



NGO CSW/NY CSW62 Zero Draft Document Recommendations

Systemic Barriers, Sustainable Development, and the Diversity of Rural Women and Girls

CSW 62 provides a unique opportunity for rural women and girls, national governments and civil society to collaborate in the promotion of equitable, just and sustainable development at the local, national and global levels. As we review the challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls, it is imperative that we recognize rural women and girls as a multifaceted body of distinct communities having specialized strengths and nuanced needs. Attention and action must be directed toward the specific needs of subpopulations such as girls, youth, migrants, widows, indigenous and disabled persons as well as ethnic, religious, and gender minorities. Intersectionality between such groups must be evaluated and their compounding effects on inequity eliminated.

Rural women and girls are the main protagonists in designing, implementing and monitoring policies that are based on dignity and the upholding of human rights. Therefore, rural girls and women must be central to all processes that impact them. Innovative initiatives and multi-stakeholder partnerships which start with those furthest behind will catalyze protection of rural women and girls' human rights while simultaneously promoting national development agendas. We thank member states for the magnificent commitments made to the empowerment and protection of these groups under the Agenda 2030, The Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW, Paris Agreement, NY Declaration and Resolution 1325. Therefore, we encourage all stakeholders to allow NGO CSW/NY's recommendations to fuel the strong political will necessary to accelerate implementation of systemic change and inform the allocation of required resources. Additional information and detailed best practices are provided via the fact sheet links under each topic.

Human Rights and Empowerment Against Gender Based Violence and Discrimination

1. **Engage community and religious leaders, extended families, media outlets, and young persons, including girls, in the identification and elimination of any harmful traditional practices, stereotypes and sociocultural norms** which marginalize women and girls or normalize gender-based violence and abuse. Promote a safe and inclusive environment that facilitates women and girls' social inclusion, voice and participation in all levels of governance and civil society. (SDGs 17.16, 17.17, 16.1, 16.2, 16.7, 10.3, 5.1, 5.5, 5.A, 5.C)
2. **Ensure that dignity and human rights of female migrants, stateless and displaced persons, seasonal and agricultural workers are protected in all contexts.** Regardless of migration status or birth registration, all women and girls must be provided equitable access to justice, human rights based and gender responsive social services, quality education, health, sanitation, transportation, infrastructure, and water. Terminate the detention of children and provide sex-segregated facilities for single female migrants and labourers. Ensure that all migrant women and girls are provided with individual identity documentation. (SDGs 17.18, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.9 16.B, 11.1, 10.7, 10.C, 8.7, 8.8, 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 5.6, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 3.1, 3.2, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5)



3. **Incorporate existing international human rights and development frameworks into national, regional and local level legislation.** Zero tolerance policies are necessary at all levels of society to extinguish violence, discrimination, abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and maltreatment of rural women and girls. (SDGs 5.1, 5.2, 5.C, 10.2, 10.3, 16.1,16.2,16.3,16.6,16.B)
4. **Improve rural infrastructure and transportation to better protect the safety, dignity and well-being of all women and girls** in accessing education and employment opportunities, health and sanitation facilities, and in performing domestic and agricultural activities. (SDGs11.2, 11.7,9.1, 8.8, 6.1, 6.2, 5.1, 5.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7,4.A, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.B,
5. **The global community must address all systemic drivers of child marriage in rural communities** including poverty, violence and inequitable access to education, employment and upward mobility. Strengthen the enforcement of universal legal frameworks which prohibit child marriage and eliminate customary and parental consent loopholes. Young girls must also be empowered to understand their rights and provided with access to peer support networks, education and training to protect these rights. (SDGs 16.2, 16.3, 11.1, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.6, 5.C, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.7, 2.1, 2.3, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3)
6. **Proactively recruit men and boys as allies** in championing the right of all women and girls to equal protection under the law, equivalent social standing and, equitable opportunities for upward mobility. By educating rural men and boys on the lifelong impact of violence and discrimination against women, male counterparts are empowered to create safe spaces for women and girls in schools, workplaces, public spaces and private households, and thus enhance their communities. (SDGs 17.6, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.A)

Fact Sheet on Girls :

<https://docs.google.com/a/tc.columbia.edu/document/d/1bIuXjXsDE7eGBDfUIEwp2inyp8w3DGWBT2HecWfhIQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Fact Sheet on Migrant Women:

https://docs.google.com/a/tc.columbia.edu/document/d/1Zr7PdAre3MW1BX_QvU0-5W9pea6U6K0TK6NkNPMpP_4/edit?usp=sharing

Fact Sheet on Widows:

<https://docs.google.com/a/tc.columbia.edu/document/d/18Y6ZIPvyNOptjHC8SN0td1ENyaAUvfnhDqrCFwCJ4hA/edit?usp=sharing>

Health and Sanitation

1. **Invest in capacity building frameworks which increase provider density and develop stratagems in partnership with community leaders** to recruit, train and retain medical professionals who focus their service on rural communities. Integrate local and indigenous



knowledge and practices into health infrastructure. (SDGs 17.9, 5.6, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.C, 3.D)

2. **Take full advantage of the Mental Health GAP Action Plan**, though which states may obtain World Bank funding to combat mental, neurological and substance use disorders which will be the leading contributor to the global burden of disease by 2030. Investment plans must prioritize destigmatization, the integration of psychosocial and primary healthcare, as well as targeted interventions for all marginalized groups including rural women and girls. (SDGs 17.9, 17.7, 5.1, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.C)
3. **Decentralize essential physical and mental health services from specialized providers to community-based cadres via task-shifting.** This underutilized methodology has been proven effective in empowering lay persons and community health workers to provide life-saving care in a variety of contexts over the past three decades. Technology is an essential asset to such endeavors, as internet capable devices facilitate remote support and supervision. In conjunction with cascade implementation models, healthcare infrastructure can be efficiently and effectively expanded without compromising quality of care. (SDGs 17.9, 9.B, 5.6, 5.B, 4.3, 4.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.C, 3.D)
4. **Provide rural women and girls with the training, ongoing support and supervision necessary to ensure the success of community based health programs.** Invest in rural clinics by equipping them with the equipment and human and financial capital necessary to eliminate the chronic and systemic lack of access to primary, specialty and preventative care in rural communities. This includes obstetrics and gynecology, mental health, dental, pediatric and geriatric services. (SDGs 11.A, 9.B, 5.B, 4.3, 4.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.B, 3.C, 3.D)
5. **Standardize and universalize health education for rural families** including child nutrition and best practices for improving sanitation systems at the household and community level. These actions will prevent the transmission of communicable disease and waterborne illnesses which disproportionately affect rural women and children. Integrate sexual and reproductive health courses specifically tailored to the needs of young rural women and girls. Simplify reporting procedures and improve access to interventions or protective services for domestic, interpersonal and gender-based violence in rural communities. (SDGs 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 5.6, 4.7, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8)
6. **Improve the availability and affordability of preventative care** including the identification, routine screening and monitoring of high-risk individuals. Early detection is directly correlated with patient prognosis in chronic conditions such as cancer, HIV and heart disease for which rural women are screened at lower rates than those in urban centers. (SDGs 5.1, 5.6, 5.B, 5.C, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.9)

Fact Sheet:

https://docs.google.com/a/tc.columbia.edu/document/d/1rstk8JjpdfjwsyhBmMb65J_rVEGvJ_jV6Xm10XybOgk/edit?usp=sharing



Education, Employment and Technology

1. **Recognize the value of unpaid care-work** as an indispensable contribution to all societies while combating stereotypes that perpetuate unequal distribution of household duties for rural women and girls. Acknowledge the burden such work can place on rural women and the role it plays in perpetuating poverty. Develop socioeconomic support networks to counterbalance this burden and appropriately compensate women for all forms of labor. (SDGs 8.6, 6.7, 5.4, 5.C 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 1.3,)
2. **Champion education as a fundamental human right in all contexts**, ensure equal access to quality instruction at all levels, and eliminate the barriers faced by married, disabled and disadvantaged girls in remaining in and/or returning to in returning to school to fulfill their full academic potential. Knowledge of their human rights will foster women's and girls' deeper belief in their self-worth and empower them to move beyond repressive structures. Invest in sex-disaggregated data collection and scale up development interventions in order to ensure evidence-based assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation of cost-effective and sustainable projects at all levels. (SDGs 9.1 5.1, 5.5, 5.C, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.A)
3. **Initiate a vocational transformation for girls from agricultural and domestic activities to entrepreneurship skill-set building**. Collaborate with NGOs and academia to develop curriculum that is timely, relevant and able to enhance the lives of rural women while empowering them to be the primary forces of change in improving their communities. Provide targeted mentorship to women at all stages of academia and employment to facilitate gender parity across all sectors. (SDGs 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 5.1, 5.5, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5)
4. **Improve rural women's access to technology and provide guidance** on the multitude of applications for enhancing rural societies, creating income opportunities and developing sustainable agricultural practices. Increase platforms for mobile learning and access to digital libraries or literacy centers. Such resources are easily translated and shared cross-nationally which encourages the growth of global citizens. Technology must also be integrated in the facilitation of vocational education, jurisprudence, multilateral governance and administration. (SDGs 5.5, 5.B, 5.C 4.A, 4.4)

Fact Sheet:

<https://docs.google.com/a/tc.columbia.edu/document/d/1guAsI9JXjTMdxqGYBxDzczNee2tLagYRIRAFNYx8DNs/edit?usp=sharing>

Land and Waters Rights and Climate Change

1. **Establish and enforce universal legal frameworks that guarantee comprehensive protection of the right to own, inherit, bequeath, manage and profit from land**. Direct national government priorities towards the public interest and the common good which take precedence over neo-liberal policy expansion. Confront trade agreements, investment treaties and policies that privilege foreign investment in land, mineral resources, infrastructure, development, energy, water and agriculture. (SDGs 16.B, 10.3, 5.1, 5.A, 5.C)



2. **Remove legal and social barriers that restrict women's entrepreneurship and the evolution of enterprises.** Examples include limited access to bank accounts and credit, mandatory male participation in contractual agreements, systemic lack of numeracy, financial and legal literacy, and opportunities for formal education and experiential learning. Raise awareness and provide mechanisms accessible by rural women through which they can assert these rights. Eliminate corruption and clientelism. Promote accountability, transparency, and participatory governance. (SDGs 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.B, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 5.1, 5.5, 5.A, 5.B, 5.C, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7)

3. **Recognize the disproportionate impact of climate change on rural girls and women as well as the intersections between climate change, poverty, conflict, migration, education, poor health and similar drivers of perpetual inequality.** Commit to fully funding the rapid transformation required to support rural women in adapting to the impacts of climate change as well as benefiting from global migration strategies. (SDGs 15.3, 13.1, 13.2, 5.5, 5.C)

4. **Support the transition to universally available renewable, clean energies for rural communities.** Finance grassroots rural girls and women's movements which are key to transformational change and critical to democratic participation. Prioritize full and meaningful participation of marginalized women and girls in all aspects of governance and decision making. (SDGs 16.B, 8.8, 8.5, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 5.5, 5.A, 5.C)

Fact Sheet:

<https://docs.google.com/a/tc.columbia.edu/document/d/1v40jwJJ03Sk4uZdtlrT5Wy6sCs7qURB9f5jK1s582vE/edit?usp=sharing>