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9 – 13 April 2017

Documentation of the Work of the Commission on the Status of Women  
(CSW)



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Conference B

## Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

### Committee Staff

<b>Director</b>	Adrian Hassler
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Kiki Bouwmans
<b>Chair</b>	Jessica Villegas
<b>Rapporteur</b>	Kyle Young

### Agenda

- I. Women's Economic Empowerment in a Changing World of Work
- II. Enhancing Women's Role in Peace Processes and Political Transitions
- III. Realizing the Rights of Indigenous Women

### Resolutions adopted by the Committee

<b>Code</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Vote</b>
CSW/1/1	Women's Economic Empowerment in a Changing World of Work	Adopted without a vote

## Summary Report

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

- I. Enhancing Women's Role in Peace Processes and Political Transitions
- II. Realizing the Rights of Indigenous Women
- III. Women's Economic Empowerment in a Changing World of Work

The session was attended by representatives of 35 Member States; one non-governmental organization also attended the meeting. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of III, I, II and began discussion on the topic of "Women's Economic Empowerment in a Changing World of Work."

By Tuesday, the Dais had received a total of two working papers covering a wide range of subtopics, including vocational education, access to resources, discriminatory legislation, and the role of the private sector. After the body received additional information on recent developments from a guest speaker on Monday, the body worked towards finding a comprehensive solution to the topic at hand in the spirit of collaboration and striving for consensus. Several delegations highlighted the importance of education and cooperated to refine their proposals. The body also considered the role of women in family and professional life.

On Wednesday, the proposals were combined into one comprehensive draft resolution and approved by the Dais. Subsequently, there was one friendly amendment. The committee adopted the resolution following voting procedure, which received unanimous support from the body. The resolution represented a wide range of issues, including microfinancing, gender equality legislation, education at all levels, data collection, family values, free work choice, job security, and training programs. The commitment and eagerness of the body and their hard work ensured the eventual adoption of an agreed set of conclusions.



**Code:** CSW/1/1

**Committee:** Commission on the Status of Women

**Topic:** Women's Economic Empowerment in a Changing World of Work

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1 *The Commission on the Status of Women,*

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3 *Reaffirming* the guiding principles outlined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), article 13 of the  
4 *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966), the *Beijing Platform for Action* (1995), and  
5 the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979),

6  
7 *Affirming* article 16.3 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which emphasizes the family as the “natural  
8 and fundamental group unit of society” and stresses that it should be considered a main driver for the  
9 implementation of women’s empowerment in the changing world of work,

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11 *Emphasizing* that women’s economic empowerment and participation in the labor markets are vital towards the  
12 achievement of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), and specifically Sustainable Development  
13 Goals 5 and 8, which are the core of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women within the  
14 economy,

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16 *Recalling* its resolution on “Preventing and eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace,” adopted at the 61<sup>st</sup>  
17 session of the Commission, reiterating the necessity for the safety and protection of women involved in the  
18 economic community,

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20 *Further recalling* the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* that calls for the inclusion of women into all  
21 social sectors and underlines the principle of freedom of opportunity, as well as article 29 thereof, encouraging  
22 Member States to further protect the various forms of family that exist within different cultural, political, and social  
23 systems,

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25 *Guided by* the *Youth Declaration* (2017), created during the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of  
26 Women, which emphasized the need for explicit inclusion of all women, especially minority youth,

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28 *Noting with satisfaction* the efforts made by non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations working  
29 to establish and further advance the empowerment of women through education accessibility, focusing on  
30 decreasing women’s social barriers impeding them from receiving education, while also providing tools necessary to  
31 enable women and girls to stay in schools and advancing women in science, technology, engineering, and math  
32 (STEM) in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO)  
33 STEM and Gender Advancement program,

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35 *Deeply concerned* by the global lack of equal gender representation in the STEM fields, as outlined in UNESCO’s  
36 STEM and Gender Advancement program,

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38 *Welcoming* the *Shanghai Consensus* (2012), adopted at the Third International Congress on Technical and  
39 Vocational Education and Training (TVET), in its recommendations to take innovative measures in providing  
40 quality and gender-inclusive vocational training programs,

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42 *Recognizing* the efforts of the UN Statistical Division in facilitating gender-based analysis through programs such as  
43 the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and the Global Gender Statistics Program that seek to build  
44 capacity for equality statistics and data disaggregation,

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46 *Reaffirming* the call made by the UN High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment to create a pathway  
47 that strives towards economic growth, gender equality, the elimination of poverty, and the efforts made by UN-  
48 Women, in providing action-oriented recommendations to the international community and the private sector on  
49 how to improve economic outcomes for women and the promotion of women’s leadership,

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*Recognizing* the important contribution of Small Industries Development Organizations (SIDO) to the improvement of economic conditions by generating employment and through promotion of entrepreneurship and empowerment of women in small businesses,

*Further recalling* General Assembly resolution 61/214, which calls upon Member States, the UN, and the Bretton Woods institutions to support and highlight the need for microfinance programs for women, so that they are able to achieve financial independence by fostering entrepreneurial skills, while recognizing the impact of such programs on the reduction of poverty,

*Bearing in mind* article 5 of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, requesting Member States to eliminate prejudices “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,”

*Cognizant of* the report of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development showcasing that increased access to education for women, specifically in higher education, accounts for about 50% of economic growth in countries over the past 50 years,

*Emphasizing* that motherhood should be compatible with employment, and that all efforts to achieve sustainable development must emphasize the role of the family as the fundamental group unit of society,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to invest in global and local organizations that promote the creation and development of small businesses by promoting women-owned federal contract programs and encouraging joint partnerships with public bodies;
2. *Recommends* Member States adopt anti-discrimination legislation in the recruitment, retention, and promotion of women in the public and private sectors and provide means of redress in cases of non-compliance;
3. *Encourages* Member States to maximize their efforts, along with international and domestic organizations, in providing rural areas with tools of technology and include women in this process, which will in turn enhance women’s skills in this area;
4. *Further recommends* that existing microfinance organizations and community development banks adopt a gender equality perspective when supporting emerging businesses and expand their activities into rural regions by investing initial capital into starting business ideas, especially those with a focus on sustainable development;
5. *Encourages* Member States to support public-private partnerships (PPPs) in order to enhance economic and social programs for women and their families, in which the private sector would provide financial assistance and loans at a minimal or zero interest rate while the public sector provides advantageous legal frameworks and assistance to private companies;
6. *Further encourages* Member States to collaborate with UN-Women to incentivize the private sector and implement measures in the public sector to enable the possibility of home-based employment, whilst remaining open to alternative childcare options in jobs which cannot be performed at home, aimed at eliminating the barriers to guaranteeing equal access to employment, protecting women’s freedom of choice in their professional life;
7. *Urges* Member States to create an initiative together with UN-Women to mainstream a freedom of choice perspective in its activities, to destigmatize women’s home-based work, and to emphasize women’s ability to freely choose their personal way of empowerment;
8. *Urges* Member States to target education as one of the primary sources of women’s empowerment in the changing world of work by:

- 105 a. Working with relevant United Nations entities such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
106 through the implementation of initiatives and programs that ensure young women's access to education  
107 in the primary and secondary sectors;  
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- 109 b. Cooperating with UNESCO to provide skills-based training for young women who are unable to have  
110 access to education in primary and secondary sectors through programs such as TVET; and  
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- 112 c. Collaborating with the UNESCO STEM and Gender Advancement program in order to reduce the  
113 gender gap and facilitate female students' entry in STEM careers and other professional sectors in  
114 funding higher educational programs in the effort of expanding the HeForSheIMPACT 10x10x10;  
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- 116 9. *Encourages* Member States to increase their work with UN-Women to ensure that gender equality begins at the  
117 primary school level and continues to be incorporated through higher education and into the private sector and  
118 workplace through:  
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- 120 a. Extending the existing HeForShe campaign to the elementary school level, in order to overcome  
121 cultural and societal gender stereotypes by:  
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- 123 i. Recognizing men as potential change agents by focusing on the education of men;  
124 ii. Teaching children that all jobs are accessible for either gender and implementing the Teach a  
125 Teacher program, established by the HeForShe campaign; and  
126 iii. Learning how to end gender-based violence (GBV) in communities, the benefits of a  
127 violence-free lifestyle, and how GBV undercuts women's empowerment; and  
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- 129 b. Implementing the *Women's Empowerment Principles* within the private sector by supporting  
130 companies on utilizing existing policies or principles or establishing new ones that empower women in  
131 the workplace;  
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- 133 10. *Encourages* private sector actors and business entities to provide support to civil society initiatives which work  
134 to establish programs around the world that enhance women's empowerment and increase women's role in the  
135 advancement of the global economy;  
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- 137 11. *Further recommends* Member States to reform gender-discriminatory legislation, in line with the UN-Women  
138 *Roadmap for Substantive Equality: 2030*, in consultation and collaboration with regional organizations while  
139 respecting cultural differences and overcoming gender stereotypes to enhance gender equality in the workplace  
140 by:  
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- 142 a. Implementing regional associations to explore ways in which governments, businesses, career  
143 development professionals, and schools can work closely together to ensure a secure working  
144 environment for all women; and  
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- 146 b. Establishing a Women's Business Council to oversee and promote gender mainstreaming in the  
147 workplace to eliminate the gender pay gap and thereby enhance women's financial independence;  
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- 149 12. *Emphasizes* further cooperation between UN-Women and the UN Statistics Division to explore participatory  
150 data collection in collaboration with civil society to foster a better understanding of gender disparities and  
151 enhance the transition from data to policy through Member States' utilization of national statistics offices aimed  
152 at empowering women through voluntary data surveying in order to close data gaps in gender-focused statistics;  
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- 154 13. *Calls upon* Member States to establish national youth declarations that focus on bringing awareness to gender  
155 inequality in education and *reaffirms* the need to engage all men and women in an international dialogue to  
156 establish a culture of gender equality across all institutions;  
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- 158 14. *Decides* that "The role of choice in the Empowerment of Women" will be considered as an emerging issue in  
159 the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2018.