



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND THE LINK TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2016 COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
AGREED CONCLUSIONS



NOTE TO THE READER

The 2016 session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women focused on “Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development” which resulted in a historic commitment to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The “**agreed conclusions**” adopted by the Commission on this topic at its sixtieth session (E/2016/27) provide a detailed roadmap on how to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a gender-responsive manner, so as to ensure that no one – no woman and no girl – is left behind.

The introductory part (paragraphs 1 to 22) sets out existing commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women. It reaffirms that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other outcome documents have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and welcomes the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It analyzes the links between various dimensions of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and recognizes that gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires the acceleration of action on both recent and long-standing commitments to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Following this introductory part, the Commission urges Governments and other stakeholders, to take action in the following five areas:

- Strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks (paragraphs 23 (a) to (x))

- Fostering enabling environments for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (paragraphs 23 (y) to (ee))
- Strengthening women’s leadership and women’s full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development (paragraphs 23 (ff) to (kk))
- Strengthening gender-responsive data collection and follow-up and review processes (paragraphs 23 (ll) to (nn))
- Enhancing national institutional arrangements (paragraphs 24 and 25).

The first section sets out actions needed to **strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks**. It calls for the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and of all goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a comprehensive manner. Actions address key areas of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the situation of different groups of women, as well as the roles of a range of stakeholders.

The second section aims to **foster enabling environments for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls**. Actions aim to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through implementation of the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, gender mainstreaming in financial, economic,

environmental and social policies and a gender-responsive approach to public financial management. Actions also call for significantly increased investment in order to close the resource gap for gender equality.

The third section calls for **strengthening women's leadership and women's full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development**. It includes specific measures to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation, including temporary special measures, and for sharing work and parental responsibilities. Actions to promote a safe and enabling environment for all civil society actors and to increase resources and support for women's and civil society organizations are also included in this section.

The fourth section targets the **strengthening of gender-responsive data collection and follow-up and review processes**. Actions aim for a gender-responsive approach in national follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, enhanced standards and methodologies for collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics, and technical and financial collaboration in data collection.

The last section calls for **enhancing national institutional arrangements**. This includes actions to strengthen the authority and capacity, including funding, of national mechanisms for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and enhanced coherence and coordination with relevant actors in national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures.

The **concluding paragraphs** (paragraphs 26 to 30) highlight the roles of other actors in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The entities of the United Nations system are called upon to support States; and UN-Women is called upon to continue to play a central role in supporting Member States, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders. The Commission's own role in these efforts is highlighted, including its contribution to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Governments and other stakeholders are now called upon to implement the actions contained in **the agreed conclusions** to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of their human rights. UN-Women stands ready to support all stakeholders in these efforts.

Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development

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 occasions of the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.
2. The Commission reaffirms 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, provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls throughout their life cycle.
3. The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, and also reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the promotion, protection and full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.
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 key actions for its further implementation. The Commission also reaffirms commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the recognition of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and recalls the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, held on 27 September 2015, and the meeting of the Security Council, held on 13 October 2015, on women and peace and security.
5. 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 that will leave no one behind.
6. The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives in their respective regions and countries in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including for sustainable development.
7. The Commission welcomes the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls contained in the 2030 Agenda, recognizes that women play a vital role as agents of development and acknowledges that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to making progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets. The Commission stresses that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if women and girls continue to be denied the full realization of their human rights and opportunities.
8. The Commission expresses concern that the feminization of poverty persists, and emphasizes that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The Commission acknowledges the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of

poverty, and the need to ensure an adequate standard of living for women and girls throughout the life cycle, including through social protection systems.

9. The Commission reaffirms that the realization of the right to education contributes to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, human rights, sustainable development and poverty eradication. The Commission notes with concern the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in, and completion of secondary education, which is key to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as enabling other positive social and economic outcomes. All women and girls must therefore enjoy access to lifelong learning opportunities and equal access to quality education at all levels, including early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education and technical and vocational training.
10. The Commission recognizes that women's equal economic rights, economic empowerment and independence are essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It underlines the importance of undertaking legislative and other reforms to realize the equal rights of women and men, as well as girls and boys where applicable, to access economic and productive resources, including land and natural resources, property and inheritance rights, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, and equal opportunities for women for full and productive employment and decent work, and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value. The Commission acknowledges the positive contribution of migrant women workers to inclusive growth and sustainable development.
11. The Commission further recognizes that achievement of the 2030 Agenda requires the full integration of women into the formal economy, including through their effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life and through changing the current gender-based division of labour to ensure that unpaid care and domestic work is equally shared and recognized, reduced and redistributed.
12. The Commission recognizes that conflicts, trafficking in persons, terrorism, violent extremism, natural

disasters, humanitarian emergencies and other emergency situations disproportionately affect women and girls. It therefore recognizes that it is essential to ensure that women are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes, that their needs and interests are prioritized in strategies and responses and that the human rights of women and girls are promoted and protected in all development efforts, as well as in conflict, humanitarian emergencies and other emergency situations.

13. The Commission stresses the need to ensure that no one is left behind in implementing the 2030 Agenda and in this regard recognizes the challenges faced by refugee women and girls and the need to protect and empower them, including in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, and the need to strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, and underscores the importance of development support for those communities, particularly in developing countries.
14. The Commission reiterates its concern over the challenge climate change poses to the achievement of sustainable development and that women and girls, who face inequality and discrimination, are often disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and other environmental issues, including, inter alia, desertification, deforestation, dust storms, natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification. Furthermore, the Commission recognizes, in line with the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, that countries should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote, and consider gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
15. The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against all women and girls. It expresses deep concern that discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular against those who are most vulnerable, continues in all parts of the world and that all forms of violence against women and girls, including, inter alia, sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence, trafficking in persons and femicide, among others, as well as harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, are impediments to the full achievement of gender equality and

the empowerment of women and girls, the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women and girls and the development of their full potential as equal partners with men and boys, as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

16. The Commission, while welcoming progress made towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, emphasizes that no country has fully achieved gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, that significant levels of inequality between women and men, girls and boys persist globally and that many women and girls experience vulnerability and marginalization owing to, inter alia, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination throughout their life cycle.
17. The Commission recognizes that gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires the acceleration of action on both recent and long-standing commitments to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
18. The Commission reaffirms the importance of significantly increased investment to close resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, the full implementation of official development assistance commitments and by combatting illicit financial flows, to build on progress achieved and strengthen international cooperation, including the role of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.
19. The Commission stresses the urgency of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and recalls that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial.
20. The Commission notes that the 2030 Agenda is of unprecedented scope and significance. It is accepted by all countries, is applicable to all and will be implemented within countries and at the regional and global levels, taking into account

different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policy space for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, in particular for developing States, while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments. The Commission affirms that Governments have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels with regard to progress made.

21. The Commission welcomes the major contributions made by civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders and girls' and youth-led organizations, in placing the interests, needs and visions of women and girls on local, national, regional and international agendas, including the 2030 Agenda, and recognizes the importance of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with them in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
22. The Commission recognizes the importance of fully engaging men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and as allies in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, as well as in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
23. The Commission, in order to continue working towards the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, 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 national human rights institutions where they exist, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, inter alia, women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, youth-led organizations, faith-based organizations, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media and other relevant actors, as applicable, to take the following actions:

Strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks

- (a) Consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of particular priority, 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, limit the extent of any reservations, formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Conventions, review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them, withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the relevant Convention and implement the Conventions fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation and policies;
- (b) Accelerate the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences as a foundation for sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and compliance of States Parties with 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;
- (c) Implement all goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature while respecting each country's policy space and leadership while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, including by developing cohesive sustainable development strategies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and by mainstreaming a gender perspective in all government policies and programs at all levels;
- (d) Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls through the development, where needed, adoption and accelerated and effective implementation and monitoring of laws and comprehensive policy measures, the removal, where they exist, of discriminatory provisions in legal frameworks, including punitive provisions, and setting up legal, policy, administrative and other comprehensive measures, including temporary special measures as appropriate, to ensure women's and girls' equal and effective access to justice and accountability for violations of the human rights of women and girls;
- (e) Enact legislation and undertake reforms to realize the equal rights of women and men, and where applicable girls and boys, to access economic and productive resources, including access to, ownership of, and control over land, property and inheritance rights, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, and equal opportunities for women for full and productive employment and decent work;
- (f) Promote women's economic rights and independence, women's right to work and rights at work through gender-responsive policies and programmes that promote decent work for all, ensure equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, protect women against discrimination and abuse in the workplace, invest in and empower women in all sectors in the economy by supporting women-led businesses, including by tailoring a range of approaches and instruments which facilitate access to universal public services, finance, training, technology, markets, sustainable and affordable energy and transport and trade;
- (g) Undertake all appropriate measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work by prioritizing social protection policies, including accessible and affordable quality social services, and care services for children, persons with disabilities, older persons, persons living with HIV and AIDS and all others in need of care, and promote the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men;
- (h) Promote a socially responsible and accountable private sector that acts in line with, among others, the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework, the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, labour, environmental and health standards, and the Women's Empowerment Principles established by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Global Compact, in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

- (i) Recognize the contribution of migrants, including women migrant workers, to sustainable development, and acknowledge the need to eliminate violence and discrimination against women migrant workers and to promote their empowerment, including through international, regional or bilateral cooperation among all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination;
- (j) Take concrete steps towards eliminating the practice of gender-based price differentiation, also known as the “pink tax”, whereby goods and services intended for or marketed to women and girls cost more than similar goods and services intended for or marketed to men and boys;
- (k) Urges governments to provide universal and equitable access for all to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene, in particular in schools, public facilities and buildings, paying special attention to the specific needs of all women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by inadequate water and sanitation facilities, are at greater risk of violence and harassment when practising open defecation and have specific needs for menstrual hygiene management, and to improve water management and wastewater treatment with the active participation of women;
- (l) Recognize the critical role of women as agents of change and leaders in addressing climate change, and promote a gender-responsive approach, the integration of a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies, financing, policies and processes, towards achieving the meaningful and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues and towards building the resilience of women and girls to the adverse effects of climate change;
- (m) Ensure that the rights and specific needs of women and girls affected and displaced by conflicts, trafficking in persons, terrorism, violent extremism, natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies and other emergency situations are addressed in national and international plans, strategies and responses, and also ensure the participation of women and girls at all levels of decision-making in emergency, recovery, reconstruction, conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes, provide education for all, especially girls, to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development and address sexual and gender-based violence as an integral and prioritized part of every humanitarian response, and in this respect, the Commission encourages the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, to give due consideration to integrating a gender perspective into its deliberations;
- (n) Refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;
- (o) Ensure the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, including, inter alia, safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;
- (p) Promote and respect women’s and girls’ right to education throughout their life cycle at all levels, especially for those who are the most left behind, by providing universal access to quality education, ensuring inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education, promoting learning opportunities for all, ensuring completion of primary and secondary education and eliminating gender disparities in access to all areas of secondary and tertiary

education, promoting financial literacy, ensuring that women and girls have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships, and adopting positive action to build women's and girls' leadership skills and influence, and adopt measures that promote, respect and guarantee the safety of women and girls in the school environment and that support women and girls with disabilities at all levels of education and training;

- (q) Mainstream a gender perspective into education and training programmes, including science and technology, eradicate female illiteracy and support school-to-work transition through skills development to enable women's and girls' active participation in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making, and create conditions that facilitate women's full participation and integration in the formal economy;
- (r) Adopt, review and ensure the accelerated and effective implementation of laws that criminalize violence against women and girls, as well as comprehensive, multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive preventive, protective and prosecutorial measures and services to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against all women and girls, in public and private spaces, as well as harmful practices;
- (s) Design and implement appropriate domestic policies at all levels that aim to transform discriminatory social attitudes and gender stereotypes and to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
- (t) Fully engage men and boys, including community leaders, as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls in both the public and private spheres, design and implement national policies and programmes that address the role and responsibility of men and boys and aim to ensure the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in caregiving and domestic work, transform with the aim to eliminate those social norms that condone violence against women and girls and attitudes and social norms by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys, including by understanding and addressing the root causes of gender inequality, such as unequal power relations, social norms, practices and stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination against women

and girls, and engage them in efforts to promote and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls for the benefit of both women and men, girls and boys;

- (u) Recognize the important role and contribution of rural women and girls, as well as local communities, to food security, poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and sustainable development and commit to supporting their empowerment, and ensure rural women's full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy and political decision-making;
- (v) Formulate and implement, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women and their organizations, policies and programmes designed to promote capacity-building and strengthen their leadership while recognizing the distinct and important role of indigenous women and girls in sustainable development, and prevent and eliminate discrimination and violence against indigenous women and girls, which has a negative impact on their human rights and fundamental freedoms, to which they are disproportionately vulnerable and which constitutes a major impediment to indigenous women's full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy, and political decision-making;
- (w) Take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational, employment and other measures to protect and promote the rights of all women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their full and effective participation and inclusion in society, and to address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination they face;
- (x) Recognize the family as a contributor to development, including in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals for women and girls, that gender equality and women's empowerment improve the well-being of the family, and in this regard stress the need for elaborating and implementing family policies aimed at achieving gender equality and women's empowerment and at enhancing the full participation of women in society;

Fostering enabling environments for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

- (y) Promote gender equality and the empowerment of women by reaffirming the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors and reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development;
- (z) Reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies, and adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment at all levels;
- (aa) Support and institutionalize a gender-responsive approach to public financial management, including gender-responsive budgeting and tracking across all sectors of public expenditure, to address gaps in resourcing for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and ensure that all national and sectoral plans and policies for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fully costed and adequately resourced to ensure their effective implementation;
- (bb) Take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, including by enhancing revenue administration through modernized, progressive tax systems, improved tax policy, more efficient tax collection and increased priority on gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance to build on progress achieved, and ensure that official development assistance is used effectively;
- (cc) Urge developed countries to fully implement their respective official development assistance commitments, including the commitment made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries, and encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets and help them, inter alia, to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- (dd) Strengthen international cooperation, including the role of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and the Commission invites all States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation, focusing on shared development priorities, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector, while noting that national ownership and leadership in this regard are indispensable for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- (ee) Implement macroeconomic, labour and social policies that promote full and productive employment and decent work for all in order to benefit women and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to enhance economic efficiency and optimize the contribution of women to economic growth and poverty reduction, promote processes to develop and facilitate the availability of appropriate knowledge and technologies globally, and increase awareness among decision-makers, the private sector and employers of the necessity of women's economic empowerment and their important contribution;

Strengthening women's leadership and women's full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development

- (ff) Take measures to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors and in public, social, economic and political life and in all areas of sustainable development;
- (gg) Take measures to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation, including through temporary special measures as appropriate, by setting and working to achieve concrete goals, targets and benchmarks, including by providing education and training, and by removing all barriers that directly and indirectly hinder the participation of women, and girls where applicable, in decision-making roles in all sectors and at all levels, such as lack of access to quality and inclusive education and training, as well as such barriers as violence, poverty, unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work, and gender stereotypes;
- (hh) Take measures to ensure women's effective participation at all levels and at all stages in peace processes and mediation efforts, conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and recovery, as set out in relevant Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security;
- (ii) Encourages States to recognize shared work and parental responsibilities between women and men in order to promote women's increased participation in public life, and take appropriate measures to achieve this, including measures to reconcile family, private and professional life;
- (jj) Promote a safe and enabling environment for all civil society actors so that they can fully contribute to the gender-responsive implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in line with the relevant provisions of the Agenda;
- (kk) Increase resources and support for grass-roots, local, national, regional and global women's and civil society organizations to advance and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls;

Strengthening gender-responsive data collection, follow-up and review processes

- (ll) Include a gender-responsive approach in the national follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda, taking into account, where applicable, the agreed global indicator framework, and strengthen national statistical capacity, including by enhancing technical and financial assistance to developing countries, to systematically design, collect and ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely data disaggregated by sex, age and income and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;
- (mm) Develop and enhance standards and methodologies at the national and international levels to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics on, inter alia, poverty, income distribution within households, unpaid care work, women's access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, participation at all levels of decision-making and violence against women, to measure progress for women and girls with regard to sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda;
- (nn) Enhance technical and financial collaboration between countries, with the support of United Nations entities, within their mandates, and the participation of civil society organizations as appropriate, with the aim of collecting data and statistics to follow up on and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from a gender equality perspective.

Enhancing national institutional arrangements

24. The Commission calls upon Governments to strengthen the authority and capacity, including through funding where possible, of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, at all levels, including to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective across all policies and programmes in all sectors of government in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and promote the visibility of and support for these mechanisms.
25. The Commission also calls upon Governments to enhance coherence and coordination of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders, where appropriate, to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
26. The Commission calls upon the United Nations system entities, within their respective mandates, to support States, upon their request, in their gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
27. 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 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.
28. The Commission calls upon UN-Women to continue to play a central role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and in supporting Member States, upon their request, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector 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 2030 Agenda.
29. The Commission recalls General Assembly resolution 70/163 and encourages the secretariat to consider how to enhance the participation, including at the sixty-first session of the Commission, of national human rights institutions that are fully compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), where they exist, in compliance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.
30. The Commission affirms that it will contribute to the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals taking place at the high-level political forum on sustainable development and will exercise its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that follow-up and review processes benefit all women and girls and contribute to the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is a global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Commission was established in 1946 with a mandate to prepare recommendations on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. It is also responsible for monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at all levels, and to support gender mainstreaming.

Representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with ECOSOC and other stakeholders participate in the Commission's annual session at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The session, which is usually held for ten days in March, provides an

opportunity to review progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women, identify challenges, and set global standards, norms and policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

The session includes plenary meetings, high-level round tables, interactive dialogues and panels, as well as many side events. Its principal outcome are the "agreed conclusions" on the priority theme, negotiated by all States.

UN Women serves as the substantive Secretariat for the Commission and in that capacity, supports all aspects of the Commission's work. UN Women prepares policy analysis and recommendations that form the basis for the Commission's deliberations on the themes selected for each session, as well as for negotiated outcomes. UN Women reaches out to stakeholders to create awareness and build alliances around the topics under consideration, and also facilitates the participation of civil society representatives in the Commission's sessions.

UN WOMEN IS THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.

UN WOMEN SUPPORTS UNITED NATIONS MEMBER STATES AS THEY SET GLOBAL STANDARDS FOR ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY, AND WORKS WITH GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO DESIGN LAWS, POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THESE STANDARDS. IT STANDS BEHIND WOMEN'S EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE, FOCUSING ON FIVE PRIORITY AREAS: INCREASING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION; ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN; ENGAGING WOMEN IN ALL ASPECTS OF PEACE AND SECURITY PROCESSES; ENHANCING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT; AND MAKING GENDER EQUALITY CENTRAL TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND BUDGETING. UN WOMEN ALSO CO-ORDINATES AND PROMOTES THE UN SYSTEM'S WORK IN ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY.



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