Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2019 Vishwa Vidyapeeth Model United Nations Conference in Bangalore (VVPMUN•19')!

We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the CSW. This year's EB is: Chair: Rutvi Gadre and Co-Chair: Purva Hegde.

The agenda under discussion this year is:

Empowering Women through Entrepreneurship especially in least developed countries.

> The Commission on the Status of Women (**CSW** or UNCSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the main UN organs within the United Nations. **CSW** has been described as the UN organ promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

There are two main levels of research:

Agenda research
Country research

Research should be done using authorised sites:

For Agenda research the delegate is suggested to research from the following sites:

- Reuters
- www.un.org
- Human Rights watch
- Amnesty International
- Transparency International
- IMF , World Bank for economic related world issues
- ICJ(international Court Of Justice) for legal issues
- Other UN bodies such as WTO , Who etc.

For country research the delegate can refer to the following:

- CIA World fact Book
- BBC News Country Profile
- Any nations bilateral relations fact Sheet.

COMMITTEE OVERWIEW

"Ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women by 2030 is the mission of our time."

Introduction:

Up to this day, no country, developing or developed, has achieved complete gender equality. To advance efforts at an international level, the General Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in July 2010 with the universal directive "to achieve gender equality, women's empowerment, and upholding women's rights."The work of UN-Women is guided by the principles laid down in the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on "Women, Peace and Security," the Millennium Declaration, Millennium Development Goals, and other norms related to women's rights and gender equality. CEDAW and the BPfA are the cornerstones of the activity of UN-Women and provide the overall guiding principles for its work. Over the past 15 years, UN Member States have also gained greater awareness and understanding regarding the role women play in peace and security due in part to the adoption Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and subsequent resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), and 2122 (2013). These resolutions "represent a critical framework for improving the situation of women in conflict-affected countries," and ground efforts at the international, regional, national and local levels to protect and promote women's rights in conflict-affected situations. Supporting efforts to mainstream implementation of these global norms, as well as the principle of gender equality at the international, regional and national level is central to UNWomen's mandate and at the heart of the organization's mission. Achieving this mission is not a goal in itself but an important contribution to sustainable development as a whole.

History

For the first 60 years of the existence of the UN, there were a plethora of entities with overlapping mandates addressing issues related to women's rights and gender equality. The concept of one, coherent entity took shape as part of discussions held by -High-Level Panel convened by the UN Secretary-General, to discuss possible reforms of the UN system to achieve greater coherence and coordination in 2006. To build momentum for practical reform of the UN system to foster gender equality and women empowerment, a range of civil society networks and organizations began to focus pressure and advocacy strategically. One notable group was formed out of the Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) and the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), which, together with several women's rights activists launched the Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign in February 2008. The GEAR Campaign "sought to mobilize women's groups and human rights and social justice allies to push for the adoption of a new UN entity for gender equality and women's empowerment." Over two years, an international campaign was successful in gaining support at regional, national and local levels, for one UN entity focused on gender equality, in one of the largest and most organized grassroots advocacy campaigns the world had seen. In 2010 civil society organizations and activists finally celebrated the decision of the General Assembly to consolidate the resources and mandates of the four existing gender equality focuses UN programs into one entity. From 2011 onwards, the Office of the Special Adviser on

Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat (DAW), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) took up their work united as UN-Women.

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) is a Programme and Fund of the United Nations, reporting to the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly.

The mandate for UN-Women, is articulated in General Assembly resolution 64/2009 as follows: "Based on the principle of universality, the Entity shall provide, through its normative support functions and operational activities, guidance and technical support to all Member States, across all levels of development and in all regions, at their request, on gender equality, the empowerment and rights of women and gender mainstreaming." UN-Women combines the mandate of four agencies. The mandate is separated into political, norm-setting activities and operational activities in cooperation with UN Member States. To improve coherence, consistency and coordination, it is pivotal to establish common standards in the field of gender equality and women empowerment. To this end, UN-Women now serves as the secretariat to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and supports the agency in formulating such norms and standards by inter alia submitting an annual report to the Commission. This mandate was taken over from DAW when the programs were consolidated. Whereas CSW is overall responsible for the formulation of standard-setting policies, it is UN-Women that carries out these policies in its operational activities in the field. UN-Women provides technical and financial assistance, capacity building as well as policy guidance to Member States that requests the Entity's support. UN-Women further facilitates the work of the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Security Council in their efforts to advance the global agenda on gender equality. Finally, UN-Women was assigned to hold the UN system accountable for its efforts to mainstream gender across all aspects of its work.

Governance, Structure, and Membership

UN-Women is governed by an Executive Board, which is responsible for intergovernmental support and supervision of all operational activities. The Board consists of 41 members that are elected by ECOSOC for a term of three years and are allocated by regions as follows: ten from the group of African States, ten from the group of Asian States, four from the group of Eastern European States, six from the group of Latin American and Caribbean States, five from the group of Western European and Other States. The final six seats are allocated to contributing countries, from which four seats go to the countries that provide the highest voluntary contribution to UN-Women and two seats to developing countries. UN-Women is headed by an Executive Director, who is considered a senior official at Under-Secretary-General (USG) level. The current Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, was appointed in 2013. The Directorate performs the administrative functions of UN-Women and is responsible for human resources including employment in operational activities. The

Executive Director also reports to the Secretary-General and works to improve system-wide coordination by seeking exchange with other agencies and programs both inside and outside the UN system. The normative processes of UN-Women are funded by the regular budget of the UN. However, its operational activities depend on voluntary contributions of its members. In 2013, voluntary contributions added up to a total budget of US $275.4 million.

Powers and Functions

UN-Women's areas of activity include peace and security, political participation and government planning, the fight against HIV/AIDS, the economic empowerment of women, participating in and shaping the process of formulating sustainable development goals for the upcoming decades, and ending violence against women and girls. To this end UN-Women works closely with other UN bodies, programs, funds, civil society organizations, and Member States in designing adequate policies, laws, programs, and services. Within the UN system, UN-Women functions as a normative body that supports CSW in setting standards and norms by providing expert knowledge and information on gender mainstreaming. It supports the work of CSW by submitting an annual report to the Commission informing it about the implementation of the Commission's policy guidance. The chairperson of CSW can also be invited to address the Executive Board of UN-Women directly. A second annual report is submitted to the General Assembly through ECOSOC.3This report delivers information on the Entity's operational activities and provides research, policy analysis, and recommendations for further action. The General Assembly and ECOSOC can also draw the Entity's attention to issues and request UN-Women to hold additional sessions when deemed necessary .On an operational level, UN-Women facilitates regional conferences and meetings with civil society organizations and national policymakers and provides training for Member States to help them implement standards through technical and financial support. This includes support in formulating new laws or strategies, working on national educational programs, training women to run more efficient political campaigns, or assisting civil society organizations in becoming national advocates for gender equality. Depending on the area of action, UN-Women works together with other programs and funds, among them the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). To examine coherence and coordination of measures taken, UN-Women undertook an evaluation in cooperation with UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, Norway, and Spain in November 2013, which has helped drive efforts to continue to strengthen UN-Women's work. The results of UN-Women programs help drive the development of evidence-based normative standards and policies by the Commission on the Status of Women.

Current Priorities

The current UN-Women strategic plan for the period 2014-17 identifies women's economic and political empowerment and ending violence against girls and women as top priorities. With the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) concluding in 2015, one further area of action is to work on a post-2015 agenda by attending and shaping the process of developing sustainable development goals for the upcoming decades. Using the 2015 process, and the Beijing +20 review process to further these issues remains of high importance for the organization. Furthermore, UN-Women's Executive Director Mlambo-Ngcuka explicitly called for increased support for older women and women with disabilities as they are too often neglected in norm-setting considerations.

Recent Sessions

UN-Women provided substantive support for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in March 2014. The meeting discussed the challenges and achievements in implementing and evaluating the MDGs for women and girls as well as how to speed up underperforming MDGs. CSW criticized that the evaluation and implementation of the MDGs too often lacks a gender perspective and that the role of women and girls in achieving the MDGs needs to be further acknowledged. UN-Women's Executive Board held its annual session from 17-19 June 2014 at the UN Headquarters.The meeting assessed the implementation of the strategic plan 2011-2013 and evaluated coherence achieved within the UN system. Member States stressed the importance to make gender equality a stand-alone goal in the post-2015 agenda and to further the economic empowerment of women, as well as their role in peace and security. Furthermore, several Member States made presentations about the Entity's activities on the ground and different programs that have been launched with support of UN-Women. During the second regular session, which was held from 15-16 September 2014, Member States addressed the report of the annual session and started preparations for the 2015 regular and annual sessions. Other areas of concern discussed at the second regular session included strategies to improve program evaluation and monitoring mechanisms as well as fostering collaboration with sister organizations to promote gender equality.

The second regular session further deliberated on the implementation of the BPfA and preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing+20). UN-Women was also represented at the AIDS Conference held in Melbourne, Australia from 20-25 July 2014. Representatives gave presentations on and participated in panels regarding advocacy and political networks of women living with HIV, legal empowerment of women living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, and integrating gender equality and sexual rights in the post-2015 framework.

Conclusion

Since 2011, UN-Women has played a pivotal part in connecting standards set by intergovernmental bodies with operational activities in the field. So far, this approach has indeed improved coherence and coordination within the UN system. Furthermore, in its conclusion of the fifty-eighth session, CSW highlighted the role of UN-Women in monitoring and evaluating the progress towards meeting international development goals, such as the MDGs. Thus, with joint efforts, UN-Women can effectively carry out its mandate and integrate a gender perspective in considerations of peace and security, human rights, economic empowerment, and sustainable development. However, it can only accomplish this mission by strengthening its collaboration with UN agencies, Member States, and civil society organizations, which are all essential stakeholders when it comes to achieving gender equality.
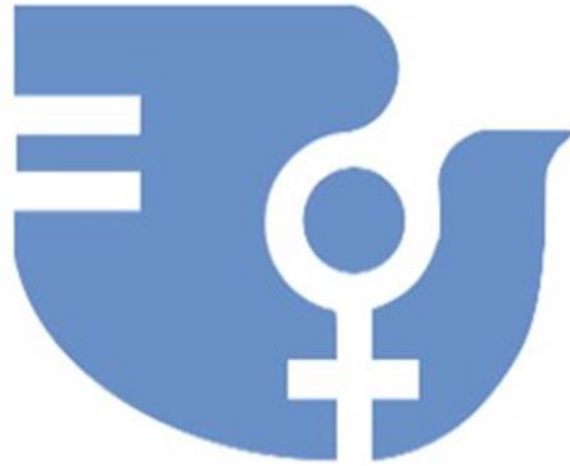
The symbol of CSW

Member States

Forty-five Member States of the United Nations serve as members of the Commission at any one time. The Commission consists of one representative from each of the 45 Member States elected by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution:

- 13 members from Africa
- 11 from Asia
- nine from Latin America and Caribbean
- eight from Western Europe and other States
- four from Eastern Europe

Members are elected for a period of four years.

ABOUT THE AGENDA

"The empowered woman is powerful beyond measure and beautiful beyond description."

-   **Steve Maraboli**

The agenda aims to find a way to empower women through entrepreneurship in least developing countries around the world.

Women from an important segment of the labor force and economic role played by them cannot be isolated from the framework of development. The role of women as business owners is gradually increasing all over the world. Women entrepreneurship development is the instrument of women empowerment. Empowerment leads to self fulfilment and women become aware of where they are going, what their position is in the society, their status; existence and rights; and women are becoming more empowered, personally and economically through business ownership.

Introduction

One of the key factors in determining the success of development is the status and position of women in the society. This means that the neglect of women in the development process of any country constitutes a human resource waste. In this premise, it will be a disservice for any country to ignore its women population in its development efforts. The task before any government, therefore, should be that of moving steadily and firmly in the direction of economic development by involving women.

Faleye (1999) stated that women's development is not nearly about reducing poverty by increasing productivity, but also about women's liberation and empowerment. True development means the development in the three categories of a woman. These are: (1) Individual; (2) Social; and (3) Economic development (Rodney, 1972). Individual development means increased skills and capability, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well being. Increasing capacity connects social development, while economic development is determined by the increased capacity of the members of a society in dealing with their environment. This emphasis means that development at the individual stage includes both the social and economic categories of development. Development is dynamic and therefore assumes a continuous transformation process and a movement towards better and improved conditions, locally and internationally.

Globally, women's empowerment has recently gained considerable importance as an area for policy and policy interventions in most of the organizations of the world. They have recognized the benefits of the empowerment, which can be achieved through effective participation of women. Since 1970's a global concern for amelioration of the working women and raising their standard of living been expressed in many ways. In 1995, Fourth World Conference on 'Empowerment of Women' held in Beijing focused on the following areas :(1) Political; (2) Economical; (3) Legal empowerment of women. In the traditional society, women's role was naturally limited to the family. Many factors like urbanization. Women's education, technical progress etc. have profoundly changed this traditional society. Women perceive more and more clearly that if they really want empowerment and to contribute to the welfare of their family and society, the most effective way is to go out of home and earn money.

During the last two decades employment opportunities gradually shrank and it became increasingly hard for men and women especially for less educated women to get acceptable jobs. Sooner or later, therefore, their entry into self-business leads to economic empowerment.

Empowerment

Empowerment is associated with the daily essentials. It spends out from the daily life to the state power. That is, every part of human being concerns with empowerment from security to getting access, to research, to meet demands, to political decision-making process. Empowerment has to be perceived and realized as a whole in critical process that includes social, psychological, economic and political empowerment. Empowerment is one of the key concepts of this study.
 The origin of the concept is found in the ideas of the Brazilian educationist Paulo Freire. The shift in development theory during the 1980s away from the assumptions of top-down change towards an alternative development model as its root, a concept of empowerment as a form of development change was brought about by local problem solving efforts and techniques.

Though the term empowerment has no fixed definition, yet it is frequently used to describe a process where in the powerless or disempowered gain greater share of control over resources and decision making and since women are generally the most disempowered members of the oppressed classes, empowerment has been described as nurturing, liberating, energizing the un-affluent and the unpowerful (Barkat, Abul, Khuda, Barkat & Rhaman, 1994). In a common sense, empowerment can be defined as a process of achieving more controlling power to face the question on existing power and to control over the source of power. Empowerment is at the same time a process and this result of the process. The process of challenging existing power relations and of gaining greater control over the sources of power may be termed as empowerment (Baltiwala, 1994).

 Empowerment is a multi-dimensional approach and of the same time it is an indivisible concept. As a process it refers to conscientization and sensitization about empowerment and at the same time it is the outcome of sensitization. The empowerment of a person or group of people is the process of giving them power and status in a particular situation. According to UNDP (1994) empowerment is a process which enables individuals or groups to change balances of power in social, economic and political relations in society. It refers to many different activities including but not confined to awareness of the societal forces with people and to action, which change power relationships. One of the most important instruments for empowering women is to allow them dual access to and control over productive resources such as land, capital, technology, credit as well as marketing outlets, information, education, training etc. without any discrimination (GOB, 1994). Empowerment redistributes power from the powerful to the powerless. It is more than participation in decision making, it must also include the process that lead people to perceive themselves as able and entitled to make decisions (Prassad & Sahay, 2000). Empowerment must involve undoing negative social construction, so that people come to see themselves as having the capacity and the right to act and influence decisions (Rowlands, 1997).

Empowerment of women through entrepreneurship

In the early 1980s the United Nations reported that globally women performed two thirds of the world's work, earned one tenths of the world's income and owned one-hundredths of the world'd economic resources (Lavoice, 2000).
 Instrument of women empowerment is self-
employment or entrepreneurship. Why women are choosing self-employment or entrepreneurship? One study revealed that autonomy was rated high as a means to obtain personal freedom. This level of autonomy provides the opportunities to:
  (1) Able to make their own decisions:-decision making indicates the choice which is the basis of empowerment;
 (2) Able to do preferable work- work in non:- traditional fields implies
opening to more powerful networks, which leads directly to the empowerment.
  (3) Attain financial independence:- financial independence is a major contributing factor in the empowerment of women. The following are the impact of ED on Empowerment:

I. <u>Self-confidence of Women</u>:
Increased self-confidence through entrepreneurship development gave the women a prosperous future.

II. <u>Economic Solvency</u> :
The most important changes come through increase in income, which not only upgrades the individual's life but also increases her standard of living, brining economics solvency within the family. The increase in her income is also an increase in the family income and as such it provides family members to a better life style, including education for the children and improvement of family health.

III. <u>Capital Building</u>:
Their (Women) economic success enables women to expand their business, procure new machinery, tools, accessories and relevant necessities. Modernization of the work-place, introduction of new technology for increase production, increase of labourers, along with the increase in purchasing power, upgrade their status both socially and economically.

IV. <u>Role of Status</u>:
Some aspects of household decision making are reported to have changed as a result of women's contribution in family income. Most of the men now consult with their wives in important family matters. Their power of decision making has increased because they have money. Since women retain control over earnings, women can easily lend small and big amounts to business and others without asking for their husbands' permission. Since women perceive that their bargaining power within the family has increased as an indirect outcome of participating in the business. Women's status has changed in the family and society gradually.

Causes and Solutions

In the committee we are hoping to discuss about causes and solutions which are effective and innovative and unique to the delegate.

Conclusion:

Women Empowerment is a process that creates and brings power amongst women over their own lives, society, and in their communities. This includes the access to all their fundamental rights, which were ever denied. The conclusion of women empowerment can't be seen in a day or two. It is a process where these small differences bring a bigger change in society.

Unless an equality is brought among women and men , there will be an instability and conflict within the society.

Some more sites that can be referred to are:

1) https://www.researchgate.net/publication/200803656_Empowering_Women_through_Entrepreneurship_Development_in_Emerging_Economies_An_Overview

2) Best delegate .com
3) Nmun.org

We wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you at the conference

Shloak Gupta, Co-President
Khushi Pai, Co-President
Karan Suresh, Secretary General