

Forum: GA-1 Social Committee

Issue: Promoting the participation of women in civic and economic life in the Global South

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Introduction

According to the 2011 UN General Assembly resolution on women's political participation, *"Women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes, low levels of education, lack of access to health care, and the disproportionate effect of poverty on women."*

Empowering and encouraging girls and young women to act as civic and political leaders is crucial for positive change, especially since over half of the world's population is under 30. Worldwide, only 26.5 percent of parliamentarians are women, and only 2.6 percent of political representatives are under the age of 30, indicating considerable inequalities in the representation of girls' and young women's voices in civic and political realms. Gender inequality creates multiple barriers for girls and women seeking leadership positions. This percentage decreases further with the women who are representative of the Global South, with an average of 1.84% indicated.

According to research, countries that create a secure and enabling environment for women and girls to participate equitably in politics and public life have more inclusive and effective policy outcomes, are more peaceful and stable, and experience higher economic growth. U.S. foreign policy prioritizes the safety, freedom, and equality of women and girls in politics and society as a prerequisite for democracy. This paper articulates the United States' global priorities for engaging



teenage girls in civic and political processes through policy, public diplomacy, and programs efforts.

Women's leadership and political participation have always fallen victim to being prohibited at all levels, from local to global. Women are underrepresented in the voting population and in positions of leadership, whether in elected government, civil service, the corporate sector, or academia. This is despite their demonstrated leadership and change-making qualities, as well as their right to equal participation in democratic administration. Engaging in political life presents various challenges for women. Women are still restricted in their ability to run for office by institutional and legal discrimination. The lack of resources, connections, and knowledge that women have relative to men makes them less likely to be effective leaders due to capacity disparities. This is especially relevant in the Global South, One in every 10 women is living in extreme poverty (10.3 percent). Individual women have surmounted these difficulties with tremendous success, frequently to the advantage of society as a whole. However, for women in general, the playing field must be leveled, allowing for equal chances.

The role of the United Nations General Assembly's Social Committee in fostering women's civic and economic participation in the Global South is critical. The committee serves as a global platform for advocacy and policy creation on social development and gender equality, and is critical in raising awareness, formulating resolutions, and allocating resources to address the difficulties that women in the Global South confront. By tracking accomplishments, developing partnerships, and mobilizing international assistance, the committee may make a substantial contribution to furthering women's empowerment and achieving global sustainable development goals.

Definition of Key Terms



Global South

The countries of the world that are seen to have a comparatively low degree of industrial and economic development; they are usually found south of countries that have developed more extensively. The terms "Global South" broadly relate to the continents of Oceania, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. It is one of a number of phrases, along with "Third World" and "Periphery," that refer to areas outside of Europe and North America that are typically (but not always) low-income and frequently marginalized in terms of politics or culture.

Global North

The world's nations with a high level of economic and industrial development, often located to the north of less industrialized nations. Countries such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, nations of the European Union, and even some nations in the southern hemisphere including Australia and New Zealand are all put under this term. The Global North is not a geographical region in any traditional sense, but rather the relative power and wealth of countries in different parts of the world.

South-South Cooperation (SSC)

South-South Cooperation (SSC) has long been used by policymakers and academics to characterize the flow of resources, technology, and information between developing countries, often known as Global South countries. The Global South is making increasingly important contributions to global development. South-South cooperation is carried out through a comprehensive framework of collaboration among Southern countries in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, and technological areas. It can take place on a bilateral, regional, intraregional, or interregional scale with two or more developing countries participating.



Gender Equality

Gender equality, or the equality of women and men, refers to the equal opportunities, rights, and responsibilities of women and men as well as of girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men.. Equality between women and men is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centered development.

Civic Participation

Civic participation is the involvement of individual individuals or communities in local, state, and federal government. Civic participation can take several forms, including voting, political advocacy, volunteering, and community service. Civic involvement aims to solve public problems while also improving community quality.

Political Representation

Women's presence and participation in political institutions, such as elected positions, decision-making bodies, and public administration, is critical to ensuring that women's views are heard and their interests are reflected in governance. This concept of political representation is consistent with a wide range of perspectives on what it entails and what representatives' obligations are. For example, representation may involve acting on citizens' expressed wishes, but it may also imply acting in accordance with what the representatives believe is best for residents.

Intersectionality



Intersectionality is a sociological analytical framework for understanding how groups' and individuals' social and political identities lead to distinct forms of discrimination and privilege. Gender, caste, sex, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, religion, disability, height, age, weight, and physical appearance are some examples of these elements. These crossing and overlapping social identities can be both powerful and oppressive. However, very little high-quality quantitative research has been conducted to support or contradict the practical applications of intersectionality.

Gender-based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) is defined as violence against a person based on their sex or gender. It is the use of violence, compulsion, threats, deception, cultural expectations, or economic means to compel another person to act against his or her wishes.

Economic Inequality

Economic inequality refers to the distribution of income, wealth, and consumption. Each of these can be measured across multiple nations, within a single nation, or between and among subpopulations. Women and people of color have historically faced significant income discrepancies. It is well accepted that, in general, men employees earn more than female employees in the same job positions. Similarly, white guys earn more than nonwhite males.

Background Information

According to UN Women, as of February 2019, there are 27 countries in which women make up fewer than 10% of parliamentarians in single or lower houses, including three chambers with no women at all. Women accounted for only 24.3% of all national lawmakers as of February 2019, a modest growth from 11.3% in 1995. As



of June 2019, 11 women were serving as heads of state, with 12 serving as heads of government. As of January 2019, only 20.7% of government ministers were women. The five most common portfolios held by women ministers are Social Affairs, followed by Family/Children/Youth/Elderly/Disabled, Environment/Natural Resources/Energy, Employment/Labour/Vocational Training, and Trade/Industry.

Gender equality is a vital priority. The Global South is facing unprecedented problems, with disproportionately severe consequences for women, girls, sexual and gender diversity, and marginalized groups. Gender equality for all persons is a fundamental human right that must be upheld in order to be fair and just. It serves as the foundation for a peaceful and prosperous world, as well as a crucial component of progress. However, attaining gender equality is particularly difficult and complex. It advocates for reforms in national laws and policies, public and commercial sector activities, and personal life. This is absolutely included into the Global South's economic and civic agenda into development successfully. Growing data on the widespread detrimental effects of gender limitations, as well as ways to alleviate them, might motivate and educate future action.

Objectives of Women Participation in Economics and Politics

Women, as traditional primary caregivers for children, frequently play a more prominent role than males in advocating for children, resulting in a "double dividend" in terms of the benefits of women's representation. Female politicians promote not only women's rights, but also children's rights. Women in national legislatures are increasingly advocating gender and family-friendly legislation. This advocacy has been witnessed in a variety of countries, including France, Sweden, and the Netherlands, as well as South Africa, Rwanda and Egypt. Furthermore, multiple studies from both industrialized and developed countries show that women in local government work to improve social issues. In India, for example, increased women's presence has led to a more equitable distribution of communal resources, including more gender-sensitive spending on initiatives such as health, nutrition, and



education. Gender equality and women's empowerment are both human rights that are required for complete, unbiased, and sustainable development.

There appears to be nothing in Nigeria's, a global south country, constitution that prevents women from participating in politics. However, in actuality, there is considerable prejudice. A small number of women were elected to various positions in the country's general elections in 1999, 2003, and 2007. Men continue to dominate most public offices today. Female gubernatorial candidates have emerged, but none have won, and the same is true for the presidency. Women have been represented in legislatures, however they remain underrepresented when compared to their male counterparts. The under-representation of women in political involvement took root because

Evolving gender disparities in the global labor market

The global economy has avoided a recession, but there are numerous dangers to future development and broad-based prosperity, as well as significant predicted volatility. Risks include continuous geopolitical disputes, unanswered issues about the future of trade and global supply chains, large-scale climate disasters, and the disruptive influence of developing technology. Many of these risks are predicted to have a disproportionately harmful impact on women, particularly women in vulnerable situations. This is especially dangerous for the women who reside in the Global South, not only have they fallen victim to such things as sexism, racism, ableism and even domestic abuse are at a higher risks due to the countries they live in having low economic situations and even systematic negligence towards women.



FIGURE 2.1 Gender gap in labour-force participation, 2006-2023

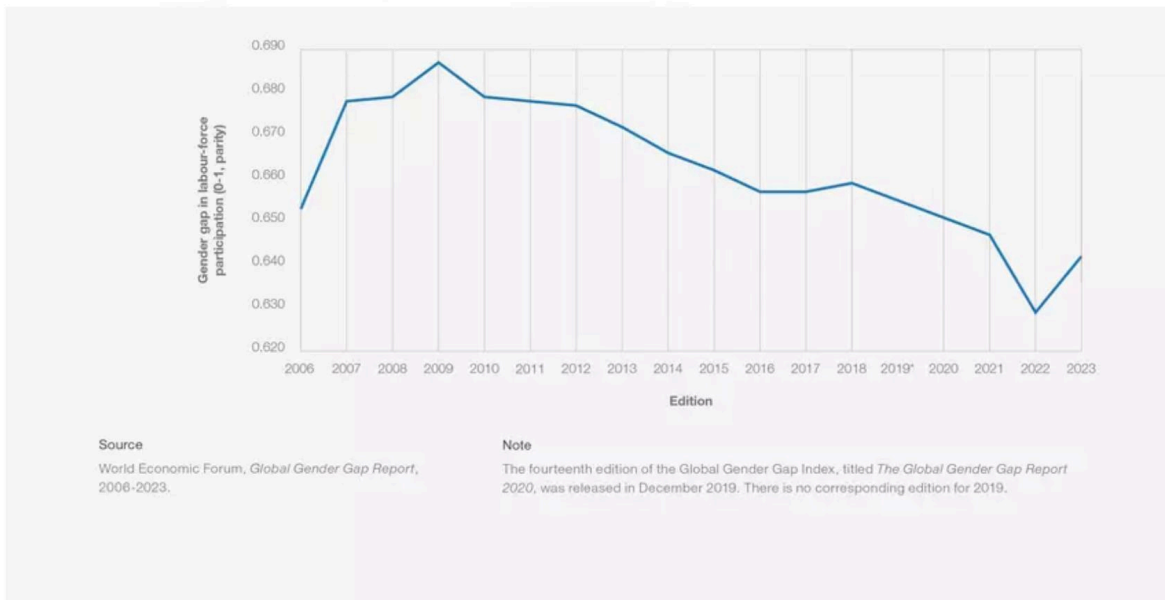


Figure 2.1 Gender gap in labour-force participation, 2006-2023

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasted low global growth in the short term, at 2.8% in 2023, with small improvement in 2024. However, if profound structural transformation is not implemented, the World Bank predicts declining long-term global economic prospects. Unlocking all potential in the workforce, including innovation and leadership, will be vital to improving existing prospects.

The 2022 edition of the Global Gender Gap Report expressed concerns about gender parity in the labor sector. Not only was women's participation decreasing globally, but other indicators of economic opportunity revealed significant gaps between men and women. While women have (re-)entered the labor market at higher rates than men internationally since the previous edition, resulting in a minor recovery in gender parity in labor-force participation rates, discrepancies remain substantial overall and in numerous key aspects.

Although there have been some improvements in such areas for the Global South, we must consider how difficult it is for third-world countries to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals if they have failed to address and correct the issues that exist within their own countries. The lack of funding required for a step in the



right direction, as well as internal and external conflicts, contribute to the country's inability to handle its own concerns of underdevelopment.

Labour-force participation

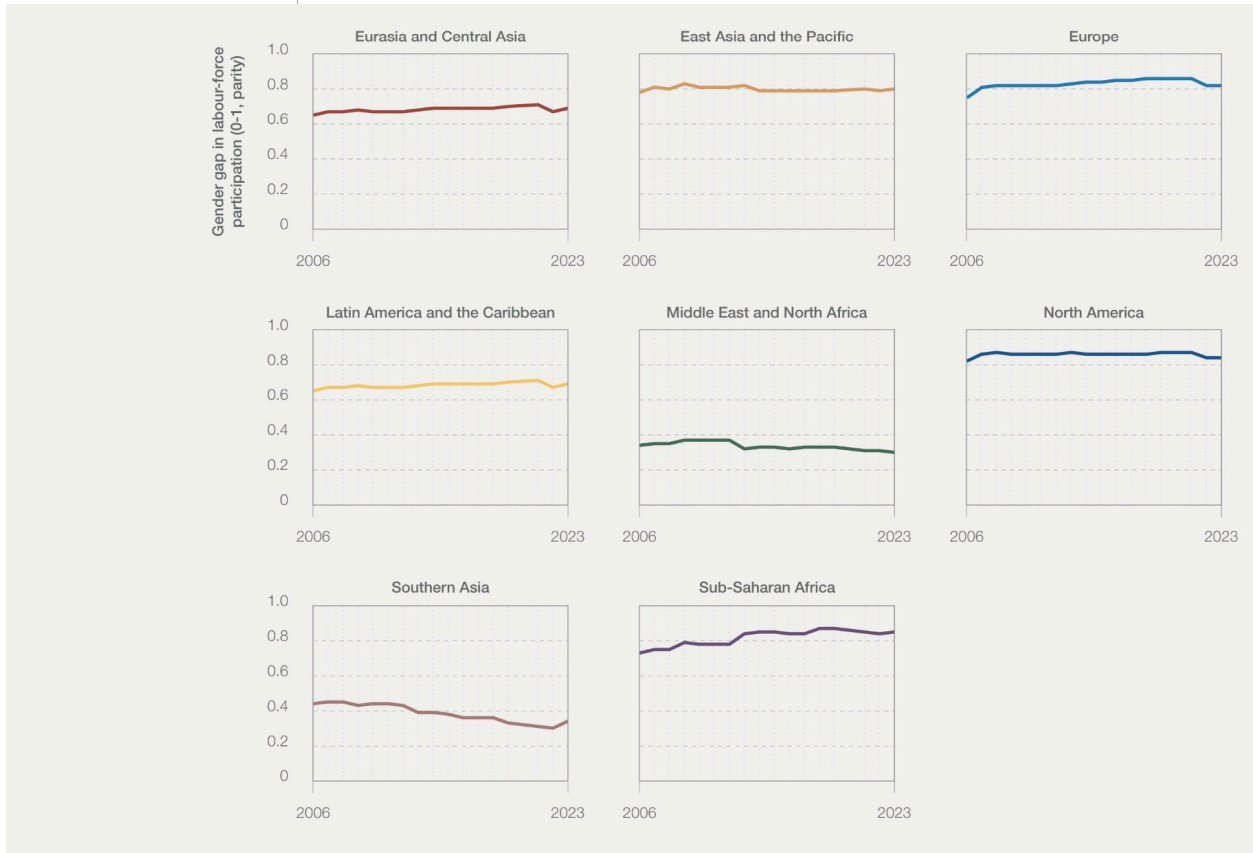
Between 2019 and 2020, the global women's labor-force participation rate fell by 3.4%, compared to 2.4% for men. Since then, women have (re-)entered the workforce at a slightly greater rate than males, resulting in a moderate improvement in gender parity. Between the 2022 and 2023 editions, parity in labor-force participation grew from 63% to 64%. However, the recovery is far from complete, since parity remains at the second-lowest level since the index's inception in 2006, and is much lower than its peak of 69% in 2009.

At the regional level, progress has been inconsistent. After all areas had a dip in the 2022 edition, Southern Asia is showing the most significant recovery this year, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean, Eurasia and Central Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Parity in labor-force participation in both Europe and North America remained practically unchanged from the 2022 edition, while Middle East and North Africa experienced a minor decline.

Overall, the Middle East and North Africa (30%) and Southern Asia (34%) have the lowest levels of participation parity at the regional level. North America has the highest score (84%), followed by Europe (82%), East Asia, and the Pacific at 80%.



FIGURE 2.2 Gender gap in labour-force participation, by region, 2006-2023



World Economic Forum calculations based on Global Gender Gap Report, 2006-2023

Inadequate access to education and health care

By 2030, an estimated 110 million girls and young women may still be out of school. To fulfill the 2030 targets, focused actions are needed to address stalled progress in maternal mortality reduction and educational opportunity expansion. Countries such as the Central African Republic, Chad, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Haiti, and others routinely rank at the bottom of global education rankings. This is a call for concern in terms of how if we would like for women to succeed and be able to partake in economic and civic studies and pursuits, education is an incredibly crucial factor that many of these countries lack.

The world today is ripped apart by turmoil and conflict at every level; there is an urgent need to make modern education more balanced, with an emphasis on values



and quality in a synergistic manner, and to promote the whole concept of holistic education in order to alleviate the crisis in the global south. The global south's low levels of education have been attributed mostly to bad policymaking by developing countries' governments. The design of any educational system is based on the conceptual construct of the human person and his existence. The concept of education for society is based on our understanding and characterization of a person as a physical, mental, or spiritual being. A quality education system must have a balanced vision of life, with an emphasis on higher spiritual and intellectual aspirations rather than materialistic pursuits. In the current educational landscape, excellent education must investigate how education might lead to social justice. It is critical to provide quality education and make it accessible to everybody. Rapid advancements in science and technology, combined with the challenges of globalization, are posing new challenges to the global education system. The gap between affluent and poor is widening.

There is an increasing demand for a greater emphasis on education to instill values, particularly among the country's youth. Only then would it be possible to address gender, marginalization, and social inclusion. The most significant obstacles in the global south include a lack of resources, unskilled teachers, inadequate classrooms, insufficient learning materials, and the exclusion of children with disabilities.

Low- and middle-income nations often exhibit significant disparities in the pricing and accessibility of medical care, as seen by extensive waiting lists for invasive radiography, implantation surgery, and innovative medications. Denied preventative and early screening/diagnostic treatments continue to cause a boomerang effect of escalating health-care costs. Typically, this results in critical care unit hospital admissions for advanced stages of several noncommunicable diseases, which are far more difficult and expensive to cure. LMICs in the Global South face a twin burden of noncommunicable diseases and traditional infectious diseases, both of which have yet to be eradicated, unlike in many Global North countries. One of the major Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that has yet to be fulfilled is universal



health coverage (UHC) and the fight against catastrophic health expenditure. The chronic underutilization and absence of relevant, respectful, and quality health care for women in the Global South has been well documented for some time, but it has not received adequate policy and resource attention. Poor women are frequently cared for by the most marginalized members of the health-care system.

Poverty and lack of economic opportunities

More than 340 million women and girls are expected to be in extreme poverty by 2030. This reflects an astonishing 8% of the global female population living on less than USD 2.15 per day. Social safety, access to good work, and other support mechanisms are urgently required to give a way out of poverty. Several interconnected causes contribute to the high levels of poverty faced by women and girls in the Global South. The persisting gender wage disparity is one of the most notable examples. Women are often paid much less than males for the same work. According to the World Bank and UN Women, women earn 77 cents for every \$1 earned by males, with larger disparities in specific countries and sectors. Women face a disproportionate burden of unpaid care work, limiting their involvement in the formal economy and hindering their access to education and job advancement. Women in the Global South face limited access to financial resources, land, and productive assets, hindering their ability to create income and invest for their future (UN Women). Women and girls with lower educational attainment have fewer job possibilities and earn less money. Cultural and societal standards in many places hinder girls' access to school, aggravating the cycle of poverty).

Access to financial resources, land, and other productive assets is another significant obstacle for women in the Global South. In many countries, inheritance laws and norms favor men, leaving women without the property or wealth they require to establish enterprises or invest in education. Women typically encounter challenges to obtaining credit and financial services, making it challenging to secure financing for entrepreneurial projects. Financial exclusion restricts women's economic options



and creates cycles of poverty. Without finance, women are unable to invest in business possibilities, education, or health, further limiting their economic potential.

Women undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care duties, limiting their ability to fully engage in the formal economy and preventing them from pursuing education and job growth chances. According to UN Women, women perform three times more unpaid care work than males, leaving less hours for paid job and career development (UN Women). unappreciated care work covers responsibilities like childcare, eldercare, and housework, which are necessary but often go unnoticed and unappreciated. This combined burden of paid and unpaid work exacerbates women's economic disadvantage.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Eurasia and Central Asia

Eurasia and Central Asia ranks fourth out of eight regions in the overall Gender Gap Index, with 69% parity. Based on the aggregated ratings of the consistent sample of nations included from 2006, the parity score has remained the same since the 2020 edition, despite a 3.2 percentage point improvement since 2006. Moldova, Belarus, and Armenia are the region's top-ranked countries, while Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Turkey are at the bottom. The difference in parity between the top and bottom-ranked countries is 14.9 percentage points. At the current rate of progress, the Eurasia and Central Asia region will take 167 years to achieve gender equality.

Europe

Across all subindices, Europe has the highest gender parity of any region, at 76.3%, with one-third of its nations placing in the top 20 and 20 out of 36 having at least 75% parity. Iceland, Norway, and Finland are the top-performing countries in the region and around the world, while Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Cyprus are at the bottom. Overall, the regional score has declined by 0.2 percentage points based



on a consistent sample of nations. Out of the 35 nations included in the previous and current editions, ten, headed by Estonia, Norway, and Slovenia, have improved by at least one percentage point from the previous edition. Ten countries have experienced a fall of at least one percentage point, with Austria, France, and Bulgaria suffering the most. At the current rate of advancement, Europe is expected to reach gender parity in 67 years.

East Asia and the Pacific

East Asia and the Pacific have 68.8% parity, the fifth highest score among the eight regions. Progress towards parity has been stagnant for more than a decade, and the region has lost 0.2 percentage points since the last edition. While 11 out of 19 countries improve, one remains unchanged, and eight (including China, the world's second most populous country) fall on the overall score. New Zealand, the Philippines, and Australia have the highest regional parity, with Australia and New Zealand also having the most improved economies in the area. On the other hand, Fiji, Myanmar, and Japan are at the bottom of the list, with Fiji, Myanmar, and Timor-Leste experiencing the greatest reductions.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Since 2017, Latin America and the Caribbean have made incremental progress toward gender parity, closing 74.3% of the overall gender gap. After Europe and North America, the region has the third-highest level of equality. Since the previous edition, seven out of 21 countries (including relatively populous countries such as Colombia, Chile, Honduras, and Brazil) have improved their gender parity scores by at least 0.5 percentage points, while five have seen their parity scores fall by at least 0.5 percentage points. This has resulted in a 1.7 percentage point gain in overall gender equality since last year. Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Jamaica have the greatest parity scores in the region, while Belize, Paraguay, and Guatemala have the lowest.

Middle East and North Africa



In comparison to other regions, the Middle East and North Africa remains the furthest from parity, with a parity score of 62.6%. This represents a 0.9 percentage-point reduction in parity since the previous edition for this region, based on a consistent sample of nations covered since 2006. The United Arab Emirates, Israel, and Bahrain have reached the region's highest parity, while Morocco, Oman, and Algeria have the lowest. Egypt, Algeria, and Morocco, the three most populous countries, have seen drops in their parity scores since the previous edition. On the other hand, five countries, led by Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar, have boosted their parity by at least 0.5%. At present rates of advancement, full regional parity will be achieved in 152 years.

UN Women

UN Women is an organization inside the United Nations that promotes gender equality and female empowerment. UN Women was founded to accelerate progress in fulfilling the needs of women and girls around the world. UN Women assists UN Member States in setting global standards for gender equality, and collaborates with governments and civil society to develop the laws, policies, programs, and services required to guarantee that the standards are properly implemented and actually benefit women and girls globally. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls, and it advocates for women's equal involvement in all parts of life, focusing on four strategic priorities:

- Women lead, participate, and benefit equally from government systems.
- Women have wage stability, decent jobs, and economic liberty.
- All women and girls spend their lives free of all sorts of violence.



- Women and girls contribute to and have greater impact in establishing sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from natural disaster avoidance, conflict resolution, and humanitarian intervention.

United Nations Development Programme

UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories to help alleviate poverty, decrease inequities and exclusion, and strengthen resilience so that countries can continue to prosper. UNDP, as the UN's development agency, is vital to countries' achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

International Labor Organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO) works to promote social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, based on its basic goal that social justice is necessary for universal and long-term peace.

Since 1919, the ILO, the only tripartite United Nations body, has brought together governments, employers, and workers from 187 Member States to set labour standards, formulate policies, and devise programmes encouraging decent employment for all women and men.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

ESCAP is the United Nations' regional arm for Asia and the Pacific, supporting economic and social development as well as regional cooperation. ESCAP facilitates dialogue, research, and technical assistance programs among its member nations to address critical development concerns such as poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and equitable growth. ESCAP backs initiatives that enhance South-South cooperation and regional integration in sectors including trade, infrastructure, and disaster risk reduction. ESCAP recognizes the potential of South-South collaboration to accelerate progress toward the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region. It emphasizes the significance of fostering collaboration,



exchanging information and best practices, and mobilizing resources to confront common challenges and promote inclusive and sustainable development. ESCAP promotes policies and investments to improve the region's connectedness, innovation, and resilience ("South-South Triangular Cooperation")

Timeline of Events

Date (Arial size 12 bold, centered)	Description of event* (Arial size 12 bold, centered)
1910-1920	Early women's suffrage movements begin in several countries in the Global South. (ex. Argentina, India, Turkey, South Africa etc.)
6 April 1940 - 11 October 1944	Khertek Anchimaa-Toka was appointed Chair of the Little Khural Presidium, the Tuvan People's Republic's head of state. In doing so, she became the first modern-day female head of state (who did not inherit the title). In doing so, she surpassed fellow Soviet Alexandra Kollontai, who became the world's first female government minister in 1917.



<p>1940-1960s</p>	<p>World War II and following decolonization efforts caused social and economic changes, frequently relegating women's issues to secondary status. Many newly independent countries in Africa and Asia experienced political instability, military coups, and civil wars, impeding the advancement of women's rights. Initial legislation granting women's rights were sometimes poorly administered, and women still faced severe discrimination in practice.</p>
<p>1970-1979</p>	<p>The worldwide economic crisis of the 1970s disproportionately affected women, especially in the worldwide South, where they were frequently the first to lose jobs and economic possibilities. Despite international conferences and declarations, women's presence in politics and business has remained extremely low.</p>
<p>1980</p>	<p>Economic policies enforced by international financial institutions frequently resulted in cuts to social services, which disproportionately impacted women, particularly in healthcare and education. Deep-seated patriarchal beliefs and behaviors continued to stymie the impact of legislative and regulatory</p>



	<p>changes aimed at fostering gender equality.</p>
<p>31 October 2000</p>	<p>On October 31, 2000, five years after the historic Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the UN Security Council adopted one of its most groundbreaking decisions: UNSC 1325, a resolution that links gender equality to the maintenance of international peace and security and recognizes women's participation as critical to resolving conflict and securing peace. Described as one of the crowning achievements of the global women's movement and since then known as the "women, peace, and security agenda," it is a commitment to address the multiple ways in which women and girls are targeted in war and to meaningfully include women in peace and security processes, which are one of the most male-dominated spaces of decision-making.</p>
<p>5 December 2001</p>	<p>Following the fall of the Taliban administration in 2001, Afghan representatives meet at a UN-sponsored meeting in Bonn, Germany, to create an interim government and map a course for their country. Four of the 36 Afghan</p>



	<p>delegates are women, which is a welcome change from the country's recent past. "Our women have been oppressed for years by the Taliban.</p> <p>"Now we have a chance for a Renaissance for women," said one of the female delegates. The ensuing accord sets the wheels in motion for changes in women's rights in the country, requiring women to manage numerous ministries as well as an independent human rights commission. While Afghan women and girls have made tremendous progress since then, their place at the table remains contested, with only four women out of 21 on the government's negotiation team and none on the Taliban delegation during the most recent peace talks in 2020.</p>
<p>January 2004</p>	<p>In 2004, Asha Hagi Elmi becomes the first Somali woman to sign a peace treaty, bringing an end to Somalia's civil war between opposing clan warlords. Elmi founded a "Sixth Clan" four years ago, when peace talks began, to assure women's representation at the table. At the</p>



	<p>time, only five traditional Somali all-men clans were represented. The clever idea allowed women's perspectives to be heard during the 2004 Kenya-sponsored peace talks. Despite opposition, women continue to fight for higher participation in parliament. The talks eventually result in a charter for a new transitional federal government, with Elmi serving as co-chair. Today, women make about 24% of Somalia's parliamentary seats, and campaigners continue to advocate for increased representation for women.</p> <p><i>"We acted as a binding glue between the conflicting clans. We spoke the voice of peace, the voice of the whitetes the voices as mothers the Sixth Clan" – Asha Haji Elmi on the sixth clan</i></p>
<p>1 January 2005</p>	<p>As countries recover from the Indian Ocean tsunami, which killed over 220,000 people in 12 countries, a gender gap in mortality emerges. In conflict-torn Sri Lanka, the tsunami killed twice as many displaced women as men. In some areas in Aceh, Indonesia, up to four times as</p>



	<p>many women as men are discovered dead. According to studies, gender inequality is the primary cause. This result is crucial for understanding the disproportionate impact of conflict and disasters on women and girls, as well as exposing the lethality of inflexible and discriminatory gender norms. As the globe deals with a global health pandemic, women and girls in conflict-affected nations remain among the most vulnerable groups at danger.</p>
<p>2020-present time</p>	<p>Across the Global South, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a highly gender-inequitable combination of declining paid work, increased caring responsibilities, and restricted childcare. Women are overrepresented in insecure informal professions and frequently work in hard-hit industries like as hospitality and domestic labor, whereas men in the informal economy have fared better following Covid-related lockdowns. Furthermore, women have borne the majority of the growing care responsibilities associated with Covid-19.</p>



	<p>Many civilizations in the Global South still have strong patriarchal institutions that prevent gender equality. Women's empowerment programs frequently face challenges due to a lack of resources and finance. Women from marginalized populations (ethnic minorities, rural areas, and LGBTQ+ people) experience additional prejudice, making their struggle for rights much more difficult.</p>
	<p>*The details you provide don't have to be too detailed as it will most likely be explained in another section of the report.</p>

Relevant UN Resolutions and Other documents

Small Note: There aren't any specific resolutions pertaining to this specific issue after doing research, yet these resolutions and treaties remain relevant for countries who are under the term for the global south.

- Resolution 1325 (2019) Adopted by the Security Council at its 8649th meeting, on 29 October 2019

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n00/720/18/pdf/n0072018.pdf?token=1soBoVorhX3wEnYSPP&fe=true>



The first UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), SCR 1325, was passed in October 2000. It is the first resolution to link women to the peace and security agenda, recognizing that armed conflicts affect women and girls differently than men and boys, and emphasizing the importance of women's active and effective engagement in peacemaking, including peace processes and peacebuilding.

SCR 1325 consists of four pillars:

- The role of women in conflict prevention;
- Women's participation in peacemaking and peacebuilding;
- The protection of women's rights during and after conflict; and
- Women's specific needs during repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction.

- Resolution 2493 (2000) Adopted by the Security Council at its 4213th

meeting, on 31 October 2000

https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2493.pdf

Strengthens the existing Women, Peace, and Security normative framework by requesting that the UN develop context-specific approaches to women's participation in all UN-supported peace processes, as well as urging Member States to ensure and provide timely support for women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in all stages of peace processes.

- Resolution 1960 (2010) Adopted by the Security Council at its 6453rd

meeting, on 16 December 2010



https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/SCResolutionWomen_SRES1960%282010%29%28en%29_0.pdf

This Security Council resolution establishes the accountability framework required to identify and remove perpetrators, as well as to track patterns and trends in conflict-related sexual assault. Resolution 1960 (2010) of the Security Council further calls for an extended mandate to comprehensively address sexual assault when it is utilized as a conflict tactic or emerges as a result of conflict. It is important to recognize the threat women feel when entering a workforce, especially in nations where sexual assault and domestic violence against women is so common.

- Resolution 2242 (2015) Adopted by the Security Council at its 7533rd meeting, on 13 October 2015

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n15/311/09/pdf/n1531109.pdf?toKen=tbgzbnMHQZCIJ5CuUH&fe=true>

The Council resolved to include women, peace, and security concerns across all country-specific situations on its agenda with resolution 2242 (2015), which was adopted unanimously ahead of a high-level open debate on the subject. It announced its intention to devote consultations to the topic of women, peace, and security implementation, arrange meetings of relevant Council experts as part of an informal expert group on women, peace, and security, and ask civil society to brief during its country-specific deliberations.

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cedaw>



The UN General Assembly adopted it in 1979, and it is sometimes referred to as an international women's charter of rights. It consists of a preamble and 30 paragraphs that describe what constitutes discrimination against women and lay out a plan for national action to abolish such discrimination.

The Convention defines gender discrimination as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

- African Union Agenda 2063 (2013):

<https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview>

Agenda 2063 is a strategy framework for Africa's socioeconomic transformation during the next fifty years. It contains aspirations and critical priority areas for the continent's inclusive and sustainable development, such as infrastructural development, industrialization, economic diversification, and regional integration ("Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want").

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), which means "service" in numerous Indian languages, is a trade union based in Ahmedabad, India, that advocates for the rights of low-wage, self-employed female workers. The Self-Employed Women's Association represents about 2 million workers in eight Indian states. Self-employed women are individuals who do not have a stable employer-employee connection and do not receive a fixed wage and social protection like formally employed workers, resulting in a more precarious income



and lifestyle. SEWA works toward the aim of full employment, which ensures that a woman has work, income, food, and social security benefits such as health care, child care, insurance, pension, and shelter. The ideas behind achieving these aims are struggle and progress, which means negotiating with stakeholders and handling service, respectively.

Green Belt-Movement

The Green Belt Movement (GBM) is an indigenous grassroots movement in Kenya that empowers women by planting trees. It is one of the most effective and well-known grassroots organizations tackling the issue of global deforestation. Professor Wangari Maathai founded the group in 1977 under the auspices of the National Council of Women of Kenya. GBM's achievements in forest protection, education, and women's economic development have earned the organization global recognition. It is also known for its support for human rights, the democratization of access to public lands, and environmental justice problems such as the relevance of women's traditional ecological knowledge in combating environmental deterioration and desertification.

According to the 2003 annual report, GBM's aim is "to mobilize community consciousness for self-determination, justice, equity, poverty reduction, and environmental conservation, using trees as the entry point." GBM is no longer directly affiliated with the NCWK, but it does manage a countrywide network of women's clubs that plant trees, save the environment, and promote community development. Their activity combats deforestation, replenishes cooking fuel, produces money, and prevents soil erosion. The Green Belt Movement, founded by Maathai, includes women's activism and empowerment, eco-tourism, and economic growth.

Constitutional reforms

Many countries, particularly those in the Global South, have relied heavily on constitutional amendments to advance gender equality. These reforms frequently reflect a broader commitment to human rights and social fairness, including



protections for women's rights at the highest levels of national legislation. Such constitutional provisions are critical because they lay the legal groundwork for future policies, legislation, and societal norms.

Despite these improvements, major difficulties remain. One of the most significant issues is the existence of disparities and asymmetries among participating countries. While some countries have made considerable strides in economic development and technical innovation, others continue to face serious obstacles due to poverty, instability, and poor institutional capacity. Furthermore, weak accountability systems and governance structures have generated concerns regarding the transparency and efficacy of South-South cooperation programs. Without strong monitoring, reporting, and evaluation processes in place, there is a risk of mismanagement, corruption, and resource diversion, which undermines trust and confidence in the process.

Possible Solutions

In examining the issue of Promoting the participation of women in civic and economic life in the global south, Girls and women face systemic hurdles to genuine political inclusion that must be addressed at three levels: individual, institutional, and social. While change may not occur concurrently at each level, all three must be addressed in order to establish an atmosphere that allows girls and women to participate in politics on an equal and sustainable basis. Breaking down obstacles and generating possibilities at all levels requires a coordinated effort from nations, civil society, and the international community. Each of these groups, including lawmakers, activists, religious and traditional leaders, and family members, can play a unique role in tackling various difficulties. The route forward must ensure and support girls' and women's rights to participate in decision-making and political processes.



Quotas, when well-designed and implemented, can be useful interim measures to boost women's access to decision-making positions while transitioning to a point where gender balance in political leadership can be reached and maintained. Quotas can be tailored to meet a wide range of political systems, structures, and situations, and while they may not be effective in every circumstance, they can be especially important in election systems that do not encourage equal participation. Quotas frequently address an institutional obstacle, whether within national political parties or the corporate sector, and, ideally, they require action from institutional actors and power holders rather than putting the onus on individual women to succeed.

Gender mainstreaming in conflict prevention and resolution can lead to better results before, during, and after the conflict. Women's engagement in democratic transitions, in particular, might increase the possibility of peace talks leading to settlements and parties achieving long-term agreements. According to research, women's engagement in resolution processes reduces the risks of peace agreements failing by 64% while increasing the chances of peace agreements lasting 15 years by 35%. Although it is widely acknowledged that gender-specific peacebuilding strategies can help with effective and holistic reconstruction, national policies and programs frequently fail to invite women to negotiating tables or provide a platform for girls and women to express their specific needs during reconstruction periods. As of January 2019, only 19% of lawmakers in conflict and post-conflict nations were female, compared to 24.3% globally.

Gender equality is a strong indicator of human security and peace. Government officials must acknowledge that state security extends beyond armed conflict to include ordinary human security, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable communities. Beyond the official process of peace treaties, transitions present a critical opportunity to advance gender equality in a country. They provide an opportunity to address basic barriers to gender equality by reshaping institutions,



processes, and norms into more inclusive systems. This shift has the potential to strengthen the democratic foundation of long-term peace, generating more resilient democracies and preventing future conflict. However, for these transitions to be transformative, women must not only be present in formal procedures, but also have the ability to engage actively in the creation of new governing structures.

Encouraging girls and women's continuing participation and civic education in schools, universities, and civil society spaces can help them participate in politics later on. According to some youth development specialists, another important aspect of future political participation is to institutionalize young people's civic education and participation in settings they encounter on a regular basis." Civic education offered to girls in school from an early age helps them comprehend the workings of democracy and their country's political system. It also provides them with the knowledge and skills they need to be active citizens and engage in current political concerns. Training designed for girls that help them develop the essential skills for political participation, such as problem-solving, assertive communication, and negotiation capacities, as well as opportunities to participate in decision-making processes at the family and school levels are all important steps toward political empowerment.

Increasing women's visibility can help to advance their rights to serve in positions of leadership and actively engage in decision-making processes. Girls' and women's capacities are more widely acknowledged by publicly acknowledging their contributions and defending their rights through the implementation of international agreements such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which dispels unfavorable gender stereotypes. Representation is extremely important in inspiring the next generation of female leaders. To that aim, women legislators should publicly discuss their experiences in order to mainstream the idea of having women in positions of power, as well as mentor girls and young women to help them gain access to decision-making and leadership positions.



The media has an important role in showcasing women's positive contributions to politics while avoiding promoting negative gender stereotypes. Female politicians can achieve prominence by receiving backing from civil society and other female leaders. Working with others, particularly boys and men, helps to transform social assumptions about political gender roles and skills.

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***If you have any questions regarding the report or the conference in general, feel free to contact the SGs, PGA, and the DSG at any time.*

