



SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS, ACCESS TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

2019 COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
AGREED CONCLUSIONS



NOTE TO THE READER

The 2019 session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women reached a strong set of recommendations on ways and means of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure. The “**agreed conclusions**” adopted by the Commission at its sixty-third session (E/2019/27) set out steps necessary to safeguard and improve all women’s and girls’ access to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure, ensuring that their design and delivery is transformed to prevent discrimination and create a ‘level playing field’ for all women and girls.

The **introductory part** (paragraphs 1 to 46) reaffirms existing commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. It highlights the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other outcome documents and their linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This part emphasizes that social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure are interlinked and mutually reinforcing; and calls for gender responsive integrated approaches to their design, implementation and evaluation. It also draws attention to the importance of not reversing the levels of protection previously achieved and of addressing the remaining gaps that constrain equal access for women and girls to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure.

Following this introductory part, the Commission outlined **policies and actions to be undertaken by Governments and other stakeholders in the following five areas**, with specific measures to tackle discrimination and address the needs of different groups of women and girls:

- **Strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks** (paragraphs 47 (a) to (dd));
- **Strengthen women’s and girls’ access to social protection** (paragraphs 47 (ee) to (mm));
- **Strengthen access to public services for women and girls** (paragraphs 47 (nn) to (aaa));
- **Make infrastructure work for women and girls** (paragraphs 47 (bbb) to (iii));
- **Mobilize resources, strengthen women’s participation and improve evidence** (paragraphs 47 (jjj) to (sss)).

The **concluding paragraphs** (paragraphs 48 to 51) highlight the roles of the Commission and other actors to enhance social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. 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 promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and in supporting governments and national women’s machineries, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector, employers’ organizations and trade unions and other relevant stakeholders.

Governments and other stakeholders are now called upon to implement the actions contained in the **agreed conclusions** to achieve gender equality and 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.

Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

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 and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.
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 and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 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 cycle.
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.
4. The Commission also 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 and the New Urban Agenda contribute, inter alia, to the improvement of the situation of all women and girls in the context of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure. The Commission recalls the Paris Agreement, adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
5. The Commission recalls the Declaration on the Right to Development and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.
6. The Commission recognizes the importance of relevant International Labour Organization standards related to the realization of women's right to work and rights at work that are critical for the economic empowerment of women, and to social protection and public services, including the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No.202) of the International Labour Organization, and recalls the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and notes the importance of their effective implementation.
7. The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives in their respective regions and countries, and their follow-up mechanisms, in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls including through promotion of their access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure.
8. The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, are crucial for the full and equal participation of women and girls in society and for women's economic empowerment and should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty and the reduction of social exclusion. The Commission 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.

9. The Commission reiterates that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development needs to be implemented in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and 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. 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.
10. The Commission emphasizes the mutually reinforcing relationship among achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It acknowledges that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and women's full and equal participation and leadership are essential for achieving sustainable development, promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, enhancing sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productivity, ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere and ensuring the well-being of all.
11. The Commission recognizes the progress made in women's and girls' access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, particularly in the areas of health and education. The Commission also recognizes that significant challenges and gender gaps remain, and that, in some contexts, progress could be undermined by budget cuts and austerity measures. The Commission stresses the importance of not reversing the levels of protection previously achieved and of addressing the remaining gaps that constrain equal access for women and girls to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure.
12. The Commission recognizes that progress in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women

and girls, and the full enjoyment of their human rights, has been held back owing to the persistence of historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty, inequalities and disadvantages in access to, ownership of and control over resources, growing gaps in equality of opportunity and limited access to social protection systems and public services, including universal health-care services and education, gender-based violence, discriminatory laws and policies, negative social norms and gender stereotypes and the unequal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work. It stresses the urgency of eliminating those structural barriers in order to realize gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

13. The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against all women and girls, which is rooted in historical and structural inequality and unequal power relations between men and women. It reiterates that violence against women and girls in all its forms and manifestations, in public and private spheres, including sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, are pervasive, underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level. It expresses deep concern that women and girls may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of multidimensional poverty, limited or lack of access to justice, effective legal remedies and services, including protection, rehabilitation, reintegration, and to health-care services. It re-emphasizes that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and that it violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
14. The Commission stresses that sexual harassment in private and public spaces, including in educational institutions and the workplace, as well as in digital contexts, leads to a hostile environment, which has a further negative impact on women and girls in the enjoyment of their rights and equal opportunities, including full and equal access to public services and sustainable infrastructure, and has negative and physical and mental health consequences for the victims and may negatively affect their families.
15. The Commission recognizes the importance of improving public services and infrastructure, such as

transportation and sanitation facilities, in order to enhance the safety of women and girls. The Commission expresses its concern that certain aspects of mobility and transportation, including inaccessible platforms, overcrowded carriages or poorly lit stops can create barriers for women and girls and can expose them to violence, including attacks, harassment and other threats to their safety, limiting their ability to move freely and safely in the public sphere. The Commission is also concerned that women and girls are particularly at risk while collecting household water and fuel and when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes.

16. The Commission recognizes that poverty, unemployment, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, lack of social protection, pervasive gender inequality and violence, discrimination, marginalization and persistent demand are among the underlying causes that make women and girls vulnerable to human trafficking.
17. The Commission expresses its deep concern about slow or stagnant economic growth and development, the rising inequalities within and among countries, volatile food and energy prices, continuing food and energy insecurity, the remaining effects of the world financial and economic crises, water scarcity, epidemics, demographic changes, unplanned and rapid urbanization of populations, insufficient investment in development, unsustainable fisheries practices and use of marine resources, natural hazards, natural disasters and environmental degradation, the increasing challenges caused by humanitarian emergencies, displacement, armed conflicts and the adverse impacts of climate change, all of which are exacerbating the disadvantages, vulnerabilities and inequalities that women and men, girls and boys and their families face in accessing social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure.
18. 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 indispensable for women's economic empowerment and sustainable development. It recognizes that parents, including young parents, who live in poverty may not have access to health and education for their children, thus perpetuating the cycle of intergenerational poverty. The Commission acknowledges the need

to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, comprehensive, participatory, gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues in order to ensure an adequate standard of living for women and girls, including through social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure.

19. The Commission expresses its concern about the continuing significant gender gaps in labour force participation and leadership, wages, income, pensions and social protection, as well as access to economic and productive resources. It is further concerned about the undervaluation of female-dominated industries, unequal working conditions and limited opportunities for career advancement, as well as the growing high incidence of informal and non-standard forms of employment where women are overrepresented. It also expresses concern that these factors can restrict women's access to social protection when entitlements are tied closely to formal employment, which can perpetuate women's economic insecurity and poverty. The Commission recognizes that investments in and the provision of equitable, inclusive, quality, accessible and affordable early childhood education and care services are crucial in enabling women to enter and remain in the labour market.
20. The Commission is deeply concerned that climate change poses challenges for poverty eradication and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure and sustainable development, and that women and girls, especially in developing countries, including small island developing States, are often disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, extreme weather events and natural disasters and other environmental issues, including land degradation, desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms, persistent drought, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification. Furthermore, the Commission recalls the Paris Agreement and that the parties thereto acknowledged that they should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and intergenerational equity and, in this context, also recalls the adoption of a gender action plan by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-third

session. It acknowledges the necessity for every person, including women and girls, of present and future generations to have access to an environment adequate to their health and well-being and the critical importance of ensuring such access for the empowerment of women and girls and the sustainable development and resilience of communities. The Commission recognizes the important role of sustainable development in averting the loss and damage associated with the effects of climate change and in reducing the risk of loss and damage, especially for women and girls in vulnerable situations, as well as the active role of women as agents of change in safeguarding the environment.

21. The Commission emphasizes that social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. It stresses the need for coordinated approaches, financing and policy coherence at all levels to ensure that social protection systems, public services and infrastructure policies complement one another.
22. The Commission stresses the need for integrated approaches to the design, implementation and evaluation of social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure that respond to the needs of women and girls and recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work, enable the mobility of women and girls, strengthen women's participation in public and political life, as well as their economic opportunities, in particular their full and productive employment and decent work and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and strengthen their resilience to shocks.
23. The Commission recognizes that social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure have not adequately addressed the needs of caregivers and care recipients. It further recognizes that women and girls often undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, including caring for children, older persons, persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV and AIDS, which continues to be undervalued and underrecognized. Such uneven distribution of responsibilities between women and men is a significant constraint for women's completion of, or progress in, education and training, on entry and re-entry and advancement in the paid labour market and on their economic opportunities and entrepreneurial activities, and can result in gaps in

social protection, pay and pensions. It also recognizes that creating an enabling environment for the social and economic empowerment of all women and girls requires addressing attitudes and negative social norms by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys at the household and community levels. The Commission stresses the need to recognize and adopt measures to reduce and redistribute the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household and by prioritizing, inter alia, sustainable infrastructure, nationally appropriate social protection policies and accessible, affordable and quality social services, including care services, child care, maternity, paternity or parental leave.

24. The Commission notes that universal access to social protection plays a central role in reducing inequality, eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and promoting inclusive growth. It reiterates that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their families, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and that motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. The Commission, however, is concerned that gaps in coverage remain, especially for women and girls. It recognizes that social protection systems can make a critical contribution to the fulfilment of human rights for all, in particular for those who are trapped in poverty and those who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations and subject to discrimination.
25. The Commission notes the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of all human rights, including the right to social security, as well as access to social protection systems, and expresses concern at the low levels of birth registration among some indigenous women and girls, women and girls with disabilities, migrant women and girls and women and girls in rural areas, and expresses further concern that all persons without birth registration may be more vulnerable to marginalization, exclusion, discrimination, violence, statelessness, exploitation and abuse.
26. The Commission reaffirms the right of every human being to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, without distinction of any kind, and recognizes that its

full realization is vital for women's and girls' lives and well-being and for their ability to participate in public and private life, and that it is crucial for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. It recognizes that targeting and eliminating the root causes of gender inequality, discrimination, stigma and violence in health-care services, including the unequal and limited access to public health services, is important for all women and girls.

27. The Commission emphasizes the need to accelerate progress towards the goal of universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to gender-responsive quality health services and quality, essential, affordable and effective medicines for all, and that it is critical to promote physical and mental health and well-being, especially through primary health care, health services and social protection mechanisms, including the promotion thereof through community outreach and private sector engagement and with the support of the international community. It stresses the importance of strengthening health systems in terms of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality in order to better respond to the needs of all women and girls, including those living in rural areas, and enabling the active participation of women in the design and implementation of health systems.
28. The Commission expresses its deep concern that, as a result of the lack of or limited access to essential health-care services and information and limited agency over their own lives, rural women experience significant disparities in health, including reproductive health outcomes, such as higher rates of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity and obstetric fistula, as well as more limited options for family planning, than women in urban areas. It expresses further concern that those disparities are exacerbated by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.
29. The Commission recognizes that, despite gains in providing access to education, girls are still more likely than boys to remain excluded from education. It also recognizes that among the gender-specific barriers to girls' equal enjoyment of their right to education are the feminization of poverty, child labour undertaken by girls, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, early and repeat pregnancies, all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence and harassment on the way to and from and at school, in their technology-mediated environment, the lack of safe and adequate sanitation facilities, including for menstrual hygiene management, the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work performed by girls and gender stereotypes and negative social norms that lead families and communities to place less value on the education of girls than that of boys and may influence the decision of parents to allow girls to attend school.
30. The Commission recognizes that women public service workers are underrepresented in leadership and decision-making roles, and overrepresented in front-line service delivery roles. The Commission further recognizes the need to provide workers with decent work and just and favourable conditions of work, including living wages, especially for women engaged in the delivery of public services.
31. The Commission recognizes that transport systems, when planned, should take into account the needs of women and girls, and that certain features, including inaccessible platforms, overcrowded carriages or poorly lit stops can create barriers for women's and girls' access to public services. The Commission reaffirms the importance of safe, affordable, accessible, age-, gender- and disability-sensitive and sustainable land and water transport systems and roadways that meet the needs of women and girls, and the commitment to enable meaningful participation of women and girls in social and economic activities by integrating transport and mobility plans into overall rural, urban and territorial plans and promoting a wide range of transport and mobility options.
32. The Commission expresses deep concern that women and girls face particular barriers in accessing safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, especially those living in isolated and remote communities, including in post-disaster settings, evacuation and refugee camps and in informal urban and rural settlements. It is also concerned that women and girls are particularly affected by water scarcity, unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene, and that they shoulder the main burden of collecting household water and care responsibilities arising from water-borne diseases in many parts of the world, restricting their time for other activities, such as education and leisure, or for earning a livelihood.

33. The Commission recognizes the potential benefits and challenges of new forms of information and communications technology, including artificial intelligence, for the use and delivery of public services, in fields such as social protection, public services and infrastructure while more attention needs to be paid to the impacts of such technology on women and girls.
34. The Commission acknowledges the benefit of implementing family-oriented policies aimed, inter alia, at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the full participation of women in society, work-family balance and the self-sufficiency of the family unit and recognizes the need to ensure that all social and economic development policies, including social protection policies, as well as public services and sustainable infrastructure, are responsive to the changing needs and expectations of families in fulfilling their numerous functions and that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected.
35. The Commission recognizes that the sharing of family responsibilities creates an enabling family environment for women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, which contributes to development, that women and men make a significant contribution to the welfare of their family, and that, in particular, women's contribution to the home, including unpaid care and domestic work, which is still not adequately recognized, generates human and social capital that is essential for social and economic development.
36. The Commission acknowledges the important role of national mechanisms for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, the relevant contribution of national human rights institutions, where they exist, and the important role of civil society in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
37. The Commission acknowledges that all women and girls may not be able to fully access and benefit from social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure when they face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization. It respects and values the diversity of situations and conditions of women and girls and recognizes that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment. It also stresses that while all women and girls have the same human rights, women and girls in different contexts have particular needs and priorities, requiring appropriate responses.
38. The Commission recognizes that the positive contributions of migrant women and girls, in particular women migrant workers, have the potential to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination. It underlines the value and dignity of migrant women's labour in all sectors, including the labour of domestic and care workers. It is concerned that many migrant women, particularly those who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work, are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. The Commission acknowledges the importance of assisting women migrant workers at all skills levels to have access to social protection in countries of destination and profit from the portability of applicable social security entitlements and earned benefits in their countries of origin or when they decide to take up work in another country. The Commission also recognizes the need to strengthen efforts to provide, make available and disseminate accurate, timely, accessible and transparent information on migration-related aspects for and between States, communities and migrants at all stages of migration.
39. The Commission acknowledges the need to address the effects of armed conflict and post-conflict situations on women and girls, including victims and survivors of sexual violence, and their access to social protection systems.
40. The Commission recognizes the challenges faced by refugee women and girls and the need to protect and empower them, including in countries affected by armed conflict and post-conflict situations, and the need to strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees by providing humanitarian assistance to people in need.
41. The Commission stresses the importance of strengthening the voice, agency, participation and leadership of women and girls as users and beneficiaries of social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure. It also acknowledges the

full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and leadership of women at all levels of decision-making in the design, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies in these sectors so that they support the empowerment of women and girls and address remaining gaps and biases.

42. The Commission welcomes the major contributions made by civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders, girls' and youth-led organizations and trade unions in placing the interests, needs and visions of women and girls, including those living in rural areas, on local, national, regional and international agendas, including the 2030 Agenda. It also recognizes the importance of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with civil society in the implementation of measures to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
43. The Commission reaffirms the importance of significantly increasing investments to close resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through, inter alia, 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 combating illicit financial flows, so as to build on progress achieved and strengthen international cooperation, including 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. It also affirms that accelerated investments in social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure, including in rural areas and outer islands, are important for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
44. The Commission underscores that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, and recognizes that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels, including well-functioning, efficient and transparent tax systems.

45. The Commission recognizes the importance of a conducive external environment in support of national efforts towards the economic empowerment of women, through promoting the control, ownership, management and participation of women in all sectors and levels of the economy, which includes the mobilization of adequate financial resources, capacity-building and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, which in turn would enhance the use of enabling technologies to promote women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.
46. The Commission 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 promotion of women's and girls' access to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure and in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

47. 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, producer, agricultural and fisheries organizations, youth-led organizations, feminist groups, faith-based organizations, the private sector, national human rights institutions, where they exist, and other relevant stakeholders, as applicable, to take the following actions:

Strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks

- (a) Take action to fully implement existing commitments and obligations with respect to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms so as to improve their lives, livelihoods and well-being;
- (b) 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;

- (c) Ensure women's full and equal participation, including in institutions of governance and the judicial system, and secure their empowerment and full and equal access to justice;
- (d) Consider ratification of and, for those that have done so, implementation of the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization, and note the importance of other relevant international labour standards, namely the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) and the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204) of the International Labour Organization, as well as the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), on decent work for domestic workers, of the International Labour Organization, in order to contribute to women's access to social protection;
- (e) 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;
- (f) Ensure the right to social security in national legal frameworks, as well as ensure universal access to social protection, supported by national strategies, policies, action plans and adequate resources, to enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- (g) Adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to the design, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure to ensure that gender-responsive policymaking processes, including public financial management and public procurement processes, are designed to realize gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- (h) Ensure that social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure contribute to efforts to eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and end impunity, and to provide protection and equal access to appropriate remedies and redress to comprehensive social, health and legal services for all victims and survivors to support their full recovery and reintegration into society, including by providing access to psychosocial support and rehabilitation, and access to affordable housing and employment, and bearing in mind the importance of all women and girls living free from violence, such as sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicide, as well as elder abuse; and address the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination, monitoring and evaluation by, inter alia, encouraging awareness-raising activities, including through publicizing the societal and economic costs of violence, and working with local communities;
- (i) Eliminate harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, which may have long-term effects on girls' and women's lives, health and bodies, including increased vulnerability to violence and sexually transmitted diseases, and which continue to persist in all regions of the world despite the increase in national, regional and international efforts, including by empowering all women and girls, working with local communities to combat negative social norms that condone such practices and empowering parents and communities to abandon such practices, confronting family poverty and social exclusion and ensuring that girls and women at risk or affected by these practices have access to social protection and public services, including education and health care;
- (j) Devise, strengthen and implement comprehensive anti-trafficking strategies that integrate a human rights and sustainable development perspective, and enforce, as appropriate, legal frameworks, in a gender- and age-sensitive manner, to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons and raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls; take

measures to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to modern slavery and sexual exploitation; provide access, as applicable, to protection and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking in persons; strengthen cooperation among all relevant actors to identify and disrupt illicit financial flows stemming from trafficking in women and girls, while also recognizing the need to protect the confidentiality of personal data of victims; and enhance international cooperation, information sharing, legislative and other measures to counter the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and girls;

- (k) Take all appropriate measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the reconciliation of work and family life, the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men and men's equitable sharing of responsibilities with respect to care and household work, including as fathers and caregivers, through flexibility in working arrangements, without reductions in labour and social protections, support for breastfeeding mothers, the provision of infrastructure, technology and public services, such as water and sanitation, renewable energy, transport and information and communications technology, and the implementation and promotion of legislation and policies such as maternity, paternity, parental and other leave schemes, as well as accessible, affordable and quality social services, including child care and care facilities for children and other dependants, take steps to measure the value of this work in order to determine its contribution to the national economy, and challenge gender stereotypes and negative social norms in order to create an enabling environment for women's empowerment;
- (l) Ensure access to social protection for unpaid caregivers of all ages, including coverage for health care and pensions, and in this regard strengthen social protection schemes that promote, as appropriate, the economic, social and legal recognition of unpaid care and domestic work, and allow such work to be valued within contributory schemes;
- (m) Invest in and strengthen family-oriented policies and programmes that are responsive to the diverse, specific and changing needs of women and girls and their families, as well as address the imbalances, risks and barriers that they face in enjoying their

rights and protect all family members against any form of violence, and ensure that adequate measures are in place to protect and support women, including in cases of widowhood, such as access to the full range of social services and access to justice, as those policies and programmes are important tools for, inter alia, fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity;

- (n) Fully engage men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies in: promoting women's and girls' access to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure; eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, in both public and private spheres, by understanding and addressing the root causes of gender inequality, such as unequal power relations, gender stereotypes and practices that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls; designing and implementing national policies and programmes that address the roles and responsibilities of men and boys, including the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in care and domestic work; ensuring the enforcement of child support laws; and transforming, with the aim of eliminating, negative social norms that condone violence against women and girls and attitudes by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys;
- (o) Integrate a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies, plans and programmes, including budget policies, where lacking, on social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, ensuring coordination between line ministries, gender policymakers, gender equality mechanisms and other relevant government organizations and institutions with gender expertise, and appropriate collaboration with the private sector, non-governmental and civil society organizations and national human rights institutions, where they exist, paying increased attention to the needs of women and girls to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres;
- (p) Guarantee the universal registration of births and ensure the timely registration of all marriages, including by removing physical, administrative,

procedural and other barriers that impede access to registration and by providing, where lacking, mechanisms for the registration of births and marriages, including customary and religious marriages, bearing in mind the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of the rights of individuals, including the right to social security, as well as access to public services;

- (q) Strengthen the capacity of national mechanisms for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, 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 social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, enhancing their linkages and implementing these three focus areas;
- (r) Eliminate all forms of discrimination against all women and girls and implement targeted measures to address, inter alia, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and ensure that all women and girls enjoy equal access, both in law and in practice, to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, which can, inter alia, contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and, in particular, the feminization of poverty, and to the reduction of inequalities through the adoption, where needed, of laws and comprehensive policy measures and their effective and accelerated implementation and monitoring, ensuring women's and girls' access to justice and accountability for violations of their human rights; and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations;
- (s) Promote and protect the rights of indigenous women and girls living in rural and remote areas by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face, including violence, ensuring access to quality and inclusive education, health care, public services, economic resources, including land and natural resources, and women's access to decent work, and promoting their meaningful participation in the economy and in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, while respecting and protecting their traditional and ancestral knowledge, recognizing that indigenous women and girls living in rural and

remote areas, regardless of age, often face violence and higher rates of poverty, limited access to health-care services, information and communications technologies, infrastructure, financial services, education and employment, while also recognizing their cultural, social, economic, political and environmental contributions, including to climate change mitigation and adaptation;

- (t) Promote and protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities, who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including by ensuring their access, on an equal basis with others, to economic and financial resources and disability-inclusive and accessible social infrastructure, transportation, justice mechanisms and services, in particular in relation to health and education and productive employment and decent work for women with disabilities, as well as by ensuring that the priorities and rights of women and girls with disabilities are fully incorporated into policies and programmes and that they are closely consulted and actively involved in decision-making processes;
- (u) Adopt national gender-responsive migration policies and legislation, in line with relevant obligations under international law, to: protect the human rights of all migrant women and girls, regardless of migration status; recognize the skills and education of women migrant workers to promote their economic empowerment in all sectors and, as appropriate, facilitate their productive employment, decent work and integration into the labour force, including in the fields of education and science and technology; recognize the importance of protecting labour rights and a safe environment for women migrant workers and those in precarious employment, including preventing and addressing abuse and exploitation, protecting women migrant workers in all sectors and promoting labour mobility; provide newly arrived migrant women with targeted, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, accessible and comprehensive information and legal guidance on their rights and obligations, including on compliance with national and local laws, obtaining work and resident permits, status adjustments, registration with authorities, access to justice to file complaints about rights violations, as well as access to basic services; encourage cooperation among various stakeholders, including countries of origin, transit and destination, in ensuring that migrant women and girls have adequate identification and the provision of relevant documents to facilitate access to social

protection mechanisms; and facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returning migrant women and girls by providing them with equal access to social protection and services;

- (v) Take measures to adopt or develop legislation and policies that provide rural women with access to land and support women's cooperatives and agricultural programmes, including for subsistence agriculture and fisheries, in order to contribute to school feeding programmes as a pull factor to keep children, in particular girl children, in school, noting that school meals and take-home rations attract and retain children in schools and recognizing that school feeding is an incentive to enhance enrolment and reduce absenteeism, especially for girls;
 - (w) Strengthen efforts to achieve universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and provide HIV-sensitive social protection measures, including cash transfers and other multisectoral programmes, as appropriate, to ensure access to health care, education, housing and employment for all women and girls living with, at risk of or affected by HIV and AIDS, including co-infections and other sexually transmitted infections; address their specific needs and concerns without stigma or discrimination; and promote the active and meaningful participation, contribution and leadership of women and girls living with HIV and AIDS in HIV and AIDS responses;
 - (x) Promote the effective and meaningful participation of older women, where relevant, in the design and implementation of normative and political frameworks related to social security and social protection systems, public services and infrastructure that benefit them;
 - (y) Promote access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure and mainstream a gender perspective when designing and monitoring public policies, taking into account the specific needs and realities of women and girls of African descent and bearing in mind the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024);
 - (z) Ensure that women and girls belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities have equal and non-discriminatory access to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure, including quality education, and take steps to provide affordable child care and affordable transportation to and from work;
- (aa) Eliminate occupational segregation by addressing structural barriers, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, promoting women's equal access to and participation in labour markets and in education and training, supporting women so as to diversify their educational and occupational choices in emerging fields and growing economic sectors, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics and information and communications technology, and recognizing the value of sectors that have large numbers of women workers;
 - (bb) Enact or strengthen and enforce laws and regulations that uphold the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value in the public and private sectors as a critical measure to eliminate the gender pay gap, provide in this regard effective means of redress and access to justice in cases of non-compliance, and promote the implementation of equal pay policies through, for example, social dialogue, collective bargaining, job evaluations, awareness-raising campaigns, pay transparency and gender pay audits, as well as through certification and review of pay practices and increased availability of data and analysis on the gender pay gap;
 - (cc) Provide social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure that support the productivity and economic viability of women's work and protect women, especially those working in the informal economy, in rural and urban areas, while supporting their transition from the informal to the formal economy to ensure an adequate standard of living, and take measures to address unsafe and unhealthy working conditions in the informal economy by promoting occupational safety and health protection for workers in the informal economy;
 - (dd) Take measures to facilitate the financial inclusion and financial literacy of women and their equal access to formal financial services, including timely and affordable credit, loans, savings, insurance and remittance transfer schemes; integrate a gender perspective into finance sector policy and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, encourage financial institutions, such as commercial banks, development banks, agricultural banks, microfinance institutions, mobile network operators, agent networks, cooperatives, postal banks and

savings banks, to provide access to financial products, services and information to women and encourage the use of innovative tools and platforms, including online and mobile banking;

Strengthen women's and girls' access to social protection

- (ee) Encourage and recognize the efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection systems and measures, including national safety nets and programmes for all women and girls, such as food and cash-for-work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and increase investment, capacity-building and systems development;
- (ff) Improve the design, implementation and evaluation of social protection systems and nationally appropriate measures based on context-specific assessment of risks and vulnerabilities for all women and girls;
- (gg) Work towards establishing or strengthening inclusive and gender-responsive social protection systems, including floors, to ensure full access to social protection for all without discrimination of any kind, and take measures to progressively achieve higher levels of protection, including facilitating the transition from informal to formal work;
- (hh) Ensure that social protection measures are effectively incorporated into humanitarian response in the context of natural disasters, armed conflict and post-conflict situations and other emergencies, while strengthening gender-responsive programming and planning; and recognize the important role social protection systems can play in disaster risk management strategies in building the resilience of communities and individuals and helping them cope with shocks, including those related to climate change, including through the transition of short-term emergency response programmes into long-term social protection systems;
- (ii) Implement nutrition policies and provide integrated food and nutritional support and services, with special attention to women, girls, infants and young children; ensure their access at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food requirements for an active and healthy life; and support adequate care and

optimal feeding practices, especially during pregnancy, lactation and infancy when the nutritional requirements are increased, including promoting exclusive breastfeeding up to six months, with adequate complementary feeding thereafter, therefore contributing to women's full and equal access to social protection and resources;

- (jj) Promote legal, administrative and policy measures that strengthen unemployment protection schemes and ensure women's full and equal access to pensions, including access to income security for older women, through contributory and/or non-contributory schemes that are independent of their employment trajectories, and reduce gender gaps in coverage and benefit levels;
- (kk) Assist migrant workers at all skills levels to have access to social protection in countries of destination and to profit from the portability of applicable social security entitlements and earned benefits in their countries of origin or when they decide to take up work in another country;
- (ll) Guarantee access to maternity protection and promote, inter alia, paid maternity, paternity and parental leave and adequate social security benefits for both women and men, taking appropriate steps to ensure they are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits and promoting men's awareness and incentivizing their use of such opportunities, as a means of enabling women to increase their participation in the labour market; recognize the social significance of maternity, paternity, motherhood, fatherhood and the shared responsibility of parents in the upbringing of children; and provide appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities through the development of universal and affordable services and facilities for the care of children, including breastfeeding facilities in the workplace;
- (mm) Assess the need for and promote the revision of conditionalities, where they exist, related to cash transfer programmes, inter alia, to avoid reinforcing gender stereotypes and exacerbating women's unpaid work; and ensure that they are adequate, proportional and non-discriminatory and that non-compliance does not lead to punitive measures that exclude women and girls who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations;

Strengthen access to public services for women and girls

- (nn) Ensure that quality public services are available, affordable, accessible and acceptable to all women and girls, including in situations of natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, displacement and armed conflict and post-conflict situations;
- (oo) Prioritize investments that contribute to the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including through accessible and affordable child care and other support services; extend the coverage and ensure equitable, inclusive, quality, accessible and affordable early childhood education and care services and facilities; and increase the availability of after-school services for children and adolescents;
- (pp) Identify and remove barriers that constrain women's and girls' access to public services, such as geographic, legal and institutional barriers, including in rural and remote areas, in order to guarantee their access to these services on a regular basis and during emergencies;
- (qq) Take concrete measures to realize the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health for all women and girls; and ensure the availability, accessibility and acceptability of quality health-care services to address all communicable and non-communicable diseases, including through universally accessible primary health care and support services and social protection mechanisms;
- (rr) Accelerate progress towards the goal of universal health coverage for all women and girls that comprises universal and equitable access to affordable, quality, essential and effective health-care services and medicines for all, while ensuring that the use of such services and medicines does not expose the users to financial hardship;
- (ss) Ensure and increase financial investments in affordable and accessible quality public health-care systems and facilities for all women and girls with safe, effective, quality, essential and affordable medicines and vaccines for all, as well as health technologies, the systematic utilization of new technologies and integrated health information systems, including through community outreach, private sector engagement and the support of the international community;
- (tt) Increase investments in a more effective, socially accountable, motivated, appropriately equipped and well-trained health workforce, with ongoing education and training; and address the shortage and inequitable distribution of health-care workers by promoting decent work with adequate remuneration and incentives to secure the presence of qualified health-care professionals in rural and remote areas, including by utilising digital technologies for health-care providers and patients, enabling safe working environments and conditions and expanding community-based health education and training;
- (uu) Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, and recognizing that the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on all matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, as a contribution to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and the realization of their human rights;
- (vv) Take measures to reduce maternal, neonatal, infant and child mortality and morbidity and increase access to quality health care before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth for all women through interventions such as improving transportation and health-care infrastructure, to ensure that women can access emergency obstetric services, and training and equipping community health workers, nurses and midwives to provide basic prenatal and postnatal care and emergency obstetric care, inter alia, by providing voluntary, informed family planning and empowering women, to identify risk factors and complications of pregnancy and childbirth and facilitating their access to health facilities;
- (ww) Promote and respect women's and girls' right to education throughout the life cycle and at all

levels, especially for those who have been left furthest behind, and address gender disparities, including by investing in public education systems and infrastructure, eliminating discriminatory laws and practices, providing universal access to inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education, including free and compulsory primary and secondary education, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, eliminating female illiteracy and promoting financial and digital literacy, ensuring that women and girls have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships, adopting positive actions to build women's and girls' leadership skills and influence and supporting women and girls in diversifying their educational and occupational choices in emerging fields, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics and information and communications technology; strive to ensure the completion of early childhood, primary and secondary education and expand vocational and technical education for all women and girls, and foster, as appropriate, intercultural and multi-lingual education for all; and address negative social norms and gender stereotypes in education systems, including in curricula and teaching methodologies, that devalue girls' education and prevent women and girls from having access to, completing and continuing their education;

(xx) Ensure that pregnant adolescents and young mothers, as well as single mothers, can continue and complete their education, and in this regard, design, implement and, where applicable, revise educational policies to allow them to remain in and return to school, providing them with access to health care and social services and support, including childcare and breastfeeding facilities and crèches, and to education programmes with accessible locations, flexible schedules and distance education, including e-learning, and bearing in mind the important role and responsibilities of, and challenges faced by, fathers, including young fathers, in this regard;

(yy) Continue to develop and strengthen appropriate policies, strategies and programmes to enhance the employability of women, including young women, and their access to better remunerated employment options through formal and nonformal education, educational curricula and skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining

and long-distance education; facilitate women's access to and opportunities in emerging fields, such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, information and communications technology and technical development, by expanding the scope of education and training, particularly in developing countries; and enhance women's and, as appropriate, girls' participation as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders;

(zz) Develop policies and programmes with the support, where appropriate, of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education programmes, including scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education that is relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the best interests of the child as their basic concern, information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and foster informed decision-making, communication and risk-reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to, inter alia, enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and other risks;

(aaa) Create opportunities, improve employment standards and promote conditions of decent work, security, social protection and decent remuneration for front-line women workers in the delivery of public services, such as health care and education, which are traditionally undervalued sectors, with a majority of female workers, and ensure their access to positions of decision-making and leadership;

Make infrastructure work for women and girls

(bbb) Develop and adopt gender-responsive strategies on mitigation and adaptation to climate change to support the resilience and adaptive capacities

of women and girls to respond to and recover from adverse impacts of climate change, including natural disasters and extreme weather events, through the provision of essential infrastructure, social protection and public services that are sustainable, as well as appropriate financing technology, humanitarian assistance and forecast and early warning systems, and through, inter alia, the promotion of their health and well-being, as well as access to sustainable livelihoods and the provision of adequate resources, while ensuring women's meaningful participation in decision-making, at all levels, on environmental issues, in particular on strategies and policies related to the impacts of climate change, and by ensuring the integration of the specific needs of women and girls into humanitarian responses to natural disasters, into the planning, delivery, implementation and monitoring of disaster risk reduction policies, in particular, urban and rural infrastructure and land-use planning and resettlement and relocation planning during the aftermath of natural disasters, and into sustainable natural resources management; and ensure that social protection systems, public services and infrastructure are sustainable through the integration of climate-smart dimensions and tools, including accurate and downscaled climate services developed in participation with the sectors involved, connecting science, policy and practice;

- (ccc) Increase access of women to digital technologies to enhance their productivity and mobility in the labour market; enhance efficiency, accountability and transparency of social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure through enhanced use of information and communications technologies for the benefit of women and girls, including for those hardest to reach; work towards closing digital gender divides and promoting equal access to information and communications technologies and to the Internet for women and girls, explore appropriate ways to address any potential negative impact of new technologies on gender equality; and ensure that programmes, services and infrastructure are adaptable and suited to meet different positive cultural values and technological barriers, including literacy;
- (ddd) Conduct systematic and transparent assessments of the gender and environmental impacts of infrastructure projects with the full, equal and effective participation of women and girls through social

dialogues, thereby promoting the enjoyment of their human rights;

- (eee) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water, as well as access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all women and girls, as well as for menstrual hygiene management, including for hygiene facilities and services, in homes, schools, temporary shelters for refugees, migrants or people affected by natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies or armed conflict and post-conflict situations and in all other public and private spaces; take measures to reduce the time spent by women and girls on collecting household water; address the negative impact of inadequate and inequitable access to drinking water and to sanitation and energy services on the access of girls to education; and promote women's full, effective and equal participation in decision-making on water and sanitation;
- (fff) Ensure that every household has access to adequate levels of affordable and reliable electricity through appropriate grid and decentralized off-grid solutions, including from renewable energy sources, that are adequately maintained and support women's and girls' specific livelihood needs;
- (ggg) Provide targeted support and incentives for women's participation and leadership as users and producers of energy; and strengthen the provision of clean fuel for cooking to curb indoor air pollution, which disproportionately affects women and children;
- (hhh) Integrate a gender perspective into the planning and use of public spaces, the design and development of smart cities, communities and rural areas and intelligent mobility planning processes; and promote the mobility and empowerment of women and girls, including those with disabilities and those who are homeless, and promote inclusive societies, including through adequate housing, and in doing so ensure that public urban, rural and peripheral transport, including land and water transport systems and infrastructure, are sustainable, accessible, safe, affordable and gender-responsive, that they take into account the different needs of women and men, girls and boys and are adapted to be used by persons with disabilities and older persons;

- (iii) Promote safe public spaces and improve the security and safety of women and girls through gender-responsive rural and urban planning and infrastructure, including sustainable, safe, accessible and affordable public transportation systems, prevent and eliminate violence and harassment against women on their journey to and from work, and protect women and girls from being physically threatened or assaulted, including from sexual violence, while collecting household water and fuel and when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or practicing open defecation;

Mobilize resources, strengthen women's participation and improve evidence

- (jjj) Take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, for example 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 policies, 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 to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- (kkk) Take steps in the design, implementation and pursuit of fiscal policies and gender responsive-budgeting to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by, inter alia, optimizing fiscal expenditures to extend social protection coverage, facilitating greater access to social protection and financial and business services, including credit for women, and promoting costing and cost-benefit calculation of the investments needed to ensure access to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure, bearing in mind that such policies and budgeting play a critical role in reducing poverty and inequality and supporting inclusive growth;
- (III) Encourage the international community and promote partnerships to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its

forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and to protect the poor and people in vulnerable situations, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, improving tax systems, promoting access to financial services, enhancing productive capacity, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, encouraging the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all;

- (mmm) 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 the 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 to help them, inter alia, to promote social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
- (nnn) Strengthen international and regional cooperation, including 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 invite 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 and for improving their lives and well-being;
- (ooo) Support the important role of civil society actors in promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women; take steps to protect such actors, including women human rights defenders, and to integrate a gender perspective into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights and to prevent violations and abuses

against them in rural areas, inter alia, threats, harassment and violence, in particular on issues relating to labour rights, the environment, land and natural resources; and combat impunity by taking steps to ensure that violations or abuses are promptly and impartially investigated and that those responsible are held accountable;

- (ppp) Ensure equal opportunities for women and girls in cultural, recreational and sport activities in all areas, including administration, management and participation in physical activities and sports at the national, regional and international levels, such as access, coaching, training, competition, remuneration and prizes;
- (qqq) Consider evaluating the costs and benefits of private sector participation in social protection systems, public service delivery and infrastructure development;
- (rrr) Create and strengthen gender-responsive accountability mechanisms, such as audits, and include beneficiaries and users in the evaluation of social protection, public service and infrastructure projects;
- (sss) Strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex, income, age, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, to support policies and actions to improve the situation of women and girls through access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, and to monitor and track the implementation of such policies and actions, and enhance partnerships and the mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance to enable developing countries to systematically design, collect and ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely disaggregated data and gender statistics.

48. 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.

49. 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 enhance social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

50. The Commission recalls General Assembly resolution 72/181 of 19 December 2017, and encourages the secretariat to continue its consideration of how to enhance the participation, including at the sixty-fourth 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 (the Paris Principles), where they exist, in compliance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

51. 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 women's machineries, 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, including social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

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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