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ECOFIN DEV/Topic 2: Women in Development

As a reporter from L’Osservatore Romano, I went to the ECOFIN room to answer some of my questions about women in development. I asked one student, “When do you think the wage gap will cease to exist?” He said, “I think about 2030.” That was kind of a vague answer, but I moved on. The students continued their informal consultation and it ended ten minutes later. After that the chair asked if there was anything the students wanted to request. Students who answered said they wanted a formal consultation. It was approved and a student said something intriguing. “We should create something like the suicide hotline except for women who’ve been sexually assaulted/abused and have those women open up about their stories to empower other women. We need to educate women and men about these problems because the more educated they are about it, the less of it there will be.”

After a short discussion about that the informal consultation was adjourned. I asked another student, “What rules are you attempting to put in place to make sure women have more freedom.” He said, “We are trying to make it so that women do not have to obey their husbands, and making harsher punishments on gender discrimination and assault. We are also trying to remove gender stereotypes because women and men should be who they want to be.” The meeting came to a close as they had their Secretariat speak, then they changed subjects.