



**Code:** CSW/1/1

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

**Topic:** The Link Between Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development

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1    *The Commission on the Status of Women,*  
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3    *Recognizing* the link between sustainable development and the empowerment of indigenous and  
4 ethnically marginalized women with respect to state sovereignty and culturally relative principles,  
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6    *Guided* by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals  
7 (SDGs) it puts forth,  
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9    *Emphasizing* SDGs 5 Gender Equality; 4 Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education; 16 Peace, Justice,  
10 and Strong Institutions; 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; 10 Reduced Inequalities; 2 End Hunger  
11 and Promote Sustainable Agriculture; 8 Good Jobs and Economic Growth; 11 Sustainable Cities and  
12 Communities; and 1 No Poverty,  
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14    *Keeping in mind* General Assembly resolution 66/288, *The Future We Want*, endorsing the outcome of  
15 the UN Conference on Sustainable Development,  
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17    *Calling attention* to the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations Against Women*  
18 (1979), which recalls the basis of human rights in dignity and the worth of the human person in the equal  
19 rights of women and men,  
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21    *Recalling further* the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* as the first official document recognizing  
22 the link between women's empowerment and sustainable development, as it promotes women's  
23 economic rights and independence, as well as an increase in individual agency, access to employment,  
24 and appropriate working conditions,  
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26    *Deeply conscious* of the religious basis surrounding gender biases, and Member States' aims to address  
27 this issue and promote dialogue between religious policymakers and secular legislators to offset the  
28 consequences of harmful cultural practices without infringing upon religious sovereignty,  
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30    *Bearing in mind* that cultural and media biases play a critical role in limiting the progress of women's  
31 empowerment and that the dispersion of information within media and social institutions are formative  
32 factors in gender attitudes,  
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34    *Taking note* of the strong link between education and inclusion in the workforce as indicators of  
35 sustainable development and the progression of gender equality,  
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37    *Believing* in the importance of pipeline programs, defined as programs that are funded by nonprofits that  
38 aid disenfranchised women through a guaranteed career pathway through which aid and support are  
39 provided continuously, in advancing women's careers in developing nations,  
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41    *Establishing* that high rates of transferability between education and the formal labor-force is paramount  
42 in the advancement of women's individual agency and gender equity,  
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44    *Guided* by Article 23(2) of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), Member States recognize  
45 that a quality, equitable education, followed by decent work and equal pay are fundamental human rights  
46 in order to protect the principles of autonomy and dignity for all human beings,  
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48 *Recognizing* that primary and secondary education is a necessary first step towards the complete  
49 realization of women's potential and their full political and economic participation in the public sphere, as  
50 this is essential to sustainable development,

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52 *Noting also* the necessity of literate and professional women in promoting sustainable development,  
53 overall economic growth, and eventual social equality, especially given that women account for over 60%  
54 of the world's illiterate population and that 2.7 billion women are restricted from obtaining access to job  
55 opportunities around the world,

56  
57 *Recalling Financing for Development: Time for Global Action*, which recommends Member States finance  
58 gender equality initiatives through increasing the participation of women in domestic economic  
59 institutions, further enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of investments on public goods and  
60 services,

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62 *Alarmed* by the restrictions on land ownership and rights as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization  
63 (FAO) prediction that if women had equal access to and control over lands and resources, the agricultural  
64 output of developing countries would increase and world hunger would decrease,

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66 *Gravely concerned* that 60% of women in developing countries do not have access to contraceptives, and  
67 over 200 million women have suffered from female genital cutting, due to the failure of Member States to  
68 address women's health and safety education,

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70 *Noting also* the work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to emphasize the correlation between  
71 women's empowerment and sustainable development in numerous Member States by promoting gender  
72 equality via religious institutions,

73  
74 *Taking note* of the discrepancy in progress between urban and rural societies within individual Member  
75 States,

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77 *Emphasizing* supporting United Nations (UN) Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the  
78 accomplishments as stated in the 2019 SC review of the "Women, Peace and Security" Agenda, created  
79 to address different impacts women and girls face in conflict situations and the inclusion and participation  
80 of women in peace processes as a tool to sustainable development, promotion of gender equality, and  
81 women's empowerment,

82  
83 *Noting also* the 2014 World Bank's Gender at Work report that shows women are primarily more  
84 economically excluded than men globally, highlighting the hasty acknowledgement necessary in order to  
85 establish female financial inclusion, as well as the need for funding for gender-based initiatives,

86  
87 *Fully aware* of the necessity of women's inclusion in economic and political leadership positions in order  
88 to create a sphere for women's advancement and empowerment,

89  
90 *Acknowledges* the presence of armed conflict in many regions and how it inhibits the protection and  
91 participation of women,

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93 *Noting with deep concern* the increase of gender inequities at the result of gender-based discrimination in  
94 post-conflict regions, particularly in its effect on women as a traditionally passive victim,

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96 *Noting also* the underrepresentation of women in electoral government positions within Member States,  
97 and acknowledging that approximately half of the countries in the world utilize quotas for their electoral  
98 systems,

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100 *Taking into account* the vast number of diverse ethnic groups in many of the Member States and their  
101 lack of representation in the commitment to women's economic empowerment,

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103 *Affirming* that there have been many different collaborative projects discussed and approved during four  
104 previous World Conferences on Women,  
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- 106 1. *Proposes* the Action Plan GROW to expand womankind's role in sustainable development, such as:  
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  - 108 a. Giving a voice to women in all aspects of development on international, regional, and national  
109 levels;
  - 110 b. Respecting local cultures and traditions in promoting sustainable development;
  - 111 c. Opting for an intersectional approach to local cultures and traditions in promoting sustainable  
112 development;
  - 113 d. Working collaboratively with international, regional, and local organizations to actualize the  
114 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to implement best practices;
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- 116 2. *Reaffirms* to Member States the barriers and inequalities faced by women and stressing the  
117 commitment to women's economic empowerment, to ensure the promotion of a financially, culturally  
118 and environmentally sustainable future;
- 119 3. *Considers* religion and culture to be the framework in which gender-based attitudes are formed, and  
120 thus recommends Member States to engage in discourse between various sectors and demographics  
121 of their societies, including religious leaders and secular policy-makers;  
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- 123 4. *Takes note* of the importance of religion in addressing perception-based gender-biases and  
124 encouraging accountability and understanding regarding sustainable development and the  
125 progression of women's individual agency;  
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- 127 5. *Emphasizes* the position of K-12 schooling and post-education as fundamental to establishing a  
128 pipeline between schooling and the workforce, and its necessity to gendered economic prosperity and  
129 well-being for all Member States;  
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- 131 6. *Recommends* the development of programs focusing on equipping women with literacy, numeracy,  
132 and management skills that create opportunities for their entrepreneurship by encouraging  
133 collaboration with institutions, so Member States can allow for women to expand their economic  
134 possibilities via educational and professional opportunities;
- 135 7. *Fully supports* progress in educational measures to build capacities through increasing women's  
136 participation in vocational schools and educational programs, further allowing them to become  
137 financially and socially independent;  
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- 139 8. *Endorses the call* for further development of social entrepreneurship programs to include community-  
140 based organizations, feminist groups, and local, regional, and national women projects in the  
141 continuation of what have been done by the flagship initiatives and programmes of UN Women;  
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- 143 9. *Urges* all Member States to take the measures necessary to ensure women's agricultural productivity  
144 by:  
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  - 146 a. Consulting with developing Member States regarding policies on agricultural alternatives;
  - 147 b. Revisiting the General Assembly resolution 62/206 "Women in development," which focuses  
148 on women's leadership in positions of agriculture and economic development;
  - 149 c. Inviting Member States to foster partnerships with NGOs to improve agricultural by-laws in  
150 alliance with the SDGs and increase women's participation in sustainable development;
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- 159 d. Cooperating with financial sectors within their borders to ensure the sustainability of women's  
160 agricultural projects;  
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- 162 10. *Encourages* further education, facilitated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural  
163 Organization (UNESCO), on contraceptive use, the psychological and physical damage of harmful  
164 practices such as female genital cutting, virginity testing, and the promotion of overall female health  
165 education;  
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- 167 11. *Recommends* the implementation of initiatives that aid young girls returning to school after giving  
168 birth, such as further recommending national childcare programs;  
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- 170 12. *Requests* that Member States raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years old and strictly enforce  
171 legislation preventing child marriages, while endorsing educational programs for parents to teach  
172 them about the implications of child marriage and its impacts on young girls;  
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- 174 13. *Encourages* Member States to work with organizations that match women in developing countries  
175 with political internships that provide housing and a stipend in the hopes of introducing political  
176 opportunities and experience;  
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- 178 14. *Expresses its conviction* for including women in conflict prevention and resolution, and post conflict  
179 peacebuilding and electoral process to enhance gender inclusivity in political representation and to  
180 ensure the fulfillment of SDG 5 on Gender Equality;  
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- 182 15. *Promotes* the establishment of benchmarks related to equitable protection and participation of women  
183 in state building, particularly pertinent in post-conflict regions;  
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- 185 16. *Takes note with appreciation* the success of quota systems in Member States designed for increasing  
186 female representation in government to improve and promote the perception and influence of women  
187 in governmental and parliamentary positions;  
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- 189 17. *Supports* lines of dialogue between female representatives from various ethnic and cultural groups  
190 within Member States to improve the communication between women of distinct ethnic and  
191 socioeconomic groups;  
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- 193 18. *Suggests* holding the 5th World Conference on Women hosted by UN Women in order to discuss and  
194 evaluate the effect of conflict on women, and their role in economic development and in policymaking.



**Code:** CSW/1/2

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

**Topic:** The Link Between Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development

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1 *The Commission on the Status of Women,*  
2  
3 *Applauds* the accomplishment of the United Nations in adopting General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015)  
4 that establishes the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the Sustainable Development Goals  
5 (SDGs),  
6  
7 *Realizing* the disadvantages women migrants in the informal work sector excluded from foreign labor  
8 markets face, which leads to a lack of achieving-self-reliance and delays economic development of  
9 hosting communities, a pillar in the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*, as similarly outlined  
10 in the 2030 Agenda's pledge to "leave no one behind,"  
11  
12 *Having considered* the 12 areas of concern addressed by the *Beijing Platform for Action*,  
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14 *Alarmed* by the lack of access to reproductive health resources, such as sexual and maternal education,  
15 are vitally important to combat high mortality rates to fulfill SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-Being,  
16  
17 *Acknowledges* the grave concern for women in the existential need for women's empowerment in  
18 accordance with the SDGs, especially SDG 5, Gender Equality and SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic  
19 Growth as according to the World Economic Forum, gender inclusivity would amount to improving global  
20 poverty by an estimate of \$189 billion as well as raising the GDP by 3.9%, or \$5.8 trillion by 2025, thus  
21 moving towards solving SDG 8 which entails global poverty,  
22  
23 *Recognizing* the efforts to achieve equality by the accession of the *Convention on All Forms of*  
24 *Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* in 2009, as indicated by a United Nations Children's Fund  
25 (UNICEF) study that found more than 70% of casualties of war are women and children,  
26  
27 *Affirming* campaigns that spread awareness and advocacy on the issue of gender-based violence,  
28  
29 *Reaffirming* SDG 4 on Quality Education's aim of providing access to education for women and girls that  
30 is both fair and inclusive,  
31  
32 *Acknowledging* the need to develop programs to educate men about health, social, and economic issues  
33 that can negatively affect women, to ensure wellbeing, education, gender equality, decent work, and  
34 economic growth for women,  
35  
36 *Bearing in mind* General Assembly resolution 66/130 "Women and political participation" (2011), which  
37 seeks to eliminate laws that prevent women from being involved in the political sphere and holding public  
38 office,  
39  
40 *Having devoted attention* to various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and nonprofits that have the  
41 goal of benefitting and aiding women in order to gain positions of power on the global and local level,  
42  
43 *Emphasizing* SDG 5, Gender Equality, as well as recalling SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 8,  
44 Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities; and SDG 17, Partnership Goals to  
45 ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of  
46 decision making,  
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48 *Recognizing* the statistic brought forth by organizations such as the UNICEF, which showed that by  
49 reducing the time it takes to collect water from 30 to 15 minutes, girl's school attendance rose by 12%,  
50  
51 *Draws attention* to the need for clean water and sanitation measures, particularly in rural and developing  
52 areas,  
53  
54 *Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 64/292 "The human right to water and sanitation" (2010), which  
55 highlights the right to water and sanitation and how vital they are to the fulfillment of all other human  
56 rights,  
57  
58 *Aware of* the need for clean water and sanitation measures within developing countries, particularly  
59 emphasizing indigenous communities that are impoverished and often do not have the infrastructure to  
60 have consistent sanitation and drinking water,  
61  
62 *Reminding* the importance of the environment, particularly trees, in the role of providing clean water, and  
63 the importance that it plays in providing water to indigenous women and their communities for  
64 generations,  
65  
66 *Recognizing* the importance of NGOs such as Generosity.org, which promotes access to clean water in  
67 the least developed countries, and Dignity Dreams, which gives women access to sanitary products, and  
68 the important work that they do,  
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70 *Alarmed by* the disproportionate way in which women are impacted by war and domestic violence,  
71 especially in rural communities, as noted by the United Nations which found that in one year 70% of all  
72 casualties in war were women and children,  
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74 *Noting with great concern* the lack of women present in the UN peacekeeping missions, such as that out  
75 of 125,000 peacekeepers women only constitute 3% of military personnel and only 10% of police forces,  
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77 *Observing* UN Women's finding that, worldwide, women make 77 cents to every dollar that men make,  
78 which creates a lifetime of inequality,  
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80 *Acknowledging* that women are disproportionately affected by pressing issues, such as violence and  
81 abuse, poverty, lack of food and clean water, and climate change,  
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83 *Understanding* that, in times of emergencies and crises, girls are more likely to be taken out of school  
84 than boys,  
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86 *Recognizing* the vital role that women play in the agriculture sector, while simultaneously keeping in mind  
87 that women's equal access to land resources would result in a 30% increase in food production,  
88  
89 *Observing* that women's empowerment and advancing gender equality improves economic security and  
90 health along with environmentally friendly decision making at international levels,  
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92 *Recognizing* the need for more job and career opportunities within a low-carbon green growth technology  
93 and clean energy sector,  
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95 *Noting* the importance of promoting alternative energy sources to reduce pollution in order to further  
96 prevent the threat of climate injustice for marginalized female communities internationally,  
97  
98 *Realizing* the significance of each individual Member State's implementation of the National Sustainable  
99 Development Strategy (NSDS) depending on socioeconomic and cultural circumstances and embedding  
100 the NSDS process within legislation,  
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102 *Fully aware of* the lack of women involved in peacebuilding processes, noted by UN Women, which  
103 recorded that a large gender gap remains in women's access to decision-making and leadership,

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*Believing* in the accommodation of all SDGs requesting the international cooperation of Member States in relation to the norms set forward by Commission on the Status of Women,

*Taking note* of civil society organizations (CSOs) which promote citizen participation and ensure effective delivery of development programs, and the social empowerment of particular groups and the realization of human rights, social transformation, and democratic development,

1. *Encourages* future regional policies to align with the guiding principles of *the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants*, as the declaration works to dismantle the stagnation of migrant women's self-reliant economic empowerment due to the struggle to integrate into foreign labor markets;
2. *Stresses* that all women have access to reproductive health clinics and resources in order to prevent substantial health issues through the:
  - a. Promotion of multilateral approaches to sexual education that conform with the religious and academic needs of each Member State;
  - b. Recognition of NGOs' efforts to present themselves to communities notably struggling with maternal issues, sexual education, and high child and maternal mortality rates;
  - c. Appeal to Member States to increase accessibility to reproductive health clinics by increasing the means of transportation;
  - d. Putting emphasis on the importance of those initiatives to be put in different scales: locally, nationally, and internationally;
3. *Encourages* Member States to collaborate with region-specific NGOs that invest in local underdeveloped communities to improve the enrollment of women and girls in primary and secondary education;
4. *Further invites* Member States to commit to increasing the rates of women with higher education degrees, which is in compliance with SDG 4 by:
  - a. Implementing a quota that reinforces the completion of primary education so that women may achieve a high school diploma or its equivalent at minimum by the year 2030;
  - b. Diversifying education by further advancing access to financial aid for women with economic disadvantages;
  - c. Setting in motion the initiatives that provide childcare for women seeking to obtain degrees, so that the obstacle of time management is removed;
  - d. Implementing a global standard for expected maternity leave in order to guarantee policies to protect women's salaries and work positions;
5. *Trusts* Member States to further involve women in policymaking and in providing equal opportunity to lead in positions of power, particularly leadership positions in their local communities;
6. *Drawing attention* to and recognizing the importance of global awareness campaigns to fight against stereotypes, promoting equal opportunity, and combating violence against women mainly directed at youth:
  - a. As preventative action against women enduring gender-based violence, as well as widely promoting social awareness about the need for the eradication of gender-based violence and improving the institutional response of public authorities;

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- b. By giving visibility to other forms of violence against women, such as forced marriages, trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation, genital mutilation, and sexual assaults;
  - c. In order to avoid sexist treatment of women in the media and promoting images of a diversity of women, to highlight the effects of patriarchal society and how they have been detrimental to the growth of women;
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7. *Recommends* Member States ensure access for women to secure rehabilitation centers that provide privacy for women affected by regional conflict and domestic abuse;
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8. *Emphasizing* the creation of a grassroots movement to work towards gender equality by building from local to national levels by:
- a. Expressing its hope that women may take advantage of micro-financing opportunities to allow economic independence;
  - b. Suggesting the use of NGOs as a mechanism for mobilizing local communities in efforts to normalize gender equal equality and women’s empowerment;
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9. *Encourages* the involvement of UN bodies and international and regional NGOs who provide basic knowledge of violence and inequality faced by women for men to be aware of the injustices that women endure by:
- a. Advocating for women’s empowerment in society;
  - b. Partnering with NGOs to support men in the educational process on violence against women;
  - c. Encouraging and facilitating rural women’s entrepreneurship;
  - d. Expanding opportunities and increasing procurement for their enterprise and self-help groups;
  - e. Supporting the skills and capacities of rural women, so they can benefit from public food programs and can access local, national, and international value chains and markets;
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10. *Draws attention* to the need for clean water and sanitation measures for women, particularly in rural and developing areas to:
- a. Decrease the unequal opportunities prevalent in women’s lives, such as sufficient time for education, occupation, and non-household opportunities;
  - b. Encourages female participation in jobs instead of focusing on the need to find clean water for survival;
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11. *Further recommends* the utilization of clean water initiatives to expand upon the issue of water for use in agriculture;
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12. *Expresses* its hope that this resolution will help decrease the unequal opportunities prevalent in women’s lives such as sufficient time for education, occupations, and non-households activities, as, for women to participate in jobs, they must first be able to access clean water within or close to their households;
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13. *Drawing attention* to indigenous women in rural areas that are most affected by water insecurity and notes that:
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- a. According to the 2007 *United Nations Declaration on the Human Rights of Indigenous People*, many indigenous people are experiencing extending dry seasons in their land;
  - b. Indigenous women are often impoverished and in communities that do not have access to water infrastructure, thereby not having the resources and technology to have a sustainable water supply;
14. *Suggests* the more developed Member States provide developing countries with job training for women, as well as various programs in order to empower women and young girls to reach positions of power by:
- a. Starting with a local and communal approach to tackling these issues;
  - b. Encouraging more developed Member States to send women in leadership positions, through training programs to developing Member States in order to train local women into similar positions;
15. *Invites* Member States to adopt codes of good governance for private and public corporations, encouraging them to have at least 30% of leadership positions reserved for women in order to address SDG 5 on Gender Equality and SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth which will also lead to:
- a. The prevention of gender-based discrimination in access to employment;
  - b. The mitigation of gender pay-gaps;
  - c. The promotion of equal opportunities and equal treatment in public sector employment;
16. *Encourages* the cooperation of regional NGOs to implement the infrastructure necessary to provide clean drinking water to rural areas in developing Member States, thus providing the highest quality water possible to the most amount of people;
17. *Reminds* governments to encourage and endorse female social entrepreneurship, so they can affirm their position as business leaders and play a role model for growing girls;
18. *Fully supports* Member States' implementation of a pay gap assessment method in order to create a standard which would evaluate which financial sectors and occupations experience the largest pay gaps within each Member State:
- a. In order to pass specific regulations to close the pay gaps within individual countries to foster the economic empowerment of women;
  - b. To be overseen with the World Bank, who oversees the implementation of projects in accordance with the SDGs;
19. *Expresses the need* to use and regularly review standardized ways to collect gender statistics to assess the organizations and initiatives that work for each Member State to help reduce inequalities for women by:
- a. Improving and providing necessary technologies to collect accurate data to assess the international status of women in unequal conditions;
  - b. Ensuring that the data collected by stakeholders is public and easily accessible;
  - c. Working towards the achievement of SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities;

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20. *Draws attention to* the need for continual monetary support to programs that aid in cultivating safe learning environments for children, especially girls, in crises, such as Education For All;
  21. *Affirms* that women are adversely affected by climate change and other environmental issues, and environmental conservation strategies should be endorsed within family planning and women's health programming and vice versa and noting that:
    - a. Women represent 80% of the worldwide climate change related displaced people;
    - b. According to data, women are more sensitive to heat-related illness, expanding tropical diseases, toxic pollutants in the air, and are more likely to acquire lung cancer and adverse pregnancy outcomes;
    - c. With more arable land, agricultural practices will maintain relevance in women's empowerment as their role in sustainable development will be amplified;
    - d. With better habitats and recreational opportunities, women are able to pursue better health and well-being;
  22. *Reaffirms* the need for the comprehensive protection of women's right to own land and contribute to the agricultural industry and thus reduce poverty levels in developing Member States;
  23. *Recommends* the promotion of women's job opportunities within the sustainable energy sector through raising awareness of the implications of climate change;
  24. *Encouraging* the planting of trees that will provide shade to prevent evaporation of runoff, soil erosion, and water pollution, which helps women in rural communities to get water for themselves and their families for generations;
  25. *Considers* how the expansion of female parliamentary representation leads to increased climate change mitigation that will help guarantee enough clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food, and secure shelter for future generations and notes that:
    - a. Women hold specific roles and responsibilities related to natural resources and environment and make up 43% of the agricultural labor force in less developed areas of the world;
    - b. Women account for an estimated two-thirds of the world's 600 million poor livestock keepers;
    - c. Helping rural women to diversify and increase their productivity by engaging in sustainable agriculture; fisheries; aquaculture, including maricultural; cultural creative industries; and other areas of economic activity, and to improve access to financing and investment, technology and infrastructure, training, and diverse markets;
  26. *Endorses* the inclusion of women in security forces in order to reinforce the role that women have in the armed forces to achieve peace, justice, and strong institutions in the international stage:
    - a. To increase the participation of women in the protection of their communities;
    - b. By advocating for more support of women's participation in peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding processes by suggesting the provision of further training by Member States;
  27. *Encouraging* Member States cooperate and partner with CSOs to oversee the commitment of Member States to their resolution, and for a focus, on the accountability of these Member States in order to:

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- a. Express their hope that all Member States are following through on the standards set forth by this committee to promote and maintain women's empowerment;
  - b. Promote gender equality through clean water initiatives, such as the standard that the Equator Initiative has implemented.