



THE 2016 NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

20-24 March (Conf. A) & 27-31 March (Conf. B) • www.nmun.org

Update for the Commission on the Status of Women

Kristina Getty & Beatrice Soler
Secretaries-General

Ardis Smith & Cara Wagner
Deputy Secretaries-General

Doug Arseneault & Sara Johnsson
Chiefs of Staff

Nguyen Cao & Camille Ellison
Assistant Chiefs of Staff

Sonia Patel & Felipe Ante
Assistant Secretaries-General

Sabrina Grover & Patrick Parsons
Under-Secretaries-General
General Assembly

Dinah Douglas & Lauren Shaw
Under-Secretaries-General
Economic and Social Council

Michael Buechl & Andrea Wong
Under-Secretaries-General
Development

Moritz Müller & Claudia Sanchez
Under-Secretaries-General
Human Rights and
Humanitarian Affairs

Allison Chandler & Clarissa Manning
Under-Secretaries-General
Peace and Security

Markus Petermann & Carl Dionne
Under-Secretaries-General
Conference Services

Committee Overview	2
Recent Developments	2
Annotated Bibliography.....	4
Bibliography	4
I. The Impact of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence on Reproductive Health.....	7
Recent Developments	7
Annotated Bibliography.....	9
Bibliography	10
II. Furthering Women’s Participation in and Access to Information and Communication Technologies	11
Recent Developments	11
Annotated Bibliography.....	13
Bibliography	14
III. Women’s Empowerment and the Link to Sustainable Development	15
Recent Developments	15
Annotated Bibliography.....	17
Bibliography	18

NCCA BOARD of DIRECTORS

Prof. Eric Cox
President

Prof. Kevin Grisham
Vice-President

Prof. Chaldeans Mensah
Treasurer

Prof. Pamela Chasek
Secretary

Jennifer Contreras

Raymond J. Freda

Rachel Holmes

Amierah Ismail

Prof. Markéta Žídková

Members Ex-Officio

Michael Eaton
Executive Director

Prof. Richard Murgu
Past President

Prof. Richard Reitano
President Emeritus

The NCCA/NMUN is a Non-Governmental Organization associated with the UN Department of Public Information, a UN Academic Impact Member, and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of the United States.

Committee Overview

Recent Developments

Most recently, the topic of gender equality and women's empowerment was discussed by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) at the beginning of the 70th session.¹ The recent adoption in September 2015 of the post-2015 development agenda *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* had significant contributions to gender equality and women's empowerment.² In addition to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which reaffirmed the UN's commitment to achieving gender equality, the GA adopted various resolutions calling upon Member States to adopt legislative measures to protect women migrant workers' rights and to implement policies and programs in order to improve the living conditions of women and girls in rural areas.³ Furthermore, Programme 14 of the Proposed Strategic Framework of the GA for 2016-2017 is dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment and suggests achieving gender equality for women and girls through the implementation of policies and programs, partnerships, and intergovernmental initiatives.⁴ Through this program, the GA will cooperate with the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in order to achieve "internationally agreed development goals in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women."⁵ This platform will serve as a reference for international discussions and conferences on the topic.⁶

Additionally, international conferences such as the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015 reaffirmed the importance of gender equality in achieving sustainable development and reiterated the necessity to implement financial, social, and economic policies related to women's and girls' empowerment.⁷ In December 2015, the 21st Conference of the Parties to the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*, held in Paris, France, dedicated a day to gender equality on 8 December 2015 during which a vast range of topics was addressed, including the involvement of women against climate change, the living conditions of women in rural areas, and gender equality and human rights in the context of climate change.⁸ The outcomes of these conferences provide recommendations and reflections on the link between sustainable development, especially the economic and environmental dimensions, and women's empowerment.⁹ Given CSW's priority theme in 2016, the link between women's empowerment and sustainable development, this was especially pivotal to progress on CSW's work.

In preparation for its upcoming 60th session, the CSW met for its Expert Group Meeting (EGM) from 2-4 November 2015 in New York.¹⁰ The EGM convenes several experts and organizations from various regions to discuss the priority theme of the upcoming session of CSW.¹¹ For the 60th session, the EGM focused on the link between women's empowerment and sustainable development and further examined the role of the SDGs in achieving gender equality.¹² The meeting specifically emphasized the contribution of the SDGs to women's empowerment, the main challenges for the implementation of the SDGs, financing gender equality initiatives, and considering women's specific needs and realities in leadership and policy-making.¹³

The EGM primarily focused on two main sub-themes: the implementation of macro-level policies supporting gender equality, and the financing of the SDGs.¹⁴ During the meeting, the great majority of civil society organizations

¹ UN General Assembly, *Resolutions 70th session*, 2015.

² UN-Women, *Concept note (EGM/SDG/INF.1)*, 2015, p. 2.

³ UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts 64 Third Committee Texts Covering Issues Including Migrants, Children's Rights, Human Rights Defender (GA/11745)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Advancement of Women (A/70/482)*, 2015, pp. 11, 17.

⁴ UN General Assembly, *Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 Prog. 14)*, 2014, pp. 2-4.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015, p. 3.

⁸ UNFCCC, *Gender and Climate Change-Outreach*, 2014.

⁹ *Ibid.*; UN General Assembly, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/RES/69/313)*, 2015, p. 3; UN-Women, *CSW (60)*.

¹⁰ UN-Women, *CSW (60)*.

¹¹ UN-Women, *Concept note (EGM/SDG/INF.1)*, 2015, p. 7.

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 2.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 7-8.

(CSOs) recalled the importance of achieving gender equality in order to attain sustainable development, specifically pointing to SDG 5: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.”¹⁵ The participating CSOs made recommendations for Member States, such as recognizing the specificities of girls’ needs, making more resources available for unemployed women, and reinforcing legal and justice infrastructures to combat violence and discrimination targeted towards women and girls.¹⁶ Two recent papers by experts in the field reaffirmed these focuses. A background paper written by Stephanie Seguino, former president of the International Association for Feminist Economists and regular research contributor to many UN agencies, underlined the importance of education for women and calls for Member States to implement macroeconomic policies to create employment opportunities for women while reducing the burden of unpaid work.¹⁷ In another background paper, Tessa Khan, an international human rights lawyer working for the Asia Pacific Forum on women, law, and development, recalls the resources disparities between developed and developing countries and recommends the evaluation of the human rights impact of trade agreements and the reinforcement of the protection of women’s rights in the workplace.¹⁸ All of the EGM discussions and recommendations will be summarized in a report that is expected to be published online before the 60th session of the CSW, set to take place in New York from 14-24 March 2016.¹⁹

During the upcoming 60th session of the CSW, participating Member States and CSOs are expected to thoroughly examine ways to achieve gender equality, particularly through the implementation of the SDGs.²⁰ As emphasized during the EGM and as a result of recent developments, topics such as financing gender equality initiatives and implementing policies that support women’s empowerment will be further examined by Member States.²¹ Significant discussions are also expected around the review theme of the 60th session: the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.²² Finally, Member States will also have to take into account the potential contribution of non-state actors, such as CSOs, corporations, and trade unions, in the achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment.²³

¹⁵ UN CSW, *Statement submitted by African Action for AIDS and al. (E/CN.6/2016/NGO/2)*, 2015, p. 2; UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015, p. 14.

¹⁶ UN CSW, *Statement submitted by World Association Girls Guides and Girls Scouts, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2016/NGO/3)*, 2015, p. 2; UN CSW, *Statement submitted by New Future Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2016/NGO/1)*, 2015, p. 2; UN CSW, *Statement submitted by Center for Global Nonkilling, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2016/NGO/7)*, 2015, p. 3.

¹⁷ Seguino, *Financing Gender Equality in the Context of SDGs (EGM/SDG/BP.1)*, 2015, pp. 3-4.

¹⁸ Khan, *Delivering Development Justice? Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (EGM/SDG/BP.2)*, 2015, pp. 12-14; The Guardian, Tessa Khan, 2016.

¹⁹ UN-Women, *Concept note (EGM/SDG/INF.1)*, 2015, p. 8.

²⁰ UN-Women, *CSW (60)*.

²¹ Seguino, *Financing Gender Equality in the Context of SDGs (EGM/SDG/BP.1)*, 2015, p. 3.

²² UN-Women, *CSW (60)*; UN-Women, *Elimination and Prevention of all Forms of Violence against Women and Girls*, 2013.

²³ Adams & Martens, *Fit for whose purpose? Private funding and corporate influence in the United Nations (EGM/SDG/EP.3)*, 2015, p. 6.

Annotated Bibliography

Khan, T. (2015). *Delivering Development Justice? Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (EGM/SDG/BP.2)* [Draft Background Paper]. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Expert Group Meeting. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from:

<http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/bp2-tessa-khan.pdf?v=1&d=20151203T211416>

This background paper delivers important information to delegates regarding the topic of financing for development, and more specifically gender equality initiatives. Tessa Khan, the author, serves as an international human rights lawyer for the Asia Pacific Forum. The document can provide delegates with recommendations for their Member State on economic empowerment of women by the implementation of macro-level policies, such as periodic human rights assessment on trade and investment agreements, protection of women's rights in the workplace, and a commitment to provide a universal social protection. This subject is particularly important as it will be most likely discussed in the upcoming years in the context of the 2030 Development Agenda and at the 60th session of CSW in 2016.

Seguiro, S. (2015). *Financing Gender Equality in the Context of the SDGs (EGM/SDG/BP.1)* [Draft Background Paper]. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Expert Group Meeting. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from:

<http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/bp1-stephanie-seguino.pdf?v=1&d=20151203T211409>

This background paper written for the EGM in preparation for the 60th session of CSW contains relevant facts regarding financing gender equality initiatives. This document underlined recommendations for Member States, such as measures to support full employment of both men and women, opening to new form of finances such as corporate taxes, and implementation of programs or measures to empower women in leadership positions. It is important for delegates to familiarize themselves with this issue as it is expected to be further discussed during the upcoming session of CSW and the implementation and achievement of the SDGs.

United Nations, General Assembly, Third Committee, Seventieth session. (2015). *Advancement of Women (A/70/482)* [Report]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/482>

This report of the General Assembly Third Committee summarizes the main discussions and outcomes of the committee on the topic of women's empowerment in the most recent 70th session. The report provides a concise list of recent documents related to women's empowerment and gender equality. It also gives a good overview to delegates on how the GA discussed women and gender-related issues in the first months of the 70th session which will help frame future discussions on the issue through the UN system and international community.

Bibliography

Adams, B. & J. Martens. (2015). *Fit for whose purpose? Private funding and corporate influence in the United Nations (EGM/SDG/EP.3)* [Article Excerpt]. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Expert Group Meeting. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from:

<http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/ep3-barbara-adams.pdf?v=1&d=20151203T211606>

The Guardian. (2016). *Tessa Khan* [Website]. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from:

<http://www.theguardian.com/profile/tessa-khan>

Khan, T. (2015). *Delivering Development Justice? Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (EGM/SDG/BP.2)* [Draft Background Paper]. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Expert Group Meeting. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from:

<http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/bp2-tessa-khan.pdf?v=1&d=20151203T211416>

Seguiro, S. (2015). *Financing Gender Equality in the Context of the SDGs (EGM/SDG/BP.1)* [Draft Background Paper]. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Expert Group Meeting.

Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/bp1-stephanie-seguino.pdf?v=1&d=20151203T211409>

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2015). *Statement submitted by African Action for AIDS et al, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2016/NGO/2)*. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2016/NGO/2>

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2015). *Statement submitted by Center for Global Nonkilling, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2016/NGO/7)*. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2016/NGO/7>

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2015). *Statement submitted by New Future Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2016/NGO/1)*. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2016/NGO/1>

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2015). *Statement submitted by World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2016/NGO/3)*. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2016/NGO/3>

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. (2016). *Implementing the 2030 Agenda to Accelerate Realization of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls: Concept Note & Discussion Guide*. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/csw60%20stakeholders%20meeting%20concept%20note%20discussion%20guide.pdf?v=1&d=20160115T144817>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 17). *General Assembly Adopts 64 Third Committee Texts Covering Issues Including Migrants, Children's Rights, Human Rights Defenders (GA/11745)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11745.doc.htm>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (n.d.). *CSW60 (2016)* [Website]. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2013). *Elimination and Prevention of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and Girls* [Agreed Conclusions]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/57/csw57-agreedconclusions-a4-en.pdf?v=1&d=20140917T100700>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Expert Group Meeting. (2015). *Concept Note (EGM/SDG/INF.1)*. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/csw60_egm_concept_note.pdf?v=1&d=20151012T224536

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2014). *Gender and Climate Change-Outreach* [Website]. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: http://unfccc.int/gender_and_climate_change/items/9324.php

United Nations, General Assembly. (2015). *Resolutions 70th Session* [Website]. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/70/resolutions.shtml>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 Prog. 14)*. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: [http://undocs.org/A/69/6\(Prog.14\)](http://undocs.org/A/69/6(Prog.14))

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2015). *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/RES/69/313)*. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/313>



United Nations, General Assembly Third Committee, Seventieth session. (2015). *Advancement of Women (A/70/482)* [Report]. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/482>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

I. The Impact of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence on Reproductive Health

Recent Developments

The review theme of the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which will take place from 14-24 March 2016, is “the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.”²⁴ This theme was recently addressed by various United Nations (UN) bodies, including CSW, the General Assembly (GA), and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). On 17 December 2015, the GA adopted resolution 70/176 to prosecute acts of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and further strengthen states’ criminal justice systems in all capacities, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH).²⁵ Only 125 Member States have enacted sexual harassment laws and 52 have enacted marital rape laws, which means that encouraging the adoption of more national laws remains an important step in eliminating SGBV.²⁶ Additionally, at the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November 2015, UN-Women specifically highlighted a need for legal changes in many Member States to protect women who have suffered acts of SGBV, including sexual harassment.²⁷ According to a recent survey conducted in India by UN-Women, 54% of women and 69% of men would not get involved in a sexual harassment case if they witnessed an individual being harassed.²⁸ Additionally, the World Health Organization found “that 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.”²⁹

The elimination of SGBV and enhancing access to SRH is directly related to the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 5: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.”³⁰ The Guttmacher Institute, which aims to promote and advance SRH through non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and education, strongly recommends the promotion of SRH alongside the SDGs by defining specific targets that connect SRH to the SDGs.³¹ The goal is to quantify SRH progress and collect sufficient, well-rounded data throughout the international community in order to measure the targets set by the SDGs.³² Specifically, understanding progress toward the SDGs will help identify interventions that are most effective in reducing SGBV and promoting SRH.³³

According to key findings, produced in late 2015, from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Member States that are experiencing rapid economic development often see an increase in young adults exercising their sexual freedoms, even if the government retains conservative ideals.³⁴ Further, some IGOs remain hesitant to educate youth, especially women, on SRH, which impedes the provision of adequate services.³⁵ By 2020, however, the International Planned Parenthood Foundation (IPPF) aims at providing 120 million more women with access to contraception and overall improved SRH.³⁶ IPPF coordinated with CSW on its 58th Session (2014) to promote the use of civil society organizations (CSO) as a resource to improve SRH, as well as encouraging Member States to make SRH a top priority.³⁷ IPPF remained committed to this in 2015 and will in 2016; by introducing new methods and new approaches in 2016 to eliminate SGBV, such as different channels and routes of services, accessibility will increase according to the IPPF and CSW.³⁸ By tripling services to women and adolescents, IPPF believes 46.6

²⁴ UN-Women, *CSW 60 (2016) Preparations*, 2015.

²⁵ UN General Assembly, *Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls (A/RES/70/176)*, 2015.

²⁶ UN DPI, *Feature: UN champions prevention as best hope for eliminating violence against women*, 2015.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ The World Bank, *World Bank Group, SRVI to Fund Innovations to Prevent Gender-Based Violence*, 2015.

³⁰ Guttmacher Institute, *Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: The Sustainable Development Goals & the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission*, 2015.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ UN DESA, *World Population Prospects The 2015 Revision Key Findings and Advance Tables*, 2015.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ International Planned Parenthood Foundation, *Making universal access to sexual and reproductive health a reality – building momentum for comprehensive family planning*, 2015.

³⁷ International Planned Parenthood Foundation, *Statement submitted by International Planned Parenthood Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*, 2013.

³⁸ International Planned Parenthood Foundation, *Making universal access to sexual and reproductive health a reality – building momentum for comprehensive family planning*, 2015.

million unwanted pregnancies can be avoided.³⁹ Especially pertinent in 2015, as refugees migrate, it is important to consider their health needs and specifically the SRH needs of women and girls because refugee populations are more likely to be subjected to SGBV and do not have access to SRH centers that address health problems like sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy.⁴⁰ Notably, the consequences of being a victim of SGBV are often greater for refugees than other, less vulnerable populations.⁴¹

UN-Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka recently highlighted the elimination of discrimination as the most important tool in order to improve SRH, eliminate SGBV, and to achieve the SDGs.⁴² Mlambo-Ngcuka strongly recommends three strategies to successfully implement the SDGs and provide services to those who have experienced SGBV: access to SRH services, access to both physical and mental health services, and access to a fair and equal justice system that will provide them with safety and security.⁴³ The overall goal is to ensure women throughout the international community have the ability to access all necessary resources as a right to protect their gender identity and have a successful future.⁴⁴

The upcoming 60th session of CSW's priority theme: "women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development" is clearly directly related to eliminating SGBV and promoting SRH.⁴⁵ Since it will focus on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is imperative that Member States understand this connection.⁴⁶ The 60th session will also carry on the theme of the 20th anniversary of Beijing Declaration and Platform Action where Member States pledged quantifiable results by 2020 for gender equality.⁴⁷ Thus, the 60th CSW session will be an important year not only for short term results towards eliminating SGBV but in the long term as well.

³⁹ International Planned Parenthood Foundation, *Making universal access to sexual and reproductive health a reality – building momentum for comprehensive family planning*, 2015.

⁴⁰ UNFPA, *Health needs paramount as refugees and migrants stream through Serbia*, 2015.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² UN-Women, "Every victim of violence must have prompt access to the full range of essential services" — Executive Director Speech by UN-Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the high-level launch of the Essential Services Package at the Ending Violence against Women: Building on Progress to Accelerate Change meeting in Istanbul on 10 December, 2015.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ UN-Women, *CSW 60 (2016) Preparations*, 2015.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography

International Planned Parenthood Foundation. (2015). *Making universal access to sexual and reproductive health a reality – building momentum for comprehensive family planning*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from:

http://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/fp2020_web.pdf

This document conveys important information related to the universal access to sexual and reproductive health services in the year 2015. The IPPF highlights the importance of managing new approaches and new methods for SRH with sustainable development at the forefront. The report is also useful for delegates to understand what services IPPF provides and what its main focus groups are currently working on. As a partner organization of UN-Women, delegates will find in this source a good example of civil society work on the topic of women's empowerment and gender equality.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). "Every victim of violence must have prompt access to the full range of essential services" — *Executive Director Speech by UN-Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the high-level launch of the Essential Services Package at the Ending Violence against Women: Building on Progress to Accelerate Change meeting in Istanbul on 10 December*.

Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/12/ed-speech-istanbul>

This speech from the Executive Director of UN-Women highlights the goals and targets for eliminating SGBV against women and the important role played by UN-Women in providing recommendations for future actions and discussions. Mlambo-Ngcuka underlines the importance of follow-up mechanisms for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda as the key aspect for achieving gender equality. Through the speech, delegates can make connections between the Sustainable Development Goals, increasing women's access to SRH, and the elimination of SGBV.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls (A/RES/70/176)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/490). Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/490>

As the 60th CSW session will be reviewing SGBV as part of its review theme in 2016, it is important for delegates to consider the newly adopted resolutions by the General Assembly. This resolution was adopted by acclamation and focuses on the human rights of women and girls. It also highlights the challenges facing refugee women and girls and migrant women workers, and their specific needs and considerations. Delegates should consider this resolution as a key point in moving toward the elimination of SGBV and rights to universal access to health services for women and girls.

United Nations Population Fund. (2015, December 22). *Health needs paramount as refugees and migrants stream through Serbia* [Press Release]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.unfpa.org/news/health-needs-paramount-refugees-and-migrants-stream-through-serbia>

The current refugee crisis should be examined by delegates in their preparation for the conference as it affects the conditions of women and girls around the world. Considering the large number of women within the refugee community, it is important to recognize their rights to access SRH in refugee camps as well as in their host country. This website provides a spotlight on Serbia and the statistical significance of SRH and female refugees. Delegates should consider the refugee situation and also read further reports from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as a complement to this information to understand what is a key sub-topic in focus at CSW and in the entire international community.

The World Bank. (2015, October 13). *World Bank Group, SVRI to Fund Innovations to Prevent Gender-Based Violence* [Press Release]. Retrieved 31 January 2016 from: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/10/13/world-bank-group-svri-to-fund-innovations-to-prevent-gender-based-violence>

The World Bank article discusses the importance of funding the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) in 2016. The World Bank is hosting a grant competition to fund the elimination of SGBV in honor of all the women who have died from SGBV. Delegates should consider the importance of funding during the upcoming session of CSW to utilize all resources possible to provide SRH, and eliminate SGBV.

Bibliography

- Guttmacher Institute. (2015, September 25). *Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: The Sustainable Development Goals & the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <https://www.guttmacher.org/media/nr/2015/09/25/index.html>
- International Planned Parenthood Foundation. (2013). *Statement submitted by International Planned Parenthood Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2014/NGO/85)*. Retrieved 31 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2014/NGO/85>
- International Planned Parenthood Foundation. (2015). *Making universal access to sexual and reproductive health a reality – building momentum for comprehensive family planning*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: http://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/fp2020_web.pdf
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2015). *World Population Prospects The 2015 Revision Key Findings and Advance Tables* [Report]. Retrieved 31 January 2016 from: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/publications/files/key_findings_wpp_2015.pdf
- United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 9). *Feature: UN champions prevention as best hope for eliminating violence against women* [Press Release]. Retrieved 31 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52775#.Vq5uGyrhDIU>
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). *CSW 60 (2016) Preparations* [Website]. Retrieved 31 January 2016 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016/preparations>
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). *"Every victim of violence must have prompt access to the full range of essential services" — Executive Director Speech by UN-Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the high-level launch of the Essential Services Package at the Ending Violence against Women: Building on Progress to Accelerate Change meeting in Istanbul on 10 December*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/12/ed-speech-istanbul>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls (A/RES/70/176)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/490). Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/176>
- United Nations Population Fund. (2015, December 22). *Health needs paramount as refugees and migrants stream through Serbia* [Press Release]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.unfpa.org/news/health-needs-paramount-refugees-and-migrants-stream-through-serbia>
- The World Bank. (2015, October 13). *World Bank Group, SRVI to Fund Innovations to Prevent Gender-Based Violence* [Press Release]. Retrieved 31 January 2016 from: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/10/13/world-bank-group-svri-to-fund-innovations-to-prevent-gender-based-violence>

II. Furthering Women's Participation in and Access to Information and Communication Technologies

Recent Developments

Promoting access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) for women has become an integrated aspect of development discussion for the international community with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015.⁴⁸ Increasing ICTs access for women not only acts as a catalyst for economic development, but when properly integrated, ICTs can act as an enabling environment for gender equality and the promotion of cultural diversity and identity.⁴⁹ Although the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has not met in recent months, actions taken by Member States, specifically at the 70th session of the General Assembly (GA) and the 21st meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations (UN) *Framework Convention on Climate Change*, have addressed the linkages between these issues.⁵⁰

At its 70th session, the GA adopted a number of resolutions which relate to ICTs and sustainable development.⁵¹ The GA unanimously recognized in resolution 70/184 on “information and communications technologies for development” that ICTs can provide new resolutions to development challenges bridging the gap between developed and developing countries, eradication of poverty, promoting social inclusion, and integrating developing countries into the world economy.⁵² While providing greater education and healthcare services for women will aid in achieving sustainable development, Member States noted specifically that developing the technological capacity of women in the ICT sector can address the fundamental problems of gender inequality.⁵³ It is worth noting that without “international cooperation and an enabling policy environment at all levels,” there will be shortfalls in the benefits of ICTs and the achievement of the SDGs.⁵⁴ The GA also wants to further “ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit on the Information Society,” which held its most recent session in May 2015.⁵⁵

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is a coordination framework for advancing development by creating a platform to collect and report on ICT-related endeavors.⁵⁶ In its most recent session, WSIS gathered hundreds of Member States, UN agencies, and civil society organizations that discussed 11 points of action, five of which are vital for furthering women's participation in and access to ICTs: the role of all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development; access to information and knowledge; capacity-building; enabling environment; and cultural diversity and identity.⁵⁷ WSIS recognizes narrowing the “gender digital divide” as a roadmap to achieving gender equality through initiatives such as empowering women entrepreneurs in the ICT industry.⁵⁸ WSIS encourages Member States to increase communication infrastructure while promoting access to knowledge and information for women through open access software, digital libraries and archives, and community centers.⁵⁹ By providing such an enabling technological environment, various E-programs can be introduced in both the private and public sector that will aid in closing the digital divide.⁶⁰

⁴⁸ Earth Institute & Ericsson, *ICT & SDGs: How Information and Communication Technology Can Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*, 2015, p. 2.

⁴⁹ UN WSIS, *Report of the Geneva Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society Geneva-Palexpo, 10-12 December 2003 (WSIS-03/GENEVA/9(Rev.1)-E)*, 2004, pp. 5-9.

⁵⁰ UN General Assembly, *Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (A/70/L.33)*, 2015.

⁵¹ UN DPI, *General Assembly Adopts 48 Texts in Total as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Second Committee (GA/11746)*, 2015.

⁵² UN General Assembly, *Information and communications technologies for development (A/C.2/70/L.23)*, 2015, p. 3.

⁵³ Vanuatu, *Statement at the “70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly” by Mr. Meltek Sato Kilman Livtuvanu, Prime Minister*, 2015.

⁵⁴ UN General Assembly, *Information and communications technologies for development (A/C.2/70/L.23)*, 2015, pp. 3-4.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

⁵⁶ UN WSIS, *Report on the World Summit on the Information Society Stocktaking 2015*, 2015, p. iii.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 73.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 42.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 96.

In December 2015, the GA convened a high-level meeting for reviewing the implementation and outcomes of WSIS.⁶¹ In the two-day high-level meeting, the GA expressed concern regarding the digital divide between men and women, both between and within countries.⁶² The GA noted that such a divide is slowing sustainable development and emphasized that lack of access to ICTs is a problem at the grassroots level; thus, bridging the digital divide and achieving SDG 5, “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,” are inextricably linked.⁶³ Furthermore, the GA called for greater commitment to gender mainstreaming and a greater emphasis on the monitoring and implementation policies related to ICTs and the empowerment of women.⁶⁴

Similarly, ICTs are “critical for climate change adaptation” and women are critical for ICT adaptation.⁶⁵ The outcome of COP21 created a historic agreement for combatting climate change through decreasing carbon emissions.⁶⁶ The conference held a roundtable discussion specifically to discuss the importance of ICT solutions to climate change.⁶⁷ Both the challenges of climate change and the field of ICTs require continuous adaptation, which calls for more women’s participation and access to ICTs.⁶⁸ Through integrating gender mainstreaming mechanisms and increasing access to ICTs for women within the framework of the SDGs, women can play a pivotal role in how ICTs help mitigate climate change while further narrowing the gender digital divide.⁶⁹

In recent months, the 70th session of the GA, COP21, and WSIS have all addressed the need to further women’s participation in ICTs linking ICTs and gender equality and the empowerment of women. Significant progress in this field can be accomplished by creating an enabling environment where women have access to and are provided training for ICTs. Ultimately, pursuing this will further decrease the digital gap between states while promoting the principles of CSW.⁷⁰

⁶¹ UN DESA, *General Assembly High-level Meeting – 15-16 December 2015*, 2015.

⁶² UN General Assembly, *Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (A/70/L.33)*, 2015, p. 3.

⁶³ *Ibid.*, pp. 6-7.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

⁶⁵ Gallegos & Narimatsu, *ICT and COP21: Enormous Potential to Mitigate Emissions*, 2015.

⁶⁶ UNFCCC, *Adoption of the Paris Agreement (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1)*, 2015.

⁶⁷ UNFCCC, *Climate Change Arena: A Stage to Highlight Ambitious Climate Action*, 2015.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

⁶⁹ UN DESA, *Gender equality and the empowerment of women through ICT*, 2005, pp. 2-3.

⁷⁰ UN WSIS, *Report on the World Summit on the Information Society Stocktaking 2015*, 2015.

Annotated Bibliography

Earth Institute & Ericsson. (2015). *ICT & SDGs: How Information and Communication Technology Can Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved 29 December 2015 from: <http://www.ericsson.com/res/docs/2015/ict-and-sdg-interim-report.pdf>

This research report from the Earth Institute at Columbia University in conjunction with Ericsson describes the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals and information and communication technologies. The report opens by explaining the Sustainable Development Goals and the core concepts of information and communication technologies and gradually integrates the two throughout. The second half of the report indicates how information and communication technologies are necessary for achieving long term sustainable development while they are able to accelerate the gathering of information and development of knowledge critical for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2005). *Gender equality and the empowerment of women through ICT* [Report]. Retrieved 9 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/w2000-09.05-ict-e.pdf>

This document provides a strong foundation for delegates to understand how the role of the information and communication technologies sector has changed in an era of development. The concept of the “digital divide” is explained and analyzed and explains how it effects gender equality. A brief historical context is provided that segues into various policy tools and case studies delegates will find useful when conducting their research.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Information and communications technologies for development (A/C.2/70/L.23)* [Draft Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/469). Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.2/70/L.23>

This is the primary resolution adopted at the 70th session of the General Assembly with regards to information and communication technologies. This resolution provides delegates with the most recent understandings of the United Nations on how information and communication technologies and sustainable development are linked while noting the primary areas of concern. The resolution also recognizes the World Summit on the Information Society, especially the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases, which is where the original principles of the World Summit are outlined.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (A/70/L.33)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 9 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/L.33>

This outcome document provides delegates with a strong understanding of the link between the United Nations and the World Summit on the Information Society. The document provides an in-depth analysis on the outcomes of the 2015 World Summit and highlights specific areas of interest for the United Nations: bridging the social divide, enabling environment, human rights, building confidence, and enhanced cooperation. Delegates are able to draw from a vast amount of information and concepts to further their research through this source.

United Nations, World Summit on the Information Society. (2015). *Report on the World Summit on the Information Society Stocktaking 2015*. Retrieved 9 January 2016 from: <http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2015/Content/doc/reports/wsisstocktaking-report-2015.pdf>

This fundamental document by the World Summit on the Information Society clearly describes for the delegates what the World Summit on the Information Society is, how it was formed, and its key points of action for 2015. The report is easy to follow and provides delegates with a good base to initiate their research and draw links between information and communication technologies to gender equality and sustainable development. Furthermore, the report provides examples of gender-sensitive policies on topics such as media, ethics, and cultural diversity with linkages to information communication technologies. It will provide delegates with a working understanding of how organizations integrate theory and practice.

Bibliography

- Earth Institute & Ericsson. (2015). *ICT & SDGs: How Information and Communication Technology Can Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved 29 December 2015 from: <http://www.ericsson.com/res/docs/2015/ict-and-sdg-interim-report.pdf>
- Gallegos, D. & J. Narimatsu. (2015). *Enormous Potential to Mitigate Emissions*. The World Bank. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/ict/brief/connections-note-30>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2005). *Gender equality and the empowerment of women through ICT* [Report]. Retrieved 9 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/w2000-09.05-ict-e.pdf>
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2015). *General Assembly High-level Meeting – 15-16 December 2015* [Website]. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <https://publicadministration.un.org/wsis10/GA-High-Level-Meeting>
- United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2015, December 22). *General Assembly Adopts 48 Texts in Total as It Takes Action on Reports of Its Second Committee (GA/11746)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 31 December 2015 from: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11746.doc.htm>
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2015). *Adoption of the Paris Agreement (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1)* [Draft Outcome Document]. Retrieved 30 December 2015 from: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/109r01.pdf>
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2015). *Climate Change Arena: A Stage to Highlight Ambitious Climate Action* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/paris/cop21-climate-action-arena-a-stage-to-highlight-ambitious-climate-action/>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-ninth session. (2004). *World Summit on the Information Society (A/RES/59/220)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/59/480). Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/59/220>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Information and communications technologies for development (A/C.2/70/L.23)* [Draft Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/469). Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.2/70/L.23>
- United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (A/70/L.33)* [Draft Resolution]. Retrieved 9 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/L.33>
- United Nations, World Summit on the Information Society. (2004). *Report of the Geneva Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society Geneva-Palexpo, 10-12 December 2003 (WSIS-03/GENEVA/9(Rev.1)-E)*. Retrieved 29 December 2015 from: http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/03/wsis/doc/S03-WSIS-DOC-0009!R1!PDF-E.pdf
- United Nations, World Summit on the Information Society. (2015). *Report on the World Summit on the Information Society Stocktaking 2015*. Retrieved 9 January 2016 from: <http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2015/Content/doc/reports/wsisstocktaking-report-2015.pdf>
- Vanuatu. (2015, September 30). *Statement at the “70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly” by Mr. Meltek Sato Kilman Livtuvanu, Prime Minister*. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: http://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/70/70_VU_en_2.pdf

III. Women's Empowerment and the Link to Sustainable Development

Recent Developments

A number of key processes have been launched recently at the United Nations (UN) to pave the way and mainstream gender throughout all levels and spheres of society within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) laid out at its core.⁷¹ Increasingly, women are identified as central agents of change to bring about holistic and transformative development.⁷² The goal on gender equality – SDG 5 – as well as gender-sensitive targets within the many of the other SDGs illustrate that strengthening efforts of women's empowerment are means to achieve sustainable development for all citizens of the world.⁷³

In November 2015, the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) led an expert group meeting (EGM) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to assess current efforts for gender equality and women's empowerment.⁷⁴ The results of the EGM will factor into the preparations for the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2016.⁷⁵ The priority theme of this year's gathering will directly focus on the link between sustainable development and women's empowerment.⁷⁶ The upcoming discussion benefits from the momentum generated by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its stand-alone goal, SDG 5, on gender equality, and the holistic approach to mainstream gender throughout all its areas.⁷⁷ Furthermore, the EGM identified synergies between taking action within the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (BPfA); its 20-year review being the priority theme at the Commission's 59th session in 2015.⁷⁸ Many of the background and expert papers of the meeting touch upon financing aspects of gender equality within the 2030 Agenda.⁷⁹ These papers also discussed how the UN can become "fit for purpose," effectively supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and helping Member States to fulfill their obligation towards gender equality.⁸⁰ Moreover, the meeting aimed to analyze gender-responsiveness of the new agenda and key fields of action.⁸¹ As a result of this analysis, recommendations and proposals for gender-sensitive localization and implementation of the SDGs will be summarized in a report and made available for the 60th session of CSW.⁸²

At the 70th session in December 2015, the General Assembly (GA) considered a number of resolutions on specific areas of support to, and empowerment of, women.⁸³ In particular, GA resolution 70/219 addressed the vast field of "women in development" calling upon all relevant stakeholders – the UN, its Member States, international and regional governmental, and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector – to formulate gender-sensitive policies, programs, and strategies to tackle the broad variety of development issues, such as poverty eradication, climate change, and inclusive education, as well as providing sufficient resources for women's economic and political empowerment.⁸⁴ Additionally, the resolution emphasizes the mutually reinforcing process between achieving gender equality and sustainable development rendering women not only as beneficiaries but also

⁷¹ UN-Women, *News*, 2016.

⁷² UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Gender equality and women's empowerment – Decisions*, 2015.

⁷³ *Ibid.*

⁷⁴ UN-Women, *CSW60 (2016) – Preparations*, 2015.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷⁶ UN-Women, *Expert Group Meeting on 'Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development' – Concept Note*, 2015.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ FitzGerald, *Making the UN development system more "Fit for Purpose" for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the SDGs – what does it mean for gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment?* 2015.

⁸¹ UN-Women, *Expert Group Meeting on 'Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development' – Concept Note*, 2015.

⁸² *Ibid.*

⁸³ UN General Assembly, *Resolutions – 70th session*, 2015.

⁸⁴ UN General Assembly, *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development (A/70/476/Add.2)*, 2015, pp. 3-17.

essential actors of change.⁸⁵ Furthermore, GA resolution 70/132 – aimed at improving the situation of women and girls in rural areas – underlined that women in rural areas play a central role building resilient, sustainable, and gender responsive communities, ensuring sustainable use and preservation of natural resources, and economic development through access to decent work.⁸⁶

At the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) of the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* in December 2015, governments also recognized the need for women’s empowerment and gender equality to successfully combat climate change.⁸⁷ It was noted that the impacts of climate change can only be mitigated, and communities’ adaptation to new environmental realities can only be ensured if women are effectively involved in policy and decision-making processes, and strategies take into account a gender perspective.⁸⁸ To further strengthen women’s empowerment through environmentally sustainable action, “UN-Women launched two global programmes at COP21, on Women’s Sustainable Energy Entrepreneurship and Access; and Women’s Empowerment through Climate-resilient Agriculture.”⁸⁹ These two initiatives give women a central role in climate change mitigation and adaptation and improve their abilities as economic actors alleviating both the climate change-induced and energy poverty of women.⁹⁰

The frameworks established in 2015 under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and COP21 will facilitate the implementation of gender-sensitive strategies and programs in coming years, ensuring the achievement of equal rights and opportunities for women and men. Leading up to the 60th session of CSW, the UN system as well as Member States have to further include women in the process of policy formulation and decision-making on economic, social, and environmental development that bear a concrete gender perspective. The Commission, in its normative role as intergovernmental policymaking body, will have to guide and support these efforts by linking policies empowering women with the achievement of sustainable development overall.

⁸⁵ UN General Assembly, *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development (A/70/476/Add.2)*, 2015, pp. 3-17.

⁸⁶ UN General Assembly, *Advancement of women (A/70/482)*, 2015, pp. 17-22.

⁸⁷ UN-Women, *Statement by UN Women Executive Director on the adoption of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 2015.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ UN-Women & UNEP, *Flagship Programme - Women’s Empowerment through Climate-Resilient Agriculture*, 2015; UN-Women, *Flagship Programme - Women’s Sustainable Energy Entrepreneurship and Access*, 2015.

Annotated Bibliography

FitzGerald, I. (2016). *Making the UN development system more “Fit for Purpose” for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the SDGs – what does it mean for gender equality, women’s rights and women’s empowerment?* [Informational Paper]. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Expert Group Meeting. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from:

<http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/ip1-ingrid-fitzgerald.pdf?v=1&d=20151203T211436>

This informational paper gives delegates a great insight into the elements of the UN’s “fit for purpose” agenda – universality, human rights, inequality, integration, and data revolution – and explains how this is important for (a) implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and (b) mainstreaming gender equality and ensuring women’s empowerment throughout the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Discussions on, for example, data revolution are at the forefront of implementation efforts. The international community has recognized the importance of disaggregated data in order to address challenges particular to women in an adequate way for formulating gender-sensitive policies. Thus, this source is helpful to understand the current state of affairs particularly in relation to the SDGs.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). *Expert Group Meeting on ‘Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development’ – Concept Note*. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from:

http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/csw60_egm_concept_note.pdf?v=1&d=20151012T224536

The concept note for the expert group meeting that took place in November 2015 clearly outlines the direction and focus of the upcoming 60th session of Commission on the Status of Women. With this source, delegates get a sense of key areas of concern when thinking about women’s empowerment and sustainable development, such as gender responsiveness of the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, they receive an overview once again of the global legal and policy framework up to this date. Further research on the expert group meeting will provide delegates with important background and informational papers that can inform their own strategy towards, for instance, financing gender equality within the 2030 Agenda.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015, December 17). *Statement by UN Women Executive Director on the adoption of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/12/ed-statement-cop-conclusion>

There are many websites and articles by various actors, especially non-governmental women’s organizations, which have evaluated the impact of the COP21 outcome on women’s empowerment and women’s rights and are worth reviewing. However, this statement by the UN-Women Executive Director offers a succinct summary for delegates of the more lengthy assessments. It addresses aspects of the conference that are the most relevant to the advancement of women and their role in climate action. Specifically, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka clearly describes in her statement the achievements, as well as shortcomings of the outcome of COP21 in regards to gender-sensitive strategies for climate action.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2016). *News* [Website]. Retrieved 3 January 2016 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories?topic=ad356426f39b42c791b5791d34875b81>

This UN-Women website provides the latest news on events, programs and initiatives in regards to gender equality and women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development. Therefore, it is the perfect source of information and latest updates for delegates to prepare their positions leading up to the conference. Delegates should regularly check here for new press releases through the start of the conference in March.

United Nations, General Assembly, Second Committee, Seventieth session. (2015). *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development (A/70/476/Add.2)* [Report]. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from:

<http://undocs.org/A/70/476/Add.2>

The report of the GA Second Committee includes an important resolution addressing the topic of women in development. It describes possible areas of action and stresses the reinforcing link

between women's empowerment and sustainable development; recognizing women as beneficiaries of, as well as driving actors for, sustainable development. Delegates should carefully consider this document when formulating their own proposals for women's empowerment within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Bibliography

FitzGerald, I. (2016). *Making the UN development system more "Fit for Purpose" for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the SDGs – what does it mean for gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment?* [Informational Paper]. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Expert Group Meeting. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/ip1-ingrid-fitzgerald.pdf?v=1&d=20151203T211436>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2015). *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Gender equality and women's empowerment – Decisions* [Website]. Retrieved 28 January 2016 from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/women/decisions>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). *Expert Group Meeting on 'Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development' – Concept Note*. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/csw60_egm_concept_note.pdf?v=1&d=20151012T224536

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). *Expert Group Meeting: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development* [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016/preparations/expert-group-meeting>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women & United Nations Environment Programme. (2015). *Flagship Programme - Women's Empowerment through Climate-Resilient Agriculture* [Issue Brief]. Retrieved 29 January 2016 from: <http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/fpi%20briefagriculture%20localusweb.pdf?v=1&d=20151208T204037>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women & United Nations Environment Programme. (2015). *Flagship Programme - Women's Sustainable Energy Entrepreneurship and Access* [Issue Brief]. Retrieved 29 January 2016 from: <http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/fpi%20briefenergy%20globalusv3.pdf?v=1&d=20151203T172456>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). *Progress of the World's Women 2015–2016: Transforming economies, realizing rights* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015, December 17). *Statement by UN Women Executive Director on the adoption of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* [Press Release]. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/12/ed-statement-cop-conclusion>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2016). *CSW60 (2016) – Preparations* [Website]. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016/preparations#moreinformation>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2016). *News* [Website]. Retrieved 3 January 2016 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories?topic=ad356426f39b42c791b5791d34875b81>



United Nations, General Assembly. (2015). *Resolutions – 70th session* [Website]. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/70/resolutions.shtml>

United Nations, General Assembly, Second Committee Seventieth session. (2015). *Eradication of poverty and other development issues: women in development (A/70/476/Add.2)* [Report]. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/476/Add.2>

United Nations, General Assembly, Third Committee, Seventieth session. (2015). *Advancement of women (A/70/482)* [Report]. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/482>

United Nations, General Assembly, Third Committee, Seventieth session. (2015). *Letter dated 2 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/70/3)*. Retrieved 4 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/C.3/70/3>