



Eureka Model United Nations  
**STUDY GUIDE**

## Committee Overview

Bearing in mind that to date there is no common line in gender equality, 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 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.”*

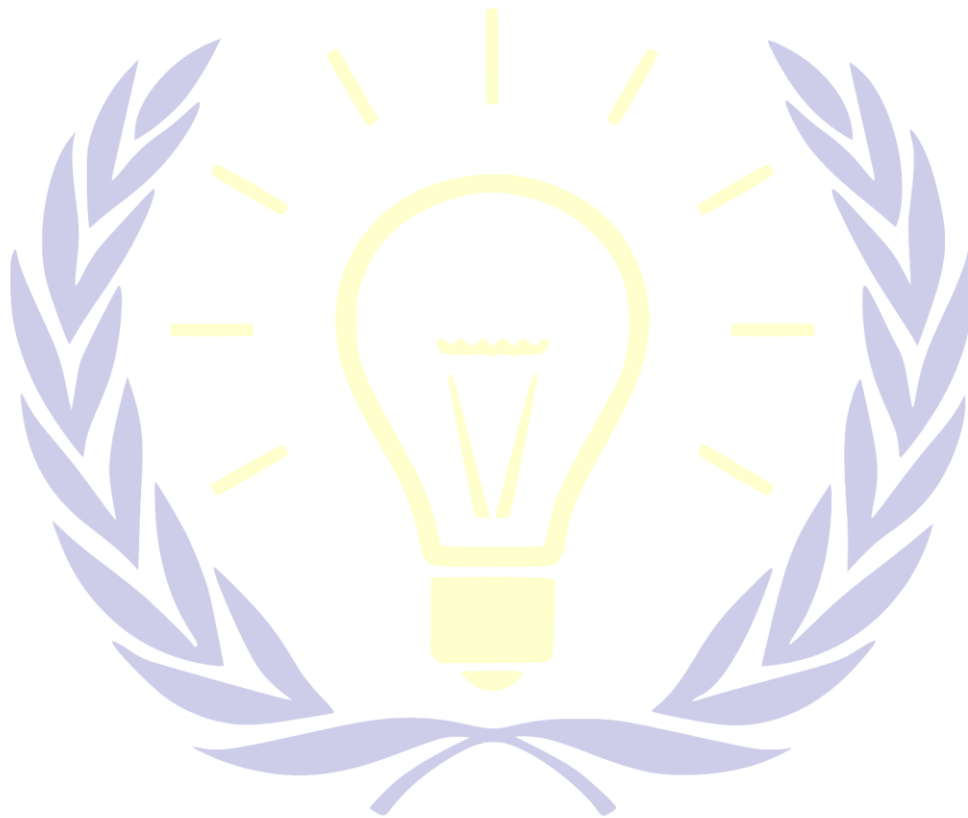
UN-Women combines the mandate of four agencies. The mandate is separated into political, normsetting activities and operational activities in cooperation with UN Member States. To improve coherence, consistency and coordination, it is pivotal to establish common standards in the field of gender equality 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 the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 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.

The main roles of UN Women are:

- To support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms.
- To help Member States to implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society.
- To hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

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.



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## Agenda Overview

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

These 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another.



We, at UN-Women, work towards achieving the 5th SDG in particular – “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.”

Women have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs, with many targets specifically recognising women’s equality and empowerment as both the objective, and as part of the solution. Goal 5 is known as the stand-alone gender goal because it is dedicated to achieving these ends.

Deep legal and legislative changes are needed to ensure women’s rights around the world.

While a record 143 countries guaranteed equality between men and women in their Constitutions by 2014, another 52 had not taken this step. In many nations, gender discrimination is still woven through legal and social norms.

Please use <http://constitutions.unwomen.org/> for gender-related constitutional information.

Stark gender disparities remain in economic and political realms. While there has been some progress over the decades, on average women in the labour market still earn 24 per cent less than men globally.

Meanwhile, violence against women is a pandemic affecting all countries, even those that have made laudable progress in other areas. Worldwide, 35 per cent of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. UN Women joined the voices of many global actors in pointing out that violence was absent from the Millennium Development Goals.

Women have a right to equality in all areas. It must be embedded across legal systems, upheld in both laws and legal practices, including proactive measures such as quotas. Since all areas of life relate to gender equality, efforts must be made to cut the roots of gender discrimination wherever they appear.



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## Gender Equality Milestones

October 24, 1945

UN Charter established encouraging "fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."

June 21, 1946

Commission on the Status of Women established.

December 10, 1948

Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

1975

UN designated 1975 International Women's Year. The U.N. charter had long stated that the global organization is dedicated to human rights with no discrimination based on sex. During the 1970s, feminism was gaining momentum as an international social and political movement. The U.N. expanded the recognition of International Women's Year by declaring 1976-1985 the U.N. Decade for Women. The UN also established a Voluntary Fund for the U.N. Decade for Women, which became UNIFEM, to further work on women's issues. December 18, 1979: UNGA adopts the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

June 1993

The World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna takes historic steps to protect women's rights by recognizing violence against women as a human rights violation and calls for measures towards eliminating such forms of violence.

December 1993

UNGA adopts the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

1995

United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women – proclamation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

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October 2000

The UN Security Council passes the historic resolution 1325 in October 2000, recognizing that war impacts women differently and calling for women to be a key part in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.

July 2010

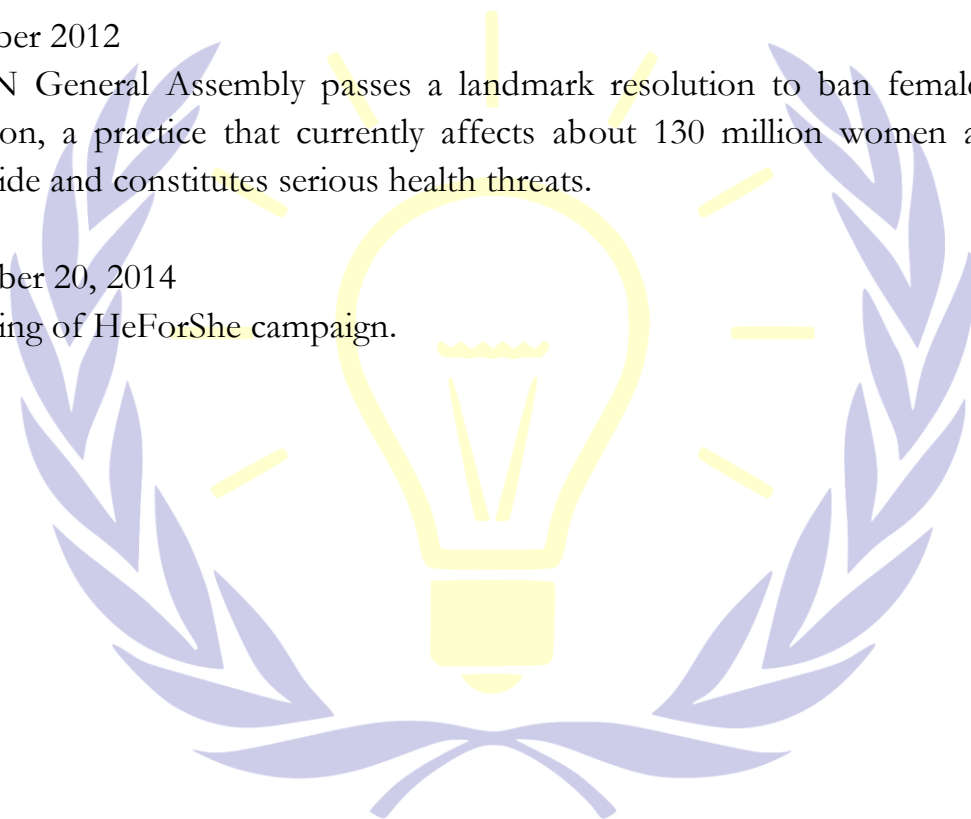
UN General Assembly creates the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) to accelerate progress on meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide.

December 2012

The UN General Assembly passes a landmark resolution to ban female genital mutilation, a practice that currently affects about 130 million women and girls worldwide and constitutes serious health threats.

September 20, 2014

Launching of HeForShe campaign.



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## **Bloc Positions**

### **Western Bloc**

The Western Bloc is largely regarded as the most liberal, and this is reflected in the statistics of violence against women. Delegates in this bloc will be inclined to focus more on education, as governments are already taking a more active stance in policing gender-based violent crimes, and also it is not culturally acceptable for forced marriages and the like.

### **Latin Bloc**

Bribery and corruption are rife in the governments of these countries in this bloc, resulting in existing laws not being implemented, or the lack of law covering this area of interest. Delegates should look towards regulating a better legal structure, to decrease the rate of violent crimes against females. There should be special emphasis on the rural areas, as this is where perpetrators get away with their actions the most often.

### **African Bloc**

While in recent years there have been developments and progress in furthering gender equality in the more developed areas, there is still an underlying stigma against ensuring women's rights. Delegates should also take note of touchy religious issues, as the existing Islamic laws prevent more action from being taken.

### **Asian Bloc**

The different countries within Asia are progressing at different rates – we have countries already considered first world economies, and we still have relatively undeveloped and rural countries. This disparity in economic prosperity translates also to a less progressive society, and hence we see women being degraded in these countries. Delegates should work towards empowering women in these less developed nations while focusing more on education in the developed countries.



## Framework

A framework or an action plan is a sequence of steps that must be taken, or activities that must be performed well, to achieve a certain goal (in this case – gender equality). An action plan has three major elements:

1. Specific tasks: what will be done and by whom?
2. Time horizon: when will it be done?
3. Resource allocation: what specific funds are available for specific activities?

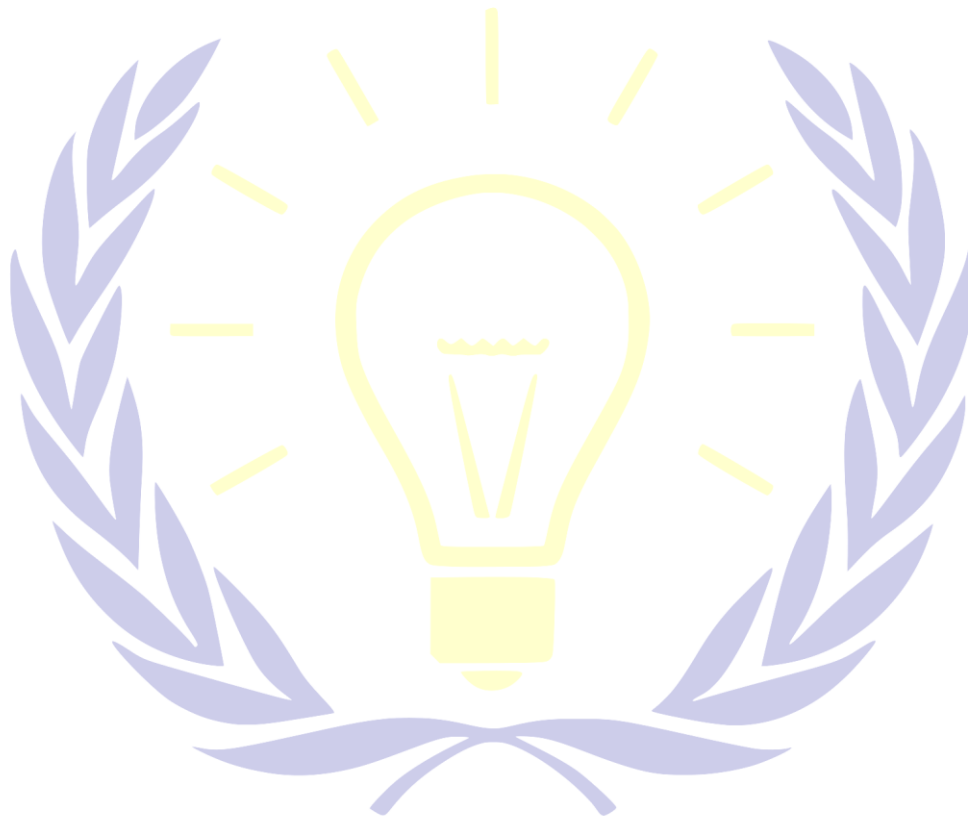
We expect this committee to, by deliberating over two days, produce an end document in the form of a report or an action plan.



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**Questions that need to be addressed in committee**

- What constitutes equality? Is absolute equality between the genders possible?
- Role of both men and women in tackling the issue.
- Who is to be blamed for this increasing gender gap?
- Difference in steps that need to be taken by developed countries and developing countries to bridge the gender gap.



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### Reference Links

<https://advocacy.thp.org/2014/08/08/mdgs-to-sdgs/>

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-5-genderequality.html>

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/Beijing%20full%20report%20E.pdf>

<http://www.wikigender.org/>

<https://genderstats.un.org/>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2015/9/timeline-un-at-70-gender-equality>



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