



SRMUN CHARLOTTE 2019
Redefining the Role of International Organizations in the New Global Era
March 28-30, 2019
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Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2019 and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). My name is Ann Cox, and I have the pleasure of serving as your Director for the CSW. This will be my first time as a SRMUN Charlotte staff member. In May of 2018, I graduated from Meredith College with a BA in International Studies and a concentration in Conflict Resolution as well as minors in Political Science and English. In the fall of 2019, I will be moving to the United Kingdom to pursue my MA in Conflict Transformation and Social Justice at Queens University Belfast. Our committee's Assistant Director is Desmond "Des" Woods. This is also Des's first time on staff, but his sixth time participating at SRMUN. He is pursuing a double degree in Political Science and History at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Established through the Economic and Social Council, the CSW is a specialized United Nations agency made up of 45 Member States that work for the equality of women and fairness in all aspects around the world. Currently in its 63rd session, emphasis has been placed on the sharing of experiences overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges. In the current session of the CSW, the committee is focused on the issue of empowering women and girls in rural areas globally.

By focusing on the mission of the CSW and the SRMUN Charlotte 2019 theme of "*Redefining the Role of International Organizations in the New Global Era*," we have developed the following topics for delegates to discuss at the conference:

- I. Ensuring Access to Environmentally Sustainable Technology for Women in Rural and Low-Income Areas
- II. Establishing Measures of Transitional Justice for Women

This background guide serves as an introduction to the committee and the topics to be debated at SRMUN Charlotte 2019. It should be utilized as a foundation for a delegate's independent research. However, while we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topics. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 8, 2019, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Des and I are honored and excited to be serving as your dais for the CSW. We wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to working with you in the near future. Please feel free to contact Director-General Zachary Greiger, Des, or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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Committee History of the Commission on the Status of Women

In 1945, the United Nations (UN) was founded to promote the principles of peace and justice, and equality, regardless of gender. The UN Charter reaffirms “faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small” and “promotes social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”¹ Four of 160 government officials (Bertha Lutz of Brazil, Wu Yi-Fang of China, Minerva Bernardino of the Dominican Republic, and Virginia Gildersleeve of the United States of America) succeeded in inscribing women’s rights in the founding document of the United Nations.²

Shortly after the establishment of the UN on 24 October 1945, women’s rights were at the forefront of discussion. During its inaugural meetings in February 1946, Eleanor Roosevelt, the first chairperson of the UN Commission on Human Rights, read an open letter wherein she called upon “the Governments of the world to encourage women everywhere to take a more active part in national and international affairs.”³ A few days later, the sub-commission dedicated to the Status of Women was created under the auspices of the Commission on Human Rights. This body later evolved into the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution II of 21 June 1946. Thus, CSW is a specialized agency that reports directly to the ECOSOC on the political, social, and economic development of women around the world.⁴ Further, the CSW reports on the advancement and status of women in the political, economic, social, and educational realms, as well as alerts the ECOSOC of any and all urgent or immediate concerns surrounding the issue of women’s rights.⁵

ECOSOC Resolution 1987/22 is known for expanding the terms of reference of the CSW to include the following functions: promoting the objectives of equality, development, and peace; monitoring and implementation of measure for the advancement of women; and reviewing and appraising progress made at the national, sub-regional, regional, sectoral and global level.⁶ Additionally, ECOSOC resolution 1996/6 followed up the Fourth World Conference on Women and mandated that the Platform for Action should be implemented through the work of all bodies and organizations of the UN and further defined identification methods regarding trends and issues affecting gender equality.⁷

Today, the CSW is a functional commission for the ECOSOC, with membership consisting of 45 Member States. Each Member State of the ECOSOC sends one representative to the annual session and serves a four-year term as the delegate of the CSW. The CSW consists of 13 Member States from Africa, 11 from Asia-Pacific, nine from Latin America and the Caribbean, eight from Western Europe and other States, and four from Eastern Europe.⁸ In addition, each CSW Member State elects a representative by region to serve on the CSW Bureau for two years.⁹ Being elected to the CSW Bureau makes the representatives responsible for setting the agenda of the annual session. The current five representatives are: Mr. Mauricio Carabali Baquero of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, Vice Chair; Ms. H.E. Geraldine Byrne Nelson of the Western European and other States Group, Chair; Ms. Koki Muli Grignon of the African Group, Vice Chair; Mr. Mohammed S. Marzooq of the Asia-Pacific States Group, Vice Chair; and Ms. Rena Tasuja of the Eastern European Group of States, Vice Chair.¹⁰

¹ United Nations, Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice, p. iii, iv and 3

² United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women, 2006, p1.

³ United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, p. 1

⁴ United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, p.1

⁵ United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, p.1

⁶ Resolution 1987-22. Economic and Social Council. 26 May 1987.

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/673/80/IMG/NR067380.pdf?OpenElement>.

⁷ Resolution 1996/6. Economic and Social Council. 22 July 1996. Follow up to the Fourth World Conference on Women. <http://www.un.org/documents/ecosoc/res/1996/eres1996-6.htm>.

⁸ United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session (2011)

⁹ United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women, Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session (2011)

¹⁰ Commission on the Status of Women, The Bureau, <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/index.html>

The CSW is a quintessential specialized agency of the UN system as it continues to work for the equality of women and fairness in all aspects around the world. The CSW has had success in its conventions, resolutions, and treaties. Among the CSW's landmark successes are The Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).¹¹

The CEDAW, the primary document resembling an international bill of rights for women, provided the first definition of discrimination against women as

“...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.”¹²

Member States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention are legally bound to its provisions, as well as commit to submitting yearly reports at least every four years regarding measures they have taken that comply with the treaty.¹³

Since its beginning in Mexico in 1975, the CSW has successfully sponsored the international World Conference on Women. In 1995, the CSW held its fourth conference in Beijing, which is known for its success in the creation of the Beijing Platform for Action which focused on 12 areas of concern.¹⁴ The 12 areas of concern include the following: (1) Women and Poverty; (2) Education and training of women; (3) Women and health; (4) Violence against women; (5) Women and armed conflict; (6) Women and the economy; (7) Women in power and decision-making; (8) Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; (9) Human rights of women; (10) Women and the media; (11) Women and the environment; and, (12) The girl child.¹⁵ The mission of the Beijing Platform for Action is to emphasize a working partnership between men and women thus creating equality, as well as to create a peaceful, just, and humane world based on human rights and fundamental freedoms.¹⁶

In 2000, the CSW acted as the Ad-hoc Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the 23rd special session of the General Assembly (Beijing+5). The outcome of the 44th session of the CSW and the 3rd session of the CSW acting as PrepCom resulted in the GA Special Session resolution titled “Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century.”¹⁷ In 2005, the CSW began its ten-year review also known as the Beijing+10 of the Beijing Platform for Action where the CSW adopted a Declaration on the occasion of the ten-year review. Member States reaffirmed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and pledged to ensure their full and accelerated implementation.¹⁸ Beijing+15, the fifteen-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action took place during the fifty-fourth session of the CSW in 2010 where emphasis was placed on the sharing of experiences and good practices and an emphasis on overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the completion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015.¹⁹

¹¹ “Overview.” UN Women. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/index.html#about>

¹² Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw>

¹³ Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw>

¹⁴ Commission on the Status of Women, Follow-up to Beijing, <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/critical.htm#beijing>

¹⁵ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

¹⁶ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, Platform for Action, <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/plat1.htm#objectives>

¹⁷ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Five Year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/beijing+5.htm>

¹⁸ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Ten-year review and appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/Review/english/49sess.htm>

¹⁹ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. 15-year review of the Beijing

Now in its 63rd Session, the CSW has culminated its status among UN committees as the only committee to address the breadth of issues associated with women's rights and gender equality. In the current session of the CSW, the committee has chosen for their focus to be placed on the issue of empowering women and girls in rural areas globally.

I. Ensuring Access to Environmentally Sustainable Technology for Women in Rural and Low-Income Areas

“The environment, after all, is where we all meet, where we all have a mutual interest. It is one thing that all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become.” — Lady Bird Johnson- First Lady of the United States, Environmentalist²⁰

Introduction

Around the world, climate change affects Member States and communities in many different ways, and has a particular effect on women. According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):

“Climate change has a greater impact on those sections of the population, in all countries, that are most reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods and/or who have the least capacity to respond to natural hazards, such as droughts, landslides, floods and hurricanes. Women commonly face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change in situations of poverty, and the majority of the world’s poor are women. Women’s unequal participation in decision-making processes and labour markets compound inequalities and often prevent women from fully contributing to climate-related planning, policy-making and implementation.”²¹

Thus, different solutions are required to address the many communities impacted. Additionally, as the dangers of climate change become more widely understood, the pressures to utilize sustainable technology have never been greater. However, access to such technologies is not even across communities. Socio-economic status, geography, and gender all play major roles in determining whether someone can have ready access to such technology.²² Women are especially vulnerable to the challenges of climate change and often have the least amount of access to environmentally-sensitive or sustainable technologies.²³

Women and Green Technology

When assessing the background of any issue relating to women, one crucial document is the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. At the Fourth World Conference on Women in 2000, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted, creating a major milestone in the promotion of women’s rights.²⁴ This landmark agreement detailed the ways in which gender discrimination affects women around the world. The Beijing Declaration marked the first time many of these issues facing women were addressed on a global scale. Notably, for the purposes of this committee, the resolution addressed the connection between gender, technology, and sustainability. Clause 35 of Annex One states the need to:

“Ensure women’s equal access to economic resources, including land, credit, science and technology, vocational training, information, communication and markets, as a means to further the advancement and empowerment of women and girls, including through the enhancement of their capacities to enjoy the benefits of equal access to these resources, inter alia, by means of international cooperation”²⁵

The resolution goes on to discuss the importance of “equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor, particularly women living in poverty, and that utilizing environmental resources

²⁰ Lady Bird Johnson, *A White House Diary*. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2007), 581.

²¹ “Introduction to Gender and Climate Change.” United Nations Climate Change, 2018. <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/the-big-picture/introduction-to-gender-and-climate-change>

²² “Gender.” Climate Technology Centre & Network <https://www.ctc-n.org/technology-sectors/gender> (accessed November 7, 2018)

²³ “Gender.” Climate Technology Centre & Network <https://www.ctc-n.org/technology-sectors/gender> (accessed November 7, 2018)

²⁴ “2016 Official Documents.” UN Women. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/previous-sessions/csw60-2016/official-documents> (accessed November 7, 2018)

²⁵ Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women. October 17, 1995. Article 25. <http://www.un.org/esa/gopher-data/conf/fwcw/off/a--20.en> (accessed November 7, 2018)

sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development.”²⁶ With the commitment to ensure that women’s unique needs were not left behind in green innovations, many UN organizations, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that finance and support sustainability initiatives assumed the mission of “mainstreaming gender,” defined by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as “promoting environmental, social, economic and development co-benefits and taking a gender-sensitive approach.”²⁷ Acknowledging that men and women experience the effects of climate change differently naturally leads to the need for a different approach to the spread of sustainable technological resources. This encompasses the diverse needs of women who are often left out of the decision-making process. Many organizations like GCF have also prioritized making more women a part of the decision-making process in terms of funding for community development, legislation, and other factors that impact the spread of sustainably technologies.²⁸ Several Member States have already seen successes with training programs in East African Member States where women can learn to become solar technicians, not only connecting their communities to sustainable electricity, but also giving them promising job skills.²⁹ Such programs and outcomes demonstrate that when local communities partner with NGOs, communities create more sustainable human and resource capital.

As climate change affects communities around the world, the access gap to green technologies disproportionately affects women, hindering national and regional responses to climate change. Women spend three times the amount of time engaged in domestic labor compared to men.³⁰ Due to the lack of modern appliances in low-income, rural communities, women rely heavily on manual labor and raw materials to survive and provide for their families.³¹ In impoverished regions, tasks like collecting firewood, using dangerous coal-burning stoves, and collecting water several miles away are increasingly hazardous as climate shifts take effect.³² According to UN Women, “innovation and technology provide unprecedented opportunities to break trends and reach those who are the most likely to be left behind.”³³ Additionally, unequal access to education and job training means that women often lack the human capital resources to adapt to different economic and environmental challenges, such as environmental degradation, best practices in resources management, and how to apply innovative technologies to everyday problems.³⁴ Finally, since women are often left out of the decision-making process, UN Women claims the dispersion of green technologies to women are overlooked, reducing the availability of the environmentally-sound technological resources women need to succeed.³⁵

In societies where women are expected to maintain the majority of domestic labor, sustainable and safe household technologies are often undervalued as an important element of the push for sustainable technological development. A 2000 progress report from The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) found that, since women generally have access to fewer economic resources when compared to men, they are more dependent on the resources (such as bodies of water, farm land, and forests), threatened by climate change. The Report further states that “as climate refugees, [women] will also be more than proportionately affected. Moreover, it is women who bear the burden of caring for the sick, and in that increased levels of sickness are to be expected, the cost will largely be borne by women.”³⁶ Thus, the intersections of gender, income status, and geography must be considered as

²⁶ Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women. October 17, 1995. Article 26.

²⁷ “Mainstreaming Gender.” Green Climate Fund <https://www.greenclimate.fund/how-we-work/mainstreaming-gender> (accessed November 7, 2018)

²⁸ “Gender Action in Practice.” Green Climate Fund, <https://www.greenclimate.fund/how-we-work/mainstreaming-gender/gender-action-in-practice> (accessed November 7, 2018)

²⁹ “Case Study.” Green Climate Fund, <https://www.greenclimate.fund/how-we-work/mainstreaming-gender/gender-action-in-practice> (accessed November 7, 2018)

³⁰ “The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018.” United Nations Statistics Division, June 20, 2018. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2018/the-sustainable-development-goals-report-2018.pdf>

³¹ “The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018.” United Nations Statistics Division, June 20, 2018. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2018/the-sustainable-development-goals-report-2018.pdf>

³² “Mainstreaming Gender.” Green Climate Fund <https://www.greenclimate.fund/how-we-work/mainstreaming-gender> (accessed November 7, 2018)

³³ “Innovation and Technology.” UN Women. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/innovation-and-technology> (accessed November 7, 2018)

³⁴ Wamukonya and Skutsch, “Is There a Gender Angle to the Climate Change Negotiations?” *ENERGIA* (2001): 16-27

³⁵ Wamukonya and Skutsch, “Is There a Gender Angle to the Climate Change Negotiations?” *ENERGIA* (2001): 16-27

³⁶ Wamukonya and Skutsch, “Is There a Gender Angle to the Climate Change Negotiations?” *ENERGIA* (2001): 16-27.

technological solutions to environmental destruction are explored. CTCN, which is a leading partner of the UN Environment Programme and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), defines environmentally-sound technology as “technological resources that are not only low in carbon emissions, but also resistant to the damages brought about by harshening environmental conditions” such as more frequent natural disasters, extreme droughts, and sea-level rise.³⁷ One significant example is high-quality solar panels, which are durable and provide energy in a sustainable fashion.³⁸ However, solar units for individual households are cost-prohibitive and not widely available around the world making them, like many other sustainable technologies, largely inaccessible for those in rural and low-income areas.³⁹

With many of these access gaps taking place in agrarian societies where women perform both agricultural and domestic roles, the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has also prioritized gender equality in the implementation of sustainable agriculture practices.⁴⁰ FAO’s 2011 State of The World Agriculture Report concludes:

“Both men and women working in the agriculture sectors need to understand climate-smart agriculture and its benefits if the practices are to be accepted in the developing world. Benefits include improved productivity, better livelihoods, increased incomes and adaptation options for coping with uncertainty due to the changing climate.”⁴¹

Through their Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture Module, FAO clarifies the problems unique to women in agrarian societies and how to create sustainable solutions for them. The module explains that agricultural innovations in technologies and strategies do not “necessarily [consider] the different accessibility, relevance, and impacts of these technologies for women and men.”⁴² The module goes on to discuss technological innovations that can meet the specific needs of women who bear the burden of domestic labor coupled with their roles in agricultural development, such as sustainable fuel alternatives that can mitigate the need for firewood collection.⁴³ The results are twofold: fewer health problems and respiratory illnesses for the women and girls handling these fuel alternatives, and a decrease in the smoke and gas emissions that are harmful to the environment and accelerate CO₂ emissions.⁴⁴ These and other sustainable agricultural technology innovations described in their module keep in mind the unique needs of women and girls. They show small and large-scale positive results to the individuals and their communities where these technologies have been incorporated.⁴⁵

Current Situation

In the past few years alone, the UN has created a particularly powerful measure towards achieving equitable access to sustainability. In the historic 2015 Sustainable Development Summit, the UN adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to reduce global poverty by 2030.⁴⁶ Sustainable development is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet

³⁷ “Climate Technology Centre & Network Homepage.” Climate Technology Centre and Network. <https://www.ctc-n.org/> (accessed November 7, 2018)

³⁸ “Pioneering Power.” Climate Technology Centre & Network, August 27, 2018. <https://www.ctc-n.org/resources/pioneering-power-transforming-lives-through-grid-renewable-electricity-africa-and-asia>

³⁹ “Climate Technology Centre & Network Homepage.” Climate Technology Centre & Network. <https://www.ctc-n.org/> (accessed November 7, 2018)

⁴⁰ “Gender: Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture (MICCA) Programme” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2018 <http://www.fao.org/in-action/micca/knowledge/gender/en/>

⁴¹ “Gender: Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture (MICCA) Programme” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2018 <http://www.fao.org/in-action/micca/knowledge/gender/en/>

⁴² “Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2015 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf>

⁴³ “Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2015 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf>

⁴⁴ “Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2015 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf>

⁴⁵ “Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2015 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf>

⁴⁶ “The Sustainable Development Agenda.” Sustainable Development Goals. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/> (accessed November 7, 2018)

their own.”⁴⁷ The SDGs are made up of 169 targets that seek to address the root causes of poverty within a range of economic, social, and environmental challenges.⁴⁸ SDG 5 aims to “end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere,” which includes all forms of economic disparities and violence.⁴⁹ In particular, Goal 5.B seeks to increase access to technology for women around the world, specifically communication devices, such as cellular phones.⁵⁰

Assessing the overall progress of Goal 5, there have been some successes since its adoption. Child marriage rates are decreasing, and clitoral mutilation is on the decline.⁵¹ However, the progress is slower than originally hoped.⁵² For example, the number of women in managerial positions was only 10 percentage points higher in 2017 than in 2000, according to the available data from 67 Member States.⁵³ This exemplifies the difficult truth, demonstrated in current trajectories, that the SDGs will not be met by 2030 without renewed implementation efforts.⁵⁴ This is also true regarding SDG 7, the goal to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” by the year 2030.⁵⁵ These stagnating numbers show that the gender equitable spread of sustainable technology is not on track to be achieved within the current timeline without increased efforts.

Following the adoption of the SDGs in 2016, the CSW made the theme for its 60th session the link between sustainable development and women’s empowerment.⁵⁶ This session served to flesh out the gender considerations in sustainable development, affirm CSW’s commitment to the SDGs, and establish NGO partnerships to promote Goal 5 in particular.⁵⁷ Regarding technology, only the equal legal right of women to access technologies was discussed, though plans to ensure access to sustainable technology were not addressed.⁵⁸ However, this session clearly established a momentum and platform to address this issue through continued implementation of the SDGs and partnerships with NGOs.

Case Studies: Southern and Eastern Africa and Latin America

A 2016 UN Women report details programs and initiatives aimed at providing women with the technologies needed for both more productive agriculture and more sustainable communities.⁵⁹ The general goals of these programs are “raising agricultural productivity, increasing incomes, improving food security, and reducing the burden on women in agriculture.”⁶⁰ One way the UN Women programs in Eastern and Southern African (ESA) Member States have

⁴⁷ “The Sustainable Development Agenda.” Sustainable Development Goals.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/> (accessed November 7, 2018).

⁴⁸ “Frequently Asked Questions” Sustainable Development Goals. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/> (accessed November 7, 2018).

⁴⁹ “Sustainable Development Goal 5.” Sustainable Development Goals. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5> (accessed November 7, 2018).

⁵⁰ “Targets and Indicators: Sustainable Development Goal 5.” Sustainable Development Goals <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5> (accessed November 7, 2018).

⁵¹ “Targets and Indicators: Sustainable Development Goal 5.” Sustainable Development Goals <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5> (accessed November 7, 2018).

⁵² “Progress and Info (2017): Sustainable Development Goal 5.” Sustainable Development Goals <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5> (accessed November 7, 2018).

⁵³ “Progress and Info (2017): Sustainable Development Goal 5.” Sustainable Development Goals <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5> (accessed November 7, 2018).

⁵⁴ “Innovation and Technology.” UN Women. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/innovation-and-technology> (accessed November 7, 2018)

⁵⁵ “Sustainable Development Goal 7.” Sustainable Development Goals <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7> (accessed November 7, 2018).

⁵⁶ “Commission on the Status of Women.” UN Women <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw> (accessed November 7, 2018)

⁵⁷ “2016 Official Documents.” UN Women. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/previous-sessions/csw60-2016/official-documents> (accessed November 7, 2018)

⁵⁸ United Nations Economic and Social Council Women’s Empowerment and the Links to Sustainable Development. E/CN.6/2016/3-E, December 31, 2015. <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2016/3>

⁵⁹ “Technologies for Rural Women in Africa.” UN Women Africa <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/04/technologies-for-rural-women-in-africa#view> (accessed December 9, 2018)

⁶⁰ “Policy Brief: Technologies for Rural Women in Africa” United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2016. <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20africa/attachments/publications/2016/03/tech%20for%20rural%20women%20policy%20brief-web.pdf?la=en&vs=1726>

addressed this is by promoting the adoption of technologies specifically designed with rural and low-income women in mind, such as time-saving and affordable cookware for their households, more efficient “post-harvest” technologies (such as presses that yield higher quality flour with less manual labor), and storage that can withstand a variety of climates.⁶¹ By investing in the mass-production of such technologies, UN Women and their partners in these Member States have been able to see the spread of these innovative technologies and practices.⁶² Yet, the report explains that there are many factors that limit female farmers from adopting new, productive, and sustainable technologies, such as land rights.⁶³ The report suggests that merely giving women the technologies needed to yield more productively is not enough; it is also vital to address these aforementioned root causes of inequality as well.

Additionally, UN Women and the United Nations Environmental Programme’s (UNEP) Poverty-Environment Initiative have partnered with local governments to help introduce sustainable agricultural initiatives in villages through women-led organizations.⁶⁴ One striking example of the initiative’s success has been in a Rwandan village called Kabeza. Significant increases in agricultural productivity and water access have been seen with the promotion of rainwater harvest methods, biogas residue as fertilizer, and “climate proofing” tree-planting to 200 local villagers—62 percent of whom were women.⁶⁵ As UNEP’s Poverty-Environment Initiative prepares to expand these programs to other Member States outside of the ESA region, these are the “critical interventions” that will inform the ongoing agenda: “Area-based approach for technology promotion (policy and investments, extension services, demand-driven research and development technology transfer, financial services) women farmers to design interventions with local authorities, reduce taxation on women’s technologies, policymakers to be rural technology champions.”⁶⁶ Considering how to apply these lessons to different regions, situations, and communities around the world is crucial to seeing the success of ensuring access to sustainable technologies for women worldwide.

In Latin American Member States, in response to the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, the World Green Building Council is an organization dedicated to the promotion of green buildings around the world, particularly in metropolitan areas.⁶⁷ They recently released a report of success in Latin American cities where women have taken the lead. This report found that in Latin America, a disproportionately large number of women are CEO’s of Green Building Councils (GBC), companies dedicated to the development of energy efficient infrastructure. As one of the fastest growing and urbanizing parts of the world, Central and South America have proven to be havens for cross-sector collaboration for building green structures, with such features as solar panels, urban gardens, and the use of recycled materials in high demand. In Peru, for example, the Green Bonds program, whose CEO is a woman,

⁶¹ Policy Brief: Technologies for Rural Women in Africa" United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2016. <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20africa/attachments/publications/2016/03/tech%20for%20rural%20women%20policy%20brief-web.pdf?la=en&vs=1726>

⁶² “Policy Brief: Technologies for Rural Women in Africa" United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2016. <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20africa/attachments/publications/2016/03/tech%20for%20rural%20women%20policy%20brief-web.pdf?la=en&vs=1726>

⁶³ Policy Brief: Technologies for Rural Women in Africa" United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2016. <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20africa/attachments/publications/2016/03/tech%20for%20rural%20women%20policy%20brief-web.pdf?la=en&vs=1726>

⁶⁴ “Policy Brief: Technologies for Rural Women in Africa" United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2016. <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20africa/attachments/publications/2016/03/tech%20for%20rural%20women%20policy%20brief-web.pdf?la=en&vs=1726>

⁶⁵ Policy Brief: Technologies for Rural Women in Africa" United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2016. <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20africa/attachments/publications/2016/03/tech%20for%20rural%20women%20policy%20brief-web.pdf?la=en&vs=1726>

⁶⁶ “Policy Brief: Technologies for Rural Women in Africa" United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2016. <http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20africa/attachments/publications/2016/03/tech%20for%20rural%20women%20policy%20brief-web.pdf?la=en&vs=1726>

⁶⁷ “Juanita Alvarez, “Improving Buildings and Lives Across Latin America – with Women as Leaders,” World Green Building Council. World Green Building Council, November 12, 2018, <https://www.worldgbc.org/news-media/improving-buildings-and-lives-across-latin-america-%E2%80%93-with-women-leaders>. (accessed December 9, 2018).

specifically finances the building of green buildings, a large number of projects being headed by women.⁶⁸ Through seminars, conferences, and grant initiatives specifically for women in this industry, these programs have managed to create decreases in both emissions and electricity bills.⁶⁹ The report predicts that, in the coming years, millions of homes, not just corporate structures, will see the same progress in lower emissions and cheaper costs of living due to reduced energy costs. That is an important next step for these organizations: ensuring that these projects manage to spread to women of all walks of life, not just those in CEO positions. Taking these successes in wealthy urban environments and spreading them to low-income areas is crucial, not only in Latin America, but across emerging urban centers worldwide.

Conclusion

These case studies and results of the SDGs show that some progress has been made to addressing the issue of accessibility to sustainable technologies. However, the setbacks indicate the importance of focusing on the structural root causes of inequity in addition to ensuring the spread of sustainable technologies. It is crucial to learn from both the successes and failures of the SDGs, UN Women, NGOs, and corporations. Collaboration between the sectors often yields positive results, such as the successes in SEA UN Women has had in collaboration with local governments and the success corporations have had in creating green urban centers with women at the helm. Finally, there are many organizations doing work towards promoting sustainable technology or women's equity. Ensuring that program with one of these goals in mind can incorporate the other will be crucial, as much success has come from when environmental organizations specifically consider the specific rights of women and vice versa. The pivotal question for Member States is: how to expand regional successes, learn from the setbacks of the SDGs, and foster cross-sector collaboration are pivotal takeaways in reaching these goals?

Committee Directive

The Commission on the Status of Women, in conjunction with such other agencies as FAO and GCF, has utilized the SDGs to lay the groundwork to address disparities for women accessing sustainable technologies, particularly in rural and low-income communities. However, the actualization of accessible sustainable technology for all is still hypothetical. Additionally, addressing the root causes is also an important step in achieving this goal. The problems have been acknowledged and addressed by smaller-scale, regional partnerships, but what actions can this committee take to attain this goal by 2030 and sustain these practices beyond this deadline?

It is imperative that this committee assess the current plans of action to expand and quicken the spread of sustainable technology. What actions can this committee take to speed the implementation of the sub-goals within the SDGs to meet the 2030 deadline? How can CSW build upon regional successes and apply lessons learned and best practiced through all Member States? How can CSW utilize existing channels by learning from and partnering with NGOs that are already doing work related to women's empowerment and sustainable technology? What new policies and programs can address the underlying causes of inaccessibility, such as land rights and the costs of domestic labor? How can sustainability projects better incorporate the issue of gender and women's rights organizations into their environmentally sustainable agendas? What new policies could be instituted to further support this goal? It is the committee's directive to review and establish recommendations in the hopes of outlining specific steps to be taken in order to continue to ensure that sustainable technologies are accessible for all women everywhere.

⁶⁹ "Juanita Alvarez, "Improving Buildings and Lives Across Latin America – with Women as Leaders," World Green Building Council. World Green Building Council, November 12, 2018, <https://www.worldgbc.org/news-media/improving-buildings-and-lives-across-latin-america-%E2%80%93-with-women-leaders>. (accessed Decemeber 29, 2018).

II. Establishing Measures of Transitional Justice for Women

*“For many women, peace ushers in neither security nor justice. It simply means the continuance of violence by other means.”- Lakshmi Puri- Deputy Executive Director, UN Women*⁷⁰

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) identifies the term Transitional Justice as “the full range of processes and mechanisms associated with a society’s attempt to come to terms with a legacy of large-scale past abuses, to ensure accountability, serve justice and achieve reconciliation.”⁷¹ In most cases, Transitional Justice is the result of wars that have either de-escalated significantly or have reached a truce. Criminal justice is different than transitional justice because the goal is not simply to deliver punishments on the assailants of the human rights violations. While the consequences of political conflicts, war, and state violence affect all people in the region that it is occurring, one group of people that are disproportionately affected by conflict are women.⁷² In many global and regional conflicts, women experience some of the harshest effects of war.⁷³ These effects include sexual assault, rape, loss of household income (due to their husbands being removed to fight and women not being allowed to work).⁷⁴ In many societies that are in a post-conflict era, women are still not part of the peace and reconciliation process, and, therefore, not able to participate in the reconstruction efforts.⁷⁵ The result of this is that more women are not provided the necessary tools or ability to attain equitable justice for themselves.⁷⁶

History

While transitional justice was not a commonplace term in international and academic circles until the 1980’s, the concept and practices that encompass the term have been used for decades.⁷⁷ One of the first examples of this comes from the post-World War II period. During this time, the Allied Forces (China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America) established the International Military Tribunal. These tribunals served as an international court to indict and criminalize leaders in the Nazi and Japanese war leaders.⁷⁸ According to many international historians, these cases were the catalyst for transitional justice. Momentum on the subject increased again throughout the 1980s when a significant amount of international human rights advocacy organizations began to arise, followed by the creation of a number of human rights conventions and laws.⁷⁹

Historically, one of the tools that women groups utilize to bring to light the atrocities committed against them during war, as well as to call upon the international community to pay attention to these incidents, is through the use of tribunals.⁸⁰ In this case, tribunals occur when a disenfranchised group, comes together to create a public space in which they can share their stories and create a call to action to be taken. As a result, such violations become less

⁷⁰ “A Window of Opportunity: Making Transitional Justice Work for Women.” UN Women.

<http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2012/10/06B-Making-Transitional-Justice-Work-for-Women.pdf> (Accessed October 13, 2018).

⁷¹ Guidance Notes of the Secretary- General: United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice 2010.

⁷² “A Window of Opportunity: Making Transitional Justice Work for Women.” UN Women.

<http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2012/10/06B-Making-Transitional-Justice-Work-for-Women.pdf> (Accessed October 13, 2018).

⁷³ Guidance Notes of the Secretary- General: United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice 2010.

⁷⁴ Guidance Notes of the Secretary- General: United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice 2010.

⁷⁵ Guidance Notes of the Secretary- General: United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice 2010.

⁷⁶ http://www.swisspeace.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Media/Publications/Journals_Articles/Publications_by_staff/Sissonn_Jonathan_Dealing_with_the_Past_and_Transitional_Justice.pdf

⁷⁷ Parvez Besmel and Alex Alvarez. “Transitional Justice and the Legacy of Nuremberg: The Promise and Problems of Confronting Atrocity in Post-Conflict Societies.” *Genocide Studies International* 11, no. 2 (2017): 182-196. <https://muse.jhu.edu/> (accessed December 21, 2018).

⁷⁸ “Nuremberg Trial Proceedings Vol. 1 Charter of the International Military Tribunal,” <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/imtconst.asp>. (accessed December 19, 2018)

⁷⁹ “Nuremberg Trial Proceedings Vol. 1 Charter of the International Military Tribunal,” <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/imtconst.asp>. (accessed December 19, 2018)

⁸⁰ “History of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.” Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. <https://www.chrt-tcdp.gc.ca/about/history-of-the-tribunal-en.html>. (Accessed January 05, 2019)

common, violence is reduced, and communities transition from states of war to peacetime.⁸¹ While these tribunals have no real judicial powers in regards to forcing state sanctions and indictments, they serve as a powerful tools for women, due to the attention of the global community and observing Member States, who assist them in holding their home governments accountable to their voices.⁸²

One specific tribunal that occurred post-conflict was the Women's International War Crime Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery.⁸³ This organization, formed by the Violence against Women in War-Network Japan, served the purpose of gathering testimonies from victims of gender-based crimes that occurred during times of war in Japan, which would lead to charges, ranging from rape to sexual slavery, the crime of which was forced sexual service to Japanese soldiers. The catalyst for this tribunal dates back to 1988 when Korean professor Yun Chung-Ok began to heavily research and discover hundreds of stories of women who were alive during the World War II era. These women were sexually assaulted and, in some cases, forced into prostitution. After many Asian-Pacific women's rights groups learned of these crimes they began to collect the stories and seek judicial rectification in their respective Member States. As many state governments denied the allegations and did not seek formal prosecutions, the women then went to the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1992 and the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights in 1993. While these women were heard on an international stage, the men were still not charged of any crimes. This led to the eventual establishment of the tribunals. During this four-day tribunal, legal teams from 10 different Member States convened in Tokyo and brought charges upon different Japanese and other Asian military leaders from the World War II era. It concluded with the recognition of moral charges brought against these men, one of which was Emperor Hirohito.

Current Situation

One of the first landmark actions taken by the UN towards securing transitional justice for women globally was the adoption of Resolution 1325 by the Security Council.⁸⁴ Passed on 31 October 2000, this Resolution's main goal was to reaffirm the significance of women in the prevention of violence and rebuilding post-conflict communities.⁸⁵ This includes empowering women through inclusion in peace negotiations and dispersion of humanitarian aid.⁸⁶ Resolution 1325 also "calls on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict," and created the Interagency Taskforce on Women, Peace, and Security.⁸⁷ This taskforce includes members from NGO's such as The Hague Appeal for Peace, International Alert, International Women's Tribune Center, Women's Commission on Refugees, Women International's League for Peace and Freedom, and Amnesty International. Intergovernmental are also a part of the taskforces, ranging from the UN Development Programme to the Women's Committee on Refugee Women to Children. Both the IGOs and NGOs work to implement Resolution 1325 through assessment checklists, sending briefing notes to the UN Secretary General (UNSG), and analyzing the gender content of the UNSG's reports given to the Security Council.⁸⁸

⁸¹ "History of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal." <https://www.chrt-tcdp.gc.ca/about/history-of-the-tribunal-en.html>. (Accessed January 05, 2019)

⁸² "History of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal." <https://www.chrt-tcdp.gc.ca/about/history-of-the-tribunal-en.html>. (Accessed January 05, 2019)

⁸³ Chinkin, Christine M. "Women's International Tribunal on Japanese Military Sexual Slavery." *The American Journal of International Law* 95, no. 2 (2001): 335-41. doi:10.2307/2661399.

⁸⁴ "Landmark Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (Security Council Resolution 1325)." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>. (Accessed November 11, 2018)

⁸⁵ Dina Francesca Haynes, Naomi Cahn, and Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, *Women in the Post-Conflict Process: Reviewing the Impact of Recent UN Actions in Achieving Gender Centrality*, 11 *Santa Clara J. Int'l L.* 189 (2012), available at http://scholarship.law.umn.edu/faculty_articles/100.

⁸⁶ Dina Francesca Haynes, Naomi Cahn, and Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, *Women in the Post-Conflict Process: Reviewing the Impact of Recent UN Actions in Achieving Gender Centrality*. http://scholarship.law.umn.edu/faculty_articles/100.

⁸⁷ "Landmark Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (Security Council Resolution 1325)." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/> (Accessed November 11, 2018.)

⁸⁸ "Landmark Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (Security Council Resolution 1325)." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/> (Accessed November 11, 2018.)

A subsequent resolution, Security Council Resolution 1820, was passed as a follow-up to Resolution 1325 in 2008.⁸⁹ Resolution 1820 mirrors Resolution 1325 in some ways but lays out in more detail what constitutes war crimes against women. For example, Resolution 1820 states that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, or a constitutive act with respect to genocide, stresses the need for the exclusion of sexual violence crimes from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes, and calls upon Member States to comply with their obligations for prosecuting persons responsible for such acts.⁹⁰

Finally, Security Council Resolutions 1888 and 1960 were also passed.⁹¹ These resolutions act as a supplement to past SC resolutions addressing transitional justice by reiterating that sexual violence worsens armed conflict and creates additional challenges to achieve peace and security. Resolution 1888 also calls for the deployment of international violence experts in sexual violence cases during post conflict times, while Resolution 1960 called for a monitoring and reporting framework to be able to track these sexual violence acts in conflicts.⁹²

Since the passage of Resolution 1325, the Secretary-General's Office has made efforts to address women's involvement in transitional justice. In March 2010, then Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon released guidance notes concerning the UN's approach to transitional justice. In the report, the Secretary-General lays out a framework of principles on how all UN bodies should address challenges concerning transitional justice. The fourth principle of the main guiding principles of the new proposed UN approach to transitional justice is "Striving to Ensure Women's Rights."⁹³ This principle reiterates that gender inequality is the most pervasive form of societal inequality and intensifies during times of conflict and situations where human rights violations are prevalent.⁹⁴ In addition, it goes on to state that transitional justice will only be successful if women are part of the conversations and policies are implemented, such as the creation of prosecution initiatives that are responsible for punishing those who commit gender-specific abuses against women and young girls.⁹⁵

The UN has also taken actions to encourage specific Member States to incorporate women into peace talks.⁹⁶ In 2016, former Assistant Secretary-General of the UN John Hendra called upon the Afghan Government and leaders to increase the presence and role of women in the Afghan government, with the intention of ensuring that women are involved in the process of negotiation with the Taliban.⁹⁷ While the Member State does have the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, which was created under the guidance of UN General Assembly Resolution 48/134, many of the assailants brought under investigation for human rights violations against women are freed without much consequence.⁹⁸ One of the main concerns of the UN and Afghan advocacy groups is that if women are not part of the peace talks, their human rights will not be considered as part of a ceasefire deal.⁹⁹ According to Assistant Secretary-General Hendra, "a lot of evidence shows that when women are very engaged, then the peace is more sustainable, the peace is more productive, and stability is much more lasting."¹⁰⁰

⁸⁹ Landmark Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (Security Council Resolution 1325). <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/> (Accessed November 11, 2018.)

⁹⁰ Landmark Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (Security Council Resolution 1325). <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/> (Accessed November 11, 2018.)

⁹¹ Landmark Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (Security Council Resolution 1325). <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/> (Accessed November 11, 2018.)

⁹² Landmark Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (Security Council Resolution 1325). <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/> (Accessed November 11, 2018.)

⁹³ Guidance Notes of the Secretary-General: United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice 2010.

⁹⁴ Guidance Notes of the Secretary-General: United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice 2010.

⁹⁵ Guidance Notes of the Secretary-General: United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice 2010.

⁹⁶ "Women's Inclusion in Peace Process Critical for Successful Transition in Afghanistan: John Hendra." UN Women. 2013. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/10/john-hendra-speech-in-kabul-on-women-peace-and-security>. (Accessed October 20, 2018)

⁹⁷ "Women's Inclusion in Peace Process Critical for Successful Transition in Afghanistan: John Hendra." <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/10/john-hendra-speech-in-kabul-on-women-peace-and-security>. (Accessed October 20, 2018)

⁹⁸ "Afghanistan & Transitional Justice." International Center for Transitional Justice. June 13, 2018. <https://www.ictj.org/our-work/regions-and-countries/afghanistan>. (Accessed October 15, 2018)

⁹⁹ "Afghanistan & Transitional Justice." <https://www.ictj.org/our-work/regions-and-countries/afghanistan>. (Accessed October 15, 2018)

¹⁰⁰ "United Nations Calls for Women's Role in Peace Process." TOLONews. October 5, 2013. <https://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/united-nations-calls-womens-role-peace-process>. (Accessed December 06, 2018)

There has been a mixture of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs) that have missions to advocate for transitional justice. One example of a NGO is the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). The purpose of the ICTJ is to work alongside Member States that are currently under conflict and historically have had low participation of women involved in local governments.¹⁰¹ The ICTJ's influence is due to its many branches in these areas of conflict around the world.¹⁰² Their tactics include having a mix of different international diplomacy experts, legal analysts, lawyers, and social justice advocates. The organization works with women in the areas and teaches them how to document the atrocities, as well as to empower themselves to make change.¹⁰³ For example, in 2001-2002, the ICTJ provided embedded technical assistance to a public prosecutor in Guatemala so that the process of prosecuting human rights violators in the Member State would be efficient and faster. The result was that more cases were pushed through the court system.¹⁰⁴ Another example of this can be seen in 2012 when the ICTJ provided legal counseling and assistance to prosecutors so they could properly bring charges against the Guatemalan dictator Jose Efraim Rios Montt.¹⁰⁵ Finally, the ICTJ also works with external organizations to publish reports on the subject. In 2012, the ICTJ and the European Union published the *Handbook on Complementarity: An Introduction to the Role of National Courts and the ICC in Prosecuting International Crimes*, a detailed report written for non-legal experts so that the common person can understand the criminal process of how human right violators are prosecuted.¹⁰⁶

Historical Examples

One historical example of the inclusion of women in the transitional justice process is the Troubles. This conflict occurred in Northern Ireland and lasted from the late 1960's to 1998. The conflict's origin was a disagreement over whether Northern Ireland should be annexed from the United Kingdom (UK). This led to three decades of violence between the two sides. The conflict ended in 1998, when a ceasefire was negotiated between the IRA and the British Government in the Belfast Agreement. Even though a group called the Northern Ireland Forum was created between Ireland and the UK to negotiate the terms of the agreement, no women were originally included in the Forum. Their exclusion led a group of women leaders in the region to create the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition (NIWC).¹⁰⁷ Through campaigning and protests, the NIWC was able to get two women elected to the Forum. Even though they were the only female representatives amongst 108 men, they were able to get amendments into the agreement such as mixed housing, youth empowerment, and gender equity.¹⁰⁸

Another example of a Member State that involved women in the post-conflict transitional justice process is Rwanda. The Rwandan Genocide was a state-wide conflict that occurred between the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and the Armed Forces of Rwanda, along with the state-sponsored *Interahamwe* and *Impuzamugambi* militias, whom carried out the majority of the killings.¹⁰⁹ Human rights violations were committed against minority Tutsi community and moderate Hutus living in Rwanda, and the near eradication of the Tutsi People as a result.¹¹⁰ One of the primary

¹⁰¹ "About the International Center for Transitional Justice." <https://www.ictj.org/about>. (Accessed October 15, 2018)

¹⁰² "About the International Center for Transitional Justice." October 01, 2018. <https://www.ictj.org/about>. (Accessed October 15, 2018)

¹⁰³ "About the International Center for Transitional Justice." <https://www.ictj.org/about>. (Accessed October 15, 2018)

¹⁰⁴ "ICTJ: Conviction of Ríos Montt on Genocide a Victory for Justice in Guatemala, and Everywhere | ICTJ." International Center for Transitional Justice. May 11, 2013. <https://www.ictj.org/news/ictj-conviction-rios-montt-genocide-victory-justice-guatemala-and-everywhere>. (Accessed October 20, 2018)

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¹⁰⁶ Seils, Paul. "Handbook on Complementarity: An Introduction to the Role of National Courts and the ICC in Prosecuting International Crimes." International Center of Transitional Justice. https://www.ictj.org/sites/default/files/ICTJ_Handbook_ICC_Complementarity_2016.pdf. (Accessed October 18, 2018)

¹⁰⁷ Molinari Véronique. Putting Women in the Picture: The Impact of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition on Northern Irish Politics. In: *Études irlandaises*, n°32 n°1, 2007. pp. 109-126.

¹⁰⁸ Molinari Veronique, pp. 109-126.

¹⁰⁹ "United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals." The ICTR in Brief | United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. <http://unictr.irmct.org/en/genocide>. (Accessed December 08, 2018)

¹¹⁰ "Dealing with the Past and Transitional Justice: Creating Conditions for Peace, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law." Dealing with the Past Series, 2006.

offenses committed was the killing and sexual assault of hundreds of thousands of Rwandan women.¹¹¹ Many women were victims of rape, genital mutilation, sexual slavery, forced marriage, and in many cases, murder.¹¹² Almost all who fought in the war were men, leaving the Member State with a 70 percent female population.¹¹³ As a result, leaders in the Rwandan Government noticed and recognized the crucial need for women to be involved in the nation rebuilding, including its economy and political infrastructure.¹¹⁴ Rwanda established a new constitution in 2003, which affirmed gender equality as a basic human right.¹¹⁵ Further, the constitution states that 30 percent of all government positions must be filled by women.¹¹⁶ Rwandan government has also made progress with reducing the legal loopholes that would allow sexual assault criminals to be acquitted. As of 2017, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ranks the Rwandan Parliament alongside Bolivia as the only Member States that have as many women in their government as they do men.¹¹⁷ This has led to the creation of many programs such as Women for Women International that has helped more than 75,000 women in Rwanda to become more self-sufficient and economic leaders.¹¹⁸ None of these changes would have been possible without the perspective of women, first in the TJ process and then within the national government.

Conclusion

There has been progress made with inclusion of women in the peace building process, which has led to more women in local and statewide governments, and harsher sentences and fewer acquittals for gender based violence offenders. However, there is still much more to be completed. Even though Member States such as Rwanda have been able to make substantial changes, there are many Member States going through the post-conflict stage of rebuilding that are not including women in the crucial process. While there are multiple organizations, such as the ICTJ, that have thousands of individuals that work to provide information, legal advice and support to women so that they can become part of the conversations, reality is that there is not enough of them globally to reach all women in post-conflict regions.

Committee Directive

How can Member States cooperate and incorporate the regional successes in places like Rwanda and Northern Ireland to continue to address the pitfalls globally? Delegates should look at the involvement of IGOs in transitional justice peace talks involving women in other post-conflict areas. Delegates should formulate innovative ways on how IGOs and other entities will be able to hold leaders in current and post conflict zones accountable for the inclusion of women in peace talks and decision-making. How can nations ensure that the indictments and prosecution of criminals are completed and just? Could smaller NGOs be as successful being an influence in post-conflict areas? Consideration should be also given to top-down approaches to solve the issue such as rewards for nations that are able to provide evidence that shows progress towards addressing women's rights during and after the conflict resolution process.

http://www.swisspeace.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Media/Publications/Journals_Articles/Publications_by_staff/Sisson_Jonathan_Dealing_with_the_Past_and_Transitional_Justice.pdf. (Accessed October 02, 2018)

¹¹¹ "Dealing with the Past and Transitional Justice: Creating Conditions for Peace, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law." Dealing with the Past Series, 2006.

http://www.swisspeace.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Media/Publications/Journals_Articles/Publications_by_staff/Sisson_Jonathan_Dealing_with_the_Past_and_Transitional_Justice.pdf. (Accessed October 02, 2018)

¹¹² "Dealing with the Past and Transitional Justice: Creating Conditions for Peace, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law." Dealing with the Past Series, 2006.

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¹¹³ "Gender Equality | ONE UN Rwanda." United Nations. <http://www.rw.one.un.org/mdg/mdg3>. (Accessed October 14, 2018)

¹¹⁴ "Gender Equality | ONE UN Rwanda." United Nations. <http://www.rw.one.un.org/mdg/mdg3>. (Accessed October 14, 2018)

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United Nations. Accessed September 15, 2018. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.

This website offers in depth, user-friendly information about the Sustainable Development Goals.

Understanding these goals and the work the UN has done to reach them is important to discussing the role of women and equitable access to sustainability.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. "Training Guide: Gender and Climate Change Research in Agriculture and Food Security for Development." 47 (2011): 138-39. United Nations. Accessed September 15, 2018.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/md280e/md280e00.htm>.

This document offers a comprehensive look at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's plan to consider and understand the effects of climate change on women. Paying particular attention to rural societies, this source would be useful in understanding many of the concerns that link the environment with gender.

"Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995." United Nations. Accessed September 15, 2018. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/>.

This conference was pivotal in addressing the role of women in addressing climate changes and the unique ways in which women are effected by a lack of sustainable resources.

"Gender." Climate Technology Centre & Network. January 29, 2016. Accessed September 15, 2018. <https://www.ctc-n.org/technology-sectors/gender>.

This document describes the problems face and strategies planned by the Climate Technology Center and Network related to sustainable technology and gender equity.

"Introduction to Gender and Climate Change." United Nations Climate Change. 2018.

Accessed September 15, 2018. <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/the-bigpicture/introduction-to-gender-and-climate-change>.

From the UN Climate Change Commission, this website offers an explanation why it is important to consider gender when discussing environmental issues.

II. Establishing Measures of Transitional Justice for Women

"What Is Transitional Justice? | ICTJ." ICTJ. May 24, 2018. Accessed September 16, 2018. <https://www.ictj.org/about/transitional-justice>.

International Center for Transitional Justice is a nonpartisan organization, and their website provides and overview of what transitional justice is. It also explains the ways in which implementation has and has not worked and issues face women.

"Security Council Resolution 1325." United Nations. 2000. Accessed September 15, 2018. [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325\(2000\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325(2000)).

This Security Council resolution has set a precedent for approaching women's transitional justice at the UN. It serves as an important example of what the UN has done outside of CSW to address this issue.

Strupinskiene, Lina. "The Origins and Development of Transitional Justice

Studies." *Politologia*68 (2012). 2014. Accessed September 16, 2018.
<http://www.journals.vu.lt/politologija/article/view/1144>.

This article offers an overview of the global history of transitional justice and how women began to be considered in efforts towards transitional justice.

"United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice." United Nations Guidance of the Secretary General. 2010. Accessed September 16, 2018.
https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/TJ_Guidance_Note_March_2010FINAL.pdf.

This document details the United Nations stance and approach to transitional justice, its guiding principals, and overall goals.

"Women, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice." UN Women. 2013. Accessed September 16, 2018. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-peacesecurity/2014/2013>

This website provides a history of the roles and considerations of women in transitional justice within UN actions, such as peace keeping. It preserves as a solid introduction to the topic at hand.