



UNWOMEN

ACADEMIC GUIDE BUMUN II - 2024

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1. Welcome letter from Helena Jaramillo and Sarith Pizarro

On behalf of UN Women, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you. We are thrilled to have you join us in our mission to uphold women's human rights and ensure that every woman and girl lives up to their full potential. As a committee, you have the opportunity to make a significant impact on gender equality and the empowerment of women, which are fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals and a more inclusive world. We are excited to see the innovative and technological solutions that you will bring to the table, as we believe that education in the digital age is crucial for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women. We also welcome your contributions to tackling the leading forms of violence against women and girls, such as the recently launched Spotlight initiative of the EU and the UN. At UN Women, we are committed to live up to our crucial mandate, and we count on your support for our important work at this session and in the months to come. We encourage you to bring your unique perspectives and creative solutions to the table as we work together to address the critical issues surrounding gender equality.

Sincerely,

Helena Jaramillo and Sarith Pizarro

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2. What is UN Women?

UN Women is an entity of the United Nations dedicated to promote gender equality, the empowerment and human rights of women on a worldwide scale as well as inside and among individual nations. This organization develops and carries out international laws,





programmes and policies setting global standards for achieving gender equality; this, by supporting and working with the UN Member States. They are committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals that stands for women's equal participation in all aspects of life, but for a more efficient development of the goal, they focus in four strategic and mainly areas to ensure they become a reality for all women and girls:

- Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems.
- Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy.
- All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence.
- Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. (UN Women, n. d.)

Gender equality is the base of UN Women's values but this entity influences specific targets to accomplish the big aspiration such as Leadership and political participation, economic empowerment, ending violence against women, HIV and AIDS, among others. For a long time, women and girls have faced serious political, social, and economic challenges. The United Nations General Assembly, recognizing the urgency of this issue, took action in July 2019 by establishing UN Women, a United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. UN Women is based on four organizations independent of the United Nations system (Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of





Women (OSAGI), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The pursuit of a just and inclusive world continues, driven by innovation and the values of a better world. Once again, welcome to the committee, and we look forward to working with you to create a more equal and just world for all women and girls.

3. Topic A

Leading, participating, and benefiting equally from governance systems

3.1 Introduction to the topic

The topic titled "Women leading, participating, and benefiting equally from governance systems" focuses on women's involvement in leadership and decision-making roles within governance structures, a critical aspect of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. This study is deeply entrenched in the overarching global endeavor to rectify gender inequality in political participation and leadership. It extends its purview to encompass a spectrum of initiatives meticulously crafted to guarantee women equal opportunities for contribution and benefit within governance systems, spanning from the local to the international echelons.

The contextual backdrop of the case report is intricately woven with the threads of various legal and policy frameworks, as well as the nuanced interplay of social and cultural dynamics that significantly shape and influence women's active engagement in governance.

When addressing gender inequality, the case report positions itself as a vital component of a broader movement advocating for inclusive governance structures. The





initiatives it encompasses are not confined to a particular geographical sphere but transcend boundaries, emphasizing the universality of the pursuit for gender parity in political realms.

This convergence of the case study and report amplifies the significance of women's participation in governance, presenting a comprehensive examination that spans local and global contexts. The multifaceted initiatives highlighted in the report align seamlessly with the nuanced perspectives explored in the case study, forming a cohesive narrative that underscores the imperative of empowering women in leadership roles across diverse governance structures. This synthesis encapsulates a holistic understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and the global movement towards gender equality in political participation and leadership.

4. Perspectives

4.1. Legal and Policy Frameworks

The case study meticulously draws insights from legal instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a cornerstone in the pursuit of gender equality (United Nations, 1979). CEDAW places a binding obligation on states to ensure the full and equal participation of women in public life. Many nations have responded by adopting specific laws and policies crafted to propel women into leadership roles and foster their active participation in governance processes.





These legal and policy frameworks serve as the bedrock upon which initiatives for gender-inclusive governance stand. They establish a framework of rights, responsibilities, and opportunities that empower women to contribute meaningfully at local, national, and international levels. By acknowledging and embracing these legal foundations, the case study underscores the significance of institutional commitment in the pursuit of gender parity within governance structures

4.2 Socio-Cultural Factors

Socio-cultural norms and stereotypes wield considerable influence over the degree to which women can actively engage in governance systems. The examination of these factors is not merely an academic exercise but a crucial exploration into the societal undercurrents shaping the opportunities available to women. It is through an in-depth analysis of prevailing expectations and the challenging of ingrained stereotypes that genuine progress towards gender equality in governance can be realized.

The case study delves into the intricacies of societal expectations, recognizing that dismantling stereotypes is a multifaceted endeavor. It involves challenging preconceived notions about gender roles and advocating for a more inclusive understanding of leadership. By navigating through these socio-cultural dynamics, the case study seeks to identify pathways that can create an enabling environment for women to assume leadership roles and participate meaningfully in decision-making processes.

4.3 Economic Empowerment





Women's equal participation in governance is closely linked to their economic empowerment. Access to resources, education, and economic opportunities plays a significant role in enhancing women's ability to engage in leadership positions within governance structures.

4.4 Intersectionality

The case report adopts an intersectional lens, acknowledging that women's experiences in governance are shaped by the interplay of various factors such as race, ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation. This intersectional perspective recognizes that women are not a monolithic group; rather, their experiences are shaped by the convergence of multiple social categorizations.

Understanding intersectionality is essential for crafting policies and interventions that address the unique challenges faced by women with diverse backgrounds. By recognizing the interconnected nature of discrimination, the case study aims to contribute to a more nuanced and inclusive approach to gender equality in governance

4.5 Male Engagement

This study advocates for the active engagement of men and boys as allies in promoting women's leadership and participation. Recognizing that gender equality is not solely a women's issue, the study underscores the critical role that men play in dismantling patriarchal structures and fostering a more inclusive governance environment.

Engaging men as allies involves not just garnering their support but also promoting a shared understanding of the benefits of gender equality in governance. The case study explores strategies for involving men in advocacy efforts, emphasizing that a collaborative





approach, involving both genders, is integral to achieving sustainable and meaningful progress.

5. Key Definitions

- ❖ **Gender Equality:** The state of equal access to rights, resources, and opportunities for people of all genders, involving the removal of barriers and discrimination based on gender.
- ❖ **Political Participation:** The involvement of individuals in the processes of governance, including voting, running for office, and engaging in political activities.
- ❖ **Empowerment:** The expansion of individuals' ability to make choices and transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes.
- ❖ **Intersectionality:** The interconnected nature of social categorizations, such as race, class, and gender, creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.
- ❖ **Governance Systems:** The structures and processes through which public policies and decisions are made, including government institutions and non-state actors involved in decision-making.





6. Topic B

Measures to ensure all women and girls live free from gender-based violence.

6.1 Introduction to the topic

The second case to be seen in this model is entitled “All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence” and focuses on respect, guarantee, and protection of the rights of all women by placing greater emphasis on the violation of their sexual and reproductive rights. The following provides an overview of the context, perspectives, key definitions, and references related to this case study.

6.2. Context

The protection of women's sexual and reproductive rights is closely linked to a number of human rights, such as the right to life, the right not to be tortured, the rights to privacy, to education, the prohibition of discrimination, and health, including sexual and reproductive health. The United Nations determines that it is the duty of states to comply with the protection of these rights. According to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, women should be equipped with reproductive health care services and goods and facilities that are: available in adequate numbers; accessible physically and economically; accessible without discrimination; and of good quality. (OHCHR, s. f.)

Sexual and reproductive rights include the recognition by all couples and individuals of the freedom to decide freely and responsibly on the number of children, the spacing of births, the availability of information, and the means to do so; the right to access a good state of reproductive and sexual health; and the right to make decisions concerning reproduction without discrimination, coercion, or violence, in accordance with human rights documents.





7. Main foundations:

- ❖ Exercise sexuality independently of reproduction.
- ❖ Being free from discrimination, pressure, or violence in our sexual lives and sexual choices.
- ❖ Access to sexual (and affective) education from an early age is aimed at the development of the person and the responsible exercise of sexuality in a full, free, and informed manner.
- ❖ To have access to quality, adequate, and dignified medical services for women's health.

8. Examples of violations

- ❖ Denial of access to services that only women require;
- ❖ Poor quality services;
- ❖ Subjecting women's access to services to third party authorization;
- ❖ Forced sterilization, forced virginity examinations, and forced abortion, without women's prior consent;
- ❖ Female genital mutilation (FGM); and
- ❖ Early marriage.

8.2. Causes and consequences of sexual and reproductive health violations

The sexual and reproductive health and rights of women are frequently violated because of deeply ingrained social and cultural norms and sexist ideas about women's sexuality. Because of patriarchal ideas about women's duties in the family, women are



frequently valued only for their capacity to procreate. Pregnancy with early marriage, or several pregnancies spaced too closely between (usually as a result of efforts to create male offspring because of the preference for sons), can have a catastrophic and occasionally deadly effect on the health of women. In addition, women are frequently held responsible for infertility, which leads to discrimination against them and other human rights abuses.

9. Key facts

- ❖ In 30 countries across Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, female genital mutilation (FGM) is performed by over 200 million girls and women who are alive today.
- ❖ Most FGM occurs on young girls between the ages of 0 and 15.
- ❖ Girls' and women's human rights are violated by FGM.
- ❖ Health systems are predicted to spend US\$ 1.4 billion annually on treating the health implications of female genital mutilation (FGM); this amount is projected to increase unless immediate action is done to end the practice.
- ❖ Child and forced marriage (CFM) is a human rights violation.
- ❖ Maternal morbidity and death rates are greater than average when child marriage is combined with early and frequent pregnancy and childbirth.
- ❖ In an effort to prevent or get out of the marriage, CFM may cause women and girls to seek to leave their communities or to commit suicide.



10. Perspectives

10.1 Legal and Policy Frameworks

The case study is informed by legal instruments like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), obligating states to ensure women's full protection of sexual and reproductive rights. Many countries have adopted specific laws and policies to promote women's sexual and reproductive health.

10.2 Socio-Cultural Factors

Socio-cultural norms and stereotypes often influence the extent to which women can engage in violations of s sexual and reproductive health. Addressing these factors is crucial for creating an enabling environment for women to live a life fully of wellbeing .

10.3 Economic Empowerment

Women's equal participation in governance is closely linked to their economic empowerment. Access to resources, education, and economic opportunities plays a significant role in enhancing women's ability to engage in leadership positions within governance structures.

11. Intersectionality

The case study also considers intersecting forms of discrimination women may face based on factors such as race, ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation. Intersectional perspectives are essential for understanding the diverse experiences of violated women.





11.1 Male Engagement

Engaging men and boys as allies in promoting women's sexual and reproductive health is a critical perspective within this case study. Men's support and involvement are vital for advancing gender equality in human rights.

12. Contact information

Delegates, we ask for your discretion regarding our numbers, as they are for exclusive use within the model. If you need support or have questions about any topic in this regard, feel free to write to us.

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