

# CENMUN 2019



# COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Violence against women during crisis,  
emergency and post disaster rehabilitation.

*27th - 29th September 2019  
Centre Point School, Wardhaman Nagar  
Nagpur  
India*

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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Hello Delegates!

Welcome to the CEN Model United Nations 2019 simulation for the Commission for the Status for Women. The topic under our discussion today is regarding Violence Against Women During Crisis, Emergency And Post Disaster Rehabilitation. The agenda focuses on a very common issue which needs more of your ideology to combat it than subjective knowledge. This document is inclined towards the proceedings of this particular committee than the vast knowledge of the agenda. The committee will emphasise on the recent situation in Middle East and the recent events in Kashmir. It is advised that delegates use their time to come forward with some exceptional solutions which withhold the power to bring in change and not deviate from the agenda. Every delegate's ideology is welcome and this document is a base for the vast research you would need to conduct.

The focus of the committee is to encourage constructive debate through concept-based arguments and not information-heavy ones. MUN committees are famous for being intensely concentrated on international law, UN conventions and resolution documents. While those are important as well, we would like to encourage you to look at arguments and solutions that look at the agenda from a ground-level approach. Look at your surroundings, the people you stay with and who form a part of your community. Start thinking about the questions so that you can think of problems and solutions in real-life scenario. When you propose policies, they will effectively be based on how well they are able to realistically solve problems. What better way to find that out than through your own neighborhood? We would therefore, highly urge you to go out of your house and talk to the women and men you encounter every day. Learn their stories, assess their problems and then think of solutions to those problems. Think small so that you can think big.

Please make sure to also go through the links provided in the guide. Delegates must be prepared to intelligently utilize their knowledge and apply it to their own country's policy. You will find that your state has a unique position on the topics that cannot be substituted by the opinions of another state. Therefore, please come prepared for the conference from the perspective of your country, the topic and the UN system for a truly rewarding experience.

Your contributions to the committee will be assessed on how well you have researched on these levels and if you are able to put forward your argument in a clear and logical manner. We hope to contribute to your growth in the committee and learn more from you as well!

In case of queries, I can be reached on my email id: [praveengoelpraveen@gmail.com](mailto:praveengoelpraveen@gmail.com)

Good luck!

**Praveen Goel**

Chairperson

# INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

## **Introduction**

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal intergovernmental body of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The CSW is a functional commission reporting to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) on an annual basis. The Commission first met in 1947 and has since been holding annual meetings. At its inception, the CSW comprised 15 Member States all which were represented by women; in other words the delegations were composed entirely of women. Non-governmental organizations holding consultative status within the UN ECOSOC have developed a close relationship with the CSW and are invited to participate as observers.

## **Brief History**

The Commission participated in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) by raising awareness on women's issues as well as introducing more inclusive language addressing men and women. Fighting against discriminatory legislation was also an important role of the CSW. The codification of women's legal rights needed to be supported by thorough analysis of women's situation throughout the world which the CSW achieved by conducting extensive research and painting detailed pictures of women's status in each country. The CSW began drafting international conventions on women's rights, such as the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1953), which was the first document to address women's political rights; the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women (1957), addressing women's rights within marriage; and, finally, the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration for Marriage (1962), which also addressed women's rights pertaining to marriage. In 1951, the CSW participated in the drafting of the Labour Organization's Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, bringing about the popularity of the concept of equal pay for equal work. In 1963, the United Nations General Assembly mandated the CSW to draft a Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which the General Assembly adopted in 1967. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) was a legally

binding document produced by the Commission and one of the foremost important document on the topic of discrimination against women. In the subsequent years, the Commission concentrated on women's situation in rural areas as women had been disproportionately affected my poverty.

The 25th anniversary of the Commission was marked by the First World Conference on Women which was held in Mexico City. The following decade became the "UN Decade for Women: Equality Development and Peace." In 1980 another world conference was held in Copenhagen and a third was held in Nairobi in 1985. During the 1980s, the CSW helped bring attention to the issue of violence against women and the General Assembly adopted in 1993, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. The Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action which the Commission

on the Status of Women has since been discussing annually and ensuring the efficient implementation of the suggested measures in all countries.

Finally, in the 2011, the various branches of the United Nations addressing women's issues, the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (OSAGI), and the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), merged to become UN Women. The CSW operates within UN Women which leads initiatives in leadership and political participation, economic empowerment, ending violence against women, peace and security, humanitarian action, governance and national planning, the sustainable development agenda, and HIV/AIDS.

## ABOUT THE AGENDA

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Despite the 'window of opportunity' created by disasters to change societal structures, the current literature suggests that people's traditional roles are re-emphasized and gender inequalities often worsen after an emergency. Studies document the harmful impacts of disasters on social relations across every context, however, it is the combination of disaster impacts and the failure of protective systems (often unavailable in the first place) which aggravate gender inequalities such as violence against women and girls.

It is widely recognized that data on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is under-reported, although research shows that violence increases after a disaster. Pre- and post-disaster vulnerability and capacity assessments should systematically consider the many dimensions of violence - not just sexual and physical violence, but verbal and emotional abuse, intimate-partner violence, trafficking, child marriage and female genital mutilation, for emergency responses to really support those most affected.

More qualitative, comparative and longitudinal research is needed to document how households and communities' adaptive risk strategies have the potential to transform gender relations and social norms, in which contexts and under which circumstances. Disaster-induced displacement and migration are likely to impact those left behind in terms of their roles, network support and opportunities. The implications of migration for potential shifts in power structures in places of origin and the overall resilience of households and communities needs further attention.

During crises, such as conflict or disasters, women often endure extreme hardships, such as increased violence and insecurity, restricted mobility and additional care, domestic and livelihood responsibilities. Although there is growing recognition of the importance of women's participation in humanitarian action, women's leadership roles as early responders and promoters of community resilience continues to be underutilized. Research shows that when women are involved in prevention and crisis response, it leads to better outcomes and lowers risk.

Violence against women and girls is a grave violation of human rights. Its impact ranges from immediate to long-term multiple physical, sexual and mental consequences for women and girls, including death. It negatively affects women's general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society.

Violence not only has negative consequences for women but also their families, the community and the country at large. It has tremendous costs, from greater health care and legal expenses and losses in productivity, impacting national budgets and overall development.

Decades of mobilizing by civil society and women's movements have put ending gender-based violence high on national and international agendas. An unprecedented number of countries have laws against domestic violence, sexual assault and other forms of violence. Challenges remain however in implementing these laws, limiting women and girls' access to safety and justice. Not enough is done to prevent violence, and when it does occur, it often goes unpunished.

## Multi-year program of work

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The Commission elaborated a multi-year programme of work for the first time in 1987, containing priority themes for discussion and action at its annual sessions, per ECOSOC resolution 1987/24. Subsequently, multi-year programmes of work were adopted in 1996 in ECOSOC resolution 1996/6 (see p. 20), in 2001 in ECOSOC resolution 2001/4, in 2006 in ECOSOC resolution 2006/9, in 2009 in ECOSOC resolution 2009/15, in 2013 in ECOSOC resolution 2013/18, and in 2016 in ECOSOC resolution 2016/3. The theme for 2020 was determined in ECOSOC resolution 2018/8. A new multi-year programme of work is to be adopted by ECOSOC in 2020.

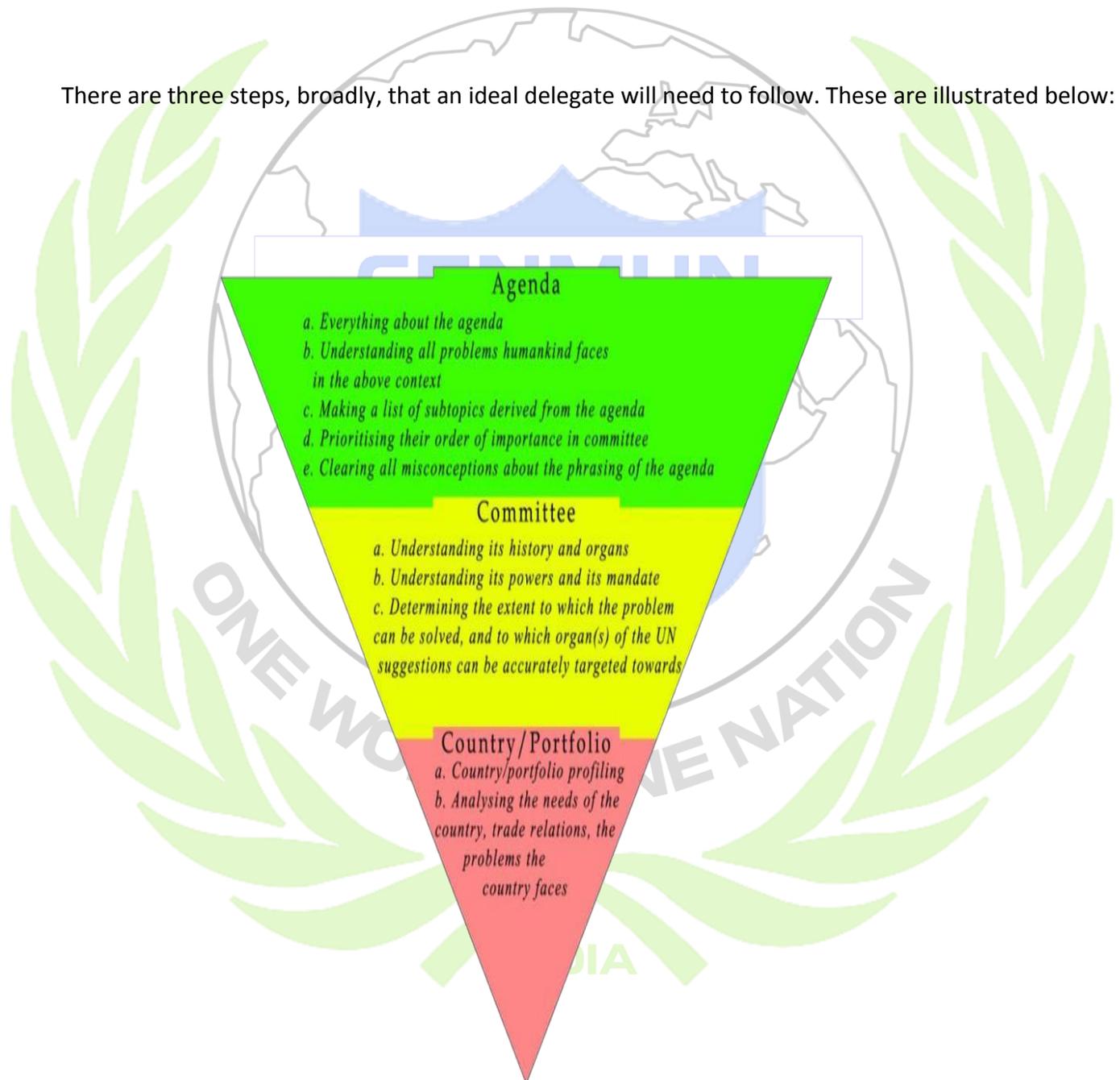
Based on the resolutions from 2013, 2016, and 2018, priority and review themes for 2015–2020 are:

- **2015:** Review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 and of the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, the first five-year assessment conducted after the adoption of the Platform for Action, which highlighted further actions and initiatives. The session also addressed opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda.
- **2016:** Priority theme: Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development. Review theme: The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session).
- **2017:** Priority theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work. Review theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session).
- **2018:** Priority theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls. Review theme: Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session).
- **2019:** Priority theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session).

- **2020:** Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### HOW TO GO ABOUT RESEARCH FOR MODEL UN

There are three steps, broadly, that an ideal delegate will need to follow. These are illustrated below:



Materials prepared by the EB are not meant to be a substitute for your individual research. Instead, they should provide a starting point, inspiring you to ask yourself questions about the issues at hand. The best-prepared delegates are those that take the provided materials as the beginning of their research and delve deeper into the topic areas. Beyond these materials are a host of information services, beginning with United Nations sources. UN resources often have compiled statistics, charts, and graphs which you may find helpful in understanding the issues. Most UN document centres carry transcripts of UN meetings; perhaps the best way to understand your country's position is to see it iterated by its ambassador. Specific resources to investigate include:

- ❑ **Yearbook of the United Nations:** The Yearbook is a good starting point for your research. The Yearbook will provide you with general information on what has been done on your topic during any particular year. It also provides very helpful references to previous articles and resolutions.
- ❑ **United Nations Chronicle:** This magazine gives you general information on the proceedings of the UN. Keep an eye out for special reports on your topic area, which will inform you about the topic and nations' positions on it.
- ❑ **UN Document Index:** This index for all UN documents comes in three different versions: UNDI (1950-1973), UNDEX (1970-1978), and UNDOC (1979-present). Depending on which of the three you are using, you will find a subject index, a country index, and an alphanumeric list of all documents published (this is useful because each committee has its own unique alphanumeric prefix and thus you can find all the documents put out by a committee during a certain year regardless of the specific topic).

**UN Resolutions:** This series is both valuable and very easy to use. The index is cumulative from 1946, which means that you need only check the most current index to find all the resolutions on your topic that the UN has ever passed. The resolution voting records (located in the front of the book) will indicate where your country and others stood on the issues.

- ❑ **Other UN Sources:** Depending on the topic, there might be additional relevant UN sources.

Beyond United Nations sources, however, are general sources of information. Investigate your school and local libraries. Check out journals, periodicals, and newspapers for more current sources. Don't forget to ask the librarians for assistance.

- ❑ **Books:** Up-to-date books are likely to give you a depth and thoroughness unobtainable from UN sources or periodicals. Make sure to check library listings for bound materials. Book research, however, can take a good deal of time, so use discretion when selecting books.
- ❑ **Periodicals:** Periodicals are useful for easy-to-understand, current information on topics (the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and InfoTrack serve as an index for these materials). Don't expect them to supply you with the depth of information you will need for the Conference.
- ❑ **People:** An often neglected source, people can aid you greatly in your research. Some people to keep in mind are: librarians, fellow delegates, faculty advisors, and your committee's Director, Moderator, and Assistant Directors. Not only can these people help you find what you are looking for, but they may also recommend news sources that you had not considered. Do not hesitate to call or mail your Executive Board members and Committee Director. He or she

has spent the entire summer doing research for the Background Guide and will be happy to answer any questions.

## METHODS OF WORK:

The Commission adopts multi-year programmes of work to appraise progress and make further recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action. These recommendations take the form of negotiated agreed conclusions on a priority theme. The Commission also contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Under its current methods of work, established by ECOSOC resolution 2015/6, at each session the Commission:

- Convenes a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human rights, and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the deliberations of the Commission, including through ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned, and good practices;
- Engages in general discussion on the status of gender equality, identifying goals attained, achievements made, and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges;
- Convenes interactive expert panel discussions and other interactive dialogues on steps and initiatives to accelerate implementation and measures to build capacities for mainstreaming gender equality across policies and programs;
- Considers one priority theme, based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly and linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Evaluates progress in implementing agreed conclusions from previous sessions as a review theme;
- Discusses emerging issues, trends, focus areas, and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men, that require timely consideration;
- Considers in closed meeting the report of its Working Group on Communications;
- Agrees on further actions for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women by adopting agreed conclusions and resolutions;
- Contributes gender perspectives to the work of other intergovernmental bodies and processes;
- Reports on the aspects relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women of the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council, in order to contribute to its work; and
- Celebrates International Women's Day on 8 March, when it falls within its session.

## CONCLUSION

The Commission on the Status of Women has effectively addressed multiple issues pertaining to women's rights as well as drafting relevant framework which has served to shape international legislation concerning women's rights. Much of the advancement made for women's rights have been supported and spearheaded by the Commission and UN Women which both continue to actively discuss and fight discrimination against women worldwide. Women face multiple challenges, as stated by UN Women Deputy Director and Assistant Secretary-General Lakshmi Puri in a speech delivered at the UN Women National Committees' Meeting in 2011, including the feminization of poverty, stagnation of economic growth and empowerment, and stifling of women's voices, as well as suffering "even more due to natural disasters, climate change, environmental stress, food, fuel, health and economic crises as they bear the burden of care-giving, for example, in the case of HIV/AIDS." In other words, there is still a long way to go in the process of women achieving equal

### IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS

- S/RES/1325 (2000)
- S/RES/1820 (2008)
- S/RES/1888 (2009)
- S/RES/1889 (2009)
- S/RES/1960 (2010)
- S/RES/2106 (2013)
- S/RES/2122 (2013)
- S/RES/1261 (1999)
- S/RES/1308 (2000)
- S/RES/1314 (2000)
- S/RES/1325 (2000)
- S/RES/1379 (2001)
- S/RES/1460 (2003)

- S/RES/1539 (2004)
- E/CN.6/2000/PC/2
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Bill of Human Rights
- Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice
- International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
- The Geneva Conventions
- The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Beijing Platform for Action
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
- Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
- Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict
- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
- Disarmament, Demobilisation, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement (DDRRR)

