, *International Conference on Population and Development – ICPD - Programme of Action*, 1994.

⁶³ UN Economic and Social Council, *Thematic Issue Before the Commission: The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2004/9)*, 2003, pp. 3-18.

⁶⁴ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Commission on the Status of Women 48th Session: “The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality”* [Website], 2004.

⁶⁵ UN Economic and Social Council, *Thematic Issue Before the Commission: The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2004/9)*, 2003, p. 2.

⁶⁶ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality (E/2004/INF/2/Add.2)*, 2004, pp. 2-4.

⁶⁷ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *CSW56* [Website], 2012.

⁶⁸ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Panel Discussion: “Engaging Young Women and Men, Girls and Boys, to Advance Gender Equality”*: *Issues Paper*, 2012, p. 2.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

CSW has also focused on the equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women. In 2006, CSW discussed the “Equal Participation of Women and Men in Decision-Making Processes at All Levels,” a theme that was reviewed in 2009.⁷⁰ The 53rd session of CSW in 2009 also included a debate on “The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS.”⁷¹ This theme was reviewed in the 57th session of CSW held in 2013.⁷² The inclusion of men and boys has also been pertinent to other CSW discussions in recent sessions of the Commission, including HIV/AIDS (45th, 53rd, and 57th sessions); gendered discrimination and violence (45th, 55th, and 57th sessions); poverty eradication (46th and 56th sessions), and women in development (50th and 55th sessions).⁷³

The UN system has emphasized the inclusion of men in gender equality in different ways. Of particular note is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s “UNiTE to End Violence” campaign, an international effort to increase global knowledge of gender-based violence and provide resources to combat violence.⁷⁴ UNiTE is funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund), which is run by a significant organization in international gender equality efforts, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).⁷⁵ In 2009, Secretary-General Ban established the Network of Men Leaders, an alliance of men in decision-making positions on national, international, regional, and community levels that unite together to address gender-based violence and empower women.⁷⁶ Ban has instructed men and boys to think of their own connection to women as spouses and parents and to “break the silence,” stating that “when you witness violence against women and girls, do not sit back. Act. Advocate. Unite to change the practices and attitudes that incite, perpetrate and condone this violence. Violence against women and girls will not be eradicated until all of us, men and boys, refuse to tolerate it.”⁷⁷

Stigmas and Problems Hindering Equality

Secretary-General Ban’s comments on the UNiTE campaign and the Network of Men Leaders highlight several key barriers to the inclusion of men that often limit the potential success of gender equality strategies. Efforts cannot be fully successful without the participation of all stakeholders, men and women, and men often perpetuate stereotypes, stigmas, or practices against women that can detrimentally affect their rights. In addition, the types of barriers that prevent international equality between women and men are greatly varied, and gender inequalities exist in access to economic opportunities, education, health, and levels of violence, armed conflict, and decision-making.⁷⁸

Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence remains one of the most significant barriers in achieving gender equality. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over one-third of women throughout the world experience gender-based violence, and while the percentage of women affected by violence varies by region, it nears at least 30 percent in all regions and developed countries.⁷⁹ Violence against women takes many forms, including physical and emotional violence; rape and marital rape; female genital mutilation (FGM); and female exploitation.⁸⁰ It deprives women of basic human rights, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) states that gender-based violence “perpetuate[s] male power and control” and “is inextricably linked to gender-based inequalities.”⁸¹ Gender-based violence disproportionately affects women in conflict or who are displaced; it also negatively influences female

⁷⁰ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Fiftieth Session* [Website], 2006; UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Fifty-third Session* [Website], 2009.

⁷¹ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Fifty-third Session* [Website], 2009.

⁷² UN Commission on the Status of Women, *CSW57* [Website], 2013.

⁷³ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Sessions* [Website].

⁷⁴ United Nations Secretary-General’s Campaign UNiTE to End Violence Against Women, *About UNiTE* [Website].

⁷⁵ UN-WOMEN, *UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women* [Website], 2013.

⁷⁶ United Nations, *The Secretary-General’s Network of Men Leaders* [Website].

⁷⁷ UN News Center, *Ban Launches New Network of Men Leaders to Combat Violence Against Women, 2009*.

⁷⁸ UN General Assembly, *Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/RES/S-23/3)* [Resolution], 2000.

⁷⁹ World Health Organization, *WHO Report Highlights Violence Against Women as a ‘Global Health Problem of Epidemic Proportions*, 2013.

⁸⁰ UN General Assembly, *Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/RES/S-23/3)* [Resolution], 2000, p. 7.

⁸¹ UN Population Fund, *Ending Widespread Violence Against Women* [Website].

access to health.⁸² Cultural beliefs that gender-based violence may be a domestic matter, rather than an international cause, further exacerbates violence and prevents prosecution for such occurrences.⁸³

Perceptions of Gendered Familial and Societal Responsibilities

Because of assumed norms, women face inequality in all areas of social, cultural, political, and economic life. Although CEDAW emphasizes that “the role of women in procreation should not be a basis for discrimination but that the upbringing of children requires a sharing of responsibility between men and women and society as a whole,” traditional roles of men and women within the family and the community continue to inhibit gender equality.⁸⁴ In most cultures, home responsibilities and child rearing are perceived as belonging mainly to women, and while women have increasingly entered paid work opportunities also held by men, they still maintain a majority of familial responsibilities.⁸⁵ Not only does placing familial responsibility mainly within the female realm prevent further opportunities for adult women, it also limits young women, as perceived responsibilities within families often prohibit access to education.⁸⁶ Family planning and reproductive health are often assumed to belong solely to the female partner, rather than also being a responsibility of the male partner.⁸⁷ Women also have the main responsibility for unpaid care of children and ill family members, and it has been estimated that with HIV/AIDS, men only participate in 10% of provided care.⁸⁸ Women also face a lack of access to resources needed and have little say in decision-making aspects of the family, community, and in employment and governmental positions.⁸⁹

The Positive Influence of Men and Boys on Achieving Gender Equality

According to the UNFPA, how men perceive themselves within their societal gender roles influences whether they will engage in violence against women. Accordingly, it is important to both change societal perceptions of stereotyped gender roles and engage men as shareholders in achieving gender equality.⁹⁰ Secretary-General Ban has encouraged the active participation of men in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, stating, “men must teach each other that real men do not violate or oppress women – and that a woman’s place is not just in the home or field, but in schools and offices and boardrooms.”⁹¹ Male involvement with female empowerment can take many forms. In some cases, significant change can be accomplished to address an item of major concern, and in other situations, smaller decisions and efforts on behalf of men and boys can also increase gender equality for women within their lives and communities.⁹²

Gender-Based Violence

To more fully combat gender-based violence, men must perceive themselves as partners, parents, siblings, and children of those affected by gender-based violence.⁹³ One aspect of combating gender-based violence is the

⁸² UN High Commission for Refugees, *Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Person*, 2003, p. 7; United Nations, *Engaging Philanthropy to Promote Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment*, 2010, p. 8.

⁸³ United Nations, *Engaging Philanthropy to Promote Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment*, 2010, p. 8; World Health Organization, *Gender Based Violence* [Website].

⁸⁴ UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.

⁸⁵ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS: Moderators’ summary*, 2008, p. 2; UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2009/2)*, 2008, p. 6.

⁸⁶ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS: Moderators’ summary*, 2008, p. 2.

⁸⁷ ICRW & Instituto Promundo, *Engaging Men and Boys to Achieve Gender Equality: How Can We Build on What We Have Learned?*, 2007, p. 7.

⁸⁸ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2009/2)*, 2008, p. 12.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*; UN General Assembly, *Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/RES/S-23/3)* [Resolution], 2000, p. 7.

⁹⁰ UN Population Fund, *Ending Widespread Violence Against Women* [Website].

⁹¹ United Nations Secretary-General’s Campaign UNiTE to End Violence Against Women, *The Secretary-General’s Network of Men Leaders* [Website].

⁹² ICRW & Instituto Promundo, *Engaging Men and Boys to Achieve Gender Equality; How Can We Build on What We Have Learned?*, 2007.

⁹³ UN Population Fund, *Ending Widespread Violence Against Women* [Website].

inclusion of men in anti-gender-based violence projects, as well as in the empowerment of women.⁹⁴ As gender-based violence is particularly instigated in times of conflict, men must also commit to the definition of such violence as a war crime and work against the further perpetuation of gender-based violence in conflict.⁹⁵ When men speak against all forms of violence against women, they end the silence that often perpetuates such violence in communities throughout the world.⁹⁶ Engaging young men in addressing gender-based violence has also been shown to enact change in access to increased equality and decrease participation in gender roles that perpetuate violence.⁹⁷ Initiatives that have successfully addressed violence against women gave young men opportunities to educate their peers, involved them in programs to support victims, and promoted the inclusion of reporting abuse to authorities.⁹⁸ The involvement of young males in addressing gender-based violence is also effective in introducing boys to seek gender equality in general.⁹⁹ The inclusion of young men in gender equality is essential, because the involvement of youth has a generational impact, with youth growing into men who support the equal sharing of responsibilities between the sexes and who decline adherence to limiting gender roles.¹⁰⁰

Within Familial and Societal Responsibilities

The participation of men in combating stereotypical gender roles and alleviating conditions of gender inequality encourages the overall empowerment of women.¹⁰¹ WHO has found that reshaping ideas of traditional masculinity has one of the most directly influential impacts on decreasing gender discrimination. How men process their own masculinity influences how they also view their relationship to women, and so when men come to question traditional gender roles that negatively influence the women in their lives, they are able to make more informed decisions that align with gender equality goals.¹⁰² It has also been found that programs that address social norms are most successful when they unify the sexes in gender equality efforts.¹⁰³

Within the family, the equal sharing of responsibilities must be promoted, as the inclusion of men in familial responsibilities is one of the most effective strategies for promoting the overall advancement of gender equality.¹⁰⁴ One successful method for empowering men in greater familial responsibility is the promotion of their role as an active father within their family.¹⁰⁵ The greater involvement of fathers in household responsibilities has a direct positive influence on the lives of children and families.¹⁰⁶ One effective strategy for male inclusion is increased access to parental and paternity leave; another is increased responsibility in the reproductive health of their partner.¹⁰⁷ In the last several decades, men have increasingly become involved in parental roles, and accordingly the inclusion of young men in responsibility sharing can promote further generational improvement overall.¹⁰⁸ This can be done through training young men in household and caregiving skills, establishing laws that provide men with paternity leave, and expanding male participation in employment arenas traditionally associated with women, such

⁹⁴ Women for Women International, *Critical Half: Bi-Annual Journal of Women for Women International*, 2007, p. 1.

⁹⁵ UN Population Fund, *Ending Widespread Violence Against Women* [Website].

⁹⁶ UN Department of Public Information, *Men, Boys Must Speak Out, Take Action to End Gender-Based Violence, Delegates Tell Commission on Status of Women (WOM/1949)* [Press Release], 2013.

⁹⁷ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Panel Discussion: "Engaging Young Women and Men, Girls and Boys, to Advance Gender Equality": Issues Paper*, 2012, p. 3.

⁹⁸ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Engaging Young Women and Men, Girls and Boys, to Advance Gender Equality (E/CN.6/2012/CRP.8)*, 2012, p. 3.

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ ICRW & Instituto Promundo, *Engaging Men and Boys to Achieve Gender Equality: How Can We Build on What We Have Learned?*, 2007, p. 4.

¹⁰¹ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2009/2)*, 2008, p. 4.

¹⁰² UN Population Fund, *Ending Widespread Violence Against Women*; ICRW & Instituto Promundo, *Engaging Men and Boys to Achieve Gender Equality: How Can We Build on What We Have Learned?*, 2007, p. 2.

¹⁰³ ICRW & Instituto Promundo, *Engaging Men and Boys to Achieve Gender Equality: How Can We Build on What We Have Learned?*, 2007, p. 3.

¹⁰⁴ UN Population Fund, *Enhancing Men's Roles and Responsibilities in Family Life* [Website].

¹⁰⁵ ICRW & Instituto Promundo, *Engaging Men and Boys to Achieve Gender Equality: How Can We Build on What We Have Learned?*, 2007, p. 8.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid; UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Men in Families and Family Policy* [Report], 2011, p. 2.

¹⁰⁷ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Men in Families and Family Policy* [Report], 2011, p. 34.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid., p. 3.

as teaching and nursing.¹⁰⁹ In addition, men can be further involved in caretaking responsibilities, and they can directly benefit from involvement in HIV/AIDS care, awareness, and volunteerism.¹¹⁰ In order for women to be more fully represented in positions of power, men must also be willing to work alongside women in such positions.¹¹¹ In further increasing men's positions as shareholders in gender equality, men are personally empowered in their responsibilities and become active partners in the empowerment of women.

Case Studies

In many Member States, international and national organizations have successfully implemented programs to include men in combating gender-based violence. In India, the Resource Center on Working with Men and Boys on Gender Equality (SAHAYOG) and the Men's Movement Against Violence against Women and For Gender Equality (MASVAW) have conducted effective media campaigns, training programs for men and boys, and youth groups that have further engaged Indian men in pursuing gender equality.¹¹² In South Africa, President Jacob Zuma, encouraged by non-governmental organization (NGO) Sonke Gender Justice Network, recently established a 2013 anti-rape campaign that targets the education of 10 million young men and women on preventing sexual violence, stating that the effort was "not a women's campaign," but "everybody's campaign."¹¹³ In Latin America, the "Safe Cities for All Programme, previously coordinated by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), aims to address underlying causes of gender-based violence in Latin American urban centers as a method of decreasing overall violence.¹¹⁴ UNIFEM was integrated into UN-Women in July 2010, and UN-Women is now involved with Safe Cities for All.¹¹⁵ Another international approach is MenEngage, established in 2004 as a collaboration between UN entities and NGOs, including UNIFEM, WHO, and NGOs such as the International Center for Research on Women and Men's Resources International.¹¹⁶ MenEngage brings together the institutional knowledge of many groups as a method of improving overall gender equality and violence prevention.¹¹⁷

In promoting the further inclusion of men in familial responsibilities and redefining social norms of masculinity, paternity leave has proven extremely successful in many countries.¹¹⁸ This is best seen in the paternal leave and parental leave regulations of Member States in Scandinavia, a region that has effectively promoted paternal involvement in families through legislation. In Finland, men have access to six months of paternal leave when a child is born, and a majority of Finnish fathers use their paternity leave.¹¹⁹ In Norway, men have access to a month of paternal leave, and in Sweden, parental leave can be taken for two months (as can maternal leave).¹²⁰ Access to general parental leave, which can be divided between mothers and fathers, is also available in many Scandinavian and European Member States.¹²¹ Providing ample paternity leave on levels that complement maternity leave lengths emphasizes that the parenting of children is to be equally shared between women and men.

¹⁰⁹ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Men in Families and Family Policy in a Changing World (ST/ESA/322)* [Report], 2011, 3-4.

¹¹⁰ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2009/2)*, 2008, p. 12.

¹¹¹ UN General Assembly, *Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/RES/S-23/3)* [Resolution], 2000, p. 10.

¹¹² ICRW & Instituto Promundo, *Engaging Men and Boys to Achieve Gender Equality: How Can We Build on What We Have Learned?*, 2007, p. 11.

¹¹³ Roelf, *South Africa's Zuma Takes Anti-Rape Campaign to the Classroom*, 2013; Women's Media Center, *Gender Justice Group Urges South Africa's Zuma to Create Commission to Stop Sexualized Violence*, 2013.

¹¹⁴ UNIFEM, *Cities Without Violence Against Women, Safe Cities For All* [Report].

¹¹⁵ UN-Women, *About UN-Women* [Website], 2013; UN-Women, *UN-Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet Presents the 'Safe Cities programme' in Costa Rica* [Press Release], 2012.

¹¹⁶ MenEngage, *Who We Are* [Website], 2008.

¹¹⁷ EngenderHealth, *MenEngage* [Website], 2013.

¹¹⁸ Grinberg, *Paid Leave Lets Dads Building Parenting Foundation*, 2013.

¹¹⁹ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Men in Families and Family Policy in a Changing World (ST/ESA/322)* [Report], 2011, p. 34; Witherspoon, et. al., *Gender, Work & Family in Finland* [Website], 2009.

¹²⁰ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Men in Families and Family Policy in a Changing World (ST/ESA/322)* [Report], 2011, p. 34-36.

¹²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 34.

Conclusion

Article 5 of CEDAW states that Member States have a responsibility “to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view of achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women.”¹²² The full inclusion of men in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women can be greatly inhibited by many factors, including social norms, gender-based violence, and unequal familial responsibilities. However, as CSW and other UN organizations have emphasized, men and boys have a real ability and responsibility to encourage furthered gender equality throughout the world, and addressing how they can do so directly impacts gender equality in all aspects of cultural, social, economic, and political life.

In relation to the inclusion of men and boys in gender equality and the empowerment of women, there are several questions for delegates to consider in approaching the topic. How can men and boys be incorporated within gender equality efforts within individual Member States and within different regions internationally? What cultural practices within Member States can prohibit gender equality, and how can men and boys be involved to ameliorate such barriers? What is the responsibility of all global citizens to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women? How can regional and international efforts further incorporate men and boys into successful efforts towards gender equality?

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In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, China. The resulting documents of the conference were the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, pivotal documents within international approaches to addressing gender equality and the empowerment of women. This website provides useful links to many aspects of the Beijing Platform for Action, including the mission statement; global framework; areas of concern; and strategic objectives and actions, including the “Education and Training of Women, Women and the Economy, and Women in Power and Decision-Making.

MenEngage. (n.d.) *News and Events*. Retrieved 1 August 2013 from:

http://www.menengage.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=1&Itemid=4

MenEngage is an international alliance of like-minded organizations that support the inclusion of men and boys into larger conversations on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The organization stands as a representation of what can be accomplished through the increased participation of men and boys in advancing gender equality. The News and Events section of their website provides useful information regarding recent developments, reports, and events in relation to encouraging male participation in gender equality. Accordingly, it allows delegates to easily access recent and pertinent documents and stories on the inclusion of men and boys, to understand what has been done recently on the topic.

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2008, December 18). *The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2009/2)*. Retrieved 3 August 2013 from: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2009/2>

In 2009, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) discussed The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS. As is done with every thematic CSW discussion, a Report of the Secretary-General was produced previous to CSW’s 53rd session in order to counsel the Commission on prominent issues related to the theme. The Secretary-General’s Report provides detailed information regarding foundational documents on gender equality; key barriers and consequences in the equal sharing of

¹²² UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979, art. 5.

responsibilities, including cultural beliefs, unequal legislation, and inequitable access to decision-making; and recommendations on the improvement of responsibility sharing between the sexes. From this report, delegates can gain knowledge of current detriments to equality and effective strategies to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2012). *Panel Discussion: “Engaging Young Women and Men, Girls and Boys, to Advance Gender Equality.”* Retrieved 2 July 2013 from:

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw56/panels/issues_paper_emerging_issue.pdf

In 2012, CSW discussed as its emerging issue “Engaging Young Women and Men, Girls and Boys, to Advance Gender Equality,” at a panel held on 6 March of that year. The resulting document recording the panel discussion on this emerging issue provides extensive information on the role of young people, and young boys, in promoting furthered gender equality throughout the world. It provides a background into previous efforts and international precedence, significant issues related to advancement of gender equality, and questions for consideration on the role of youth in promoting gender equality. The topic of including young men in advancing gender equality is vital, as the inclusion of a growing generation can directly influence both present and future attitudes towards gender expectations and social stigmas.

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2003). *The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality: Online Discussion.* Retrieved 2 July 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/men-boys2003/online.html>

In preparation for the 2004 thematic discussion on the Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality, the Commission on the Status of Women held a four-week online discussion on the incorporation of men and boys in gender advancement and the empowerment of women. Each week discussed a different aspect of including men, including “The world of work,” “The HIV/AIDS Pandemic,” “The Value-Added of Gender Equality for Men and Boys,” and a final “Wrap-up Week” to discuss remaining issues. This Web site provides moderator summaries of each of the discussions, as well as a final report of the entire discussion. This online discussion archive provides extensive information and viewpoints of the value of incorporating men and boys in promoting gender equality and the methods through which they can and must be approached.

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2004). *Agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality (E/2004/INF/2/Add.2).* Retrieved 2 July 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw48/ac-men-auv.pdf>

One of the main themes of conversation during the 48th session of the Commission of the Status of Women, held in March 2004, was The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality. This resulting document is a set of agreed conclusions of CSW in relation to the topic of including men in promoting gender equality, and includes information on previous UN discussions of male inclusion, the specific positive roles men can have to advance gender equality, the roles of men in promoting gender equality and equal partnership within the family, and effective methods to be pursued to further include men in the discussion of gender equality. This document is essential in understanding conclusions of CSW on how men and boys can inform discussions on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2004). *Thematic Issue Before the Commission: The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2004/9).* Retrieved 2 July 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2004/9

In preparation for the 2004 CSW discussion on The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality, a Secretary-General Report was produced on the theme. It includes an introduction to the role and responsibility of men and boys in promoting gender equality, the development of the increase of attention to including men and boys in female advancement, the need for sharing of family responsibilities and caregiving, appropriate methods for educating and socializing boys and youth to promote gender equality, and recommendations for action. This in-depth document will provide delegates extensive information on what has been done and what should be done to further include men and boys into female empowerment.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2011). *Men in Families and Family Policy in a Changing World*. Retrieved 3 August 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/family/docs/men-in-families.pdf>
In 2011, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs published a report on Men in Families and Family Policy in a Changing World, meant to identify how men have been and can continue to become involved in sharing family responsibilities. The report identifies key arenas in which men engage in family responsibilities, including in fatherhood, care work, increasing gender equality, migration, and HIV/AIDS caretaking. The 200 page document is an essential document in understanding how to increase male participation within families and engage men in achieving social gender equality, and will greatly assist delegates in understanding men within familial and parental roles.

United Nations Development Fund for Women. (n.d.) *Cities Without Violence Against Women, Safe Cities For All*. Retrieved 3 August 2013 from: <http://www.unwomen-usnc.org/files/Safe%20cities%20fact%20sheet.pdf>
Gender-based violence is a pertinent to all regions of the world, affecting all Member States, whether developed or developing. Accordingly, discussions on how to successfully address and combat violence against women are essential in all regions of the world, and each must focus on social norms and cultural beliefs that instigate violence within each region. In Latin America, an effective program in addressing violence is Cities Without Violence Against Women, "Safe Cities for All." This document is a fact sheet about "Safe Cities for All," and provides extensive information on the program's structure, its goals, and many of its specific efforts to reduce gender-based violence in Latin America. It is an important resource for delegates, as it provides a detailed example of how one region is addressing violence and advancing gender equality. It is important to note that the author of this document, UNIFEM, is now part of UN-Women.

United Nations, Division for the Advancement of Women. (2008, December). *The Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality*. Retrieved 2 August 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/w2000/W2000%20Men%20and%20Boys%20E%20web.pdf>
Men have a significant voice in improving women's access to gender equality, and this publication from the Division for the Advancement of Women investigates the roles and responsibilities of men in empowering women. In its analysis of men's involvement in gender equality, it provides extensive statistics and case studies as it delineates subtopics of pertinence, including violence against women, health, fatherhood, employment, and the inclusion of young men. This document will educate delegates on the many aspects that exist within the larger topic of the inclusion of men and boys in achieving gender equality. It is important to note that the author of this document, the Division for the Advancement of Women, is now part of UN-Women.

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II. Addressing the Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in the Post-2015 Agenda

*“There has been much discussion on the post-2015 development agenda, and many discussions will take place in the coming years. But my message is this: to achieve real and sustainable change, this new framework must recognize that as long as women face violence and discrimination, our efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve equality, and advance human rights and democracy will not succeed.”*¹²³

Introduction

With 2015 approaching, the United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will come to an end, which has shaped the international development agenda for the past fifteen years.¹²⁴ Progress in development achieved since the adoption of the MDGs is often perceived as uneven and inconsistent, though they have had an influential role in defining international priorities and individual states’ goals on key issues such as poverty, democracy, and development.¹²⁵ In anticipation of the upcoming deadline, the UN, Member States, and civil society organizations (CSOs) have launched a post-2015 process, in order to set up an innovative post-2015 development agenda that will frame future policies.¹²⁶ This represents a crucial opportunity for women to continue advancing their rights, promote gender equality, and foster women’s empowerment.¹²⁷ In this context, gender equality is understood as the equality between women, men, girls, and boys in all aspects of life, ranging from education, health, and security, to the access to economic assets and political opportunities.¹²⁸ Conversely, women’s empowerment is closely linked to, but goes beyond gender equality, as it is focused not only on the condition of women compared to that of men, but also considers the control over her own life and opportunities, as well as her increased role in the economic, social and political decision-making.¹²⁹

Both gender equality and women’s empowerment are at a turning point, as the global agenda aims specifically at social transformation, by eradicating poverty, ensuring an inclusive sustainable development, and empowering the most marginalized.¹³⁰ However, in order to address social transformation, it is necessary to tackle the underlying causes of social inequalities, such as gender discrimination and injustices.¹³¹ Indeed, gender inequality not only undermines the advancement of women, but also challenges the achievement of global development as a whole.¹³² Currently, no state has fully achieved gender equality, as each society faces pervasive sociocultural, economic, and political barriers.¹³³ Consequently, the empowerment of women and girls should be a prevalent issue within the post-2015 agenda, to build up on the current MDG momentum, and ensure that women’s rights remain an international priority.¹³⁴ Accordingly, it is vital to consider with attention the role of gender equality and women’s empowerment in the post-2015 framework, so that the advancement of women suffers no delay in the future.¹³⁵ This debate is essential given that not all voices surrounding the post-2015 process agree on the best way to promote gender equality, and some proposals could be considered a significant setback for women’s rights.¹³⁶

¹²³ UN-Women, *Opening remarks of Michelle Bachelet on “Gender Equality and the Post-2015 Development Framework” for the Irish Consortium lecture* [Website], 2013.

¹²⁴ UN-Women, *Speech by Michelle Bachelet at Expert Group Meeting on « Applying a Gender Perspective to the Post 2015 Development Framework and the SDGs*, 2012.

¹²⁵ UN-Women, *MDG Momentum* [Website], 2013.

¹²⁶ Post-2015 Women’s Coalition, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda: What’s at Stake for the World’s Women*, 2013, p. 1.

¹²⁷ Woodroffe, & Smee, *Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Framework*, 2012, p. 2.

¹²⁸ GADN, *Achieving Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the Post-2015 Framework*, 2013, p. 10.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*

¹³⁰ Woodroffe & Smee, *Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Framework*, 2012, p. 2.

¹³¹ Post-2015 Women’s Coalition, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda: What’s at Stake for the World’s Women*, 2013, p. 2.

¹³² Actionaid, *Within our reach – Gender Equality and women’s empowerment post 2015*, 2013, p. 2.

¹³³ Robinson, *Gender Inequality and Fragility in the Post-MDG Framework*, 2013, p. 7.

¹³⁴ Woodroffe & Smee, *Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Framework*, 2012, p. 5.

¹³⁵ FAO, *Food security and gender, cornerstones to the Post-2015 agenda*, 2013.

¹³⁶ Center for Women’s Global Leadership, *The Integration of Gender and Human Rights into the Post-2015 Development Framework*, 2013, p. 5.

International Framework

In 2000, the United Nations held its Millennium Summit, uniting all of its Member States around the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs.¹³⁷ Thus, each state committed to achieving the eight measurable goals outlined in the Declaration by 2015, and to intervene on specific international issues, such as the need to eradicate poverty, hunger, and diseases, as well as promote education, and environmental sustainability.¹³⁸ The MDGs, and in particular the third MDG (MDG3) “Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women,” have profoundly contributed to the advancement of women’s rights within the international agenda over the past decade.¹³⁹ One specific target was suggested as cornerstone, which was to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005, and to all levels of education by 2015.¹⁴⁰ Additionally, in order to measure the progress achieved regarding MDG3, four specific indicators were used as instruments: the ratio of girls and boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education; the ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 years old; the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector; and the proportion of seats held by women in national parliament.¹⁴¹ MDG3 is part of an already preexisting international legal framework relating to gender rights, which it recognized and reaffirmed within the Millennium Declaration.¹⁴² These documents address women’s rights from a more political and socioeconomic perspective, complementing the MDGs, and consequently fundamental in any future post-2015 development agenda.¹⁴³

First, the *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination (CEDAW)*, adopted in 1979 by the General Assembly, commits states to ending all forms of discrimination against women, and ensures equal opportunity in political, economic, and public spheres.¹⁴⁴ Additionally, the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, led to the adoption of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (CODE)*.¹⁴⁵ This comprehensive document calls for women’s advancement and sets up a road map for the empowerment of women by focusing specifically on twelve key issues including but not limited to education, girl child, violence, health, institution mechanisms, environment, power, and decision-making.¹⁴⁶ Since 1995, three follow-up conferences have been held in order to review the progress that has achieved, identify emerging issues, as well as share past experiences and knowledge on effective or unproductive policies.¹⁴⁷ These conferences have set up a cohesive consultative process, in which CSOs, governments, and international agencies take part actively to share knowledge on best practices.¹⁴⁸ Recently, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) launched a Beijing +20 review process, which will end in 2015, coinciding with the MDG deadline, in order to discuss further the interactions between these frameworks and the potential implications for the post-2015 agenda.¹⁴⁹ Finally, the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development Rio +20 was an opportunity for women’s civil societies to emphasize the crucial role of gender equality and women’s empowerment in the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.¹⁵⁰ As a result, part of the outcome document of Rio+20 contains explicit references to gender equality and women’s empowerment in relation to issues such as poverty eradication, food security, agriculture, health, and productive employment.¹⁵¹

Achievements and Shortcomings in the implementation of MDG3

¹³⁷ UN-Women, *Guiding Documents* [Website], 2013.

¹³⁸ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Issues Paper on the Preparatory Panel for 2014: Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls*, 2013, p. 1.

¹³⁹ Waldorf, *Pathway to Gender Equality: CEDAW, Beijing and the MDGs*, 2004, p. 3.

¹⁴⁰ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 24.

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴² UN-DAW, *The Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals: Different processes, different outcomes*, 2005, p. 5.

¹⁴³ Waldorf, *Pathway to Gender Equality: CEDAW, Beijing and the MDGs*, 2004, p. 5.

¹⁴⁴ UN-Women, *Guiding Documents* [Website], 2013.

¹⁴⁵ Waldorf, *Pathway to Gender Equality: CEDAW, Beijing and the MDGs*, 2004, p. 6.

¹⁴⁶ UN-Women, *Beijing at 20+: ECOSOC launches review of progress on women’s rights* [Website], 2013.

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁸ UN-DAW, *The Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals: Different processes, different outcomes*, 2005, p. 6.

¹⁴⁹ UN-Women, *Beijing at 20+: ECOSOC launches review of progress on women’s rights* [Website], 2013.

¹⁵⁰ AWID, *Rio+20 Outcomes: What Was Agreed And What This Means For Women’s Rights Going Forward* [Website], 2013.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*

Any new post-2015 development agenda should build up on the lessons learned from the MDGs, especially their successes and failures, so as to be innovative, constructive, and comprehensive.¹⁵² Indeed, while the MDGs have contributed to the advancement of women, it is important to note that the targets and indicators of Goal 3 have not been fully achieved yet, which undermines the international commitment made by Member States in 2000.¹⁵³ Moreover, Goal 3 was built on a very narrow definition of gender, which failed to frame the topic in a transformative way, and consequently minimized the global impact of this agreement.¹⁵⁴ Indeed, Goal 3 was measured around a single target on gender parity in education, without any consideration for the reasons why girls face discrimination in school attendance, or the importance of gender-sensitive curricula.¹⁵⁵ Similarly, while Goal 3 took into account important indicators such as the share of women in parliament, and their access to non-agricultural paid jobs, it did not implement any targets to spur political will in these fields, which undercuts the whole process.¹⁵⁶

As a result, Goal 3 failed to address the structural causes of gender inequality, as it did not consider specific barriers women face such as violence and coercion, insufficient access to sexual and reproductive health rights, limited or in-existent control over assets, inheritance, and property rights, unequal participation to the private and public-sphere, and unpaid care work.¹⁵⁷ By defining gender equality on a single educational target, and overlooking these key issues, Goal 3 did not fully address the underlying causes of gender discrimination.¹⁵⁸ Additionally, the MDGs did not implement gender mainstreaming in a comprehensive manner, consequently undermining the progress of specific MDGs, which are dependent on gender equality.¹⁵⁹ For example, Goal 5 aims at improving maternal health, which cannot be fully achieved without ensuring that women's sexual and reproductive rights are asserted.¹⁶⁰ Finally, the MDGs did not challenge the economic background of trade liberalization and budget austerity, which contributes to the increased vulnerability of women.¹⁶¹

Nonetheless, Goal 3 was an important milestone for women's right as it addressed gender parity in education, succeeding in achieving an almost equal access to primary school worldwide for boys and girls.¹⁶² In addition, the number of women in non-agricultural paid jobs reached 40% in 2011, and the share of women holding parliament seats increased 20% in the past year, thus illustrating the slow but effective progress of Goal 3.¹⁶³ However, these are tentative steps for women, as they are still on an unequal footing relative to that of men on the labor market, and it is estimated that it will take another 40 years to attain full gender parity in national parliaments.¹⁶⁴ Even so, Goal 3 has clearly demonstrated the positive impact of a dedicated gender goal, by profoundly transforming and focusing the international debate on gender issues.¹⁶⁵ Goal 3 has spurred national political will, as well as international action for gender equality, and has brought global attention to the conditions and needs of women.¹⁶⁶ Thanks to the adoption of a gender-sensitive MDG, there has been a direct increase in international resources, investment, and technical knowledge in relation to gender, with governments and agencies being held accountable.¹⁶⁷ For instance, the World Bank chose gender equality and women's right as its priority thematic in its development report of 2012.¹⁶⁸ In short, Goal 3 has served as a powerful advocacy tool for gender equality, and has been a strong lever for change.¹⁶⁹

¹⁵² Actionaid, *Within our reach – Gender Equality and women's empowerment post 2015*, 2013, p. 4.

¹⁵³ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 26.

¹⁵⁴ Spieldoch, *Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Where does it Stand*, 2013, p. 4.

¹⁵⁵ GADN, *GADN Briefing: Gender Equality and the Post-2015 Framework*, 2012, p. 7.

¹⁵⁶ GADN, *Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Post-2015 Framework*, 2013, p. 22.

¹⁵⁷ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Moderator's Summary on the Interactive Panel on: "Key Gender Equality Issues to be Reflected in the Post-2015 development Framework"* (E/CN.6/2013/CRP.5), 2013, p. 3-4.

¹⁵⁸ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Moderator's Summary on the Preparatory Panel for 2014: Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls*, 2013, p. 2.

¹⁵⁹ Robinson, *Gender Inequality and Fragility in the Post-MDG Framework*, 2013, p. 8.

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁶¹ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Emerging Issues, Trends and new Approaches to Issues Affecting the Situation of Women and Equality Between Women and Men*, 2013, p. 2.

¹⁶² UN-Women, *MDG Momentum* [Website], 2013.

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁴ United Nations, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*, 2013, p. 26.

¹⁶⁵ GADN, *Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Post-2015 Framework*, 2013, p. 20.

¹⁶⁶ Hendra, *Putting Gender Equality at the Center of the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 4.

¹⁶⁷ GADN, *Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Post-2015 Framework*, 2013, p. 20.

¹⁶⁸ GADN, *Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Post-2015 Framework*, 2013, p. 21.

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

Role of the United Nations System

With the 2015 deadline coming up, a number of ongoing processes are under way so as to reflect on the post-2015 development agenda.¹⁷⁰ These preparatory events are organized by either the UN system, civil society, or policymakers, often conjointly.¹⁷¹ The United Nations has implemented several frameworks, the first of which is the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, which was initiated in January 2012, by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon.¹⁷² This task force is comprised of over 60 United Nations agencies and international organizations, which have worked together on the post-2015 agenda and have published two reports entitled *Realizing the Future We Want for All* in 2012, and *A Renewed Global Partnership for Development* in 2013.¹⁷³ In these reports, the UN System Task Team has offered a vision for a transformative development agenda centered on human rights, equality and sustainability, and which incorporates inclusive social, sustainable, and economic development, as well as peace and security.¹⁷⁴ Moreover, in July 2012, the United Nations Secretary-General established the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP), assembling 27 selected representatives from civil society, the private sector, academia, and national governments.¹⁷⁵ In May 2013, the Panel published its report, outlining the future international development agenda beyond 2015.¹⁷⁶ During the 68th General Assembly session held in September 2013, special focus was brought to the achievement of the MDGs and the changes countries would want to bring to a post-2015 framework.¹⁷⁷ Gender rights were discussed as a necessary stepping-stone for the achievement of human rights and justice.¹⁷⁸ Furthermore, special attention was brought to the need to promote women's empowerment inclusively and genuinely, by ensuring women's autonomy at all levels: economic, political, sexual, and reproductive.¹⁷⁹ A report released by the UN Secretary-General highlighted the importance of including gender issues in the new agenda stating that "Women and girls are major drivers of development" and any forms of gender-based violence, and gender discrimination is an "affront to our common humanity."¹⁸⁰ The UN has also launched official global consultative processes, such as the international survey My World, where citizens worldwide can join the conversation and voice their recommendations on various themes.¹⁸¹

Additionally, UN-Women and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) are also taking into consideration the post-2015 development agenda, at a more gender-related level. In particular, CSW's upcoming 58th Session is on the following priority theme: "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls," which will serve as a forum for the discussion of women in the post-2015 debate.¹⁸² Similarly, in November 2012, UN-Women hosted an Expert Group Meeting where members of CSOs and academia pondered on the impact of the MDGs, and envisioned possible challenges for women in the post-2015 development agenda.¹⁸³ The participants argued that any new framework should address the impact of current

¹⁷⁰ AWID, *Women's Status On The Global Development Agenda: The Future Of The MDGs Post 2015* [Website], 2013.

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, *Realizing the Future we want for all: Report to the Secretary-General*, 2013, p. 27.

¹⁷³ UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, *A renewed global partnership for development*, 2013, p. 7.

¹⁷⁴ UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, *Realizing the Future we want for all: Report to the Secretary-General*, 2013, p. 27.

¹⁷⁵ Women Deliver, *Post-2015 Process Overview*, 2013, p. 1.

¹⁷⁶ UN High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development* [Report], 2013, p. 7.

¹⁷⁷ AWID, *AWID reflections on the United Nations Secretary-General Report 'A Life of Dignity for All'* [Website], 2013.

¹⁷⁸ AWID, *AWID and WEDO First reflections on the president of the GA's special event towards achieving the MDGs* [Website], 2013.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid.

¹⁸⁰ UN General Assembly, *A life and Dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and Advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/68/202)* [Report], 2013

¹⁸¹ AWID, *Women's Status On The Global Development Agenda: The Future Of The MDGs Post 2015* [Website], 2013.

¹⁸² UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Issues Paper on the Preparatory Panel for 2014: Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls*, 2013, p. 1.

¹⁸³ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Moderator's Summary on the Interactive Panel on: "Key Gender Equality Issues to be Reflected in the Post-2015 development Framework"* (E/CN.6/2013/CRP.5), 2013, p. 2.

macroeconomic policies such as budget austerity on gender discrimination, as well as ensure that women gain access to decent productive work, social protection, freedom from violence, and control over resources.¹⁸⁴

CSOs have also significantly contributed to the future development agenda, working hand in hand with international organizations such as UN-Women to galvanize the post-2015 process and provide external consultation for the United Nations.¹⁸⁵ In particular, the World We Want in 2015 is an online process, inviting civil society to join the discussion and add input so as to contribute to the outcome documents of the HLP and the Task Team.¹⁸⁶ Similarly, over 570 CSOs worldwide have united under the banner of a global campaign entitled Beyond2015, so as to reinforce their position, monitor the ongoing process, and ensure that civil society participate to the outlining of a post-2015 road map.¹⁸⁷ Likewise, women's CSOs have been considerably engaged in ensuring that gender remains at the center of the post-2015 agenda, and have shared their experiences, knowledge, and expertise on best practices so as to shape a comprehensive and transformative development framework.¹⁸⁸ For example, CSOs such as the Women's Major Group, the Women's Coalition for Post-2015, the Association of Women in Development (AWID), and the Gender and Development Network (GADWN) have been omnipresent during the consultative process led by UN-Women, attending and contributing to interactive panels such as the Expert Group Meeting (EGM).¹⁸⁹ Most women's groups share the common belief that in order to advocate efficiently for women's right, it is vital to address gender equality within topics containing a gender dimension, including but not limited to climate change, agriculture, economic growth, health, education, as well as peace and security.¹⁹⁰

The High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons' Report on a New Global Partnership

On 30 May 2013, the HLP submitted their report, "A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development" to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.¹⁹¹ The report represents the foundation of the post-2015 framework, in which the members of the HLP suggested a potential direction and outline for the development agenda.¹⁹² Five key transformative shifts are at the core of this agenda: (1) "Leave no one behind;" (2) "Put sustainable development at the core;" (3) "Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth;" (4) "Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all;" and (5) "Forge a new global partnership."¹⁹³ In addition to providing a road map for the post-2015 agenda, the HLP also created a set of universal goals and illustrative targets that would materialize the transformative shifts at a regional and local scale.¹⁹⁴ These goals should be perceived as the starting point of the post-2015 debate process, as stated by the HLP representatives:

"Goals are the crucial first steps to get us, as a global community, moving in the same direction. They must, therefore, be few, focused and with quantitative targets. Here we set out an example of what a set of goals might look like. Over the next year and a half, we expect goals to be debated, discussed, and improved. But every journey must start somewhere."¹⁹⁵

Among the 12 universal goals that have been recommended by the Panel, one is specifically dedicated to women, aiming to "Empower Women and Girls, and Achieve Gender Equality."¹⁹⁶ Attached to this goal, are four illustrative targets, which are: "a) Prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against girls and women; b) End child marriage; c) Ensure equal right of women to own and inherit property, sign a contract, register a business and open a bank

¹⁸⁴ Nayar, *Report on the Interactive Expert Panel: Key Gender Equality Issues to be Reflected in the Post-2015 development Framework*, 2013, p. 2.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ [World We Want 2015, A standalone Gender Equality Goal in Post-2015](#) [Website], 2013.

¹⁸⁷ [Women Deliver, Post-2015 Process Overview](#), 2013, p. 2.

¹⁸⁸ UN-Women, *UN-Women and GEAR Campaign co-host a discussion on Post-2015 Development Agenda Processes* [Website], 2013.

¹⁸⁹ Post-2015 Women's Coalition, *The Post-2015 Development Agenda: What's at Stake for the World's Women*, 2013, p. 1.

¹⁹⁰ AWID, *Women's Status On The Global Development Agenda: The Future Of The MDGs Post 2015* [Website], 2013.

¹⁹¹ Post-2015 Women's Coalition, *Feminist Reflections: UN's HLP Report on Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 1.

¹⁹² UN High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development* [Report], 2013, p. 8.

¹⁹³ Ibid., p. 9.

¹⁹⁴ Ibid., p. 25.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid., p. 41.

¹⁹⁶ UN High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development* [Report], 2013, p. 30.

account; and d) Eliminate discrimination against women in political, economic, and public life.”¹⁹⁷ These four targets aim at challenging the underlying and embedded causes of gender discrimination, so as to empower women effectively.¹⁹⁸ Moreover, gender issues have also been taken into considerations across all targets and goals within the HLP report.¹⁹⁹ For example, Goal 4, to “Ensure Healthy Lives,” contains illustrative targets that call for a decrease in the maternal mortality ratio, and for ensuring universal sexual and reproductive health rights.²⁰⁰

Challenges in Defining and Addressing the Post-2015 Development Agenda

There is a general consensus among representatives of women’s organizations, government representatives, and UN-Women that the post-2015 development agenda should include a stand-alone goal, specifically dedicated to gender equality, so as to maintain a strong and explicit focus on women’s right throughout the framework.²⁰¹ Indeed, a stand-alone goal, such as MDG3 has served as a powerful statement in favor of gender equality, and any new framework neglecting to create one would be a significant setback and backtrack.²⁰² However, while a stand-alone goal is vital, the impact of gender mainstreaming should not be neglected, to ensure that gender equality be also reflected across all targets and indicators of the development framework.²⁰³ Gender mainstreaming has been a key strategy for the promotion of gender equality since its implementation at the BPfA in 1995, advocating for both social transformation and women’s empowerment at a global scale and across various cross-cutting issues.²⁰⁴ Thus, a twin-track approach involving a stand-alone goal and gender mainstreaming should be set up in any post-2015 development framework, in order to build a cohesive, strong, and exhaustive platform for action.²⁰⁵

Additionally, UN-Women stressed the need for a transformative goal, so as to tackle the underlying structural inequalities that persist for women and girls, and eradicate the embedded barriers, which prevent women from acceding to their full rights. Thus UN-Women outlined a prospective development policy, which would guarantee freedom from coercion, as the agency argues that sexual and gender-based violence (which concerns one in three women in the world), seriously constrains women’s abilities to enjoy basic freedoms and rights.²⁰⁶ Moreover, UN-Women considers that in order to challenge gender discrimination, women and girls should be given access to a variety of capabilities and resources, which include capabilities to be nourished, to be healthy, to be educated, but also to choose whom and when to marry, and when to have children, as well as have control over resources and assets such as lands and property rights.²⁰⁷ Finally, the last goal outlined by UN-Women is to give women a voice, and an opportunity to leadership and participation, whether in their own households, or at a regional, national and global level.²⁰⁸ In addition to these priority concerns, the importance of reducing women and girls’ responsibility for unpaid care work, and increasing their access to decent work on an equal basis to that of men is critical.²⁰⁹

Discrepancies, Contradictions and Oversights Within the HLP Report

The publication of the HLP report in May 2013 has engendered numerous reactions from women’s organizations, some positive, especially with the adoption of a twin-track approach, and some less so, due to the reports inner contradictions, and oversights.²¹⁰ First, the report fails to address the current macroeconomic model, based on neo-liberal policies of economic growth, privatization, consumption, and deregulation, which have fueled gender discrimination, human rights violations, and poverty.²¹¹ By perpetuating this economic system, and even sponsoring it through a global partnership, which includes “the business community,” and “multilateral institutions,” the HLP

¹⁹⁷ Ibid., p. 34.

¹⁹⁸ Ibid., p. 35.

¹⁹⁹ Post-2015 Women’s Coalition, *Feminist Reflections: UN’s HLP Report on Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 1.

²⁰⁰ RESURJ, Response to the Report of the HLP of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda [Website], 2013.

²⁰¹ Woodroffe & Smee, *Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Framework*, 2012, p. 10.

²⁰² GADN, *Achieving Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the Post-2015 Framework*, 2013, p. 29.

²⁰³ UN-Women, *A transformative Stand Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women’s Rights, and Women’s Empowerment: Imperative and Key Components*, 2013, p. 15.

²⁰⁴ Ibid.

²⁰⁵ Woodroffe & Smee, *Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Framework*, 2012, p. 8.

²⁰⁶ UN-Women, *A transformative Stand Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women’s Rights, and Women’s Empowerment: Imperative and Key Components*, 2013, p. 26.

²⁰⁷ Ibid., p. 29.

²⁰⁸ Ibid., p. 34.

²⁰⁹ Spieldoch, *Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Where does it Stand?*, 2013, p. 6.

²¹⁰ AWID, *Some Reactions To The HLP Report on The Post-2015 Agenda From A Women’s Rights Perspective* [Website], 2013.

²¹¹ AWID, *Getting At The Roots: Reintegrating Human Rights & Gender Equality In Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 8.

report has neglected to consider the impact of this model.²¹² In fact, some interpretations of the HLP report argue that the emphasis has been put on corporations and businesses, rather than on people, human rights, and collective well-being.²¹³ In particular, the report acknowledges the need for increased resources such as food, funds, and growth, but does not consider the importance of redistribution as a lever of poverty eradication.²¹⁴ Thus, even though the report took into account the importance of land ownership for women, it undercuts this by ignoring the current practice of land grabbing, and the constant environmental degradation that occurs when corporations control land.²¹⁵

The international community has warmly welcomed the creation of a stand-alone goal, to “Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality.”²¹⁶ However, CSOs have argued that the second goal of the report lacks crucial interlinkages, especially on the importance of women’s empowerment as a lever for poverty eradication.²¹⁷ For instance, climate change is highlighted as a cross-cutting theme throughout the report, yet the Panel does not emphasize the significant connection between sustainable development, women, agriculture, and the illustrative targets relative to climate change.²¹⁸ Similarly, the post-2015 development framework could go further in connecting gender-based violence with health, poverty, inequality, and child-marriages, as all these elements are transversal issues, which contribute to gender discrimination.²¹⁹ Moreover, the HLP could have gone deeper in its recommendations, by underlining the detrimental role of militarization and impunity on gender-based violence, and related this to the stable and peaceful society’s goal.²²⁰ In short, while the report introduces key standards and norms, it fails to intertwine them in a significant manner, thus undermining the global effect of the report.²²¹ Finally, the report does not reflect on the role women holds in the care economy, such as the unfair burden of unpaid domestic labor or care work, and its impact on their capabilities to fully contribute to the public and private life.²²²

Furthermore, while the report has made a significant breakthrough by making direct references to sexual and reproductive health rights, it omits crucial aspects of this topic, by not mentioning the importance of sexual education, nor the role of abortion rights, and by overlooking the impact of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) on young people.²²³ In direct addition to this omission, the report does not allude to sexual orientation and gender-identity related discriminations, which contributes to the persistent marginalization of these people because of their sexuality.²²⁴ Among other issues, the report does not put into practice an effective accountability or binding mechanisms.²²⁵ The report calls for “mutual accountability,” while asserting, “each country is being asked what it wants to do, on a voluntary basis.”²²⁶ Beyond this paradoxical claim, the report has adopted a specific goals and target methodology, which could prove to be a disadvantage in the future according to the Women’s Major Group.²²⁷ Indeed, civil society maintains that the protection of human rights and gender equality should not be delayed, nor should it be directly linked to the availability of funds or to a specific target date.²²⁸ Adopting an agenda with a fifteen years’ time horizon could represent a risk, and further postpone the promotion and protection of human and women’s rights.²²⁹

²¹² Post-2015 Women’s Coalition, *Feminist Reflections: UN’s HLP Report on Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 1.

²¹³ Lappin, *Development Report: (Big) Businesses as usual* [Website], 2013.

²¹⁴ Bradshaw, Castellino & Diop, *Women’s Role in Economic Development: Overcoming the Constraints*, 2013, p. 6.

²¹⁵ Post-2015 Women’s Coalition, *Feminist Reflections: UN’s HLP Report on Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 4.

²¹⁶ Ibid.

²¹⁷ GADN, *GADN response to ‘A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development’*, 2013, p. 2.

²¹⁸ AWID, *Some Reactions To The HLP Report on The Post-2015 Agenda From A Women’s Rights Perspective*, 2013.

²¹⁹ GADN, *GADN response to ‘A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development’*, 2013, p. 2.

²²⁰ Women’s Major Group, *Reflections on the HLP post-2015 Report – By far not good enough!*, 2013, p. 12.

²²¹ Voice Africa Future, *A Red Flag for the Post 2015 High Level Panel*, 2013.

²²² GADN, *GADN response to ‘A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development’*, 2013, p. 2.

²²³ Ibid.

²²⁴ RESURJ, *Response to the Report of the HLP of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda* [Website], 2013.

²²⁵ AWID, *Getting At The Roots: Reintegrating Human Rights & Gender Equality In Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 9.

²²⁶ Post-2015 Women’s Coalition, *Feminist Reflections: UN’s HLP Report on Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013, p. 4.

²²⁷ Women’s Major Group, *Reflections on the HLP post-2015 Report – By far not good enough!*, 2013, p. 6.

²²⁸ Ibid.

²²⁹ Women’s Major Group, *Reflections on the HLP post-2015 Report – By far not good enough!*, 2013, p. 12.

Conclusion

Developing the post-2015 development program is at the heart of the current United Nations agenda, as well as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Indeed, in its upcoming session in March 2014, CSW will discuss the impact of the MDGs and the key challenges to be considered in any future development agenda.²³⁰ Thus, this topic represents the perfect opportunity to discuss future prospects for gender equality and women's empowerment, and contribute to the definition and outline of the upcoming international agenda. Nonetheless, delegates must bear in mind when dealing with this topic that the process of cooperation and consultation can represent both a delicate situation as well as a huge opportunity for increased action. The post-2015 process is an ongoing consultative process, which aims at creating a unanimous and consensual program, so as to serve our collective well-being and contribute to social transformation.²³¹ Initiatives, actions, and measures that are suggested can differ depending on the country's representative, or the sociocultural background of the policymaker, as well as the civil societies.

While researching this topic, delegates should consider the following questions: How can CSW involve itself in the post-2015 process so as to advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment? What are the key lessons learned - either best practices or shortcomings - from the current MDG framework, which can inform the post-2015 process? In what ways and in which direction can we, as the Commission, influence the future development agenda in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment? What are the priority areas that have failed to be addressed by the MDGs and which should be included in the upcoming framework?

Annotated Bibliography

Association for Women's Right in Development. (2013). *Some Reactions To The HLP Report On The Post-2015 Agenda From A Women's Rights Perspective* [Website]. Retrieved 30 July 2013 from: <http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Friday-Files/Some-Reactions-To-The-HLP-Report-On-The-Post-2015-Agenda-from-a-Women-s-Rights-Perspective>

This article, authored by the Association for Women's Right in Development (AWID), offers a selection of various reactions to the report published by the HLP Eminent Panel. Thus, delegates will find vital and intelligent feedback on the report, coming from various human rights and women's civil societies. They will be able to observe and gain information on the work done by civil societies involved in the post-2015 process, as well as measure the impact of the HLP report. In particular, the concerns that are evoked in this article regarding the report, such as the specific focus brought on business and the omissions of sexual and reproductive health, are key issues that will be brought to the table in any future debate regarding the post-2015 agenda.

Gender and Development Network (GADN). (2013). *Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Post-2015 Framework*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: <http://www.gadnetwork.org.uk/storage/Achieving%20gender%20equality%20and%20women%27s%20empowerment%20in%20the%20post%202015%20framework.pdf>

This document provides an overview of the main achievements of the Millennium Development Goals in the past fifteen years, as well as their failures, and the areas in which they should be improved. Beyond this assessment, the report offers recommendations on the post-2015 development agenda, underlining in particular the need for both a stand-alone goal dedicated to women's rights, and the mainstreaming of gender within all targets and goals. This document is a good opportunity for delegates to familiarize themselves with the issues of the topic, and the challenges that will be discussed during the conference.

Post-2015 Women's Coalition. (2013). *Feminist Reflections: UN's High-Level Panel Report on Post-2015 Development Agenda*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: http://www.post2015women.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/HLP_rpt_WC_review-6.20.13-1.pdf

²³⁰ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Issues Paper on the Preparatory Panel for 2014: Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls*, 2013, p. 1.

²³¹ Woodroffe & Smee, *Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Framework*, 2012, p. 2.

After the United Nations High-Level Panel published its report in May 2013, the Post-2015 Women's Coalition, which is comprised of civil societies and NGOs focused on women's rights, issued a document reflecting on the work of the panel. While the Women's Coalitions commends the creation of a specific stand-alone goal dedicated to women and girls, the Coalition underlines the presence of issues and discrepancies within this report that must be addressed in order to fully tackle the structural causes of gender discrimination. This paper provides a summary of the difficulties that lay ahead of CSW regarding the post-2015 framework.

Spieldoch, A. (2013). *Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Where does it Stand?* Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: http://www.boell.org/downloads/Spieldoch_Gender_and_Sustainable_Development.pdf

In this report, Alexandra Spieldoch, an independent consultant on gender issues and director of Women Sustain, provides an assessment of the global discussion on gender equality in the post-2015 Development Agenda. She provides us with an outline of the different voices of civil societies and their partnership with UN-Women, and evaluates the key indicators and goals that have emerged in this global discussion. Her report is focused in particular on issues relating to sustainable development goals and the results of the Rio+20 Conference.

United Nations. (2012). *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/report-2013/mdg-report-2013-english.pdf>

In order to shape the post-2015 agenda, it is important to assess the impact of the MDGs and their achievements as well as their challenges. As a result, the most recent MDG report, published this past year, provides an outline of the current situation regarding each MDG, emphasizing the targets that have almost been reached – such as the fight against malaria and tuberculosis –, and offering a critical opinion on areas in which the MDGs have stalled – such as gender-based gaps in decision-making positions. It is crucial that this document be considered by delegates, as the post-2015 agenda must not draw attention away from the MDGs but rather build on its momentum.

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2013). *Emerging Issues, Trends and new Approaches to Issues Affecting the Situation of Women and Equality Between Women and Men*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw57/panels/panel3_issues_paper.pdf

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held an interactive panel during its fifty-seventh session on the topic of “Key Gender equality Issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework” in preparation for next year's priority theme, which is focused on the Millennium Development Goals. This document underlines the discussions that were held during this panel, and offers a snapshot of the main topics that need to be addressed when dealing with gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda. This paper is a good starting point for research and will provide delegates with a greater understanding of CSW's mandate.

UN-Women. (2013). *A transformative Stand Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights, and Women's Empowerment: Imperative and Key Components*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from:

<http://www.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/post-2015-case-for-standalone-gender-goal.pdf>

UN-Women is the leading organization in charge of ensuring the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women within the United Nations. As a result, in June 2013 the entity published this report, expressing its views, recommendations, and guidance regarding the achievement of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment in the post-2015 framework. According to UN-Women, gender equality must be achieved through the implementation of a transformative stand-alone goal devoted to this cause, as well as the introduction of gender-sensitive targets and indicators throughout the development agenda. This document also focuses on the crucial elements that must be added to this international framework, such as freedom from violence for women, increased access to capabilities and resources, and right to leadership and participation.

United Nations, High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. (2013). *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development* [Report]. Retrieved 1 September 2013 from: <http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf>

The High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda was appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to advise and help the United Nations structure its future development agenda in preparation of the end of the Millennium Development Goals. In May 2013, the Panel published this report, laying out the targets, goals, and aims which will shape the post-2015 agenda. In addition to being a reference regarding the future of the United Nations, this report outlines the policies recommended by the High-Level Panel on gender issues, with specific targets on child marriage, violence against women, women's political and economic leadership, and women's access to resources and property.

United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. (2012). *Realizing the Future we want for all: Report to the Secretary-General*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf

“Realizing the Future we want for all” is a crucial report in the Post-2015 UN process, as it was published by the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda in 2012. This document represents the results of the collaborative effort of over 60 international organizations and UN agency on the post-2015 agenda, in which they outline a vision based on four key dimensions: inclusive economic, social development, environmental sustainability and peace and security. Moreover, the outcome of their work is based on three fundamental principles: human rights, equality, and sustainability. This document provides a general guideline on the core values and ideals that need to be carried out into the future development agenda.

Women's Major Group. (2013). *Reflections on the HLP post-2015 Report – By far not good enough!* Retrieved 1 July 2013 from: http://www.womenrio20.org/docs/Women_MG_analysis_High_Level_Panel_post_2015_report.pdf

This document summarizes the reflections made by the Women's Major Group on the High-Level Panel Eminent report. While the Women's Major Group recognizes the positive aspects of the report, such as the creation of a stand-alone goal on gender, it argues that the targets and goals set out by the Panel are not ambitious enough, as they do not undermine the current economic system which contributes to the unequal distribution and marginalization present in our society. As a result of this major omission, the Women's Major Group argues that the current report outlined by the HLP will not contribute satisfyingly to the eradication of poverty and the promotion of a sustainable and inclusive development. This report will provide delegates with an essential overview of the questions that should be considered during the conference.

[World We Want 2015. \(2013\). A standalone Gender Equality Goal in Post-2015](http://www.worldwewant2015.org/fr/node/357447) [Website]. Retrieved 30 July 2013 from: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/fr/node/357447>

Delegates will find on this website the different online discussions launched by World We Want, which is holding global consultations on specific themes ranging from issues relating to inequality, health and food security to conflict and populations dynamics. The link provided above will direct delegates on a page created in association with UN-Women, to discuss the need for a transformative stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment. This website is the opportunity for delegates to join the ongoing virtual debate, gather information on new innovative ideas, and contribute themselves to the framing of the future development agenda.

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III. Promoting Women's and Girls' Access to Education, Training, Science and Technology

*“Science, technology and innovation can facilitate efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight diseases, improve education quality and increase decent work opportunities. Developing women's competencies and ensuring their equal access will widen the talents and perspectives countries can draw on to meet these challenges. We must unleash the power of women's involvement in sciences.”*²³²

Introduction

Economic stability can be improved through the creation of an educated workforce, the promotion of gender equity, and the implementation of poverty-reducing policies. As a catalyst for change and development through helping to reach all three of these goals, women's empowerment can bolster thriving economies and stable communities.²³³ Millions of women and girls worldwide lack access to education, particularly in the areas science, and technology; this is a fundamental challenge to economic stability.²³⁴ The rapid growth of technology in the last 30 years is expected to continue throughout the 21st century.²³⁵ This presents an immediate need to develop and implement successful strategies enabling women and girls to acquire the education and training required to meet the changing needs of a modern economy.²³⁶ The United Nations (UN) actively promotes equal access for women and girls to education, training, science, and technology, demonstrating the importance of this topic for improving both the status of women and the global economy.²³⁷

The work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is grounded in the idea that education as a fundamental human right which “promotes individual freedom and empowerment and yields important development benefits.”²³⁸ While women's right to education is generally recognized and advancements have been made, progress is primarily seen in higher education, leaving innumerable young women and girls without schooling.²³⁹ Although there has been a trend over the last several decades of women seizing opportunities in higher education, many face negative stereotypes, particularly in advanced science and technological fields.²⁴⁰ These stereotypes exacerbate obstacles for women all over the world, frequently resulting in limited vocational options that have over time been deemed socially acceptable.²⁴¹

International Framework

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly, is often described as the international bill of rights for women.²⁴² The Convention's thirty articles define discrimination against women, establish a road map to locate situations where discrimination is found, and put in place steps to eliminate it through a variety of national and international action.²⁴³ Article 10 of CEDAW states that women have “equal rights with men in the field of education,” specifically in “technical, professional and higher technical education, as well as in all types of vocational training.”²⁴⁴ CEDAW further establishes an obligation upon all State Parties to provide better incentives for women to pursue the field of education, to ensure that women and girls have equal access to the same educational standards, qualities of

²³² UN-Women, Speech delivered by Under-Secretary-General and UN-Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet, *Women and Girls' Access to and Participation in Education, Science, Technology and Employment*, 2011.

²³³ UN-Women, *Commission on the Status of Women to promote women's and girls' access to education, training, science & technology* [Report], 2011.

²³⁴ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Report on the fifty-fifth session*, 2011.

²³⁵ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Report on the fifty-fifth session*, 2011.

²³⁶ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Report on the fifty-fifth session*, 2011.

²³⁷ UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Report on the fifty-fifth session*, 2011.

²³⁸ UNESCO, *The Right to Education* [Website].

²³⁹ Bailey, *High-Level Roundtable: Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work*, 2011, p. 2.

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁴¹ *Ibid.*

²⁴² *Ibid.*

²⁴³ UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.

²⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

curriculum, examinations, teaching staff, and equipment.²⁴⁵ Encouraging coeducation of men and women (and boys and girls), and eliminating differences in textbooks, school programs, and teaching methods will reduce stereotypes and their negative consequences.²⁴⁶

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of eight goals agreed upon by 189 countries under the auspices of the UN in 2000, to be achieved by 2015.²⁴⁷ The MDGs target specific, critical issues, including poverty, education, empowerment of women and girls, maternal health, and the environment.²⁴⁸ All eight MDGs work to advance the rights and well-being of women and girls directly and indirectly, most notably Goal 3, to “promote gender equality and empowerment for women.”²⁴⁹ One of the targets target for Goal 3 addresses the elimination of gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.²⁵⁰ Currently, two out of 130 countries have managed to achieve these goals for all levels of education.²⁵¹

Although an improvement since 1990, women only hold 40 out of every 100 wage-earning jobs in the non-agricultural sector around the globe.²⁵² Women continue to endure discrimination in many countries, particularly in lack of access to education, job opportunities, and economic assets.²⁵³ Additionally, the inability for women’s voices to be heard in many governments contributes to the persistent circumstances forcing women into holding jobs that are less secure, with fewer benefits than men’s, and into work places that are often more dangerous.²⁵⁴ Beyond the specific barriers mentioned so far, the effects of violence towards women and girls cannot be understated as a significant obstruction to individuals in all economic categories; and a major impediment for the successful attainment of MDG 3.²⁵⁵ Severe poverty lingers among older girls, also hindering completion of a secondary education for many.²⁵⁶ All of these factors work synergistically against women and girls, leaving many with few options and resulting in extreme vulnerability to exploitative and abusive forms of employment.²⁵⁷

Beijing Platform for Action

The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995.²⁵⁸ The Platform for Action contains complementary goals supporting the empowerment of women.²⁵⁹ In chapter IV., it is recognized that equal relationships between men and women prosper when non-discriminatory education is provided, resulting in mutual benefits.²⁶⁰ If women are to become proactive agents of change, a focus on the equality of access to and attainment of educational qualification is necessary.²⁶¹ Strategic objectives and actions that should be adopted include: “eradicating illiteracy in women; improving access for women to vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education; developing gender-neutral education and training; allocating sufficient resources for and monitor the implementation of educational reforms; and promoting life-long education and training for girls and women.”²⁶² To achieve equality between women and men, it is essential to consider how these issues relate to human rights and the conditions of social justice, as the BPfA recognizes gender equality as a fundamental prerequisite for development and peace.²⁶³

²⁴⁵ UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.

²⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁷ United Nations, *MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women*, 2013, p. 1.

²⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁴⁹ UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979.

²⁵⁰ United Nations Millennium Development Goals, Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women, 2013.

²⁵¹ *Ibid.*

²⁵² United Nations, *Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women* [Website], 2013.

²⁵³ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁸ Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995, p. 1.

²⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

²⁶⁰ United Nations, *Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women* [Website], 2013.

²⁶¹ Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995, Ch. IV.

²⁶² *Ibid.*, Ch. IV.

²⁶³ *Ibid.*

Role of the United Nations System

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The Commission on the Status of Women is a primary global policymaking body in the UN, exclusively designed to address issues dealing with gender equality and the advancement of women.²⁶⁴ Member States annually convene to assess the progress and growth of gender equality, further evaluate and identify challenges, and set global standards to establish or refine policies endorsing and promoting women's empowerment.²⁶⁵ During the 55th session of CSW, considerable time was spent on the priority theme of "the access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology." An important note included in the CSW report under the subtitle, "Making science and technology responsive to women's needs," is the acknowledgement to preserve local and traditional knowledge and value the contributions that indigenous knowledge of botany and local environmental wisdom can bring to modern science.²⁶⁶

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

The UN General Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in July 2010.²⁶⁷ UN-Women's goals focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women, encouraging Member States to implement or support existing policies so as to reflect gender equality in their communities and civic institutions.²⁶⁸ UN-Women was established when it became clear that only an "umbrella" entity could efficiently coordinate certain resources and mandates that had interrelated goals.²⁶⁹ In order to create this umbrella entity, UN-Women subsumed the work previously undertaken by four separate parts of the UN system, each focusing on gender equality: (1) the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), (2) the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), (3) Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) and (4) the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).²⁷⁰ UN-Women supports intergovernmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, to constitute its different policies, global standards, and norms.²⁷¹ Forging a partnership with civil society, UN-Women provides appropriate technical and financial aid to Member States upon request.²⁷² Regular monitoring of system-wide progress helps to maintain the accountability of the UN system to the commitments it sets on gender equality.²⁷³ UN-Women became fully operational in 2011, when CSW's priority theme was the importance of science and technology for women.²⁷⁴ The entity has taken an active role in increasing access to education and training for women and girls, especially in the scientific field, through programs including creating university partnerships and establishing specific training programs such as science camps.²⁷⁵

Access to Education

Education as a Basic Human Right

The right to education can be considered as fundamental, as it is the first step in the exercise of all other human rights and freedoms.²⁷⁶ Education is instrumental in the promotion of individual freedom and empowerment, and it can highlight the importance of gender equality as a core value.²⁷⁷ Millions of children and adults are deprived of educational opportunities due to poverty and social marginalization.²⁷⁸ However, at a global scale, girls and boys have gained an equal access to primary education in the past years.²⁷⁹ African countries have made progress in

²⁶⁴ Ibid.

²⁶⁵ UN-Women, *Overview* [Website], 2009.

²⁶⁶ UN Division for the Advancement of Women, *Statement by Carolyn Hannon, Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women on The achievements of the Commission on the Status of Women*, 2006.

²⁶⁷ Ibid.

²⁶⁸ UN-Women, *About UN-Women* [Website], 2013.

²⁶⁹ Ibid.

²⁷⁰ Ibid.

²⁷¹ Ibid.

²⁷² Ibid.

²⁷³ Ibid.

²⁷⁴ UN-Women, *CSW to promote women's and girls' access to education, training, science and technology*, 2011, p. 4.

²⁷⁵ Ibid.

²⁷⁶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *The Right to Education* [Website].

²⁷⁷ Ibid.

²⁷⁸ Ibid.

²⁷⁹ UN, *Fourth World Conference on Women, Education and Training of Women Diagnosis (Article 70)*, 1995.

accessibility of secondary education.²⁸⁰ Moreover, in higher education, access for women and girls has increased considerably.²⁸¹ Private schools have improved more than public schools in female attendance at all educational levels in many countries.²⁸² However, even after considering the improving statistics, at least 60 million girls remain without access to primary schooling and over two-thirds of the world's 960 million illiterate adults are women. Five years after the World Conference on Education for All (1990), which adopted the *World Declaration on Education for All* and the *Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs*, illiteracy is still prevalent.²⁸³ The advancement and development of women remains at a standstill as high rates of illiteracy stretch across developing countries, including most of Sub-Saharan Africa and some Arab States.²⁸⁴

Some prevailing cultural traditions and attitudes encouraging early marriage and pregnancy, inadequate and gender-biased teaching, lack of adequately equipped school facilities or outright denial of education, sexual abuse, and the lack of access to health care and reproductive health services can all be significant factors contributing to discrimination against the education of girls and women.²⁸⁵ In some circumstances, very young girls are forced to take on heavy, domestic work, or care for infants or the elderly.²⁸⁶ Predetermined, sexist attitudes about girls and young women facilitate a system set up to confine them, rather than one that helps realize women's and girls' potential, dignity, and humanity.²⁸⁷ This may lead to early withdrawals from what schooling exists and results in long-term ramifications of social and emotional insecurity throughout the lives of women.²⁸⁸

Women's Empowerment

Investing in women's role in science and technology and bolstering women and girls' contribution to science and technology are both key factors in women's empowerment.²⁸⁹ Policymakers must aim at making science and technology work as an empowering tool, for both women and men, by encouraging increased professional participation in this field.²⁹⁰ Indeed, women's entrepreneurship and role in scientific research as a means to empowerment is crucial.

Research attests to the growing interest of many women to take control of their own futures through entrepreneurship.²⁹¹ Despite the rapid growth of women-owned businesses in recent years, a disproportionate gender gap still remains.²⁹² However, entrepreneurship can play an important role in the economic empowerment of women and their more stable futures.²⁹³ For instance, in Nigeria, where an increasing number of women are pursuing entrepreneurial opportunities, it has been shown that the desire for independence has been a key motivator.²⁹⁴ Monetary profit, risk taking and the challenge of completing arduous tasks have all been identified as goals and motivating factors for women deciding on starting their own businesses.²⁹⁵ These women also embody independence and see themselves as more creative and innovative, a result of improved mental health and a greater sense of satisfaction.²⁹⁶ Encouragement and the provision of economic and strategic tools to empower women will result in more entrepreneurship and roles for women in scientific research. Indeed, if there are sufficient economic tools and training facilitating entrepreneurship, women who face the risk of being unemployed will be more likely to seize this opportunity.²⁹⁷

²⁸⁰ UN Fourth World Conference on Women, *Education and Training of Women Diagnosis (Article 70)*, 1995.

²⁸¹ *Ibid.*

²⁸² *Ibid.*

²⁸³ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁶ Burger-Helmchen, *Entrepreneurship – Gender, Geographies and Social Context*, 2012.

²⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁸ Ademokun & Ajayi, *Entrepreneurship Development, Business Ownership and Women Empowerment in Nigeria*, 2012.

²⁸⁹ UN-Women, *CSW to promote women's and girls' access to education, training, science and technology*, 2011, p. 1.

²⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

²⁹¹ Ademokun & Ajayi, *Entrepreneurship Development, Business Ownership and Women Empowerment in Nigeria*, 2012.

²⁹² *Ibid.*

²⁹³ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

Integrating Access to Education into the Post-2015 Agenda

As the year 2015 approaches, the ability to attain the MDGs targets becomes more urgent.²⁹⁸ Discussion has already begun on the establishment of a post-2015 agenda that will continue to advance global development through sustainable development goals (SDGs).²⁹⁹ As suggestions are put forward and the agenda is formulated, studies and data clearly show that education should be a central pillar for any new post-2015 development framework.³⁰⁰ Academic, political, and socioeconomic factors all support significantly improved, multiple educational approaches such as traditional teaching and computer-based teaching; gender-neutral access; and active promotion of technical and science education for women which all need to be part of a successful plan.³⁰¹ It remains essential to negotiate and introduce education as a required component in the post-2015 agenda.³⁰²

Access to Training

Women continue to face a multitude of challenges in acquiring access to training opportunities, particularly in the field of science and technology.³⁰³ While not always in direct correlation to training or education, there remains barriers globally that challenge women and girls' ability to access training opportunities including health, socioeconomic status and social norms.³⁰⁴ Persistent poverty creates insurmountable barriers to completing an education or technical training.³⁰⁵ Destructive and discriminatory attitudes towards women coupled with demeaning and sometimes physically and emotionally damaging cultural practices offer limited opportunities to girls, leading many into lives heavy domestic responsibilities or, for some, persistent sexual abuse.³⁰⁶

In times of recession, women are among the first to lose jobs, bearing a significant portion of economic crises' hardships, as they are pulled out from fast-growing sectors.³⁰⁷ Current challenges women face derive from a reduction in childcare facilities caused by elimination and or privatization of state work places.³⁰⁸ Gender stereotyping is one of the root causes of segregation in the working life.³⁰⁹ Developing a gender-sensitive curriculum from primary school, to vocational training, and universities will help address this obstacle.³¹⁰ The elimination of these gender disparities within education, which can be advanced with appropriate governmental policy, is the first step to ensure access to sufficient training for all.³¹¹

Women of all ages are more able to ease into the transition from education and training to the reentry into the labor market if correct incentives are given to improve access to gender-sensitive career counseling along with job search support services.³¹² These services include work preparedness and employment searching skills in the curricula for secondary and higher education, along with vocational training.³¹³ Young women can obtain work experience, which prepares them to participate fully in the working population later in life, if provisions in collaboration among parents, non-governmental organizations, youth organizations, communities, and the private sector are taken.³¹⁴

²⁹⁸ Adams, *The Education Link: Why Learning is Central to the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda*, 2012.

²⁹⁹ Ibid.

³⁰⁰ Ibid.

³⁰¹ Ibid.

³⁰² Ibid.

³⁰³ UN General Assembly, *Further Action and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/RES/S-23/3)*, 2000.

³⁰⁴ Ibid.

³⁰⁵ Ibid.

³⁰⁶ Ibid.

³⁰⁷ Ibid.

³⁰⁸ Ibid.

³⁰⁹ UN General Assembly, *Further Action and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/RES/S-23/3)*, 2000.

³¹⁰ UN-Women, *CSW to promote women's and girls' access to education, training, science and technology*, 2011, p. 2.

³¹¹ UN General Assembly, *Further Action and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/RES/S-23/3)*, 2000.

³¹² UN Commission on the Status of Women, *Agreed conclusions on access and participation of women and girls in education, training, and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work*, 2011, p. 9.

³¹³ Ibid.

³¹⁴ Fourth World Conference on Women, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, 1995, p. 28.

Access to Science and Technology

Women and girls continue to face limited access to science and technology, particularly in areas where formal education systems are underdeveloped, underfunded, or understaffed, as there is limited capacity to integrate science and technology programming into these schools.³¹⁵ This challenge is not limited to developing countries; women are significantly underrepresented in science and technology related fields in some of the most wealthy regions and countries.³¹⁶ Women's limited access to science and technology fields has a lot to do with their limited access to key resources including education, financing, and exposure to technology.³¹⁷ The way in which girls are exposed to science and technology through their teachers during their formal education can significantly affect the way they interact with science and technology later in life.³¹⁸ This experience can translate into insufficient support during and after their education, resulting in a gap between school and work that can stunt the aspiration of girls who did have access to quality science and technology education, let alone those who do not have that support.³¹⁹ Career guidance, for education systems that are making strides towards quality science education, is vital to helping girls achieve their goals.³²⁰

Building on this concept, UNESCO has developed a training module for teachers and administrators, titled "Girls and Science: A Training Module on Motivating Girls to Embark on Science and Technology Careers."³²¹ This training works to begin reducing disparities between genders in obtaining employment in science and technology fields by working with educators to address "sociocultural dynamics" as well as working to raise awareness of the harmful impacts of negative stereotypes of women who pursue science-related careers.³²² Currently this training is being implemented in parts of Africa through UNESCO programming.³²³ Similarly, women already working in the field can act as positive role models, improving both women's and girls' outlook on accessing education and careers in scientific and technological fields.³²⁴ This approach is one that can be implemented in any country and serve similar purposes and achieve similar outcomes; for instance, UNESCO works globally to promote the benefits of positive female role models in science and technology.³²⁵ Additionally, this approach is being applied through civil society organizations in the United States that work to match women in the field with girls who have an interest in or a passion for science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) related subjects.³²⁶

Conclusion

The examples cited above demonstrate the UN's unwavering support for the full promotion of equal educational and training opportunities for women and girls, particularly in the areas of science and technology.³²⁷ Benefits of increased access to education, training, science, and technology for women and girls will be seen and experienced by the global community. It is critical to identify and define real-world strategies to break down any existing financial and cultural barriers preventing access to education for women and girls, and delineating practical, simple, and effective steps to promote science, technology, training, and educational opportunities for women all over the world.

Delegates should consider the following questions when researching this topic: What are successful strategies for engaging traditional communities in efforts to open-up educational opportunities for females? If there is resistance in communities to educating girls and women, what are sensitive and effective strategies for overcoming resistance? How are financial and cultural barriers for creating well-equipped educational facilities overcome? How can impoverished communities attract financial resources so as to promote technology transfer and training? In what

³¹⁵ UNESCO, *Women's and Girls' Access to and Participation in Science and Technology* [Background Paper], 2010, p. 7.

³¹⁶ Elan, *Study: Women Encounter Inequality in Science and Technology Fields*, 2012.

³¹⁷ *Ibid.*

³¹⁸ UNESCO, *Women's and Girls' Access to and Participation in Science and Technology* [Background Paper], 2010, p. 7.

³¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 8

³²⁰ *Ibid.*

³²¹ *Ibid.*

³²² *Ibid.*

³²³ *Ibid.*

³²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 11

³²⁵ UNESCO, *Women's and Girls' Access to and Participation in Science and Technology* [Background Paper], 2010, p. 11.

³²⁶ National Girls Collaborative Project, *FabFems*, 2011.

³²⁷ UN-Women, *CSW to promote women's and girls' access to education, training, science and technology*, 2011, p. 2.

ways can United Nations institutions, in particular CSW, promote the empowerment of women in scientific fields? How can civil society and private institutions contribute to achieving these goals?

Annotated Bibliography

American Association for the Advancement of Science. (2000). *Linking Science and Technology to Woman's Need*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: <http://chrweb.aaas.org/archives/UN.pdf>

In September 1995, more than 180 governments signed the Beijing Platform for Action at the Fourth World Conference on Women. Five years later, a special session of the United Nations General Assembly will review progress achieved and obstacles encountered. This booklet offers examples of how science, engineering, and technology intersect the critical issues articulated in the Platform.

International Women Leaders' Conference. (2011). *Haifa Declaration*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/BSP/GENDER/PDF/Haifa%20Declaration%20paper%20head_COMPLETE.pdf

The International and Women Leaders' Conference resulted to the Haifa Declaration, which identifies many clauses and strides taken to provide education and training for women and girls. This document may provide delegates with ideas as they are in the writing process of their resolutions and seemingly gives an approach as to how to gear the topic since it has the potential to relate to other surrounding issues.

Fourth World Conference on Women. (1995, September). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995. Retrieved 1 August 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

This document cohesively expresses the importance of women to obtain science curricula and how most education is currently gender-biased. It examines how women are deprived of basic education in mathematics, science, and technical training. Understanding the reasoning behind this will help provide knowledge as to how we can improve the daily lives of women and further enhance their capabilities in acquiring employment. This section also includes how science and technology can rigorously prepare women in taking a more active role in occupations that are related to technological and industrial development in their countries. Therefore, women can progress in a diverse approach to vocational and technical training. Overall, this shows the importance of women in the creation and design process of applications, monitoring, and evaluation.

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women (2011, April 1). *Report on the fifty-fifth session*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2011/27

This Report was published in order to identify the main "Agreed conclusions on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work." "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." This document also includes the matters brought to attention of the Council: Resolution 55/1. Mainstreaming gender equality and promoting empowerment of women in climate change policies and strategies.

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2011). *Agreed conclusions on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from:

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw55/agreed_conclusions/AC_CS55_E.pdf

The following are agreed conclusions which adopted by the Commission are transmitted to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with its resolution 2008/29 of 24 July 2008, as an input into the annual ministerial review of 2011. This document entails the entirety of the topic at hand that discusses the conclusions which still need further development in the executing process.

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, Fifty-fifth session. (2011, 10 December). Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2011/3). Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2011/3>

This is a 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.

UN-Women. (2011). *Commission on the Status of Women to promote women's and girls' access to education, training, science and technology*. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw55/press/EN-CSW-backgrounder.pdf>

This text is a good first approach to directly study the topic at hand. It presents why the priority theme is important, improving the quality of education and combating gender stereotypes, empowering women and girls to contribute to science and technology, making science and technology work for both women and men. The document also mentions global data and examples of different Member States which have taken probable approaches and strides to help uplift women. Furthermore, it states the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) which will service CSW for the first time.

UN-Women. (2013, 8 July). *UN General Assembly Thematic Debate on Inequality*. Retrieved 1 August 2013 from:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/7/un-general-assembly-thematic-debate-on-inequality>

This text is of the speech given by Lakshmi Puri, Acting Head of UN-Women, at the UN General Assembly Thematic Debate on Inequality, 8 July 2013, New York. A perspective from a leader can give delegates feedback on the seriousness of inequality and how it hampers the working environment. Delegates can also see a sample of a leader's standpoint and how it might relate to the Member State represented.

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-Third Special Session. (2000, November 16). *Further Action and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/RES/S-23/3)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 29 June 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/ress233e.pdf>

This resolution highlights the Platform for Action which emphasizes that women share common concerns that can be addressed only by working together and in partnership with men towards the common goal of gender equality around the world. It respects and values the full diversity of women's situations and conditions and recognizes that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment.

United Nations, The Fourth World Conference on Women. (17, October 1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. Retrieved 30 June 2013 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

This is the official agreement of the primary framework which was comprised after having convened in Beijing from the 4th to the 15th of September 1995. It adopts the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action annexing it to the present resolution. The beginning to women and their pursuance of higher goals in society, this document is the main resource of women and their efforts to strive in the workplace.

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Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

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 Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and are collectively referred to as the “Secretariat.”
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Deputy Secretary-General or her/his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations (NMUN) 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, which can be any member of the Secretariat or their designate.
5. The practice of striving for consensus in decision-making shall be encouraged. NMUN also acknowledges it may sometimes be necessary for a Member State to abstain or vote against a resolution it cannot support for policy reasons.

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 Deputy 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 Deputy 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.

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 Member States and observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote. Should the Commission not reach a decision by conclusion of the first night’s meeting, the agenda will be automatically set in the order in which it was first communicated.

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. Debate on the inclusion of an item in the agenda shall be limited to three speakers in favor of, and three against, the inclusion. 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 commission 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 Deputy Secretary-General, or his or her designate, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Commission to be placed on the agenda. The votes described in this rule are substantive votes, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, —the members “present and voting” — means members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum

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

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Commission.
2. The Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Deputy 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 and 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 designate, 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 or her/his designate.

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language

English shall be the official and working language of the Commission during scheduled sessions (both formal and informal) 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. The language should be the official language of the country you are representing at NMUN.

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 (session).

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 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. The President may propose to the Commission the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the speakers time 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 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 and is limited to entertaining motions.

Rule 16 - Authority of the Commission

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

Rule 17 - Voting rights on procedural matters

Unless otherwise stated, all votes pertaining to the conduct of business shall require a favorable vote by the majority of the members "present and voting" in order to pass.

For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this rule is applied. Note that observers may vote on all procedural votes; they may, however, not vote on substantive matters (see Chapter VI). Every delegation must cast a vote in procedural votes. Further, there is no possibility to abstain or pass on procedural votes

Rule 18 - Points of order

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with the rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. They should be used exclusively to correct an error in procedure. 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 (on her/his own accord), during the speech. For purposes of this rule, the members present and voting mean those members (including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 19 - Speeches

No representative 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. The President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, the Secretariat will set a time limit for all speeches which may be amended by the Commission through a vote if the President, at his or her discretion, decides to allow the Commission to decide. In no case shall the speaker's time be changed during the first scheduled session of the Commission. Consequently, motions to alter the speaker's time will not be entertained by the President. The content of speeches should be pertinent to the agenda as set by the Commission.

Rule 20 - 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. Once the list has been closed, it can be reopened upon by a vote of the Commission. 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 or reopen (if the list has already been closed) 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. The right of reply will not be approved should it impugn the integrity of another State.

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. Delegates should not state a purpose for the suspension.

This motion should be used to suspend the meeting for lunch or at the end of the scheduled board session time. Delegates should properly phrase this motion as "suspension of the meeting," and provide a length of time when making the motion.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move to 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

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion. Two representatives may speak in favor of, and two against, the motion, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

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 18, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

1. To suspend the meeting;
2. To adjourn the meeting;
3. To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
4. To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat. Any proposal or amendment that relates to the substance of any matter under discussion shall require the signature of twenty percent of the members of the Commission [sponsors].

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 during formal speeches. 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. Should delegates wish to withdraw a working paper or draft resolution from consideration, this requires the consent of all sponsors.

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions

A motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting has commenced, provided that the motion has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member.

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. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule.

Rule 30 - Invitation to silent prayer or meditation

Immediately after the opening of the meeting and immediately preceding the closing of the final meeting, the President shall invite the representatives to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation with the motion to do so by a representative.

VI. VOTING

Rule 31 - 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 32 - 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. Adoption by “acclamation” or “without a vote” is consistent not only with the educational mission of the conference but also the way in which the United Nations adopts a majority of its proposals.

Rule 33 - Majority required

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

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

Rule 34 - 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 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, when requested a second time, respond with either a yes or no vote. 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 35 - 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. Only delegates who are sponsors of a draft resolution that has been adopted with an unfriendly amendment, whom subsequently voted against the draft resolution may explain their vote.

Rule 36 - 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.

For purposes of this rule, there shall be no communication among delegates, and if any delegate leaves the Commission room during voting procedure, they will not be allowed back into the room until the

Commission has convened voting procedure. Should a delegate who is also serving as Head Delegate leave the room, they may reenter but they may not retake their seat and participate in the vote.

Rule 37 - 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 an 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 approved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or 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 38 - Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal. Permission to speak on the amendment shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete entire operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect preambular clauses or sub-clauses of operative clauses. The President may limit the time to be allowed to speakers under this rule. These speeches are substantive in nature.

Rule 39 - 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 40 - 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 41 - 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 42 - 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 43 - Authority of the General Assembly

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 44 - Participation of non-Member States

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.

A sub-board 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. 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. Delegates invited to the Commission according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the Commission 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 board when his or her presence in the Commission is no longer required. Delegates may request the presence of a non-member of their board simply by informing the President that this is the desire of the body, there is no formal procedural process.

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.

National liberation movements are only represented at NMUN in two ways: (1) if their delegation has been assigned explicitly the national liberation movement itself; or (2) should the Security Commission wish to hear from a representative of the movement in their deliberations, the Secretariat shall provide the appropriate representative.

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.

NMUN does not assign delegations to Specialized Agencies.

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

Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer status by the Economic and Social Council 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.

NMUN will assign delegations an NGO instead of a Member State upon request.