

# NMUN•NY 2021

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5 – 8 April 2021

Documentation of the Work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) NMUN Simulation\*



**TOGETHER  
TOWARDS  
TOMORROW**

## Conference B

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# Commission on the Status of Women

## Committee Staff

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Director</b>           | Miranda Coleman |
| <b>Assistant Director</b> | Alisa Riechmann |

## Agenda

- I. Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship
- II. Promoting the Political Participation of Women
- III. Protecting Women in Migration from Human Trafficking, Sexual Slavery, and Sexual Exploitation

## Resolutions adopted by the Committee

| <b>Code</b>    | <b>Topic</b>                              | <b>Vote</b>            |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| <b>CSW/1/1</b> | Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship | Adopted without a vote |
| <b>CSW/1/2</b> | Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship | Adopted without a vote |

## Summary Report

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

- I. Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship
- II. Promoting the Political Participation of Women
- III. Protecting Women in Migration from Human Trafficking, Sexual Slavery, and Sexual Exploitation

The session was attended by representatives from 14 Member States.

On Monday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning the discussion of the topic “Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship.” By Tuesday the Dias received a total of 2 proposals covering a variety of subtopics including education, financing, access to resources, and infrastructure. The delegates worked diligently to build consensus on tackling these challenges. On Wednesday the body worked hard to expand on their proposals and achieve understanding to create robust policies and action items. On Thursday morning the Dias accepted both working papers as draft resolutions. The committee adopted 2 resolutions by acclamation. Throughout the conference, Members of the body worked diplomatically together in the spirit of the United Nations.



**Code:** CSW/1/1

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

**Topic:** Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship

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*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*Recognizing* the pivotal role female entrepreneurship contributes toward each Member States' economy and community and its importance in achieving gender equality in all global areas,

*Acknowledging* the detrimental impact that the COVID-19 global pandemic has placed on each Member State's economy and its citizens and the role that women entrepreneurs will play in economic recovery,

*Reaffirming* articles 1 and 23 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948), which guarantees all individuals the right to equality and equal treatment and provide the right to choose one's employment respectively,

*Guided by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995) and its comprehensive international framework to achieve women's advancement and empowerment in entrepreneurship,

*Recalling the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979), and the recommendations set forth by the Convention to promote inclusivity and gender equality in the pursuit of business opportunities,

*Reiterating* General Assembly resolutions 64/217, "Women in Development" (2009), and 75/211, "Entrepreneurship for sustainable development" (2020), which stress the importance of empowering and advancing the role of female entrepreneurs in order to achieve sustainable development,

*Realizing* the essential contributions women in rural areas make toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, particularly for the attainment of SDG 4, Quality Education, and section 4.4 which aims to increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for entrepreneurship, SDG 5 Gender Equality, and sections, 5.a which aims to provide equal rights to economic resources, and 5.c, that discusses strengthening the national legislation for gender equality,

*Concerned greatly* by the lack of gender equality within entrepreneurial settings, and the absence of proper education for women to feel empowered and encouraged to join the formal economy,

*Emphasizing* the significance of programs aimed at providing women with skills and knowledge of entrepreneurship,

*Convinced* of the importance of supporting women-owned businesses due to the difficulties they face accessing financial services which is crucially important to maintain or expand their businesses,

*Highlighting* the need to promote inclusive societies and accountable institutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Deeply appreciating* the work that has been done by non-profit organizations such as Women for Women International which offers comprehensive mentorship and training,

*Recognizing* the need to support International Labor Organization's Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme,

*Keeping in mind* Women for Women International offers mentoring programs and advisory services for women to be both inspired and prepared to succeed in entrepreneurship,



1. *Encourages* Member States to examine all legislative barriers impeding women's advancement in entrepreneurship by:
  - a. Designing and implementing gender perspective policies;
  - b. Amending or eliminating all legislation that hinders the position of women in society and in the economy;
  - c. Implementing legislation that protects women who are working in the informal economy;
  - d. Amending existing legislation to be gender-neutral and gender-sensitive with a view to promote and achieve gender-equality;
2. *Requests* Member States that have not yet done so to implement the recommendations in the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* into their national legislation to ensure equality while promoting and facilitating female entrepreneurship;
3. *Recommends* Member States to implement educational programs targeted at young and teenage girls *that* are:
  - a. Working collaboratively with other Member States in CSW to share ideas and develop successful programs specific to each Member State;
  - b. Providing them with access to education, science and technology;
  - c. Promoting female entrepreneurship by broadening their horizons;
  - d. Raising awareness on gender disparities in all areas, especially economic;
  - e. Stimulating gender responsive instruction within education that is aimed to empower young girls to achieve the goal of eliminating stereotypical thinking in formative years;
  - f. Creating forums for youth empowerment and networking with experienced female entrepreneurs;
  - g. Working with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to create and execute these programs such as the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs;
4. *Recommends* Member States support and work with organizations such as Women for Women International that aims to provide women with skills, knowledge, and resources to start their own businesses and expand existing women-owned businesses in order to expand on entrepreneurial best practices such as branding, access to capital, effective leadership, management, economics, and idea-based assets;
5. *Further recommends* Member States to nationally establish programs providing training and educational programs for adult women to develop micro-economic skills and knowledge on supply and demand, marketing skills, filing taxes, financing and assets, and accounting;
6. *Calls on* Member States to support the International Labor Organization's "Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme" and establish at a national level similar mechanisms, specifically targeted for women, that support them in attaining the skills and resources needed for starting, strengthening, and expanding an enterprise;



7. *Further recommends* that Governments, at the national level, assist rural and low-income women in obtaining the skills and confidence to start a business by providing them with:
  - a. Educational programs sponsored by the International Labor Organization's Women Entrepreneurship Development Program run by volunteers to gain skills for the labor market;
  - b. A networking forum where they can establish professional connections;
  - c. Start-up and technological assistance provided by national corporations and authorized by volunteers to support the creation of new female-owned businesses;
8. *Urges* Member States to eliminate systematic and structural barriers that hold women back from their transition from the informal to the formal economy by providing them with the assistance and skill-based training to help them enter the formal economy through online and in-person workshops and mentorship programs supported by the United Nations Development Programme, especially in states with limited access to resources;
9. *Encourages* Member States to provide access to education and promote women's entrepreneurship by:
  - a. Facilitating networking through social, television, radio, and other media platforms;
  - b. Showcasing programs from NGOs and UN initiatives for the promotion and development of female entrepreneurs through social media to reach a broader audience through UN entity accounts;
  - c. Encouraging the use of networking forums via social media that provide connections between women entrepreneurs and those that can give assistance for their businesses;
  - a. Providing access to marketing tools through the internet for female entrepreneurs to advance their business;
10. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate and create strong inter-institutional mechanisms developed through the United Nations CSW body to coordinate and monitor the implementation of gender perspective policies and programs that promote the equal and full participation of female entrepreneurs.



**Code:** CSW/1/2

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

**Topic:** I. Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship

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*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*Guided by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948), in particular article 1 stating that all humans are born free and equal and article 26 reaffirming the right to education,*

*Acting under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), whereby actions recommended to be taken by Governments include incentives and training programs for women entrepreneurs,*

*Acknowledging the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 5 which aims to Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls,*

*Reaffirming the importance of SDG 8 which promotes Decent Work and Economic Growth and target 8.3 which notes the importance of development-oriented policies and entrepreneurship,*

*Concerned by the unequal access to educational programs supporting leadership and entrepreneurial skills for women,*

*Emphasizing the importance of integrating technological skills development into the educations of young girls,*

*Noting with interest efforts by Member States to strengthen existing programs to support women in entrepreneurship through collaborations with international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs),*

*Expressing its appreciation regarding the international collaborations with the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, and Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),*

*Recognizing the urgent need for the provision of financial resources as well as outreach programs that provide education and training programs to women in rural and remote communities,*

*Keeping in mind the social and financial external factors that promote and reward women's participation in entrepreneurship such as networking opportunities and monetary support of credit and loans,*

*Observing the current deficit in the inclusion of women in micro-financing efforts as a way to provide them with funding for entrepreneurship ventures,*

*Realizing the efforts of women's work which is not statistically accounted for, known as the grey economy, in Member States economic activities,*

1. *Recommends* that Member States collaborate with NGOs, the private sector, intergovernmental organization (IGOs), and other Member States to promote micro-financing efforts to promote women's participation in entrepreneurship;
2. *Reminds* Member States on the importance of cooperation among governments, international NGOs, and private institutions such as, but not limited to:
  - a. Care International in providing women with training and loaning funds to encourage women to get economically involved;
  - b. FINCA International fighting for women's financial inclusion through microfinancing;
  - c. Women Advancing Microfinance New York in providing financial support to economically disadvantaged women in the microfinance sector globally;



- d. Women Entrepreneurship Development Project (WEDP) in granting loans with flexible terms to female-owned startups in Ethiopia;
  - e. China Gender Fund for Research and Advocacy of the All-China Women's Federation which assigns microcredits for projects on gender sensitive aspects across China;
  - f. The United Nations Economic and Social Council, The International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank to promote and invest in online banking initiatives to enable women to realize the benefits of online banking;
  - g. The Women's Global Empowerment Fund and expanding its ambit to include the social, economic, and political empowerment of women in the region through networking opportunities;
  - h. The Fund for Gender Equality to improve access to input and finance for the technical assistance of women, through the provision of microcredit and microloans;
  - i. The World Bank Group's Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative which is a collaboration among multilateral development banks, governments, and stakeholders focusing on financial support;
3. *Promotes* multilateral collaboration to provide financial education and literacy services to women interested in entrepreneurship through international organizations such as OECD;
  4. *Invites* cooperation with both the private sector and NGOs to create interest free loans for women entrepreneurs to help them create their own business, where the initial loan can be returned once profit is made while:
    - a. Highlighting the positive effects for all the parties involved, namely the private sector's history on investing in women startups as well as the advantages female entrepreneurs achieve with this financial support;
    - b. Emphasizing the overall positive effect promoting female entrepreneurs has on economic development and growth;
    - c. Recommending cross-institutional funding methods to increase funding for women in political and public life fully as outlined in the Secretary General's report on *Women's Full and Effective Participation and Decision-Making in Public Life* (E/CN.6/2021/3);
  5. *Emphasizes* the importance of utilizing incentives to encourage and motivate women's entrepreneurship especially within developing nations through:
    - a. Multilateral collaboration amongst Member States and the private sector, financial institutions, civil society organizations, and NGOs, through the World Bank Group's Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (WE-FI) which involves:
      - i. Monetary support for female-owned start-ups in developing economies;
      - ii. Provision of lines of credit, loans, business advisory services;
      - iii. Greater accessibility to networking opportunities;
    - b. Multilateral cooperation with the CSW and the United Nations System, such as:
      - i. The establishment of a joint fund between the CSW and IMF for women to support themselves and/or their families while simultaneously partaking in educational and vocational programs, which would be granted per the funds' requirements and distributed through regional governments on a need basis;









10. *Encourages* building upon and the expansion of educational programs such as UN Women’s “Women's Empowerment Principles” and the “Global Compact for Women's Empowerment” at work and workforce or workshops relating to a particular organization of a Member State’s educational structure that enhance the financial and economic literacy of women through measures including:
  - a. Educating the younger population on the redistribution of domestic responsibilities in their households, in an attempt to minimize unpaid labor as a result of gender norms;
  - b. Promoting experiential learning that can be incorporated into secondary and tertiary education curriculum as a form of early intervention;
  - c. Supporting an inclusive implementation of educational and training programs that reaches adult women who are new to entrepreneurship, in line with the no one left behind principle of the *2030 Agenda*;
  - d. Informing women of their rights and the mechanisms that exist to protect them from discrimination and harassment;
  
11. *Expresses support for* Member States in adopting the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, through the inclusion of gender-sensitive policies, and encourages Member States to empower women to engage with the formal economy through the encouragement of reviewing set legislations in efforts to:
  - a. Incorporate regional legislation that allows for the removal of obstacles that may hinder women from pursuing entrepreneurship such as stringent bureaucratic requirements and regulation of the grey economy;
  - b. Mitigate the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and paying more attention to supporting female-owned businesses;
  - c. Allow for the redistribution of women from the formal to the informal economy if they wish to do so;
  - d. Improve women’s assurance stemming from educating themselves on financial and economic literacy.