



BACKGROUND GUIDE

UN WOMEN

DPSIMUN '26

CONFERENCE THEME

Radical Resilience: "Engineering Stability in an Age of Volatility"

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COMMITTEE

UN WOMEN

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1.1 Welcome Message

On behalf of the UN Women Committee, we extend our warmest welcome to each of you. It is both an honor and a privilege to gather bright minds and passionate voices committed to advancing gender equality and resilience in times of global volatility.

This year's theme, **"Engineering Stability in an Age of Volatility,"** challenges us to think critically about the role of women not only as survivors of crisis but as architects of recovery, peace, and sustainable development.

We encourage you to approach debate with empathy, creativity, and determination. Collaboration across diverse perspectives will be the cornerstone of your success in drafting resolutions that reflect both innovation and inclusivity. Remember, the strength of this committee lies in its ability to transform dialogue into action, and ideas into solutions.

We look forward to witnessing your diplomacy, leadership, and commitment to building a more equitable and resilient world.

The UN Women Committee Chairs

1.2 Chair Messages

Nuelene Smith Yankey CHAIR, UN WOMEN

Dear Delegates,

Welcome and thank you for joining us.

My name is **Nuelene Smith Yankey**, and I'm honored to serve as your Chair for the 2026 MUN Conference. Our goal is to make this session productive, respectful, and focused on clear outcomes. Please join on time, silence electronic devices, and keep discussions courteous. When you speak, state your name and organization, and address the Chair so we maintain an orderly flow. We will follow the agenda, and we'll allocate time for questions and decision-making. Let's collaborate in a positive spirit to move matters forward.

Sincerely,

Nuelene Smith Yankey

Chair, UN Women Committee

Paul Obaseki CHAIR, UN WOMEN

Dear Delegates,

My name is **Paul Obaseki**, and I am honored to serve as your Chair for the UN Women Committee at the 2026 MUN Conference. Having participated in six MUNs, I know how valuable these sessions are — not just for debate, but for learning, connecting, and imagining solutions together.

Our committee will address urgent issues of resilience and gender equality. I encourage you to bring respect, passion, and collaboration to every discussion. Every voice matters, and the best resolutions come from diverse perspectives working in unity.

I look forward to guiding our work and making this conference both productive and memorable.

Sincerely,

Paul Obaseki

Chair, UN Women Committee

1.3 General Overview

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls worldwide. Established to champion the rights of women and girls in every sphere of society, UN Women works closely with Member States, civil society organizations, international partners, and local communities to develop policies and initiatives that promote equal rights, expand opportunities, and ensure protection from discrimination, violence, and injustice. By advocating for inclusive governance, economic empowerment, education, healthcare, and leadership opportunities, UN Women seeks to create a world where every woman and girl can realize her full potential, regardless of her background or circumstances.

At the heart of UN Women's mission is the recognition that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a cornerstone of sustainable development, peace, and global prosperity. Societies that empower women and girls benefit from stronger economies, more effective institutions, healthier communities, and greater social cohesion. Conversely, gender inequality exacerbates poverty, fuels instability, and limits the ability of nations to respond effectively to global challenges. For this reason, UN Women places gender equality at the center of efforts to achieve lasting development and resilience.

Guided by this year's conference theme, "Engineering Stability in an Age of Volatility," delegates are encouraged to explore how gender-responsive policies can serve as powerful tools for building resilient societies in an increasingly uncertain world. Today's international landscape is shaped by complex and interconnected challenges, including armed conflict, geopolitical tensions, economic instability, climate change, public health crises, forced displacement, and rapid technological transformation. These challenges often affect women and girls disproportionately, widening existing inequalities while simultaneously highlighting the indispensable role they play in fostering recovery, innovation, and sustainable peace.

Delegates are therefore invited to examine how governments, international organizations, and local stakeholders can integrate gender perspectives into policymaking to strengthen national and global resilience. Discussions may focus on improving women's participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, promoting equal access to education and economic opportunities, addressing gender-based violence during humanitarian crises, closing digital divides in an era of technological advancement, and ensuring that climate adaptation and disaster response strategies are inclusive and equitable.

Through constructive dialogue, diplomacy, collaboration, and evidence-based policymaking, participants will have the opportunity to develop innovative and practical solutions that address both immediate challenges and long-term structural inequalities. Delegates are encouraged to engage in respectful debate, consider diverse perspectives, and work toward consensus-driven resolutions that reflect the principles of equality, inclusion, human dignity, and international cooperation.

Ultimately, this committee seeks to demonstrate that engineering stability extends beyond economic or political measures—it requires building societies where every individual has an equal opportunity to contribute, lead, and thrive. By placing women and girls at the center of sustainable development and resilience strategies, delegates can help shape policies that not only respond to today's global uncertainties but also lay the foundation for a more peaceful, inclusive, and equitable future for generations to come.

1.4 Topic

Women as Architects of Resilience: Enhancing Gender-Responsive Strategies in Post-Conflict and Climate-Stressed Zones

1.4.1 Background Information

When armed conflicts break out or climate disasters devastate communities, standard physical and social infrastructures collapse rapidly. In these volatile environments, basic survival often falls squarely onto the shoulders of women, who take on the burden of securing clean water, gathering scarce food supplies, managing healthcare needs, and maintaining community cohesion. Despite performing these critical roles on the ground, women are almost entirely excluded when international organizations, peace negotiators, and local governments gather to design post-crisis recovery policies, allocate humanitarian funding, or restructure governance.

Traditional international aid frameworks have historically operated under a patronizing assumption—treating women strictly as passive victims who require external protection and aid distribution, rather than as strategic actors and community architects who possess deep, practical knowledge of what their societies need to rebuild sustainably.

Implementing "gender-responsive strategies" requires a fundamental shift in how the international community approaches crisis management. Rather than simply delivering short-term humanitarian assistance, gender-responsive policymaking intentionally addresses the underlying structural inequalities that make women more vulnerable to crises in the first place. This means restructuring legal systems to guarantee women equal land ownership, establishing financial channels that grant female entrepreneurs credit after a collapse, and creating formal seats for women at governance tables during crisis recovery. When policies actively empower women to direct resource management and community stabilization, entire regions demonstrate significantly higher resilience, lower rates of civil unrest, and more equitable economic recovery following major shocks.

1.4.2 Historical Context

For much of the 20th century, global security, conflict resolution, and environmental policy were treated as gender-neutral fields. Major international treaties and peace settlements operated under the assumption that political stability and military security automatically benefited all citizens equally, completely ignoring how war, displacement, and resource scarcity uniquely impact women. The turning point occurred in October 2000, when the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1325.

This groundbreaking resolution formally created the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda, marking the first time the international community officially acknowledged that sustainable global peace is mathematically impossible to achieve without the active, equal participation of women in conflict prevention, peace negotiations, and post-conflict governance.

This framework was further reinforced over the following decades through international climate agreements, most notably the 2015 Paris Agreement, which explicitly recognized that climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable populations and called on nations to adopt gender-responsive climate adaptation plans. Modern academic research and diplomatic data have consistently validated these initiatives, demonstrating that peace agreements signed with female negotiators and local women's civil society groups are 35% more likely to last at least fifteen years compared to those drafted exclusively by male military or political elites. Despite these clear historical mandates and empirical findings, implementation across member states has been notoriously sluggish. Over the past twenty-five years, women have still accounted for fewer than 10% of negotiators in major diplomatic peace tracks globally, revealing a persistent and dangerous gap between international commitments and real-world execution.

1.4.3 Current Situation

Today, the convergence of geopolitical instability, economic volatility, and accelerating environmental degradation has pushed fragile states into unprecedented levels of vulnerability. In regions spanning from the African Sahel and Horn of Africa to Haiti and South Asia, climate change now acts as a primary "threat multiplier." Severe prolonged droughts, desertification, and catastrophic flooding destroy local agricultural livelihoods, forcing mass internal displacement and sparking fierce armed disputes over remaining arable land and clean water sources. Rural women, who make up the majority of agricultural labor in many developing economies, find themselves caught directly in the crosshairs of these resource conflicts, facing heightened risks of physical violence, severe food insecurity, and economic loss without legal protections or formal representation in local resource management boards.

Compounding this environmental volatility is a widespread global political rollback of gender rights, particularly in authoritarian and fragile post-conflict states. Grassroots female human rights defenders, peacebuilders, and political activists face escalating state-sponsored intimidation, targeted physical violence, and sophisticated digital harassment campaigns designed to silence their opposition. Furthermore, international financing for local gender-responsive programs has sharply declined due to shifting global aid budgets, forcing essential community-level operations—such as legal aid centers, survivor shelters, and micro-loan cooperatives—to shut down. As a result, delegates in this committee must urgently construct actionable, enforceable mechanisms that secure international funding for frontline women's organizations, enforce strict gender quotas in formal diplomacy, protect displaced populations from human trafficking, and leverage financial and digital technologies to safeguard women operating in volatile zones.

1.4.4 Subtopics

1.4.4.1 Women's Leadership in Post-Conflict Recovery

Following conflict, women play a vital role in rebuilding communities and promoting lasting peace. Delegates should explore how women can be meaningfully included in peace negotiations, governance, and decision-making processes to ensure recovery efforts are inclusive and sustainable.

1.4.4.2 Protection and Empowerment of Displaced Women and Girls

Conflict, disasters, and displacement expose women and girls to heightened risks of violence, exploitation, and limited access to essential services. This topic focuses on policies that strengthen protection, provide education and healthcare, and create opportunities for economic independence.

1.4.4.3 Legal and Economic Reforms for Financial Inclusion

Legal and financial barriers continue to prevent many women from owning property, inheriting assets, and accessing credit or financial services. Delegates should consider reforms that promote equal economic rights and enable women to participate fully in national economies.

1.4.4.4 Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Justice Reform

Gender-based violence remains a major obstacle to gender equality and human security. This subtopic examines how governments can strengthen laws, policing, and judicial systems to prevent violence, protect survivors, and ensure perpetrators are held accountable.

1.4.4.5 Digital Inclusion and Online Safety

Digital technologies have created new opportunities for education, employment, and financial inclusion, but they have also introduced risks such as cyberbullying, harassment, and online exploitation. Delegates should discuss strategies to expand safe and equitable access to digital spaces while protecting the rights and security of women and girls.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

- 1 Resolutions must institutionalize women's leadership in post-conflict peacebuilding and climate adaptation frameworks.
- 2 Resolutions must establish protections and empowerment strategies for displaced women and girls in climate-stressed regions.
- 3 Resolutions must guarantee women's financial inclusion and equal property rights in fragile and post-conflict states.
- 4 Resolutions should leverage gender-disaggregated data to design effective crisis response strategies.
- 5 Resolutions must propose measures to safeguard female human rights defenders and political leaders from digital harassment and disinformation.
- 6 Resolutions must restructure justice and security institutions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence during civil unrest.
- 7 Resolutions should expand women's access to digital technologies for education, financial services, and crisis communication.
- 8 Resolutions must strengthen international cooperation to support gender-responsive strategies across borders.

Suggested Pre-Conference Readings

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)

Foundational text on women, peace, and security.

UN Women Annual Report (2025)

Updates on global gender equality initiatives.

CEDAW Treaty Text (1979)

Legal obligations for eliminating discrimination.

UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (2019, updated 2022)

Gender integration in climate policy.

UNHCR Global Trends Report (2025)

Insights on displaced women and girls.

World Bank: Women, Business and the Law (2025)

Legal and economic barriers to women's participation.

International Crisis Group – Gender and Conflict Series

Independent analysis of women's roles in conflict zones.

United Nations Global Digital Compact Draft (2024)

Principles for digital inclusion and safety.

| Glossary

UN Women *The United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and women’s empowerment.*

CEDAW *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, an international treaty adopted in 1979.*

WPS Agenda *Women, Peace and Security Agenda, based on UNSC Resolution 1325, recognizing women’s role in peacebuilding.*

Gender-Responsive Strategies *Policies and actions designed to address the specific needs and contributions of women and men equally.*

Post-Conflict Recovery *The process of rebuilding societies after armed conflict, including governance, justice, and social stability.*

Displaced Women and Girls *Women and girls forced to leave their homes due to conflict, disaster, or climate change.*

Financial Inclusion *Ensuring access to financial services such as banking, credit, and property rights for all, especially marginalized groups.*

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) *Harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and harassment.*

Digital Inclusion *Efforts to ensure equitable access to digital technologies and online platforms.*

International Cooperation *Collaboration among states and organizations to address global challenges collectively.*

1.6 Notes