

SONKALMUN'26 UNWOMEN

Study Guide

Agenda Item:

Eliminating the unfair discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones.

Under-Secretary

General: Ayaz Aras Yavuz



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1. Letter from the Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

It's my ultimate pleasure to welcome you as the secretary general of the very first edition of ŞÖNKALMUN. We as the ŞÖNKALMUN'26 Team are very thrilled to see our participants in our conference since each and every member of this team showed an extraordinary effort to organize the best potential conference. All our efforts are aimed at providing our participants with an enjoyable time. We can't wait to see the result of our unbelievable effort, sleepless nights, tears and unbelievable team work.

In ŞÖNKALMUN we expect our delegates to speak up,raise their voice for those who can't,examine and carry out the problems of others. This is not just an event. We are aiming to raise awareness about our global problems.The agenda items of this year were selected with great care and attention to detail for give our delegates to opportunity of speak about the problems we need to be worried about.We highly encourage our delegates to defend their ideas and not afraid of express themselves.No matter your country or your role everyone's ideas are important and worth to listen.In events like this its true that everyone have their own ideas and everyone try to support their ideas but it doesn't mean that they are judging your ideas.Mun is about collaborate with communities and find common solutions.Remember the problems you talk about this committee are real problems in daily life.

In order to achieve the conference's objectives, the delegates' contributions are just as important as our own efforts . This conference will be meaningful when you actively participate, share your ideas, and strive to gain something from the experience.My words are not sufficient to tell you how excited we are to see you in our event.We are planing this 3 day for a long time to give you unforgettable experience. The friendships we've formed here, the debating skills we've developed, and the diplomatic solutions you've found form the core of these events.Speaking for all the ŞÖNKALMUN team i want to thank all of you for not leaving us alone in our journey.

Best Regards

Asya Kökce

Secretary-General

2. Letter from the Under-Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

I'm Ayaz Aras Yavuz, your Under-Secretary General for the UNWOMEN committee. It's my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the UNWOMEN committee of SONKALMUN'26. I'm pretty sure that we will have the best 3 days in this conference together. Our committee's agenda item is chosen by me which is eliminating the unfair discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones.

Across the world, conflicts continue to affect women and girls. In many regions experiencing instability, women face heightened risks of discrimination, exclusion from decision making processes, limited access to healthcare and education, and various forms of gender-based violence. These challenges not only violate fundamental human rights but also hinder sustainable peace and development. Ensuring the protection, inclusion, and empowerment of women in conflict settings is therefore not only a moral responsibility but a crucial step toward long lasting peace. Throughout this conference, you will have the opportunity to examine the structural causes of discrimination in conflict zones, assess the effectiveness of current international frameworks, and propose innovative, collaborative solutions. Delegates are encouraged to reflect on existing global commitments such as the principles outlined in United Nations resolutions addressing women, peace, and security, and to consider how these commitments can be strengthened and implemented more effectively.

I encourage all delegates to approach this committee with open minds, respect for differing perspectives, and a shared commitment to advancing the rights and dignity of women worldwide. Let this conference serve as a platform not only for discussion but for genuine progress toward a more inclusive and equitable global community.

If you have any questions regarding the study guide or the conference, you can mail me anytime (yavuzayazaras@gmail.com). I wish you all a great time to prepare yourselves for this conference.

Best regards,

Ayaz Aras Yavuz,
Under-Secretary General

3. Introduction to the Committee: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, abbreviated as UNWOMEN, is the United Nations entity that is responsible for promoting and protecting women's rights and empowering women around the globe. The entity was established in 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly and was formed to provide a stronger and more cohesive United Nations system for promoting and protecting women's rights and empowering women around the globe. UNWOMEN is at the forefront in the fight for and promotion of the rights of women in the face of any danger, particularly in war and conflicts around the globe. Women and girls are often at the forefront of the most intense forms of discrimination and persecution in war and conflicts, and this is particularly due to the fact that they are often denied the chance to participate in peace and political processes in war and conflicts around the globe. The empowerment of women is important not just for the empowerment of women but for the peace and stability of nations around the globe. The committee's activities are heavily informed by the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda, which was set up by the United Nations Security Council in its landmark resolutions, especially the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. This resolution acknowledges the significant contribution women make to conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconstruction, while also recognizing the need to protect women and girls from conflict related sexual and gender based violence (GBV). The UNWOMEN committee in the context of the Model UN simulation gives participants an opportunity to discuss and analyze issues regarding women in the world and find solutions to these issues. The participants are expected to represent their countries' interests and positions in the discussions, which will be conducted in a diplomatic manner to achieve the objectives set by the committee. Through these discussions, the participants will be able to find ways to end all forms of exclusion and discrimination against women, especially in conflict situations, and find ways to cooperate in achieving these objectives. It is encouraged by the committee that the delegates engage in the discussion with an in-depth understanding of international law and human rights instruments, as well as the various experiences of women in different parts of the globe. This way, delegates are able to come up with solutions that are all encompassing and realistic in order to promote and enhance the status of women in war-torn countries.



4. Introduction to the Agenda Item: Eliminating the Unfair Discrimination and Exclusion Against Women in Conflict Zones

The devastating consequences of armed conflicts on the lives of women in conflict zones cannot be overstated. In many countries affected by conflict, women and girls experience various forms of discrimination, limited access to basic services, and increased levels of violence. The social, economic, and political upheavals associated with conflict situations in these countries have been known to exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities, thereby

marginalizing women and denying them an active role in critical decision-making processes in these countries. These issues are still a priority in the lives of nations and form part of the main agenda of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Women in conflict zones have been known to experience difficulties in accessing basic services like education, healthcare, employment, and political participation in these countries. In addition, women in these countries are also likely to suffer increased levels of gender-based violence, displacement, and economic challenges in the aftermath of the conflicts. Despite these challenges, women in these countries have been recognized to play critical roles in these countries, but these roles are not being recognized or valued in the peace processes in these countries. In view of these issues, the United Nations Security Council adopted the Women, Peace, and Security agenda through historic resolutions such as United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which focuses on the need for protection of women and girls during conflicts and their participation in peace and security processes. This agenda requires UN member states and international entities to address issues of discrimination, violence against women, and inclusion of women in all phases of conflict prevention and resolution. The agenda item “Eliminating the Unfair Discrimination and Exclusion Against Women in Conflict Zones” requires committee delegates to explore issues of discrimination against women during conflicts from a structural, political, and cultural perspective. The delegates are encouraged to analyze existing international practices and propose solutions for effective protection and inclusion of women during conflicts. Through constructive dialogue and cooperation, this committee aims to create effective solutions that promote women’s empowerment, protection of their basic rights, and participation in peace processes.

5. Terminology

5.1 Gender-Based Discrimination

Gender-based discrimination refers to the unequal treatment or exclusion of individuals based on their gender. In many conflict zones, women and girls face discrimination in areas such as access to education, employment, healthcare, political representation, and legal protection. This discrimination often intensifies during armed conflicts when social structures weaken and protection mechanisms collapse.

5.2 Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Gender-based violence includes harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender. Women and girls in conflict zones face increased risks of violence such as domestic abuse, exploitation, forced displacement, and other forms of abuse. Addressing GBV is a major priority for international organizations, including United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN).

5.3 Conflict Zones

Conflict zones are areas where armed conflict is occurring or has recently occurred. These regions often experience instability, weak governance, and humanitarian crises. Women in conflict zones are particularly vulnerable to discrimination, exclusion, and violations of their rights.

5.4 Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda

The Women, Peace, and Security agenda is a global framework that emphasizes the importance of protecting women in conflict and ensuring their participation in peacebuilding and decision-making processes. It was established by the **United Nations Security Council** through **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325**, which recognizes the critical role of women in preventing and resolving conflicts.

5.5 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally displaced persons are individuals who are forced to leave their homes due to conflict, violence, or disasters but remain within their country's borders. Women and girls often make up a large portion of IDPs and may face additional risks such as discrimination, limited access to resources, and insecurity.

5.6 Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding refers to efforts aimed at resolving conflict and establishing long-term stability and peace in post-conflict societies. Women's participation in peacebuilding processes is essential for sustainable peace, yet they are frequently excluded from negotiations and reconstruction initiatives.

5.7 Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance involves providing aid such as food, shelter, healthcare, and protection to people affected by crises. Ensuring that women have equal and safe access to humanitarian assistance is an important step in addressing discrimination in conflict-affected areas.

5.8 Empowerment of Women

Women's empowerment refers to the process of increasing women's access to opportunities, resources, and decision-making power. Empowering women in conflict zones helps strengthen communities, promote recovery, and reduce long-term gender inequalities.

5.9 Protection of Civilians

Protection of civilians refers to measures taken by governments, international organizations, and humanitarian actors to ensure the safety and rights of civilians during armed conflicts. Women and children are often prioritized within these protection strategies due to their increased vulnerability.

5.10 Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Post-conflict reconstruction includes political, economic, and social efforts aimed at rebuilding societies after armed conflict. Ensuring that women participate equally in reconstruction processes helps create more inclusive and stable societies.

5.11 Refugees

Refugees are individuals who have crossed international borders to escape persecution, conflict, or violence. Women refugees often face multiple forms of vulnerability, including discrimination, economic hardship, and limited access to services in host countries. International organizations work to provide protection and assistance to refugees while ensuring that their rights are respected.

5.12 Accountability and Justice Mechanisms

Accountability mechanisms refer to legal and institutional processes designed to investigate and address violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. These mechanisms may include national courts, international tribunals, and truth and reconciliation commissions. Ensuring accountability for crimes committed against women in conflict zones is essential for preventing future violations and promoting justice.

5.13 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Civil society organizations are non-governmental groups that represent the interests of citizens and work to promote social change. Many CSOs focus on women's rights, humanitarian assistance, and community development in conflict-affected areas. Their work often complements the efforts of international organizations and governments in addressing gender-based discrimination.

5.14 Intersectional Discrimination

Intersectional discrimination occurs when individuals face multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination based on factors such as gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status. Women in conflict zones may experience compounded discrimination due to these intersecting identities, which can further limit their access to protection and opportunities.

6. Historical Background

The issue of discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones has existed throughout history, but it began receiving significant international attention during the late twentieth century. Historically, armed conflicts were often analyzed primarily through military and political perspectives, with little focus on the gendered impacts of war. Women were frequently viewed only as victims of conflict rather than as active participants in peacebuilding, political processes, and community resilience. Following the end of World War II, the international community began to develop global frameworks to protect human rights and prevent the



recurrence of large-scale atrocities. The establishment of the United Nations in 1945 marked an important step toward promoting international peace, security, and human rights. Early human rights agreements recognized the importance of gender equality, but the specific challenges faced by women in armed conflict remained largely under-addressed for several decades. In the latter half of the twentieth century, global awareness of women's rights expanded significantly. The adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1979 represented a milestone in international efforts to eliminate discrimination against women in all areas of life. Although CEDAW does not specifically focus on armed conflict, it created an important legal framework that reinforced



governments' responsibilities to protect women's rights. The issue of women in conflict zones gained greater international recognition during the 1990s, when conflicts in regions such as the Balkans and Central Africa highlighted the widespread use of violence against civilians, including women. Reports of sexual violence, forced displacement, and systematic discrimination prompted increased advocacy from civil society organizations and international institutions. A significant turning point occurred in 2000 with the adoption of United Nations

Security Council Resolution 1325 by the United Nations Security Council. This resolution formally acknowledged the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and emphasized the importance of women's participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Resolution 1325 laid the foundation for the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, which continues to guide international efforts to address gender inequality in conflict situations. In 2010, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was established by the United Nations



General Assembly to strengthen the UN's work on gender equality. UN Women works closely with governments, international organizations, and civil society groups to support women's participation in peace processes, protect women's rights, and promote gender equality in conflict and post-conflict settings. Today, despite progress made through international frameworks and

advocacy efforts, discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones remain significant global challenges. Women continue to face barriers to political participation, economic opportunities, and access to justice in many conflict-affected regions. Addressing these challenges requires sustained international cooperation and the implementation of policies that promote gender equality and inclusive peacebuilding.

7. Key Issues

7.1 Gender-Based Violence in Conflict Zones

Armed conflicts often lead to a significant increase in gender-based violence against women and girls. The collapse of legal systems, weakened law enforcement, and widespread instability can create environments where violence against women becomes more frequent and harder to prevent. Women in conflict zones may face abuse, exploitation, forced displacement, and other forms of violence that threaten their safety and well-being. Preventing and responding to gender-based violence remains a major concern for the international community, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Addressing this issue requires strengthening legal protections, improving support services for survivors, and promoting international cooperation to ensure accountability for violations.

7.2 Exclusion of Women from Peace Negotiations and Political Processes

Despite the significant impact that conflicts have on women, they are frequently excluded from formal peace negotiations and political decision-making processes. Women often possess valuable perspectives and play critical roles in community-level peacebuilding, yet their participation in high-level diplomatic discussions remains limited. The United Nations Security Council has emphasized the importance of women's participation in peace processes through initiatives such as the Women, Peace, and Security agenda established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. Increasing women's representation in leadership roles and peace negotiations is essential for developing inclusive and sustainable peace agreements.

7.3 Limited Access to Healthcare and Essential Services

Conflict often disrupts healthcare systems, education, and other critical public services. Women in conflict zones may struggle to access medical care, reproductive health services, and mental health support. Pregnant women and young mothers are particularly vulnerable when healthcare infrastructure collapses. In addition, the destruction of schools and social institutions can limit educational opportunities for girls. Addressing these gaps requires international assistance, reconstruction of healthcare systems, and policies that ensure women have equal access to essential services during and after conflicts.

7.4 Economic Marginalization and Loss of Livelihoods

Armed conflict frequently leads to economic instability, unemployment, and the destruction of local economies. Women often face greater economic challenges during conflicts due to discriminatory labor practices, loss of family income, and displacement from their communities. Without access to financial resources or employment opportunities, many women struggle to support themselves and their families. Economic empowerment programs, vocational training, and access to financial services are important strategies for helping women rebuild their livelihoods and achieve economic independence.

7.5 Displacement and Refugee Vulnerabilities

Conflicts force millions of people to flee their homes, creating large populations of refugees and internally displaced persons. Women and girls make up a significant proportion of displaced populations and often face heightened risks of discrimination, insecurity, and exploitation. In refugee camps or temporary settlements, women may encounter limited access to education, healthcare, and legal protection. Ensuring the safety and dignity of displaced women requires coordinated humanitarian efforts, protection policies, and support from both national governments and international organizations.

7.6 Barriers to Justice and Legal Protection

Women in conflict zones often face significant barriers when seeking justice for violations of their rights. Weak legal institutions, lack of documentation, social stigma, and fear of retaliation can discourage victims from reporting crimes. Additionally, discriminatory laws or cultural norms may prevent women from accessing fair legal processes. Strengthening judicial systems, promoting gender-sensitive legal reforms, and supporting international accountability mechanisms are important steps toward ensuring justice for women affected by conflict.

7.7 Cultural and Structural Discrimination

Deep-rooted cultural norms and structural inequalities often contribute to the discrimination and exclusion of women in conflict-affected societies. These norms may restrict women's mobility, limit their access to education or employment, and discourage their participation in political and public life. During periods of conflict, such inequalities may become even more pronounced as societies revert to traditional power structures. Addressing these challenges requires long-term efforts focused on education, community engagement, and gender-sensitive policymaking.

7.8 Insufficient Representation in Post-Conflict Reconstruction

After conflicts end, countries must rebuild political institutions, infrastructure, and social systems. However, women are frequently underrepresented in reconstruction planning and governance. Excluding women from these processes can result in policies that fail to address gender inequalities or the needs of female populations. Ensuring women's participation in post-conflict reconstruction is essential for creating inclusive societies and preventing future discrimination.

7.9 Lack of Gender-Sensitive Humanitarian Responses

Humanitarian responses to conflicts sometimes fail to fully address the specific needs of women and girls. For example, aid distribution systems may overlook women's safety concerns, or relief programs may not provide adequate support for female-headed households. Gender-sensitive humanitarian planning ensures that assistance programs consider the unique challenges women face and provide equitable access to resources and protection.

7.10 Long-Term Psychological and Social Impacts

Women living in conflict zones often experience long-term psychological and social challenges due to displacement, loss of family members, and exposure to violence. These experiences can affect their ability to participate fully in economic and social life even after conflicts end. Providing mental health support, community reintegration programs, and long-term recovery initiatives is critical for addressing the lasting consequences of conflict on women.

8. Timeline & Key Developments

8.1 Establishment of the United Nations: 1945

The modern international framework for protecting human rights began with the creation of the United Nations following the end of World War II. The UN Charter emphasized the importance of promoting fundamental human rights, dignity, and equality for all individuals regardless of gender. Although early efforts focused broadly on human rights, they laid the foundation for later initiatives specifically addressing women's rights in conflict and peace processes.

8.2 Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 1948

In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The declaration established the principle that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. This document became the cornerstone of international human rights law and provided an important basis for future gender equality initiatives.

8.3 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): 1979

One of the most significant legal instruments promoting women's rights is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly. Often described as an international "bill of rights" for women, CEDAW requires member states to eliminate discrimination against women in political, social, economic, and cultural spheres. Although it is not limited to conflict settings, CEDAW created an important framework for protecting women's rights globally.

8.4 Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing): 1995

The Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing marked a major milestone in advancing gender equality worldwide. The conference produced the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which called for stronger protections for women in areas such as education, health, economic participation, and political leadership. It also highlighted the need to address the impact of armed conflict on women.

8.5 Adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325: 2000

A landmark moment occurred in 2000 when the United Nations Security Council adopted United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. This resolution formally recognized the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and emphasized the importance of including women in peace negotiations, peacekeeping operations, and post-conflict reconstruction. It established the foundation for the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda.

8.6 Addressing Sexual Violence in Conflict: 2008

In 2008, the Security Council adopted United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820, which recognized sexual violence as a tactic of war and a threat to international peace and security. The resolution called for stronger efforts to prevent sexual violence during armed conflicts and improve accountability for perpetrators.

8.7 Strengthening the Women, Peace, and Security Framework: 2009–2010

Additional Security Council resolutions such as United Nations Security Council Resolution 1888 and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1889 further strengthened international commitments to protecting women in conflict situations. These resolutions emphasized improving leadership, coordination, and monitoring mechanisms related to the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

8.8 Creation of UN Women: 2010

In 2010, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was established by the United Nations to consolidate various gender equality initiatives within the UN system. UN Women works globally to promote women's leadership, protect women's rights, and support gender equality in both peace and conflict settings.

8.9 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 2015

The international community adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal 5 focuses specifically on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. The SDGs recognize that gender equality is essential for sustainable peace and development.

8.10 20th Anniversary of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda: 2020

In 2020, the United Nations marked the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. This milestone prompted global discussions about progress and remaining challenges in implementing the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. While important progress has been made, women remain underrepresented in peace negotiations and continue to face discrimination in many conflict zones.

8.11 Present Day/Ongoing International Efforts

Today, the international community continues working through organizations such as United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the United Nations Security Council to eliminate discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones. Efforts focus on strengthening women's participation in peacebuilding, improving protection mechanisms, supporting survivors of violence, and promoting gender equality in post-conflict reconstruction.

9. United Nations (UN) Actions

The United Nations has taken numerous steps to address discrimination, exclusion, and violence against women in conflict zones. Through international resolutions, peacekeeping operations, and specialized agencies, the UN works to promote gender equality and ensure that women play an active role in peace and security processes.

9.1 Women, Peace and Security Agenda

One of the most important UN initiatives addressing this issue is the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, established through United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000 by the United Nations Security Council. This landmark resolution recognized the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and emphasized the importance of women's participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Resolution 1325 introduced four major pillars which are increasing women's involvement in peace negotiations and decision making, protecting women and girls from violence during conflicts, preventing gender based violence and discrimination, ensuring women's needs are addressed in humanitarian aid and post conflict reconstruction. Since its adoption, several additional resolutions have strengthened the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

9.2 Security Council Resolutions on Women in Conflict

The United Nations Security Council has adopted multiple resolutions that expand protections for women in conflict situations. For example, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008) recognized sexual violence as a tactic of war and called for stronger international efforts to prevent and respond to these crimes. Later, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009) established new leadership positions and monitoring mechanisms to improve international responses to sexual violence in armed conflict. These resolutions help create accountability and encourage governments and international actors to take stronger action to protect women during conflicts.

9.3 Creation of UNWOMEN

In 2010, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was created by the United Nations General Assembly to coordinate the UN system's work on gender equality. UNWOMEN focuses on several key priorities related to conflict zones which are supporting women's participation in peace negotiations and political processes, promoting legal reforms to protect women's rights, assisting women in post-conflict economic recovery and combating gender-based violence. The organization works closely with governments, humanitarian agencies, and civil society groups to implement gender-sensitive policies in conflict and post conflict areas.

9.4 Gender Integration in Peacekeeping Operations

The United Nations has also integrated gender perspectives into its peacekeeping missions. Through the United Nations Peacekeeping framework, missions often include gender advisors and female peacekeepers who focus on protecting civilians and addressing gender-based violence. Female peacekeepers play an important role in building trust with local communities and improving access for women who may feel uncomfortable reporting crimes or seeking help from male authorities.

9.5 Humanitarian Programs and Protection Initiatives

The United Nations also works through humanitarian agencies to assist women affected by conflict. Programs implemented by organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme provide services including healthcare, shelter, legal support, and economic assistance to women in crisis situations. These programs aim to ensure that humanitarian aid is distributed in a gender-sensitive manner and that women have equal access to resources and protection.

9.6 Sustainable Development Goals

The UN also addresses gender equality through the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, Sustainable Development Goal 5 focuses on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. While the SDGs are broader development goals, they are closely linked to improving conditions for women in conflict-affected societies.

10. Parties Involved

10.1 United States

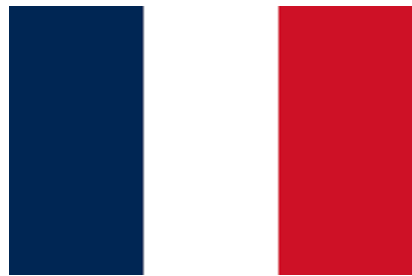
The United States approaches the agenda of eliminating unfair discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones as a central component of its foreign policy, human rights advocacy, and global security strategy. The U.S. strongly supports the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and frames women's inclusion as critical not only for protecting fundamental rights but also for ensuring sustainable peace and preventing the recurrence of conflict. The United States emphasizes that peace agreements and political processes that exclude women are less likely to be effective or durable, and that gender based violence in conflict is often systematic, requiring strong international attention and accountability. In committee, the U.S. is likely to advocate for robust, actionable resolutions that include monitoring mechanisms, regular reporting, and enforceable accountability measures for perpetrators of gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence in conflict zones. It also prioritizes funding for humanitarian and development programs that provide



education, healthcare, psychosocial support, and economic opportunities for women affected by war, recognizing that empowerment at both the grassroots and institutional levels is essential. Strategically, the U.S. may work to form alliances with Western and progressive states, pushing for ambitious language while also negotiating pragmatic compromises to secure consensus among states with differing political or cultural perspectives. The U.S. is likely to champion data-driven approaches, emphasizing evidence-based interventions and measurable outcomes, and may support the involvement of civil society organizations, UN agencies, and local women-led initiatives to ensure that programs are contextually appropriate. While it is generally proactive and interventionist in its approach, the United States may exercise caution in respecting national sovereignty when discussing mechanisms that could be perceived as intrusive, balancing its commitment to global norms with geopolitical considerations. Overall, the U.S. agenda is focused on advancing women's participation in peace processes, eliminating violence and discrimination, and establishing sustainable, enforceable frameworks that promote equality and long-term security in conflict-affected regions.

10.2 France

France approaches the agenda through its feminist foreign policy and commitment to international law. It views discrimination against women in conflict zones as a violation of fundamental rights and a threat to global peace. France prioritizes combating sexual violence in conflict and strengthening international justice mechanisms. France will likely advocate for binding international commitments, sanctions against violators, and stronger cooperation with international courts. It also supports increasing women's participation in peacekeeping and diplomacy. France is expected to be a key co-sponsor of comprehensive resolutions with strong legal language.



10.3 Germany

Germany emphasizes sustainable peace through development, institutional reform, and multilateral cooperation. It views gender inequality as a structural issue that must be addressed through long-term investment in education, governance, and economic systems. Germany is likely to support capacity-building initiatives, education access, and institutional strengthening rather than punitive measures. It may act as a mediator between blocs, promoting compromise while maintaining strong commitments to gender equality.



10.4 Canada

Canada places gender equality at the center of its foreign policy and views women's inclusion as essential to peacebuilding. It prioritizes empowering women at the grassroots level and ensuring their leadership in decision-making processes. Canada will likely advocate for inclusive policies, support for local women-led organizations, and intersectional approaches that address multiple forms of discrimination. It is expected to support collaborative and humanitarian focused solutions.



10.5 Sweden

Sweden is one of the strongest proponents of feminist foreign policy globally. It views discrimination against women in conflict zones as a systemic issue requiring structural transformation. Sweden will likely push for ambitious and progressive measures, including gender quotas, comprehensive legal protections, and detailed implementation mechanisms. It may also emphasize intersectionality and accountability.



10.6 Switzerland

Switzerland focuses on neutrality, mediation, and humanitarian principles. It views women's inclusion as essential for effective peace negotiations but prefers consensus-based approaches. It will likely support mediation frameworks, humanitarian protections, and dialogue-driven solutions, avoiding overly political or coercive measures.



10.7 Finland

Finland emphasizes equality, education, and inclusive governance. It sees empowering women as a long-term investment in stability. Finland is likely to promote education initiatives, leadership training, and institutional inclusion policies, focusing on sustainable development.



10.8 Australia

Australia prioritizes regional stability and practical solutions. It supports gender equality but focuses on implementable policies. Australia will likely support capacity-building, economic empowerment, and regional cooperation, avoiding overly rigid frameworks.



10.9 Iran

Iran emphasizes sovereignty, cultural values, and religious frameworks. It is cautious of Western-led gender equality initiatives. Iran will likely oppose external enforcement mechanisms and advocate for culturally sensitive, state led solutions, while supporting general improvements in women's conditions.



10.10 Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia approaches this agenda with a careful balance between reform and sovereignty. In recent years, it has introduced reforms expanding women's participation in the workforce and public life, but it continues to frame gender equality within Islamic law and national cultural values. Regarding women in conflict zones, Saudi Arabia is likely to emphasize humanitarian assistance, economic empowerment, and access to education, particularly in Muslim-majority regions. It may highlight its financial contributions to humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts. However, Saudi Arabia will strongly resist externally imposed standards of gender equality, binding enforcement mechanisms, and criticism of domestic policies. In debate, it will support cooperative, non-binding frameworks, often aligning with states emphasizing sovereignty. It may support aid programs but oppose clauses involving monitoring, sanctions, or legal accountability imposed by external actors.



10.11 Pakistan

Pakistan recognizes the importance of protecting women in conflict zones, especially due to its own experiences with terrorism, displacement, and regional instability. It acknowledges gender inequality challenges but frames



them within development and security constraints. Pakistan will likely emphasize education for girls in conflict areas, humanitarian aid and refugee protection, and capacity-building and international support. It will advocate for balanced language that avoids cultural imposition while still addressing discrimination. Pakistan may support international frameworks but will insist they be adaptable to national contexts. In committee, Pakistan often acts as a bridge between Western and more conservative states, supporting practical solutions but resisting overly progressive or binding measures.

10.12 Morocco

Morocco approaches the agenda of eliminating unfair discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones with a perspective that balances progressive gender reforms with cultural and religious traditions. Domestically, Morocco has made significant strides in women's rights, including legal reforms to improve family law, access to education, and economic participation, which it often highlights as a model for culturally sensitive progress. In the international context, Morocco emphasizes the importance of gradual and sustainable approaches to empowering women in conflict-affected regions, focusing on education, vocational training, and economic inclusion as primary tools to address discrimination and exclusion. Morocco is likely to advocate for initiatives that strengthen local institutions and promote community-based programs, rather than imposing strict enforcement mechanisms that could conflict with sovereignty or cultural norms. In committee, Morocco may position itself as a moderate voice, supporting collaboration with UN Women, regional organizations, and other states while emphasizing the need for practical, adaptable solutions. It will likely endorse programs that empower women at both the grassroots and governmental levels, highlighting the role of education and social services in creating long-term stability in conflict zones. Additionally, Morocco may stress regional cooperation, particularly in the MENA region, encouraging states to share experiences and best practices for integrating women into peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts.



10.13 Afghanistan

Afghanistan represents one of the most urgent and controversial cases under this agenda. Women face severe restrictions in education, employment, and public participation, making it central to discussions on discrimination and exclusion. In debate, Afghanistan's representation may emphasize sovereignty and internal



governance, resistance to external interference, framing reforms as culturally and religiously grounded. Other countries, however, will focus heavily on Afghanistan when discussing access to education for girls, participation in public life and humanitarian access. This creates a highly sensitive dynamic, making Afghanistan a focal point for both criticism and diplomatic negotiation.

10.14 Syria

Syria approaches the agenda of eliminating unfair discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones primarily through a sovereignty-focused and post-conflict reconstruction lens, shaped by more than a decade of internal conflict, displacement, and humanitarian crises. The country faces widespread challenges, including large-scale internal displacement, limited access to basic services, and economic devastation, all of which disproportionately affect women and girls. Women in Syria often experience restricted mobility, heightened vulnerability to violence, and exclusion from political and social decision-making, making this agenda both highly relevant and politically sensitive. In the committee, Syria is likely to emphasize that while it supports initiatives aimed at improving women's conditions, all interventions must respect national sovereignty and avoid external interference. It will likely focus on advocating for humanitarian assistance, reconstruction support, and the protection of internally displaced persons, particularly women and children, framing these measures as critical for restoring stability and rebuilding society. Syria may resist strong accountability clauses or enforcement mechanisms perceived as infringing on state authority, instead favoring state-led solutions and development-focused approaches. Additionally, Syria is likely to highlight its cooperation with international organizations in delivering aid, providing education, and addressing public health challenges, positioning itself as a responsible actor despite ongoing conflict. In negotiation, Syria may align with countries such as Russia and Iran, forming a bloc that emphasizes non-intervention, dialogue, and culturally sensitive solutions, while opposing measures perceived as politicized or punitive. Ultimately, Syria's stance is likely to focus on practical and humanitarian solutions that improve women's lives without compromising sovereignty, emphasizing that durable improvements in women's rights are closely linked to broader national stability, reconstruction, and peacebuilding efforts.



10.15 Israel

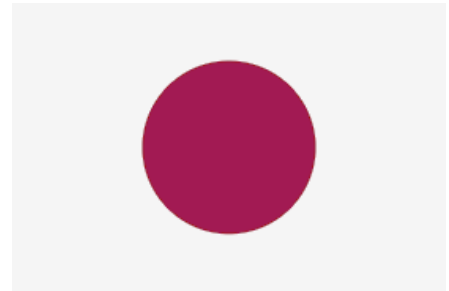
Israel has relatively strong domestic gender equality policies, including women's participation in the military and politics. However, its position is heavily shaped by ongoing regional



conflict and security concerns. Israel will likely emphasize protection of women from terrorism and violence, inclusion of women in national security frameworks and practical, security-based solutions. It may resist politicized criticism related to regional conflicts and one-sided accountability clauses. Israel tends to support innovation-driven and pragmatic approaches, including technology and education initiatives.

10.16 Japan

Japan approaches this agenda through development cooperation and international aid. It recognizes gender inequality issues both domestically and globally but prefers non-confrontational diplomacy. Japan is likely to advocate for capacity-building programs, education and economic empowerment and support for UN-led initiatives. It avoids strong enforcement or punitive measures and highly politicized debates. Japan often plays a consensus-building role, supporting moderate, widely acceptable solutions.



10.17 Burundi

Burundi is a post-conflict state still facing instability and economic challenges. Women are disproportionately affected by poverty, violence, and limited access to services. Burundi will emphasize post-conflict recovery and reconciliation, women's inclusion in governance and international development assistance. It will strongly support funding mechanisms and capacity-building programs. Burundi is likely to align with developing nations, advocating for greater global support rather than strict accountability measures.



10.18 Venezuela

Venezuela frames gender equality within its broader focus on social welfare and anti-imperialism. It emphasizes sovereignty and resistance to external interference. Venezuela will likely support social programs and economic inclusion, advocate for state-led solutions and oppose external criticism or sanctions. It may align with countries like Russia and China, emphasizing non-intervention.



10.19 Ukraine

Ukraine brings direct, ongoing conflict experience, making it highly engaged in this agenda. Women in Ukraine face displacement,



economic hardship, and increased vulnerability to violence. Ukraine will strongly advocate for international humanitarian aid, protection mechanisms for women in war zones and accountability for violations of international law. It will support strong resolutions and monitoring and enforcement mechanisms Ukraine is likely to align with Western states and push for clear action against conflict-related abuses.

10.20 Türkiye

Türkiye approaches the agenda of eliminating unfair discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones through a multi-dimensional framework that combines humanitarian leadership, regional security priorities, and a strong emphasis on state sovereignty and practical implementation. As a country geographically and politically close to several major conflict zones, Türkiye has direct experience with the consequences of instability, most notably as one of the world's largest hosts of refugees, including millions affected by the conflict in Syria. This proximity has shaped its perspective, leading it to prioritize on-the-ground solutions that address the immediate needs of women in crisis situations, such



as access to healthcare, education, shelter, and protection from gender-based violence. Türkiye recognizes that women in conflict zones face disproportionate challenges, including displacement, economic marginalization, and limited participation in decision-making processes. As such, it supports initiatives aimed at empowering women through education, vocational training, and integration into local economies, particularly in refugee and post-conflict contexts. It is also likely to highlight its own humanitarian contributions, including aid delivery, infrastructure support, and programs targeting vulnerable populations, positioning itself as an active and responsible regional actor. In committee, Türkiye is likely to advocate for balanced and pragmatic solutions that combine humanitarian assistance with long-term development strategies. It supports international cooperation—especially within UN frameworks—but remains cautious of overly intrusive monitoring mechanisms, binding enforcement measures, or external political pressure that could infringe upon national sovereignty. Türkiye tends to favor flexible implementation mechanisms, allowing states to adapt solutions to their specific political, cultural, and security contexts. Additionally, Türkiye often plays a bridge-building role between Western and non-Western blocs. While it shares commitments to gender equality and humanitarian principles with countries such as Italy and Netherlands, it also aligns with states emphasizing sovereignty and regional stability, allowing it to act as a mediator in negotiations. It is likely to support clauses related to capacity-building, refugee protection, and women's inclusion in local governance, while working to moderate more polarized proposals. Türkiye is also expected to emphasize the importance of addressing root causes of conflict, including instability, terrorism, and economic underdevelopment, arguing that sustainable improvements in women's rights cannot be achieved without broader peace and security. Overall, Türkiye will advocate for realistic, implementable, and cooperative solutions that prioritize both immediate humanitarian

relief and long-term empowerment of women, while maintaining a strong stance on sovereignty, regional stability, and diplomatic balance within the committee.

10.21 Italy

Italy aligns closely with European Union policies on gender equality and human rights. It supports multilateral cooperation and peacekeeping. Italy will likely advocate for women's participation in peace processes, humanitarian assistance and EU-led frameworks. It supports strong but cooperative approaches, balancing progressiveness with diplomacy.



10.22 Lebanon

Lebanon faces political instability, economic crisis, and refugee pressures, all of which impact women significantly. Lebanon will emphasize humanitarian aid, support for refugees and displaced populations and gradual social reforms. It will likely support international assistance but resist overly demanding obligations.



10.23 China

China approaches the agenda of eliminating unfair discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones through a framework centered on state sovereignty, non-interference, and development-driven solutions, viewing these principles as essential to maintaining international order and long-term stability. While China formally supports gender equality and has endorsed aspects of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, it consistently emphasizes that progress on women's rights—especially in conflict-affected areas—must be achieved through economic development, poverty reduction, and national capacity-building rather than external pressure or conditionality. China argues that many of the challenges faced by women in conflict zones, such as lack of access to education, healthcare, and employment, are rooted in underdevelopment and instability, and therefore prioritizes infrastructure investment, economic growth initiatives, and state-led social programs as the most effective means of addressing discrimination and exclusion. In committee, China is likely to advocate for pragmatic, non-confrontational approaches, supporting increased humanitarian assistance, reconstruction efforts, and international cooperation—particularly under UN frameworks—while strongly opposing binding enforcement mechanisms, intrusive monitoring systems, or any clauses that could be interpreted as legitimizing intervention in domestic affairs. It



is particularly cautious about language related to accountability, sanctions, or international legal action, especially if such measures could set precedents for external involvement in internal conflicts. China will also emphasize the importance of respecting cultural diversity and national contexts, arguing that there is no one-size-fits-all model for achieving gender equality. Additionally, China often highlights its contributions to UN peacekeeping operations and development financing, presenting itself as a responsible global actor committed to stability and reconstruction in conflict-affected regions. In negotiations, China is likely to align closely with countries such as Russia and may find common ground with states like India or Pakistan on issues of sovereignty and development. However, China also plays a strategic role as a consensus-builder, often working to ensure that resolutions remain broadly acceptable by encouraging compromise language that balances humanitarian goals with respect for state authority. Ultimately, China will support addressing discrimination against women in conflict zones, but only within a framework that prioritizes cooperation over coercion, development over enforcement, and sovereignty over external intervention.

10.24 Colombia

Colombia provides a strong example of integrating women into peace processes following its internal conflict. It will advocate for women's participation in peace agreements, reintegration and reconciliation programs and community-level initiatives. Colombia supports practical, experience-based solutions.



10.25 Nigeria

Nigeria faces ongoing security challenges, including insurgency and displacement. Women are heavily impacted. Nigeria will emphasize security measures against armed groups, protection from gender-based violence and international cooperation. It supports assistance but may prioritize security over rights-based language.



10.26 India

India supports gender equality but strongly emphasizes national sovereignty and non-interference. India will promote



development-focused solutions, support education and economic empowerment and resist binding external enforcement. India often plays a balanced, pragmatic role.

10.27 Russia

Russia approaches the agenda of eliminating unfair discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones primarily through the lens of state sovereignty, non-interference, and security-oriented policymaking, viewing these principles as essential to maintaining international stability. While Russia formally recognizes gender equality and has expressed support for aspects of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, it consistently emphasizes that the responsibility for protecting and empowering women lies first and foremost with national governments rather than external actors. In committee, Russia is likely to argue that discrimination against women in conflict zones should be addressed through state-led initiatives, capacity-building, and socio-economic development, rather than through externally imposed frameworks or interventionist policies. It is particularly cautious of resolutions that include binding enforcement mechanisms, monitoring systems perceived as intrusive, or language that could justify international intervention, especially in sovereign conflicts. Russia also tends to frame discussions around women in conflict within a broader security and counterterrorism context, emphasizing the importance of restoring stability and order as a prerequisite for improving conditions for women. Additionally, it may challenge what it perceives as the politicization of human rights issues, arguing that some states selectively apply standards to advance geopolitical interests. Despite this, Russia may still support general commitments to protecting women from violence, improving access to humanitarian aid, and promoting participation in reconstruction efforts, provided that such measures respect national sovereignty and avoid punitive or coercive elements. In negotiations, Russia is likely to align with countries such as China and occasionally Iran, forming a bloc that advocates for balanced, non-interventionist language and resists strongly Western-driven proposals. However, it may engage pragmatically in compromise to ensure that resolutions remain acceptable to a broad range of member states, often pushing to soften language, remove enforcement provisions, and reframe obligations as voluntary cooperation, while still maintaining a formal commitment to addressing the challenges faced by women in conflict zones.



10.28 Nepal

Nepal draws from its post-conflict experience and supports inclusion. It will advocate for women's participation in governance, peacebuilding programs and



international development support. Nepal supports cooperative, development-focused solutions.

10.29 Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia provides historical lessons from conflict, especially regarding gender-based violence. It will emphasize justice and accountability, reconciliation processes and women's political inclusion. It strongly supports legal frameworks and international cooperation.



10.30 Spain

Spain is a strong advocate for gender equality and human rights. It will support progressive policies, advocate for comprehensive frameworks and promote international cooperation. Spain aligns closely with EU partners.



10.31 Iraq

Iraq faces post-conflict challenges, including rebuilding institutions and addressing gender-based violence. It will emphasize reconstruction, security and stability and support for women affected by conflict. Iraq supports assistance but prioritizes sovereignty.



10.32 Netherlands

The Netherlands approaches the agenda of eliminating unfair discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones as a core pillar of its foreign policy, strongly rooted in its commitment to human rights, international law, and multilateral cooperation. It is widely recognized as a global leader in promoting the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and consistently advocates for the meaningful inclusion of women at all stages of conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction. The Netherlands views gender inequality in conflict settings not only as a humanitarian concern but as a direct threat to sustainable peace and global stability, emphasizing that societies cannot fully recover or develop if half the population is excluded from decision-making processes. In committee, the Netherlands is likely to push for highly ambitious and structured resolutions, including strong operative clauses on accountability for gender-based violence, particularly conflict-related sexual violence, and the



strengthening of international judicial mechanisms to prosecute such crimes. It places significant importance on data collection, monitoring systems, and transparency, often advocating for measurable targets and reporting frameworks to ensure implementation. Additionally, the Netherlands strongly supports grassroots and locally led initiatives, arguing that empowering women at the community level leads to more resilient and inclusive peacebuilding outcomes. It is also a major proponent of partnerships between governments, civil society organizations, and UN bodies, particularly in delivering humanitarian aid, education, and economic opportunities to women in conflict zones. While firmly aligned with progressive Western states such as Sweden and Canada, the Netherlands also demonstrates strong diplomatic skill in negotiations, often working to build consensus without significantly weakening the ambition of resolutions. However, it is unlikely to compromise on key principles such as accountability, legal responsibility, and women's equal participation, making it a leading voice in advocating for comprehensive, enforceable, and forward-thinking solutions within the committee.

11. Past International & UNWOMEN Actions

The international community has long recognized that women are disproportionately affected by armed conflict, facing discrimination, exclusion from decision-making, and heightened vulnerability to gender-based violence. Early international recognition of these issues can be traced back to the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), which highlighted the need to protect women in conflict and post-conflict contexts, ensure their participation in peacebuilding, and address systemic discrimination. In 2000, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325, a landmark framework under the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. This resolution formally acknowledged the critical role of women in conflict prevention, peace negotiations, and post-conflict reconstruction, and emphasized the need to protect women from wartime violence and ensure their representation in political processes. Following Resolution 1325, the UN has adopted several complementary resolutions to strengthen the WPS framework, including Resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), and 2242 (2015). These resolutions specifically address sexual violence in conflict, call for accountability mechanisms, and encourage the establishment of monitoring and reporting systems. UN Women, established in 2010 as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, has been central to operationalizing these mandates. Through initiatives such as the Global Programme on Women, Peace, and Security, UN Women has supported countries in developing national action plans, strengthening legal frameworks, and providing technical assistance to ensure women's participation in peace processes. Beyond UN Women, multiple UN agencies and international organizations have contributed to these efforts. UNICEF, UNHCR, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees have focused on humanitarian protection, ensuring that women displaced by conflict have access to education, healthcare, and safety. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has emphasized the protection of women under international humanitarian law, particularly in situations of armed conflict. Regional bodies, such as the European Union, African Union, and Organization of American States, have also promoted policies and programs aimed at empowering women in conflict and post-conflict settings, including economic development, political participation, and legal reform. UN Women's efforts have extended to the prevention and elimination of

gender-based violence, supporting initiatives like training programs for law enforcement and judicial authorities, creating safe spaces for women in conflict zones, and funding community-based projects that empower women economically and socially. Additionally, UN Women works closely with civil society organizations to ensure that women from marginalized communities are included in policy discussions and peacebuilding initiatives, recognizing that sustainable peace is not achievable without broad-based gender inclusion. Despite these significant efforts, challenges persist. Many women in conflict zones remain excluded from political decision-making, continue to face systemic discrimination, and experience violence with limited access to justice. These persistent gaps underscore the importance of renewed international collaboration, increased funding, and stronger implementation of existing frameworks, making the work of UN Women and its partners central to addressing these pressing issues.

12. Questions to be Addressed

1- How can the international community ensure that women are meaningfully included in peace negotiations and post-conflict governance?

2- What measures can be implemented to protect women from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict zones, and how can accountability be strengthened for perpetrators?

3- How can access to education, vocational training, and economic empowerment programs be expanded for women in conflict-affected areas?

4- How can international interventions balance respect for national sovereignty and cultural norms while promoting gender equality and women's rights?

5- What specific roles should UN Women, UN peacekeeping missions, and other international organizations play in combating discrimination and exclusion against women in conflict zones?

6- How can states and the UN better address the unique challenges faced by refugee and internally displaced women, including healthcare, safety, and legal protection?

7- What mechanisms should be developed or strengthened to ensure that violations of women's rights in conflict zones are prosecuted under international law?

8- How can local, community-led initiatives for women's empowerment complement international programs to create sustainable change?

9- What strategies can be implemented to ensure adequate funding and effective resource allocation for programs supporting women in conflict zones?

10- How should the international community measure and monitor progress in eliminating discrimination and promoting inclusion of women in conflict-affected areas, and what indicators would be most effective?

ADDITIONAL NOTE:

Hello again delegates it's the Under Secretary General of this committee, Ayaz Aras Yavuz. I would like to inform you once again that if you have any questions about the study guide, agenda item, procedure, committee, conference, or if you believe that there are any mistakes in the study guide you can kindly approach me through my e-mail address (yavuzayazaras@gmail.com). So excited to see you all at the conference!

Best wishes!!

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