



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

**Committee Handbook**

Chairs: Emilia Rendón & Manuela Mejía

## **LETTER FROM CHAIRS:**

Dear delegates,

It is an honor to have you on this committee. We are excited to meet you and to be your Chairs for the duration of the model. I am sure that with effort, dedication, and commitment, EAGLEMUN 2023 will be an incredible experience for all of us. We recommend you read this handbook thoroughly so that you can use it as part of your preparation, as well as the links to the resources that we have suggested in this document. We are looking forward to meeting you all in person!

We are always willing to guide and provide support for you in your UN simulation experience. Remember that not everything is black or white. If you have any doubts don't hesitate to contact us, we wish you the best of luck.

Emilia and Manuela.

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## **COMMITTEE OVERVIEW**

The UN Women's Committee is such that it is designated to fight for and fulfill women's rights, gender equality, and women empowerment across the globe. It was created in July 2010 by the General Assembly under the name of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. In doing such, member states of the United Nations participated in this huge step towards women's empowerment and gender equality. It seeks to create programs, services, and law policies, and to collaborate with governments to make all Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women worldwide. Across the globe, the female population has to confront issues involving health, wage gaps, education, violence, security, and discrimination. Said issues are discussed during the committee's annual sessions, the next one being CSW 67 occurring from March 6 to March 17 with the main theme of "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls". The United Nations has also stated many different points on the importance of gender equality in our modern times. For example, according to the UN Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres "achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world" (UN "Gender Equality").

In addition, the UN Women's Committee participates and hosts distinct forums designed to discuss issues such as the participation of women in innovation and technology, the abolition of child marriage, equal pay, and more. These are only some of the issues addressed within the past forums.

## **AGENDA**

### **I. Measures to Address the Impact of COVID-19 on the Rise of Domestic Violence**

#### **Overview:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has cast a harsh spotlight on the global rise of domestic violence, presenting an urgent need for comprehensive measures to address this alarming escalation. The pandemic-induced lockdowns, economic uncertainties, and heightened stressors have exacerbated pre-existing conditions that contribute to domestic violence, placing individuals at an increased risk within the confines of their homes. The United Nations has acknowledged the severity of this issue, emphasizing the pressing need for concerted efforts to safeguard those vulnerable to domestic violence during these challenging times. As the world grapples with the dual crises of a public health emergency and a surge in domestic violence, it is imperative to explore the multifaceted impact of the pandemic on this issue and examine the measures implemented to protect individuals facing violence within their homes. The United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, aptly captured the gravity of the situation, stating, "We know lockdowns and quarantines are essential to suppressing COVID-19, but they can trap women with abusive partners." This underscores the complex intersection of public health measures and their unintended consequences on the safety of individuals in abusive relationships. Moreover, the UN's commitment to addressing domestic violence is evident in its call for member states to prioritize the issue in their pandemic response plans, recognizing the intertwined nature of health and safety. As Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the Executive Director of UN Women, emphasizes, "Violence against women is not only a consequence of gender inequality but is a key obstacle to equality." This perspective underscores the necessity of holistic strategies that address the root causes of domestic violence, advancing the broader goal of gender equality articulated by the United Nations. The international community, guided by the United Nations, must continue to assess

the effectiveness of existing measures, identify gaps in support systems, and forge collaborative efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of those facing domestic violence.

**Guiding questions:**

- How has the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the risk of domestic violence, and what are the key factors contributing to its rise?
- What measures have been implemented at the local, national, and international levels to address and prevent domestic violence during the pandemic?
- In what ways has the pandemic affected the accessibility of support services for victims of domestic violence, and what initiatives have been introduced to overcome these challenges?
- How have technology and online platforms been utilized to provide support and resources for individuals experiencing domestic violence during lockdowns and social distancing measures?
- What are the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on domestic violence, and what sustainable measures are being considered to continue addressing this issue beyond the immediate crisis?

## **II. Measure the persistence of the gender gap on the road to the Sustainable Development Goals**

### **Overview:**

In the global pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing the persistent gender gap is a central and pressing concern. As countries worldwide strive for inclusive and sustainable development, the empowerment of women and the promotion of gender equality are crucial components. Despite significant strides in various regions, challenges remain in measuring and eliminating the gender gap. This overview delves into the status of gender equality on the road to the SDGs, focusing on the complexities and progress in closing the gap. The journey towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals encompasses multifaceted challenges, with the gender gap standing out as a formidable obstacle. As the United Nations emphasizes, "gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world." The persistent challenges include unequal access to education, economic opportunities, and political participation. Despite ongoing efforts, disparities persist, hindering the full realization of the SDGs. Understanding the intricacies of these challenges is essential for crafting effective strategies to measure and address the gender gap in the context of sustainable development.:

The United Nations plays a pivotal role in guiding global efforts toward gender equality and sustainable development. According to the UN Secretary-General, "gender equality is a question of power." This assertion underscores the need to evaluate not only numerical progress but also the redistribution of power and influence. The UN Women's Executive Director emphasizes the urgency, stating, "We need robust indicators and data to track progress and inform policies to close the gender gap." Therefore, a comprehensive overview should include an examination of the metrics employed by the UN to measure the persistence of the gender gap and guide global initiatives.

**Guiding questions:**

- How are countries incorporating gender-specific indicators in their progress toward achieving the SDGs?
- What role does access to education and economic opportunities play in narrowing the gender gap within the context of sustainable development?
- How can the redistribution of power and influence, as highlighted by the UN, be effectively measured and integrated into the assessment of gender equality progress?
- In what ways can global collaboration and partnerships be strengthened to accelerate the achievement of gender-related SDGs, considering the persistent challenges in various regions?

### **III. Health Discrimination Against Women**

#### **Overview:**

In the global pursuit of gender equality and social justice, the issue of health discrimination against women stands as a central challenge. This problem is particularly pertinent in Brazil, where substantial development has occurred in recent years, yet persistent difficulties exist. Health discrimination encompasses various aspects, including unequal access to healthcare, gender-based violence, and disparities in reproductive health. The United Nations acknowledges the gravity of this issue, emphasizing the need for comprehensive efforts to address health discrimination against women as an integral part of achieving gender equality.

The United Nations, in its commitment to promoting women's rights and well-being, underscores the importance of eliminating health disparities. According to the UN Secretary-General, "Ensuring women's right to health is essential for their personal development, economic empowerment, and overall well-being." Despite progress, women in Brazil face barriers to equal access to healthcare services, preventive measures, and reproductive health resources. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize the need to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, making it imperative for Brazil to address health discrimination against women comprehensively.

#### **Guiding questions:**

- What measures are in place to ensure equal access to healthcare services for women in Brazil, and what challenges persist in this regard?
- How does gender-based violence contribute to health discrimination against women, and what initiatives are being undertaken to address and prevent such violence?



- What policies and programs exist in Brazil to promote women's reproductive health, and how effective have they been in eliminating disparities?
- How can Brazil collaborate with international organizations, including the United Nations, to enhance efforts in combating health discrimination against women and promoting gender equality?

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES

- United Nations Charter: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights:  
<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
- UN News:  
[https://news.un.org/en/?gclid=CjwKCAjwtp2bBhAGEiwAOZZTuBqO8uMm3MG89K FhPQd-O63SEGC033vmr\\_C-dr\\_ceDnsDx\\_91s-14xoCzlQQAvD\\_BwE](https://news.un.org/en/?gclid=CjwKCAjwtp2bBhAGEiwAOZZTuBqO8uMm3MG89K FhPQd-O63SEGC033vmr_C-dr_ceDnsDx_91s-14xoCzlQQAvD_BwE)
- UN Gender Equality: <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/gender-equality>
- UN Women Website: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>.
- CEDAW  
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf>
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action  
<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

### I. Measures to Address the Impact of COVID-19 on the Rise of Domestic Violence

- **Important questions to consider:** UN Women's response to covid-19. (n.d.).  
<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2020/Brief-UN-Womens-response-to-COVID-19-en.pdf>
- United Nations. (n.d.). Addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Violence Against Women and girls. United Nations.  
<https://www.un.org/en/addressing-impact-covid-19-pandemic-violence-against-women-and-girls>
- World Health Organization. (n.d.). Levels of domestic violence increase globally, including in the region, as covid-19 pandemic escalates. World Health Organization.

<https://www.emro.who.int/fr/violence-injuries-disabilities/violence-news/levels-of-domestic-violence-increase-as-covid-19-pandemic-escalates.html>

## **II. Measure the persistence of the gender gap on the road to the Sustainable Development Goals**

- United Nations. (n.d.-b). The gender gap persists on road to the SDGs: UN women | UN news. United Nations.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/09/1140472>

- Progress on the sustainable development goals: The gender snapshot 2023. (n.d.-a).

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2023-references-notes-en.pdf>

- Sustainable development goals. UNDP. (n.d.).

<https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/gender-equality>

## **III. Health Discrimination Against Women**

- United Nations. (n.d.-b). Framework for a human rights approach to women's health. United Nations.

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/hrights.htm#:~:text=Article%2012%20requires%20that%3A,those%20related%20to%20family%20planning.%22>

- Report on discrimination against women with regard to health and safety ... (n.d.).

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-women-and-girls/report-discrimination-against-women-regard-health-and-safety>

- Women's autonomy, equality and reproductive health | OHCHR. (n.d.-b).  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-women-and-girls/womens-autonomy-equality-and-reproductive-health>
- *United Nations Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and girls*. United Nations Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls. (2023, October 24). <https://unworkinggroupwomenandgirls.org>