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18 – 22 MARCH 2018

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



Conference A

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Committee Staff

Director	Estefani Morales
Assistant Director	Nanako Ueda
Chair	Christopher Walker
Rapporteur	Henrik Oberhausser

Agenda

- I. Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government
- II. Empowering Women and Girls in Rural Contexts
- III. Combating Violence against Women Migrant Workers

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
CSW/1/1	Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government	29 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 2 abstentions
CSW/1/2	Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government	21 votes in favor, 8 votes against, 2 abstentions
CSW/1/3	Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government	30 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 1 abstention
CSW/1/4	Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government	30 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 0 abstention
CSW/1/5	Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government	18 votes in favor, 1 vote against, 0 abstentions
CSW/1/6	Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

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

- I. Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government
- II. Combating Violence against Women Migrant Workers
- III. Empowering Women and Girls in Rural Contexts

The session was attended by representatives of 32 Member States and 1 Observer.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II beginning discussion on the topic of "Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government." By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of six proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, such as the use of information technology, data collection, building capacity, cooperation with organizations, founding women parliaments, and improving education for women and youth. All delegations collaborated in several working groups through with a focus on cooperation and collaboration.

On Wednesday, six draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, two of which had amendments. The committee adopted six resolutions following voting procedure, one of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including the implementation of quota systems for women, improved education for women and youth, data collection about women, easing women's access to politics by quotas, as well as by panel discussions. Additionally, the proposal of conferences about and with women, gender-sensitive education, and family assistance found their way to the resolutions. During the entire conference, all parties remained highly motivated to provide solutions for reaching Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality.



Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Promoting Involvement of Women and Youth in Government

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations (1945), specifically Article 3, which reaffirms the necessity of international cooperation in order to develop solutions and promote actions which reinforce human rights, particularly non-discrimination against sex,

Recognizing the significance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 4 in the pursuit of equal education and equal access to quality education, as well as highlighting Goal 5, which focuses on the significance of involving women in the political process and achieving total gender equality,

Fully aware that the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is vulnerable to various financial limitations and requires adequate resources for funding to carry out suggested solutions with maximum efficiency,

Commending the tenets of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child in the calling for the youth demographic to understand their rights in making decisions that affect their well-being,

Remembering the principles of the 1953 Convention on the Political Rights of Women, which created an international framework for enhancing women's political participation and guaranteeing the fulfillment of their basic political rights,

Reiterating the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), urging Member States to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in the public sphere and promoting the right of women to serve and represent their country on an international platform,

Bearing in mind the requests described in Article 7 of CEDAW that Member States seek to end discrimination against women in both political and public spheres,

Having examined India's Women's Reservation Bill (2010), Ley de Cuotas (2000) as implemented in Chile, and Mongolia's Article 126 of the Law of Election established in 2012, which women receive adequate representation in all levels of government,

Emphasizing that the implementation of gender quotas is only temporary and expresses its hopes that Member States will work towards long-term solutions towards their respective governments representative of women, especially marginalized ones,

Expressing its appreciation for various forms of existing quota systems, including reserved seats (Legislative/Electoral Law) and political party quotas,

Viewing with appreciation the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) through the implementation of the Global Gender Equality Constitutional Database, collecting provisions from 195 constitutions around the world, the first searchable database to present its date through a gender lens,

Recognizing UN-Women's effort towards the improvement of the use, collection, and the availability of data using the "Make every woman and girl count" program,

Commending the progress of the Youth Inclusion Project (YIP) and the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) in assessing the status of youth in civic participation by using a holistic approach, which

analyses the well-being, institutional framework, quality of education and participation of youth in the policy-making process,

1. Recommends that Member States create various workshops and programs which aim to:

a. Use multilateral approaches to raise awareness of women's potential for leadership and government service while maintaining respect for the traditions and cultural values of each Member State;

b. Use capacity-building strategies through Capacity Building Workshops (CBWs), which will encourage women to seek leadership roles, in both public and private sectors, by enhancing their self-confidence, leadership capabilities, and public speaking skills through networking and the aforementioned CBWs:

i. In the formation of these CBWs, Member States may look to such examples as found in the work of the Women's National Farmer Association in Cuba, who utilized peer networking and formal workshops to develop the skills of rural women in regards to communication, leadership, and cooperating in group environments;

ii. Member states may consider the incorporation of diverse groups of women and youth, such as those living in rural areas, living in poverty, or suffering from further marginalization as priority groups for the CBWs;

c. Implement mentoring programs for youth, especially for young women and youth of marginalized groups, to be sponsored by the Member State's respective branch directed to education by:

i. Prioritizing mentoring opportunities which expose youth to careers in leadership, decision-making, and governance;

ii. Giving the responsibility of mentorships to women volunteers that have completed higher education and currently hold leadership positions in which they are connected with youth in at-risk areas;

d. Provide internship opportunities for youth, especially young women, to participate in positions in local, regional, and national government to inspire youth to pursue careers in leadership and governance by:

i. Further inviting Member States to consider organizing Youth Councils and Parliaments, which could be implemented at the local, regional, and national levels;

ii. Including the proposed implementation of an annual "Girls in Government Day," in which girls have the opportunity to experience how the government of their country is working through informative tours, personal meetings with members of government, and observation of the daily procedures of government, if possible, this should be organized by women who are already working in leading positions in government;

2. Further promotes cooperation between non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), social campaigns, and the governments of Member States in the creation and support of these programs by:

 Encouraging governments to cooperate with and support the existing efforts of NGOs, CSOs, and social campaigns who are dedicated to working with youth in developing their education and leadership skills by:

 Collaborating with these organizations to align their goals regarding education and promotion of youth and women in leadership, especially in government roles, to fulfill the 2030 SDGs, particularly supporting Goals 4 and 5;

 ii. Promoting the collaboration between popular social media campaigns related to cultural perceptions of gender equality, promotion of women in positive leadership roles, and general youth and female empowerment such as the UN-Women HeforShe solidarity campaign that recognizes the need to educate teachers on steps to address gender inequalities within the education system;

- 106 b. Ensuring that women and youth from all parts of the world can have access to fully established and well-107 funded programs in their Member States through: 108 109 Utilizing funding from respective Member State's infrastructure budgets; i. 110 ii. Considering when desired, obtaining financial support from the private sector, including participating CSOs and NGOs, Multi-National Corporations (MNCs), and organizations such as 111 112 the UN-Women's Fund for Gender Equality or the Global Partnership for Education; 113 114 3. Encourages Member States to consider implementing a quota system to increase the representation of women 115
 - and youth in all levels of government, particularly in local governments, until the political bodies are comprised of the national percentage of women in the population, by potentially utilizing such systems as:
 - a. A reserved seat quota system focused on allocating a certain number or percentage of seats within the legislature for women, youth, and other marginalized groups;
 - b. A quota system to be employed by political parties themselves, thus placing the responsibility on party leaders in the selection and nomination process of candidates, which would call for the inclusion of a certain percentage of women, youth, and other marginalized individuals as election candidates within participating political parties;
 - 4. Further recommends that the quota scale be adopted on a sliding basis with the expectation that:
 - This percentage increase is to be determined by each Member State;
 - b. The percentage must increase each election cycle;

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- The percentage should also reflect the socioeconomic, cultural, and other marginalized groups representation in the Member State;
- The complete representation is to be completed within an appropriate time frame decided by each Member State;
- 5. Suggests Member States work jointly to improve the collection of international data on women and youth in all levels of governance, with an emphasis on the local level by:
 - Reinforcing the Global Gender Equality Constitutional Database by including gender-disaggregated statistics on lower-level governments of Member States and Territories of the UN, particularly in rural areas;
 - Recommending the collaboration with OECD and YIP to gather data and information on the status of youth to efficiently implement engagement per each Member State's evaluated condition and capacity, in efforts to close the knowledge gap in women and youth civic participation;
- Calls upon Member States to use the Global Gender Equality Constitutional Database as a source of 149 150 knowledge on different national-level and policy-level changes that have been adopted by other Member 151 States.



Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (1945) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948),

Noting all relevant resolutions of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), especially General Assembly resolution 60/2 (2005) and the *Agreed Conclusions* of the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2016), in which the importance of representing women and youth in government is enshrined,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, which calls for Gender Equality, and 10, which calls for Reduced Inequalities,

Acknowledging the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in supporting the involvement of women and youth in political decision-making,

Recognizing the influence of the private sector in advancing women's empowerment and leadership abilities,

Strongly supporting the work of the Women Political Leaders Global Forum and its commitment to unite female politicians in a global network,

Calling attention to the importance of increasing efforts to include women and youth into policy-making processes and governance, such as the Civil Society Organization Partnership for Development Effectiveness,

Reiterating its support for the UN System-wide Action Plan on Youth and its commitment to further the involvement of youth in policy-making,

Bearing in mind the lack of democracy that arises from the underrepresentation of large parts of the population and recognizing the contribution of a wholesome representation of societies to stability, growth and development,

Recognizing the importance of political education by the Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the process of empowering women and youth in order to provide them with a foundation for political involvement,

Expressing its appreciation for the Youth Parliament programs established by Canada and the Commonwealth of Nations, offering a platform for youth to become involved in decision-making processes,

1. *Invites* Member States to create annual, national "Youth Councils" established by their respective national governments, that may draw inspiration from the example of the Youth Parliaments of Canada and the Commonwealth of Nations, where youth can participate in government simulations, similar to their respective governments, which will result in the discussion of their ideas with national politicians;

2. Recommends Member States to establish an International Day of Equal Representation of Women in Governance on 8 April, under the guidance of UN-Women, to which women and girls should be invited to participate in workshops, guided tours, and similar programs held by local politicians, NGOs, and universities for the purpose of:

- a. Deepening women's knowledge about political systems, political participation, the structure of the national governments, and other topics related to political issues to experience policy making first-hand and to receive education on political matters;
 - b. Getting involved in governance through voting, running for office, as well as joining and campaigning for political parties;
 - c. Strengthening leadership skills through instructive training and exercises;

- 3. *Suggests* the Women Political Leaders Global Forum to further unite female politicians in a global network, and in addition, encourages its members to develop national governmental programs including seminars, presentations and workshops fitting national structures of the Member States, which should aim at encouraging women and youth to participate in governance and policy making;
- 4. *Encourages* organizations such as the civil society organization Partnership for Development Effectiveness to further increase their efforts in supporting national and local representation training programs for the involvement of women and youth in leadership positions and governance;
- 5. *Welcomes* Member States to offer incentives, including but not limited to national economic incentives, for companies in the private sectors to offer leadership training specifically to women and youth;
- 70 6. Further recommends Member States to implement national action plans on the 2030 Agenda in cooperation with NGOs and CSOs on a national as well as local level in order to reach the SDGs.



Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government

The Commission on the Status of Women,

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Noting the importance of shared data collection in improving and preventing challenges in gender equality, such as social, economic, legal and political discrimination as highlighted in the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and motivated by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 to attain gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

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Recognizing the extraordinary work done by the United Nations' (UN) Statistics Division in providing accurate and consistent measures in current affairs and gender-aggregated data, and expressing its satisfaction for the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, which is based on work carried out by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS),

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Recalling the role of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in implementing and coordinating action taken in regard to women's rights and equality,

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1. Requests the support of Member States in recognizing problems presented from data collection, improving data sharing, and creating effective and lasting solutions to address gender inequality in political systems, and calls upon data producing organizations such as the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators to collaborate with the IAED-GS to produce reliable indicators on the mainstreaming of gender and women's empowerment;

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2. Invites IAEG-GS to modify the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators in order to include:

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a. In the section "Education," modify indicator 25 to read as such: Share of female science, engineering. social sciences, manufacturing and construction graduates at tertiary level;

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b. In the section "Public Life and Decision-making:"

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i. The percentage of participation of female electoral candidates in general and local elections;

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ii. The proportion of seats held by women in provincial or regional parliament; The proportion of women elected as mayor in municipal governments;

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In the section "Economic Structures," participation in productive activities and access to resources (qualitative), expand and divide indicator 1 to differentiate the extent of country commitment to gender equality in employment between public and private sectors;

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38 39 3. Calls upon the UN ECOSOC to improve current data collection sharing frameworks of the UN Statistics Division, specifically, within measures of Human Development Indices, Indicators on Men and Women, and Gender Information, in order to obtain data to address current and future issues on the involvement of women in all levels of decision-making processes as a gender mainstreaming mechanism.



Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Taking into account the barriers that women face, such as economic, social, and educational inequality,

Congratulating all Member States on the progress, efforts and achievements that have been made towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 5.5, which promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Understanding the importance of the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), especially article 7, as it encourages the elimination of discrimination against women in the political life,

Guided by the article 181 of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA), which emphasizes women's equal participation in political institutions,

Having examined General Assembly resolution 58/143 (2003), which creates policies and designates programs to improve the situation of women in rural areas through educational opportunities,

Acknowledging the importance of World Programme of Action on Youth (WPAY), which encourages the youth to become involved in government,

Emphasizing the need of diverse candidates to promote descriptive representation, which fosters more women and youth to become civically engaged by having other women and youth governmentally involved and politically empowered, based on identity politics at the local, regional, and national level,

Recognizing the importance of the Global Gender Gap Index, due to the fact that the report outlines a comprehensive list of socio-economic variables for every country and provides a global ranking for each variable with an assessment of gender equity within all institutional frameworks,

1. *Encourages* Member States to reevaluate and reassess their commitment of their already established policies and initiatives to achieving SDG 5.5 to ensure women's effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life;

2. Advises Member States to review existing laws that discriminate or discourage the involvement of women and youth in government by favoring discourse that is transparent, inclusive, and respectful to all persons;

3. *Condemns* regulatory laws, institutions, and policy frameworks that marginalize women and youth in the political and social spheres, in order to accommodate and promote consistency throughout local, regional, and national governmental levels;

4. Suggests the implementation of a National Education Program (NEP) that establishes informational centers in disadvantaged regions to collaborate with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) or UN-Women, along with monetary support from these organizations, such as the UN-Women Fund for Gender Equality and others alike, that hone in on mentoring and educating women on their rights, the workings of government, and resources available to them;

5. Further invites Member States to introduce and emulate core governance courses as seminars from the primary school level in the NEP established by each Member State sponsored by UN-Women and UNDP, based on policy framework, policy application, and government processes, such as in the case of citizenship education being introduced as a core in the curriculum to aid in the continuity and prioritization of youth involvement;

- 6. *Calls on* Member States, in cooperation with organizations such as UN-Women, to initiate annual conferences, in local and regional areas, which will promote agency of women and youth along with empowerment by:
 - a. Suggesting a week-long conference that has brief 1 to 2-hour workshops held by Members States in tandem with and personalization for youth and women engage in open, political dialogue that entails status quo of their respective country, policy processes and application in context to women and youth;
 - b. Encouraging Member States to review policy made within these bodies within 2 months after the conference for future implementation determined by the governments to ensure efficiency, effectiveness, and hearing of the subaltern;
- 7. *Encourages* each Member State to adopt long-term goals and short-term goals to enhance women and youth candidate participation per election through a policy, referred to as a fast-track due to the time limit, with respect to their own political, traditional, and representational climate within 2 years by:
 - a. Keeping in mind that long-term goals are contingent upon increasing dialogue within the aforementioned conferences, and that short-term goals ensure women and youth in parliament maintain their current level of representation to prevent retrogression determined by themselves;
 - b. Further recommending national governments analyze the yearly Global Gender Gap Index report, published by the World Economic Forum, to employ a comparative methodology to review equity status of a country in a global context;
 - c. Suggesting that each Member State reviews the prerequisite qualifications of candidates to assess candidacy optimization based on a general consensus determined by the legislative branches of their respective country.



Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Taking into account articles 7 and 8 of the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), stating that Member States should take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life on national and international level,

Emphasizing article 21 (1) of the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, declaring that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country,

Affirming the significance of the 1952 Convention on the Political Rights of Women, which assures the principle of equality of rights for men and women and recognizes that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country,

Guided by article 13 of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and platform for action stating women's empowerment in the decision-making process and access to power,

Recalling the 2015 Beijing Declaration and platform for action Turns 20 about gender-based discrimination and violence,

Recalling article 25 (a and b) of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Politics Rights, declaring that every citizen shall have the right and opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs, and to vote or be elected,

Referring to article 3 of the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, assuring that the States parties have to ensure the equal right of men and women of all economic, social and cultural rights,

Recognizing the 2015 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls, as a long-term strategy,

Reaffirming the 2015 SDG 5.5, to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political life,

Approving of the J. section of the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth on Participation, affirming the full participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making.

1. *Stresses the importance* for Member States to include the development of youth and women participation in politics as national goal;

2. Suggests the implementation of a network based on tackling hostility against women and youth in positions of power in order to provide individual counseling as well as professional advising that reflect the values and objectives of the United Nations (UN) and:

a. Urges all states to design websites specific to their members where women have the resources to network through online chat, email, and even through a mobile application;

b. Encourages members to provide a phone hotline in collaboration with the Assaulted Women's Helpline where women can report and seek emotional and psychological resources as well as motivation to navigate hostility they may be experiencing in their workplace;

c. Brings together professional psychologists and expert counselors to entertain and facilitate annual

50 conferences that focus on priority issues of the year, such as gender-based violence, discrimination, 51 harassment, and intimidation: 52 53 3. Encourages Member States to establish a free annual national forum based on an international model, those 54 forums would be named National Youth Conferences and: 55 56 a. Shall welcome all youth interested in politics, following the definition of the UN of 15 to 24 years old: 57 58 i. By promoting the participation and raising awareness on local levels such as school 59 campaigns, teachers' involvement; 60 61 b. By holding Conferences guided by guests who have experiences in the political fields under the

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- guidance of the respective national government:
 - i. The conferences shall be informative and opened to discussion in order to facilitate the development of networks for the participants through workshops;
- Moreover, the Member States participating in the establishment of the said forum shall require a report from the participating youth and shall take into consideration their contribution:
 - After its consideration of the reports made by the participants, the Member States shall present a report of the experience every three years to CSW in order to follow the progress made on the participation of youth in political fields;
- 4. Recommends Member States to further integrate women and youth through campaigns in order that they may prevail in becoming highly active in major conferences and summits within social, economic, and political fields such as the Global Summit of Women;
- Recommends the promotion of Women Caucuses and Women Parliaments to have inclusive discussion on gender equality issues and:
 - Women caucuses should be run by their own rules and statutes, one of these statutes would be that their autonomy be recognized by legislature and;
 - Working hand and hand with legislation bodies as a lobby, offering advice for efficient inclusion of women from different demographics aspiring for equal representation;
 - Moreover, design standing committees with explicit policy remit on women/gender having a flexible policy agenda to fit the topics of interest of women and;
 - Encouraging women from different groups such as political parties, women activists, aid actors and traditional leaders to form part of the women's caucuses not only for the purpose of sharing ideas and making solutions, but also to heighten awareness and;
 - Furthermore emphasizing the importance of having the presence of male allies at these conferences so that they can learn how to better advocate for women under patriarchal systems and;
 - Share information of the suggestions and consensus from conferences to organizations, civil society and government policymakers in addition;
 - Recommends that Member States, in addition to empowering women, implement youth parliaments, as already existent within the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), allowing youth to become leaders.



Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Promoting the Involvement of Women and Youth in Government

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the inherent equality and dignity of the genders as expressed in the preamble to the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948),

Recognizing the key role of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in promoting the involvement of women and youth in government, as an important advisory body to the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which is dedicated to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) and mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities,

 Recalling the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which urges states to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life, and to secure women the equal right to participate in the formulation and implementation of government policy and to hold public office at all levels of government,

Reaffirming the goals and provisions of BPfA promoting the rights of women as an inalienable component of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Keeping in mind the commitments to gender equality and women and youth's participation set out in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development towards achieving gender parity in national legislatures and involving youth in developing areas to ensure social growth,

Recognizing that the prevalence of gender- and age-based discrimination in the field of politics not only impedes the process of combating such discrimination but also violates the political rights of women and youth,

Noting with deep concern that gender stereotypes are present in Member States worldwide and are often used to justify and reinforce practices of gender discrimination which limits women's political engagement,

Realizing that the prevalence of sexual harassment and abuse, as forms of violence against women in formal and informal political workplaces, contributes greatly to a hostile environment that deprives women of safety and leads to a culture of impunity that further prevents women from reporting sexual harassment incidents,

Bearing in mind that sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace often hinder women from taking on career paths and opportunities leading to a political career in politics and government,

Acknowledging the imbalance in hours spent on unpaid domestic work limit women's ability and opportunity to participate in social, economic, and political spheres, which is highlighted in Chapter 4 of the World's Women 2015: Trends and Statistics,

Affirming that the path toward eradicating gender inequality and prejudice begins with education at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, in all contexts and regions, including rural areas,

Reiterating the sentiment in the document adopted at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century" on the potential of the media and of information and communications technologies to contribute to the advancement and empowerment of women,

Observing the potential of the media to provide a crucial platform for raising women's voices in unison, ensuring women and youth's political representation, and challenging the negative gender-based stereotypes against female qualification in politics,

Fully believing that men and boys are essential partners in challenging gender roles, and promoting women's political empowerment.

1. Invites Member States to combat gender- and age-based discrimination by:

a. Offering training classes under the provision of psychological services to sensitize men and women and to provide resources and strategies for individuals to acquire tips and solutions when confronting age-based and gender-based discrimination;

b. Encouraging the development of new disciplinary measures and the application of existing ones for gender and age-based discrimination;

c. Motivating Member States to raise awareness on gender-based and age-based discrimination against women and youth in the political processes by releasing an annual report of incidences of biases;

2. *Encourages* Member States to initiate educational projects such as workshops for capacity building, training, awareness-raising and empowerment, with a special focus on women and youth's future perspectives in governmental decision-making, in order to ensure their access into politics;

3. Recommends that Member States adopt an approach to gender-sensitive education, which:

a. Challenges the biases against women and youth engagement in politics;

b. Empowers youth to become future political actors at all decision-making levels;

c. Reinforces the inherent dignity, self-worth, and equality of each individual;

4. *Reaffirms* gender mainstreaming practices at all levels of decision-making in order to close the knowledge gap on the participation of women and youth in local levels of government and in rural contexts;

5. *Proposes* that Member States work in close cooperation with locally-rooted non-governmental organizations (NGOs), non-profit organizations (NPOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to ensure cultural and traditional sensibility while promoting women's involvement in politics and government;

6. *Encourages* Member States to create and implement policies and programs that provide social services and basic infrastructure to ameliorate the strain of familial obligations to enable women's engagement in political activities, including but not limited to:

a. Raising public awareness on family planning by expanding access to voluntary family planning services with the help of NGOs and CSOs;

b. Recommending paid maternity leave and subsidized child-care services for employed mothers of households in need, regardless of marital status;

Providing women with access to reproductive health services, including birth control, in accordance
with clause 17 of the BPfA, to give women the ability to plan pregnancy and to reduce adolescent
pregnancy;

d. Targeting the programs at diverse and marginalized groups according to their needs and livelihood characteristics;

7. *Suggests* Member States to make political efforts to ensure women's equitable pay and close the gender pay gap in government positions to allow better economic conditions and independence for women;

8. *Recommends* the establishment of legal and institutional frameworks to end the impunity of perpetrators of sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination in political workplace environments, as well as monitoring

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109	9.	Further invites Member States to increase women's participation and access of to the expression and decision		
110		making in and through media and new technologies of communication including social media, news-reporting		
111		and magazines by:		
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113		a.	Promoting women's decision-making position in media such as management, programming and	
114			research to combat stereotypical gender images;	
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116		b.	Supporting creative media programs and social media campaigns that advance the process of	
117			combating gender-related social issues that impede women's political empowerment;	
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119		c.	Developing voluntary regulatory mechanisms that promote diverse and non-stereotyped portrayals of	
120			women by the mass media;	
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122		d.	Calling for collaborations between CSOs, women's organizations, and professional media	
123			organizations to facilitate the increased participation of women in communication and promote the	
124			political rights of women and gender equality.	