



NMUN · DC

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

BACKGROUND GUIDE 2011

Secretary-General: Jennifer Spalding; Under-Secretary-General: Michael Gaspar
Director: Cara Wagner; Assistant Director: Jenna Gleaton



NMUN · DC
NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
nmun.org

Official Welcome

On behalf of the 2011 National Model United Nations-DC Conference team and your committee staff, Cara Wagner and Jenna Gleaton, we would like to welcome you to the Commission on the Status of Women. Everyone at NMUN-DC has worked diligently throughout the year to prepare for this conference, and we sincerely hope that you will conclude the weekend at the conference with a greater appreciation for global politics and the role that women play in them.

Model UN provides an excellent environment for delegates to learn and improve important life skills and academic knowledge. This background guide provides detailed information regarding the committee topics. It should be used as a guide to help you begin research on your State's policies and move further in the study of the topics presented. During the conference, your knowledge and preparation will help you as you interact and negotiate with your fellow delegates while representing your State's positions.

Increasingly the international community is recognizing the role that women play in the world and the challenges they face. Never more than with the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment as the third Millennium Development Goal has this been exemplified. As we work towards this goal, the CSW serves as a key actor in educating the world and providing a voice for millions of women.

We are honored to play a role in your educational experience here at NMUN-DC and look forward to working with all of you.

History of the Commission on the Status of Women

When the *Charter of the United Nations* was signed in 1945, it only had four women signatories. Those four women made certain that the document guaranteed women's rights. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is an official committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is the primary UN committee devoted to "gender equality and advancement of women." On June 21, 1946, the CSW was created under ECOSOC resolution 11(II). The resolution stated that the CSW's function was to "prepare recommendations and reports to the Economic and Social Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, social, and educational fields." Furthermore, it is granted the authority to make recommendations to ECOSOC "on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights." Since July 2010, the CSW has become a part of UN Women, which was created by the General Assembly and focuses on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The committee's mandate has been modified throughout the years to address new issues that the body faced. Some additions to the mandate include "monitoring the implementation of measures for the advancement of women and reviewing and appraising progress made at the national, sub-regional, regional, and global levels." Further additions were that the CSW should "continue to ensure support for mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities" and "identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needed to be improved" along with various others that had to deal with monitoring programs previously set in place, recognizing newer issues, and continuing to support women's equality.

The CSW is made up of forty-five Member States and contains one representative from each Member State who is appointed by ECOSOC according to "geographical distribution: thirteen members from Africa; eleven from Asia; nine from Latin America and Caribbean; eight from Western Europe and other States and four from Eastern Europe." Each member can serve on the Commission, which convenes annually for ten business days, for four years. The Bureau's members, those who prepare for the meetings and strive for prosperous proceedings, serve two-year terms. The CSW is a resolution-writing committee and aims to construct "agreed conclusions on priority themes set for each year."

I. Female Entrepreneurship in Least Developed Countries

- Can female social entrepreneurship be encouraged while also respecting traditional and cultural values of a society? How can such programs be implemented?
- What role do international organizations play in advancing female entrepreneurship?
- In light of recent economic downturns, how can the international community use gender sensitive economic policies to foster economic prosperity? How can you make trade work for women?

Women make up 50% of the world's population and of the 1.2 billion people living in poverty, 70% of them are women. As the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2015 deadline grows closer, the international community is increasingly debating not only about how to empower women and include them in the economy but how such measures can be implemented sustainably. Female entrepreneurship has been defined as "women's position in society *and* the role of entrepreneurship in the same society." While women around the world face obstacles such as family responsibilities, those in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are challenged with even more that connect to underlying issues regarding policy and gender equality. In many of the LDCs women do not have property rights and cannot enter into contracts. Yet, their participation in the workforce and in markets is necessary in order to encourage reform and improve women's status in society. In 2009, the United Nations Global Compact and UN Women partnered to develop the Women's Empowerment Principles. These principles are seven principles that were developed to highlight best practices to which corporations could follow and effectively empower equality and better foster sustainable development in business.

Gender equality in business is not only about women's role in society but is a crucial component of development. When women make an income, they will reinvest 90% of it back into their family and community while men will reinvest only 30-40%. According to UN Women, "Women perform 66% of the world's work, produce 50% of the food, but earn 10% of the income and own 1% of the property." The cause for women's empowerment has been around for a long time but only recently has the international community begun to campaign in strength for gender equality. "OECD Official Development Assistance (ODA) for gender equality has tripled in 2006 compared with 2002, going up from \$2.5 billion to \$7.2 billion. This has meant an increase in the proportion of total ODA from 6% -8%." While the increase in ODA is necessary, a byproduct is that it can create a dependence on it. Microfinance programs have been working to develop systems that empower women, afford them the opportunity to enter the global markets, and be sustainable at the same time. The success of microfinance institutions and programs such as the Grameen Bank and Kiva show the power that even the smallest amount of investment in a woman's can have on their lives and the lives of those around them.

Furthermore, the financial crisis of 2008 saw many groups hurt and women were some of the worst affected. "The global economic crisis is expected to plunge a further 22 million women into unemployment, which would lead to a female unemployment rate of 7.4% (versus 7% of male unemployment)." The inclusion of women in cross border trade is a key component identified by the South African Development Community as to what helped cushion the States' economies during the global financial crisis. Yet of the women living in poverty, those in the LDCs are incredibly at risk for unemployment and in some places are prevented from entering the work force all together, as is the case in many Arab countries where only 28% of women participate in the workforce.

While initiatives like the Women's Empowerment Principles and the inclusion of women are crucially important, they also rely on certain factors that women in LDCs do not have access to. In May 2011, the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries was held. At this conference the Director of UN Women noted that barriers to women's inclusion in the workforce include the "... lack of access to credit, services, transport, storage and marketing information, and their exposure to abuses, [and] are ignored in the design of trade policies that only deal with the formal trade sector." Lack of education, violence and disease are also untraditional barriers preventing women from entering the global market and creating sustainable opportunities in their lives.

It has been noted that gender equality increases the overall investments in the country. For the LDCs any factor to increase investment is vital. As the world recovers from the global financial crisis innovative and gender sensitive policies relating to trade, investment, and the global markets are growing. Female entrepreneurship is an imperative strategy that the international community should continue to explore and develop as the 2015 MDGs deadline approaches.

II. Violence Against Women and Girls

- In what ways is violence perpetrated against women and girls both in conflict and post-conflict situations? What should be done to address the use of sexual violence as a weapon during armed conflict?
- What does Security Council Resolution 1960 mean for Women, Peace, and Security?
- How can men and boys be encouraged and empowered to help end violence against women and girls?

Violence against both women and girls comes in many forms with up to 70% of women experiencing some form of violence. The United Nations and the World Health Organization defines such violence as: “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” This includes: domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, female genital mutilation, and honor killings. The consequences of violence against women and girls are felt not only by the victims, but also by the whole of the international community. There have been clear linkages between violence against women and girls to the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals. The Millennium Declaration called for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and in 2010, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released two reports: *Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women* and *Trafficking in women and girls*.

In 2010, the UN Security Council passed Security Council Resolution 1960 calling for the implementation of sexual violence as a grievous crime. Used both during conflict and peace times, sexual violence is one of the most common forms of violence against women in girls particularly during armed conflict. In armed conflict, systematic rape is employed as a means of coercion, domination, manipulation, and as a fear tactic. Examples of sexual violence span all ages, all levels of development, and are present in almost any conflict. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the most widely known cases with 1,100 rapes each month and an average of 36 each day. But it is not just in the Least Developed Countries. In the Bosnian conflict a sum 20,000-50,000 women were raped. Worse still, girls who are conscripted into the ranks of soldiers are often used as sex slaves, taken as wives, and become girl mothers only to be shamed and disowned once the conflict has ended and they attempt to repatriate into society. Internally Displaced camps are also over-crowded and just as unsafe for women while they are the fleeing conflict.

Yet, armed conflict is not the only situation when sexual violence occurs. The systems that allowed for such atrocities to happen are left in place after a conflict, making the situation equally as dangerous as before. While rape may decrease in some post-conflict situations, post-conflict reconstruction programs often fail to incorporate the needs of sexual violence victims. Furthermore, peacekeepers that may be present often become the perpetrators of such crimes. Rape, however, is not the only weapon of violence against women and girls during conflict. Women and girls to this day are still trafficked, making up 80% of the total. According to UNiTE an estimated 500,000 to 2 million people are trafficked annually for prostitution, forced labor, slavery or servitude. These effects are likely to increase as conflicts come to an end even if incidents of rape are decreasing.

In 2009, the United Nations launched the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, set to run until 2015. Also in 2009, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched his Network of Men Leaders. This network serves to provide men and avenue and the support needed to join the movement to end violence against women and girls. As described by the Secretary-General, men are exposed to sexist and discriminatory behavior and yet often feel unsupported by other men and so become unwilling to intervene. Further still, men and boys are often witnesses to the violence perpetrated against women and girls as mothers, sisters, and daughters. Boys often grow up to commit the same crimes they witnessed, most common of which is evidenced by the domestic violence cycle.

Continuing to move forward in the debate and discussion of the consequences, effects, and prevention of violence of women and girls is crucial in the pursuit of human rights, equality, development, and peace. At the end of its 51st session the Commission of the Status of Women concluded: “...that the empowerment of girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and to promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of all their human rights. It also recognizes that empowering girls requires the active support and engagement of their parents, legal guardians, families, boys and men, as well as the wider community.” It is with this in mind that the international community can move forward to develop solutions as a community in the interests of not just women and girls but the entire world.

III. Women and HIV/AIDS

- What are the major concerns currently facing Women and HIV/AIDS and how are they being handled?
- What steps are international and national communities taking towards affording women their rights and ability to seek help? How do the United Nations and Member States further assist in establishing policies and programs that tackle this topic?
- How can the CSW address the issues facing this topic and ensure that women are protected?

The issue of HIV/AIDS was launched to the forefront of international discussion in 2000 when the United Nations Millennium Declaration was adopted, leading to the creation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Goal 6 of the MDGs contains two targets that aim to “have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS” and to “achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those” who require assistance. Following the creation of the MDGs, addressing HIV/AIDS increasingly became a priority. A Special Session convened at the United Nations General Assembly in 2001 aimed at showing recognition of and addressing the growing number of deaths caused by HIV/AIDS. From this Special Session came the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, which declared to take action at the national, regional, and international levels while guaranteeing the protection of human rights against discrimination, especially among women and girls. The Declaration attempted to ensure women’s equality and advancement as well as the ability to make their own decisions about medicines and treatment.

The international community illustrated its everlasting commitment to reaching Goal 6 in 2006 with the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, which reemphasized the importance of the Declaration of Commitment and ways to continue to strive towards reaching its objectives. The Political Declaration further underlined the significance of women’s rights and HIV/AIDS by stressing its devotion to “eliminating gender inequalities, [...], increasing the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection; ensuring that women can exercise their right to have control over, and decide freely and responsibly on, matters related to their sexuality.”

The CSW has attempted to address the concerns facing women and HIV/AIDS, such as those mentioned in the Political Declaration: eliminating gender inequality, aiding women and girls in their ability to defend themselves against HIV, and providing women the freedom to decide for themselves the path to take to protection and recovery. At its review in March 2010 of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, both established at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, the CSW re-emphasized the importance of these documents and rising to the challenges that continue to exist. One of the challenges highlighted was of women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS, in CSW resolution 52/4. The resolution stressed the need for governments to strengthen national and international cooperation in increasing global access to prevention education, insuring gender equality, providing health care, and various other factors affecting women’s rights. In addition to providing education, it is also imperative to provide affordable and easily obtainable treatment.

The Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS discusses several actions Member States have taken in reaching its goals. Member States, such as Albania, Argentina, Canada, Colombia, and various others, have “incorporated gender perspectives in their national policies, programs, strategic frameworks, and plans to systematically address HIV/AIDS.” In Brazil, Cyprus, and Romania, they have incorporated policies for HIV/AIDS in their “national action plans on gender equality.” The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) worked with several national governments to train them in “gender analysis and women’s human rights-based approaches.” An example of their efforts was the Nigerian National Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS 2005-2009, which was a council set up to ensure women’s rights and request states to fund their HIV/AIDS State Plans. UNIFEM’s “Three One’s” approach provides countries with a three-step plan that will aid them in creating policies concerning women and HIV/AIDS: “one national AIDS action framework, one national AIDS coordinating authority and one system for monitoring and evaluation.” International and national cooperation and commitment to policies and programs that address the multitude of issues facing women and HIV/AIDS are crucial in order to provide women with the care they require and deserve.

Annotated Bibliography

History of the Commission on the Status of Women

UN Women. (2011). *Commission on the Status of Women*. Retrieved August 16, 2011, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/index.html>.

This Web site is a part of the UN Women site. It contains information specific to the CSW. It contains an overview of the Commission along with each session. This is a good place for delegates to get information regarding the formation of the CSW and reports on each session.

UN Women. Commission on the Status of Women. (2011). *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*. Retrieved August 16, 2011, from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/CSW60YRS/CSWbriefhistory.pdf>.

This is a summation of the CSW's history and functioning that was adapted from The United Nations and the Advancement of Women, 1945-1996 and the United Nations CD-ROM Women Go Global, 2000. This can be seen in the footnotes of the document. This provides delegates with a brief history of the Commission, its actions, and its mandate.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (1946, June 21). *Economic and Social Council Resolution 11 (II)*. Retrieved August 16, 2011, from

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/pdf/CSW_founding_resolution_1946.pdf.

This resolution established the CSW and set up its framework. It established the Commissions mandates, function, and cooperation mechanisms. It lays out the responsibilities of the body and to whom it reports. This resolution provides further insight into the creation and maintaining of the CSW.

I. Female Entrepreneurship in Least Developed Countries

Kobeissi, Nada. (2010). Gender Factors and Female Entrepreneurship: International Evidence and Policy Implications. *Journal of International Entrepreneurship*. 8: 1–35.

The author presents an argument in favor of female entrepreneurship and explains its impact on policy. The parameters of the paper analyze 5 variables relating to female entrepreneurship in 44 particular cases in developing countries. This paper also contrasts the situations between both developed and developing world. Overall, it provides a look at the scholarly research landscape regarding female entrepreneurship.

Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development. (2004, June 3-5). *Women's Entrepreneurship: Issues and Policies*. OECD: Paris. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from www.oecd.org/dataoecd/6/13/31919215.pdf

This publication is a result of the second OECD Conference of Ministers Responsible for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs). This conference themed Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovative SMEs in a Global Economy: Towards a More Responsible and Inclusive Globalization was held in Istanbul, Turkey 3-5 June 2004. In these documents includes the joint conclusion made by all attending Member States at these proceedings.

United Nations. (2011, May 9-13). *Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020*. The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. UN: Istanbul, Turkey. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from www.unohrrls.org/UserFiles/File/IPoA.pdf

The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was held in Istanbul, Turkey from May 9-13, 2011. Topics discussed included economic and social development, the Millennium Development Goals, and women's empowerment. These conclusions and recommendations serve as an example of what has been decided by the international community regarding the issues facing the LDCs.

United Nations Global Compact and UN Women. (2010). *Women's Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business*. UN: New York. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from

http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/human_rights/Resources/WEP_EMB_Booklet.pdf

This Booklet, produced in partnership, between the UN Global Compact and UN Women, explain the Women's Empowerment Principles. It is noted, that these principles are based on the Calvert Women's Principles that were originally established with UNIFEM in 2004. The Calvert Women's Principles were "the first global corporate code of conduct focused exclusively on empowering, advancing and investing in

women worldwide.” Now, the current principles with this foundation go further and have worked in collaboration with an international multi-stakeholder consultancy.

UNIFEM. *UN Women - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_poverty_economics/facts_figures.php
Hosted on the Web site of UNIFEM, these facts and figures show the current situation facing women in poverty and economics. UNIFEM is now a part of the larger UN organization named UN Women. For years UNIFEM has been an expert organization in providing information about the status of women and continues to provide key facts, figures, and statistics to understand the reality of the situation facing women and the international community.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization. (2003). *A Path Out of Poverty Developing Rural and Women Entrepreneurship*. UNIDO: Istanbul. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from <http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=o13220>
UNIDO produced this report as a recommendation for a “path out of poverty”. In the report it discusses the challenges facing women, particularly rural women. In connection, it discusses female entrepreneurship among rural women and how to improve their situations.

II. Violence Against Women and Girls

Commission on the Status of Women. (2007). *Agreed Conclusions of the CSW 51st Session on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination and Violence Against the Girl Child*. CSW: New York. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/agreedconclusions.html>
The Commission on the Status of Women held its 51st session from February 26, 2011 – March 9, 2011. These report represent the joint conclusions developed by the Member States of the Commission. The conclusions reference and recall the Beijing Declaration, a key document in the international debate about women. Furthermore, sub-themes include HIV/AIDS and domestic violence. These conclusions were presented to and adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session in 2007.

Marsh, Mendy and Jeanne Ward. (2006). *Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in War and Its Aftermath: Realities, Responses, and Required Resources A Briefing Paper*. Prepared for Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond 21-23 June 2006. Brussels (Belgium). Retrieved August 19, 2011 from www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/finalbrusselsbriefingpaper.pdf
Presented at the Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond in Brussels, this paper provides key statistical data. Moreover, multiple cases are examined in this paper and it serves a good starting point for research of key case studies of violence against women. Issues in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bosnia, and Chechnya are discussed. The United Nations Population Fund sponsored this symposium in 2006.

United Nations. (2011). *The Secretary-General’s Network of Men Leaders*. The Secretary-General’s Campaign UNiTE to End Violence Against Women. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/pdf/factsheets/unite_network_men_leaders.pdf
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon established the Network of Men Leaders in 2009. This is a fact sheet of how men and boys are affected by violence against women. It also develops the rationale and recommendations on how to empower men and boys to help the fight to end the violence. This information is provided as part of the larger UNiTE to End Violence Against Women campaign.

United Nations. (2011). *Violence Against Women*. The Secretary-General’s Campaign UNiTE to End Violence Against Women. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/pdf/factsheets/unite_the_situation.pdf
This is another fact sheet provided as a resource of the Secretary-General’s UNiTE to End Violence Against Women campaign. Key facts, figures, and case studies are incorporated into this document. To gain an understanding of the situation and challenges faced by women every day in regards to violence, this document is the best start.

United Nations General Assembly. (2010). *Report of the Secretary-General: Intensification of Efforts to eliminate all Forms of Violence Against Women*. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from

<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/65/208>

This report by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is a detailed review of the situation of violence against women and the current actions being pursued by the international community. Mr. Ban supplied this report at the 65th session of the General Assembly per the body's request. In its 65th session the General Assembly noted the responsibility of all States to protect human rights. This report details the measures that had been presented by Member States and also provides recommendations to move forward to end violence against women.

United Nations General Assembly. (2010). *Report of the Secretary-General: Trafficking of Women and Girls*. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/65/209>

Consecutively following his report on Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate all Forms of Violence Against Women, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon wrote this report specifically dealing with the issue of trafficking. Often not at the forefront of the violence against women debate, trafficking affects millions of women and girls. It is in the report that Mr. Ban details this situation. This provides good background for further research on this sub-topic.

United Nations Security Council. (2010, December 16). *Resolution 1960 (2010)*. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/RES/1960%282010%29>

Security Council Resolution 1960 was a vital victory regarding justice for women and girls. S/RES/1960 (2010) references sexual violence as a grave crime against humanity. As conflicts become more intractable and continue on well past official resolutions, the recognition provided by the international community with the passing of this gives precedence for future implications in prosecuting sexual violence against women and girls.

World Health Organization. (2011). *Violence Against Women*. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>

The World Health Organization (WHO) is one among many key players providing a voice to women. Women and girls' are severely vulnerable to health risks as a result of violence. This Web site provides another set of crucial statistics regarding women, health, poverty, and violence. The larger WHO Web site also contains important information in going forward with research.

III. Women and HIV/AIDS

UN Women. (2011). *UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*. Retrieved August 16, 2011, from <http://www.unwomen.org/>.

UN Women was created by the General Assembly in July 2010. It focuses on providing women equality and empowerment. UN Women's Web site contains information about the various entities that are a part of it; one of which is the CSW. In addition, it contains documents, reports, resolutions, and various other tools that will aid the delegates in their research.

UNAIDS. (2007, February 12-14). *Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS (2006), universal access process, and civil society engagement*. Retrieved August 16, 2011, from http://data.unaids.org/pub/BaseDocument/2007/070216_hhr_2_universalaccesscivilsociety.pdf.

This is an issue paper for the session of the UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV and Human Rights Seventh Meeting. It discusses, at length, the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS and governments' continued commitment to prevent, treat, and educate on HIV/AIDS. It provides further insight into the international community's work on this subject by defining the issue and discussing desired targets.

UNAIDS. (2011). *2000 Millennium Development Goals*. Retrieved August 16, 2011, from <http://www.unaids.org/en/AboutUNAIDS/unitednationsdeclarationsandgoals/2000millenniumdevelopmentgoals/>.

UNAIDS is a joint United Nations program on HIV/AIDS. This Web site contains information about HIV/AIDS in the global community. This specific page has information about the MDGs, including how they were formed and the two points of Goal 6 that deal with HIV/AIDS. This is a good place for delegates to obtain information about the MDGs, the United Nations Millennium Declaration that established them, and how they approach this topic.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2010). *Commission on the Status of Women: Report on the fifty-fourth session (13 March and 14 October 2009 and 1-12 March 2010)*. Retrieved August 16, 2011, from <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2010/27E/CN.6/2010/11>.

This report discussed the fifteenth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which reemphasized the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It also contains resolution 54/2 about women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS. Furthermore, it delves into gender equality and the empowerment of women and how the CSW is obtaining these goals through reviewing and monitoring previous work and resolutions. It provides details into the body's actions on this topic.

United Nations General Assembly. (2001, June 25-27). *Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS: "Global Crisis – Global Action"*. Retrieved August 16, 2011, from <http://www.un.org/ga/aids/coverage/FinalDeclarationHIVAIDS.html>.

This Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly. It laid out the international community's commitment to addressing the issue of HIV/AIDS and determination to establish programs that successfully combated this epidemic. It suggests proposed steps to take at each level of government. This gives a basic structure of the UN's efforts at tackling this topic.