COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN(CSW)
Topic Summaries

The CSW is a commission of the UNECOSOC, and is the principal intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. A large part of its responsibilities revolve around reviewing progress of the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and its annual sessions are typically centred around one priority theme drawn from this Declaration. Recent priority themes have included the improvement of access of women to science and technology, the empowerment of rural women, the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, and the examination of social protection systems for women.

This committee will be comprised of two topics. Topic A is "The empowerment of women and their role in sustainable development and current challenges": it discusses the many barriers that remain in promoting women's empowerment – including access to natural resources, political leadership and equal working conditions. By continuing on the CSW's tradition of focusing on a "people-centered" sustainable development, this topic considers how women play important roles in sustainable development and raises questions, for example, on rural and poor women's empowerment, familial agriculture and equal opportunities.

Topic B is "The promotion of women's right to the highest attainable standard of health" and it focuses on a broad approach to women's health in the contemporary world. This theme will discuss access to preventive programmes towards women's health, considering the importance of primary and preventive care in diminishing mortality rates and improving general health, as well as access to appropriate, affordable and quality healthcare, as well as information, throughout women's life cycle