

XXXV

TECMUN

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Commission on the  
Status of Women

XXXV TECMUN  
**Sessions Schedule**

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**Wednesday, march 16**

Registry	8:00 – 9:00 h.
Opening ceremony	9:00 – 10:00 h.
Recess	10:00 – 10:30 h.
First session	10:30 – 12:30 h.
Recess	12:30 – 13:00 h.
Second session	13:00 – 15:00 h.
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h.
Third session	16:00 – 18:00 h.

**Thursday, march 17**

Master conference	8:30 – 9:30 h.
Recess	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Forth session	10:00 – 12:30 h.
Recess	12:30 – 13:00 h.
Fifth session	13:00 – 15:00 h.
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h.
Sixth session	16:00 – 18:00 h.

**Friday, march 18**

Seventh session	8:00 – 9:30 h.
Recess	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Eight session	10:00 – 12:00 h.
Recess	12:00 – 12:30 h.
Nineth session	12:30 – 14:30 h.
Meal	14:30 – 16:00 h.
Closing ceremony	16:00 – 18:00 h.

XXXV TECMUN  
**General Agenda**

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*Secretary General: Vanessa Arroyo Jerez*

*Chief of General Coordination: Paola Ayelén Hernández Hernández*

**ASAMBLEA GENERAL**

*Subsecretary General: Andrea Michelle Martínez Lozano*  
*Coordinating Supervisor: Anahí Amairany Pérez Escobedo*

**Reunión de Alto Nivel para la Asamblea General**

*President: Gerardo Calderón Huerta*

- A) Estrategias para abordar las políticas aplicadas dentro de la región Xinjiang que constituyen una violación directa al Derecho Internacional por parte de la República Popular China
- B) Medidas para evitar el empleo de diamantes de sangre como fuente de financiamiento de grupos guerrilleros en la región africana

**Third Committee on Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Issues**

*President: Anael Oliveros Aguilar*

- A) Strategies to cope with the various social constraints that people with disabilities face in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean
- B) Strategies to approach the current sanitary and humanitarian crisis in the region of Cuba with emphasis on the acquisition of the citizen's basic human needs

**Sexta Comisión Jurídica de la Asamblea General**

*President: Ixtli Zenit Ramírez García*

- A) Estrategias para fortalecer el derecho internacional humanitario con el objetivo de regular y limitar la proliferación, así como la creación de Sistemas de Armas Letales Autónomas en Asia y Europa
- B) Medidas para garantizar la seguridad y asistencia a grupos kurdos desplazados debido a la ofensiva de las fuerzas militares turcas y sus aliados generada a raíz del Conflicto Turco-Kurdo con énfasis en el cumplimiento de las normas ius in bello y el derecho internacional de los derechos humanos

### **International Criminal Police Organization**

*President: Emilio Díaz López*

- A) Strategies to decrease bioterrorism activities, focusing on the potential use of biological weapons and enforcing biosecurity measures in Africa
- B) Measures to dismantle and control the impact caused by organized crime groups in the region of the Caucasus, focusing on the decrease of violence and security of the population

### **Histórica Organización de los Estados Americanos**

*President: Regina Montserrat Villalpando Camberos*

- A) Estrategias para detener el ingreso ilegal de armas a los Estados Unidos Mexicanos provenientes de Estados Unidos de América mediante el clandestino “Operativo Rápido y Furioso” con énfasis en su relación con el narcotráfico mexicano (2013)
- B) Estrategias para concretar el fin de la intervención estadounidense en la República de Panamá como consecuencia de la “Operación Causa Justa” en búsqueda de la revocación del mandato de Manuel Antonio Noriega (1990)

### **CONSEJO ECONÓMICO Y SOCIAL**

*Subsecretary General: Maria Fernanda Casillas Monrroy*  
*Coordinating Supervisor: Cinthya Paulina Chávez Hernández*

### **Commission on the Status of Women**

*President: Valeria Loera Gómez*

- A) Strategies to eradicate threats, harassment, and violent attacks against female journalists and activists in Latin America and the Caribbean
- B) Mechanisms to reduce maternal mortality due to the inaccessibility of medical supplies in Sub-Saharan Africa

### **Comisión de Prevención del Delito y Justicia Penal**

*President: Abraham Alejandro Carlos Mendoza*

- A) Estrategias para garantizar la justicia penal a menores de edad detenidos por el delito de robo de hidrocarburos en los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, teniendo en cuenta la Ley General de los Derechos de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes
- B) Medidas para atender la crisis en la región de Crimea, derivada de las acusaciones entre Ucrania y la Federación de Rusia por el financiamiento de grupos extremistas, considerando el Convenio internacional para la Represión de la Financiación del Terrorismo

### **Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia**

*President: Ana Lourdes García Nila*

- A) Estrategias para frenar la esclavitud sexual infantil en la región asiática con énfasis la asistencia a las víctimas

B) Acciones para salvaguardar a los niños y niñas sin tutores a consecuencia de la pandemia del Covid-19 en los Estados Unidos de América

### **Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados**

*President: Chiara Trejo Infante*

A) Acciones para prevenir las discriminación y las barreras sistemáticas de los refugiados, solicitantes de asilo e inmigrantes en el Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte a partir del proceso del Brexit

B) Medidas para realzar la respuesta de la Unión Europea ante la crisis de refugiados provenientes del Emirato Islámico de Afganistán

### **World Trade Organization**

*President: José Pérez Jiménez*

A) Measures to limit the economic repercussions of the trade conflict between the United States of America and the People's Republic of China focusing on the European Union

B) Actions to digitalize the economy of Latin America through the employment of regulations for electronic commerce

## **AGENCIAS ESPECIALIZADAS Y ORGANISMOS REGIONALES**

*Subsecretary General: Javier Márquez Saucedo*

*Coordinating Supervisor: Andrea Lizet Martínez Olvera*

### **Organización Marítima Internacional**

*President: Mariana Cortés Gallardo*

A) Medidas para prevenir la contaminación de los mares y océanos a causa de los derrames de buques tanque pertenecientes a la industria petrolera, enfocado en el Golfo Pérsico

B) Acciones para impulsar una transición energética segura y eficiente en la industria naval mediante el uso de nuevas tecnologías, combustibles alternativos e infraestructuras en Latinoamérica y el Caribe

### **Convención de las Naciones Unidas Contra la Corrupción**

*President: Sofía Victoria Solís Uribe*

A) Medidas para la regulación de la crisis política de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela a consecuencia de la inestabilidad del régimen y el debilitamiento del sistema democrático con énfasis en el movimiento sindical

B) Medidas para contrarrestar la criminalización de defensores de derechos humanos con énfasis en comunidades indígenas de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

### **Liga de Estados Árabes**

*President: Elena Ramírez Sandoval*

- A) Estrategias para confrontar al grupo extremista Wilayat Sinaí a fin de prevenir inestabilidad política en la República Árabe Egipto
- B) Medidas para contrarrestar los ataques a médicos en zonas de conflicto, con enfoque en la República Árabe Siria

### **Security Council**

*President: Diego Márquez Sánchez*

- A) Actions to restrain the Russian Federation's military expansion on Republic of Belarus' territory as a result of borderline disputes with the Republic of Poland
- B) Measures to limit the military development of the People's Republic of China focusing on the tensions with Taiwan

### **International Court of Justice**

*President: Elías Dávila Martínez*

- A) Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)
- B) Dispute over the Status and Use of the Waters of the Silala (Chile v. Bolivia)

*“If we lay a strong enough foundation, we’ll pass it on to you  
We’ll give the world to you, and you’ll blow us all away”  
-Lin Manuel Miranda*

For the present, the moment you read this,

The word revolution can be defined as a rapid, profound, and generally violent change that can occur in anything or anyone, although sometimes, in our daily lives, we tend to forget this last and important subject. What do you call a revolution? Maybe the first ideas that come to our mind come from what we know as an event of change that historically marked a region, however, if we break this concept down further, we will find a word that I hope will resonate in you and this is nonconformity.

There are few moments in life when the noise of an injustice overcomes the calm of our daily lives, whether by brief words or scandalous actions, none of us is exempt from feeling nonconformity. The difference lies in what we decide to do with this feeling, our first impulse is to complain, to find more and more factors that justify this discomfort and feed our need to complain. The second is more complex, as it requires courage and bravery, which is our action. And it is this little recognized event that we call revolution, that spark of change that leads us to fight for what we believe is right and to defend with every word, thought and movement what we are passionate about. Whether big or small, the dimension of your revolution can only be measured in its impact and in how many brave people like you have decided to take that first step towards change. I hope that after these three days, having faced the challenges of a debating room, you will give yourself the opportunity to draw inspiration from the world around you. Whether it is from friends, strangers, the committee you were part of or even the street you walked down, being the voice of change knows no boundaries and no place. Think about what moves you, because it is perhaps that brief moment of introspection when we truly understand why we change, and that is all we need to start our own revolution.

This is my last chance to reaffirm to you that a model of nations is not your greatest challenge, but only a tool to begin to challenge your fears. You will find your true challenges every day and then, and only then, will you decide what it is that drives you to fight for what you believe in. Three days are not enough to change the world, but I hope they were enough to make you feel inspired.

TECMUN is a different journey for all of us, but as someone dear to me once said "this journey lasts more than three days; it perpetuates in the minds and in the soul", although mine has been full of folders, badges, unexpected laughter, tears, songs, an office, hundreds of zooms, friendships, chaffis, inspiration, debates, uncertainty, love, fear, change and learning, today I leave all of this in your hands. I hope your journey takes you to a destination of success and that you continue to be the hope of many, just as you have been mine for the past three years.

The words that changed the course of my life came from a room like the one you are about to meet, so today I share them with you: *you are doing well, keep going*. I hope you remember that you are capable of more than you think, and that even when the only constant is that nothing remains, you find in these six words a small impulse to live a new day.

Thank you TECMUN for changing my life, this last trip will always be in my heart.

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Vanessa Arroyo Jerez  
Secretary General for the  
XXXV TECMUN

*“I want to be defined by the things that I love. Not the things I hate. Not the things I’m afraid of. Not the things that haunt me in the middle of the night. I just think that you are what you love.”*  
-Taylor Swift

Participant,

Lately I have been thinking nonstop about beginnings and endings. I admire the idea of tearing out the last page of a book, thus leaving a conclusion open to a million possibilities. And if I could tear out the last page of this chapter, I would certainly do so without a moment of hesitation. Instead, I find myself writing it, while admitting to myself that no matter how much time I got, no amount of hours, minutes, or seconds could ever be enough. That is the effect TECMUN has on a person. Some might see it as three days of tedious debate, or an eye-opening journey, but what I truly think is that it is completely ineffable.

If I had to define it, I would say that TECMUN has been two things for me. The first is a danger zone; it has forced me to speak up, to overcome myself, but most of all, it has helped me get over my insecurities and anxiety, and for that I will be eternally grateful. Ironically, it has also been my safe place, where I walked into a small office that would become one of my favorite locations in the whole world, where I could always expect my greatest smiles to emerge (even over simple words like "fried fish"), where I met the absolute finest friendships the universe could have bestowed upon me, where I found the person I wanted to be and have strived to look her in the eye when a mirror is in front of me, where I created the voice I have spent my life craving for, where I was given the opportunity to share and leave a part of my soul in the people I had the pleasure of guiding, and where I discovered the reason and purpose why I am here. I tend to say that I entered TECMUN to run, literally. Although, in hindsight, I think there was some allegory in that statement, especially when I so mistakenly say that I never got to do it. I know now that I ran and never stopped doing it. I think I just changed the course. I got tired of trying to get away from everything behind and in front of me. I stopped wondering if I would ever get out of the woods and learned that there are monsters that are just trees. Around and around I went, until the little UNICRI coordinator found the Chief of General Coordination.

The XXXV edition of TECMUN is one that was lost due to the unpredictability of the world around us. It is the last I will be a part of, just as it was the first. I like to think that both of us found our way at exactly the right time, just as I am convinced that TECMUN is the place I was meant to be, and that it was a higher-level life force carefully setting up the events that led to me filling that first register, all building up to this very moment. I hope you feel that way when you come out of your last session and wish to repeat the experience until that decision is no longer in your power, for my only request to you is that you make of TECMUN whatever you want to but a memory. Carry it in the lessons you learn, in the relationships you forge, in the questions it has planted for you, and in the lives you have the opportunity to change. I know I will, just as I will carry it as the most beautiful incident I could have come across. There are insufficient words in a language to say goodbye to the place I have called my home for the past couple of years, so I will only say thank you. Thank you, Coordination, you are my pride, my passion, my heart, and the best thing that has ever been mine. And thank you, TECMUN, I had the time of my life fighting dragons with you.

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Paola Ayelén Hernández Hernández  
Chief of General Coordination for the  
XXXV TECMUN



“El miedo es inevitable, tengo que aceptarlo, pero no puedo permitir que me paralice. Temer es normal, pero debemos aprender a gestionar el miedo de modo que no nos impida vivir y adaptarnos.”  
-Isabel Allende

Para el presente,

Desde que tengo memoria he tenido un gran interés por la historia, pasé toda mi infancia viendo series históricas y documentales, me interesaba saber el porqué de nuestro presente. Me considero una persona con un gran interés académico, pero la primera vez que mi maestra de primaria comenzó a enseñarnos el origen científico del ser humano algo cambió en mí. Comencé a generar una extraña sensación que me incitaba a leer por adelantado los temas que más tarde íbamos a aprender en clase. De repente ya no solo se trataba de una materia que tenía que cursar para cumplir con mis obligaciones, se había convertido en mi pasión. En la secundaria comencé a ampliar mis conocimientos y a empezar a ver las cosas desde un punto de vista internacional, mi profesor hacía de sus clases más dinámicas e interesantes para las personas de mi edad.

La historia universal sin duda llegó para cambiar mi vida y con ello empezaron mis participaciones en los modelos de naciones unidas. Aún recuerdo la primera vez que me subí a un podio representando a Guatemala en el comité de la Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Equidad de Género y el Empoderamiento de la Mujer, sinceramente no sabía lo que hacía ahí, me había preparado con un mes de anticipación para ese momento y todo lo que tenía en mi mente se borró. Personalmente puedo decir que fué una de las peores experiencias de mi vida, me sentí la persona más humillada del planeta, pero comprendí que algún día podría lograr lo inimaginable. Al año siguiente lo volví a intentar, con un poco más de experiencia pude demostrar mi crecimiento y la capacidad de afrontar cualquier adversidad. Si bien en tres días que dura la simulación pueden pasar muchas cosas, descubrí que los sueños, esperanzas y acciones hablan. Entendí que solo necesitas armarte de valor y pronunciar unas cuantas palabras haciendo que todos giren la vista hacia ti, para comprender que tu voz puede mover masas.

Comencé la preparatoria teniendo una idea errónea de lo que quería para mi futuro, sin embargo decidí continuar contribuyendo en la organización del modelo de naciones unidas que un día cambió mi vida. Conforme pasó el tiempo, me descubrí a mí misma, descubrí que mis pasiones siempre habían sido mis habilidades. La investigación se convirtió en algo de gran relevancia en mi vida y de repente empecé a generar gran interés por los temas jurídicos que respecta al país y sus relaciones en el ámbito internacional. Cambie toda la perspectiva que tenía del mundo y de las personas que se relacionan dentro de él, me adentré en un camino de constante cuestionamiento hacia mis ideales, y me dí cuenta que está bien cambiar de opinión y rectificar a cada paso que des.

Siempre es difícil despedirse, créanme cuando les digo que trate de posponer lo más posible el momento en el que tuviera que redactar esta carta, pero ha llegado la hora de cerrar una de las etapas más significativas en mi vida. Si bien me gustaría haber dejado más en este modelo, considero que después de más de 4 años logré dejar mi alma y gran parte de mi corazón aquí. Tú que estás leyendo esto, te invito a que permitas que esta experiencia te transmita algo más. TECMUN es y siempre será una herramienta para enfrentar tus miedos y un hogar para aquellos que están dispuestos a alcanzar la grandeza en cualquiera de sus formas. Espero que lo que para mí es una despedida, para ti sea un inicio.

Gracias a todos los que me inspiraron, prometo algún día lograr inspirar a otra persona.

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Maria Fernanda Casillas Monrroy  
Subsecretaría General para el  
XXXV TECMUN

*“Privilege is invisible to those who have it”*

- *Michael Kimmel*

Delegate,

Never underestimate the power of an experience. Experiences shape us as human beings, help us discover who we are and who we want to become; they influence our way of perceiving the world and lay the foundations for our course through it. Each of the experiences lived, regardless of its nature, encourages our lives and gives us valuable knowledge. Model United Nations have been characterized as experiences that change lives and open minds. On this occasion, apart from discussing and looking for resolutions, I would like you to take some of your time on the committee to recognize your privilege. Most of us have enjoyed grateful lives without major difficulties, and even though we might sometimes face complicated situations, there will always be someone more unfortunate than you. Despite living in an entirely globalized world, it is still difficult to open our minds and be empathic with situations perceived as distant. Look around, there are so many people close to us suffering from really diverse reasons. Think about all journalists and activists who are only fighting for their rights, and do not have the privilege of a serene life; and about all the mothers that do not have the privilege of accessing medical services, and pass away without knowing their child. These topics are particularly close to us, and if there is something in your hands to help, I exhort you to do it. Well, this is your opportunity: inform yourself, understand and learn from the existing inequalities, eliminate those distances, empathize with all those people, recognize your privileges, but above all, learn from the experience. By choosing to be a part of this experience, you have shown that you are capable of opening your mind, doing something out of the ordinary, facing something bigger than us, and taking the necessary actions to alleviate the afflicted society in which we have had to live. So, sustain your life with experiences, enjoy each of them to the fullest, try different things, fight for your interests and for the causes you believe in, overcome your fears and insecurities, and learn from each obstacle. Do not forget to be kind, emphatic, and open-minded. For today, this is one of the most valuable and transcendent experiences of my life; I hope it can be yours too. Finally, remember: recognize your privilege, and never underestimate the power of an experience.

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Valeria Loera Gómez

President of Commission on the Status of Women for the XXXV TECMUN

# Background

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The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), established in 1946, is the major global intergovernmental entity and functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in charge of the promotion of women's rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of women throughout the world. The Commission counts with 45 Member States, elected by ECOSOC for a four-year period based on equitable geographical distribution. During their annual sessions held at the United Nations headquarters in New York, the CSW gathers to monitor and review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as to discuss emerging issues affecting women in political, economic, and social fields. Moreover, the Commission pursues the women's enjoyment of their rights by establishing multi-year programs of work to appraise progress and make further recommendations on priority themes.

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## Faculties

The Commission has adopted multi-year programs of work to accelerate the realization of gender equality and empowerment of women guided by the Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Some of the main faculties of the CSW are:

- Convene a ministerial segment to strengthen political commitment, ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the deliberations of the Commission.
- Discuss the status of gender equality by identifying goals attained and ongoing efforts to close gaps and face challenges.
- Assemble interactive expert panel discussions on steps and initiatives for mainstreaming gender equality across policies and programs.

# Topic A

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Strategies to eradicate threats,  
harassment, and violent attacks against  
female journalists and activists in Latin  
America and the Caribbean

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*By: Valeria Loera Gómez  
María Fernanda González Rosales  
Vanessa Díaz Palomo  
Angélica Belén Trejo Lares*

## *Gender-based violence towards journalists and activists*

In recent decades, there has been a development in the formal acknowledgment of women's right to freedom of speech within the conditions of equality and non-discrimination, as well as the reduction of legal restrictions that have restrained its full exercise in the past. Throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, more women are participating in the development and strengthening of a representative, transparent, and accountable government, and more journalists and human rights activists are dedicated to the practice, promotion, and preservation of the right to freedom of expression. Despite these significant advancements, women continue to face structural barriers and discriminatory practices that prevent them from exercising their right to express and receive information in the same way that men do. Many of these barriers and practices are manifestations of gender discrimination, which women face and which continue to create disparities in the exercise of their right to free speech.

The impact of these discriminatory practices is particularly severe in the case of women who actively utilize freedom of speech and maintain a high public profile, such as female journalists, human rights activists, and politicians. Women who belong to these organizations confront additional or particular risks in addition to the threats and violence encountered by all human rights workers and journalists. Activists, journalists, and politicians who speak out face violent hate campaigns, internet abuse, sexual assault threats, and death threats, which are sometimes undertaken. They face particular threats that restrict their job and disproportionately limit their ability to exercise their right to freedom of expression. Inequality in the workplace, sexist<sup>1</sup> and misogynistic comments, sexual assault, and femicides are just some of the issues that women encounter. Furthermore, the lack of protection for female journalists facing this type of violence, as well as deficiencies in the investigation of these crimes, makes it challenging to respond appropriately to this situation.

Female human rights defenders, in particular, are especially vulnerable to violence. According to Global Witness, at least 185 human rights defenders were murdered throughout

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<sup>1</sup> **Sexist:** treating other people, especially women, unfairly because of their sex or making offensive remarks about them. (Oxford Dictionary, n.d.)

the world in 2015, with 122 of them in Latin America. During 2012 and 2014, the *Iniciativa Mesoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras* reported an increase in aggressions from 51 to 55 in the Republic of El Salvador, 126 to 313 in the Republic of Guatemala, and 118 to 308 in the United Mexican States. During the same period, 14 demises of female activists were reported in Mexico, 7 in the Republic of Honduras, 10 in Guatemala, and 1 in El Salvador. Since 2016, the vast majority of these incidents remained unsolved, and the perpetrators operate with impunity as most of the reported instances never get to trial. In Mexico, 98.5 % of these attacks were never prosecuted, while just 6 of 219 similar incidents in the Republic of Colombia between 2009 and 2013 resulted in convictions and sentences. The most common types of threats against female defenders are psychological intimidation and hostility (21 %), threats and ultimatums (16 %), defamation<sup>2</sup> campaigns (9 %), excessive use of force (6 %), and criminalization and arbitrary detention (8 %). The most aggrieved activists were those who defend land and territory, as well as those who accompany victims of gender violence.

### ***Femicides in Latin America and the Caribbean***

Femicide is commonly defined as the gender-based murder of a woman or girl by a man for the sole reason of being a woman. Depending on national laws, this hate crime<sup>3</sup> might also be classified as *feminicide* or aggravated homicide due to gender. Even homicide can be the result of a variety of causes in contracts, it does not involve the same gender-related factors as femicide, as men are their primary perpetrators, which is driven by misogynistic ideologies and the result of systematic mistreatment. To recognize the impact of inequality and discrimination, which has been established internationally as a fundamental cause of violence against women, the term femicide was used in the last century to characterize the demise of women that were gender-related.

Femicide became a more acknowledged social and legal category in Latin America around the turn of the century due to the escalating number of violent female homicides

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<sup>2</sup>**Defamation:** the action of damaging the reputation of a person or group by saying or writing bad things about them that are not true. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.)

<sup>3</sup> **Hate Crime:** any of various crimes (such as assault or defacement of property) when motivated by hostility to the victim as a member of a group (such as one based on color, creed, gender, or sexual orientation). (Merriam Webster, n.d.)

committed in the last two decades. At least 4,091 women were victims of femicide in 26 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2020, which represents a decrease of 10.6% compared to 2019, when 4,576 cases were reported by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. According to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2020 the two most populous nations in the region, the Federative Republic of Brazil and Mexico, had the largest number of femicide victims. However, in smaller nations such as Honduras and El Salvador, the femicide rate per 100,000 women was greater in the same year.

Many governments in the region have strengthened their efforts to prevent and monitor gender-based criminal phenomena since the early 2010s, as Latin American populations become more conscious of violence against women. In nations such as Mexico, the Argentine Republic, Colombia, and the Republic of Chile, increased media usage of the term femicide, as well as activist action by various feminist organizations, contributed to categorizing these crimes as a sort of first-degree murder. In the last five years, an increasing number of nations have developed anti-femicide programs, with independent human rights institutions, civil society organizations, women's groups, or academic institutions acting as observatories in a rising number of countries. Nevertheless, as established by UN Human Rights experts, “all States and relevant stakeholders worldwide might take urgent steps to prevent the pandemic of femicide or gender-related killings of women, and gender-based violence against women, through the establishment of national multidisciplinary prevention bodies or femicide watches/observatories on violence against women” (Šimonović, 2020).

### ***Women's rights violations: freedom of speech and association***

Based on article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations, everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including the freedom to hold opinions, seek, receive and impart information through any media and regardless of frontiers. According to the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, many governments have created laws and policies to ensure the public right to access information, which is an integral part of the right to freedom. Furthermore, article 20 protects the freedom of assembly and association, where individuals have the right to form part of a

trade union, political party, or another association or voluntary group. Nobody has the right to impose joining any assembly or association, as all of this has to be done peacefully.

A report published on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) established that violence against women is a cause and a consequence of inequalities and restrictions of their human rights. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights defines gender discrimination as any differences in treatment made on the basis of sex, which intentionally or in practice placed women in many disadvantaged situations. In this view, a UN expert mentioned that “women’s voices are suppressed, controlled or punished explicitly by laws, policies and discriminatory practices and implicitly by social attitudes, cultural norms and patriarchal values” (Khan, 2021). The Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression settled that free of gender-based abuse media is crucial to women's freedom of expression, as well as the subversion of the rights of the very women for whom governments and incorporate actors that may pursue redress. Another concern that has become so pervasive recently is gendered censorship, becoming also an issue for women's equality concerning freedom of expression.

As reported by the Special Rapporteur, women journalists, politicians, human rights defenders, and feminist activists were more prone to online attacks and intimidation; thus, the right to freedom of expression plays a critical role in the ending of the discrimination by the violence that campaign groups, politicians and the digital sphere use against women. According to the findings of the Global Media Monitoring Project in Latin America, 43 % of presenters and reporters were women, which is 15 % more than in 2000.; in the Caribbean, the same year, the figure was 45 %. In Latin American countries 41 % of governments and political news covered 2015 was made by women. The reduced visibility of women in journalism contributes to making the work of women journalists and media workers less noticeable or valued by the media.

### ***Workplace and online harassment***

According to the International Labour Organization, women are more likely to be assigned to lower positions or different conditions of employment that have vulnerability showing few advances in the short term due to the socio-economic constraints and pressure



to adapt to traditional gender roles. Although progress has been achieved, discriminatory social standards and stereotypes continue to hinder women's possibilities for career advancement during their professional life. There have been many barriers to freedom of expression in equal and non-discriminatory ways for women, they are excluded from public debates and are interfered from their right to raise their voices with their ideas and opinions publicly, “from inequality at work, sexist and misogynist comments, sexual violence and gender-based demises of women (or femicide)” (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 2018). The above-mentioned is part of the extensive circumstances of women's exclusion from public life. These obstacles are based on gender discrimination, it affects particularly women with public figures, such as journalists, human rights defenders, and politicians who live at the risk of threat and violence. The acts of roughness that women live in are not independent, they are following a sequence of discrimination against women grounded by the inferiority or subordination of women, and in the gender stereotypes that are located in the society.

Despite the fact that more women are practicing journalism in recent years, social conventions and gender biases remain to present a significant barrier to women's ability to begin and pursue a career in journalism on an equal basis with men. Perceptions that journalism is not a "suitable" job for women remain in many contexts, resulting in social pressure to avoid entering or leaving the profession. Multiple studies have found that workplace discrimination against women journalists and media professionals is mirrored in women's low involvement in the media agenda as well as how they are portrayed when they do appear in the news. Women's testimonies, experiences, and concerns are frequently overlooked by the media; this is demonstrated by the fact that women account for just 29 % of those who are read, seen, or heard about in the news in Latin America, in both traditional and internet media, a trend that has continued in recent years.

One of the prevalent forms of violence against women manifested in workplaces is harassment, which happens in situations generated by discrimination, humiliation, offensive treatment, and even sexual abuse towards women by one of their co-workers. Such conduct as a constant at any workplace might interfere with work, be used as a condition of employment, or create a hostile or offensive work environment (CEPAL, 2016). Sexual

harassment and workplace violence have major consequences for both women and their employers. Targeted women might suffer from a variety of negative repercussions, including physical and mental health issues, job setbacks, and lower incomes. In 2017, in a survey made by the International Federation of Journalists where approximately 400 female journalists were interviewed from 50 different countries, it was found that one of two journalists had suffered from gender-based violence while exercising their profession. Focusing on the percentage, 48 % of women had suffered from violence, where 38 % was from a supervisor, 17 % occurred at college, and 45 % belong to an outsider. In terms of ways of abuse, it reports 63 % of verbal abuse, about 41% was psychological maltreatment, higher than 36 % was sexual harassment, 21 % from economical damage, and finally, 11 % along with physical violence.

Since globalization has increased worldwide interaction, public figures such as female politicians, journalists, activists, and other women who live most of their lives in the public sphere are nowadays more prone to suffer from online harassment. According to the United Nations Human Rights Council (2019), online violence against women is “any act of gender-based violence against women that is committed, assisted or aggravated in part or fully by the use of ICT, such as mobile phones and smartphones, the Internet, social media platforms or email, against a woman because she is a woman, or affects women disproportionately”. Female journalists and activists are some of the groups of women that are disproportionately victimized by this type of abuse. They are not only more vulnerable to internet attacks than their male counterparts, but they have also experienced increased online abuse, stalking, and harassment in recent years. Some common ways of this sort of violence are sending threatening or harassing emails, instant messages, or even publishing personal information. Because of their gender, online assaults on women journalists take on distinct features; they are typically sexist and contain sexualized information. The main platform used for this behavior is Twitter, where direct or indirect threats occur referring to physical, sexual, discrimination, and violation of privacy. In recent years, over Latin America and the Caribbean, there has been new recognition of the problem and many countries are starting to strengthen protection sources. There have been regional efforts to share these defenses to women suffering from a threat, violent case, or harassment, such as keeping the proof of the

threat, reporting the attack to the platform or online service, communicating with local authorities if necessary, and seeking professional support.

### *Situation for journalists and activists in Latin America and the Caribbean*

In the last decade, the number of female activists and journalists in Latin America and the Caribbean that exhibit issues regarding gender inequality in their countries through diverse communication media has increased; however, the numbers of women in danger concerning possible attacks and threats have increased as well. In this region, there does not exist a strong recognition of the tough and crucial work that activists and journalists realize, thus it has become one of the most threatening zones for this profession. The idea of feminism<sup>4</sup> is not strong enough in this area in order to collect and gather more allies between the citizens. The consequences of conservative<sup>5</sup> ideologies have been seen through generations because changes are not being done further than only in women. Eventually, the lack of support of the rest of the citizens has been a barrier for revolutionary changes to take place. Therefore, the opposition and discrimination to the ideals and proposals that female activists and journalists aim to introduce because they tend to address women's rights and gender inequality.

According to captured data of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), female journalists in Latin America and the Caribbean mentioned that mainly they suffer verbal attacks about their knowledge or professional preparation and sexist expressions attempting with their physical appearance. Argentina and the Republic of Uruguay demonstrate double numbers compared to the general overview of the rest of the region in this aspect presented by UNESCO. An enormous issue for them is the dominant possibility to receive offensive acts and abuse even from their closest colleagues, which adds up to the problem of labor harassment which increases in the region. Eventually, they are exposed to the rest of the people who are involved in their external labor environment such as the national police, private security teams and male citizens, who have been identified as

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<sup>4</sup> **Feminism:** the belief and aim that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men. (Oxford Dictionary, n.d.)

<sup>5</sup> **Conservative:** opposed to great or sudden social change; showing that you prefer traditional styles and values (Oxford Dictionary, n.d.)

the main aggressors according to several cases. Additionally, Latin America and the Caribbean have high cases of insecurity in general, so searching further, there is a limited and inefficient security system that is not enough to deal with bigger concerns such as the protection of female journalists and human rights defenders.

Pursuant to the United Nations, 14 of the 25 countries with more femicides are located in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2018, the first two countries with the highest rate of femicides were El Salvador and Honduras; in fourth and fifth place Guatemala and the Bahamas; and in seventh and eighth, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and Belize respectively. Women from all these regions have mentioned that an important percentage of the deceased activists were previously attacked and imperiled<sup>6</sup> due to their opinions referring to gender inequality and that only a few of them wanted to report their aggressors because of diverse stereotypes that would not support the truth. Moreover, female activists are at higher risk considering the daily femicides that take place in Latin America and the Caribbean, adding even more risks for them than in male activists for instance. At the same time, the impunity that prevailed in the majority of these scenarios makes a big difference; in most countries of the mentioned region, the crimes against women remain unpunished. In Mexico, 98.5 % of female human rights defenders cases remain without punishment; for instance, in Colombia, between the years 2006 and 2013, about 216 activists have been deceased, only 6 cases have been solved, proceeding to get even lower data about female activists with justice. May 3rd is declared by the United Nation as the World Freedom Press Day, so female journalists have agreed to raise their voices about the importance of highlighting the concerns about the punishments and dangerous factors that women are risked whenever they tried to speak about politics, economics, or security, that are relatively not of the female importance.

### *International response*

By the creation of different types of social networks, such as the *Red Internacional de Periodistas con Visión de Género*, journalists have helped the Mexican government to take measures to prevent gender-based violence in the area. Furthermore, in the 60th Meeting

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<sup>6</sup> **Imperiled:** to put something/somebody in danger. (Oxford Dictionary, n.d.)

of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, members of government from these countries adhered the Special Regional Consultation Session before the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65). In this view, the ministers pronounced the creation of a state policy to guarantee from an intersectional approach in the protection of human rights of women in the political and public life sections, women human rights defenders, and women journalists to denounce political violence as opposed to women.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has created multiple solutions regarding this problem, such as a research project on good practices in tackling online violence of women journalists, the capacity of building on the safety of women journalists, awareness-raising on the safety of women journalists, all these programs focusing on the creation of measures in order prevent more consequences of violence against women. Thanks to the creation of the Gender Indicators for the Media published at UNESCO in 2014, there are 113 grouped indicators in two different categories that match with the strategic objectives included in section J of the Beijing Platform for Action published by the UN in 1995. The main focus of the indicators is entrenched into two strategic objectives: the first purpose is to increase the aid and approach of women in expression and decision of managerial in and through the media and new technologies with focus on communication; secondly is to promote balanced and non-stereotyped description of women in the media. These indicators subsist to promote the access and the participation of women in the media, particularly in the decision making, and eradicate the misogynist stereotypes and other forms of gender discrimination in the contents.

In 2018 the Ministry of Women, together with UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), created an international seminar named *Periodismo y Violencia contra las Mujeres*, focusing on the creation of an established space for dialogue and analysis on media violence in base on the application of law number 5.777/16 of the *Protección Integral a las Mujeres contra Toda Forma de Violencia*, which states the following:

- “Establish specific policies to implement the present law in the public administration system, especially concerning discrimination, sexual and labor harassment, equality

in the workplace for men and women, as well as the implementation of norms relating to the responsibility of public servants for acts or omissions that signify acts of violence against women.” (Law 5.777/16, 2016)

- “Raise awareness and train public administration personnel from a perspective of equal rights for men and women, non-discrimination and women's human rights, especially the right to a life free of violence.” (Law 5.777/16, 2016)

Based on what this law mentions in the seminary, it is constituted in a shared space with journalists of the media and communicators of various public and private institutions, it was talked about the importance and social responsibilities and how they can collaborate to put an end to violence against women.

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# Topic B

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Mechanisms to reduce maternal mortality due to the inaccessibility of medical supplies in Sub-Saharan Africa

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### *A threat to women due to high healthcare disparities*

A maternal fatality refers to the demise of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of the pregnancy's termination from any reason related to the pregnancy or its treatment, excepting accidental or incidental causes. In 2017, over 295 000 women deceased during or after pregnancy and delivery, being about 810 women per day. The significant majority of these demises (94 %) happened in low-resource zones, and most of them could have been avoided. Complications during and after pregnancy and delivery claim the lives of women; most of these issues arise during them and are either avoidable or treatable. Other issues might be present before pregnancy, but they increase throughout it, especially if they are not addressed as part of the woman's treatment. Hemorrhage (uncontrolled bleeding), sepsis<sup>7</sup> or infections, including HIV, hypertensive disorders (high blood pressure), and other reasons were the most common causes of maternal fatalities in Africa from 1997 to 2002. The high incidence of maternal fatalities in various parts of the globe reflects inequities in access to high-quality health care and emphasizes the wealth disparity.

Women in developing nations have significantly more pregnancies on average than women in developed countries, and their overall risk of pregnancy-related mortality is greater. A woman's lifetime risk of maternal mortality is the probability that a 15-year-old woman will de cease from a maternal cause at some point in her life; this is 1 in 5400 in high-income nations, compared to 1 in 45 in low-income countries. The African continent's high mortality rates range from 119 casualties per 100,000 live births in South Africa to much higher rates in Sierra Leone (1,360 per 100,000), South Sudan (800 per 100,000), and the Democratic Republic of Congo (473 per 100,000). In 2017, the majority of maternal casualties (about 85 %) occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, particularly in areas where professional health care personnel are scarce; approximately two-thirds of all maternal fatalities occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa. Giving birth in these countries might be life-threatening for women, especially those living in isolated villages where medical supplies and blood might be scant.

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<sup>7</sup> **Sepsis:** life-threatening illness caused by your body's response to an infection. (Healthline, 2018).

Excessive bleeding, difficulties following abortion, and hypertensive problems during pregnancy are the primary causes of maternal mortality in this region, the reason why it is critical to respond quickly to women who are experiencing pregnancy and childbirth-related difficulties, especially in distant and difficult-to-reach places. In vast and sparsely populated nations with long distances between lower and higher-level institutions, last-mile delivery of life-saving medical equipment and supplies might be difficult. This is particularly the case in remote areas where there might be a vehicle shortage, impassable roads, and inefficient supply chain systems. Lack of economical resources, distance to facilities, lack of information, insufficient and poor-quality services, and cultural attitudes and traditions are the primary factors that restrict women from obtaining or seeking care during pregnancy and labor.

Pregnant women who do not receive prenatal treatment, delivery care, or newborn care due to a lack of health care personnel have a higher risk of mortality from severe bleeding, infections, or other consequences. In 2021, in the African continent, there were 985 individuals per nurse-midwife<sup>8</sup> and 3,324 people per medical doctor. In this view, the region faces one of the highest rates of maternal mortality on a daily basis, with mothers and children lacking access to proper maternal and child care, HIV and malaria treatment, and sexual and reproductive health information and services, including skilled birth attendants. Staff losses caused experienced workers to migrate (in quest of a better life) to high-income nations, leaving behind severely impoverished health services and systems, worsening the crisis. Increasing global human resources and maintaining a balance between the services required and the personnel available, as well as their distribution, are essential components of a well-functioning health system and critical prerequisites to counter the situation.

### ***Maternal mortality: causes and risk factors***

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), maternal mortality refers to the demise of women due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth. Aggravation of medical conditions usually develops during pregnancy, and most are preventable or treatable diseases.

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<sup>8</sup> **Nurse-midwife:** a registered nurse with additional training as a midwife who delivers infants and provides prenatal and postpartum care, newborn care, and some routine care of women. (Merriam-Webster, n.d.)

Maternal mortality might be distinguished into two: direct and indirect demise. Direct demise refers to cases when the illness or the cause of the decease is directly related to the stage of pregnancy; in indirect fatalities, the demise of the woman is attributed to a disease previously suffered but worsened over the pregnancy.

Pursuant to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, 75 % of maternal fatalities are caused by severe bleeding after childbirth. Other common causes are infections or sepsis, high blood pressure during pregnancy, preeclampsia<sup>9</sup> and eclampsia (seizures during pregnancy); complications from delivery, amniotic fluid embolism<sup>10</sup>, anesthesia complications, and unsafe abortion. Furthermore, women who suffer from chronic conditions are more likely to face pregnancy difficulties: malaria, hypertension, diabetes, heart diseases, cardiomyopathy<sup>11</sup>, among others. Additional factors that increase these most common causes in women under 20 years and women over age 35 are chromosomal problems, miscarriage, obesity and underweight, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), polycystic ovary syndrome, autoimmune disease, thyroid malady<sup>12</sup>, asthma, uterine fibroids<sup>13</sup>, nutritional deficiencies, reproductive abnormalities, and cardiovascular sickness.

In recent decades, there has been a significant increase in the rate of demises of women while being pregnant or being in labor. As reported by the WHO, approximately 830 women deace every day due to maternal mortality. 94 % of the demises of these women were caused by the lack of resources or access to quality health services during pregnancy or labor. In developing countries, pregnancy and delivery complications are the primary cause of mortality among 15-19 year old women and teenage girls. Thus, there is no one cause of mortality or disability for males aged 15 to 44 that comes close to approaching the amount of maternal mortality and disability. Nations that are not sufficiently prepared to provide safe

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<sup>9</sup> **Preeclampsia:** pregnancy complication characterized by high blood pressure and signs of damage to another organ system, most often the liver and kidneys. (Mayo Clinic, 2020)

<sup>10</sup> **Amniotic fluid embolism:** syndrome during pregnancy where amniotic fluid mixes with a mother's blood and causes an allergic-like reaction. (Cleveland Clinic, 2019)

<sup>11</sup> **Cardiomyopathy:** condition that affects the heart muscle. (Cleveland Clinic, 2021)

<sup>12</sup> **Thyroid malady:** when the thyroid makes either too much or too little hormones that plays an important role in many systems of our body. (Cleveland Clinic, 2020)

<sup>13</sup> **Uterine fibroids:** Uterine fibroids are a common type of noncancerous tumor that can grow in and on the uterus. (Cleveland Clinic, 2020)

support and meet the needs of women while pregnant are prone to highly compromise their lives.

### *Impact in Sub-Saharan Africa*

The current situation in African countries regarding maternal health results is alarming. Around half a million women de cease annually on the continent; every minute a maternal casualty takes place. While in developed countries the maternal mortality rate is 10/100,000 in the African continent it is 1,000/100,000. High maternal mortality coupled with high fertility and low use of contraceptive procedures are predominant factors on the increase and risk of maternal demises. The following statistics from the WHO provides another insight into the situation:

The report for the year 2000, prepared with data from 1990, estimated that 527,000 women died annually in developing countries from complications derived from pregnancy, childbirth, and abortions, and estimates reliable assure that, in Africa alone, there are between 3 and 4 million women with urinary or rectal fistulae of obstetric<sup>14</sup> origin (Carrera et al, 2007).

Sub-Saharan Africa is the region of the African continent that lies south of the Sahara Desert; it is constituted by 48 countries. In 2017, Sub-Saharan Africa registered the highest maternal mortality rate among seven regions, with 534 casualties per 100,000 live births. 68 % of all maternal demises in the world are directed to this region; in this view, the countries considered the most threatening for women in the world to give birth to are located in Sub-Saharan Africa. Thousands of women de cease from complications during childbirth and pregnancy. Most of these problems are treatable and preventable and become more complex if they are not given the necessary assistance. The main conditions in this region of maternal morbidity are severe hemorrhages, infections, gestational hypertension, complications in childbirth, and unsafe abortions; the highest risk of maternal mortality corresponds to

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<sup>14</sup> **Obsentric:** relating to the area of medicine that deals with pregnancy and the birth of babies. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.)



adolescents under 15 years old and almost between 3 and 4 million women suffer from incapacity from genitourinary fistula<sup>15</sup>.

Women living in rural regions, as well as women who belong to ethnic minorities or indigenous groups, are particularly vulnerable. Long-standing and persistent health disparities are strongly present as developing countries endure a disproportionate share of the burden of maternal mortality. Moreover, marginalized women, such as low-income women, ethnic minority women, and indigenous women, are more vulnerable to maternal mortality in most nations. In addition, maternal mortality and morbidity rates are frequently indicative of disparities in men and women's enjoyment of the right to the highest suitable health.

The inability to protect women's human rights in this region is at the root of maternal mortality. This demonstrates itself in a variety of ways, including low status for women and girls, reduced access to information and care, marriage at a young age, and limited mobility. Gender equality is vital in decreasing maternal mortality, and empowered women are more likely to pursue family planning options, prenatal care, and a safe delivery. Maternal mortality has a tight association with other human rights, in addition to the right to health. The right to life is frequently violated by preventable maternal mortality. The freedom to choose the number and spacing of one's children, as well as the right to education, are other human rights that have an impact on maternal mortality.

On the other hand, gender inequality has represented limited opportunities for women. The scarcity<sup>16</sup> of educational preparation for women has made notable differences, commonly not allowing them to study and prepare themselves for leading careers in areas such as medicine, thus causing lower health opportunities in the region and increasing disinformation. Ensuring the protection of women's rights not only increases social and economic positions and positive changes for countries but also encourages female participation and empowerment.

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<sup>15</sup> **Genitourinary fistula:** abnormal connection or passageway between the urinary and genital structures. (UCI Urology, n.d.)

<sup>16</sup> **Scarcity:** something is not enough or it is difficult to obtain. (Oxford Dictionary, n.d)

### *Inaccessibility to health services in developing regions*

In 2007, the WHO established the Strengthening Health Systems to Improve Health Outcomes framework in order to describe and evaluate national healthcare systems. The framework considers these systems to be divided into six different categories: service delivery, healthcare workforce, healthcare information systems, medicines and technologies, financing, and leadership/governance. According to the previous considerations, countries located in Africa are not sufficiently prepared to provide safe and free support to women during pregnancy by not being able to meet the needs of women in the stage of pregnancy. The majority of these countries do not accomplish at least four of these categories, bringing out that most nations have inadequate human resources with 17.82 %, low resource allocation to health with 10.18 %, and lack political will with 7.27 %. The rest of this deficiency of access to the healthcare system is attributed to corruption, deficient leadership and administration, and low quality of healthcare services.

According to the WHO, at least half of the world's population is not able to obtain essential health services due to the lack of economic resources, and more than 800 million people spend 10% of their family budget on medical care. In developing regions, people face crises that demand them to choose or prioritize their needs according to the economic resources they hold; certainly, in these areas, social and economic determinants remain as the main factors that generate barriers for health services. Moreover, certain regions have huge gaps between urban and rural areas, so the equal distribution of health services even in the same country is not completely accomplished. For instance, not all countries manage equal transportation for all their regions, thus medical supplies cannot arrive at every single area, and not every family has access to efficient transportation, leaving the most vulnerable completely underserved<sup>17</sup>.

Indeed, in Sub-Saharan Africa, the lack of transportation, equal conditions, insufficient resources and well-prepared medical professionals are some of the barriers that affect its health care development. By now, African healthcare systems are not fully capable

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<sup>17</sup> **Underserved:** an area or group of people not getting enough help, products or services. (Oxford Dictionary, n.d)

of covering women's needs due to the social inequality that has been existing through many generations. Therefore, the presence of professional workers is considered one of the main factors that impact and might be improved for the re-design and formulation of the region's health systems. As stated by the WHO, 36 of 57 countries that face a critical shortage of health workers are located in Africa, specifying inefficient working conditions and low pay as the principal causes.

### ***International agreements in maternal mortality***

In accordance with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), between 1990 and 2015 the global rate of maternal mortality was reduced by 44 %. Nevertheless, in Sub-Saharan Africa, only the Republic of Cabo Verde and the Republic of Rwanda were able to achieve the MDG which consisted of the reduction of the rate of maternal mortality by at least 75 % before 2015. Therefore, even worldwide the risk of women dying from pregnancy-related causes has been cut by almost half, most developing nations are still greatly suffering from high rates of maternal mortality. Hence, along with the Sustainable Development Goals, five critical goals have been proposed to assist countries in reducing preventable maternal deaths: 90 % of pregnant women to attend four or more prenatal care visits, 90 % of deliveries to be entrusted to trained health personnel, 80 % of women who have conceived to have access to postnatal observation within two days after delivery, 60 % to be able to access emergency obstetric care within two hours after delivery, and 65 % of women able to make informed, empowered decisions regarding sexual relationships and contraceptive use and their reproductive health.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), published during the Fourth International Conference on Women, recognizes that “complications related to pregnancy and childbirth are among the leading causes of mortality and morbidity of women of reproductive age in many parts of the developing world.” The Declaration states that the majority of these demises can be avoided by improving access to adequate healthcare services, including safe and effective family planning methods and emergency obstetric care, by recognizing the right of women and men to be informed about and have access to safe, effective, and affordable methods of family planning, as well as other methods of fertility

regulation that are not against the national laws, and the right of access to emergency maternal care. Furthermore, it emphasizes that in most nations, women's reproductive rights are denied, severely limiting their opportunities in public and private life, including educational opportunities and economic and political empowerment; women's capacity to regulate their fertility is a fundamental asset for the enjoyment of other rights.

According to the Platform for Action, these issues and means should be addressed based on the report of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), with particular reference to the Programme of Action of the Conference. The document's objectives in this regard included improving women's health and safe motherhood; to achieve early and significant reductions in maternal illness and death; to narrow the gap between developing and developed nations, as well as within countries; to significantly reducing the number of casualties and morbidity from unsafe abortions; and to improve women's health and nutritional condition, particularly that of pregnant and nursing women. The Programme has been reiterated at every session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development since 1994 and has been mentioned in policymaking and programming across the world.

The two ensuing global United Nations conferences included strong affirmations of the inherent human right for mothers to have access to quality and comprehensive maternal and reproductive health care. Maternal health was designated as a key component of global health and development at both conferences, and the 1994 ICPD generated the Programme, which required worldwide progress on maternal health to be measured. Although the ICPD established the notion of maternal health as a human right, it was not until 2012 that an international instrument was approved by the UN Commission on the Status of Women to press for legislative changes to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity. The Resolution 56/3 of the CSW recognized the need to continue to increase awareness at the national, regional, and global levels in order to encourage further efforts to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity rates, and called upon the Member States to strongly commit to the elimination of the high global rate of maternal mortality and morbidity, as well as urged government authorities and other leaders at different levels to generate the political will, increased

resources, commitment, international cooperation and technical assistance urgently required to attend the situation.

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***Preambulatory Phrases***

*Preambulatory Phrases are used at the beginning of every Resolution Paper in order to give context about the resolutions made for the topic. Preambulatory Phrases must be written in italics followed by a sentence that gives said context. For each Resolution Paper there must be five sentences beginning with a Preambulatory Phrase.*

Affirming	Desiring	Noting with deep concern
Alarmed by	Emphasizing	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Expecting	Noting further
Bearing in mind	Expressing its appreciation	Observing
Believing	Fulfilling	Reaffirming
Confident	Fully aware	Realizing
Contemplating	Further deploring	Recalling
Convinced	Further recalling	Recognizing
Declaring	Guided by	Referring
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Seeking
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Taking into consideration
Deeply convinced	Having examined	Taking note
Deeply disturbed	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply regretting	Keeping in mind	Welcoming

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***Operative Clauses***

*Operative Clauses are used at the beginning of every resolution within the Resolution Paper on the debated topic. It must be written in italics and bold.*

Accepts	Endorses	Notes
Affirms	Draws the attentions	Proclaims
Approves	Emphasizes	Reaffirms
Authorizes	Encourages	Recommends
Calls	Expresses its appreciation	Regrets
Calls upon	Expresses its hope	Reminds
Condemns	Further invites	Requests
Confirms	Further proclaims	Solemnly
Congratulates	Further reminds	affirms
Considers	Further recommends	Strongly
Declares accordingly	Further requests	condemns
Deplores	Further resolves	Supports
Designates	Has resolved	Takes note of
		Transmits
		Trusts