



HPS FAIRGAZE MODEL UNITED NATIONS

BACKGROUND GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF THE WOMEN

Agenda: Promoting the role of women and youth in Government with special emphasis on pandemic

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(Chairperson)**

INTRODUCTION

It is an honour and privilege for us to be presiding over this meeting of **United Nations Commission on the Status of the Women** in HPS FAIRGAZE MUN 2.0 We welcome you to this committee and hope that this conference proves to be a learning experience for you all. We shall discuss the agenda promoting women in the government in the committee. You are required to conduct thorough research on the essence and details of this topic, as well as your country's stance and expectations on the same. We shall assure you that should you combine the guidance provided you with this guide to do your own research, you shall be sufficiently prepared for a day of committee session. We highly encourage you to extensively explore the agenda beyond the limits of this background guide to successfully delegate as the representative of your country. Please note that from this point on and until the end of the conference, the Executive Board will be at your disposal for any questions you might have. You can always contact us through the official committee group or personally on WhatsApp should you have any queries or concern. Remember, being a delegate required you to foster a climate of debate, not dominance: that means that you shall respect and promote the other delegate's opportunity to speak in the conference.

With that said, we look forward to a day of extensive debate and conversation.

Spandan Bandyopadhyay

(Chairperson)

MODEL UNITED NATIONS (RULES OF PROCEDURE)

Model UN is a popular activity for those interested in learning more about how the UN operates. Hundreds of thousands of students worldwide take part every year at all educational levels. Many of today's leaders in law, government, business and the arts – including at the UN itself – participated in Model UN as student.

There are certain rules and procedures every participating delegate needs to follow in a Model United Nations Conference. Please refer to the Rules of Procedure document provided.

We would be following the **UN4MUN** format for this conference.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)-The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by [ECOSOC resolution 11\(II\) of 21 June 1946](#).

The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In 1996, ECOSOC in [resolution 1996/6 \(see p. 20\)](#) expanded the Commission's mandate and decided that it should take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities.

During the Commission's annual two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. They discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), the key global policy document on gender equality, and the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#) held in 2000 (Beijing+5), as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic, and social fields. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

UN Women supports all aspects of the Commission's work. We also facilitate the participation of civil society representatives.

Methods of work

The Commission adopts [multi-year programmes of work](#) to appraise progress and make further recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action. These recommendations take the form of negotiated agreed conclusions on a priority theme. The Commission also contributes to the follow-up to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Under its current methods of work, established by [ECOSOC resolution 2015/6](#), at each session the Commission:

- Convenes a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human rights, and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the deliberations of the Commission, including through ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned, and good practices;
- Engages in general discussion on the status of gender equality, identifying goals attained, achievements made, and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges;
- Convenes interactive expert panel discussions and other interactive dialogues on steps and initiatives to accelerate implementation and measures to build capacities for mainstreaming gender equality across policies and programmes;
- Considers one priority theme, based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly and linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Evaluates progress in implementing agreed conclusions from previous sessions as a review theme;
- Discusses emerging issues, trends, focus areas, and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men, that require timely consideration;
- Considers in closed meeting the report of its Working Group on Communications;
- Agrees on further actions for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women by adopting agreed conclusions and resolutions;
- Contributes gender perspectives to the work of other intergovernmental bodies and processes;
- Reports on the aspects relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women of the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council, in order to contribute to its work; and
- Celebrates International Women's Day on 8 March, when it falls within its session.

A brief history of the Commission on the Status of Women

The [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) first met at Lake Success, New York, in February 1947, soon after the founding of the United Nations. All 15 government representatives were women. From its inception, the Commission was supported by a unit of the United Nations that later became the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) in the UN Secretariat. The CSW forged a close relationship with non-governmental organizations, with those in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) invited to participate as observers.

From 1947 to 1962, the Commission focused on setting standards and formulating international conventions to change discriminatory legislation and foster global awareness of women's issues. In contributing to the drafting of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), the CSW successfully argued against references to "men" as a synonym for humanity, and succeeded in introducing new, more inclusive language.

Since the codification of the legal rights of women needed to be supported by data and analysis, the Commission embarked on a global assessment of the status of women. Extensive research produced a detailed, country-by-country picture of their political and legal standing, which over time became a basis for drafting human rights instruments.

The Commission drafted the early international conventions on women's rights, such as the 1953 [Convention on the Political Rights of Women](#), which was the first international law instrument to recognize and protect the political rights of women; and the first international agreements on women's rights in marriage, namely the 1957 [Convention on the Nationality of Married Women](#), and the 1962 [Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages](#). The Commission also contributed to the work of UN offices, such as the International Labour Organization's 1951 [Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value](#), which enshrined the principle of equal pay for equal work.

In 1963, efforts to consolidate standards on women's rights led the UN General Assembly to request the Commission to draft a Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which the Assembly ultimately adopted in 1967. The legally binding [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW), also drafted by the Commission, followed in 1979. In 1999, the [Optional Protocol to the Convention](#) introduced the right of petition for women victims of discrimination.

As evidence began to accumulate in the 1960s that women were disproportionately affected by poverty, the work of the Commission centred on women's needs in community and rural development, agricultural work, family planning, and scientific and technological advances. The Commission encouraged the UN system to expand its technical assistance to further the advancement of women, especially in developing countries.

In 1972, to mark its 25th anniversary, the Commission recommended that 1975 be designated International Women's Year—an idea endorsed by the General Assembly to draw attention to women's equality with men and to their contributions to development and peace. The year was marked by holding the [First World Conference on Women](#) in Mexico City, followed by the 1976–1985 UN Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Additional world conferences took place in [Copenhagen](#) in 1980 and [Nairobi](#) in 1985. New UN offices dedicated to women were established, in particular the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

In 1987, as part of follow-up to the Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi, the Commission took the lead in coordinating and promoting the UN system's work on economic and social issues for women's empowerment. Its efforts shifted to promoting women's issues as cross-cutting and part of the mainstream, rather than as separate concerns. In the same period, the Commission helped bring violence against women to the forefront of international debates for the first time. These efforts resulted in the [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women](#) adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 1993. In 1994, a UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences was appointed by the Commission on Human Rights, with a mandate to investigate and report on all aspects of violence against women.

The Commission served as the preparatory body for the 1995 [Fourth World Conference on Women](#), which adopted the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#). After the conference, the Commission was mandated by the General Assembly to play a central role in monitoring implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and advising ECOSOC accordingly. As called for in the Platform for Action, an additional UN office for the promotion of gender equality was established: the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI).

In 2011, the four parts of the UN system mentioned on this page—DAW, INSTRAW, OSAGI and UNIFEM—merged to become UN Women, now the Secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AGENDA

Overview

Despite increases in the number of women at the highest levels of political power, widespread gender inequalities persist, according to the 2021 edition of the IPU–UN Women [“Women in politics map”](#).

The IPU-UN Women map presents new data for women in executive, government, and parliamentary positions as of 1 January 2021. The data shows all-time highs for the number of countries with women Heads of State and/or Heads of Government, as well as for the global share of women ministers.

However, after last year’s spike of 21.3 per cent of women holding ministerial portfolios, progression has slowed—with just a small increase to 21.9 per cent in 2021. The data also reveals that the number of countries with no women in government has increased, bucking a downward trend seen the last few years.

There were also sluggish gains in the global growth of women legislators in 2021, as shown in the IPU’s annual report on [“Women in parliament”](#), launched last week. As of 1 January 2021, the global share of women in national parliaments is 25.5 per cent, a slight increase from 24.9 per cent the year before.

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said: “No country prospers without the engagement of women. We need women’s representation that reflects all women and girls in all their diversity and abilities, and across all cultural, social, economic, and political situations. This year’s map shows us that we still need bold, decisive action across the world to bring women into the heart of the decision-making spaces in large numbers and as full partners. There’s no doubt this can and should be done. It should be done now.”

IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong said: “This year’s growth in the number of women in political decision-making is just not good enough. Especially when you consider that 70 per cent of health, care, and service workers during this pandemic are women. It’s up to all of us, both men and women, to keep pushing for greater representation of women in politics. We have the tools to make it happen. What we need now is the political will.”

The new data was presented ahead of the [Commission of the Status of Women](#), the largest UN gathering on gender equality, which this year has as its priority theme, “Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”. It also comes in the run-up to the [Generation Equality Forum](#) that will deliver multi-stakeholder, game-changing [Action Coalitions](#) on six topics including leadership and feminist movements.

Enhancing Women's Role in Peace Processes and Political Transitions

Introduction Every civil war ignited between 2003 and 2010 was a rekindling of a previous one, suggesting that existing peace processes and political transitions are insufficient.⁵⁸ As the international community seeks more sustainable peace, Member States are considering what roles women should play in each step of the process, from negotiating peace accords and designing disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR) plans; to implementing DDR and SSR; and finally to institutional reform to prevent the resumption of conflict.⁵⁹ Between 1992 and 2011, across 31 significant peace processes, just 9% of the negotiators were women, and as of 2015, women made up only 15% of parliaments in countries without legislative quotas, highlighting a startling gender gap in processes that affect both men and women.

⁶⁰ Although the United Nations (UN) focuses on various aspects of conflict, its active focus on the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda is fairly recent.⁶¹ Traditionally, women's roles in post-conflict processes have been limited to non-security, apolitical sectors, but sustainable peace requires the engagement of women in all sectors.⁶² The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has begun to engage with other UN bodies and Member States to gender mainstream peace processes and political transition, but much work remains.⁶³ The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) defines gender mainstreaming as "a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes...

so that...inequality is not perpetuated."⁶⁴ Bearing in mind the existing international framework and role of the international system in promoting women's participation, this topic will examine ways in which women uniquely contribute to each stage of the post-conflict process and discuss the existing barriers as well as future opportunities for gender mainstreaming peace processes and political transition.

International and Regional Framework

Although many international documents on gender equality mention the role of women in post-conflict processes, the international community has recently begun building legal and normative frameworks that specifically address the WPS agenda. **The Windhoek Declaration and Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations (2000) (Windhoek Declaration)** represents a crucial follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action's (1995) Strategic Objectives E.1, "Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation," and E.4, "**Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace.**"⁶⁵ As the first comprehensive UN document focused on gender mainstreaming peace processes, the Windhoek Declaration builds a foundation for the WPS agenda by highlighting key UN bodies and policy areas of which "women should be an integral part," including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), and the Security Council.⁶⁶ It further asserts that women's equal leadership in political, economic, and social spheres is crucial to political stability because they bring diverse perspectives and skills to all of these areas.⁶⁷ Importantly, the Windhoek Declaration calls for the gender mainstreaming of Security Council resolutions.⁶⁸ In the same year, Security Council resolution 1325(2000) on "Women and Peace and Security" marked a shift in the Security Council's conversation on the WPS agenda from women's protection to women's participation, as it called for female representation "at all decision-making levels."

⁶⁹ Since then, clauses addressing women in country specific Security Council resolutions have increased from 50% to 89% in 2014, which highlights a growing normative shift in favor of WPS as a result of this landmark Security Council resolution.⁷⁰ Additionally, the General Assembly has adopted several resolutions on the WPS agenda. **General Assembly resolutions 58/142 (2003) and 66/130 (2011)** ask Member States to respect women's right to participate in public office and to evaluate potential structural and educational barriers to their participation, particularly in periods of political uncertainty, such as after a conflict.⁷¹ General Assembly resolutions 65/69 (2010), 67/48 (2012), 68/33 (2013), and 69/61 (2014) call for the increased inclusion of women in disarmament negotiations and emphasize the role of female community leaders in the reintegration of armed combatants into civilian life.⁷² CSW has also contributed to the framework for the WPS agenda. In its resolution 1997/27 on "Women in Power and Decision Making,"

CSW asserts that gender equality in decision-making roles "provide[s] the balance that is needed to strengthen democracy," and emphasizes that women's roles must be enhanced not only quantitatively but qualitatively.⁷³ That is, gender quotas themselves may be

insufficient if women's ideas are not considered and implemented to the same degree of their male counterparts.⁷⁴ **In its resolution 2004/27 on "Women in Conflict Resolution,"** CSW suggests that the drafting of peace agreements and new constitutions provides opportunities for states to restructure women's access to political, economic, and social institutions.⁷⁵ It further recommends the inclusion of women in the negotiation of peace agreements, with the goals of empowering women to participate in politics ensuring policies.⁷⁶

PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT DURING MUN

[Women's equal participation and leadership in political and public life](#) are essential to achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) by 2030. However, data shows that women are underrepresented at all levels of decision-making worldwide, and achieving gender parity in political life is far off.

Women in executive government positions

- As of 1 September 2021, there are 26 women serving as Heads of State and/or Government in 24 countries [1]. At the current rate, gender equality in the highest positions of power will not be reached for another 130 years [2].
- Just 10 countries have a woman Head of State, and 13 countries have a woman Head of Government [3].
- Only 21 per cent of government ministers were women, with only 14 countries having achieved 50 per cent or more women in cabinets [4]. With an annual increase of just 0.52 percentage points, gender parity in ministerial positions will not be achieved before 2077 [5].
- The five most commonly held portfolios by women ministers are: Family/children/youth/elderly/disabled; followed by Social affairs; Environment/natural resources/energy; Employment/labour/vocational training, and Women affairs/gender equality [6].

Women in national parliaments

- Only 25 per cent of all national parliamentarians are women, up from 11 per cent in 1995 [7].
- Only four countries have 50 per cent or more women in parliament in single or lower houses: Rwanda with 61 per cent, Cuba with 53 per cent, Bolivia with 53 per cent, and the United Arab Emirates with 50 per cent [8].
- A further 19 countries have reached or surpassed 40 per cent, including nine countries in Europe, five in Latin America and the Caribbean, four in Africa, and one in the Pacific [9].
- More than two-thirds of these countries have applied gender quotas—either legislated candidate quotas or reserved seats—opening space for women's political participation in national parliaments [10].
- Globally, there are 27 States in which women account for less than 10 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower houses, including four single/lower chambers with no women at all [11].
- At the current rate of progress, gender parity in national legislative bodies will not be achieved before 2063 [12].

- In Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and Northern America, women hold more than 30 per cent of parliamentary seats. In Northern Africa and Western Asia and Oceania, there are less than 17 per cent of women in national parliaments. Women’s representation is the lowest in the Pacific Island States as women hold 6 per cent of seats, and they are not represented in parliaments in three countries [13].

Women in local government

- Data from 133 countries shows that women constitute 2.18 million (36 per cent) of elected members in local deliberative bodies. Only two countries have reached 50 per cent, and an additional 18 countries have more than 40 per cent women in local government [14].
- Regional variations are also noted for women’s representation in local deliberative bodies, as of January 2020: Central and Southern Asia, 41 per cent; Europe and Northern America, 35 per cent; Oceania, 32 per cent; Sub-Saharan Africa, 29 per cent; Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, 25 per cent; Latin America and the Caribbean, 25 per cent; Western Asia and Northern Africa, 18 per cent [15].

Expanding participation

- Balanced political participation and power-sharing between women and men in decision-making is the internationally agreed target set in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action [16]. Most countries in the world have not achieved gender balance, and few have set or met ambitious targets for gender parity (50–50).
- There is established and growing evidence that women’s leadership in political decision-making processes improves them [17]. For example, research on *panchayats* (local councils) in India discovered that the number of drinking water projects in areas with women-led councils was 62 per cent higher than in those with men-led councils. In Norway, a direct causal relationship between the presence of women in municipal councils and childcare coverage was found [18].
- Women demonstrate political leadership by working across party lines through parliamentary women’s caucuses—even in the most politically combative environments—and by championing issues of gender equality, such as the elimination of gender-based violence, parental leave and childcare, pensions, gender-equality laws, and electoral reform [19].

PANEL DISCUSSION ON PROMOTING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT AFTER PANDEMIC

Governments the world over are struggling to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. While some voices have flagged the impacts on women, gender concerns are not yet shaping the decisions that mainly male leaders are making. At the same time, many of the impacts of COVID-19 are hitting women hardest. Here's why:

First, while the economic and social impacts on all are severe, they are more so for women. Many of the industries in the formal economy directly affected by quarantines and lockdowns—travel, tourism, restaurants, food production—have very high female labour force participation. Women also constitute a large percentage of the informal economy in informal markets and agriculture around the world. In both developed and developing economies, many informal sector jobs—domestic workers, caregivers—are mostly done by women who typically lack health insurance and have no social safety net to fall back on.

At the same time, women typically shoulder a greater burden of care. On average women did three times as much unpaid care work as men at home even before COVID-19. Now, formal sector female employees with children are balancing one or more of the following: work (if they still have it), childcare, homeschooling, elder care, and housework. Female-headed households are particularly vulnerable.

Second, the crisis is having an impact on women's health and safety. Apart from the direct impacts of the disease, women may find it hard to access much needed maternal health services given that all services are being directed to essential medical needs. Availability of contraception and services for other needs may become disrupted. Women's personal safety is also at risk. The very conditions that are needed to battle the disease— isolation, social distancing, restrictions on freedom of movement—are, perversely, the very conditions that feed into the hands of abusers who now find state-sanctioned circumstances tailor-made for unleashing abuse.

Third, because the majority of frontline health workers—especially nurses—are women, their risk of infection is higher. (By some estimates 67 per cent global health force is women). So, while attention must be paid to ensuring safe conditions for ALL caregivers, special attention is needed for female nurses and carers—not only in access to personal protective equipment like masks but also for other needs such as menstrual hygiene products—that may be easily and inadvertently overlooked, but are essential to ensuring they are able to function well.

Finally, it is striking how many of the key decision-makers in the process of designing and executing the pandemic response are men. When any one of us switches on the television anywhere in the world we see a sea of men. This is not surprising given that women still do not enjoy the same degree of participation in major decision-making bodies—governments, parliaments, cabinets or corporations—as men do. Only 25 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide are

women, and less than 10 per cent of Heads of State or Government are women. While we have a few shining examples of women Heads of State or Government, women are conspicuous by their absence in decision-making fora in this pandemic.

Here are five actions governments can take now to address these issues:

First, ensure that the needs of female nurses and doctors are integrated into every aspect of the response effort. At a minimum, this means ensuring that menstrual hygiene products such as sanitary pads and tampons are available for female caregivers and frontline responders as part of personal protective equipment. This will ensure that they do not face unnecessary discomforts in already challenging situations. But most importantly, talk to the caregivers and listen to their needs and respond. They deserve all the support we can provide right now, particularly support in terms of much-needed critical medical equipment.

Second, ensure that hotlines and services for all victims of domestic abuse are considered “essential services” and are kept open and law enforcement is sensitized to the need to be responsive to calls from victims. Follow the example of Quebec and Ontario, which have included shelters for women survivors in the list of essential services. This will ensure that the pandemic does not inadvertently lead to more trauma, injury and deaths during the quarantine period, given the high proportion of violent deaths of women perpetrated by intimate partners.

Third, bailout and stimulus packages must include social protection measures that reflect an understanding of women’s special circumstances and recognition of the care economy. This means ensuring health insurance benefits for those most in need and paid and/or sick leave for those unable to come to work because they are taking care of children or elders at home.

For informal sector employees, who constitute the vast majority of the female labour force in developing economies, special efforts should be made to deliver compensatory payments. Identifying those informal sector workers will be a challenge and will need to take account of a country’s particular circumstances, but it is worth the effort to ensure more equity in outcomes.

Fourth, leaders must find a way to include women in response and recovery decision-making. Whether at the local, municipal or national level, bringing the voices of women into decision-making will lead to better outcomes; we know from many settings that diversity of views will enrich a final decision. Alongside this, policy-makers should leverage the capacities of women’s organizations. Reaching out to enlist women’s groups will help ensure a more robust community response as their considerable networks can be leveraged to disseminate and amplify social distancing messaging. The Ebola response benefited from the involvement of women’s groups, why not this?

Finally, policy makers must pay attention to what is happening in peoples’ homes and support an equal sharing of the burden of care between women and men. There is a great opportunity to “unstereotype” the gender roles that play out in households in many parts of the world. One concrete action for governments, particularly for male leaders, is to join our campaign, [HeForShe](#) and stay tuned for more information about “HeforShe@home”, whereby we enlist men and boys to ensure that they are doing their fair share at home and alleviating some of the care burdens that fall disproportionately on women.

These actions and more are urgent. Building in the needs of women offers an opportunity for us to “build back better”.



WHAT YOU MUST RESEARCH AS A DELEGATE

Hereby, I provide some key issues that you should look into as a representative of a member state of the UNCSW

1. Barriers because of which women are not participating in politics.
2. Policies that could change the entire system and will bring gender equality and peace.
3. Solutions that UNCSW could adopt for women for their active participation.

Lastly and most importantly,

you are the representative of your assigned state. You shall look into your state’s stance on the agenda and defend the same i.e. your role as the delegate of your state would be to protect your national interests with regards to the agenda.

For many new MUNners, it might be a challenging task to start with research. We understand that and would therefore be there to help you every step of the way. Please note that the following sources would only be accepted as legitimate for the entire committee session:

- 1. Information from trusted sources: Reuters, Al Jazeera and BBC**
- 2. Information from UN Sources and trusted global organizations such as the World Bank and Amnesty International**
- 3. Information from the official sources of your state (government websites)**

I know that many people, at first, look up to Wikipedia for convenience. It might be enticing to directly copy the information from Wikipedia. However, if you see, generally Wikipedia references the information from trusted sources. Therefore, you might look up at those references and find a few of them to be from one of the above mentioned sources.

FOR NEW MUNNERS

I understand that it can be an exhausting experience to be a first-timer. However, the following resource might be of some help:

[Top 6 Tips for First Timers- MUN Academy](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDthrWm5D_g

With that said, I look forward to a day of extensive debate, conversation, and learning.

Good Luck !