

RESOLUTION 2/2018

COMMITTEE ON FEMINISM AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

The 78th Conference of the International Law Association, held in Sydney, Australia, 19–24 August 2018:

HAVING CONSIDERED the Final Report of the Committee on Feminism and International Law;

RECOGNISING the difficulties experienced by women in realising their economic empowerment and equal participation in decision-making;

CONSIDERING that if these difficulties are not overcome the economic empowerment of women will not be realised with consequential negative impact on women themselves, their families, their communities and the wider society;

CONVINCED that the Final Report demonstrates the need for the implementation of the annexed Recommendations;

ADOPTS the Sydney Recommendations on the Role of Cooperatives in the Economic Empowerment of Women annexed to this Resolution;

URGES States which have not yet done so, to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the International Law Association to forward a copy of this Resolution and its annex to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director, the Director-General of the International Labour Organization; the Chair of the CEDAW Committee; and other appropriate international and regional Human Rights and other organisations and to circulate the Resolution and annexed Recommendations widely across the community of international lawyers, in particular experts and expert bodies addressing gender equality issues;

RECOMMENDS to the Executive Council that the Committee on Feminism and International Law, having accomplished its mandate, be dissolved.

SYDNEY RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ROLE OF COOPERATIVES IN THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

1. States should consider the role of cooperatives in the economic empowerment of women as vehicles for engaging in economic activity even on a micro scale; the values and principles of the cooperative as promulgated by the International Cooperative Alliance should be promoted by States through appropriate agencies.
2. Government (national and local) and other public sector employees should be educated and trained in an understanding of the values and principles of the cooperative.
3. States or their agents need to develop appropriate regulatory frameworks to facilitate the widest possible range of cooperatives, including those proposed or being operated by women.
4. States are urged to pursue the reliable collection and processing of disaggregated data as a matter of priority, in line with CEDAW General Recommendation 34. The data should include all women regardless of whether resident in rural or urban areas. This is vital to facilitate informed policy developments, inter alia in relation to education, which is a key element for self-fulfilment and economic empowerment; States parties are reminded of the obligations they have undertaken under CEDAW Article 10.
5. States are urged to assist women (and cooperatives) in accessing financial resources to enable them to engage in economic activity and to encourage the establishment and growth of cooperatives. States parties are reminded of the obligations they have undertaken under CEDAW Article 13, especially sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) and are urged to ensure that they fulfil these obligations.
6. States are urged to engage in public awareness-raising campaigns to counter cultural contexts that can lead to lack of confidence or diffidence as regards pursuing external activities and actively to encourage women and girls to embrace opportunities to engage in economic activities and/or education. States parties are reminded of their obligations under CEDAW Article 5 (a) and are urged to ensure that they fulfil these obligations.