



# Resource Guide

---

## **WFUNA International Model United Nations New York 2024**

*30 January 2024 - 2 February 2024*

*Intercontinental Times Square and The Westin Times Square*

### **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

**Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**





Welcome to WFUNA International Model United Nations New York 2024.

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the United Nations in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the Organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!





## Topic Description:

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a specialised United Nations commission with the primary mandate of promoting global gender equality and women's rights. It operates within the framework of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Through annual meetings, reports, and recommendations, the CSW facilitates interactions between Member States and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to formulate national and international policies, ensuring equal opportunities for women and girls.

In an interconnected world characterized by rapid technological advancements and the massive digital revolution, technological innovation has become a crucial element in the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The intersection of innovation, technology, and education presents transformative potential that can reduce long-standing gender disparities, providing opportunities for women and girls to fully participate in economic, social, and political spheres.

In this context, education is a fundamental pillar for achieving gender equality in the digital age. It equips women and girls with the knowledge and skills needed to harness technology effectively, protect their rights online, and participate in decision-making processes related to technology and innovation. However, while the digital age offers numerous opportunities, it also exposes and exacerbates digital divides, particularly affecting women and girls in marginalized communities.

Therefore, reducing these divisions requires not only ensuring access to technology but also promoting digital literacy and ensuring the safety of online spaces, especially in the face of technology-facilitated violence against women. Thus, during the CSW WIMUN NY 2024 negotiations, delegations must come together to explore strategies, policies, and initiatives that harness the potential of innovation, technology, and education to create a world where gender equality is not a distant goal but a reality experienced by all.





## Official Resources on the Topic

### [Official website of the CSW 67](#)

**Summary:** Official website of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), with the priority theme: Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

**Published:** 2023

### [Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls:](#)

**Summary:** Report of the Secretary-General that examines the impact of technological change and provides an analysis of how to harness technologies in the digital age so that women and girls may enjoy equal opportunities and rights, have the skills to participate in innovation processes and shape the values and principles that should underpin their safe and equitable use.

**Published:** 2023

### [Expert Group Meeting: Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls:](#)

**Summary:** Report of an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) at the 67th session of the CSW. The text highlights how innovation and technology can benefit women but also raises concerns about potential gender inequalities in the digital age. Four specific sub-themes are explored to deepen understanding of these gender-related technology issues.

**Published:** 2023

### [Normative frameworks on gender perspectives in technology and innovation:](#)

**Summary:** The paper outlines the importance of integrating a gender perspective into global normative frameworks on technology and innovation. It emphasizes the need for women not only to benefit from technology but also to participate in its design, application, and evaluation. The text highlights the gaps in addressing gender equality challenges in technology that date back to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995.

**Published:** 2022

### [Ministerial round tables on “Good practices in addressing barriers to bridge the gender digital divide and promote education in the digital age for achieving gender equality”:](#)

**Summary:** Chair's summary of the ministerial roundtable discussions that took place during CSW 67, with a focus on best practices for overcoming barriers contributing to the gender digital divide and promoting education to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls in the digital age. The document highlights key participants and underscores the significance of addressing gender-based digital access inequalities to attain the Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030.

**Published:** 2023

### [Interactive expert panel on innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls:](#)



**Summary:** Chair's summary from the 67th session of the CSW, that discusses the importance of innovation, technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. The summary highlights the gender disparities in digital access and the need to address them, as well as the role of digital technology in enhancing the lives of women and girls while also acknowledging the challenges resulting from gender biases and online discrimination.

**Published:** 2023

### [The Impacts of Online Gender-Based Violence and Disinformation on Women Politicians in Representative Democracies:](#)

**Summary:** The text discusses the underrepresentation of women in government worldwide and highlights the importance of having women in political leadership roles. It points out that women can bring unique experiences to legislative and policy debates, especially in the face of historical discrimination and barriers. The paper focuses on two specific challenges faced by women in politics: online gender-based violence and gendered disinformation, which are part of the broader issue of violence against women in politics.

**Published:** 2023

### [Op-ed: Digital rights are women's rights:](#)

**Summary:** Op-ed by the Executive Director of UN Women and puts forth the argument that gender equality—and long-term, sustainable economic recovery—cannot be achieved without first closing the gender digital divide.

**Published:** 2023

### [The gender digital divide must be bridged to ensure we leave no one behind:](#)

**Summary:** Long-standing discrimination between men and women extends to the online world, where they face digital harassment and abuse. Despite widespread talk about AI and technologies like GPT Chat, 37% of the global population does not have access to the Internet. The digital divide, which existed even before the pandemic, disproportionately affects women and girls, harming their educational and financial opportunities. This article gives a brief overview of ways to bridge the gender digital divide.

**Published:** 2023





## Official Statements or Documents issued by Member States

### 2nd Plenary Meeting - Commission on the Status of Women, sixty-seventh session (CSW67):

**Summary:** The session is divided between the “Opening of the Session” Ceremony with speeches by high-ranking members of the Secretariat and “General Discussion” with statements by Member States. During this session, the following representatives spoke: Syria Leone, on behalf of the African States; Sweden, on behalf of the European Union; Finland, on behalf of LGBTI core group, composed by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malta, Montenegro, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uruguay; Belarus, on behalf of Friends of Family group, composed by Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Belarus; Iraq, on behalf of the Arab States; Democratic Republic of the Congo, on behalf of the Southern Communities; Fiji, on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum, composed by Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu; Indonesia, on behalf of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN); and Angola, on behalf of Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries.

**Published:** 2023

### 3rd Plenary Meeting - Commission on the Status of Women, sixty-seventh session (CSW67):

**Summary:** Continuation of the General Discussion with statements from Member States. During this session, the following representatives spoke: Bahamas, on behalf of Caribbean Community; Panama, on behalf of InterAmerican Commission of Women of the Organization of American States; Kazakhstan, on behalf of Central Asian Countries, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; European Union of Groups of Friends on Violence Against Women and Girls; Hungary, Swiss Confederation, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Southern Sudan, Island, Czechia, Slovenia, Serbia, Ukraine, Netherlands, Turkiye, Portugal, Republic of Korea, France, Paraguay, Lithuania, Morocco, Ireland, Austria, Thailand, Nigeria, Luxembourg, South Africa, Ecuador and Japan.

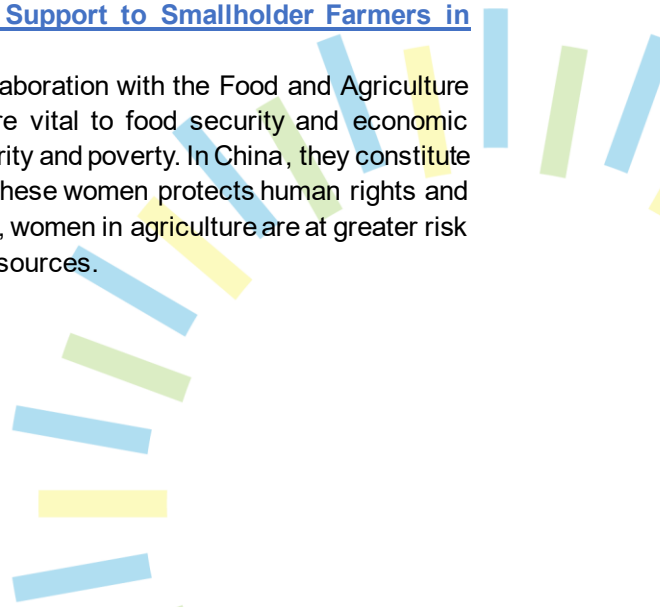
**Published:** 2023

### Providing Innovative and Gender-Responsive Digital Support to Smallholder Farmers in China:

**Summary:** Report developed by UN Women China in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) China analyzes how rural women are vital to food security and economic development, facing unique challenges such as food insecurity and poverty. In China, they constitute more than 70% of the agricultural workforce. Empowering these women protects human rights and benefits families and communities. Despite their crucial role, women in agriculture are at greater risk of extreme poverty and have limited access to financial resources.

**Published:** 2023

### U.S. National Statement on CSW 67:





**Summary:** U.S. National Statement Delivered by Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield at the 67th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

**Published:** 2023

#### [Africa Pre-Commission on the Status of Women Sixty-Seven \(CSW67\):](#)

**Summary:** Common Africa Position Adopted by Ministers Responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs and/or their Representatives on 1st of December 2022 with the participation of the African Union, the UN system, and Representatives of Civil Society Organizations

**Published:** 2022

#### [Increased Women's, Girls' Participation in Digital Technology Crucial to Economies, Global Sustainability, Speakers Tell Commission, as Session Continues:](#)

**Summary:** Dorothy Estrada Tanck, Chair of the Human Rights Council Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, emphasized the challenges girls face, including limited access to education and digital gender-based violence. Also speaking were ministers, senior officials and other representatives from Guyana, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Mauritius, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Federated States of Micronesia, Oman, Trinidad and Tobago, Tonga, Lesotho, Croatia, Benin, Burundi, Angola, Chile, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, Philippines, Poland, Colombia, Canada, Malta, Singapore, Dominican Republic (by the Central American Council of Ministers of Women's Affairs), Senegal, Spain, Uruguay, Bangladesh, Azerbaijan, Mongolia, Nauru, Greece, East Timor, Russian Federation, Mexico, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Brazil, Nepal, United Republic of Tanzania, Cambodia, Belgium, China, El Salvador, Andorra, Cuba, Malaysia, Togo, Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Marshall Islands and Israel.

**Published:** 2023

#### [As Commission on Status of Women Begins Annual Session, Speakers Stress Gender Digital Divide Must Be Closed, Safe Internet Environment Ensured:](#)

**Summary:** During the opening session of CSW67, speakers highlighted the emerging opportunities that digital technology presents for women and girls around the world. There has been a renewed call for investment to address the gender digital divide, create a safe online environment and ensure the full engagement of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This annual United Nations event brings together representatives from Member States, UN entities global civil society and non-governmental organizations to address gender equality and women's empowerment.

**Published:** 2023





## Official Statements or Documents issued by Regional & Political Groups

### Regional Consultation in Asia-Pacific Region:

**Summary:** The consultations brought together participants from the Asia-Pacific countries (from both National Coordination Mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment and other relevant Ministries) as well as experts and practitioners from a variety of fields, in order to provide a forum for ESCAP Member States and key stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region to explore ways to take stock of key trends, needs, gaps in policy responses, and good practices, as well as to consider possible areas for joint interventions (policy, programmatic or otherwise), to address innovation, technological change, and education in the digital age, towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

**Published:** 2023

### Regional Consultation in the Arab Region:

**Summary:** Statement Issued by the Arab preparatory meeting for the 67th session of the UN CSW, under the umbrella of the League of Arab States. The statement focused on promoting women's economic empowerment in the context of innovation, new technologies and digital development, enhancing women's access to decision-making and leadership positions in the digital age, Ensuring social protection and food security for women and girls in the digital age, Achieving peace and security by using opportunities offered by technology and digital solutions to support the full, effective and meaningful participation of women in peace and security and their participation in public life, and protecting women and girls from all forms of violence in the context of innovation and technological change.

**Published:** 2023

### Regional Consultation in the African Region:

**Summary:** The consultation, which included experts and Ministers and/or their Representatives responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs with participation of the African Union, the UN system, and representatives of Civil Society Organizations reviewed and adopted the Common Africa Position for CSW67 and made recommendations on actions needed to build an inclusive digital economy, to support the development of digital infrastructures, services, skills, and entrepreneurship that will enhance the digital literacy among women and girls, to protect the human rights of women and girls in line with the objectives of the African Union strategy on digital transformation.

**Published:** 2023

### CSW67: African Countries Agree on Common Position to harness technology and innovation for empowerment of women and girls

**Summary:** Press Release about some of the key issues highlighted at the 67th pre-Commission on the Status of Women in Africa (Pre-CSW67) Ministerial consultations convened by the African Union.

**Published:** 2022

### Regional Consultation in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region:





**Summary:** Document prepared by the ministers and high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, convened in the framework of the sixty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at the special regional consultation prior to the CSW 67.

**Published:** 2023





## Official Documents about the situation in UN regions or Member States

### Asia Pacific

#### [Gender and Digital Access Gaps and Barriers in Asia: But What About After Access?](#)

**Summary:** Document prepared by Helani Galpaya and Ayesha Zainudeen of LIRNEasia for the UN Women Expert Group Meeting in October 2022. The text addresses gender-based digital access gaps and barriers in Asia and suggests that it is important to consider not only initial access but also the challenges women may face after gaining access to technology.

**Published:** 2022

### Africa

#### [Statement submitted by Medical Women's Association of Nigeria, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:](#)

**Summary:** The Nigerian Association of Women Doctors emphasizes the crucial role of digital technology in empowering women and girls, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The declaration highlights the importance of sustained, accessible and innovative education for female empowerment, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goal. The proposal advocates the use of computer applications for self-instruction, offline accessibility and engagement with religious and traditional leaders to combat gender inequality.

**Published:** 2023

### Latin America and the Caribbean

#### [Gender equality and women's and girls' autonomy in the digital era Contributions of education and digital transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean:](#)

**Summary:** This document was coordinated by Diana Rodriguez, Social Affairs Officer in the Gender Affairs Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and discusses the multifaceted crises facing Latin America and the Caribbean, encompassing social challenges, educational, health, employment, food, climate and energy. Emphasizing the disproportionate impact on women, it highlights the gender inequalities exacerbated during the pandemic, especially in terms of unemployment, violence and increased caregiving responsibilities.

**Published:** 2022

### Europe

#### [Statement submitted by International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International, Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland \(SIGBI\) Limited, Soroptimist International of Europe, Stockholm Environment Institute, and Women for Water Partnership, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:](#)

**Summary:** The Women for Water Partnership, a global network focused on water and sanitation, engages in knowledge exchange, training and advocacy, linking Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5 and 6. Addresses the growing gender gap in access to technology, advocating inclusive design and recognizing the impact of technology on women. The network calls for the harmonization of modern technologies with traditional knowledge for sustainable rural development and encourages policymakers to prioritize women's comfort in using technology. **Published:** 2023



## Non-Official Resources on the Topic

### [Bridging The Digital Divide And The Gender Gap:](#)

**Summary:** This text of Forbes highlights the challenges women face in achieving gender equality, exacerbated by the pandemic and climate change impacts. It emphasizes the importance of education, digital access, and connectivity for women. It also calls for greater opportunities for women in the tech sector and the workplace. The text concludes by urging business leaders and policymakers to take action for true gender equality and sustainable profitability.

**Published:** 2022

### [Gender in the Information Society: Strategies of Inclusion:](#)

**Summary:** This article reports from a European study on efforts to close a gendered digital divide through inclusion. The authors argue that inclusion is not just a mirror image of exclusion, and that to achieve inclusion, it is not sufficient to curb exclusion mechanisms but to enhance positive measures of inclusion. A variety of inclusion strategies have been studied, the authors concluding that 'one size does not fit all'.

**Published:** 2017





## Non-official Resources about Member States or UN Regions

### Asia Pacific

#### [India to host panel discussion with a focus on sharing good practices, and experiences on women's digital empowerment:](#)

**Summary:** India's Permanent Mission will host a panel discussion on 'Leveraging Public-Private Commitment for Women's Greater Access to Technology and Education' on Monday that will be moderated by Susan Ferguson, Country Representative, UN Women India.

**Published:** 2022

### Africa

#### [Perspectives on Gender in Science, Technology, and Innovation: A Review of Sub-Saharan Africa's Science Granting Councils and Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals:](#)

**Summary:** The study assesses the status of gender mainstreaming in Science Grant Councils (SGC) in Africa, key players in national innovation systems. Despite the emphasis on gender mainstreaming in policies, the findings reveal uneven progress. Although all SGC recognize the importance of gender in science, structural misalignments between policy and practice persist.

**Published:** 2022

#### [67th pre-Commission on the Status of Women in Africa \(Pre-CSW67\) Ministerial consultations](#)

**Summary:** Overview of ministerial meeting in advance of CSW67 in Africa on the priority theme "Innovation, technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls".

**Published:** 2022

### Latin America and the Caribbean

#### [Digital gender divide or technologically empowered women in developing countries? A typical case of lies, damned lies, and statistics:](#)

**Summary:** The study challenges stereotypes about women's digital engagement, revealing that fewer women accessing ICT is linked to socio-economic disparities rather than technophobia. Analyzing data from 12 Latin American and 13 African countries, the results consistently show that, when adjusting for variables like employment and education, women are more active ICT users than men. This reframes the digital gender gap as an opportunity to address broader gender inequalities in developing nations, using ICT as a tool to enhance access to employment, income, education, and health services for women.

**Published:** 2022

### Europe

#### [Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategies Adopted in a European University Alliance to Facilitate the Higher Education-to-Work Transition:](#)

**Summary:** The study underscores the COVID-19 impact on higher education and stresses the necessity of strategies for students' workforce transition, emphasizing equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). It outlines challenges universities face in cultivating inclusive cultures. The EUA "ULYSSEUS," part of the European Commission's "European Universities" initiative, unites universities from Spain, Italy, Austria, France, Finland, and Slovakia to foster competitive, internationally collaborative degrees.

**Published:** 2022





**WFUNA International Model United Nations  
New York 2024**

30 January 2024 - 2 February 2024  
InterContinental Times Square and The Westin Times Square  
wimun@wfuna.org | www.wfuna.org