



Florida High Schools Model United Nations

FHSMUN GULF COAST 9

**UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY
AND THE EMPOWERMENT
OF WOMEN**

PLANET 50/50: ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY BY 2030

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COMMITTEE BRIEF

Introduction

The pursuit of gender equality remains a daunting task. Even given recent progress in many areas of the world, women continue to confront discrimination and harassment daily. Delegates of the UNWOMEN must strive to not only accurately assess the current state of the world's women in regards to achieving true gender equality, but also the prospects for achieving gender equality by 2030. It is becoming increasingly urgent, as recognition is at all women and girls must be a pressing and central task Former Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon¹ outlines three basic areas for action: 1) To create and energetically implement coherent gender equality polices;² To provide significant financing for gender equality so that commitments become a reality; and to monitor progress so that all governments will hold themselves and each other accountable for the pledges made.³ The “Planet 50-50: Step it up for Gender Equality” initiative encourages states to make national commitments to address the challenges women and girls face.

The Scale of the Problem

Former Undersecretary-General and Director General of UNWOMEN Michelle Bachelet, the former President of Chile, notes that there has been considerable progress for women in recent decades, particularly in terms of legislation. As of January 10th, 2023, 85% of the 193 United Nations member states have a provision in their constitutions that specifically addresses gender equality, and an additional 115 have a provision that prohibits discrimination based on sex—yet America is not among these countries.⁴ Women's representation in national parliaments has doubled from 11% in 1995 to 26.5% in 2023. Furthermore, only 29 countries have reached or surpassed the 40% mark of women in Parliament, and currently “there are 31 countries where 34 women serve as Heads of State and/or Government.”⁵ Data from 2020 claims “at least 158 countries have passed laws on domestic violence, and 141 have laws on sexual harassment in employment.”⁶ While these developments are undoubtedly positive, several caveats must be highlighted. According to the recent 2022 snapshot, It may take another 286 years in order to remove discriminatory laws as well as to close prevailing gaps in legal protections for women and girls. Even in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic women were affected the most economically and socially. According to the same snapshot, it was found that 1 in 10 women aged 15-49 were subjected to sexual/physical violence by an intimate partner only within the last 365 days. The economic impacts were felt by women worldwide as the school and daycare closures led to an estimated 512 billion additional hours of unpaid childcare.⁷ We can highlight the progress we have made, however, we cannot accept this as a job well done and complete as we have a lot of work to do in order to reach our goals by the year 2030.

¹ Ban Ki—moon, *59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), New York, March 9, 2015*

² UN WOMEN, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action/ Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome, 1995*

³ UN WOMEN, *Press release: World leaders agree: We must close the gender gap, 27 September 2015*

⁴ Smith College. “Still Unequal,” n.d.

<https://www.smith.edu/news/2023-democracy-distress-equal-rights-amendment>.

⁵ UN WOMEN, “Facts and Figures: Women's Leadership and Political Participation,” 7 March, 2023

⁶ Michelle Bachelet and UNWOMEN, “2011-2012 Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice” 2011 p. 3.

⁷ United Nations Statistics Division. “— SDG Indicators,” n.d. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/>.

Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality

Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) stands as a pivotal commitment within the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, striving to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The significance of this goal transcends mere social justice; it resonates deeply with the core principles of human rights, economic development, and social progress. By dismantling gender-based barriers and fostering an environment where women and girls can thrive unhindered, we unlock a cascade of positive consequences that will inevitably bleed into the fabric of universal prosperity. Achieving gender equality is a matter of human rights and social justice. It is essential to recognize that gender equality is an inherent right, not a privilege, and thus, denying women equal opportunities and access to resources perpetuates an unjust system. Breaking down these barriers not only uplifts half of the global population but also sets a precedent for dismantling other forms of discrimination and oppression. By ensuring that women and girls have equal access to education, healthcare, employment, and political participation, societies become more inclusive, democratic, and representative of diverse perspectives.

Gender equality is intrinsically tied to economic development. When women are afforded the same opportunities as men, it translates to a substantial boost in economic growth and productivity. Women's participation in the workforce increases labor force diversity and brings fresh skills and perspectives to the table. Numerous studies have demonstrated that countries with higher levels of gender equality tend to have stronger economies. When women are empowered to contribute fully, economies benefit from increased innovation, reduced skills gaps, and expanded consumer markets. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO): “High levels of diversity and inclusion in the workplace are associated with greater productivity, innovation, and workforce well-being, yet too little is being done to promote them, particularly among minority groups, meaning that enterprises, workers, and societies are missing out on considerable potential benefits.”⁸ Research carried out by the World Bank suggests that achieving parity in employment between genders could lead to economic benefits in the range of \$5-6 trillion. This would result from granting women equal opportunities to men and is approximated to also create a 20% rise in the long-term GDP per capita.⁹ As societies progress towards gender parity, the benefits resonate across generations. When girls see women in leadership roles, they are inspired to pursue their aspirations without limitation. This sets the stage for a cycle of empowerment, where empowered girls become empowered women who, in turn, uplift the next generation. Moreover, achieving gender equality can lead to demographic dividends, as empowered women often choose to have fewer children and invest more in their education and well-being, contributing to sustainable population growth and human development. Gender equality is not just a goal in isolation, but a catalyst for transformative change that extends its influence well beyond gender-related issues. By realizing gender equality, societies embrace justice, equity, economic growth, and sustainable development. When women and girls are free from discrimination and empowered to participate fully in all aspects of society, we unlock a

⁸ “Greater Progress on Diversity and Inclusion Essential to Rebuild Productive and Resilient Workplaces,” April 6, 2022. https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_841085/lang--en/index.htm.

⁹ World Bank. “Challenges Women Face In The Workplace,” n.d. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/gender/overview#:~:text=On%20average%20across%20countries%2C%20long,the%20same%20rate%20men%20do.>

world of potential where universal prosperity becomes a tangible reality, paving the way for a more just, inclusive, and harmonious global community.

COVID-19 And Its Violent Impact On Women Worldwide

Battery and sexual violence against women are such frequent crimes that in many instances they do not generate significant headlines or news coverage; the exceptions are the times when women's voices are heeded, perhaps because of their numbers, the presence of male relatives, friends, and allies who seek to redress these problems, or even the presence of local and/or Western media¹⁰. A recent example of these suppressed sexual and violent crimes is being nicknamed the "Shadow Pandemic". "Even before COVID-19, violence against women was one of the most widespread violations of human rights. As the pandemic raged on, the threat of a "shadow pandemic" of violence against women emerged. Reports of violence against women, and particularly domestic violence, increased as security, health, and money worries compounded the strains of living in lockdown" claims a recent collection of data conducted within the UNWOMEN database "Women Count."¹¹ During the pandemic, women not only had to worry about the rapidly spreading deadly disease that ended up killing a near 7 million people¹² worldwide, they also had to mask up in preparation for the "Shadow Pandemic". According to the Women Count database, 64% of women reported that during the pandemic they had been yelled at, called names, and humiliated, 52% of women reported that they had been slapped, kicked, had things thrown at them, or some sort of other physical pain inflicted on them, 43% of women claimed that they had been the subject of inappropriate jokes, suggestive comments, and unwelcomed sexual acts (kissing, touching, groping, etc.). These heartbreaking statistics do not even end there. Even in a time of global isolation, 44% of these same women reported that they were forced to stay home alone for long periods of time or denied communication with others, 53% even claimed that they were denied basic needs if not rights of food, water, shelter, proper PPE.¹³ Even before the pandemic violence against women has been recognized as a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. There are high rates of violence against women in all regions with recent estimates published by the WHO indicating that globally about 1 in 3 (30%) of women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.¹⁴ The majority of women who are attacked do not seek help or support, particularly in countries where there exist discriminatory attitudes and social norms that normalize and permit violence. Attitudes that blame the victim are widespread across the globe, especially in developing countries. After the pandemic, the World Bank decided to conduct surveys in nations that are considered developing and asked a series of questions to women all over the nation. A survey was conducted where a percentage of women ages 15-49 in various countries who believe a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife/partner for, arguing with him; refusing to have sex; burning the food; going out without

¹⁰ UN WOMEN Executive Director, November 9, 2015.

¹¹ UN Women – Headquarters. "Facts and Figures: Ending Violence against Women," n.d.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures#notes>.

¹² "WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard," WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard With Vaccination Data, n.d., <https://covid19.who.int/>.

¹³ "Emerging Data on Violence against Women Confirm a Shadow Pandemic | UN Women Data Hub," UN Women Data Hub, July 1, 2021,

<https://data.unwomen.org/features/emerging-data-violence-against-women-confirm-shadow-pandemic>.

¹⁴ World Health Organization: WHO, "Violence against Women."

telling him; or neglecting the children. A heartbreaking 44.4% of women who took part in this survey in India believe this, 40.6% in Madagascar, and another 27.1% in Mauritania.¹⁵

Political Rights and Representation

In terms of political rights and representation, women continue to make considerable advances in many regions of the world but no guarantee electing female politicians will automatically improve the status of women, nor that women will necessarily vote for female candidates.¹⁶ According to Former UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, one of the major areas of focus is achieving gender equality in parliaments by 2030. At the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women's Commission on the Status of Women 59 (CSW59) side event "Parliaments for Gender Equality: Priorities for Beijing+20 and beyond," she identified that "The inequality of representation in politics, economy, and other areas is one aspect that we have not been able to address as fully as we wanted. The fact that no country has achieved gender equality requires strong action and strong attention."²² The Executive Director recognizes that many countries have come very close to equality through legislation that specifically addresses the issue while encouraging those countries to continue to "demonstrate how to break new ground."¹⁷ More work needs to be done, however, with new goals being set. Mlambo-Ngcuka called for changes in attitudes that perpetuate inequality, saying that the gross undervaluing of women's talents and leadership continues to undermine the progress that has been made.

Her call to action did not go unheard. The ramifications of her statement are already being felt worldwide not even a decade later. There is established and growing evidence that women's leadership in political decision-making processes improves them.¹⁸ For example, research on panchayats (local councils) in India discovered that the number of drinking water projects in areas with women-led councils was 62 percent higher than in those with men-led councils. In Norway, a direct causal relationship between the presence of women in municipal councils and childcare coverage was found.¹⁹ Although gender parity remains elusive across the majority of nations globally, significant advancements have been facilitated by the implementation of gender quotas. In jurisdictions where official quotas for candidates have been established by law, the representation of women in parliamentary and local government bodies surpasses that of countries lacking such legislative provisions, with an increase of five percentage points and seven percentage points, respectively.²⁰

Education & Women in the Work Force

Women's effective participation in education and the workforce are further critical

¹⁵ "World Bank Open Data," World Bank Open Data, n.d., <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.VAW.REAS.ZS?end=2021&locations=IN-MG-MR&start=2021&view=bar>.

¹⁶ *The Economist*, "The XX Factor" February 11, 2012.

¹⁷ UN WOMEN, *UN Women Executive Director calls for gender equality in parliaments by 2030*, March 16, 2015.

¹⁸ UN WOMEN "Women's Leadership and Political Participation"

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/12/UN%20WomenLGTThemBriefUSwebrev2%20pdf.pdf>

¹⁹ "Facts and Figures: Women's Leadership and Political Participation," UN Women – Headquarters, n.d., https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures#_edn18.

²⁰ "Facts and Figures: Women's Leadership and Political Participation," UN Women – Headquarters, n.d., https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures#_edn16.

elements of achieving gender equality. Governments, educators, businesspeople, and other relevant civil society actors need to ensure that laws and admissions and hiring policies do not discriminate against women; there is considerable evidence that in many countries, the recent global recession adversely impacted women to an even greater degree than it did men,²¹ in part because of significant reductions in public sector workforces that are often more generous to women than the respective private sector workforces.²² Women's literacy and graduation rates have risen in many countries but they are frequently well below those of men; furthermore, even when women graduate from high school, college, or technical programs, they often face barriers to their employment, including lower pay and fewer benefits, and/or promotion within the workplace, including the metaphorical "glass ceiling." According to the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2022 report, nearly "2.4 billion women of working age are not afforded the equal economic opportunity and 178 countries maintain legal barriers that prevent their full economic participation and in 86 countries, women face some form of job restriction and 95 countries do not guarantee equal pay for equal work"²³. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has recognized the opportunities provided through girls' education and has been working towards empowering girls. Efforts such as the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) have championed the rights of girls and helped countries achieve gender equality in education.²⁴ UNGEI is a partnership of organizations working towards promoting gender equality and empowering women by providing equal opportunities in education. "The initiative works at global, regional, and country levels to ensure that girls receive a quality education that prepares them to be full and active participants in their societies."²⁵ Child-friendly schools provide an overall gender-sensitive environment in the classroom, making it conducive to learning at all levels while empowering girls.²⁶

UN System Actions

UNWOMEN is typically considered the primary UN agency or body that assesses the relative progress of the world's women, particularly as its creation in December 2010 was the result of the merger of 4 UN bodies: UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW); the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues; and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN INSTRAW). It is vital, though, that delegates to UNWOMEN draw upon the collaborative efforts, including of the UN Commission on the Status of Women as well as the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality that characterize the UN System, particularly in regards to achieving gender equality and gender justice. As achieving gender equality is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), gender mainstreaming is being incorporated into budgeting processes, policy-making, personnel policies, and even peacekeeping. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) is vital to achieving gender equality and its work includes critical development initiatives and programs designed to empower women to achieve greater

²¹ *BBC News*, "Recession threatening to turn back time for women" July 4, 2011.

²² *The Economist*, "The cashier and the carpenter" November 26, 2011.

²³ World Bank Group, "Nearly 2.4 Billion Women Globally Don't Have Same Economic Rights as Men," World Bank, March 8, 2022,

²⁴ UNICEF, *Girls' education and gender equality*, July 23, 2015.

²⁵ United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, *About US*, 2015.

²⁶ UNICEF, *Girls' education and gender equality*, July 23, 2015

economic independence.²⁷ UNDP's work towards achieving gender equality is also evidenced by its analytical work in preparing the Human Development Index (HDI); in recent years, the UNDP's analysis has included a measure of Gender Inequality. In the 2012 Human Development Gender Inequality Index, Norway, which ranked 1st in the overall HDI, ranked fifth in terms of the least gender inequality, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Niger, which both ranked 186th in the overall HDI ranked 144th and 146th, respectively for gender inequality.²⁸ Dozens of countries, as well as the Occupied Palestinian Territory, do not currently report statistics for the Gender Inequality Index; one critical development that delegates to UNWOMEN may wish to consider is urging all countries to promptly submit accurate data for inclusion in the next measurement of the Gender Inequality Index.

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has made strides with its focus on women in working towards empowering women. It has developed several efforts and programs to better facilitate access to property, capital, and credit for women. In 2014, it partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women to design the Inclusive and Equitable Local Development (IELD) program. It “focuses on gender-sensitive infrastructure projects [...] that have the potential to be significant drivers of women’s economic empowerment.”²⁹ MicroLead was created in 2009, in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to provide loans and grants. A product of their efforts includes the Pafupi Savings Account, “a mobile savings account designed for low-income people in rural areas, especially women with no previous access to a bank account.” With no monthly fees, the Pafupi savings enabled women to bank neighborhoods, cutting the cost of transportation and the cost of formal financial services.³⁰ Through these efforts, women are achieving financial inclusion, and getting one step closer to gender equality. UNWOMEN’s funds, initiatives, and programs are foundational to achieving gender equality. UNWOMEN provides technical assistance and advice to governments, UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society representatives. Furthermore, UNWOMEN provides critical financial assistance through its Fund for Gender Equality (FGE); one particular point of emphasis for UNWOMEN’s Fund for Gender Equality grants is to improve the status of women in conflict and post-conflict societies. The Fund was established in 2009 through a \$65 million donation from the government of Spain and has received further donations from Norway and Mexico.³¹ Increasing voluntary donations from other countries to enhance the financial capacity of the Fund is certainly a valuable consideration for the delegates to UNWOMEN.

Feminism and Reproductive Rights Activism

Several factors—including the rise of more women to positions of power, the proliferation of social media, and the subsequent spread of advocacy for socio-political issues in recent years—have led to a surge in international female activism focused on tackling injustices that

²⁷ UNDP, “Women’s Empowerment” 2012.

²⁸ UNDP, “Gender Inequality Index” 2012

²⁹ UNCDF, *Women’s Economic Empowerment*, 2015

³⁰ UNCDF, *UNCDF and Women’s Economic Empowerment*, July 2015

³¹ UNWOMEN, “Fund for Gender Equality” 2011. <http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/fund-for-gender-equality/>

affect not only their rights but those of the global community at large. One prominent area that exemplifies the future-shaping capabilities of women-led activism can be seen in the fight for the reproductive rights movements.

According to the UN, protecting women's reproductive rights—which include the ability to “be in control of their bodies and decide if, when, with whom and how often to bear children,” “safe pregnancy and safe delivery,” “access to family planning counseling [, comprehensive sexuality education,] and a range of modern contraceptive methods,” — is extremely vital for achieving gender equality and the sustainable development goals.³² The United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) stresses the severity of reproductive rights violations citing how “complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading killer of 15- to 19-year-old girls globally” and policies restricting bodily autonomy generally increase unsafe abortions.

There has been progress towards achieving this goal as shown by “all 193 countries in the world ... ratif[ying] treaties that protect reproductive rights,” and “50 countries liberaliz[ing] their abortion laws over the last 25 years.”³³ These developments have in part been achieved by women rallying together to share their personal stories and experiences to break the silence around this deeply stigmatized topic as demonstrated by movements like “Ni Una Menos”—originating in Argentina demanding an end to the high rate of gender-based violence—or the following “Marea Verde” in Latin America—advocating for the legalization of abortions.³⁴ Such efforts have led to Argentina legalizing abortions in 2020 and Colombia’s decriminalization of abortion in 2022, as well as sparked discussions of debates in other nations.³⁵ Similarly in Ireland, the “Repeal the 8th” campaign built up to the overwhelming public vote majority of 66.4% to overturn the abortion ban enforced by the countries’ 8th Amendment, repealed with the passing of the 36th Amendment.³⁶ While these advancements are a step in the right direction, they are just the beginning: “There are 24 countries ... where abortion is completely prohibited,” including Andorra, El Salvador, Honduras, Senegal, Egypt, and the Philippines.³⁷ This statistic doesn’t include the number of countries that permit abortions only on specific cases like rape or critical health risks for women, adding up to more than 50. Even in countries where it is legal, uneven or difficult access to safe abortions poses a greater challenge.

Conclusion

Achieving gender equality is a complex and lengthy process that must build upon the work of generations and must be reinforced daily by the work of future generations. Given the requisite political will, addressing the legal barriers to gender equality can be accomplished within months or at most a few years. Changing the mindsets that have contributed to the

³² Natalia Kanem, “Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: The Cornerstone of Sustainable Development,” *UN Chronicle*, August 2018,

³³Center for Reproductive Rights, “Global Advocacy,” August 30, 2022, <https://reproductiverights.org/our-regions/global-advocacy-united-nations/>.

³⁴ I. Ximena Casas, “How the ‘green Wave’ Movement Did the Unthinkable in Latin America,” *The New York Times*, November 1, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/opinion/abortion-latin-america.html>.

³⁵Megan Diamondstein, “Colombia’s Highest Court Rules to Decriminalize Abortion,” Center for Reproductive Rights, March 25, 2022, <https://reproductiverights.org/colombia-court-decriminalize-abortion/>.

³⁶BBC News “Eighth Amendment Repealed as Irish President Signs Bill into Law,” September 18, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-45568094>.

³⁷ Eloise Barry, “Countries Where Abortion Is Illegal or Restricted,” *Time*, June 24, 2022, <https://time.com/6173229/countries-abortion-illegal-restrictions/>.

massive inequalities that continue to plague the world's people, particularly women, will be an ongoing process that will likely take far longer. We as the United Nations must step up to the plate and finish what we started in order to achieve gender equality by 2030, even with setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guiding Questions:

What is the current status of women in your country? How has that status changed in recent years? Where does your country rank on the Gender Inequality Index? If your country does not report data for the Gender Inequality Index, does it plan to do so for the next statistical cycle?

How are issues of domestic and sexual violence handled in your legal system? If domestic violence has not yet been outlawed by your government, are there any plans to do so soon? What new laws has your country passed recently to protect women and improve their overall status in society?

How many civil and political rights do women exercise in your country? How well-represented are women in the respective branches and levels of government in your country? Has this representation of and by women increased in recent years?

What is the current employment situation for women in your country? Are women barred from working in certain industries or professions for legal, moral, or political reasons? How equally are women paid and promoted about their male counterparts in your country? Were women more adversely affected by the recent global recession than men in your country?

What is the situation in your country in regards to credit and access to capital for women? How has this situation been affected by the recent global recession?

How might the international community most effectively achieve universal ratification and acceptance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other relevant international agreements and conventions regarding gender justice and equality?

Guiding Questions of Position Papers

1. What actions has your nation made within the past decade in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 by 2030?
2. What are the current standings of women's rights within your nation on a broad scale?
3. Were there any long-lasting impacts on women's rights due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and if any, was it a positive step or a large setback in the fight for equality?
4. What economic solutions does your country propose that will help achieve gender equality by 2030? What role should the UN have in this action?
5. How does your nation usually vote when it comes to resolutions drafted within the UNWOMEN committee, and what aspects of these resolutions entice your nation to vote the way they have in the past?

Resource Review

United Nations Documents

United Nations Security Council. “Women and peace and security S/RES/1325.” October 31, 2000. : https://bit.ly/FHSMUN_1325

This landmark resolution launched the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, drawing attention to the impact of armed conflict on women and primarily promotes the participation of women in governance, conflict prevention and resolution, peace negotiation operations, and humanitarian planning. Delegates are encouraged to read this resolution to better understand the UN’s approach to incorporating “a different gender perspective” in peacekeeping and political representation, and also their citation of specific international laws to protect women's rights.

United Nations Security Council. “Women and peace and security S/RES/1820.” June 19, 2008. : https://bit.ly/FHSMUN_391_44

This resolution identifies and condemns sexual violence—particularly as a war crime—emphasizes methods of protecting civilians and discusses holding aggressors accountable. Through this resolution, delegates can gain a better understanding of international laws protecting women and use them to analyze recent country violations or conflicts. Looking at following resolution papers like resolutions 1888 and 1889, delegates can also see the UN’s attempts to monitor conflict through indicators and a special representative of the Secretary-General.

United Nations Security Council “Women and peace and security S/RES/2493.” 29 October, 2019. : https://bit.ly/FHSMUN_339_37

This is one of the most recent resolutions following the WPS agenda, including advocating for the full implementation of previous resolutions and promoting the civil, political, and economic rights of women. From this paper, delegates can find the ways the UN’s approach to meeting the WPS agenda has progressed for almost two decades, and analyze which methods have worked and which could be improved upon moving forward.

UN Women. “Strategic Plan 2022–2025.” 15 September 2021. : https://bit.ly/FHSMUN_186_22

This comprehensive plan identifies UN Women’s objectives and approaches for achieving gender equality and empowering women in the following years—including areas like politics, economics, and security—in the road to achieving the 2030 sustainable development goals. Furthermore, the document discusses the impact of COVID-19 in goals. Delegates can use this document to see the committee’s desired implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and reflect on lessons learned over the committee’s first decade, compare proposed goals with current progress in their countries, and debate the effectiveness of future policies.

