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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

Normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [64/289](#), provides a summary of the normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in 2024 through its substantive support for intergovernmental processes. The report also highlights the Entity’s contribution to implementing the policy guidance provided by the Commission on the Status of Women, including examples of UN-Women operational activities in various regions.

* [E/CN.6/2025/1](#).



I. Introduction

1. In 2024, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) continued to support Member States in accelerating progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through research, policy analysis and recommendations in reports of the Secretary-General. The Entity placed a high priority on activities related to the provision of policy guidance, data, evidence and knowledge.

2. UN-Women continued to work on strengthening global norms and standards in the economic, social and political spheres, in the context of multiple and interlinked crises caused by factors such as geopolitical conflicts and violence, climate change and environmental degradation, as well as on addressing the disproportionate impacts that women and girls face as a result.

3. A central feature of the normative aspects of the Entity's work is the provision of substantive support to the Commission on the Status of Women, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and other intergovernmental bodies. As a full member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee since October 2022, UN-Women has also strengthened its position to ensure women and girls are prioritized at the centre of humanitarian action and accountability. With the objective of mainstreaming a gender perspective into the work and outcomes of those bodies, the Entity continued to focus on synergies between achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and progress towards sustainable development, climate action, financing for development, human rights, non-discrimination, peace and security, and humanitarian action.

4. The normative aspects of the Entity's work are aligned with its strategic plan for the period 2022–2025 ([UNW/2021/6](#)) and contribute to the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which will mark its thirtieth anniversary in 2025, as well as the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Those efforts are also in harmony with the successful conclusion of the Summit of the Future and the adoption of the Pact for the Future, including the coherent and meaningful reflection of gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls in the Pact and its annexes. UN-Women continued to do its work in a context of multiple crises, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships, and to ensure that women and girls, in particular those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, are not left behind or further marginalized.

II. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

A. Commission on the Status of Women

5. As the substantive secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women, UN-Women continued to support the Commission in its role as the principal intergovernmental policymaking body that sets global standards and formulates policy recommendations to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and their human rights worldwide. The documentation prepared by UN-Women for the sixty-eighth session supported ministerial round tables, high-level interactive dialogues and expert panel discussions, including on the priority theme and the review theme.

6. The agreed conclusions on the priority theme, “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective” (see

[E/CN.6/2024/L.3](#)), built on the report of the Secretary-General on the same topic ([E/CN.6/2024/3](#)). In the agreed conclusions, the need to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective was reaffirmed. Member States reinforced their commitment to gender-responsive financial systems, plans and measures, marking significant progress in the normative framework for financing gender equality. Commitments included efforts towards strengthened international tax cooperation, adopting progressive tax systems, implementing gender-responsive budgeting and addressing debt service burdens.

7. In his report on the review theme, “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls” ([E/CN.6/2024/4](#)), the Secretary-General identified trends in implementation on the basis of information received from 33 Member States, including their actions in the following areas: strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks; improving women’s and girls’ access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure; and enhancing investments, data and evidence and women’s participation and leadership. UN-Women supported the Commission in its review of the progress made in the implementation of those agreed conclusions. A total of 10 Member States presented information, on a voluntary basis, on the progress achieved, the lessons learned and the challenges faced and identified best practices for accelerated implementation.

8. In preparation for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission, UN-Women collaborated with partners in the organization of regional consultations in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as of subregional consultations in Europe and Central Asia, to identify priorities and facilitate an exchange of good practices. At the global level, in October 2023, the Entity convened an expert group meeting on the priority theme, which examined the current context, identified key challenges and made specific recommendations that were focused on various issues relevant to accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

9. In its catalytic role in enhancing synergies and coherence with other functional commissions to promote gender mainstreaming, UN-Women supported the participation of the Chair of the Commission in the Economic and Social Council coordination segment in January 2024, as well as the management segment held in June 2024. Also in June 2024, the Chair took part in a high-level side event during the high-level debate of the General Assembly on the theme “Equal access to justice for all: advancing reforms for peaceful, just and inclusive societies”.

B. Gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system

10. UN-Women prepared the annual report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system ([E/2024/58](#)) and supported the Economic and Social Council in adopting its subsequent resolution [2024/3](#). In the resolution, the Council notes the launch of the United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan and calls for the full implementation of the System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the United Nations country team System-wide Action Plan gender equality scorecard. It also calls for the implementation of a harmonized, quality-assured gender equality marker to assess the resource deficits for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The Council urges the United Nations system to intensify efforts to integrate gender mainstreaming into responses to emergencies and other global challenges, including poverty, conflict,

climate change, hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, and water scarcity. It also emphasizes the importance of nominating women candidates for the positions of Secretary-General and President of the General Assembly.

11. In 2023, 74 entities reported on the System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women framework, with 70 per cent of ratings falling into the “meets requirements” or “exceeds requirements” categories. A total of 51 entities reported high-level gender-related results, while 15 entities achieved high-level transformative results in engagement and participation, including support for women’s associations and networks. The audit, knowledge and communication indicators continued as top performers, while the financial allocation and gender parity indicator lagged.

12. In 2023, 97 country teams reported on the gender equality scorecard, with the support of UN-Women, marking a 28 per cent annual increase. Of those 97 country teams, 20 completed a comprehensive assessment aligned with United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and 77 submitted annual progress reports. The gender capacity development indicator registered the most progress, with a 34 per cent increase in the proportion of country teams meeting and exceeding requirements, followed by the gender equality coordination mechanism indicator and the common country analysis indicator.

C. Multi-stakeholder partnerships

13. In order to accelerate progress towards the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, UN-Women continued to foster and leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with the Unstereotype Alliance, HeForShe and the Global Alliance for Care, as well as through its convenor role in Generation Equality and in partnership with Governments, the United Nations system, civil society, young people, the private sector and philanthropic organizations. Generation Equality stakeholders have advanced close to 2,000 policies, 4,500 programmes and 5,700 advocacy initiatives and pledged more than \$50 billion to advance gender equality and women’s and girls’ rights and empowerment since the Generation Equality Forum in 2021.

14. *The Generation Accountability Report 2024*¹ shows that Generation Equality promotes intergenerational solidarity and multi-stakeholder multilateralism, fosters new, innovative and sustainable partnerships, engages men and boys to transform patriarchal gender norms and helps to shape norms and standards at the country, regional and global levels. Supported and facilitated by UN-Women in its convenor role, Generation Equality stakeholders informed the development of the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, partnered with national stakeholders to uphold progressive gender laws, strengthened accountability through reporting against commitments and enabled the meaningful engagement of young people in such key intergovernmental spaces as the Commission on the Status of Women, the Summit of the Future and the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

¹ See <https://commitments.generationequality.org/accountability-report-2024>.

III. Sustainable development

A. Follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

15. UN-Women contributed to the production of new data to improve global monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals from a gender perspective. In that regard, the Entity supported 52 data production initiatives aimed at aiding countries in filling critical gender data gaps in violence against women, time use and the gender-environment nexus. Gender data have been used to inform more than 21 policies and programmes to spur action on gender equality, including informing disaster risk reduction strategies in Tonga, increasing access to paid paternity leave in Georgia and improving government service delivery related to land use to promote women's land ownership in Colombia.² Those efforts have helped to increase gender data availability globally, with 56 per cent of Sustainable Development Goals gender data now available, signifying an increase of five percentage points since 2022 and a substantial 30-percentage-point change from 2016. On average, 68 per cent of gender-related data for the Goals is now available in the eight countries that UN-Women has supported, 12 percentage points above the global average, highlighting the significant value of investing in gender statistics and the Women Count programme.³

16. UN-Women, in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, released the annual report "Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: the gender snapshot 2024".⁴ The report includes the most recent data and evidence on gender equality trends and gaps across all 17 Goals. It shows that the world is still falling short on its commitments: ending extreme poverty among women could take 137 more years at the current rate of change, and no country has all the relevant laws in place to prohibit discrimination, prevent gender-based violence, uphold equal rights in marriage and divorce, guarantee equal pay and provide full access to sexual and reproductive health. The report stresses the high cost of not investing in women's rights and calls attention to proven solutions that benefit women, girls and entire societies. It champions radical action to shift the current trajectory and dramatically accelerate progress on gender equality and women's rights.

17. UN-Women continued to support the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through its contributions to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including by assisting Governments in the preparation of voluntary national reviews and the integration of a gender perspective therein. UN-Women also participated in the regional forums on sustainable development, where it placed gender equality issues at the centre of discussions.

18. The Entity also contributed to the substantive preparations for the high-level political forum by, for example, providing policy expertise, evidence and technical inputs for the consultations organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In particular, it participated in an expert group meeting on the thematic review

² See <https://data.unwomen.org/features/tongas-first-gender-and-environment-survey-incites-action-family-protection-and-disaster>; <https://data.unwomen.org/features/time-use-data-help-spur-more-fathers-take-paternity-leave-georgia>; and <https://data.unwomen.org/features/growing-rural-womens-land-ownership-across-colombias-countryside>.

³ See UN-Women and Women Count, "2023 Annual Report: Driving Transformative Change on Gender Data: January–December 2023", available at https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Women%20Count/Annual%20Report_UNWWC_2023.pdf.

⁴ Available at <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2024-en.pdf>.

of Goal 13, at which it highlighted the link between climate change and gender equality.

19. UN-Women organized, supported and participated in several side events, including a side event on the interlinkages among gender, climate and peace and security and their impact on the Sustainable Development Goals under review.

20. During negotiations on the ministerial declaration ([E/HLS/2024/1](#)), UN-Women provided substantive inputs on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as a cross-cutting issue across the Goals under review, which led to a substantial increase in the references to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the final text compared with the zero draft.

21. The Entity provided technical support and policy advice to Member States in negotiating the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, resulting in a coherent and meaningful reflection of gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls across the three documents through the inclusion of dedicated commitments throughout the texts and the effective mainstreaming of gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls. In the Pact for the Future, Member States reaffirm their commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, emphasizing the full, safe, equal and meaningful participation of all women in political and economic life. They also commit to eliminating all forms of discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence and ensuring that all women and girls enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Member States pledge to accelerate the women and peace and security agenda, increase financing and ensure women's participation in peace processes, while condemning violence in conflict settings. The Pact aligns with the aims of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Global Digital Compact, namely, to mainstream gender perspectives in digital strategies, close the gender digital divide and counter technology-facilitated violence against women. Section IV of the Pact focuses on young people, in particular young women, and the need to promote decent jobs, address gender stereotypes and ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. In the Pact, Member States also request the Economic and Social Council to revitalize the Commission on the Status of Women to advance gender equality globally.

22. UN-Women used the Summit of the Future Action Days to convene a high-level side event to launch the countdown to the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action process and build momentum across stakeholders.

B. Economic and social development

23. The Entity continued to support the General Assembly in its consideration of gender-specific agenda items and to strengthen the integration of a gender perspective in a range of resolutions. It also assisted in other processes and provided inputs to reports and policy papers covering a broad range of topics related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

24. For the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, UN-Women prepared multiple reports on behalf of the Secretary-General. In the report on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: technology-facilitated violence against women and girls ([A/79/500](#)), it is noted that rapid technological change is intensifying such violence. In the report on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation ([A/79/514](#)), it is observed that recent attempts to reverse legislation criminalizing the practice are deeply concerning and undermine the essence of global standards and international

commitments on ending it. In the report on trafficking in women and girls: strengthening access to justice for victim-survivors ([A/79/322](#)), it is noted that women and girls are disproportionately affected by trafficking and recommended that the connections between gender-based violence and trafficking should be explicitly addressed in comprehensive national action plans on violence against women. In the report on women in development ([A/79/210](#)), it is noted that since the previous report, extreme poverty has been on the rise in developing countries for the first time in a generation, widening the gender poverty gap; the capacity of developing countries to respond and recover from the impacts of cascading crises has been undermined by debt; and if current trends continue, millions more women and girls than men and boys will fall deeper into poverty and food insecurity. As the substantive secretariat for the respective resolution, UN-Women played a crucial role in providing technical support and substantive advice to the co-facilitators and to Member States in their consideration of the resolution in the Second Committee.

25. UN-Women developed and submitted the quinquennial *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* on the theme “Harnessing social protection for gender equality, resilience and transformation” ([A/79/111](#)). The report was presented during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly at a joint meeting between the Economic and Social Council and the Second Committee, co-organized by UN-Women, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization. It is based on extensive consultations with experts from across Governments, civil society and other United Nations agencies, including through the gender working group of the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board. The report provides important guidance for the implementation of normative commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women. To socialize the findings and recommendations, UN-Women is running an intensive outreach and dissemination campaign together with the [socialprotection.org](#) platform, culminating in March 2025.

26. UN-Women also led the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS ([E/CN.6/2024/6](#)), which provided recent evidence and contributions from 34 Member States and 11 United Nations entities, reflecting on progress to date and areas of concern in the HIV response for women and girls. In the lead-up to the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Entity also provided policy support to the Southern African Development Community, which contributed to the adoption by Member States of an updated resolution 60/2 on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS ([E/CN.6/2024/L.5](#)). To facilitate the implementation of the resolution, UN-Women is providing policy support to the Southern African Development Community in adopting and rolling out a gender-responsive oversight model, namely, a regional framework and programme of action to monitor progress in implementation.

27. As a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UN-Women contributed to the report of the Secretary-General “The path to ending AIDS – progress report on 2025 targets and solutions for the future” ([A/78/883](#)) and to a technical briefing for Member States in the lead-up to the review of the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS (General Assembly resolution [75/284](#)) at the 91st plenary meeting of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly. Member States commended UN-Women for its work in advancing positive social norms through the engagement of men and boys in ending sexual and gender-based violence in the context of HIV and welcomed the adoption and called for the implementation of the revised Commission on the Status of Women resolution 60/2 on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS.

28. The Entity played a crucial role in the development and implementation of three global resolutions on the care economy. This included supporting Member States in drafting the resolution on promoting care and support systems for social development (Economic and Social Council resolution 2024/4). It also included facilitating the implementation of the landmark General Assembly resolution on the International Day of Care and Support (resolution 77/317) by leading the United Nations observance of the day on 29 October 2024, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Labour Organization. In addition, UN-Women supported the implementation of the Human Rights Council resolution on centrality of care and support from a human rights perspective (resolution 54/6) by participating in and providing substantive contributions to an expert group workshop on the human rights dimensions of care and support in October 2024. To support the normative agenda on the care economy more broadly, under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General, UN-Women coordinated a United Nations inter-agency working group and led the development of the first United Nations system-wide policy guidance on the care economy, entitled “Transforming Care Systems in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals and *Our Common Agenda*”.⁵

29. Preparations for the 30-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action were a high priority for UN-Women in 2024. The Entity organized an expert group meeting to review progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Platform for Action over the past five years. Regional and country offices of UN-Women provided technical assistance to 89 Member States in their comprehensive national progress reviews. The national reports⁶ formed the basis for the global synthesis report of the Secretary-General prepared by UN-Women for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the regional synthesis reports prepared for the regional meetings. UN-Women worked closely with the United Nations regional commissions to organize intergovernmental meetings at the regional level. It also supported multi-stakeholder forums with civil society and youth events.

30. UN-Women actively participated in the deliberations of the fiftieth Summit of the Group of Seven (G7), at the invitation of the Government of Italy. The Entity produced an issue note on women in Africa and contributed to the meetings of the G7 development ministers and the G7 working group on gender equality and women’s empowerment, focusing on ending violence against women and girls and promoting women’s economic empowerment. UN-Women also participated in the G7 ministerial meeting on gender equality, which provided a platform for G7 ministers responsible for gender equality to discuss policies aimed at reducing gender inequality. Key topics included equitable access to work, reducing the wage gap, combating gender-based violence and enhancing women’s participation in decision-making. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a ministerial declaration. On the sidelines of the Summit, UN-Women participated in the Women 7 engagement group side event on the theme “G7 gender equality ministers and civil society dialogue”. Women 7 representatives called for concrete actions on gender equality, emphasizing the need for stronger strategies against gender-based violence, promoting women’s economic independence, ensuring equitable access to health care, enhancing education and leadership opportunities for women and addressing the impact of climate change on women. The Entity also contributed to the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council for the second consecutive year in 2024.

⁵ United Nations, “Transforming Care Systems in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals and *Our Common Agenda*”, UN System Policy Paper (New York, 2024).

⁶ See <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw69-2025/preparations>.

31. The Entity also played a significant role in the Group of 20 (G20) Summit under the presidency of Brazil, focusing on women's empowerment, climate justice and economic equality. It supported the working group on the empowerment of women, contributing to policy papers and organizing seminars on the care economy, and provided inputs for the G20 ministerial declaration on gender equality. The Equal Pay International Coalition, in collaboration with the Government of Brazil, held a side event on gender pay gaps, leading to commitments from countries such as Chile and Türkiye to join the Coalition. In the G20 finance track, UN-Women advocated for gender mainstreaming, which resulted in the first-ever side event on gender equality. It also engaged with public development banks to propose gender-inclusive solutions. In the social engagement group track, UN-Women supported the Women 20 engagement group, participated in thematic events and co-organized a side event on Afro-descendant women. The Entity also provided technical assistance for the meeting of women parliamentarians held at the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit and organized events on care systems and women's leadership in November 2024. It also continued to provide technical and coordination support to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, in contributing substantively to the G20 dialogue under the presidency of Brazil, as part of the G20 Troika.

C. Climate action and environmental protection

32. UN-Women continued to build on the agreed conclusions of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and to play a key role in the three Rio conventions. The Entity leveraged its technical expertise from its thematic sections and regional and country office experience to support stakeholders in integrating gender equality perspectives into the design, funding, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes addressing environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change, the effects of which disproportionately affect women and girls.

33. UN-Women delivered statements calling upon the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to prioritize the integration of gender equality in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework during both the subsidiary body meetings held in Nairobi in May 2024 and the 16th meeting of the Parties to the Convention held in Cali, Colombia in October 2024. The Entity's messages and technical input contributed to the negotiations on the monitoring framework prepared by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators, including the elaboration of indicators for targets 22 and 23. UN-Women deepened partnerships with the Convention on Biological Diversity Women's Caucus, OHCHR, parties to the Convention and the Convention secretariat to advance human rights and gender equality across negotiations. In October 2024, it partnered with the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Colombia to prepare parties to the Convention in promoting gender equality in their national positions and national biodiversity strategies and action plans presented at the 16th meeting.

34. UN-Women urged the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to prioritize gender equality in the implementation of the Paris Declaration during both the subsidiary body meetings held in Bonn, Germany in June 2024 and the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties held in Baku in November 2024. Ahead of the subsidiary body meetings, UN-Women coordinated the first dialogue on the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention. In September, it co-hosted the first-ever Standing Committee on Finance forum on the theme "Accelerating climate

action and resilience through gender-responsive finance”⁷ in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, alongside the 35th meeting of the Standing Committee. The recommendations of the forum informed the 35th meeting and were integrated into the negotiations of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties. Together with the climate empowerment team and the presidency of the twenty-ninth session, UN-Women organized a high-level event and technical dialogue on accountability, held on Gender Day, the latter being a mandated event under the enhanced transparency framework for action and support. Lastly, through its regional offices, UN-Women provided technical inputs for parties’ preparations of new nationally determined contributions.

35. The Entity also collaborated with and continued to play a central role in the gender caucus of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, a multi-stakeholder constituted body of the Convention, providing technical support on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Through that engagement, UN-Women was nominated to co-lead, with the United Nations Environment Programme, the preparations for People’s Day at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Riyadh. As part of the Convention’s mandate to ensure accelerated progress on gender-responsive land degradation neutrality, UN-Women supported the secretariat’s Global Mechanism by providing technical advice on mainstreaming gender equality in the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme for 18 countries, which was presented at the sixteenth session.

36. UN-Women continued to drive progress in gender-responsive disaster risk reduction systems by facilitating and supporting the gendering of global, regional and national frameworks, mechanisms, plans and policies. As a result, UN-Women co-launched the gender action plan to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030⁸ at the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, alongside the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Population Fund. The development of the Sendai gender action plan marks an advance in gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, ensuring gender inclusion in national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction and gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework. Continuing the momentum from previous years, UN-Women also supported advances in gender equality and women’s leadership in normative disaster risk reduction and resilience processes and mechanisms, including regional platforms for disaster risk reduction; the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience: Towards a Risk-informed and Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development; the Advisory Panel of the Secretary-General’s Early Warnings for All initiative; the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative; the post-disaster needs assessment core group; and the inter-agency focal points group on disaster risk reduction. In addition, the Women’s Resilience to Disasters Policy Tracker continued to track policy progress in all Member States and now features 283 gender-responsive and high-risk group inclusive national and regional frameworks.

D. Financing for sustainable development

37. UN-Women has led system-wide efforts to integrate a gender perspective in the outcomes of the Economic and Social Council Financing for Development Forum since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in 2015. Consequently,

⁷ See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2024_06a05_cma2024_08a05.pdf.

⁸ Available at <https://www.undrr.org/media/94610/download?startDownload=20241211>.

intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations for the period from 2017 to 2024 included commitments to significantly scale up efforts to achieve gender equality, emphasizing the need for effective gender mainstreaming in the financing for development process. The 2024 outcome document ([E/FFDF/2024/3](#)) reinforced the commitments in the agreed conclusions of the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Member States reiterated the importance of gender equality as an overarching goal, noted the centrality of gender-responsive poverty eradication policies and underscored the need to expand gender-responsive social protection and strengthen gender-responsive planning and budgeting, promote inclusive trade policies and commit to achieving gender balance in the leadership of international financial institutions.

38. Since 2017, UN-Women and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs have co-chaired the gender cluster of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development. In 2024, under the Entity's leadership, the gender cluster produced a policy brief on financing for gender equality to inform the preparations for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and organized a high-level panel, which was held during the Conference's multi-stakeholder hearing in October.

IV. Human rights

39. UN-Women continued to support the work of the Human Rights Council during its fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh regular sessions. The Entity provided technical support to Member States in developing new draft resolutions and strengthening the gender dimension of thematic and country-specific resolutions. The Entity's technical inputs were reflected in at least seven resolutions adopted by the Council during its regular sessions in 2024, including on technology-facilitated gender-based violence (resolution [56/19](#)), accelerating progress towards preventing adolescent girls' pregnancy (resolution [56/21](#)), the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls (resolution [56/22](#)), human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS (resolution [56/20](#)), the elimination of domestic violence (resolution [57/18](#)) and the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (resolution [57/3](#)). The Entity also monitored the overall integration of a gender perspective in the different Council resolutions, which in 2024 reached 87 per cent of a total of 91 resolutions adopted during the regular sessions. UN-Women provided evidence-based inputs and advocated for the needs and rights of all women and girls in 47 interactive dialogues, meetings and panel discussions on thematic human rights issues and country situations, including during the annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. Similarly, the Entity participated in 19 side events in 2024, either as a co-sponsor, speaker or moderator. These included events focused on Indigenous women human rights defenders and gender-transformative access to justice, the gendered impacts of climate change, and the right to care. UN-Women supported the President of the Council in co-organizing the first-ever celebration of International Day of Women in Diplomacy in Geneva and launching the President's Advisory Board on Gender Equality, which UN-Women will continue to support through its membership and dedicated role in providing specialized technical assistance.

40. The Entity supported the substantive engagement of Member States in the universal periodic review through the preparation of 14 tailored country background briefs on the status of gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls in States under review.

41. UN-Women, in coordination with OHCHR, supported the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in all

regions, including by providing support to States parties in reporting under the Convention and in preparing for the constructive dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its eighty-seventh, eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions. UN-Women also offered support in connection with the preparation of the shadow reports by civil society organizations and supported all United Nations country teams in the preparation of reports to the Committee, including by coordinating and leading the process of preparing them. Furthermore, the Entity supported legal reforms and new policies in accordance with the Convention. UN-Women assisted the Committee in elaborating its general recommendation No. 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, including by providing inputs for the elaboration of the recommendation and organizing a series of five regional consultations with experts and civil society. General recommendation No. 40,⁹ adopted in October 2024, is aimed at providing updated guidance, emphasizing a practical shift in thinking towards gender-balanced and inclusive decision-making systems and embedding gender parity (50:50) as a permanent feature of power-sharing, democracy and good governance to achieve lasting change.

42. UN-Women provided inputs for the elaboration of a new joint general recommendation prepared by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families on the obligations of States parties with respect to public policies on addressing and eradicating xenophobia and its impact on the rights of migrants, their families and other non-citizens affected by racial discrimination. UN-Women held meetings with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to explore collaboration on highlighting the rights and concerns of women and girls with disabilities.

43. The Entity continued to provide evidence-based inputs to the work of special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, including by participating in events and working sessions. It participated in an interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on her report on integrating cross-disability, age, gender and other perspectives ([A/HRC/55/56](#)), highlighting the benefit of an intersectional approach. UN-Women held meetings with the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on the Elimination of Discrimination and Violence against Women to explore joint areas of collaboration.

44. The Entity continued to work with partners to address persistent legal discrimination against women by implementing the multi-stakeholder strategy for accelerated action entitled “Equality in law for women and girls by 2030” and supporting legislative reform initiatives worldwide. The Entity continued its partnership with OHCHR and Justice Rapid Response to deploy gender experts to investigations mandated by the Human Rights Council. In 2024, UN-Women deployed 11 experts to seven mechanisms to ensure that expertise in gender equality and child rights was present on investigation teams. The Entity also co-leads a community of practice that convenes deployed experts to facilitate harmonized methodologies and exchange best practices and lessons learned on gender-responsive human rights investigations.

45. UN-Women supported the new United Nations Executive Group to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Harassment in the UN system, which is focused on knowledge-sharing and collaboration on ending sexual harassment, improving policies and strengthening systems, advancing support for victims and survivors, strengthening capacity and monitoring progress and evaluating impact. Together with the

⁹ See <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/cedaw/grecommendations/gr40/CEDAW-general-recommendation-40-flyer.pdf>.

International Labour Organization, UN-Women convened a series of regional online sessions with United Nations entities and their partners to share good practices on addressing harassment and violence in the workplace.

V. Peace and security and humanitarian action

A. Women and peace and security

46. In 2024, the Executive Director of UN-Women briefed the Security Council four times, including on Afghanistan, young women peacebuilders and their role in the maintenance of international peace and security, women and peace and security, and the impact that the drawdown and forced departure of United Nations peacekeeping missions and special political mission could have on women and girls. The Executive Director also briefed the Council in an Arria-formula meeting on the synergies between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the women and peace and security agenda. UN-Women continued to serve as the secretariat for the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, which convened in Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Somalia, the Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen. Although the percentage of Security Council decisions integrating a gender perspective dropped for the third year in a row, the efforts of UN-Women contributed to strong language on women and peace and security in the renewal of United Nations missions. Council decisions included the first substantive reference to women's participation in mediation efforts regarding the Sudan since the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023 and the first reference to women's participation in the peace talks with armed actors from South Sudan.

47. UN-Women coordinated the annual report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security ([S/2024/671](#)), which contains alarming data and findings. Previously reported stagnation or regression across key women and peace and security indicators has continued, and the progress won is vanishing amid record levels of armed conflicts. The report, which places special emphasis on financing the women and peace and security agenda, concludes with a set of recommendations and proposed pledges ahead of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) in 2025. The data and findings in the report helped to guide the preparations for the Council's open debate on women and peace and security, with many Member States citing data in their statements.

48. UN-Women continued to play a central role in supporting Member States in realizing normative commitments on women and peace and security, including through the development and implementation of national action plans and related localization efforts. UN-Women supported the development of 40 adopted dedicated action plans in 2023. As the secretariat for the Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network,¹⁰ the Entity facilitated learning and collaboration among 103 members (93 members and 10 regional organizations). It also coordinated the second accountability report of the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action,¹¹ for which it acts as secretariat. The report provides updates on progress made by the more than 200 signatories to the Compact, including Member States, regional organizations, United Nations entities, the private sector, civil society and academia.

49. UN-Women continued to strengthen the inclusion of women in mechanisms on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism, including to inform the work

¹⁰ See <https://wpsfocalpointnetwork.org/>.

¹¹ See <https://wpshacomcompact.org/accountability-report-2024/>.

of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. It also held an interregional symposium on women in counter-terrorism governance, policy and programmes in Africa. The outcome was a new joint initiative between civil society organizations and UN-Women to strengthen the interface between women-led civil society organizations and regional entities mandated to support counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism. Special attention was given to collaboration with national counter-terrorism commissions and to gender in cybersecurity.

50. The Entity continued its work with the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law and its working group on gender justice, which it co-chaired. In 2024, the co-chairs of the working group developed a gender marker tracking system to assess and monitor the gender responsiveness of the support provided by the Global Focal Point. Through the Gender Justice Platform partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, in 2024, UN-Women supported access to justice in settings such as Colombia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Kosovo,¹² Lebanon, Mali, South Sudan, Tunisia and Ukraine.

51. UN-Women, through its strong partnership with the Peacebuilding Support Office of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, continued to play a leading role in promoting gender-responsive peacebuilding, including financing, and supporting conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives led by women and young people. In 2023, the Peacebuilding Fund approved \$202 million in support for peacebuilding initiatives in 36 countries, of which 47.3 per cent (\$95.8 million) supported gender equality. Through its support for the implementation of the Peacebuilding Commission's gender strategy (2016) and its action plan (2021), UN-Women contributed to stronger gender analysis across the Commission's activities, including country missions. This has resulted in a rise in outcome documents promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2023, 42 per cent of meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission were informed by briefings from women peacebuilders.

52. UN-Women continued to promote gender equality in United Nations peacekeeping through the Action for Peacekeeping initiative. The Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations, for which UN-Women serves as the secretariat, supports troop- and police-contributing countries in their efforts to increase the number of uniformed women deployed to United Nations peace operations, including through detailed assessment of the barriers impeding their participation. Six security institutions with completed assessments applied to the Elsie Initiative Fund for additional funding to address those barriers. In cooperation with the Integrated Training Service of the Department of Peace Operations, UN-Women developed the women's military peace operations course, which was held in Germany, Kenya and Thailand in 2024 with the aim of preparing women military officers for deployment to leadership roles in United Nations peace operations. In 2024, the collaboration of UN-Women with the Department of Peace Operations and efforts to enhance women's meaningful participation in peacekeeping was recognized in the annual report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

53. UN-Women continued to serve as the secretariat for the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, which is a global financing mechanism that mobilizes support for local and grass-roots women's organizations in conflict and crisis settings. Notably, close to half of the Fund's partners have accessed funding from the United Nations for the very first time. The Fund has demonstrated its ability to respond to normative priorities through dedicated funding for women's participation in peace processes and for the protection of women human rights defenders, as well as through

¹² References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

global funding calls to support local women's rights organizations working at the forefront of climate action and food security. Through its Invest-In-Women global campaign, the Fund mobilized more than \$89.3 million in new financing for the period 2023–2024 for local women's organizations in crisis and conflict settings, closing the gap towards its \$300 million target by the end of 2025, a target that is reinforced in the Secretary-General's United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan.

B. Humanitarian action

54. In its capacity as the co-chair of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action, UN-Women led the development of the new Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action.¹³ Endorsed by the Standing Committee Principals in February 2024, the updated policy reflects the most recent developments in policy and thinking on gender equality, with an emphasis on the rights of women and girls, who continue to be disproportionately affected and disadvantaged in humanitarian crisis settings. Harnessing progressive thinking across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus, the revised policy is transformative, inclusive and uncompromising towards achieving the goals of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of coordinated humanitarian response. It prioritizes the involvement of crisis-affected women and women's organizations in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all humanitarian services. The revised policy upholds core humanitarian principles and standards and addresses the needs and maximizes the potential of the most vulnerable women and girls among the crisis-affected population, in line both with humanitarian and human rights principles.

55. On behalf of the Gender Reference Group, UN-Women also coordinated the development of the forthcoming gender accountability framework report for 2023, reviewing the extent to which humanitarian coordination mechanisms in crisis contexts implemented the commitments in the previous Standing Committee gender policy. The report found that 85 per cent of crisis contexts had reported holding at least one consultation with local women's organizations as part of the annual humanitarian planning process, marking a steady improvement from previous years (starting from 56 per cent in 2018). A total of 88 per cent of crisis contexts also reported having an active "gender in humanitarian action" working group or its equivalent. This demonstrates sustained growth over the years (from 44 per cent in 2018) in the establishment and positive recognition of the contributions of country-level working groups on gender in humanitarian action in translating normative commitments on gender in humanitarian action to concrete action.

56. UN-Women also strengthened its role in humanitarian country teams, or their equivalent, in 36 crisis contexts, ensuring that humanitarian decision-making was guided by gender expertise and analysis. As the lead or co-lead of 27 national working groups on gender in humanitarian action and 6 regional groups, UN-Women led efforts, in close coordination with other humanitarian actors, to translate into action global policy commitments around the use of gender data and analysis; leadership of women's rights organizations; and allocation of financial and human resources to gender equality in humanitarian action.

¹³ Available at <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/IASC%20Policy%20on%20Gender%20Equality%20and%20the%20Empowerment%20of%20Women%20and%20Girls%20in%20Humanitarian%20Action.pdf>.

VI. Support for implementation of policy guidance at the national and regional levels

57. The translation of global norms, policies and standards into operational activities relating to gender equality, rights and the empowerment of women and girls is central to the work of UN-Women. The Entity supports Member States, upon their request, in building national capacities, including through policy advice and programmatic support. That includes support in preparations for and follow-up to the outcomes of the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. Consistent with the 2020 quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (General Assembly resolution 75/233), UN-Women has pledged in its Strategic Plan 2022–2025 (UNW/2021/6) to support efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda and other global normative and policy frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

58. The following paragraphs include some concrete examples of the support provided to Governments and other partners in their efforts to enhance the gender responsiveness of national policies, plans or strategies and to strengthen capacities to implement national priorities. They focus specifically on the agreed conclusions of the sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

59. In the field of innovation and technological change in the digital age, UN-Women engaged in various initiatives to support Member States. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, for example, it collaborated with the Ministry of the Presidency and the Electronic Government and Information and Communication Technologies Agency to develop a guide on addressing gender violence facilitated by technology. In addition, UN-Women partnered with Nokia to leverage digital solutions aimed at enhancing the capacities of women in vulnerable situations to improve their employability, entrepreneurship and online agency, while fostering women's participation and leadership in the technology sector. The partnership extends across Argentina, India, Jordan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia and Türkiye. Through the African Girls Can Code Initiative,¹⁴ in partnership with the African Union and the International Telecommunication Union, UN-Women provided young girls across Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania with essential skills in coding, digital literacy and leadership. In Jordan, in partnership with the local organization INJAZ, UN-Women introduced hybrid educational courses on financial literacy, digital skills, personal development, health and nutrition through its centres in 22 refugee camps. The courses are accessible on the online learning platform EdApp, ensuring that women in refugee camps¹⁵ can obtain essential training.

60. With regard to poverty eradication, institutional strengthening and financing, UN-Women provided technical and policy support to foster national care systems in Chile and the Dominican Republic. In Ethiopia, the Entity supported the establishment of a national task force on the care economy, driving child-care advocacy and standardization. In Brazil, UN-Women worked with the municipality of Belém, the Ministry of Women and the Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family and the Fight against Hunger to design care policies. In Kenya, it supported the country's first-ever time-use survey, whose findings informed the development of the country's national care policy. In South Africa, UN-Women

¹⁴ See <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/eastern-and-southern-africa/liaison-office-to-au-and-uneca/african-girls-can-code-initiative-agcci>.

¹⁵ See <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2023/12/un-womens-oasis-programme-empowers-jordanian-and-syrian-women>.

advocated for the rights of domestic workers by supporting the implementation of the Domestic Workers Act and their inclusion in the Unemployment Insurance Fund, thereby providing financial security and formal recognition to more than 1.2 million domestic workers. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, it helped to establish gender mainstreaming tools aimed at scaling up women's productive ventures and promoting social mobility. In Timor-Leste, UN-Women established and registered the first women weavers' economic collective, *Rede Soru Na'in*, in partnership with Timor Aid and the Alola Foundation. The initiative links gender-based violence and women's economic empowerment programming. The Entity partnered with the European Business Angels Network to improve financial access for women entrepreneurs, formalizing the collaboration through a memorandum of understanding. In Europe and Central Asia, it also designed and implemented the Women's Entrepreneurship Expo 2024 initiative,¹⁶ an innovative multi-stakeholder platform aimed at promoting the building of women's entrepreneurship ecosystems in the region. In Albania, the Government published key budget documents and integrated gender-responsive budgeting into 71 budget programmes, with 10 per cent of funds allocated to gender equality within the medium-term budget programme. In the United Republic of Tanzania, UN-Women provided capacity development on financing for care, which led to the development of action plans for gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting in six cities. In addition, the Entity supported the Government in integrating gender targets for the first time in its Public Financial Management Reform Programme Strategic Plan for 2022–2027.¹⁷ In Mali, Nigeria and Senegal, UN-Women supported public procurement authorities in adopting policies to benefit women-owned businesses. In Liberia, it partnered with the Central Bank to create regulations for secure mobile money, enabling rural women to access financial services and build credit histories for economic empowerment.

VII. Conclusion

61. In the context of a slowing, and in some cases reversed, rate of progress towards gender equality, coupled with multiple and interlinked crises that disproportionately affect women and girls, UN-Women continued to provide effective normative support to intergovernmental processes and bodies. The Entity continued to fill data gaps and to support evidence-informed policies, programmes and initiatives at both the regional and national levels and to contribute to the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

62. The upcoming global review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30) and the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women are critical milestones in the achievement of gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls. The thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration and Platform for Action provides an opportunity to evaluate progress, identify persistent challenges and renew commitments to advancing the rights of all women and girls. UN-Women will support the work of the Commission as it strengthens the global normative framework with ambitious commitments to achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the fulfilment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of intertwined global crises, while also supporting Member States in their implementation.

¹⁶ See <https://www.unwomenexpo.org/>.

¹⁷ Available at <https://www.mof.go.tz/uploads/documents/en-1669722570-PFMRP%20VI%20STRATEGY.pdf>.