

Topic: Empowering Rural Women

Conference Prep Packet

Global Norms and Standards: Economic Empowerment

A number of internationally agreed norms and standards relate to women's economic empowerment.

Among the most prominent are:

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action's commitments include to:

Promote women's economic independence, including employment, and eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women by addressing the structural causes of poverty through changes in economic structures, ensuring equal access for all women, including those in rural areas, as vital development agents, to productive resources, opportunities and public services (Beijing Declaration, Paragraph 26).

Ensure women's equal access to economic resources, including land, credit science and technology, vocational training, information, communication and markets, as a means to further the advancement and empowerment of women and girls, including through the enhancement of their capacities to enjoy the benefits of equal access to these resources, inter alia, by means of international cooperation (Beijing Declaration, Paragraph 35).

Develop gender-sensitive multisectoral programmes and strategies to end social subordination of women and girls and to ensure their social and economic empowerment and equality... (Platform for Action, Paragraph 108[e]).

The 2011 ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers offers a historic set of international standards aimed at improving the working conditions of tens of millions of domestic workers worldwide, the vast majority of whom are women and girls. It calls for them to have the same basic labour rights as those available to other workers: reasonable hours of work, weekly rest of at least 24 consecutive hours, a limit on in-kind payment, clear information on terms and conditions of employment, as well as respect for fundamental principles and rights at work including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.

The 2012 ILO Recommendation Concerning National Floors of Social Protection confirms that social security is a right and a necessity for development, and an important tool in promoting gender equality.

The four key ILO gender equality conventions are the Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention (No. 156) and Maternity Protection Convention (No. 183). Conventions 100 and 111 are also among the eight fundamental Conventions of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women has provisions on employment in Article 11, economic and social benefits in Article 13, and rural women in Article 14.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights upholds the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in it. It specifically calls for fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind, in particular women being guaranteed conditions of work not inferior to those enjoyed by men, with equal pay for equal work.

Rural Women

Rural women are key agents for achieving the transformational economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development. But limited access to credit, health care and education are among the many challenges they face, which are further aggravated by the global food and economic crises and climate change. Empowering them is key not only to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to overall economic productivity, given women's large presence in the agricultural workforce worldwide.

Our solutions

UN Women supports the leadership and participation of rural women in shaping laws, strategies, policies and programmes on all issues that affect their lives, including improved food and nutrition security, and better rural livelihoods. Training equips them with skills to pursue new livelihoods and adapt technology to their needs.

In **India**, with support from UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, the Dalit Women's Livelihoods Accountability Initiative has helped women marginalized by the caste system engage in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme. Between 2009 and 2011, in eight districts, their participation grew from 2,800 to more than 14,000. Many Dalit women now have bank accounts in their names and are unionized to defend their rights.

In **Zimbabwe**, along one of the poorest stretches of the Zambezi River, new equipment and training offered by UN Women has helped women from the Tonga ethnic group break into the male-dominated fishing industry. Instead of selling fish purchased from men's boats, they now market their own catch. Sales have doubled, and the women are organizing collectives, extending their market reach to larger towns and cities, and participating in a revolving fund providing small loans.

Women farmers typically have less access to irrigation technology. In **China's** Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, UN Women helped ensure that scores of women farmers are able to learn about, acquire and maintain advanced irrigation systems. Climate change has made the flow of local rivers, the traditional source of water, unpredictable. Many men have left their villages for jobs in cities, with women remaining behind to take up farming. To underscore new ways of thinking, local drama troupes have staged performances demonstrating the value of women's participation in water management. Surveys have shown that local women, with their confidence bolstered by new skills and options, have become increasingly willing to voice their opinions in village affairs.

Important partners in our work with rural women include the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme under the initiative “Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women.” It aims to empower rural women to claim their rights to land, leadership, opportunities and choices, and to participate in shaping laws, policies and programmes. Evidence shows that this spurs productivity gains, enhanced growth and improved development prospects for current and future generations. The initiative also engages with governments to develop and implement laws and policies that promote equal rights, opportunities and participation so that rural women can benefit from trade and finance, market their goods and make a strong contribution to inclusive economic growth.

Getting to Know Your Country

Geography

Continent: _____

Border countries: _____

Bodies of water: _____

Climate: _____

Natural resources: _____

Government

Official country name: _____

Capital: _____

Governmental system: _____

Head of state: _____

Official language(s): _____

Region: _____

People

Population: _____

Population growth rate: _____

Major religions: _____

Ethnic groups: _____

Standard of living: _____

Development

Development status (developed or developing):

Environment (problems, innovations, etc.):

Economy

Economic system: _____

GDP: _____

GDP per capita: _____

Population below poverty line: _____

Major cities: _____

Major exports: _____

Major imports: _____

Major industries: _____

Energy sources: _____

United Nations

Date admitted to the UN: _____

Has the UN ever intervened in a conflict involving this nation? If so, where and how?

Conflict/Issues

What are four problems that affect this country? _____

Major conflicts, past: _____

Major conflicts, present: _____

Major conflicts in neighboring countries:

Other interesting facts

Getting to Know Your Topic: Empowering Rural

Women

Culture

How are women viewed in your country?

What roles do women typically take in society?

What jobs do these people have? _____

Do women in your country have equal access to primary and secondary education?

What percentage of women have access to elementary school? Middle school? High School? University?

What are some of the challenges rural women face in your country? _____

Do women have equal access to economic resources? Yes/No Explain.

What type of health care is available for women in your country? Is it convenient

Women and Children

Are women and children victims of human trafficking? _____
If yes, explain. _____

What effects do they suffer? _____

What help do women and children need to escape being victims of human trafficking?

Combatting Human Trafficking

Is combatting human trafficking a priority in your country? Explain. _____

What is your country doing to reduce the supply of people vulnerable to being trafficked?

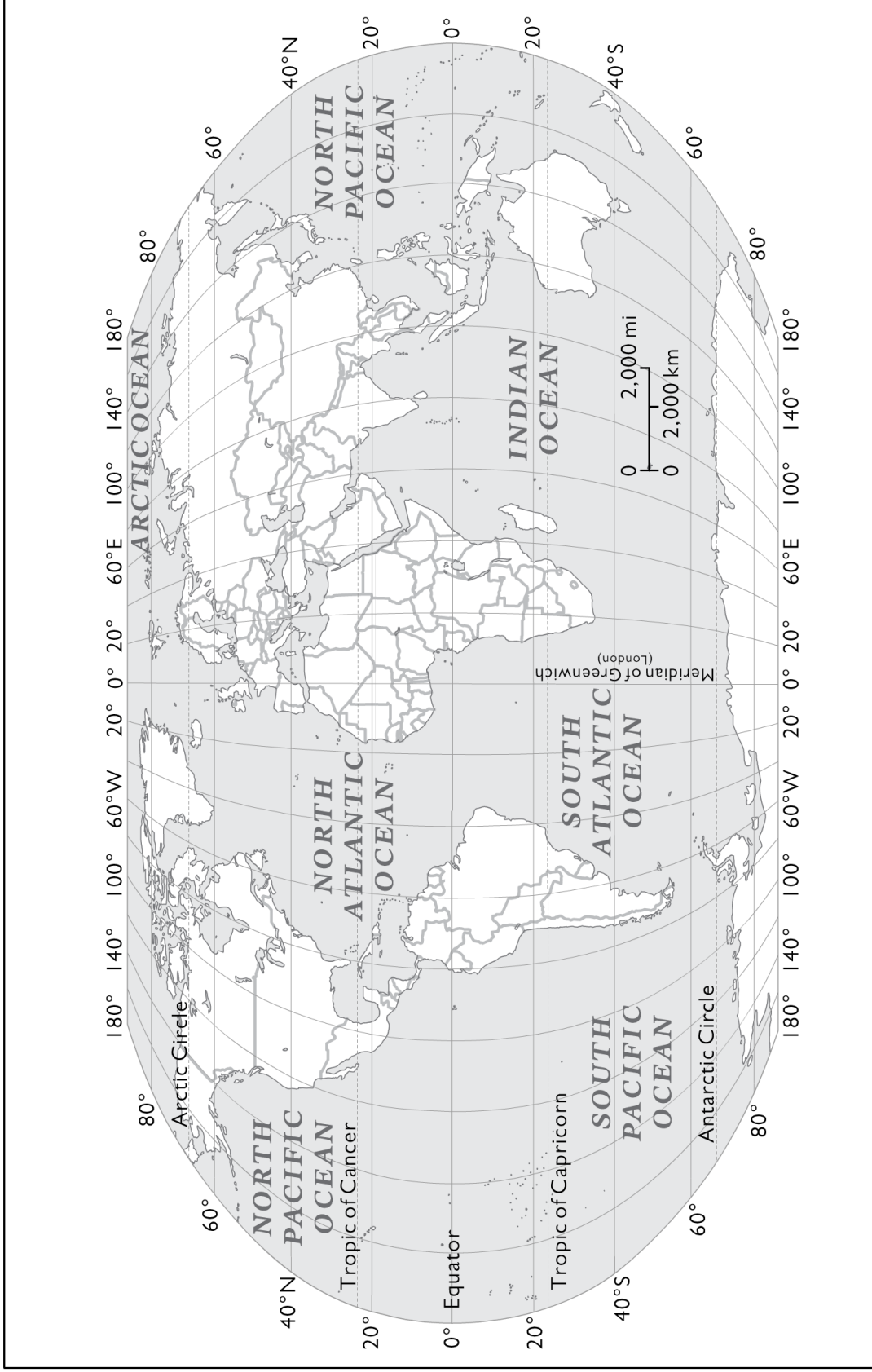
What is your country doing to reduce the demand for trafficked individuals?

Are there laws against human trafficking? _____

Explain. _____

How well are laws against human trafficking enforced in your country? _____

How is your country working with the international community to combat human trafficking? _____



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THE WORLD



Resolutions

Committee discussion, writing, and negotiation result in **resolutions**. **Resolutions** are documents that delegates from different countries write together during a conference. While in draft form, they are called **working papers**. **Working papers** and **resolutions** are written suggestions for addressing a specific problem or issue. Delegates work together on working papers. Delegates then collect signatories, which are delegates who agree or support the working paper you have created (the chair will announce how many are needed to bring the working paper to the floor for voting). Outline important points that you would like to see in working papers and resolutions. Outline points that you do NOT want on resolutions (so you remember not to sign anything that includes those points).

Three points to include in a working paper/resolution:

- _____

- _____

- _____

Three points that this country will **not** sign:

- _____

- _____

- _____

Countries that might have a similar point of view:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Format of a working paper/resolution:

Heading

Committee Name:

Committee Topic:

Sponsored by: **(signatories)**

Preambulatory Clauses

The preamble of a working paper/resolution states the reasons why the committee is addressing the topic and highlights past international action on the issue. Each clause begins with an underlined perambulatory phrase and ends with a comma.

Sample preambulatory phrases:

Affirming

Alarmed by

Approving

Aware of

Bearing in mind

Believing

Confident

Contemplating

Convinced

Declaring

Deeply concerned

Deeply conscious

Deeply convinced

Deeply disturbed

Deeply regretting

Desiring

Emphasizing

Expecting

Expressing its appreciation

Expressing its satisfaction

Fulfilling

Fully alarmed

Fully aware

Fully believing

Further deploring

Further recalling

Guided by

Having adopted

Having considered

Having devoted attention

Having examined

Having heard

Having received

Having studied

Keeping in mind

Noting with regret

Noting with deep concern

Noting with satisfaction

Noting further

Noting with approval

Observing

Reaffirming

Realizing

Recalling

Recognizing

Referring

Seeking

Taking into account

Taking into consideration

Taking note

Viewing with appreciation

Welcoming

Operative Clauses

Operative clauses identify the actions or recommendations made in a resolution. Each operative clause begins with an underlined verb (called an operative clause) and ends with a semi colon. Operative clauses should be organized in a logical progression. Each operative clause contains ONE idea or proposal. These clauses are numbered in the working paper/resolution. If a clause needs further explanation, use lettered bullet points.

Sample Operative Phrases:

Accepts	Emphasizes	Regrets
Adopts	Encourages	Reminds
Affirms	Endorses	Requests
Approves	Expresses its appreciation	Solemnly affirms
Asks	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns
Authorizes	Further invites	Supports
Calls for	Further proclaims	Takes note of
Calls upon	Further recommends	Transmits
Condemns	Further reminds	Trusts
Confirms	Further requests	Urges
Congratulates	Further resolves	
Considers	Has resolved	
Declares	Notes	
Deplores	Proclaims	
Designates	Reaffirms	
Draws the attention of	Recommends	

Resolution Reminders and Tips:

- Work **TOGETHER** with other delegates to draft working papers.
- Represent your country's position in the resolution.
- Be specific and detailed when writing operative clauses.
- Be creative but be realistic.
- Try to cite facts whenever possible.

Example of weak operative clauses:

1. Urges the UN to provide aid
2. Designates the government to distribute aid

Example of strong operative clauses:

1. Urges the UN to provide \$___ in aid:
 - a. these funds will be provided by _____,
 - b. to fund _____ programs in _____,
 - c. to support the effort of _____ organization;
2. Designates the financial minister of the _____ government to supervise distribution of aid:
 - a. programs will submit proposals and financial plans to _____ office,
 - b. programs will be monitored and evaluated;

**Interview Handout
(DCPS Embassy Adoption Program)**

Interviewing an Embassy Representative

Good morning/afternoon_____. I am _____, a _____ grade student at _____ school. As part of our preparation for the Model UN conference, I would like to ask you a few questions regarding your country’s position on human trafficking.

1. What is your country currently doing regarding human trafficking?

2. Is your country a source, transit, or destination country or a combination of the three for human trafficking?

3. What do you believe is the biggest obstacle in ending human trafficking in your country?

4. Are there specific groups within your population that are being targeted for human trafficking?

6. _____?

7. _____?

Thank you for your time. This has been very informative and helpful. I am looking forward to representing your country in the Model UN Spring Conference.

UN POSTER RUBRIC

(DCPS Embassy Adoption Program)

Incorporation of Country Snapshot Facts	Connection to Culture	Overall Visual Impact	Creativity	Neatness
Poster clearly utilizes the facts, and relates them to one another.	Accurate and robust representation of products, practices, arts, and food	Lettering and artwork are bold and clear, captures attention of viewer	Concept is imaginative and original	Careful work with attention to detail; clean presentation
Poster utilizes most facts, and might relate some.	Good attempt to represent products, practices, arts, and food	Lettering and artwork are clear, May/ may not capture attention of viewer	Concept is somewhat imaginative/original	Good attempt to produce careful work with minor flaws
Poster does not utilize the facts.	Limited representation of products, practices, arts, and food	Lettering and artwork fail to capture attention of viewer	Concept lacks imagination/originality	Careless or sloppy work: erasures, cross-outs, crumpled paper, use of white-out