



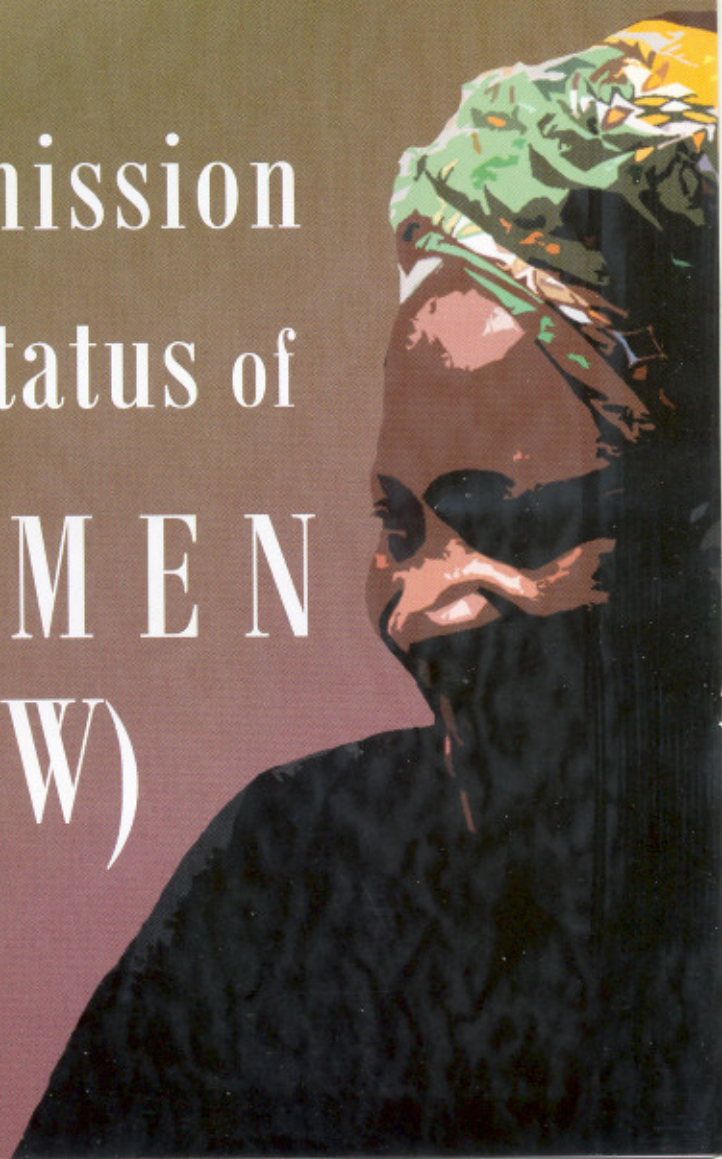
Agreed Conclusions

Commission

on the Status of

W O M E N

(C S W)



Background

The commission on the status of women (CSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

It is exclusively dedicated to gender equality and advancement of women.

It was established in June 1946.

The Commission meets annually for a period of 10 working days (late February - Early March) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) took place from 2nd to 13th March 2009. The theme for this session was: *"The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS"*.

As part of achieving this goal (theme), the following agreements must be ratified and fully implemented through laws, programs and policies:

1. Beijing Platform for Action
2. The outcomes of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development
3. The outcomes of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development
4. The outcomes of the 2002 World Summit on Children
5. The outcomes of the 2002 Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development
6. The outcomes of the 2005 World Summit
7. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
8. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
9. 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS
10. 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS
11. ILO Workers with Families Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156) and its corresponding recommendation (No. 165)

Subjects of Concern and Recommendations

1. Gender inequality continues to exist worldwide. Its existence has a negative impact on everyone including men and boys whose participation is necessary to achieving gender equality.
2. For women to achieve equality, labour must no longer be divided by gender, but shared equally between men and women.
3. The economy is made up of both paid and unpaid labour. Paid labour is usually undertaken by men in the form of a career and unpaid labour is undertaken by women usually in the form of care-giving.
4. Care-giving includes the responsibilities of parenting, care for the sick and elderly and other family and community responsibilities. Factors including the HIV/AIDS pandemic have increased the need for care, making the burden upon women even greater. This division of labour negatively impacts women because they often have no income, are overworked, no access to social security benefits and little time for education, training, self-care and political activities. Men and women must equally share the burden of paid and unpaid labour including the responsibility of care in the context of HIV/AIDS.

The Commission recommends that both local and national governments take the following actions with the help of The United Nations systems, international and regional organizations, the private sector, trade unions and the media:

Ratification of Laws and Legal protection

All laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women must be abolished. Legal systems must agree with international human rights standards. Women and children must have full access to effective legal protection if their rights are violated.

All legislation, programs and policies must be reviewed to make sure that they do not discriminate against women. International cooperation in achieving gender equality must be improved. Specific goals must be established to achieve gender equality and if necessary, temporary measures should be implemented to enlarge the number of women participating equally in society. The United Nations System must be strengthened to better serve the aims of gender equality.

Development

The far-reaching effects of violence against women and its negative impact on development must be acknowledged and the causes addressed. Women and men must be given equal access to adequate care and human development opportunities. During humanitarian emergencies, specific measures must be taken to ensure that the needs of women and girls are met. Women must participate fully in development activities and should not unequally share the burden of the negative effects of development such as poverty and HIV/AIDS.

Care Giving

Understanding should be promoted that care giving is as important as formal employment and should be shared equally between women and men. To help women and men equally share parenting and employment, affordable and accessible childcare should be available to both men

and women. Paid parental leave should also be accessible to both men and women without the risk of losing their job.

To better understand the value of the unpaid work that usually falls to women, the work should be measured in specific monetary cost and value. All men and women should have access to health insurance, pensions, and savings plans that do not discriminate based on gender and recognize leave for care-giving in the calculation of benefits.

Domestic Workers

Policies must be adopted that protect the human rights and working conditions of paid and unpaid female care-givers. Women who have immigrated to do such work must be taken into account and also legally protected. Girls who have been hired to do domestic work must be protected and provided with education, health care and other basic needs. Actions must be taken to ensure that child labour is stopped.

Reducing the Burden of Care

Institutions must be strengthened to give women and girls access to high quality education and health care including reproductive health care and accurate sex education. Basic infrastructure such as transportation, clean water supplies, sanitation, energy and homes must be improved, particularly in poor areas so that the burden of care on individuals is reduced. Improve the recruitment and training of health workers in prevention, treatment and care of those affected by HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS

Work to achieve universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention programs, treatment and care by 2010 and to halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015 should be significantly improved. Recognizing that HIV/AIDS is beginning to disproportionately affect women and girls, all policies and programs should be evaluated to make sure that support and attention is given to women and girls.

Healthcare for HIV/AIDS must be strengthened, expanded and improved, particularly in rural areas, to reduce the burden of care on women and girls. This includes emphasizing the importance of prevention and implementing sexual and reproductive health services, access to counseling and HIV testing, and accurate HIV and sex education. Access to medication in epidemics such as HIV/AIDS is a necessary human right and should be acknowledged as such.

Care-givers, especially women, should be included in decision-making surrounding HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. Women living with HIV/AIDS should have access to legal protection, economic resources, education and health services.

The Role of Men and Boys

Programs that promote the awareness and involvement of men and boys in elimination of gender inequality, gender based violence, gender stereotypes and HIV/AIDS should be designed and implemented. The spread of HIV/AIDS should be reduced through awareness campaigns, sex education and access to contraception. Men and boys should be encouraged to participate fully in care giving, prevention and treatment.

Begin awareness campaigns, education and training as part of school curriculum and government policy that promote men's roles as fathers and caretakers and to encourage men to promote gender equality. Encourage men and boys to be part of elimination of all forms of violence but especially gender based violence.

Develop strategies to eliminate gender stereotypes in public and political life and encourage the positive portrayal of women and girls as leaders and decision makers, particularly in the media

Data Collection

Conduct and strengthen research and data collection on gender equality to help inform policy development. This includes collecting data on the participation of women and men in public office and other important economic, social and political leadership roles to promote the equal participation of women in these sectors.

International Problems and Gender Equality

To continue work on gender equality internationally, the negative impacts of the current economic and financial crisis must be overcome. This work must equally benefit women and men. Women must be made equal partners to men in forming sustainable development policy, particularly in addressing the disproportionate effects of climate change upon women. International cooperation must be strengthened so that access to health care can be improved taking into account the particular difficulties facing rural areas and developing countries. Developed countries should give 7% of their GNP to official development assistance and 15% to 20% of their GNP should go to the least developed countries. It must be ensured that development assistance is used toward gender equality.

Proposed themes for the period 2010-2014

2010: Fifty-fourth session (54th) of the commission (to be held from 12th March 2010)

Review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty third special session of the General Assembly

2011: Fifty-fifth session (55th) of the commission

"Women and girls in science and technology: Increasing opportunities in education, research and employment"

2012: Fifty-sixth session (56th) of the commission

"The empowerment of rural women, in relation to climate change and food security"

2013: Fifty-seventh session (57th) of the commission

"Addressing stereotypes which constrain the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women, including in decision-making"

2014: Fifty-eighth session (58th) of the commission

"Prevention of violence against women and girls"



Nairobi

Federation of Women Lawyers, Kenya (FIDA K),
Amboseli Road, Off Gitanga Road
P.O. Box 46324-00100, Nairobi
Tel: 254 (020) 3870444/3873511/3864030
Fax: 254 (020) 3876372
Mobile: 254 (722) 509760 or 254 (733) 845003
Email: info@fidakenya.org
www.fidakenya.org

Mombasa

Federation of Women Lawyers, Kenya (FIDA K),
Kizingo East Road, Next to Lake Side Apartments, Off Mama Ngina Drive
P.O. Box 80687-80100, Mombasa
Tel: 041-2224500/041-2313611, Fax: 041-2224492
Mobile: 0724-256659/0724-444 449
Email: info@msa.fida.co.ke

Kisumu

Federation of Women Lawyers, Kenya (FIDA K),
Milimani Estate, Off Tom Mboya Drive
P.O. Box 19219-40100, Kisumu
Tel: 057 2025560, Tel/Fax: 057 2023160, Mobile: 0724-256658/0734 444 448
Email: info@fidaksm.co.ke