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



Conference B

Commission on the Status of Women

Committee Staff

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Agenda

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

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Торіс	Vote
CSW/1/1	Empowering Women and Girls in Rural Contexts	30 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 4 abstentions
CSW/1/2	Empowering Women and Girls in Rural Contexts	29 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 7 abstentions
CSW/1/3	Empowering Women and Girls in Rural Contexts	Adopted without a vote
CSW/1/4	Empowering Women and Girls in Rural Contexts	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 39 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of III, I, II beginning discussion on the topic of "Empowering Women and Girls in Rural Contexts." On Monday, Member States separated into eight working groups on a variety of subtopics. By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of four working papers. The committee worked towards consensus on a variety of subtopics and ensure all Member States were heard.

On Wednesday, four draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, one of which had a friendly amendment. The committee adopted four resolutions following voting procedure, two of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including finance, infrastructure, civil liberties, representation of women in decision-making processes, healthcare, education, control of land, and capacity building. The dedication that all Member States demonstrated during the week allowed delegates to develop four exceptional and thoughtful papers that will allow the international community to ensure the empowerment of women and girls in rural contexts.



Code: CSW/1/1

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women **Topic:** Empowering Women and Girls in Rural Contexts

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The Commission on the Status of Women,

 Guided by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948), in particular Articles 1, 5, and 26, affirming that all humans are born free and equal without being subject to any degrading treatment and with the right to education,

Recalling the principle of equality between men and women of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966),

Reaffirming the role of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, especially Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, in empowering all vulnerable populations, including women and girls living in rural areas,

Highlighting the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979), in particular Article 14, on the unendurable consequences of discrimination and gender stereotypes for women living in rural areas,

Keeping in mind the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) which defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence resulting in physical, psychological or sexual harm or suffering,

Reiterating that all Member States shall take appropriate measures to ensure that children are protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment according to Article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989),

Endorsing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), which focused on improving the situation of women living in rural areas through equal access to productive resources, specifically land, capital and technology, as well as to gainful employment, decision-making, education, and health services,

Emphasizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) protecting the rights of indigenous women and youth, especially those living in rural context,

Taking into account the United Nations (UN) Statistical Commission's Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, which showed that access to credit and land owning for women is still difficult, and regretting the absence of an international established methodology or standards to address these relevant issues for women empowerment,

Viewing with appreciation the International Day of Women living in rural areas, recognizing their critical role and contribution, which includes indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and cultural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty,

Deplores the impact of financial, food, and climate crises on violence against women living in rural areas and on their health,

Realizing the need for innovative and long-term measures to improve women living in rural areas and girls' living conditions and offer them means for self-realization, as emphasized by the adoption of the Priority Theme "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women living in rural areas and girls" during the 62nd session of the CSW,

1. *Urges* all Member States to implement specific action plans on the empowerment of women and girls in rural context;

2. Requests Member States to sign and ratify treaties and protocols against discrimination of women, especially:

a. The Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1952);

- b. The Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (1979);
- c. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995);
- 3. *Solemnly condemns* discriminatory laws and institutions that hinder women and girls social, economic, and political participation;
- 4. *Calls upon* all Member States to reaffirm the necessity to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS among women living in rural areas by ratifying existing agreements and raising awareness on the issue through:
 - a. The establishment of awareness campaigns with the purpose of informing women living in rural areas on the risk factors and available protections where:
 - i. Such awareness campaigns will be organized twice a year for a one-month period with the assistance of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women);
 - ii. These awareness campaigns will be implemented with the assistance of UNAIDS and UN-Women;
 - b. Providing basic education on the issue, by:
 - i. The training of teachers in reproductive health education;
 - ii. The inclusion of reproductive health education in schools' learning plan;
 - iii. The implementation of prevention campaigns in schools on the danger of HIV, especially through the distribution of documents such as posters, pamphlets, leaflets;
- 5. Encourages collaboration between the CSW and relevant organizations, through:
 - a. Cooperation between the UNAIDS to:
 - i. Reach the goal of ending HIV/AIDS by 2030;
 - ii. Share information, techniques and mechanisms on fighting HIV/AIDS;
 - iii. Provide reports based on UNAIDS' database to measure the extent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in rural areas:
 - b. Partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), designed to:
 - i. Apply expertise knowledge into the prevention on virus transmission;
 - ii. Implement diagnostic tests at medical centers in order to prevent the spread of the virus;
- 6. Strongly affirms that equal and free access to protection against HIV, especially condoms, is substantial and thus:
 - a. Recognizes NGOs as powerful and significant actors for providing contraception means;
 - b. Encourages Member States to develop condom distribution points in rural areas, which would contribute to the prevention of HIV/AIDS;
- 7. *Proclaims* that particular attention needs to be paid to women's access to basic needs namely food, potable water, sanitary supplies, clothing and medical supplies in order to strengthen women living in rural areas, increase productivity, and reduce hunger and poverty, through:
 - a. Partnerships with NGOs and UN Peace Building Missions, in order to provide supplies for basic needs for deprived rural populations in conflict and post-conflict zones;

125 (GLAAS); 126 Shall be funded by international development banks; 127 128 129 9. Recommends that violence against women is systematically defined in national laws, in order to better tackle 130 such cases, by: 131 132 a. Distinguishing physical violence, including female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), psychological 133 violence, including forced marriage, and sexual violence, including harassment and rape; 134 135 b. Incorporating a comprehensive set of international indicators on violence against women, based on widely available data and similar methods, namely: 136 137 138 i. Women living in rural areas' context, which is either domestic, working place, public space; Women living in rural areas' age and family status, such as single, married without child, 139 ii. 140 married with child, divorced, widowed; 141 Women living in rural areas' status, among which resident status, legal immigrant, or illegal iii. 142 immigrant; 143 144 10. Reaffirms the necessity to address discriminatory practices, such as FGM/C and forced marriage, through: 145 146 Globally reinforcing the need to tackle the issue of retrograde and violent rural practices against 147 women: 148 Providing the UN Population Fund's (UNFPA's) and the United Nations Children's Fund's 149 i. (UNICEF's) Manual on Social Norms and Changes to NGOs and to school teachers through 150 various distribution methods; 151 152 ii. Ensuring all measures taken need to consider physical violence, psychological violence and 153 sexual violence to tackle each of those issues in their complexity; 154 Ensuring the measures of the organization Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP) be reaffirmed and iii. 155 revalued to fight violence against women; 156 157 Encouraging Member States to implement a legal framework against FGM/C, forced marriage and all 158 similar discriminatory practices; 159 Reinforcing research and data collection on FGM/C and forced marriage to the UN-Women Global 160 161 Database on Violence against Women, which would tackle the issue of women living in rural areas and 162 girls specifically;

b. Partnerships with local governments and international organizations as well as NGOs in order to

8. Calls for the creation of the Committee for Rural Access to Water and Livelihood (CRAWL) among UN-Water institutions, a ten-year program focused on women, in order to gather ideas to ensure a safe and equal access to

a. Is focused on women in rural areas, and thus completes UN-Water's work on informing local

authorities and governments and monitoring and reporting on women's access to water;

c. Shall meet every six-month to both discuss the situation and establish new objectives;

fulfill international commitments made on water and water-related issues;

b. Is open to all Member States, as well as NGOs and external observers such as experts and diplomats;

d. Shall further the work of the 2005-2015 UN Decade for Action "Water for Life" organized in order to

Shall include and complete the UN Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water

provide medical assistance;

water in rural areas, which:

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- Will aim to advocate the importance of women education to improve their lives and working conditions;
- ii. Builds on the Manual on Social Norms and Change written by the UNFPA and the UNICEF;
- iii. Shall be collaboratively funded by Members States and development banks;
- b. Proposes the modernization of teachers' training by granting equal access to men and women, and raising their awareness on gender equality and gender-based violence with:
 - i. The compulsory establishment of identical education programs for girls and boys;
 - ii. The encouraged development of inclusive reproductive health education;
 - iii. The incentive for all teachers to read the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's guide entitled *Gender Equality in Teacher Education Policy and Practices* as part of their formation;
- 12. Encourages Member States to eradicate violence in rural context generated by gender stereotypes through:
 - a. The reinforcement of UN-Women's Global Database on Violence against Women by paying particular attention to women living in rural areas and girls;
 - b. The evaluation of the global situation of women living in rural areas based on data collected employed to support global action for their safety;
 - c. The appointment of independent local and regional gender equality commissioners in rural areas, with the goal of establishing a territorial grid aimed at preventing any physical, psychological and sexual abuses, which will focus on:
 - i. The collection of data on violence against rural girls and women and creating incentives to report abuses;
 - ii. The production of continual reporting on violence against women living in rural areas and offer them physical and psychological assistance as well as basic life supplies;
 - iii. Raising awareness among rural communities on the consequences of gender stereotypes of women living in rural areas and girl's everyday life;
- 13. *Supports* a reinforcement of the links between Member States and NGOs in order to provide medical, psychological and social help for the victims of such abuses as well as for their children:
 - a. To have access to gynecological care, psychological therapy as well as the access to abortion, according to the Member State's law;
 - b. To provide children with access to medical care and have the opportunity to stay in foster families if the mother is temporarily not able to provide them enough substance;
 - c. To encourage foundations to finance medical interventions and humanitarian missions for women living in rural areas;

14. *Draws attention* to the means to access justice and legal support for women living in rural areas victims of abuses, through:
a. The incentives for women to report when facing abuses, that shall be created due to awareness campaigns, both in the communities and in schools;
b. The provision of support for women living in rural areas and girls as victims of abuses, such as:

- i. Shelters provided by the local governments according to the needs of victims of violence;
 - ii. Close cooperation between NGOs and local government to design adequate policies and remedies, as well as shelters;
 - iii. The introduction of free phone lines by local authorities to provide assistance for women victims of abuses:
- 15. *Emphasizes* the importance of monitoring mechanisms used by inter-governmental organizations, to ensure certain goals are met, as well as to ensure the reduction of proportions of violence against women in rural contexts and the increase of access to education for all ages and gender within the whole country;
- 16. *Further invites* Member States to foster partnerships with private industries in order to provide women living in rural areas with skills to increase their employment opportunities and build a gender-sensitive environment.



Code: CSW/1/2

Committee: The Commission on the Status of Women **Topic:** Empowering Women and Girls in Rural Contexts

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/236 (2014) on "World Survey on the Role of Women in Development," which emphasizes the empowerment of women in rural contexts adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948),

Expresses the importance of the work done during the CSW's 62nd session, particularly concerning the importance of women's rights towards access of land and productive assets,

Noting the importance of implementing sustainable and resilient infrastructure, energy, and education to enable the empowerment and opportunities for rural women and girls, as outlined in Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 4, 5, 7, and 9 of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015),

Deeply concerned by the low level of digital literacy occurring across rural areas that disproportionately affect the female population,

Expresses its concern with the lack of access to vocational training for rural women globally,

Recognizing that creating awareness through education can alter sociocultural limitations and ensure that all women and girls in rural areas feel free to pursue all opportunities available to them, as supported by Article 13.15 of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women (1992),

Emphasizing the efficiency of online and digitally based learning platforms that provide courses in a variety of languages to provide inclusive educational opportunities and capacity-building measures for rural women,

Reiterating our commitment to primary and secondary education to promote literacy and numeracy rates, regionally and internationally, pursuant to Article 28 of the 1989 *Convention on the Rights of the Child*,

Guided by Articles 74 and 75 of the *Beijing Declaration Platform for Action* (1995), which emphasize the importance of incorporating gender inclusive curricula in all levels of education to combat negative gender stereotypes in order to foster empowerment for rural women and girls,

Reaffirming that the disconnect between educational empowerment and financial management can be reduced by creating safe and accessible programs that enhance the lives of women, especially those who live in rural contexts,

Cognizant that formal and non-formal education provides rural women with training opportunities to participate in all aspects of life, as noted in Article 14.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979),

Considering that economic empowerment of women relies on the quantity and quality of paid employment, provision of public services, acknowledgment of domestic and unpaid duties primarily involving women, and the acknowledgment of multiple gender perspectives,

Acknowledges that for substantial changes to take place, consistent flow of income from regional, national, or international sources forms the basis of secure and sustainable development,

Recognizes that providing women with financial capabilities empowers and enables active engagement in their respective communities,

Remembering the work of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on the Manual on Social Norms and Change in eliminating discrimination against marginalized populations, such as women living in rural contexts,

1. Urges Member States to reaffirm their commitment to primary and secondary education in domestic policy;

 Recommends expanding the scope of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) initiative Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to work with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the private sectors to tailor programs for rural women;

3. Suggests that UNESCO's TVET looks to emphasize non-traditional female industries through:

a. Mining TVET mentorship programs, where:

i. The provision of mining skills must be relevant to the resources available in existing mining industries of participating Member States;

ii. Member States are encouraged to incentivize the private sector to work with UNESCO in the provision of TVET;

b. Sustainable Agriculture TVET mentorship programs, that:

i. Teach rural women the best practices in sustainable agriculture specific to the local environment, in terms of types of produce can be harvested;

 ii. Encourages marketing skills to be included in the development of TVET programs for rural women;

c. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, supported primarily through:

 Mentorship programs to allow women to actively engage with individuals to their Member State programs;

4. Calls upon International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to work with Member States to incorporate the six policies outlined in the ITU and UNESCO's 2016 joint report entitled *Technology, Broadband and Education* into programs designed at lifting digital literacy in the spirit of promoting women's entrepreneurship and achieving SDG 10, through:

 a. Increased access to information and Communication Technology (ICT) and through domestic crosssectorial policies that provision affordable cross-sectoral policies that provision affordable and equitable access to ICTs and broadband for women in rural communities;

b. Including ICTs in vocational training and e-commerce and incentivize technological industries by the governments of Member States to work with rural areas;

c. Granting seminars to give the women support and help to become successful entrepreneurs and leaders in their community;

d. Promoting the use of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to provide inclusive educational building measures through the increased access to the Internet;

e. Encouraging initiatives for more non-profit, inclusive and reliable MOOCs to be established;

 f. Provision of a label by UNESCO to recognize MOOCs as websites that would, under the discretion of Member States' governments, ensure rural populations of the reliable and free character of the website;

- 5. Requests willing and able Member States to provide monetary contributions to UN-Women to continue efforts in supporting civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations such as Women's Action for Development, that provides rural women necessary training programs to enhance their socioeconomic and sociopolitical development;
 - 6. *Strongly urges* that Member States create incentive-based conditional cash transfer programs specifically focused on rural families that provide female, heads of household with small, monthly cash transfers for meeting basic, community specific requirements, including:
 - a. Earning less than the minimum income requirement to cover basic costs of living;
 - b. Ensuring that children meet regular school attendance requirements, and implementing a specific minimum attendance requirement for children;
 - c. Attending regular preventative healthcare visits, specific to a community's regional health care needs;
 - 7. *Suggests* that member states partner with government banks, or where this is not available, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to sponsor programs, such as:
 - a. Mobile transfer of money to poor households in rural areas;

- b. Zero-interest loans funded via Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), facilitated through the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility;
- c. Subsidies and cash transfers to recognize economically vulnerable women, including: victims of trafficking, survivors of domestic violence or single women;
- 8. *Endorses* funding through NGOs and World Bank to assist rural women and the economy by providing microloans to further the economic participation of these women, particularly through:
 - a. Providing the capacity to invest in business, learn financial management, contribute to the local economy, and become more financially independent through active participation;
 - b. Creating a partnership between public and private sector in the types of civil societies and state programs to continue to assist women, including a methodology based upon:
 - i. Drafting of detailed contracts and business plans;
 - ii. Providing a clearly defined revenue stream, ideally through zero interest loans;
- 9. *Promotes* the implementation of macro-economic policy choices to sustainably finance labour market and social policies in support of Women's Economic Empowerment and Macroeconomic Policies, including:
 - a. The removal of gender bias through recognition of the value of domestic work that is primarily carried out by rural women by incorporating in a value for unpaid labour in Gross Domestic Product calculations;
 - b. Prioritization of discretionary spending to favor education, law enforcement, housing assistance, and community services to support educational schemes and provide stability in rural communities;
- 10. *Encourages* that member states implement or alter legislation that better protects the economic interests and rights of rural women globally and promote these within their Member States:
 - a. Ensuring that gender neutral language is part of legislation and women are equally included in the decisions pertaining to land and resources;

160 b. Promoting the development of a media campaign that can be implemented at the discretion of the 161 member state to promote the rights afforded to women as equal counterparts to men, involving social 162 media, newspapers, digital applications, and banner advertisements; 163 164 This project is to be undertaken in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme 165 (UNDP); 166 167 d. Ensuring that women and men are legally equal in terms of land control; 168 169 11. Recommends the implementation of Land Restitution laws that promote the designation of land to indigenous 170 people within rural communities, to better include these individuals within their national and international 171 economies, to the discretion of member states; 172 173 12. Calls upon the UNDP to provide financial and technical assistance to Member States to assist with capacity-174 building for infrastructure development by: 175 176 Implementing adequate and safe roads for increased transportation opportunities to assist rural women 177 and girls in accessing necessary social services including, but not limited to, schools and community 178 centers that promote their empowerment; 179 180 Collaborating with the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in funding projects 181 that assist infrastructure development initiatives in developing Member States in order to enhance the 182 socioeconomic opportunities for rural women and girls; 183 184 13. Urges UNESCO to provide financial and technical assistance to Member States to implement ICTs in rural 185 communities to increase rural women and girl's access to modern educational and social opportunities; 186 187 14. Encourages UNESCO to work with developing Member States' governmental bodies pertaining to education to 188 implement workshops that educate rural women and girls on how to utilize ICTs through the sharing of best 189 practices, to effectively incorporate modern technologies in rural areas for greater socioeconomic opportunities; 190 191

the empowerment of women and girls in rural contexts;

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- 15. Promotes the collaboration between Member States and the private sector to ensure that textbook developers implement gender inclusive language in educational materials to reduce negative gender stereotypes that impose
- 16. Recommends that UN-Women provides Member States with educational materials that contain gender inclusive language to be utilized in educational programs to and therefore reduce negative gender stereotypes and mitigate gender-based inequalities against rural women and girls in line with SDG 5;
- 17. Proposes that UNICEF provide substantive work on overcoming gender stereotypes in rural contexts while working in collaboration with member states by:
 - a. Encouraging Member States to review domestic policy to reaffirm the importance of women's education and improve their overall conditions and future opportunities;
 - b. Inviting local, rural administrations to collaborate with women in providing information regarding access to educational resources to increase learning opportunities to improve their socioeconomic development and integration;
 - Emphasizing the work of UNFPA and UNICEF on the Manual on Social Norms and Change by spreading the document in classrooms and teachers' formations to promote gender-sensitive, inclusive education in rural areas;
 - Funding those measures with the help of UNICEF and the United Nations Gender Equality Fund by providing financial assistance to rural communities within Member States to promote the empowerment of women and girls;

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 217 18. Calls upon domestic women and youth councils to work with the CSW in designing a campaign in health and hygiene education for women by:
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 220 a. Striving to include perspectives of women from all rural contexts through representation on domestic women's and youth councils;

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b. Recommending that Member States establish women and youth councils to discuss issues that rural women face, specifically emphasizing health and hygiene education initiatives for their wellbeing, especially if there is no current domestic women's and youth councils in existence for the Member States.



Code: CSW/1/3

Committee: The Commission on the Status of Women **Topic:** Empowering Women and Girls in Rural Contexts

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the provision set forth in Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948), stating that everyone has the right to own property and not be deprived of his property individually, in association with others and that no persons shall arbitrarily be deprived of their property, whilst acknowledging the importance of reconciling cultural and religious practices with the rights and fundamental freedoms set forth by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (1966),

Recalling Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), and its emphasis on the implementation of policies to improve the situation of women producers in rural areas, increase their incomes, and provide household food security,

Acknowledging Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on "Women, Peace and Security," which states that women in rural contexts contribute to recovery and reconstruction, which is integral in strengthening a country's ability to build sustainable peace following conflict and disasters,

Aware of General Assembly resolution 60/147 (2006) on "Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law," and the need to acknowledge that insufficient documentation of land control contributes to lost rights and property of those negatively affected by conflict in rural areas, such as land grabs and dispossession, with little or no compensation,

Acknowledging that women own only 20 percent of the world's land, but that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report entitled *The State of Food and Agriculture: Women in Agriculture* predicts that if women in rural contexts held the same access to, and control over land and resources as men, the agricultural output of developing countries would increase by up to four percent and world hunger would decrease by 20 percent,

Acknowledging the recommendations made in the World Food Security Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security that advocate for a gendered approach to ensure total equality in national agricultural practices, such as land distribution programs, as well as the success of the World Food Programme (WFP) P4P initiative, which empowers women farmers through literacy training,

Commending the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) for its handbook entitled *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (2008) and the FAO for its *Agro-Gender Statistics Tool Kit*, for the production of gender-disaggregated agricultural data to assist beneficiary countries in developing gendersensitive and gender-disaggregated datasets on the agricultural and rural sector,

Acknowledging the United Nations Development Programme report Making the Law Work for Everyone, which recognizes the importance of reaching consensus within societies regarding the respect of marginalized groups' rights by adopting grassroots initiatives in order to adapt customary laws and values to international standards of human rights,

 Further noting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979), which prohibits discrimination and exclusion made on the basis of sex, and that customary law often overrides national law, as stated in article 5a, and can thereby undermine national laws preventing discriminatory practices related to common property resources for women, especially in rural areas,

Observing that many women lose access to land and other fundamental resources due to a lack of localized, bureaucratized, and legalized national identification registry and that the World Bank, which expresses the need for gender disaggregated identity data, has found that 1.1 billion people globally lack legal identification and documentation, which are prerequisites for access to social, political, and financial services,

1. *Encourages* all Member States when considering the establishment of future laws pertaining to family, personal status, and property law, to avoid provisions that discriminate against women regarding either use, inheritance, or ownership of land by involving women in rural contexts by including their active participation in the formulation of laws, policies, and programs related to land ownership or use depending on the legal system in place by the Member States;

2. *Recommends* that Member States acknowledge the importance of grassroots approaches to promote women's rights in rural contexts with particular attention to women's land rights in said communities by:

a. Endorsing national government-led programs, with the assistance of and oversight from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to involve community leaders, in integrating a gendered approach to their already existing customary laws and local values in an attempt to transcend socio-cultural barriers and have a positive, lasting impact on the lives of women and girls in rural contexts;

b. Encouraging community leaders to serve as local ambassadors for the promotion and protection of women's land ownership rights, modeled after the Rural Leadership Network Program developed by the Economic and Social Council whereby women in positions of significant social influence are given the opportunity to spearhead government-led programs or initiatives;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to propose awareness campaigns, with the support of the regional UN-Women offices and UNDP, aimed at educating women in rural areas on their rights of land ownership, and on the legal procedures required to access land ownership by:

a. Mobilizing localized, relevant civil society organizations (CSOs) and legal experts to work in tandem with the aforementioned United Nations entities to provide guidance and support to the nationally proposed projects in the form of traveling Mobile Clinics, modeled after the UN Volunteers Mobile Legal Aid Clinics to work to establish nationally uniform training programs and workshop clinics;

b. Including the UNDP and UN-Women in the implementation process on national and local levels to provide access to materials and support from the UNDP Country programs and partnerships between UNDP Country Programs and the private sector, local governments, and civil society organizations to gain a local approach on how best to accommodate the local infrastructure, or lack thereof, and acceptance to receiving said Mobile Clinics;

4. *Invites* the WFP Initiative to expand the current P4P trainings in rural areas to include technical and vocational education and training programs for women in rural contexts by:

5. *Paying special attention to* rural women's entrepreneurial potential and providing training in production, selling, business management, and functional literacy;

6. *Supporting* training of rural women in agricultural process, and integrating aspects of renewable energies such as solar, electricity, and biomass;

7. *Encourages* Member States to equip more governmental agencies with the capacity to take on the role of providing national identification in an inclusive manner, and to foster alternative forms of documentation that take into consideration time, literacy, geographical, and financial constraints by:

a. Recommending the establishment of governmental mobile identity document stations that can educate people regarding their legal identity rights and facilitate the ability of people to acquire a valid form of identification more easily, especially in the case of women and girls in rural contexts;

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107 b. Considering the potential of technological innovations in order to assist nations in digitizing their
108 identification data and to increase the scope and reach of identification programs;

- c. Emphasizing the importance for national governments to work cooperatively with existing state divisions and civic organizations to collect and aggregate gender-specific data, in order to provide a comprehensive overview of national identification and land registry in rural contexts;
- 8. Suggests that agricultural non-governmental organizations (NGOs), individual Ministries of Agriculture, and National Statistical Offices utilize the FAO Agro-Gender Statistics Tool Kit and provide feedback for future revisions of the living document so that it becomes more accessible and widely used, working toward a more comprehensive, uniform data collection system that tracks gender-biases and property rights in rural regions;
- 9. Encourages Member States to work collaboratively with the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) to implement information and knowledge systems, as well as capacity training methods to improve rural women's understanding of risk and vulnerability in climate change and climate catastrophes to empower women in rural areas to take control of their own land in post-climate catastrophe contexts, and introduce approaches and tools to address those risks by:
 - a. Encouraging Member States to join such initiatives as the Capacity Strengthening in Least Developed Countries for Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC);
 - b. Integrating the CLACC network's tools for mitigating climate change into the work of key NGOs, as identified by the network;
 - c. Mainstreaming NAPA's process of informational analysis, identification of risks due to climate change, and adaptation of measures to a prioritized list of targets on a country per country basis;
- 10. Further recommends the development of Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs) in rural areas, managed by each Member State, with the purpose of enhancing agricultural programs that implement sustainable technologies, including those related to renewable energy, where the private sector would provide financial aid with a minimal interest rate, equipment, and infrastructure, while the public sector would provide those private organizations advantageous fiscal incentives;
- 11. *Emphasizes* the need to enhance UN entities working in collaboration with Member States, to effectively monitor access to, and control over land and resources, ensuring the land tenure security of those in rural areas by:
 - Integrating the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) National Adaptation Programmes of Action's Project Database to address the issue of climate change and its effects on land usage;
 - Improving placement of UN-Habitat post-conflict resolution teams and their accompanying postconflict land administration systems to more Member States to address the issue of post-conflict land management;
- 12. Recommends further revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses set forth by the UN DESA, especially its efforts to accelerate the creation of accountable institutions outlined by SDG 16, and its proposal that countries provide legal identification for all citizens, including those in rural areas.



Code: CSW/1/4

Committee: The Commission on The Status of Women **Topic:** Empowering Women and Girls in Rural Contexts

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Guided by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women's (UN-Women) report, Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016, which outlines the need to achieve substantive equality by addressing stereotypes and stigmas,

Recalling the commitments to the advancement of a gender inclusive world allowing women and girls in rural communities to reach their utmost economic and social potential as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goal 5,

Fulfilling the principles of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979), which seek to advance the goals of development, peace, and equality for women,

Noting the efforts made by the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative to generate quality and relevant education for every child,

Welcoming the prioritization of the economic visibility of women and girls in rural contexts as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights for the gender equality in all societal sectors,

Recalling the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), which asserts that all people possess the right to directly participate in their government,

Referring to statistics from the World Bank Open Data which highlights that women comprise of 49.5 percent of the global population yet are still significantly underrepresented in government and political affairs,

Recognizing that women in rural contexts are underrepresented in institutions and that barriers hinder women in rural contexts from entering the political realm, as stated in General Assembly resolution 70/219 on "Women in Development" (2015),

Further noting that gender equality has not been achieved internationally and the effects of inequality and discrimination are often exacerbated in rural communities that hinder women from their social, economic, and educational ascension, as outlined in the Geneva Declaration on Rural Women (1992),

Affirming General Assembly resolution 50/165 on "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas" (1996), which recognizes the need for the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, particularly to work on full and equal access to productive resources,

Recognizing the importance of alleviating the discernible urban-rural divide that unequivocally affects the livelihood of women, as addressed in General Assembly resolution 50/165 on "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas" (1996),

Expressing grave concern that many women in rural areas lack the vocational and technical skills necessary for them to succeed and become economically empowered as proven through UN-Women,

Alarmed by the fact that many rural communities lack basic infrastructure according to the report *Infrastructure* Service Post-2015, causing women to feel marginalized because they cannot access basic human rights such as education and healthcare,

1. *Promotes* increased accessibility to health care for women and children under the supervision of UN-Women and UN Youth Associations in rural areas to ensure the wellbeing of women and girls by:

a. Inviting collaboration between the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW), the UN International Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the UN Development Program (UNDP) to organize a mobile health care program focusing on basic treatments, women's issues, and educational pamphlets;

b. Requesting financial investment from CSW, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, as well as any willing and able Member States, which will be used to equip automobiles, such as buses and vans, with basic necessary medical equipment;

c. Providing guidance to local hospitals so they can provide accurate information about area needs in the process of obtaining and equipping mobile health care vehicles, and clarifying that:

i. Guidance can include but is not limited to: teaching or mentoring programs with neighboring programs or institutions, collaboration with international organizations or corporation with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);

 ii. Many rural communities lack the necessary infrastructures to support transportation and calls upon governments to supply rural communities with roads and/or highway systems;

d. Confirming the need for female personnel within the healthcare field and the implementation of programs through relevant NGOs and UN programs such as the Medical Women's International Association and the UN Populations Fund in order to increase equality in health care workforce as well as ensure women's comfort addressing their own health care by:

i. Training midwives to promote safe home childbirth for women and girls in rural context;

ii. Informing young girls and women about the different places to go and to ask for information about the process of pregnancy and childbirth;

 iii. Promoting accessible healthcare to women in rural contexts in order to prevent complications during childbirth;

Partnering with relevant NGOs to provide woman's hygiene products, such as sanitary towels

and other resources, to the schools in rural areas to ensure the attendance of female students

i.

e. Addressing the issues surrounding the lack of woman's health and hygiene products through:

during menstruation;
ii. Creating programs through the UN-Women Fund for Gender Equality to provide extensive financial support to schools and programs wishing to provide hygiene materials;

2. Encourages Member States promotion and use of simple technology, such as EHealth programs, focusing on:

a. Creating legislation that promotes and enables the use of EHealth programs;

 b. Employing EHealth programs that use Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) modems and therefore are not reliant on consistent internet;

c. Providing healthcare services to remote populations through telehealth and EHealth by:

i. Giving a clear protocol on how to manage and install the EHealth programs to the countries that are willing and able to use them;

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125	3.	Encourages the implementation of health education for women and girls in rural context in all Member States,			
126		created in collaboration with UNICEF, UN-Women, UNDP, Member State Educational Bureaus and relevant			
127				lers in order to:	
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129		a.	Addres	ss eradicating stigmas surrounding hygiene and woman's health through:	
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131			i.	Partnering with relevant NGOs and public-private partnerships to provide woman's hygiene	
132				products, such as sanitary towels and other resources, to the schools in rural areas to ensure	
133				the attendance of female students during menstruation;	
134			ii.	Creating programs through the UN-Women's Gender Equality Fund to provide extensive	
135				financial support to schools and programs wishing to provide these hygiene materials;	
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137		b.	Provide	e a safe community for woman and girls so to make them feel valued by capitalizing on the	
138			societa	l infrastructure of previously instituted Dimitra Clubs in order to:	
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140			i.	Encourage girls to continue in school once reaching reproductive age;	
141			ii.	To educate young girls on the consequences of marriage and motherhood;	
142			iii.	Teach parents on the benefits of completing education for their girls and youth;	
143			iv.	Educate the communities on the safest ways to give birth and carry the pregnancy to term;	
144			v.	Ensuring that health professionals have all the resources to help young woman with their	
145				pregnancies;	
146			vi.	Enlighten women on the risks on carrying a child with few resources;	
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148		c.	Increas	se women's autonomy in their access to hygiene resources by:	
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150			i.	Ensuring that girls have the right to ask for the right resources and the help they need with	
151				hygiene issues;	
152			ii.	Increasing accessibility of hygiene products such as pads in the communities;	
153			iii.	Enabling the transition from hospitals and clinics to home and safe community based care for	
154				women in rural contexts;	
155			iv.	Calling upon women's health organizations such as UN-Women;	
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157	4.				
158		by an oversight and controls network made up of federal control agencies, with the distribution amount to be			
159		determined by and deducted from the individual Member States' GDP, and further invites able Member States			
160		to contribute with voluntary aid to those nations with insufficient financial resources, to support families headed			
161		by women in rural areas by providing monthly money transfers to those who meet the criteria in maintaining			

Encouraging Member States to reserve a part of their budget to obtain the necessary

Specifically using eLearning to target women in rural areas to be trained as health care

Providing patients with the ability to manage their own care, increase confidence in their doctors and

Collecting gender specific big data about patients' health care providers and policy-makers by:

Improving the availability, use, and quality of data for local decision-making;

Optimizing the meaningful use and reuse of health information technology in developing

Supporting health system reforms by facilitating increased training;

Supporting integration, privacy, and capacity building;

technologies in order to use EHealth programs;

d. Facilitating the training of health care workers through eLearning by:

workers or support;

countries;

be more comfortable with their conditions;

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- their children in schools and ensuring that they are attending regular healthcare visits or any relevant criteria determined by the Member States, thus improving the nation's educational capacity, increasing the human capital in rural communities and eliminating the cycle of poverty for vulnerable families and future generations;

 8. Recommends that Member States construct educational centers that are conducive to women in rural contexts and children's accessibility thereof, taking into account that:
 - a. Schools should be located nearby, according to and adapted to the individual landscape of each rural region, in order to eliminate the burden of long treks to school;
 - b. Educational centers can be defined but not limited to primary, secondary, post-secondary, and vocational academies;
 - c. Attention must be directed to the importance of school schedules that allow women and children in rural contexts to attend classes without interfering with important agricultural duties such as but not limited to feeding animals and harvesting crops;
 - d. There is great benefit to having teachers that are educated and have an understanding of the language and cultural norms relevant to the specific location they will be teaching within;
 - Rural schools would benefit their communities by keeping rooms open during specific hours or days
 outside of school hours so students have access to school resources, within willing and able Member
 States;
 - f. Increased communication and collaboration amongst UNICEF, UN Girl's Education Initiative, Member States' governments, Member States' educational agencies, and relevant NGOs in sharing successful practices is pertinent in the further intellectual advancement of women;
 - 6. *Suggests* educational courses be taught in local school after school hours in order to better involve women in their communities and agricultural practices by:
 - a. Providing classes which focus on how to use farming equipment, how to run and manage farms, and how to maintain small businesses;
 - Inviting community leaders or volunteers who have been successful in the related fields to lead the classes:
 - 7. *Encourages* Member States' governments to undertake efforts to:

- a. Implement programs and legislation to progress gender equality in order to promote women's participation in politics;
- b. Support NGOs that develop female political candidates for public offices;
- 8. *Further invites* Member States to encourage women to pursue leadership and decision-making roles in their communities through partnerships with existing bodies such as UN-Women, UN Programme on Youth, and regional organizations by:
 - a. Providing technical and financial resources to allow the creation of leadership roles within local communities which women in rural contexts can pursue;
 - b. Giving educational seminars for women in rural contexts and girls to learn about leadership opportunities;
- 9. *Recommends* that United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) program and The World Bank's Community Driven Development programs

assist Member States in efforts to improve the livelihood of women in rural contexts through the implementation of women-led skills-based training initiatives that focus on both women in rural contexts' skill set and unique needs to promote employment opportunities in rural areas within the formal sector, whilst also encouraging their participation in local community development;

- 10. *Praises* the continued work of organizations who advocate for the empowerment and promotion of the political participation of women in rural communities and in rural areas;
- 11. *Invites* collaboration between UN Statistics Division (UNSD), UN-Women and UN Food and Agricultural Organization to strengthen and broaden the data collected by the Gender and Land Rights Database to ensure that local and national governments have quick and transparent access to information regarding political and social needs in the different rural areas under their jurisdiction;
- 12. *Encourages* the Global Gender Statistics Program, a United Nations data collection body mandated by the United Nations Statistical Commission implemented by the UNSD, to gather information on women in rural areas in order to identify obstacles which prevent women from becoming involved in politics;
- 13. *Proposes* initiatives which educate women in rural contexts and girls about the political process in order to establish an understanding of political procedures through UN-Women by providing informative materials to girls and women in rural areas about the fundamentals of these topics;
- 14. *Supports* the education of women about the importance of civic duty through local programming and regional conferences with the help of the UN Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs who have been tasked with the role of observing, advising, and supplementing elections in Member States upon request;
- 15. *Encourages* the UNDP to apply its work in creating Legal Aid Offices to a greater proportion of low- and middle-income countries, especially those within rural communities, with the focus of providing women with the resources to seek out legal advice, information, and advocacy as many women in rural communities lack reliable access to these channels of information;
- 16. *Condemns* all gender-based discrimination especially that which prevents individuals from participating in politics and government in order to ensure that women in rural contexts are able to advocate for themselves and participate in decision-making that affects their lives;
- 17. Welcomes coordination between UNICEF, the World Food Programme, relevant NGOs such as The Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, and Member States to create child care facilities and extend resources such as financial, nutritional, and health care assistance to existing childcare providers within rural communities in order to afford rural mothers the leisure time to seek educational and vocational opportunities;
- 18. *Promotes* access to TVET for women in rural areas in partnership with the UN-Women Fund for Gender Equality, through educational centers in order to improve literacy rates, develop skill sets, and to provide for themselves, their families, and their communities;
- 19. *Encourages* the UN-Women's Fund for Gender Equality to provide technical and financial support to existing women-led civil society organizations with the aims of enabling women in rural contexts to exercise and enhance their decision-making skills in order to provide a more accessible platform for women in rural contexts to participate at local levels of governance;
- 20. *Suggests* that UN-Women and NGOs train women ambassadors from rural areas to educate and empower their communities, and set an example for girls and women of current and future generations;
- 21. *Invites* the United Nations Capital Development Fund, UNDP, and UN-Women's Inclusive and Equitable Local Development Program to enhance investments and economies in both the domestic sphere and the agricultural sector by focusing on women's entrepreneurship in order to increase the financial independence of women in rural contexts;

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 275 22. Suggests organized networking efforts amongst women in rural contexts to encourage women-to-women collaboration and collective empowerment by NGOs;

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278 23. *Encourages* Member States to organize enforcing bodies, or reinforce existing bodies, that ensure the rules of law adopted are followed to ensure the protection and empowerment of women in rural contexts in the long-term.