SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work

SUBMITTED TO: The Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling the deep enshrinement of gender equality in key United Nations initiatives, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recognizing that an attempt to formalize all jobs in the informal economy is met with hurdles such as a lack of available job opportunities and difficulties in navigating bureaucratic policies, which typically add up to additional costs,

Pointing out that the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICSL 2013) defined work in five, mutually exclusive categories: own-use production work, employment work performed for others in exchange for compensation, unpaid trainee work for the development of skills, non-compulsory volunteer work, and other, undefined work activities,

Recognizing that policy-makers and Member State leaders play a large role in determining the economic futures of women,

Deeply conscious of Indigenous women who often live and work in more rural regions and as according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), “Women, representing half of the world’s population, as well as indigenous peoples and the vulnerable, continue to be excluded from participating fully in the economy’,

Understanding the necessity of statistics which accurately reflect the rapidly changing conditions and individual needs within states,

Providing direct access for rural and indigenous women to land security by removing gender-based inequalities,

Researching green technology inclusive to rural and indigenous women engagement to improve agricultural practices and food security in light of negative climate change impacts in the environment,

1. Urges the spread of the study of gendered economics, through summits or conferences where policy-makers may convene to internalize gendered understandings of economics;

2. Recommends that the International Labour Organization reassess their definitions for work by adding unpaid domestic labor and caretaking to the definitions of “work” determined at ICLS 2013;

3. Recommends an expansion of the International Labour Organization Statistics (ILOSTAT) and the United Nations Statistic Division’s resources and encourages further partnership between ILOSTAT and interested nations in the following areas:

   (a) Expanding data collection to reflect this expanded definition of work for the purposes of devising and implementing action plans to empower female participation in the global economy;

   (b) Enabling individual countries to conduct and maintain their own data collection programs by increasing the amount of supporting resources for this purpose available to countries;

   (c) Ensuring that an accurate representation is given to states in the effort of making comprehensive and effective national program, given that the changing world of work for women is growing faster rate than actualization is possible;

4. Requests sustained investment in agriculture by:

   (a) Investing in training for agriculture economies including;
(i) Provide training and safe handling standards of equipment for female workers;

A. Along with training for those who frequently handle dangerous substances such as pesticides, training can also be dedicated to food processing, business management, marketing strategies, record-keeping, packaging and labeling;

(ii) Providing extensive education on agriculture production, management and processing technologies to rural women who shoulder primary responsibility in rural production and who must adapt to different production and processing technologies to meet global market demands;

(iii) Forming cooperative groups for women in the rural areas to cater to specific needs of the community;

(b) Supporting the sale of crops produced by women farmers in local and global;

(c) Providing equipment and training for livestock production and hunting or fishing similar to actions taken by the UN Women in Zimbabwe, where sales have doubled and women are continuing to advance economically;

(d) Empowering women to engage in shaping laws, policies, and programs to improve rural livelihoods;

5. Encourages placing a renewed focus on basic access to infrastructure, specifically in areas pertaining to:

(a) Water and firewood collection, where women spend a disproportionate amount of time in many developing nations collecting water in daily life;

(b) Providing easy access to water within rural communities can free up valuable time in women’s days as well as ensuring safe access to a vital resource;

(c) Access to the internet and bandwidth;

(i) As the world continues to rely more and more on technology, access to internet can be a vital mechanism in education, economic development, access to goods and services, and general connectivity with the world;

6. Suggests the promotion of economic empowerment in the face of climate change by supporting entrepreneurial projects, research and innovation, education and agricultural management practices for women living in rural communities who are the most vulnerable in the face of climate change and most dependent upon natural resources;

7. Emphasizes the importance of ensuring land security by removing gender barriers to land titles, which would support national economic growth and gender equality by:

(a) Providing and improving access for rural and indigenous women in direct pathways to land ownership and land title attainment which would enable livelihood security;

(b) Expanding the UNAID focus of climate change reduction, food security and environmental community engagement beyond 6 regions in Peru and other Member States by assessing the climate change impact needs in different regions, focusing on preventative, treatment and management of natural resources;

(c) Supporting indigenous and rural women research into developing sustainable green spaces and green technology to support food sustainability and conserve threatened plants which impact biodiversity and the ability for environments to provide supportive natural resources at all trophic levels;

(d) Ensuring environmental education in efforts to support knowledge about ecosystem services and their the significance regarding generational, local community and national responsibility.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions