



2008

Special Conference on the Empowerment of Women
(SCEW)

Information Packet

Honorable Directors,

The Special Conference has always been an important part of the BERMUN conference. Building on last year's reforms to the structure and role of the Special Conference, this year's committee will, once again, formulate a Recommendation to the General Assembly. We plan to make the Special Conference's work more relevant to both the entire BERMUN Conference and the delegates. In addition, the Special Conference will create a concrete basis for the debate in the Plenary Session of the General Assembly. In the end, the additional background information supplied by the Special Conference will enable delegates to obtain more concrete information about this year's topic. In the following paragraphs, we would like to elaborate on specific reforms and the reasons for making them. Please be sure to share this information especially with delegates of this year's Special Conference.

General

This year the Special Conference will serve solely as an advisory body to the plenary session of the General Assembly. The Special Conference will consist of representatives of countries and NGOs, who will act as experts on this year's theme: *Empowering Women: A Prerequisite for Global Development*. The task of the Special Conference will be to formulate an official Recommendation to the General Assembly, which will serve as the basis for the General Assembly's plenary work on Saturday.

Rapporteur to the General Assembly

Delegates from both the Special Conference and the General Assembly should be informed about this year's BERMUN conference topic. To facilitate this flow of information, we have created the position of "Rapporteur to the General Assembly". The Rapporteur's will supply you with the necessary information to ensure that the Recommendation addresses each issue comprehensively. Finally, the Rapporteur to the General Assembly will also assist the GA delegates during the plenary session.

Research Guide

The Rapporteur will compose a Research Guide on this year's theme. The Guide will provide delegates with information about this year's conference topic and also give suggestions for further research. This Guide will be distributed in September. It is crucial that the Delegates of both the Special Conference and General Assembly study this Guide carefully.

The Special Conference

Mostly, the Special Conference will be working on the Recommendation in two subcommittees. In Subcommittee one, nations from South America, Europe, and other western nations will be represented, whereas in Subcommittee two, delegates will represent nations from Asia and Africa. All delegates will focus on creating a draft Recommendation reflecting their respective policy. On Friday, both Subcommittees will then assemble in the Special Conference Plenary Session to merge the two draft

recommendations. The final Recommendation, which combines perspectives from both committees, will be submitted to the General Assembly on Saturday.

Plenary Session of the General Assembly

Once the Recommendation has been finalized, it will be officially submitted by the President of the Special Conference to the Plenary Session of the General Assembly on Saturday. Before the General Assembly begins its plenary work, the Rapporteur will give a presentation to the Assembly, outlining this year's Recommendation more specifically.

At the beginning of the Plenary Session, each Committee of the General Assembly will adopt two sections from the Recommendation, which relate to the committee's original topics. Each of the eight sections outlined in the Recommendation will serve as a basis for debate in a respective lobbying group. Because there are two sections assigned to each committee, there will also be two lobbying groups in each committee. Within these lobbying groups, delegates from the General Assembly will be able to apply their background knowledge from the conference to new areas. The ultimate goal of each lobbying group will be to devise ways by which the ideas suggested in the Recommendation can be implemented. At the end of the Session, the General Assembly will debate one resolution from each GA committee. Finally, all draft resolutions will be merged into one new resolution, which will outline means to attain the conference's main theme: the empowerment of women.

What does this mean for delegates?

Delegates in the General Assembly must research the Conference theme more extensively than in previous years. Among other resources you can make use of, the aforementioned Research Guide will help you to obtain general information on the topic. We also advise you to exchange information with delegates from the Special Conference, because they will be best informed about the Conference theme.

We hope the above clarifies the new structure of the Special Conference. For further information we have attached a diagram illustrating the new concept. In addition, we have included information about the basic content and format of the Recommendation.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

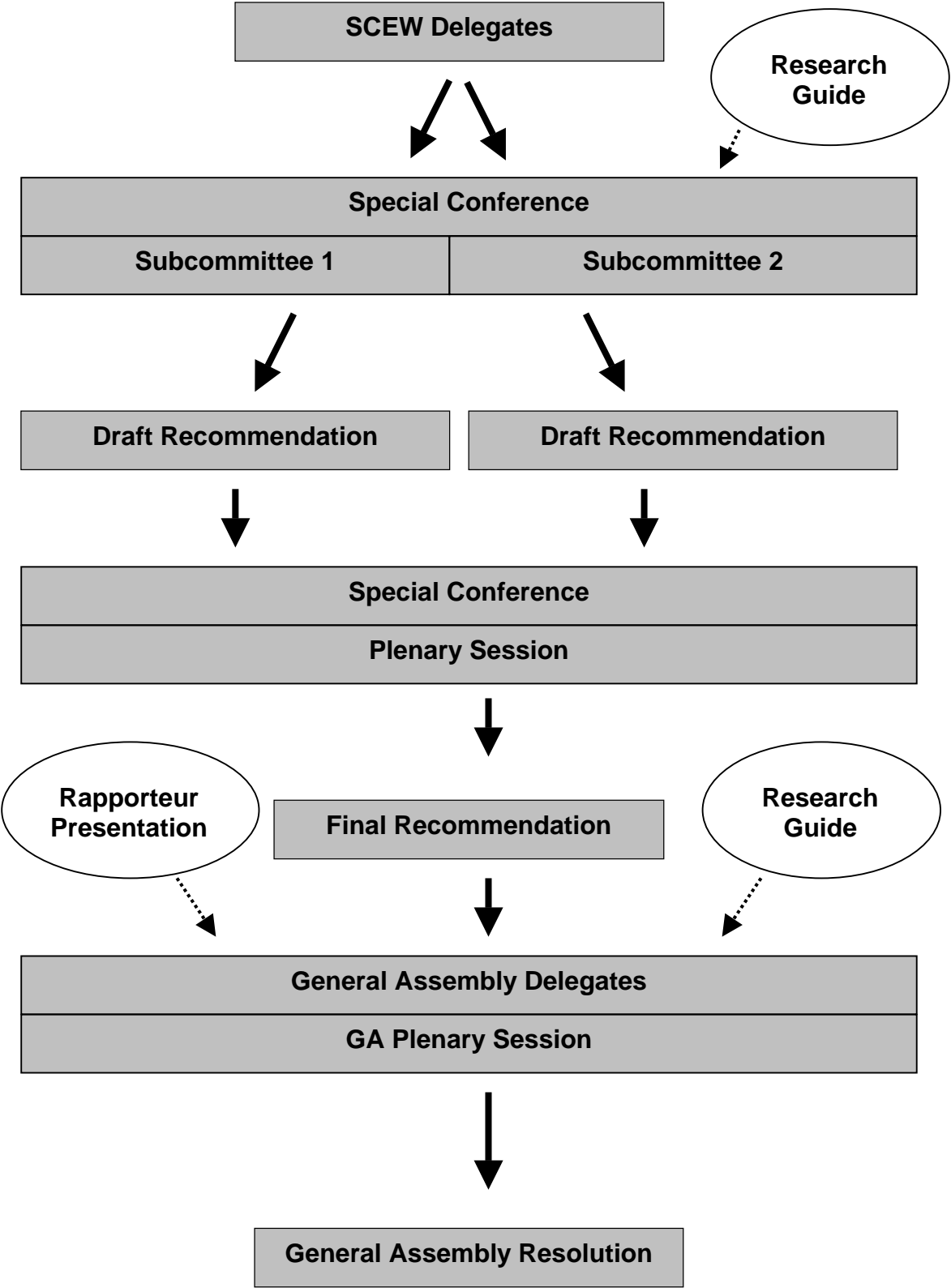
Sincerely,

Erik Wiedenmann
President

Alexander Antonov
Deputy-President

Tenzin Sekhon
Deputy-President

Ina Fischer
Rapporteur to the GA



Content

The Recommendation will contain eight components. Each component will address a different issue of the entire Recommendation. The eight issues listed below are not to be regarded as subtopics in a resolution, but rather general areas for discussion. Ultimately, the findings will serve as the basis upon which the final Recommendation can be formulated. The issues to be addressed are:

1. Combating Acts of Violence Against Women in Areas of Conflict
2. The Empowerment of Women in the Reconstruction Processes in War Torn Regions
3. Involving Females in the Development of Strategies for Natural Resource Management
4. Introducing Gender-Responsive Approaches to Poverty Reduction
5. Achieving Equal Opportunities in Education
6. Striving for Equal Treatment of both Genders in Health Care
7. Promoting the Role of Women in Politics
8. Improving Women's Employment Opportunities

Format

The Recommendation to the General Assembly will follow the format of a UN Recommendation. Unlike a UN Resolution, a Recommendation does not have to follow strict formatting rules. Therefore, delegates have more freedom in writing the Recommendation. Keep in mind that the Special Conference only has an advisory function. Consequently, nothing embodied in the Recommendation to the General Assembly will be legally binding. On the other hand, it sets standards and guidelines for member states. NGOs and other domestic and international organizations can utilize these recommendations to pressure governments to act accordingly. On the next page you will find a mock-Recommendation on Climate Change, which *serves to illustrate the formatting and phrasing* of an actual recommendation.

Recommendation to the General Assembly

I. Preamble

The Special Conference on Global Warming, meeting in Berlin in 2007,

Considering that the temperature of the earth has risen drastically over the last decade,

Taking into consideration past treaties, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Montreal Protocol, and the Kyoto Protocol,

II. International Cooperation

The effects that the Kyoto Protocol has had need to be furthered. We recommend creating a further additional protocol to the UNFCCC based on the model of the Kyoto Protocol. This Protocol should include further legally binding measures of greenhouse-gas reduction, as well as incentives for all Member States to cooperate on an international level to combat global warming.

III. Renewable Energies

Though progress has been made, many member states are still dependent on non renewable energies. We recommend that member states, in accordance with national legislation, further the research of renewable energies by ensuring that every public university comprises a Centre for Research of Renewable Energies (CRRE). Member states should also promote the usage of renewable energies through national media and public campaigns.

IV. National Legislation

Whereas some member states have made significant progress in enacting legislation on reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, others are still lagging behind. We recommend that all member states pass national laws to both sanction environmentally harmful practises and subsidize environmentally friendly practises, especially in the industrial sector. We also recommend that states that have already enacted this kind of legislation take further legal steps to raise their national eco-standards.

V. Trans-national Research

There are many organizations conducting research on the possible improvement of environment-friendly technologies. We recommend coordinating this research on an international basis by creating an International Panel for the Coordination of Research on Environment-Friendly Technologies (IPCREFT).

VI. Rewarding Outstanding Efforts to Combat Global Warming

In the spirit of climate-change-activist Al Gore and in recognition of his recently awarded Nobel Prize, we deem it important to reward outstanding efforts in the fight against global warming. We therefore recommend creating a Gore-Prize to be awarded annually to a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to combating global warming.