



## United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)

UN Women was created in July 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution 64/289) with the purpose of facing challenges regarding gender equality and promoting the empowerment of women, beginning its operations on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Throughout history, gender inequalities have led to women's lack of access to decent work, basic education and healthcare, in addition to the existence of wage gaps, discrimination, violence, segregation, and marginalization. Therefore, the United Nations decided to merge four previous organs in order to establish this entity, bringing together enough resources to generate a greater impact.

The previous organs were the following: Division for the Advancement of Women, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and United Nations Development Fund for Women. Nevertheless, it is important to recognize that the United Nations also holds the Commission on the Status of Women, which had its first meeting on February, 1947, looking forward to changing international discriminatory laws and to increase global awareness of women's issues. Since then, it has led to the establishment of multiple conventions for the protection of women's rights, as well as the celebration of global conferences to address problems of this nature.

Nowadays, UN Women works alongside the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure a better future for women and girls, which would also increase economic growth. Its executive director is Ms. Sima Bahous, and its board is made up of representatives from 41 Member States, which are elected every three years by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This entity's regional organization includes ten representatives from Africa, ten from America, ten from Asia and the Pacific, four from Eastern Europe, six from Latin





America and the Caribbean, in addition to five from Western Europe and other states. This said, during the following four years, the Entity's work will be guided by the UN Women Strategic Plan 2022-2025, which focuses on ending violence against women and girls, ensuring women's governance and participation in public life, economic empowerment, peace, security, humanitarian action, and disaster risk reduction.

UN Women's main functions consist on supporting international organs and bodies in the establishment of policies, standards and norms to help and advice Member States on the implementation of measures that ensure gender equality, as well as to coordinate the United Nations' work on the same matter. Furthermore, its strategic priorities include to assure women's participation and benefit from governance systems; to allow women to have an income, decent work and economic autonomy; to end up all forms of violence against women and girls; and to let them contribute on the achievement of sustainability.

In order to achieve its goals, UN Women supports international political negotiations that establish global standards to reach gender equality and the empowerment of women, in addition to helping Member States and other parts of the UN system to solve issues related to human rights and human development. It has established multiple programs and legislations to ensure that both men and women participate in development and benefit from it. In addition, it suggests concrete recommendations to be applied at different levels in order to achieve the aforementioned.

Therefore, the main outcome and achievement of this Entity has been the establishment of yearly conclusions that contain recommendations for governments, intergovernmental bodies, institutions, and civil society. These recommendations are based on the principles established in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women, which aims to ensure the participation of women in public life. Also, other important international instruments on this topic are the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the UN Women Humanitarian Strategy.





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