

**Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-sixth session
14 – 25 March 2022**

**Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes
Draft agreed conclusions**

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth, twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women. **(Based on CSW61, 62, 63 and 65 AC, para 1)**
2. The Commission reiterates that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocols thereto, as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, throughout their life course. **(Based on CSW61, 62, 63 and 65 AC, para 2)**
3. The Commission reaffirms that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews, and the outcomes of relevant major United Nations conferences and summits and the follow-up to those conferences and summits, have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. **(CSW61, 62, 63 and 65 AC, para 3)**
4. The Commission reaffirms the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences, including the International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action and the outcome documents of its reviews. It recognizes that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda and the World Summit for Social Development contribute, inter alia, to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. The Commission also reaffirms the Paris Agreement, adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. **(Based on CSW61, para 5, CSW62 and 63, para 4, CSW65, para 5)**
5. The Commission recognizes that gender inequality coupled with climate and environmental crises and disasters are the greatest sustainable development challenges

of our time, affecting the entire planet and all peoples, with disproportionate impacts on women and girls, especially those in vulnerable and marginalized situations and conflict settings. **(Based on E/CN.6/2022/3, para 2)**

6. The Commission expresses concern that climate and environmental crises and disasters threaten the full realization of human rights, especially the rights to life and dignity, development, a life free from violence and discrimination, an adequate standard of living, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, water and sanitation, a healthy environment and others, with acute impacts on women and girls, especially in rural, indigenous and migrant contexts. **(Based on E/CN.6/2022/3, para 4)**

7. The Commission expresses concern that the economic and social fallout of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has compounded the impacts of the climate and environment crises and pushed people further behind and into extreme poverty, and women and girls disproportionately so. **(Based on E/CN.6/2022/3, para 2)**

8. The Commission emphasizes that legal and policy frameworks on climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction should provide a cohesive basis for gender-responsive governance that fulfils the rights and needs of women and girls. It acknowledges that women's and girls' capacities to take action and build resilient futures depend on removing structural barriers and gender gaps and strengthening women's, and especially indigenous women's, access to and control over land and natural resources, and that their participation and leadership are critical for making climate, environmental and disaster risk action more effective. **(Based on E/CN.6/2022/3, para 2 and 23)**

9. The Commission recognizes the need to take an all-of-government approach, based on the coordination and capacity-building of parliamentarians, national gender equality mechanisms, mayors and municipalities and the institutions responsible for climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction and their financing, to enable gender-responsive climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. **(Based on E/CN.6/2022/3, para 28)**

10. The Commission emphasizes that women and girls are taking climate and environment action at all levels, yet despite significant contributions, women's participation and leadership fall short of influencing decisions and policies. It expresses concern that women's, and especially young women's, civil society organizations face many barriers to participation and leadership, from shrinking democratic space and diminishing funding to threats to the physical security of their members. **(Based on E/CN.6/2022/3, para 29 and 31)**

11. The Commission acknowledges that building the resilience of women, their communities and societies to climate change and environmental and systemic risks is part of transforming unsustainable patterns of production and consumption across economies. It also acknowledges that both the natural environment and women's labour are treated as infinite resources that are undervalued despite being essential to all economies and the present and future wellbeing of people and the planet. It further acknowledges that access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure are fundamental for building resilience, although significant gender gaps remain in all areas, and that recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care and

domestic work and rewarding and representing paid care work would greatly contribute to this transformation. **(Based on E/CN.6/2022/3, para 36 and 45)**

12. The Commission recognizes that a gender-responsive just transition has the potential to create decent jobs for women and expresses concern that discriminatory social norms and persistent gender gaps in secondary and tertiary education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and occupational segregation keep young women from attaining quality jobs in the green economy and in climate, environment and disaster risk areas. It emphasizes that closing these gender gaps in access to education, information and skills is key for increasing women's and girls' resilience. **(Based on E/CN.6/2022/3, para 42)**

13. The Commission recognizes that climate stabilization and environmental sustainability with gender equality and care for people and the planet at the centre require significantly increased public and private financing to support countries to shift from fossil-fuel dependent to climate-resilient and low-carbon economies. It also recognizes the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It further recognizes that directing financing to women's organizations, cooperatives and enterprises, including women's informal businesses, is essential for advancing gender-responsive climate, environmental and disaster risk reduction initiatives. **(Based on E/CN.6/2022/3, para 32, 33 and 35)**

14. The Commission also recognizes the importance of the full engagement of men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. **(Based on CSW62 AC, para 45, CSW63 AC, para 46 and CSW65 AC, para 60)**

15. The Commission urges governments at all levels and as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, and invites civil society, inter alia, women's organizations, youth-led organizations, feminist groups, the private sector, national human rights institutions, where they exist, and other relevant stakeholders, as applicable, to take the following actions: **(Based on CSW62 AC, para 46, CSW63 AC, para 47 and CSW65, para 61)**

Integrating gender perspectives into climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

- (a) Fulfil existing commitments and obligations under the Rio conventions and the Sendai Framework related to climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction in a holistic and integrated manner, taking fully into account their gender action plans and calling for the creation of such plans where there are none and integrating gender perspectives into nationally determined contributions, national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (a))**

- (b) Promote and protect the right of women and girls to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and adopt policies for the enjoyment of this right; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (b))**
- (c) Recognize the disproportionate and distinct effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls, in particular those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and ensure that policies and programmes reflect these impacts to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls in cities and coastal and rural areas; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (c))**
- (d) Recognize the impacts of climate and environmental crises and disasters on women and girls in conflict- and crisis-affected settings, and systematically integrate gender perspectives into climate and security mechanisms and programming; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (d))**
- (e) Integrate gender perspectives into the design, funding, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity and environmental degradation and pollution, including microplastics, as well as into needs assessments, forecasting and early warning systems, and prevention, preparedness, response and recovery plans; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (e))**
- (f) Strengthen coordination and gender mainstreaming across sectors and all levels of government for the integrated formulation and implementation of gender-responsive climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (f))**
- (g) Strengthen the capacity of national gender equality mechanisms at all levels with sustainable and adequate funding, including through official development assistance, to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, delivery and evaluation of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (g))**

Promoting the participation and leadership of women

- (h) Ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women at all levels of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction governance, including in national institutions and delegations to the Conferences of the Parties to the Rio conventions and other decision-making forums, taking appropriate special measures, including quotas, with particular attention given to enabling the participation of young women; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (h))**
- (i) Leverage the participation and influence of women in managing the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, including in conflict- and crisis-affected settings; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (i))**

Expanding gender-responsive finance

- (j) Significantly increase investment in gender-responsive climate change and in environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, national and international resource mobilization and allocation, with increased priority given to gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (j))**

- (k) Fulfil existing climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction financial commitments, including the annual commitment of \$100 billion to support developing countries in addressing climate change, and integrating gender perspectives; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (k))**
- (l) Repurpose environmentally harmful subsidies for fossil fuels and agriculture to finance policies and programmes to strengthen and increase the resilience of women and girls to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (l))**
- (m) Increase public and private financing to women's organizations and enterprises for climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction initiatives; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (m))**

Building the resilience of women

- (n) Build and strengthen the resilience of women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters through the financing and provision of sustainable infrastructure and public services, social protection and decent work for women; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (n))**
- (o) Promote lifelong learning, training and education, including in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, for women and girls, and leverage the ancestral knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities for gender-responsive climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and disaster risk reduction; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (o))**
- (p) Take concrete measures to realize the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, to build the climate, environmental and disaster resilience of all women and girls; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (p))**
- (q) Prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in contexts of climate and environmental crises and disasters, ensuring the provision of essential services to victims and survivors of violence; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (q))**
- (r) Promote and protect the rights of women environmental human rights defenders and ensure that violations and abuses against them are investigated and that those responsible are held accountable in line with global and regional agreements, when applicable; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (r))**

Enhancing gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex

- (s) Strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and government institutions to collect, analyse, disseminate and use data on climate change, environmental and systemic risks and disaster impacts, disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics, including on links between climate change and child marriage and other areas with distinctive impacts on women and girls, and support developing countries in ensuring high-quality, reliable and timely gender statistics to inform climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (s))**

Fostering a gender-responsive, just transition

- (t) Support and finance gender-responsive, just transitions to regenerative green and blue economies with social protection and care at the centre; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (t))**
- (u) Invest in gender-responsive public services, universal social protection, health and care systems and sustainable transport and infrastructure to reduce the unpaid care and domestic work of women and girls, increase paid decent work for women and facilitate their participation in just transitions; **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (u))**
- (v) Promote the equal access of women to decent work in green and blue economic sectors, such as sustainable energy, fisheries, forestry and agroecology, by eliminating occupational segregation and discriminatory social norms. **(E/CN.6/2022/3, para 57 (v))**

16. The Commission recognizes its primary role for the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which its work is grounded, and stresses that it is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to ensure synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda. **(Based on CSW62 AC, para 47, CSW63 AC, para 48 and CSW65, para 62)**

17. The Commission calls upon the United Nations system entities, within their respective mandates, and other relevant international financial institutions and multi-stakeholder platforms to support Member States, upon their request, in their efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. **(Based on CSW62 AC, para 49, CSW63 AC, para 49 and CSW65, para 63)**

18. The Commission calls upon the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to continue to play a central role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and in supporting Governments and national gender equality mechanisms, upon their request, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector, employers' organizations and trade unions, and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. **(Based on CSW62 AC, para 52, CSW63 AC, para 51 and CSW65, para 64)**