EGMUN 2018

Main chair Rebecca Nicole Bigum Slatcher & Deputy chair Amalie Louise Thorsen

**Committee:** Commission on the Status of Women

**Topics**:

1. Securing equal rights and improving women’s conditions in the economic sector

Official Report Regarding Status of Women

Equality is not a female issue; it’s a social and economic imperative. The benefits to achieving full gender equality for a woman in the messy middle are apparent: It would mean equal pay for equal work. Investments in gender equality are the most effective of all development investments.

On a global scale, fewer women than men are in paid employment, with only about 50 percent of working-age women participating in the labor force. In many countries, laws, regulations and social norms still constrain women’s possibilities to seek paid employment. And all over the world women conduct most of the work that remains unseen and unpaid, in the fields and in households.

Many women are still excluded from economic and political spheres. Closing these gaps is not only a matter of justice: it is also a matter of development effectiveness. Engaging women as active participants contributes to more sustainable and more inclusive results.

**Present situation regarding the Status of Women**

Currently, the global gender pay gap stands at 24%. This means women earn 76% of what men earn. At the current rate of progress, the World Economic Forum estimates that it will take 118 years to close the gender gap. This underlines the need to act decisively. Globally women spend 2.5 times more time than men on unpaid care and domestic work, cooking, cleaning, fetching water and firewood and caring for children, the sick and the elderly. Women are overrepresented as contributing family workers and in informal work, despite improvements worldwide over the last 50 years, men spend more time on leisure each day while women spend more time doing unpaid housework. The time women spend on these domestic chores has a direct impact on the type of paid work they can access: women are more prone to take work part-time and have low paid jobs and generally earn less than their male peers. This results in women becoming more likely to be unemployed than men. In 2017 the global labour force participation rate for women stood at just above 49%, which is approximately 27% lower than the rate for their male peers.

Although women and girls in many countries outpace their male peers at nearly all educational levels, they continue to face discrimination in the labour marked, including the financial sector, and lower rates of upward mobility than men. These factors combined with discrimination against women in financial markets mean that women are far less likely than men to have checking or savings accounts in their own names. In addition to this, women are less likely to have adequate identification papers, which will help them obtain loans, bank accounts etc.

Women belonging to ethnic minorities and migrant women face even more discrimination when it comes to the type of work they can access and how much they are paid. For instance: Globally, less than 20% of landholders are women and their land is often of less quality even though they represent between 43% and 70% of the workforce in the agricultural sector.

**Links used to draft this paper:**

* <https://www.womankind.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/women's-rights/women's-economic-rights>
* <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/girlseducation>
* <http://www.pnas.org/content/114/41/10870.full>
* <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/6/speech-ded-regner-womens-economic-empowerment-and-financial-inclusion-at--group-of-77>