



American Model United Nations

CSW

Commission on the Status of Women

Report to the The Economic and Social
Council on The Equal Sharing of
Responsibilities Between Women and Men,
Including Caregiving in the Context of
HIV/AIDS

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14 **Executive Summary**

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16 In its November 2010 session, The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
17 considered the issue of the “Equal Sharing of Responsibilities between Women and Men
18 including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS.,” as a priority theme for this year’s
19 review cycle.

20

21 On the priority theme, the CSW held informal caucusing and consultative sessions
22 elaborating on the need for the development of equal education and employment
23 opportunities. Additionally the CSW discussed the informal economic nature of domestic
24 work, including caregiving labor, and its negative repercussions on the equality of
25 women. The CSW adopted draft resolutions I/1, I/2, I/3 and I/4 and further recommends
26 to the Economic and Social Council for action.

27

28 The first chapter submits for consideration the above-mentioned draft resolutions. Draft
29 resolution I/1 is concerned with the inequalities women face to due to the male
30 domination of the formal economic sector. Draft resolution I/2 sought to address the
31 importance of education and its affect on all aspects of society including but not limited
32 to caregiving and HIV/AIDS. Draft resolution I/3 recognized the impact of the
33 distribution of labor in different regions along with the necessity to tailor solutions to
34 local governments. Draft resolution I/4 focused on suggesting ways in which to work
35 within current UN organizations with the further suggestions on funding.

36

37 The second chapter outlines the past discussions the CSW had as well as an in depth look
38 at the topic concerning the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men
39 including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS. As an outcome of these discussions the
40 CSW was able to accept and offer the aforementioned resolutions discussed in Chapter
41 One.

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43 The third chapter details the acceptance of this report for the Council’s consideration.

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60 **CHAPTER I**
61 **Matters Calling for Action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its**
62 **attention**

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64 **A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council**

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66 The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social
67 Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

68
69 **Draft Resolution 1**
70 **The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including**
71 **Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS**

The Commission on the Status of Women,

72 *Alarmed by* lack of employment opportunities for women due to male domination in the
73 workforce,

74
75 *Bearing in mind* many women are responsible both for care giving as well as providing
76 the primary income for their families,

77
78 *Realizing* that traditional gender roles of women are long-standing cultural traditions with
79 great importance in many societies,

80
81 Recognizing that programs to expand childcare options provide women with employment
82 opportunities as care givers as well as within the professional work force,

83
84 *1. Recommends governments create public childcare programs and encourage*
85 *private childcare programs;*

86
87 *2. Encourages states to provide training and certification opportunities for*
88 *persons employed as caregivers;*

89
90 *3. Requests that governments inform women within their country of childcare*
91 *opportunities so that women may be utilized within care giving programs themselves.*

92 **Draft Resolution 2**
93 **The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including**
94 **Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS**

95
The Commission on the Status of Women,

96 *Aware of* the problems of gender inequality in several members states particularly
97 in the context of home care-giving for victims of HIV/AIDS,

98
99 *Deeply concerned* by this inequality has inhibited women and girls from pursuing higher

100 education and employment opportunities,
101
102 *Taking into consideration* the admirable efforts put forth by the Millennium Development
103 Goals in reducing gender inequality,
104
105 *Noting with satisfaction* the World Health Organization for their considerable efforts in
106 combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic among less Developed Countries,
107
108 *Further recognizing* former International Human Rights Treaties, the Convention on the
109 Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of
110 Discrimination of Women,
111
112 1. *Encourages* Member States to acknowledge the value of the gender sensitive education
113 in promoting the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS;
114
115 2. *Calls upon* Member States to direct educational priorities to gender sensitive education
116 at earlier ages;
117
118 3. *Further calls upon* Member States to increase educational opportunities in rural areas
119 for girls who may be forced to leave school in the interest of care-giving;
120
121 4. *Recommends* that Member States implement policy that promotes the employment and
122 empowerment of women in the health care sector;
123
124 5. *Urges* Member States to acknowledge the value of unpaid work such as child care-
125 giving by women and its effect on domestic economies;
126
127 6. *Expresses its hope* that these measures will aid in the effort to end gender inequality in
128 the context of home care-giving of HIV/AIDS patients;
129
130 7. *Urges* Member States to reconvene to evaluate the efficacy of these measures every five
131 years;

8. *Emphasizes* the need for Member States to continue their efforts in creating safe learning environments, particularly in reference to issues concerning violent and/or sexual assault.

Draft Resolution 3

133 The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including 134 Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS

135

The Commission on the Status of Women,

136 *Understanding* the need for United Nations (UN) employees to collaborate with
137 regional leaders when faced with developing and implementing new programs
138 functioning independently and tailored to the local region,

139

140 *Expressing* concern for the amount of women forced to drop out of school to work
141 in a care-giving capacity,

142 *Acknowledging* that many pandemic diseases beyond HIV/AIDS have a tremendous
143 impact on the distribution of labor in different regions,

144 *Recognizing* the fact that an informal network of friends and family is an
145 indispensable resource for women burdened with the responsibility of care-giving and in
146 order to ensure that this network is available to women,

147

148 1. *Recommends* the development of an initiative within UN Women that will
149 coordinate efforts of national, international and nongovernmental organizations to work
150 towards gender mainstreaming in the realms of unpaid care-giving in order to encourage
151 cooperation between Member States regarding best practices for encouraging the equal
152 sharing of care-giving burdens and educating the general population in order to break
153 cultural norms that oppress women;

154 2. *Calls upon* Member States to formally commit to strengthening policies and
155 administrative measures to promote and protect the basic human rights of women and to
156 reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and the effects of AIDS as well as other
157 pandemics in terms of care-giving;

158

159 3. *Encourages* Member States to integrate and utilize the resources within already
160 existing non-governmental organizations;

161

162 4. *Endorses* the collaboration between governments and non-governmental
163 organizations currently operating in communities to emphasize programs including:

164

(a) HIV education on care-giving and prevention;

165

(b) Equal care-giving positions between men and women;

166

167 5. *Calls upon* educational services to provide an in-home education program for
168 women to continue their education while in a care-giving role;

169

170 6. *Supports* all levels of government to promote education equality and urges
171 women to take advantage of these programs including gender-sensitive programs;

172

173 7. *Urges* countries to take the initiative to work with those receiving home
education in the field of nursing and place them in existing child care programs;

174

175 8. *Encourages* Member States to consider the role of care-giving and other unpaid
work as a factor in the economic growth of each state.

177

Draft Resolution 4

178

The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including

179 **Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS**

The Commission on the Status of Women,

180 *Recognizing* the vital work of the Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), The
181 Division of the Advancement of Women (DAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on
182 Gender Issues, and the United Nations (UN) International Research and Training Institute
183 for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW),
184

185 *Further recognizing* the initiatives of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and the
186 outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Declaration of
187 Commitment on HIV/AIDS of 2001, as well as the Millennium Development goals
188 especially concerning HIV/AIDS,
189

190 *Reaffirming* resolution 50/2 of 2007, Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS,
191

192 *Noting with approval* the progress that has been made towards gender equality in terms
193 of care-giving,
194

195 *Concerned by* the HIV/AIDS and other pandemics that disproportionately affects
196 women and girls, mainly in sharing the burden of care-giving,
197

198 *Fully aware* that women spend twice as much time on care-giving as men,
199 significantly affecting women health and well being and depriving women the
200 opportunity of education and employment,
201

202 *Noting with regret* that gender inequality still exists in terms of care-giving despite
203 efforts made by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly
204 of the United Nations,
205

206 *Recognizing* cultural and religious diversity in the world while working towards
207 solutions that respect the different positions as result of these factors,
208

209 1. *Recommends* for a mindful redistribution of:

210 (a) Existing funds by established non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that
211 have the ability to focus on gender inequality in terms of care-giving, such as the
212 World Health Organization (WHO), The Asian Pacific Forum, OXFAM
213 International etc.;

214 (b) Existing funds within UN Women to strengthen the purview of the body by
215 specifically addressing problems of gender inequality in care-giving
216 including HIV/AIDS, malaria, maternal mortality and all other pandemics;
217

218 2. *Requests* support for monitoring care-giving at the national level, as well as
219 supporting evaluation mechanisms which provide awareness and crucial information
220 regarding inequality in care-giving;
221

222 3. *Encourages* governments and local communities to provide equal access of
223 social services to women and men including health care, sanitation, clean water,
224 education and health education especially for women affected by unequal care-giving for
225 HIV/AIDS and all other pandemics;

226
227 4. *Endorses* cooperation amongst developing countries for the purpose of
228 developing and disseminating best practices and treatments regarding the equal sharing of
229 care-giving responsibilities between men and women;

230
231 5. *Invites* Member States to partake in awareness campaigns to bring about
232 knowledge and understanding of gender inequality in terms of care-giving as an effort to
233 remove discriminatory attitudes, gender inequalities, stereotypes, and stigmatization
234 while encouraging more active participation of men in this field;

235
236 6. *Encourages* Member States to consider the contribution that unpaid laborers
237 and caregivers make to the economic and growth and development of each member state
238 by revisiting current evaluations of the informal labor sector;

239
240 7. *Summons* partnership with civil society, faith based organizations, and women
241 NGOs to amplify awareness of equal responsibilities in terms of care-giving.

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268 **CHAPTER II**
269 **Consideration of The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men,**
270 **Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS**
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272 At its November 2010 meetings, the Commission considered Topic Area One The Equal
273 Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and Men, Including Caregiving in the
274 Context of HIV/AIDS.
275

276 For the consideration of this topic, the Commission had before it the following
277 documents:

- 278 (a) Beijing Platform for Action
 - 279 (b) Millennium Development Goals especially concerning HIV/AIDS
 - 280 (c) The Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS of 2001
 - 281 (d) Millennium Declaration
- 282

283 **A. Deliberations**
284

285 The first agenda topic considered by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
286 was the discussion of the The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities Between Women and
287 Men, Including Caregiving in the Context of HIV/AIDS. Caring labor is defined by the
288 Commission to include the physical, psychological, emotional, and development needs of
289 one or more people. It is crucial to the development of all nations in the social and
290 economic spheres. However, caring labor, mainly done by women, is often unpaid,
291 undervalued and informal. This issue affects women worldwide regardless of their
292 socioeconomic or employment status. As a result of the global nature of the issue, the
293 CSW has encouraged global solutions that may also be implemented at the local level.
294

295 The apparent inequality in the sharing of responsibilities between men and women is
296 exceptionally prevalent in the context of HIV/AIDS. Women, on average, spend twice as
297 much time on caring labor and are responsible for approximately 90% of the caregiving
298 of those affected by HIV/AIDS. Due to this unequal sharing of responsibilities women
299 are often deprived of equal access to resources, education, political power, and
300 recognition of income-generating activities. Women often are forced to abandon their
301 schooling and/or employment in order to care for those afflicted with HIV/AIDS. As a
302 result there are often serious implications for the health and general well-being of women
303 in these positions.
304

305 Through previous work of the CSW and other UN bodies, Member States have asserted
306 the need for gender equality and the allocation of more resources to face the problem of
307 the unequal sharing of responsibilities.
308

309 While many successes in the context of caregiving have been made by the CSW in the
310 past, further solutions are being examined to address problems. The CSW has established
311 that in order to address these issues Member States will need to focus on additional
312 economic opportunities and social services to support caregiving and health. The
313 Commission feels that the issue of equal sharing of responsibilities between men and

314 women can be addressed through the development of equal educational and employment
315 opportunities for men and women. Additionally, the CSW is concerned with the informal
316 economic nature of domestic work, including the caring labor. As a body the CSW will
317 seek to find solutions to incorporate caring labor into the formal economic sector.

318

319 **B. Action taken by the Commission**

320

321 At its meeting on November 2010, the Commission approved for recommendation for
322 adoption by the Economic and Social Council a revised draft resolution I/1 sponsored by
323 Mauritania, Russian Federation, Gabon, Turkey, Sweden, Djibouti, Mexico, Paraguay,
324 Brazil, and Haiti. The draft resolution's main concerns were the inequalities women face
325 due to male domination of the formal economic sector. More specifically it addresses the
326 formalization of previously unrecognized domestic jobs, including childcare and certain
327 healthcare positions.

328

329 Before the draft resolution was voted on Amendment A was brought to the floor which
330 enhanced the language of preambular clause two concerning. The amendment expanded
331 the content surrounding the women and equal sharing of responsibilities. It also reworded
332 operative clause three and made it into a preambular clause. It added a third operative
333 clause increased the strength of the draft resolution.

334

335 While resolution I/1 was passed with 21 votes in favor when first brought to the body
336 there was concern by many countries that the draft resolution did expressly concern the
337 improvement of equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men. As a result
338 several possible amendments were discussed that increased the relevance of the document
339 to the issue of equal responsibility of men and women in caregiving. These concerns were
340 diminished by addition of Amendment A. The final draft resolution was adopted with 21
341 in favor, 4 opposed, and 7 abstentions. (For the text of the final draft resolution, see
342 Chapter I, section A, draft resolution I.)

343

344 The CSW also debated and approved a draft resolution I/2 sponsored by Russian
345 Federation, United States of America, Turkey, Namibia, Sweden, Haiti, Brazil, Mexico,
346 Paraguay, The Republic of Korea, Gabon, Israel, China, and Cambodia. The resolution
347 reaffirmed previous documents written by the United Nations concerning gender equality
348 such as the International Human Rights Treaties, the Convention on the Rights of the
349 Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination of Women.
350 The draft resolution sought to address the importance of education and its affect on all
351 aspects of society including but not limited to caregiving and HIV/AIDS. Specific
352 educational policies encouraged in the draft resolution include the promotion of gender
353 sensitive education, specifically at early ages and also in regard to HIV/AIDS. The draft
354 resolution also addressed the issue of unpaid work and the need for the employment of
355 women in the healthcare sector.

356

357 Several delegations expressed concerns that the draft resolution did not address the need
358 for safe learning environments free from sexual assault. As a result unfriendly
359 Amendment A was brought to the floor which addressed the need for safer learning

360 environments with specific regard to females in schools.

361

362 A motion was made to adopt the final draft resolution by consensus, but as there was an
363 objection the CSW went into a regular placard vote. The final draft resolution passed with
364 26 in favor, 1 opposed, and 5 abstentions.

365

366 In order to deal with the issues at hand representatives broke into small groups to focus
367 on the areas of Health, Education, and Administrative/Legal issues with the intention of
368 joining all ideas into one cohesive draft resolution. This draft resolution was encouraged
369 by the representatives from Eritrea, Colombia, India and Azerbaijan. This draft resolution
370 was specifically focused on HIV/AIDS rather than including all pandemics and contained
371 very detailed language on local implementation of various ideas.

372

373

374 Draft resolution I/3 sponsored by Eritrea, Colombia, Israel, India, Azerbaijan, Rwanda,
375 Japan, Spain, Gabon, Cambodia, Belgium, Namibia, and Germany. This was the most
376 debated draft resolution on Agenda Topic I, with a lengthy question and answer session.
377 Several amendments discussed but none brought to the floor for debate.

378

379 Due to the detailed wording and specificity of the proposed draft resolution this created
380 disagreements among the body on having only one cohesive draft resolution. This debate
381 led to the creation of a much more condensed and general version of the original all-
382 encompassing draft resolution.

383

384 In its final form which was brought to the floor, draft resolution I/3 recognized the impact
385 of the distribution of labor in different regions, along with the necessity to tailor solutions
386 to local governments. The draft resolution recommended the creation of a new initiative
387 within UN Women for collaboration between government and NGOs in order to confront
388 stereotypical gender roles. The draft resolution also calls for the strengthening of policies
389 to protect the basic human rights of women in relation to HIV/AIDS and other
390 pandemics. This draft resolution also included in home educational services along with
391 calling for the creation of gender sensitive programs.

392

393 Opposition was expressed by several representatives expressing their concern over areas
394 including the creation of new initiatives, specific language, the practicality of
395 implementing certain programs mentioned, and concern over the under representation of
396 other pandemics such as malaria. Several possible amendments were discussed however
397 never brought to the floor. The final draft resolution passed with 17 in favor, 12 opposed,
398 and 2 abstentions.

399

400 Lastly the CSW debated draft resolution I/4 sponsored by Indonesia, Brazil, Nicaragua
401 Iraq, Iran, Haiti, Pakistan, Rwanda, India, Republic of Korea, and Russian Federation.
402 The resolution reaffirmed previous documents written by the United Nations concerning
403 gender equality such as the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, The Declaration of
404 Commitment on HIV/AIDS of 2001, as well as the Millennium Development Goals
405 especially concerning HIV/AIDS, Resolution 50/2 of 2007 titled "Women, the Girl Child,

406 and HIV/AIDS.” The resolution focuses on working within organizations established by
407 UN Women but recommends the mindful redistribution of funds. The draft resolution
408 requests that governments show support for the monitoring of caregiving at the national
409 level and the creation of supporting evaluation mechanisms. The draft resolution also
410 encourages governments to improve equal access to social services for women including
411 healthcare, sanitation, and education. The draft resolution emphasized the cooperation
412 between developing nations in the sharing of best practices and encourages member states
413 to partake in awareness campaigns to remove discriminatory attitudes towards gender
414 inequalities and stigmatization. The final resolution passed with 25 in favor, 0 opposed,
415 and 6 abstentions.

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452 **CHAPTER III**

453 **Adoption of the report of the Commission during its November 2010 session**