



American Model United Nations
General Assembly Third Committee

GA Third/II/2

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly Third Committee

The General Assembly Third Committee,

1 *Noting* that in rural areas and across the world, women and girls deal with gender-based vio-
2 lence and female genital mutilation, negatively impacting their ability to fully participate in society,

3 *Emphasizing* the importance of all Member States to maintain State sovereignty,

4 *Approving* efforts made through the United Nations, specifically the Convention on the Elimina-
5 tion of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of 18 December 1979, but acknowledging
6 that continued efforts are still necessary,

7 *Recognizing* that despite the United Nations' condemnation of child marriage, the issue persists
8 in rural areas and increases instances of domestic violence and related forms of harm,

9 *Further recognizing* that issues of gender equality more significantly impact women and girls
10 in rural areas, including indigenous women,

11 *Highlighting* the severity of issues including but not limited to child marriage, gender-based
12 violence and limited access to culturally competent healthcare and education,

13 *Further highlighting* the importance of gathering disaggregated data on the issues facing women
14 and girls,

15 *Deeply concerned* that globally, one in ten women lives in extreme poverty, often exacerbated
16 by economic and social policies or lack thereof,

17 *Noting* that 160 million women could fall into deep poverty by 2050,

18 *Gravely concerned* about the lack of knowledge surrounding domestic violence and resources
19 available in rural areas to assist women in fighting against domestic violence as, without access to
20 these resources, women and girls will continue to suffer through preventable issues,

21 *Admonishing* the amount of femicides taking place internationally due to systemic flaws,

22 *Recognizing* the influence of the inequalities in current domestic violence recovery and preven-
23 tion efforts,

24 *Recalling* the importance of Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 4 of good health and well-
25 being and quality education for achieving a more prosperous world,

26 *Recalling* also the significant number of deaths related to women's health issues in rural areas,

27 *Affirming* the need to respect State sovereignty and cultural values when implementing inter-
28 national programs aimed at improving the conditions of women and girls in conflict-ridden rural areas,

29 *Acknowledging* the data showing that peacebuilding initiatives are more effective when women
30 are actively involved,

31 *Observing* that if one desires to achieve social change, they must first guarantee basic human
32 needs, such as food, water, shelter and health,

33 *Acknowledging* the success of the pre-existing United Nations facet, known as the United Na-
34 tions Women Foundation,

35 *Appreciating* that educational approaches have and will continue to improve the situation of
36 women in rural areas,

37 *Recognizing* that the international community must respect Member States' right to sovereignty
38 to protect both cultural and governmental procedures,

39 1. *Encourages* United Nations bodies to take any gender-specific cultural and religious prac-
40 tices into account when determining whether actions are viewed as human rights violations in order
41 to protect State sovereignty;

42 2. *Invites* collaboration on an international level to improve services provided voluntarily by
43 States to women and girls internationally, particularly financial and medical relief;

44 3. *Encourages* Member States to establish educational course requirements with the primary
45 focus of mental and physical health for both males and females;

46 4. *Recognizes* the need for education programs that instruct those in rural areas on women's
47 and girls' health, specifically concerning maternal issues;

48 5. *Urges* all Member States to include education about domestic violence, child marriage, fe-
49 male genital mutilation and other related topics in education settings, including but not limited to hos-
50 pitals and schools, to spread awareness and information about any available resources to reduce
51 instances of these issues and give women avenues to seek help;

52 6. *Emphasizes* the importance of directing aid through legitimate institutions and monitored
53 channels to guarantee that support reaches women and girls in rural areas without being diverted by
54 unrecognized entities;

55 7. *Implores* United Nations bodies to consider local beliefs, practices and preferences when
56 implementing programs for the betterment of the situation for women and girls in rural areas;

57 8. *Expresses* its hope that Member States will focus on water, food, shelter and health to promote
58 the safety and security of women and girls in rural areas:

59 (a) To accomplish this goal, the body recommends that States collaborate with estab-
60 lished United Nations bodies such as United Nations Women, the World Health Organization and United
61 Nations Water;

62 9. *Encourages* States to support increased accessibility to healthcare resources, specifically
63 in rural areas, by further training healthcare workers and sharing educational information on medical
64 concerns facing women and girls;

65 10. *Further encourages* collaboration between Member States and relevant recognized orga-
66 nizations, including but not limited to, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Commission on the
67 Status of Women, the United Nations Women organization and the United Nations Development Pro-
68 gramme; these programs include:

69 (a) Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises for sustainable growth innovations in
70 rural areas to help with farming and agriculture;

71 (b) Vocational training centers supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization which
72 focus on agricultural, textiles and small-scale production in rural areas;

73 (c) Women-based entrepreneurial dialogues supported by the United Nations Women
74 Fund for Gender Equality which encourage regional collaboration for women-owned businesses;

75 (d) The expansion of maternal and child health services in rural areas by proliferating
76 training programs for midwives, improving access to skilled birth attendants and establishing community-
77 based childcare centers to assist working women in rural areas;

78 11. *Invites* international collaboration to improve services provided voluntarily by States to women
79 and children internationally, particularly financial and medical relief, affirming that all international
80 programs must respect the sovereignty, cultural context and development needs of each State, avoid-
81 ing any undue interference in domestic affairs;

82 12. *Advocates* for the expansion of relevant domestic violence prevention campaigns and or-
83 ganizations, including, but not limited to the No More Foundation, Amsha Africa Foundation and other
84 similar United Nations' programs to establish domestic violence shelters and other prevention and in-
85 tervention programs in rural areas, ensuring that all women and girls have equal access to critical
86 resources regardless of their State's political stance:

87 (a) These shelters should include health centers for all those who need physical and
88 mental assistance in local communities yet specialize in women's and girls health;

89 (b) Individual donors who are able should increase funding to these organizations to
90 provide help to all Member States;

91 (c) The body also supports an increase in funding through the World Bank to the No More
92 Foundation, as well as funding to other programs and organizations which individual States may wish
93 to collaborate with, such as but not limited to voluntary State contributions and existing funding frame-
94 works within these programs to account for the additional workers and shelters needed to achieve this
95 international program;

96 (d) The body emphasizes the priority use of culture-based programs within any Member
97 State that would be receiving aid or funding;

98 (e) The body further encourages States to decide how best to implement these mea-
99 sures based upon their alignment with national culture and values to achieve these goals in ways best
100 for them;

101 13. *Encourages* States to ensure their legislation includes gender-sensitive laws and proper
102 punishment for femicide and gender-based violence with consideration of cultural practices;

103 14. *Emphasizes* the need for national and international institutions to help gather data to in-
104 crease the effectiveness of efforts to improve the conditions of women and girls in rural areas:

105 (a) Any data collection must be done with the consent of the State involved and the
106 communities or individuals being observed;

107 (b) Data collection on the issues facing women and girls may be done through quantita-
108 tive and qualitative methods to enhance a comprehensive international understanding of the causes
109 of said concerns.

Passed, Yes: 58 / No: 3 / Abstain: 4