

**Forum:** Social Humanitarian & Cultural Committee  
**Issue:** Empowerment of women's rights in rural areas  
**Student Officer:** Alice Germanacos  
**Position:** Co-chair

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dearest delegates,

My name is Alice Germanacos and as you can see above, I shall be serving as a co-chair in the Social Humanitarian & Cultural Committee in this year's Platon School Model United Nations. This will be my first time participating in a Platon School MUN and it will be an honor to serve as a chair at its 7th session this March! This will be my second time as a student officer, both times having served in the Humanitarian Committee.

My fellow student officers and I will be responsible for ensuring that a smooth and orderly lobbying process is carried out. Our job is to address any potential problems that may arise and to ensure the rules of procedures are carried out in the correct manner. Furthermore, we will also do our best to ensure that the delegates of our Committee have the best and most fulfilling experience possible.

My designated topic and moreover, the topic which I was most interested in is the issue of empowering rural women. This issue is one which goes unnoticed and is overlooked by many, therefore, I believe it would be deemed as valuable knowledge for those who are unaware of it. I sincerely hope this study guide provides you with a substantial introduction but needless to say, should not be relied on fully. I recommend you do research on your own nation's stance on this topic as opinions differ from nation to nation. If you require assistance or have any questions regarding this issue, I am here to provide you with whatever help needed.

I will do my best to make this the most lucrative experience possible for you and I am genuinely looking forward to becoming acquainted with you all this coming March.

Best regards,

Alice Germanacos

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## INTRODUCING TOPIC

Rural women play a principal role in the eradication of poverty in rural areas and the fortification of economic and social stability, however, they face multiple issues mainly regarding gender equality. They face consequential challenges as a result of gender based stereotypes and prejudice which ultimately diminishes their rights and denies them sufficient access to opportunities, resources, services and assets. Furthermore, their challenges are further aggravated by climate change, food crises and economic crises which are occurring in most developing countries.

Women make up 43% of the agricultural workforce worldwide, and constitute to as much as 70% in some less economically developed countries signifying their importance in achieving global food security and in the development of rural areas, which in turn greatly benefits the national economy. Rural women dedicate most of their earnings to the well-being of their families and are imperative in achieving global sustainable development yet their voices are still muted, and they still remain exponentially more marginalized than men.

In the last ten years, actions such as the introduction of new land laws have been taken by several African countries in order to strengthen women's rights. However, despite this effort, ineffective and unspecific policies have given rise to high levels of poverty and soaring illiteracy rates. Rural women in Africa display one of the most visible faces of poverty on the planet despite the importance they hold in agricultural economies.

Gender indifference in education threatens rural women's access to vital resources and gives rise to negative outcomes in child schooling and nutrition. Education is critical in enabling women to develop essential skills needed in knowledge intensive agriculture and a lack of basic education tends to result in a deprivation of new opportunities. Gender inequality in education has resulted in an eminently high illiteracy rate amongst women in rural areas. If gender gaps in education prevail, women will be less likely to participate in development and will be more prone to facing further discrimination in rural areas. Studies across Asia and South India indicate that factors such as entrenched cultural norms and inadequate primary schools in villages deny children of their right to basic education.

One of the most notable examples of gender disparities that women face is the issue regarding equal access and control of land between genders. Less than 20% of landholders in rural areas are women which consequently abbreviates their access to productive resources and services. The Food Agricultural Organization (F.A.O) provides crucial assistance to governments in boosting agriculture productivity through strengthening women's rights as landholders and increasing their crop yield. Women in rural areas are also having to endure constraints in accessing basic financial services such as insurance and credit due to cultural stereotypes, and various legal barriers. A pre-eminent example of a cultural norm which diminishes their financial rights is that they are unable to keep bank accounts without their husband or another man's permission.

Rural Women also face obstacles in the context of limited or even nonexistent infrastructure. Most of their time and energy gravitates towards accessing fuel wood and water for agricultural and domestic use, obtaining food and providing for their children. Their participation and agricultural work can be amplified through rural infrastructure programs in which they have roles in the decision making.

Inadequate health services such as hospitals and clinics, both of which tend to be scarce in rural areas is a cardinal issue in the perpetual list of problems which rural women encounter. Health services are a necessity in addressing the mental and physical health of rural women and ensuring their well-being. The UN's specialized agency, the World Health Organization (W.H.O) has 'a gender-based approach' regarding public health and a predominant stance in maintaining and improving women's health in rural areas through the elimination of child labour and advocating for social protection.

Rural regions in nations now face the problem of food insecurity due to the rise of global temperatures, changes in weather patterns and the increase in climate-related disasters which calls for the need of empowering rural women. Additionally, their restricted access to climate-smart technologies has exasperated the situation which in turn has reduced the average crop yield of many nations, and has limited rural women's access to essential needs such as health care leaving them unable to provide sufficient sustenance for their families. Rural women are key figures in the promotion of effective responses to climate changes and their participation in environmental planning, budgeting and environment-friendly policy-making process is mandatory. Furthermore, they guarantee increases in food production which could ultimately aid the global food crisis and fight hunger.

Women in rural areas are fundamental to national economies, the development of rural areas and to sustainable development. Their empowerment would prompt much needed economic growth and social progress which would be an asset to global sustainability. Quoted by UN Women itself "Empowering rural women is a prerequisite to fulfilling the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals that aim to end poverty and hunger, achieve food security and empower all women and girls. "<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Empowering Rural Women, Ensuring Food Security and Ending Poverty." *UN Women*. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Dec. 2016.  
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/rural-women-food-poverty>

## KEY TERMS

### RURAL AREAS

Rural areas are those which are located outside city areas and those which “relate to the countryside”<sup>2</sup>.

### EMPOWERMENT

According to the Oxford Dictionary, empowerment is defined as “the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one’s life and claiming one’s rights.”<sup>3</sup> In this context, empowerment of women in rural areas is to recognize their agricultural rights regarding land holding, their financial rights, educational rights and most importantly their social rights as women in terms of gender equality.

### GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality is “the state in which access to rights or opportunities is unaffected by gender.” The majority of obstacles which rural women face agriculturally derive from gender stereotypes and gaps which still linger in many rural areas.

### GENDER DIVISION OF LABOUR

Gender division in labor is a central aspect of gender inequality. It refers to assigning women and men with certain tasks based on their gender, and/or prohibiting them from performing others.

### HEALTH

The World Health Organisation defines ‘health’ as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”<sup>4</sup>

### FOOD SECURITY

Food security is defined as “the state of having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food”. The United Nation defines food security as “having four main components: availability, access, utilisation and stability.” It makes a valid point in stating that “rural women play key roles in maintaining all four pillars of food security: as food producers and agricultural entrepreneurs”.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> “Rural” Oxford English Dictionary  
<<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/rural>>

<sup>3</sup> “Empowerment” Oxford English Dictionary  
<<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/empowerment>>

<sup>4</sup> WHO “Health” Definition  
<<http://www.who.int/about/definition/en/print.html>>

<sup>5</sup> <<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/overview-food-security.html>>

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is defined as “a change in global or regional climate patterns”. More specifically, this is a change that became considerably evident from the mid -20th century onwards which stemmed from the increased use of fossil fuels in cars, factories etc. Climate change has resulted in severe droughts, a rise in minimum temperatures as well as desertification, which have all had dire effects in agricultural production and output.

## UN WOMEN

UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women was established in July 2010. The innovation of the specialized UN agency set up a starting point for nations to take a step towards achieving gender equality and empowerment amongst all women.

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Throughout history, women in rural areas have remained a marginalized and excluded section of society. Their rights as human beings and the profound struggles they face have been overlooked. They have yet to achieve equitable representation in public life and the discrimination they face has only worsened due to various environmental and political factors.

In April of 1929, the first conference on the status of rural women was held in London. Although little was achieved in the fourday conference, this was the first time that the rights and challenges of rural women were recognized in a time period where inequality between genders was severe. This conference then met again a year later and established an organization which would do much to aid the situation of rural women, ‘The Associated Country Women of the World’. This organization is now the largest international organization for rural women located in over 70 nations with consultative status at the United Nations itself.

As for the UN, they arguably hold the most central and chief role in our issue. The United Nations was established in 1945 prior to the establishment of ‘The Commission on the Status of Women’ which is dedicated to promoting gender equality and empowering women. Over 50 years later at its’ 56th session in 2012, this commission had a priority theme of ‘empowering rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges.’ Over 60 delegates representing their nation attended with various prominent organizations that represent women’s rights. No agreed conclusions were adopted in this conference however many nations gained awareness on the gravity of the situation and considerable measures have been taken since 2012 in order to aid rural women.

Very recently, UN Women has collaborated with FAO, IFAD AND WFP in a joint program on ‘Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural

Women'. This partnership is expected to generate effective and wider scale results and aims to promote the economic empowerment of women in rural areas.

“The Program is designed around the following four outcome areas:

Outcome 1: *Improved food and nutrition security*, deals with increasing the productive potential of women smallholder farmers.

Outcome 2: *Rural women’s increased income to secure their livelihoods* focuses on supporting rural women’s livelihood strategies, enhancing their income opportunities along the food value chain, supporting women-led entrepreneurship and promoting their linkages to high value markets.

Outcome 3: *Rural women’s enhanced leadership and participation* in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes promotes their agency in producer organizations and local governance.

Outcome 4: *Gender responsive policy environments* for the economic empowerment of rural women catalyzes legislative and policy reforms for the effective enforcement of rural women’s land rights and their access to decent wage employment and social protection, and infrastructure.”<sup>6</sup>

A historic turning point in the journey to empowering rural women was the Fourth World Conference on Women hosted by the United Nations in Beijing of 1995. The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action was adopted by over 180 nations and is considered to be the main agenda in empowering women. This agenda consisted of a number of clauses fabricated with the purpose of helping women in education, aiding the ongoing poverty which they have faced throughout the century and recognizing their rights as decision makers.



The idea of a World Rural Women’s Day was initiated at the Beijing Conference of 1995. Due to the principal contribution women have in food and agricultural production, it was decided that this momentous day would fall every 15th October, one day before World Food Day. This day was official established by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136 in December of 2007 and was first held in 2008. The innovation of this day was considered to be a pivotal step in obtaining recognition and support in the multiple roles that rural women have and the fundamentality they hold to the well -being of rural society. “The purpose was to provide the women and their organizations with a focal point to:

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<sup>6</sup> ‘Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women’ <<https://www.empowerwomen.org/en/who-we-are/initiatives/rural-women-economic-empowerment>>

1. Raise the profile of rural women;
2. Sensitize both governments and the public to their crucial, yet largely unrecognized roles;
3. Promote action in their support. Initiative on how to celebrate this day was left to individual organizations and communities, according to their own traditions and requirements. Stress was placed on the importance of activities or events being concrete and visible. This action - undertaken by rural and farming women in all parts of the world on the very same day - strengthens the impact of the day.”<sup>7</sup>

Throughout history, women in rural areas have had limited access to land which has been one of the key challenges they have faced and are still facing. They are at the forefront of ensuring food security and social stability yet are still deprived of their right to own land. Resettlement programs have only aggravated the situation as they tend to be upheld with the gender stereotypic assumption that land is allocated to the head of the family who is presumably a man. The Beijing Platform for Action in 1995 highlighted their diminished rights as land holders as a direct cause for female poverty. It urged governments to implement policies and take measures to promote women’s rights in controlling and accessing land and to rid of policies which deprived them of this right. The South African government was one of the few to adopt policies which seek to entrench the role of women as landholders, namely, the ‘Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development sub programmed (LRAD). .In 2000, the UN Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution on Land Ownership which marked a landmark for women’s rights as land holders.

Poverty has only exasperated rural women’s journey in gaining land holding rights. Currently, 750 million in the developing world suffer from poverty and severe malnutrition with a large majority being women of child-bearing age. The eradication of poverty comes hand in hand with our issue in empowering rural women. 2007 marked one of the most acute food crises that the world has ever encountered. in which food prices skyrocketed causing political and economic instability and social unrest in developing nations. Total food import bills rose by an estimated 25% for developing countries. Women in rural areas specifically were hit hard due to the dramatic increase in the price of wheat which is a major crop which many developing nations are reliant on. This caused men to emigrate to the city in search of work, leaving many women in full responsibility of providing for their family. This is a signification of the utmost importance of empowering women in every aspect and eradicating poverty due to their elevated role in agriculture.

Regardless of the awareness that these programs and conferences have raised in respect of the empowerment of women in rural areas; they still face some of the most consequential hardships and have yet to achieve the rights which they are entitled to.

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<sup>7</sup> World Rural Women’s Day

<http://www.sahistory.org.za/dated-event/world-rural-women039s-day-0>

Their situation calls for need of member states, particularly developing nations, to implement more effective policies which recognize their rights and programs which will aid their poverty and in turn, benefit global food security and national economies.

## COUNTRIES AND MAJOR ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE

The majority of member states have a prominent stance in this issue which thereby makes it impractical to list and describe every single nation's involvement. However, there are various notable regions in which empowerment of women in rural areas is needed more than ever.

### AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Developing African nations display the highest illiteracy rates and the highest forms of poverty amongst women in rural regions. Rural women in southern African nations specifically face numerous hardships including high rates of HIV as a result of rapes and sexual abuse, incompetent forms of education and health care as well limited access to employment. Un Women has collaborated with various organizations including UNESCO and the FAO and provided aid in empowering women in African regions where gender inequality is a foremost issue particularly in **Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda.**

### SOUTH-EAST/ SOUTHERN ASIAN COUNTRIES

Rural areas in south east and south Asia are faced with proliferating food prices, low incomes, severe climate change and decreasing control over seeds. Nations such as **Indonesia, China, India, The Philippines, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Malaysia** have a principal role in this issue.

In **China**, Un Women has been active in various rural regions such as Ningxia Hui and has prompted the education of women in adapting to climate change e.g learning about maintaining advanced irrigation systems. Additionally, in order to rid of gender stereotypic cultural norms and set up more open ways of thinking, drama troupes stage performances illustrating the value of women's participation in water management.

In order to provide rural women in **India** with improved access to financial resources, the Dalit Women Women's Livelihoods Accountability Initiative helps women open up bank accounts under their own name which ultimately ameliorates their rights.

### UN WOMEN

UN women perhaps hold the most principal role in achieving equal rights for rural women and empowering them in all aspects. The organization displays an active participation in the issue ensuring that rural women's rights are protected and their

lives improved in terms of health, education and income. UN Women created three international days from 15-17 in order to commemorate their role in development. (International Day of Rural Women (15 October), World Food Day (16 October) and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October)

“In line with its Strategic Plan (2011-2013), UN-Women is focusing on six priority areas:

1. women's leadership and participation;
2. women's economic empowerment;
3. ending violence against women;
4. peace and security and humanitarian response;
5. gender-responsive plans and budgets; and
6. global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment. All of these areas are of high relevance to rural women's empowerment. These various dimensions bring together UN Women's normative and operational functions in support to rural women.”<sup>8</sup>

### FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation)

The Food and Agriculture Organisation was established in 1945 and since then has actively improved the situation of rural women by collaborating with different organizations such as UN women. It aims to achieve food security for all by improving agricultural productivity and improving food nutrition. Gender equality is a prime objective of the organisation in order to improve the lives of rural populations and to ultimately increase output amongst women farmers thus taking a step towards accomplishing global food security.

### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT
April 1929	First International Conference of Rural Women, London 46 women from 24 countries attended four-day conference. A committee was set up to organize a second conference of rural women's organizations in Vienna.

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<sup>8</sup>Un Women Strategic Plan PRIORITIES  
<<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/unwomen-comparative-advantage.html>>

1930	<p>A conference was held in Vienna by the International Council of Women in order to form a 'Liaison Committee' of rural women's organizations. This committee became known as the 'Liaison Committee of Rural Women's Organizations' which later became the 'Associated Country Women of the World'. This organization aims to promote the rights of women in rural areas and have done much to do so. It is worth reading about it &lt;<a href="http://southernontariosupport.yolasite.com/resources/ACWW_info_10.pdf">http://southernontariosupport.yolasite.com/resources/ACWW_info_10.pdf</a>&gt;</p>
June 1946	<p><b>Established Commission on Status of Women</b>          The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established by the UN in 1946 and is dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. It is held annually and has done much to promote the empowerment of women in rural areas in the last 60 years.</p>
1985	<p><b>Founding of the International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP)</b>          The Women's Right Action Watch has done much ameliorate the situation of women in rural areas by successfully raising awareness on the issue. It provides a substantial amount of information on resources on the obstacles which rural women face.</p>
1995	<p><b>Fourth World Conference on Women hosted by the United Nations, Beijing</b>          This conference marked a turning point in achieving gender equality. The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted by 189 nations, is an agenda for empowering women which has successfully helped women in rural areas through clauses on women's rights in education, measures to eradicate poverty as well as their role in decision making.</p>
2000	<p><b>UN Commission on Human Rights adopts the Resolution on Land Ownership</b>          As previously stated, rural women have faced many difficulties in gaining their rights in land ownership and for the first time, the resolution on land ownership was adopted within an agenda of the UN Commission on Human Rights and marked a turning point for women's rights as land holders.</p>

2003	<p>Adopted UN General Assembly’s Resolution 58/146 on aspects of advancement of rural women</p> <p>This resolution aimed to raise awareness on advancing women in rural areas and looked at a wide range of aspects in their empowerment, including an impact of macroeconomic policy on their conditions</p>
2005	<p>10 -year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action conducted at the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women</p> <p>“Delegates adopted a declaration emphasizing that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration”</p>
2007	<p>World food prices increase dramatically</p> <p>The increase of food prices was the genesis of a global food crisis and had alarming repercussions on women in poorer rural regions. The increase led to large percentages of women’s livelihoods being lost and much of their assets had to be sold in order for them to provide for their families.</p>
18 December 2007	<p>Innovation of ‘the International Day of Rural Women’</p> <p>Established by the General Assembly in its <u>resolution 62/136</u> of 18 December 2007, this day recognizes “the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.”</p>
15 October 2008	<p>The first International Day of Rural Women held in 2008</p> <p>A critical moment in the history of rural women for raising awareness and irrevocably promoting their rights</p>
27 February - 9 March 2012	<p>Fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women:</p> <p>The 56th session had a priority theme which is key to this issue: The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges</p>

September 2012	<p>UN launches new programme to empower rural women and girls: Accelerating Progress Toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women</p> <p>Un Women joined with the WFP, FOA and the IFAD to launch this joint programme. It aims to empower rural women through aiding their battle in claiming their rights to land, their rights in shaping policy and law, providing them with more opportunities and choices as well as aiding the food crisis that occurs in many rural areas.</p>
June 2015	<p>SDG Fund Programme on Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment established</p> <p>This program aims to accelerate economic empowerment of rural women and has been developed as a separate and differentiated component on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment which was implemented by Un Agencies and coordinated by UN Women.</p>

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Various organizations such as the FAO and the UN women have collaborated in order to produce possible solutions in achieving the empowerment of rural women. They have done so through policies and programs on issues that currently affect the lives of women in rural regions such as food insecurity and inadequate livelihoods. These solutions are included in resolutions and official ‘millennium goals’.

### **1.Promotion of Gender Equality**

The promotion of gender equality is key in empowering women in rural areas and ensuring that they have equal access to education, work, opportunities and agricultural resources. As stated, there is severe inequality in all aspects of rural society whether it is access to financial resources, education or landholding in agriculture. Measures to promote equality between genders should be central aspects of your resolutions.

### **2. Eradicate extreme poverty and Hunger**

Food insecurity is a major obstacle in accomplishing empowerment of rural women in that it limits their opportunities, leaves them unable to provide for their families and affects their health and livelihoods. Poor access to infrastructure in rural areas is largely to blame for this as it limits their opportunities to reduce poverty and hunger and increases the time they spend on household and reproductive work.

This UN commission document contains agreed conclusions from member states on the eradication of poverty which should help you create clauses regarding the

development of infrastructure and the eradication of hunger and poverty.

<[http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/46/csw46a\\_e\\_final.pdf?v=1&d=20150210T053323](http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/46/csw46a_e_final.pdf?v=1&d=20150210T053323)>

### **3. Improving access to health care services**

Lack of access to health clinics and hospitals is an issue that needs to be addressed in order to improve the lives of women in rural regions. Diseases such as HIV and Malaria still remain widespread in the rural regions of African regions. Only 20% of young women in developing regions have intelligible knowledge of HIV/Aids regardless of the fact that they are the group most prone to catching aids. Measures to combat these diseases and clauses addressing the availability of health services in rural regions are mandatory in achieving empowerment of rural women.

Below is a link of a UN Commission containing agreed conclusions regarding women and their health

<[http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/43/csw43\\_i\\_e\\_final.pdf?v=1&d=20150210T053245](http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/43/csw43_i_e_final.pdf?v=1&d=20150210T053245)>

### **4. Education**

Ensuring that all women in rural regions have access to a basic education is crucial in order so that they can develop needed skills for knowledge intensive agriculture and so as to broaden their opportunities thus fostering their rights as women. Furthermore, recognizing that many girls and women in rural regions do not have access to basic education and that rural women hold some of the highest illiteracy rates on the planet is mandatory. Although the majority of girls are able to access basic education, various sub-Saharan African and central Asian nations still do not provide adequate education facilities. Women who are educated have higher possibilities of being healthy, generating higher incomes and having greater decision making power which in turn provides the scope for empowering them. Education is a human right and measures to ensure that girls are provided with it should be incorporated into resolutions.

### **5. Equal participation of women in decision making processes**

Women's rights in politics and their role in decision making processes are still belittled in most rural regions. Gender gaps and women's exclusion from decision making in rural councils is evident in surveys which have taken place in Asia. Women in Bangladesh constitute to just 0.2% of chairs of heads in rural councils. Recognizing their rights in shaping laws and policies is a measure that needs to be implemented.

UN commissions on the status of women in decision making processes have been held and nations involved have come to some noteworthy conclusions which may aid you in your resolution writing.

<[http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/50/csw50b\\_e\\_final.pdf?v=1&d=20141222T181151](http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/50/csw50b_e_final.pdf?v=1&d=20141222T181151)>

## 6. Ensure environmental sustainability

As previously stated, climate change is a factor that has greatly affected women in rural regions and measures to nurture the effects and consequences it produces must be implemented. Environmental degradation is a critical issue in that it has an enormous impact on natural resources that are vital to rural women's livelihood. The availability of land, forests and natural resources is lessening to the point where it increases women's time burden and ultimately depletes their capacities to cope with the changing climate which in turn undermine their health, education and livelihoods.

The UN has held commissions regarding 'environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters' which may help you in incorporating environmental clauses into your resolutions.

<[http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/46/csw46b\\_e\\_final.pdf?v=1&d=20150210T053323](http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/46/csw46b_e_final.pdf?v=1&d=20150210T053323)>

### These links may help you create suitable clauses for this topic:

1. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2007

62/136. Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

<<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/471/93/PDF/N0747193.pdf?OpenElement>>

2. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2009

64/140. *Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas*

<<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/470/23/PDF/N0947023.pdf?OpenElement>>

3. Fourth World Conference on Women: Table of contents

<<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/>>

4. Agreed conclusions in UN Commissions regarding the status of women

<<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/outcomes>>

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<[https://www.ifad.org/newsroom/press\\_release/past/tags/y2012/1902319](https://www.ifad.org/newsroom/press_release/past/tags/y2012/1902319)>

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