



American Model United Nations
CSW

**Report to the The Economic and Social
Council on Women's Equal Participation in
Conflict Prevention, Management and
Conflict Resolution and in Post-conflict
Peace-building**

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Executive Summary

At its fifty-third session, held on 20 November 2010 to 23 November 2010, the Commission on the Status of Women considered Topic Area 2 "Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution, and in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding" subsequent to our deliberation on Topic Area I.

The Commission drafted and passed several draft resolutions pertaining to integrating women into all matters of conflict resolution. The Commission established a framework that determined the role of women in conflict prevention, the role of women in conflict in terms of sexual violence and trauma, and the role of women in post-conflict reconstruction, as various topics that would be necessary to address in the draft resolutions. This framework facilitated the construction of a series of draft resolutions that addressed specific topics concerning the general topic at hand. The Commission adopted draft resolutions II/1 and II/2, and further recommended other concrete actions to be taken in order to address the issue at hand.

The first chapter of this report presents the two draft resolutions passed by the Commission. The draft resolutions concern the involvement of women in conflict prevention by means of encouraging women to participate in public, political, and diplomatic services.

The second chapter includes the deliberations and actions taken by the commission. It emphasizes the reasons for why it is important to resolve this issue and presents the possible measures discussed within the Commission that could be implemented by ECOSOC.

The third chapter discusses the adoption of the report.

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CHAPTER I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention.

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

The Commission of the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following drafts

Draft resolution 1

Consideration of Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution and in Post-conflict Peace-building

The Commission on the Status of Women,

114 *Noting* General Assembly resolution 65/111, which calls for the development of a
115 coherent system-wide policy for support of gender mainstreaming and female
116 empowerment,
117

118 *Further noting* Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), Security Council
119 Resolution 1820 (2008), Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009) and Security Council
120 Resolution 1889 (2009), which address the importance of including women in all levels
121 of the peacemaking and peacekeeping processes,
122

123 *Recalling* the commitments to gender mainstreaming and equal political
124 participation for women laid out in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
125 Discrimination against Women, the Millennium Development Goals and the Beijing
126 Declaration and Platform for Action,
127

128 *Noting with concern* the low percentage of post-Cold War peace agreements that
129 have included women in the drafting and deliberation process,
130

131 *Recognizing* the positive effects of female participation in political and military
132 processes,
133

134 *Noting* the importance of female input in addressing the unique needs of women
135 and girls in the post-conflict zone, especially in preventing social violence,
136

137 1. *Calls upon* Member States to reaffirm their commitments to the Beijing
138 Declaration and Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals and the
139 Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
140

141 2. *Encourages* Member States to actively recruit women for participation in
142 conventional UN peacekeeping forces;
143

144 3. *Encourages* Members States to act in accordance with Article 7 of the
145 Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to
146 eliminate discrimination against women in public and political life by making efforts at
147 the national and international level to:

148 (a) Increase the number of women in national legislative bodies,

149 (b) Encourage the active participation of women in diplomatic processes at
150 the United Nations and in other international organizations, and

151 (c) Ensure that a system of governance is in place that does not create
152 barriers to the equal participation of women in domestic and international political
153 processes;
154

155 4. *Recommends* that Member States use a variety of initiatives to encourage
156 women to participate in public and political life from a young age including, but not
157 limited to:

158 (a) The implementation of quota systems for female participation in
159 national legislative bodies,

160 (b) Support for gender-sensitive education in public schools
161 (c) Support for mentorship and training programs in technologies of the
162 21st century to prepare women for careers in public service;

163
164 5. *Strongly suggests* that Member States develop a national action plan to achieve
165 integration of women into all levels of peacemaking and peacekeeping by 2015, in
166 accordance with the Millennium Development Goals and the Beijing Platform for Action;

167
168 6. *Recommends* that Member States report to the executive board of UN Women
169 regarding successful gender mainstreaming initiatives in order to ensure the sharing of
170 best practices for increasing political participation be women.

Draft Resolution 2

Consideration of Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution and in Post-conflict Peace-building

The Commission on the Status of Women,

171
172 *Acknowledging* resolution S/RES/1325 which supports the eradication of women as the
173 prime victims to war crimes,

174
175 *Realizing* the exclusion of women from the processes of conflict prevention, resolution,
176 management, and peace-building,

177
178 *Recognizing* the value of gender perspectives in conflict prevention and peace building,
179

180 *Recalling* that women only lead one third of peace keeping operations, special political
181 missions and peace-building support offices within the UN,

182
183 1. *Recommends* the encouragement of the appointment of women through the United
184 Nation bodies in leading roles in peacekeeping operations, special political missions, and
185 peace-building support offices;

186
187 2. *Calls* for international, national, and local levels to provide training workshops that can
188 qualify women to partake in the processes of conflict prevention, resolution and peace
189 building;

190
191 3. *Requests* the participation of women in positions of the military, police force, and
192 justice system, which will enable women to provide valuable input and effective change;

193
194 4. *Recommends* Member States encourage women to actively participate in the political
195 process through engaging their right to vote, and by running for public office;

196
197 5. *Urges* the examination of existing political bodies within countries to promote the
198 removal of barriers of the discrimination of women;

199

- 200 6. *Encourages* the promotion of women to organize community groups that will serve as
201 advisory councils to sectors relevant to peace building, conflict intervention, and post
202 conflict peace building;
203
- 204 7. *Further* recommends the involvement of both genders at all levels of command
205 structures through mainstream gender perspectives into its operations, educating, and
206 training of officials;
207
- 208 8. *Desires* the implementation of youth programs to promote gender-sensitive education
209 to discourage the stigma of inequality;
210
- 211 9. *Recommends* that Member States promotes the Women's Development Fund aimed at
212 supporting the aforementioned women empowerment programs;
213
- 214 10. *Calls upon UN Women to monitor and evaluate the progress of Member States*
215 *in respect to these measures to promote the empowerment of women.*

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225 **CHAPTER II**

226 **Consideration of Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and** 227 **Conflict Resolution and in Post-conflict Peace-building**

- 229 For its consideration of this item, the Commission had before it the following documents:
230 (a) The 1979 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of
231 Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
232 (b) The 1995 Beijing Platform for Action
233 (c) Resolution 1325 (2000) Adopted by the Security Council at its 4213th
234 meeting, on 31 October 2000
235 (d) Resolution 1820 Adopted by the Security Council at its 5916th meeting, on 19
236 June 2008
237 (e) Resolution 1888 (2009) Adopted by the Security Council at its 619th meeting,
238 on 30 September 2009
239 (f) Resolution 1889(2009) Adopted by the Security Council at its 6196th meeting
240 on 5 October 2009

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242 **A. Deliberations**

244 Agenda topic II, Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and

245 Conflict Resolution, and in Post-Conflict Peace-Building has been brought for the
246 consideration of the United Nations (UN) body of the Commission on the Status of
247 Women due to the lack of participation that woman have been able to maintain in these
248 areas. The agenda topic is also important as women are often the targeted during conflict
249 and therefore victimized. They are rarely seen as part of the solution. This topic seeks to
250 address measures that both the UN and Member States can take to protect women's basic
251 human rights, and also to strive to include women in all matters of conflict resolution and
252 in all institutions regardless of level.

253

254 90 percent of current war casualties are civilians, the majority of whom are women and
255 children. Violence against women that occurs in armed conflict includes systematic rape
256 as a tactic or war as well as murder, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and forced
257 sterilization. Women and children are specifically targeted by armed groups as a way of
258 destroying the social, economic, and emotional defenses of their opponents. Furthermore,
259 sexual violence is emerging as a method of waging war in order to destroy communities
260 and families. As a result of this, women's rights to safety and ability to flourish must be
261 protected and specifically addressed by UN bodies.

262

263 Existing challenges reflect the fact that women continue to be considered as victims and
264 not as key partners in addressing and resolving situations of armed conflict. This
265 discrepancy is often due to the fact that violence and abuse persist long after armed
266 conflict ceases, intimidating women and preventing them from engaging fully in
267 rebuilding their societies. The inequality of male dominated fields of politics, war and
268 economics exclude women from conflict prevention, management and resolution.
269 Cultural challenges also prevent participation due to traditional views and norms about
270 women's roles. The UN must address that women need to be key actors in all peace
271 building and conflict prevention processes, because women have often been persistent
272 advocates of peace rather than supporters of continued conflict. If given the chance,
273 women can catalyze peace negotiations, build ties among opposing factions, and bring a
274 different perspective to negotiations. A gender perspective in the peace process can lead
275 to long term advances for women's equality and foster reconciliation to move a society
276 forward.

277

278 Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325 acknowledges importance of participation of
279 women and inclusion of gender perspectives that include peacekeeping operations and
280 post conflict peace-building. Other recent resolutions such as SCR 1889 aim to
281 strengthen SCR 1325, specifically on tracking and reporting the implementation of SCR
282 1325. SCR 1820 strengthens the protection of women from sexual violence and SCR
283 1888 calls for increasing representation of women both in mediation and decision making
284 processes as well as policy and military peacekeeping forces. Despite these resolutions,
285 little progress has been made in their implementation. In light of this, it is imperative that
286 the Commission on the Status for Women along with Economic and Social Council
287 (ECOSOC) readdress these issues and bring to the forefront more possible solutions for
288 implementation.

289

290 Peace is inextricably linked with equality between men and women in development.

291 The United Nations and in particular the Commission on the Status on Women should
292 take the lead in providing women with full access to all power structures and institutions
293 so that peace can be promoted and maintained. As a Commission assisting the Economic
294 and Social Council, the Commission on the Status of Women should play a central role in
295 monitoring within the United Nations system the implementation of the Beijing Platform
296 for Action.

297

298 **B. Actions taken by the commission**

299 At its meeting in November, 2010 the Commission approved for the recommendation for
300 the adoption by the Economic and Social Council a revised draft resolution entitled
301 “Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management, and conflict resolution
302 and in post-conflict peace-building,” sponsored by China. This resolution largely serves
303 as a framework for agenda topic I and reaffirms previous UN documentation such as the
304 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Convention of Elimination of all Forms
305 of Discrimination and Violence against Women and the Millennium Development Goals.
306 This resolution encourages and recommends Member States to take measures, including,
307 but not limited to implementing quota systems for national legislative bodies, to increase
308 the number of women participating in all levels of government, peace-building and
309 peacekeeping.

310

311 Before passage, the resolution was amended by Amendment A, which added to operative
312 clause 3 (a) and also changed one word on operative clause 6. This amendment was
313 introduced by China after being recommended by Brazil and Belgium. This amendment
314 was intended to be a friendly amendment, but an original sponsor, Cambodia, was not
315 present so in the interest of time China proposed the unfriendly amendment and it was
316 passed by a clear majority. After being amended this resolution went on to pass by
317 consensus. Though it passed by consensus there was some concern noted by Indonesia
318 concerning operative clause 6 and the nature of reporting to UN Women. Draft Resolution
319 II/1 received considerable support from the body as its overall structure was agreed upon
320 to reflect the important ideas of agenda topic II.

321

322 Draft resolution II/2 was written to address the need for further inclusion of women in
323 diplomatic negotiations and to express concern that the UN itself should reflect gender
324 equality throughout all its bodies including the Commission on the Status of Women and
325 ECOSOC. Acknowledging the importance of including perspectives from both genders,
326 this draft resolution provided manners by which women can be trained and more fully
327 integrated into negotiation on the local, national, and international level. Furthermore, it
328 recognized the potential for this empowerment to occur before, during and after conflict
329 situations.

330

331 The major point of contention was a clause designed to discourage single gender
332 delegations in both the Commission on the Status of Women and throughout all United
333 Nations bodies. Colombia specifically expressed concern that this language could lead to
334 the implementation of quota systems, while other Member States felt this clause could
335 cost bodies the most qualified experts as women may be able to better understand the
336 plights of other women. A significant minority, notably including Japan, Mauritania, and

337 the United States, felt that this clause did not go beyond previously approved ideas of
338 gender equality expressed in draft resolution II/1. There was also concern, although
339 minute, expressed about the encouragement of any participation in military positions
340 whether by women or men. As a result there was a motion for the division of the question
341 and operative clause 2 was struck from the resolution in order to alleviate any concerns
342 about its content. The Russian Federation felt that it was very necessary and in the best
343 interest of the body to move to divide the question, even though they felt that operative
344 clause 2 was important to the draft resolution, since there was considerable contention
345 expressed with its inclusion.

346
347 China and the United States specifically noted that the possibility of quota systems
348 presented as simply a solution to be decided on by individual Member States was already
349 included in draft resolution II/1. China also expressed specific concern that these quotas
350 were merely a suggestion and fall within the parameters of state sovereignty.

351
352 In the absence of operative clause 2, draft resolution II/2 did pass by a clear majority and
353 reflected a general consensus by the body.

354
355 The Commission on the Status of Women deliberated to ensure women's perspectives are
356 included in addressing acts of sexual violence in conflict areas and more general
357 provisions of aid to women directly affected by the spread of violence.

358
359 In addition, there are many other concrete actions that can be taken by both Member
360 States and the United Nations to more fully end impunity for gender based violence and
361 protect women's human rights. For example, reforming refugee camps by appointing
362 women to senior positions within the organizations responsible for their planning and
363 implementation will ensure women's needs are properly met. This includes ensuring
364 humanitarian supplies are distributed fairly between men and women, and that these
365 supplies are available within the borders of the camps in areas with proper lighting so that
366 women can obtain them without fear of attack. Female doctors should also be available
367 in all refugee camps to ensure women can receive medical treatment that would otherwise
368 be discouraged by cultural norms, and these issues will be more properly considered if
369 women have equal involvement in the refugee camps' organization, construction, and
370 facilitation.

371
372 The Commission also recommends the appointment of women to more senior judicial
373 positions to ensure women can report sexual violence to the proper authorities without
374 fear of reprisals, and that these reports will be seriously investigated and acted upon.
375 Colombia has also experienced much success in reforming their judicial system through
376 bilateral and multilateral cooperation between delegations that include both men and
377 women.

378
379 Lastly, it is necessary to directly provide aid to women who are victims of sexual
380 violence. In addition to physical injuries, rape victims during conflict also face severe
381 emotional and psychological trauma, as well as social stigma's. Member States must
382 commit to providing programs to treat all the effects associated with sexual violence. The

383 trafficking of women and girls during and after conflict periods must also be addressed;
384 Gabon, Italy, and many other nations expressed a need for the United Nations, Member
385 States, and other transnational organization's to cooperate together to address the issues of
386 human trafficking.

387
388 While this draft resolution was not passed by the commission, this was the unfortunate
389 result of time constraints, and no serious opposition to its proposal was voiced by
390 Member States.

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395 **CHAPTER III**

396 **Adoption of the report of the Commission on it's November 2010 session**