

# ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CRISIS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION:

## CSW66 agreed conclusions and ways forward for addressing VAWG and climate change linkages in policies, decision making and programming



In 2022, the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) convened Member States and key stakeholders from around the world to consider the priority theme of “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.” This marked the first time CSW placed primary focus on gender and climate change linkages, and represented a key opportunity to build on the information and progress made on these linkages in climate change decision making spaces over the last several decades.

CSW66 also represented an opportunity to increase international attention to emerging topics and issues, including the growing evidence base detailing the devastating impacts and intersections between climate change and violence against women and girls (VAWG).<sup>1</sup>

This brief, a supplement to the prior paper jointly developed by UN Women and IUCN on [“Tackling violence against women and girls in the context of climate change”](#), highlights how GBV and climate change linkages have

been integrated within CSW66 agreed conclusions and recommended actions, and discusses key opportunities drawn from examples of promising practices and adaptable resources for implementing them.

### VAWG AND CLIMATE CHANGE LINKAGES IN CSW66 AGREED CONCLUSIONS<sup>2</sup>

The conclusions from annual CSW sessions play a critical role in shaping international priorities and actions on gender equality and the advancement of women’s rights across thematic areas. The CSW66 conclusions emphasize that ending VAWG is a critical part of gender equality, and that advancing gender equality is a necessary component of effective climate change action. Importantly, the conclusions also explicitly address linkages between these issues (Box 1). The inclusion of these urgent issues as part of the agreed conclusions is a vital step for driving progress and supporting collaboration between ending VAWG and climate action decision makers and practitioners.

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**“The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against women and girls, which are rooted in historical and structural inequalities and unequal power relations between men and women. It recognizes that the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental challenges increase and exacerbate the vulnerability of women and girls to discrimination and all forms of violence.” - Paragraph 39 of the CSW66 Agreed Conclusions<sup>3</sup>**

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## Box 1: VAWG and climate change linkages in the CSW66 agreed conclusions

The following are summaries of the VAWG and climate change linkages included in the CSW66 agreed conclusions. This box does not include paragraphs where issues are addressed separately – it also does not include linkages included in the recommended actions of the CSW66 agreed conclusions, which are discussed in the next section of this brief.

Paragraph	
23	“The Commission stresses the urgency of eliminating persistent historical and structural inequalities, racism, stigmatization and xenophobia, unequal power relations between women and men, discriminatory laws and policies, negative social norms and gender stereotypes, the unequal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, gender-based violence, (...) to realize gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.”
26	“The Commission is concerned that climate change, environmental degradation and more frequent and intense disasters caused by natural hazards often result in the loss of homes and livelihoods (...). It recognizes that, as a result of displacement, including forced and prolonged displacement, women and girls face specific challenges, including separation from support networks, homelessness, increased risk of all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and reduced access to employment, education and essential health-care services (...) and psychosocial support.”
28	“The Commission expresses concern that the economic and social fallout of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has compounded the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters (...) and [over] the reported surge in all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, as well as harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.”
35	“The Commission welcomes the major contributions of civil society organizations, especially women’s, young women’s, girls’, youth-led, grass-roots and community-based organizations, rural, indigenous and feminist groups, women human rights defenders, women journalists and media professionals and trade unions in promoting and protecting the human rights of all women and girls, (...) including in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. It expresses concern that such civil society organizations face many challenges and barriers (...) as well as violence, harassment, reprisals directed at, and threats to the physical security of, their members.”
39	“The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against women and girls(...). It recognizes that the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental challenges increase and exacerbate the vulnerability of women and girls to discrimination and all forms of violence. It reiterates that violence against women and girls in all its forms and manifestations, online and offline, in public and private spheres, including sexual and gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment, domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicide, harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, as well as child and forced labour, trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation and abuse are pervasive, underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level. (...) It re-emphasizes that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and that it violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.”
41	“The Commission also recognizes that violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment in private and public spaces, including in educational institutions and the world of work, as well as in digital contexts, impedes participation and decision-making in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes and leads to a hostile environment.”
43	“The Commission underlines the particular impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls in conflict-affected and post-conflict settings, (...) [and] further expresses concern about the heightened risks of violence against women and girls during disasters and conflicts, including violence and abuse in shelters during disasters and conflicts. It emphasizes the need to address sexual and gender-based violence both during and in the aftermath of disasters and conflicts, including by adopting preventive approaches that take into account the needs and perspectives of victims and survivors.”
58	“The Commission also recognizes that indigenous women and girls, regardless of age, often face violence, discrimination, exclusion (...), while also recognizing their cultural, social, economic and political contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster preparedness, response and management, and environmental conservation and management.”
60	“The Commission emphasizes the importance of recognizing the positive contributions of migrant women and girls (...) including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, as well as to address all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, that may occur as a result of displacement, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants.”
61	“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 achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes in order to combat and eliminate the gender stereotypes, sexism and negative social norms that fuel discrimination and all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (...).”

## VAWG AND CLIMATE CHANGE LINKAGES IN CSW66 RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: RESOURCES AND WAYS FORWARD

The CSW66 agreed conclusions include five overarching recommended actions to guide governments and relevant stakeholders on achieving gender equality in the context of climate change: (1) strengthen normative, legal and regulatory frameworks; (2) integrate gender perspectives into climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes; (3) expand gender-responsive finance; (4) enhance gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex; and (5) foster a gender-responsive, just transition. VAWG and climate change linkages and issues are included in many of these recommended actions. This section of the brief builds on the **entry points** included in the CSW66 recommended actions by providing available evidence, promising practices and resources to aid climate and VAWG decision makers and stakeholders in addressing these linkages in policies, programmes and projects. This section also highlights entry points and provides promising practices and resources for areas where VAWG and climate change linkages are yet to be included in the CSW66 recommended actions, but that presents great opportunities for advancing actions to address VAWG in the context of climate crisis and environmental degradation.



### CSW66 Recommendation I: Strengthen normative, legal and regulatory frameworks

**Key entry-point:** National and international framework processes that recognise VAWG and climate change linkages can inform and support other governmental and international policy spheres to recognize the linkages.

The CSW66 recommended actions to strengthen normative, legal and regulatory frameworks include calls to fully implement commitments and obligations related to gender equality and human rights, and protect the full enjoyment of those rights by eliminating discrimination in social, economic and political spheres, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters. While the recommended actions do not include specific language on VAWG and climate change

linkages, there are existing entry points within processes related to two specified frameworks: the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It is also important to note that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) included gender-based violence for the first time in an Assessment Report – while the Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) recognizes GBV and climate-related desertification linkages.

- The Commission calls upon Parties to “respect and fulfil existing commitments and obligations under the Rio conventions, the Paris Agreement, the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (...), taking into account their gender action plans, (...) while also noting the importance of the ongoing discussions regarding the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the fifteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity” (62.c). Under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the current draft [Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action](#) for the Convention recognises that “gender-based violence has been shown to escalate in situations of resource scarcity and increased environmental stress, including in post-natural disaster contexts” (CBD/SBI/3/INF/41 para.5) and includes a standalone objective to “identify and eliminate, prevent and respond, to all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence related to control, ownership and access to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including protecting women environmental human rights defenders.” (CBD/SBI/3/INF/41 Objective 1.5) (See more in Box 2.)
- The Commission also calls for the ratification of [the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) – a legally binding international human rights treaty that sets the global standards for monitoring and advancing women’s rights and gender equality. The CEDAW Committee presented recommendations to support Parties in meeting CEDAW obligations in relation to disaster risk reduction and climate change via General Recommendation No. 37 (2018). Paragraph five summarises the heightened risks for GBV during and following disasters (see Box 2) while section IV outlines the ways in which general CEDAW principles apply to disaster risk reduction and climate change – offering advice on pathways states can take to improve policies, legislation, plans, programmes, budgets and activities to ensure measures account for the safety of women and girls from violence.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the international body of the United Nations for advancing knowledge on climate change. Assessment Reports (ARs) of the IPCC provide comprehensive and objective agreed scientific information for decision

makers through systematic literature reviews. In 2022, AR6 detailed multiple findings on climate change and gender-based violence – elevating the intersection as agreed scientific information (see Box 2).

- In 2022, the UNCCD Secretariat published a study on the differentiated impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought on women and men. The

study is a summary for policymakers that is designed to "inform decision-making processes that relate to gender equality in the context of the UNCCD, specifically around the formulation of concrete policies and measures towards the implementation of the UNCCD's Gender Action Plan" which was adopted in 2017 to acknowledge the specific role of women in land restoration and sustainable land management (see details in Box 2).

## Box 2: VAWG and climate change linkages in the Convention on Biological Diversity, CEDAW and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

### Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Draft Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action:

Paragraph 4 of CBD/SBI/3/INF/41: "The loss and degradation of biodiversity affects men and boys and women and girls in different ways, with women and girls often facing greater disadvantages due to the existence of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence."

Paragraph 5: "Across biodiversity-related spheres and sectors, gender-based violence serves as a means to assert control over natural resources, and to diminish the efforts of those working towards a safe and healthy environment. Gender-based violence has been shown to escalate in situations of resource scarcity and increased environmental stress, including in post-natural disaster contexts. Gender-based violence is also prevalent in survival strategies and everyday negotiations for resources, such as in the practice of trading sex for fish in sub-Saharan Africa. Environmental crime, which is the fourth largest form of transnational crime, regularly employs gender-based violence to conduct harmful environmental practices, such as illegal fishing, mining, and wildlife trafficking. For example, in South-East Asia, men and boys are trafficked for forced labour in the illegal fishing industry. Measures to eliminate gender-based violence can thereby contribute to curbing practices harmful to biodiversity, upholding human rights, and creating the conditions necessary to enable more sustainable management of natural resources."



### Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):

Paragraph 5 of CEDAW/C/GC/37: "Women and girls also face a heightened risk of gender-based violence during and following disasters. In the absence of social protection schemes and in situations in which there is food insecurity combined with impunity for gender-based violence, women and girls are often exposed to sexual violence and exploitation as they attempt to gain access to food and other basic needs for family members and themselves. In camps and temporary settlements, the lack of physical security, as well as the lack of safe and accessible infrastructure and services, including drinking water and sanitation, also result in increased levels of gender-based violence against women and girls. Women and girls with disabilities are at particular risk of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation during and following disasters, owing to discrimination on the basis of physical limitations and barriers to communication and the inaccessibility of basic services and facilities. Domestic violence, early and/or forced marriage, trafficking in persons and forced prostitution are also more likely to occur during and following disasters."



### Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)

Throughout the IPCC's 6th Assessment Report (AR6) on [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#), numerous research on gender-based violence and climate change are acknowledged for the first time by global scientists. The following summaries describe these findings:

#### **Water:**

- In section 4.3.3, climate change impacts on water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) found that domestic violence linked to not completing daily water-related tasks (limited evidence, high agreement) while section 4.6.1 found that the risk of violence linked to increasing hydrological extremes is often gendered. In section 4.6.4 found that water insecurity leads to increased exposure to violence, making reference to resources documenting gender-based violence.

### Climate disasters:

- Section 6.2.2.2 refers to the impacts of domestic violence on children and women during urban flooding. Section 7.2.7.4 describes gendered experiences of violence that result from structural inequalities. These issues range from unequal access to land and livelihood activities, to increased child marriage, domestic violence, harassment, sexual violence and trafficking during and after extreme weather events. Section CCP3.2.2.3 on agro-ecological food systems also recounts the increased exposure to the risk of harassment and sexual assault due to longer distances to fetching water and fuel.
- Research in section 9.10.2.6.1 as well as 14.5.10.1.1 also correlates intimate partner violence with increasing temperatures. Section 8.3.4.2 under non-economic loss and damage recounts research showing the potential for increased intimate partner violence following disasters, “noting that societies that are vulnerable to climate change may need to prepare for the social disasters that can accompany disasters revealed by natural hazards”.

### Climate conflict:

- Section 7 finds that “climate hazards are associated with increased violence against women, girls and vulnerable groups, and the experience of armed conflict is gendered” (medium confidence) –while “adaptation and mitigation projects implemented without consideration of local social dynamics have exacerbated non-violent conflict” (medium confidence). Box 17.2 also shows that conflicts exacerbate vulnerabilities to climate change – with specific reference to gender-based violence.

### Indigenous Peoples:

- Box 7.1 notes that “increased risks of conflict and abuse, including violence against females, and/or conflicts resulting from environmental activism, are other tertiary health threats for Indigenous Peoples”. It also mentions an example from Uganda where climate change drives out-migration that also increases sexual violence against indigenous women and girls in their communities.

### Health:

- Section 9.10.2.2.2 assesses that “changes in climate affect each of the main drivers of HIV transmission in women, including... gender-based violence”. Section 9.10.3.2 notes that food security interventions targeting women can be undermined in communities with high rates of gender-based violence. Section 14.5.6.8 also points to the “strong emotional reactions” to climate change in North America, leading to increased family stress and domestic violence, among other impacts – with section CCP6.2.6 showing similar findings in the Arctic.



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

### United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):

- Under its analysis of gender-differentiated impacts of land degradation, desertification and drought, the UNCCD [Secretariat commissioned report](#) noted VAWG in several distinct ways:
- Under migration, the study noted the sexual exploitation, trafficking and violence risks female migrants face when fleeing land degradation and drought. Female migrants also experience increased sexual and gender-based violence when there is lack of shelter or poorly lit public toilets and overcrowding in camps. The section also notes the lack of support systems and knowledge for seeking help these women and girls experience.
- In its recommendations to Convention Parties, the study also calls for, "Acknowledging and considering the gender gaps linked to land rights that could lead to GBV."

CSW also emphasizes the importance of “integrating a gender perspective in (...) nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, land degradation neutrality targets, and national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction”. Though VAWG is not specifically mentioned here, there is an increasing number of countries making these connections with climate change within national reports and plans.

- Under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in 2021, for the first time ever, six countries included GBV and climate change linkages within their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Convention – indicating growing acknowledgement from governments that the climate crisis also deepens the risk and incidence for VAWG. In new research conducted for this brief, an additional 9 countries have also linked GBV and climate change within their NDCs (see Box 3).

- Many countries have also developed national Climate Change Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs) as a complement to NDCs – at times as a fulfilment of gender commitments under the Convention. To date, a total of 10 countries and 1 state acknowledge the impact of climate change on VAWG in the country and some include specific actions to address it (see Box 3).
- As of 2021, there are at least four low- and middle-income countries that mention gender-based violence within their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) under the UNFCCC. As NAPs guide investments in climate change adaptation, these inclusions offer opportunities to ensure GBV and VAWG and climate linkages are not missed by government priorities. New research for this brief also indicates another NAP that has made similar connections (see Box 3).

### Box 3: National governments recognising VAWG and climate change linkages

Under the Paris Agreement, Parties submit **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, which embody national climate change goals and targets, every five years.

According to a [2021 study by IUCN](#), six countries mention GBV and climate change linkages within NDCs. “Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Guinea, Seychelles, Sierra Leone and Somalia mention GBV in relation to national policies and legislation, women’s natural resource management roles and climate change impacts.” A few examples: Guinea’s NDC mentions that the reduction of fuelwood can not only meet mitigations and emissions reductions commitments, but also lower the risk of GBV exposure that women and girls face during collection. Somalia’s NDC estimates that women comprise 70–80% of internally displaced people and refugees that are vulnerable to climatic impacts and GBV. The Seychelles committed to “ensuring that climate-related vulnerability assessments and actions take into account sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence risks and protective measures and are informed by disaggregated population data.” New research for this brief shows that more countries have since included GBV and climate change links within their NDCs. These countries are: Albania, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Jordan, Micronesia, Pakistan, Tunisia and Vanuatu.

**A Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP)** is a cross-sector, multi-stakeholder and participatory national, regional and/or sub-national process. It brings together governments, women’s rights organizations and national civil society organizations to identify women’s priorities in key climate change priority sectors, and map key actions, to complement existing national climate change strategies, such as NDCs or NAPs. Climate Change Gender Action Plans are also a capacity building process that champion women’s empowerment and gender inclusion for improved adaptation, mitigation and resilience-building across sectors.

To date, a total of 10 countries and one sub-regional ccGAP, including Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Liberia, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru, Tanzania, Zambia, Pakistan, and the Mexican State of Sonora, acknowledge the impact of climate change on VAWG in the country and some include specific actions to address it. For example:

- As part of its priority sector on Forest and REDD, [Nepal’s ccGAP](#) includes an activity on “Orientation and training on gender & social violence, safe guard and conflict management” in order to “avoid negative implications of REDD initiatives and disaster hazards on women rights and Social Environment Standard (SES)” (p.55)
- [Bangladesh’s ccGAP](#) includes an activity to “sensitize men and harness them as champions in preventing violence and assaults” in order to “improve social security and protection of women, adolescents, and children pre, during and post-disaster and emergency situations” (p.45).
- The [ccGAP from the Mexican State of Sonora](#) includes two activities related to VAWG and climate: to “Train committees on human rights and non-violence against women” in order to “Ensure that local IDRM (Integrated Disaster Risk Management) committees incorporate the gender and intercultural perspective”(p.83) and to “Forming a Board of Directors of the shelter where men and women participate on equal terms in decision making and monitoring of the respect of the human rights and non-violence against women” so as to “Having capacities and physical infrastructure for IDRM that respond to practical and strategic needs differentiated by sex and age and are culturally viable” (p.85).

Established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)** help countries identify adaptation needs and develop comprehensive medium- and long-term climate adaptation plans.

According to [research on 19 NAPs](#) submitted by low- and middle-income countries conducted by the NAP Global Network and Women Deliver, GBV generally relates to the increased risks for VAWG after disasters. Suriname’s NAP document, for example, highlights this issue, calling for training on GBV for volunteers in disaster areas ([Government of Suriname, 2019](#)). Kiribati’s NAP also identifies the need to “improve the evidence base on the linkages between climate change, mental health, and GBV” ([Government of Kiribati, 2019](#)). Fiji’s health sector NAP calls for the elimination of all forms of GBV while Ethiopia’s notes that GBV may increase with the impacts of climate change” and calls for particular focus on areas that are vulnerable to drought and land degradation ([Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia, 2018](#)). Research for this brief also shows that Guatemala’s NAP notes the rise in sexual violence after climate disasters ([Government of Guatemala, 2018](#)).

## CSW66 Recommendation II: Integrating gender perspectives into climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

The CSW66 recommended actions to integrate gender perspectives into climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes encompass gender-responsive actions at all stages of climate change policy and programme development. Actions call for policies and programmes to recognise the gender differentiated impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls across different landscapes and social groups, as well as specific and heightened threats for displaced women and girls,

those living in conflict settings, and during humanitarian emergencies. Additionally, the recommended actions underscore the importance of protecting and promoting rights of women and girls and ensuring their full, effective and meaningful participation and leadership in climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. Several of the recommended actions include specific mentions of VAWG and climate change linkages (Box 4), helping to highlight the importance of and opportunities for policies and programmes to address these interlinked challenges.



### Box 4: Summary of VAWG and climate change linkages in CSW66 recommended actions to integrate gender perspectives into climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

Paragraph	
(j)	"Recognize and promote awareness about the disproportionate and distinct effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls, in particular those facing violence, discrimination and displacement, harmful practices including child, early and forced marriage, and insecurity of land tenure, income and food, and ensure that policies and programmes reflect these impacts, and take targeted action to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of all women and girls, including in cities and tropical, arctic, coastal, mountainous and rural areas;"
(k)	"Recognize the disproportionate impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on all women and girls who are in conflict and post-conflict settings and humanitarian emergencies, and systematically integrate gender-responsive and age-sensitive perspectives into relevant mechanisms, policies and programming" (...) "implementing measures to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination in these situations and ensuring that the human rights of all women and girls are fully respected and protected in climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction response and recovery strategies;"
(p)	"Promote the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of young women, and as appropriate, adolescent girls in decision-making processes on climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction action by addressing gender specific barriers" (...) "and protection from all forms of violence and discrimination;"
(t)	"Promote a gender-responsive approach and" (...) "take measures to reduce the time spent by women and girls on collecting household water and fuel and protect them from threats, assaults and sexual and gender-based violence while doing so and when accessing sanitation facilities outside of their home or practicing open defecation and urination (...);"

**Key entry-point:** Context-specific concerns and drivers of VAWG in relation to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters can be identified as part of a comprehensive gender analysis.

Many of the recommendations toward integrating gender perspectives include recognizing the disproportionate and distinct effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls. Parties

can conduct a context-specific gender analysis to identify gender-related concerns, issues and opportunities, including in relation to VAWG and climate change interactions, as a necessary component for developing effective policies and programmes, as drivers and impacts vary across sectors and are influenced by social and cultural norms. An example of a gender analysis, as well as two resources with data that can inform a gender analysis are highlighted in Box 5.

### Box 5: Reports and context-specific analyses of VAWG and climate change linkages

<p><i>Invisible women: A gender analysis of climate-induced migration in South Asia</i></p> <p>ActionAid International (2021)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>The report focuses on cases in six South Asian countries to reveal gender differentiated concerns and risks associated with migration and international displacement driven by climate change. The analysis includes a literature review and national policy framework review for the focus countries and outlines key recommendations for local governments, national governments, regional bodies, and other stakeholders based on the findings.</p>
<p><i>The violence of inequality: Gender-based violence and environment linkages</i></p> <p>IUCN (2020)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p> <p>Summary for policymakers <a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This report was compiled from case study submissions, survey data and an extensive literature review to understand how potential for GBV related to natural resource scarcity, environmental stressors and threats. The report includes discussions, cases, resources and recommendations on GBV issues related to natural resources, climate change, environmental crimes, extractive industries, environmental human rights defenders and in environmental work.</p>
<p><i>Violence against women and girls and resilience: Links, impacts and perspectives from the Chadian context</i></p> <p>BRACED (2018)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This report aims at understanding how VAWG impacts processes of social change that are required to build resilience of survivors and how resilience programmes can address this violence, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and conflict. The report focuses on Chad and provides a conceptual framework, a thorough analysis of GBV risk factors and impacts of violence, and recommendations for NGOs to combat VAWG in resilience programmes.</p>
<p><i>Women and the environment: A Asia-Pacific snapshot</i></p> <p>UN Women (2022)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This factsheet offers a snapshot of available data on women’s and men’s gender-differentiated relationship with the environment across Asia-Pacific countries, including links between droughts and child marriage and proximity to natural resources and intimate partner violence. This data can inform gender analysis and other data collection efforts on the GBV and climate change nexus.</p>

**Key entry-point:** Cross-sectoral knowledge sharing and collaboration across areas of expertise on addressing VAWG and climate change can build and enhance capacities to address interlinkages.

Guidance specific to preventing, mitigating and responding to VAWG in climate change and environmental degradation contexts is still relatively rare, thus there is an opportunity for expert practitioners and decision-makers on violence against women and girls and those on climate change

and environmental programming to coordinate and learn from each other’s sectors. For example, climate change sectors can learn from and adapt existing guidelines and best practices to address VAWG in the humanitarian aid, conflict and peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction, and development sectors for climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives (Box 6). This can help develop climate change and environmental specific guidance on ending VAWG while building collaborative, cross-sectoral partnerships for action.



**Box 6: VAWG guidance and tools from the humanitarian, conflict and peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction, and development sectors that can be adapted for climate change programming**

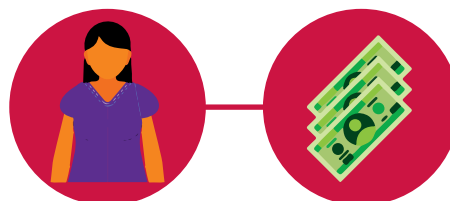
<p><i>The Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming</i></p> <p>UNFPA (2019)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This resource is a collection of guidance notes on standards aiming to ensure that agencies working on GBV programming are prepared to prevent and respond to violence. The resource establishes a common understanding of what constitutes minimum prevention and response programming in emergencies and language surrounding survivor-centred approaches.</p>
<p><i>Integration of GBV prevention and management in Disaster Management</i></p> <p>UN Women and UNFPA (2022)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This manual was developed for the humanitarian sector to prevent and respond to GBV in emergencies. The main purpose is to explain the procedures, roles and responsibilities for the multiple actors involved in GBV response and prevention during disasters, including ministries, UN agencies, organizational representatives and humanitarian actors.</p>
<p><i>Guidelines for integrating gender-based violence interventions in humanitarian action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery</i></p> <p>IASC (2022)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) compiled extensive guidelines for integrating GBV interventions in humanitarian action. These guidelines help humanitarian actors and communities affected by conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies coordinate, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate actions to prevent and mitigate gender-based violence. Several thematic areas are included in the guidelines, such as housing, land and property; food insecurity and agriculture; livelihoods; and water, sanitation and hygiene.</p>
<p><i>Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies</i></p> <p>(2022)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>The Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies is a global initiative of governments, donors, international organizations and NGOs aiming to improve prevention, response and accountability to gender-based violence in humanitarian crises. The recently adopted 2021-2025 Road Map includes several resources for addressing these issues, including guidance documents, monitoring frameworks and other tools.</p>
<p><i>Foundational Elements for Gender-Based Violence Programming in Development</i></p> <p>USAID (2022)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>The Foundational Elements are a set of guidance tools that provides accessible grounding in evidence-informed approaches for reducing gender-based violence. The Foundational Elements can be useful in building understanding and capacities of environment and climate change practitioners trying to integrate GBV considerations within their programming.</p>
<p><i>Gender-Based Violence Guidance for Development Programs</i></p> <p>CARE (2022)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p> <p>Accompanying tools <a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This tool supports program staff across all impact areas, which includes climate justice, to reduce GBV risks and follow ethical best practice across the project cycle. This guidance is accompanied by a set of tools and resources to support development practitioners.</p>



## CSW66 Recommendation III: Expand gender-responsive finance

The CSW66 recommended actions to expand gender-responsive finance are wide-ranging with some actions urging Parties to increase gender-responsive investment and implement financing plans, and others identify ways to maximize available resources, including by enhancing collaboration and multistakeholder partnerships. Several of the actions build on previous recommended actions and call for stakeholders to provide adequate human and financial resources to develop gender-responsive policies, programmes and projects. Within this framework, there are several recommended actions to specifically address VAWG and climate change linkages in the context of gender-responsive financing. These recommendations

advise parties to specifically address intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, strengthen legal and health services, reporting mechanisms and judicial institutions to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of VAWG, and create a safe environment for women and girls who are victims and survivors of violence, particularly women human rights defenders and journalists (Box 7). These areas of financial investment and support are extremely critical in preventing all forms of VAWG, ending impunity and ensuring survivors and victims of violence receive necessary support particularly in the context of climate change.



### Box 7: Summary of VAWG and climate change linkages in CSW66 recommended actions on expanding gender-responsive finance

Paragraph	
(dd)	“Promote and protect the rights of all indigenous women and girls by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face, including violence” (...) “recognizing their cultural, social, economic and political contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental action and disaster resilience;”
(ii)	“Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights,” (...) “including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence,” (...) “including in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;”
(mm)	“Eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spaces, online and offline, such as sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicides, all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, as well as trafficking in persons and modern slavery and other forms of exploitation, which are exacerbated in contexts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence and end impunity, and take appropriate measures to create a safe, enabling and violence-free working environment for women, especially front-line workers and workers involved in disaster response and recovery, including by ratifying key international treaties that provide protection against gender-based violence and sexual harassment;”
(nn)	“Ensure women’s and girls’ equal access to justice and essential services, including by providing access to comprehensive social, health and legal services for victims and survivors and by providing accessible, confidential, supportive and effective mechanisms for all women wishing to report incidences of violence, and increase women’s legal literacy and awareness of available legal remedies and dispute resolution mechanisms, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction (...);”
(qq)	“Support the important role of civil society actors in promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women;” (...) “including women human rights defenders, particularly those working on issues related to the environment, land and natural resources, and the rights of indigenous peoples; integrate a gender perspective into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights and to prevent discrimination, violations and abuses against them, such as threats, harassment, violence and reprisals; and combat impunity by taking steps to ensure that violations or abuses are promptly and impartially investigated and that those responsible are held accountable;”
(rr)	“Recognize the role of women journalists and media professionals in raising public awareness about climate change, environmental and disaster issues and take measures to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment in which they can perform their work independently and without undue interference, including by combating all forms of discrimination, harassment and violence, online and offline;”

**Key entry-point:** Invest in cross-sectoral partnerships building among climate change and VAWG grassroots organisations, advocacy groups, institutions and practitioners.

Grassroots organizations, advocacy groups, women’s groups and institutions focused on VAWG are invaluable partners for climate change practitioners as they have established progress, have relevant and specific contextual expertise, are familiar with local issues and concerns, can

navigate social and cultural norms, and are knowledgeable about potential strategies to respond to and prevent VAWG. Directly investing in building these partnerships can facilitate bidirectional knowledge transfer and peer learning to develop promising practices to address VAWG in climate change contexts (see box 8). This can also be an opportunity to tap into environment and climate change finance mechanisms that are starting to prioritise work on this nexus.

### Box 8: Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments (RISE) grants challenge

Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments (RISE) grants challenge is the first of its kind to address gender-based violence in environment and climate-related sectors and contexts. Developed in 2020 by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as a direct response to [key research findings](#) by IUCN on gender-based violence and environment linkages, RISE funded nine projects across Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Guatemala, Kenya, Peru, Uganda and Vietnam to date.

In 2022, IUCN is hosting the third consecutive open call for proposals under its partnership with USAID on [Advancing Gender in the Environment](#) (AGENT), which will continue to prioritise the generation of learning on promising practices for addressing gender-based violence with a specific focus on climate change and the protection of the rights and safety of environmental defenders. Receiving 375 RISE grants challenge proposals, the immense interest and demand demonstrates there is urgent need to fill the gap on gender-based violence and environmental and climate linkages. This grants challenge can be an opportunity for parties to invest in and for their national local organisations to tap into resources on this nexus, contributing to the implementation of CSW recommended actions.

**Key entry-point:** Increase specific attention to VAWG and climate linkages within environmental and climate-related finance.

Among finance mechanisms of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) have integrated VAWG considerations within their policies and processes, reinforcing their commitment to zero tolerance of

Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH) in mechanism-funded activities. This commitment reinforces existing organisations’ efforts to integrate VAWG prevention and response in environmental programming. It also demonstrates that donors already increasingly make provisions for GBV safeguards in relation to environmental and climate programming that other environment-related funds can consider (see box 9).



## Box 9: GEF and GCF requirements in relation to gender-based violence

### Global Environment Facility (GEF) Environmental and Social Safeguards Standards

The GEF's 'Minimum Standard 1: Environmental and Social Assessment, Management and Monitoring' requires Agencies to demonstrate that they have in place the necessary policies, procedures, systems and capacities to ensure that adverse gender-related impacts, including gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse is safeguarded against in its projects. A few examples of requirements:

- Any risks or potential adverse impacts on women, men, girls and boys are identified as early as possible as part of project or programme screening and reflected in relevant safeguards instruments, and differentiated by gender where relevant, including adverse impacts on Gender Equality, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse;
- Discrimination against women or girls, or gender-based discrimination are prevented; and
- In case incidences of Gender-Based Violence and/or Sexual Exploitation and Abuse occur, there are: established reporting and response protocols in place, with specific procedures for GBV including confidential reporting with safe and ethical documenting of GBV cases, that indicate when and where to report incidents, and what follow-up actions will be undertaken; and modalities to provide services and redress to survivors. (GEF, 2019, p. 18).

### Green Climate Fund (GCF) Environmental and Social Policy and Environment and Social Safeguards

In 2021, the GCF updated its Environmental and Social Policy, reinforcing its commitment “go beyond harm” to express a “zero tolerance for all forms of SEAH [Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment] in GCF-financed activities” (p.7). All GCF-supported activities, including subprojects financed from GCF-funded programmes or through financial intermediaries, are required to “Avoid, and where avoidance is impossible, mitigate the risks of SEAH to people impacted by GCF-financed activities” (p.3), in alignment with GCF Environmental and Social Safeguards Standards. These provisions are being operationalized via GCF's SEAH Action Plan, which require Accredited Entities to screen for SEAH risks as part of their environmental and social risks management and due diligence processes, and to ensure that their grievance redress mechanisms “effectively address complaints of SEAH in a survivor-centred and gender-responsive manner” (p.7).

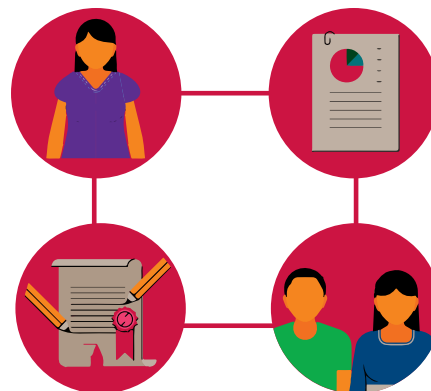
This is an opportunity for projects already integrating VAWG prevention and response with environmental and climate change programming to access funding; as well as for VAWG experts to support projects to align with the new requirements.



UN Women/Joë Saade

## CSW66 Recommendation IV: Enhance gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex

Gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data are limited across climate change and environmental related sectors, particularly in relation to VAWG and GBV, making it difficult to conduct rigorous and quality analyses for evidence-driven policy and programme development. The CSW66 agreed conclusions includes one recommended action on generating data on VAWG and climate change (Box 10).



### Box 10: Summary of VAWG and climate change linkages in CSW66 recommended actions to enhance gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex

#### Paragraph

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| (ft) | “Support and fund research and analysis to better understand the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls, including in relation to child, early and forced marriage, trafficking in persons,” (...) “violence against women and girls, and in other areas (...) in order to inform policies and programmes and to assess women’s abilities to cope with and adapt to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States;” |
|------|---|

The inclusion of VAWG in the definition of indicators, collection of baseline statistics, and analysis can help reveal the causes and consequences of violence, magnitude, prevalence, and severity of VAWG in the context of climate change and environmental degradation, and support the development of strategies to tackle it. This is a nascent area that requires specific attention and support but examples demonstrate the value of taking this approach (see Box 11).



### Box 11: Promising practice on analyzing data on VAWG and climate change linkages to inform action

#### Data unveiling VAWG and climate linkages in Asia-Pacific

In the Asia-Pacific region, [UN Women](#) has utilized gender disaggregated data to build an improved evidence-based picture on women and the environment. Some VAWG and climate linkages in the report are summarized here:

- Using Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data and geospatial data from DHS Geocovariates for 1980–2000, UN Women was able to observe consistently (from 5–20%) higher rates of child marriage during high frequency drought episodes in comparison to low frequency drought episodes in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Timor Leste. The same trends were found when comparing periods of humidity and aridity. Aridity correlated with increased child marriage by 2–78%. Aridity also correlated with higher rates of adolescents giving birth by up to 38%. This data demonstrates that adaptation and mitigation efforts to improve climate resilience should address the risk for increased child marriage.
- Calculations also indicate that living closer to natural resources may lower women’s exposure and risk to intimate partner violence as most studied countries found higher rates of violence for women living further away from lakes (as high as 51%). UN Women assessed that this is potentially due to lakes providing safety nets that contribute to lower rates and may complement other research and analyses drawing important linkages between natural resources – and the impact of climactic and environmental degradation – on gender-based violence.

### In Central America, identifying VAWG and coastal resilience issues paves the way for improved gender equality and shared natural resource governance

In El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, IUCN is implementing a USAID-funded [Regional Coastal Biodiversity Project \(RCBP\)](#). During the project's inclusive and participatory gender analysis process, gender-based violence was identified as a prevalent issue in coastal communities and no prior work had ever been done to address violence as a barrier for inclusive, equitable and effective coastal resilience building. As a result, the project developed and is rolling out a gender-based violence module to increase awareness on linkages. The project has also developed a [manual](#) and piloted a [male engagement activity](#) that works to build positive masculinity to increase support among men for women's equal participation and leadership in natural resource governance – and to remove violence as a barrier. Data to-date demonstrates that these approaches have promising value:

- In its pilot, 36 men from natural resource governance boards and community leaders participated in 32 hours of positive masculinity workshops, with 100% retention.
- Men measurably changed their perceptions about gender gaps and gender equality – agreeing that women's leadership is important and that men can help share household burdens to make that a reality.
- To-date, 40% of fisheries organizations now have women presidents, women hold 37.5% of vice presidencies, women account for 57% of treasurers and 60% of secretaries, and 55% of overall board positions are held by women.

**Key entry-point:** Strengthen capacities to identify, collect and analyse VAWG statistics and data in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.

It is important that there is careful consideration and specific capacity building dedicated to formulating indicators, data collection methods and analysis on GBV and VAWG that are conducted safely and with respect, particularly as these topics are considered taboo in many societies and addressing these issues must take a survivor-centred approach.

For example, under the Generation Equality Forum, IUCN and USAID submitted a joint commitment to

close knowledge gaps “while mobilizing learning and collaborative action to end GBV and secure environmental sustainability, together. Over the next 5 years, the Center will create tailored tools and provide capacity and direct support to climate decision-makers and practitioners working on gender-responsive climate action at global, national and local levels.” This commitment can help center an opportunity to help build improved capacities to identify, collect and analyse VAWG and climate change statistics. There are resources on building overall capacities to collect VAWG-related data that can be adapted for climate action (see Box 12).



## Box 12: Resources to build capacity and develop strategies for data collection on VAWG

<p><i>Gender-Based Violence Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation with Refugee and Conflict-Affected Populations</i></p> <p>The Global Women’s Institute – The George Washington University (2017)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This manual and toolkit intend to support researchers and practitioners in the humanitarian sector to conduct ethical and technically sound research, monitoring and evaluation of GBV within refugee and conflict-affected populations. While not climate change specific, there is relevant information and strategies in particular because of the growing recognition of the interconnection between climate change, environmental degradation and disasters with conflict.</p>
<p><i>Gender analysis guide: A technical tool to inform gender-responsive environmental programming for IUCN, its members, partners and peers</i></p> <p>IUCN (2021)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This guide outlines the information and steps needed to conduct a gender analysis. The guide includes a specific chapter on strategies and resources for addressing GBV risks and developing mitigation and response strategies in gender analyses.</p>
<p><i>Ethical storytelling on gender-based violence</i></p> <p>Irish Consortium on Gender-based Violence (ICGBV) (2022)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This guide aims to help organizations and other relevant stakeholders talk about GBV, with strategies before, during and after engaging with a survivor of GBV. It includes discussions on survivor centred approaches and ways to protect data, privacy and safety of survivors.</p>
<p><i>Guidance for GBV monitoring and mitigation within non-GBV focused sectoral programming</i></p> <p>CARE (2014)</p> <p><a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This guidance supports stakeholders in non-emergency, international development programming where GBV might not be a specific programmatic component to practically and ethically monitor and mitigate GBV. It includes strategies for programme design and implementation, including related to data collection, and suggestions for increasing attention and action on GBV in programmes and organizations.</p>



UN Women/Laurren Rooney

## CSW66 Recommendation V: Foster a gender-responsive, just transition

The term ‘just transition’ encompasses several aspects of social impacts on labour and access in moving toward sustainable economies and decarbonized energy systems, and while there are many gender-related concerns, issues and opportunities within this shift, discussions on gender and a just transition are relatively new. The CSW66 agreed conclusions document includes one recommended

action to foster a gender-responsive just transition, which includes specific mention of VAWG in relation to various environmental sectors (Box 13).



### Box 13: Summary of VAWG and climate change linkages in CSW66 recommended actions to foster a gender-responsive, just transition

#### Paragraph

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| (vv) | “Protect and promote all women’s right to work and rights at work and ensure the equal access of women to decent work and quality jobs in all sectors, such as sustainable energy, fisheries, forestry, agriculture and tourism, by eliminating occupational segregation, discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, and violence and sexual harassment (...) protecting them against discrimination and abuse and ensuring the safety of all women in the world of work, (...) including in the context of a just transition of the workforce.” |
|------|---|

Protecting and promoting safe and inclusive working environments free of violence and discrimination against women and girls in climate change-related sectors is critical for achieving gender equality and effectively mitigating and adapting to climate change, and must be addressed in policies and programmes related to a just

transition. Existing promising practices from the private sector can inform Parties and stakeholder efforts to prevent sexual harassment and gender-based violence in workplaces in the environment- and climate change-related sectors (Box 14).

### Box 14: Resources on gender and VAWG in just transition discussions

<p><i>Addressing gender-based violence and harassment: Emerging good practice for the private sector</i></p> <p>IFC (2020) <a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This guidance note focuses on gender-based violence and harassment issues and strategies to address violence in private sector workplaces and in private sector engagement with communities. The guidance is accompanied by a series of briefs outlining sector-specific issues and strategies, including in agribusiness, manufacturing and public transport.</p>
<p><i>Turning up the heat: Exploring potential links between climate change and gender-based violence and harassment in the garment sector</i></p> <p>ILO (2021) <a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This ILO working paper uses a case from Bangladesh to explore linkages between violence against women workers in the garment sector and climate change impacts, including heat stress and disasters, and outlines issues that require further research.</p>
<p><i>Sexual harassment in the informal economy: Farmworkers and domestic workers</i></p> <p>UN Women (2020) <a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>This paper provides a gender analysis of the prevalence of sexual harassment impacting women and girls working in informal economies and summarizes international standards on ending sexual discrimination and promoting fundamental labour rights. It focuses discussions on informal domestic work and farm work and ends with recommendations for actions by governments and CSOs.</p>
<p><i>Just transition: An essential pathway to achieving gender equality and social justice</i></p> <p>ILO <a href="#">[link]</a></p>	<p>While this report only briefly covers gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace, it is an extensive resource, detailing aspects, issues and opportunities related to a gender-responsive just transition.</p>



CSW66 strongly recognized the explicit interlinks between violence against women and girls and climate crisis and environmental degradation. Its agreed conclusions call for concerted efforts and collaborations between ending VAWG and climate action actors to address these connected issues in a comprehensive manner.

CSW66 agreed conclusions and recommended actions establish a global agreed language linking actions to address VAWG in the climate change at the programme and policy levels. There increasingly are promising practices, initiatives, and leadership exhibited by many governments and organizations that can inspire continued

actions and progress. As climate change worsens the experience of stress and tension surrounding natural resources, adaptation and mitigation resilience building can help shed light on the importance of dismantling violence as a barrier for women's full and effective contributions to help tackle the climate crisis. At the time of publishing, this brief can also inform and support Parties to global policy processes, particularly the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, to join global and national policy processes to help prevent and respond to VAWG in the context of climate change and environmental degradation, as well as to ensure women and girls can contribute to climate actions free from violence.

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## ENDNOTES

1. This brief uses the term violence against women and girls (VAWG) to discuss acts of gender-based violence (GBV) perpetrated specifically against women and girls. In this brief, language related to GBV is used when the cited reference includes discussions on GBV specific topics and terminologies. However, it is important to note that VAWG and GBV are not interchangeable. While women and girls suffer disproportionately from GBV, GBV can also be used in reference to violence based on actual or perceived deviations from sociocultural norms related to gender, gender identity, and gender expression (e.g., masculinity and femininity) that affect men, boys and LGBTQI+ populations, as well as women and girls.

2. This brief draws primarily from the CSW66 agreed conclusions document dated 29 March 2022. Available here: <https://www.undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=E%2FCN.6%2F2022%2FL.7&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False>

3. Commission on the Status of Women. (2022). Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes: CSW 66 Agreed conclusions. E/CN.6/2022/L.7. Available here: <https://www.undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=E%2FCN.6%2F2022%2FL.7&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False>

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