



United Nations

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women

**Report on the sixty-third session
(23 March 2018 and 11–22 March 2019)**

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Note

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Summary

At its sixty-third session, the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/3, considered as its priority theme “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”. It also considered as its review theme “Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development”, evaluating progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of its sixtieth session.

Pursuant to the organization and methods of work of the Commission, as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/6, the session included a ministerial segment comprising four ministerial round tables, one high-level interactive dialogue among ministers on the priority theme and one high-level interactive dialogue on accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, with a focus on exchanging best practices in preparation for the Beijing+25 review and appraisal. The session also included a general discussion and two interactive expert panel discussions. The Commission considered its review theme through a series of presentations, made on a voluntary basis, by representatives of 12 Member States from various regions on lessons learned, challenges and achievements in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of its sixtieth session, which were followed by comments and an interactive dialogue among representatives of 25 partner countries and organizations. The Commission also discussed the focus area “Women and girls of African descent”.

The Commission adopted agreed conclusions on the priority theme, including to reaffirm existing commitments, set out areas and issues requiring attention in conjunction with the priority theme and a series of actions to be taken by Governments and other stakeholders to:

- (a) Strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks;
- (b) Strengthen women’s and girls’ access to social protection;
- (c) Strengthen access to public services for women and girls;
- (d) Make infrastructure work for women and girls;
- (e) Mobilize resources, strengthen women’s participation and improve evidence.

The Commission recognized its primary role in the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and called upon the United Nations system entities, relevant international financial institutions and multi-stakeholder platforms, and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to support efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

The work of the Commission on the priority theme and its agreed conclusions constitute an input to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

In addition, the Commission adopted a decision entitled “Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission”, for action by the Economic and Social Council.

The Commission also decided to take note of the report of its Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women and to include it in the present report in its entirety.

Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	5
A. Agreed conclusions of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women	5
B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	27
Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission . .	27
C. Matters brought to the attention of the Council	28
Decision 63/101 . Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women . .	28
II. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	30
III. 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”	31
A. Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives	34
B. Priority theme: social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls	35
C. Review theme: women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development	37
D. Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men: empowerment	39
E. Action taken by the Commission	40
IV. Communications concerning the status of women	42
V. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	46
VI. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission	47
VII. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session.	48
VIII. Organization of the session	49
A. Opening and duration of the session	49
B. Attendance	49
C. Election of officers	49
D. Agenda and organization of work	49
E. Documentation.	50

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Agreed conclusions of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. The following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission are transmitted to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [68/1](#) of 20 September 2013 and [70/1](#) of 21 October 2015, as an input to the work of the Council.

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

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹ the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly² and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.³

2. The Commission reiterates that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵ and the Optional Protocols thereto,⁶ as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁷ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights⁸ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁹ provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, throughout their life cycle.

3. The Commission reaffirms that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews, and the outcomes of relevant major United Nations conferences and summits and the follow-up to those conferences and summits, have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will make a crucial contribution to

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum ([E/2005/27](#) and [E/2005/27/Corr.1](#)), chap. I, sect. A; *ibid.*, 2010, *Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum ([E/2010/27](#) and [E/2010/27/Corr.1](#)), chap. I, sect. A; and *ibid.*, 2015, *Supplement No. 7* ([E/2015/27](#)), chap. I, sect. C, resolution [59/1](#).

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; and vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution [66/138](#), annex.

⁷ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁰ and to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

4. The Commission also reaffirms the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences, including the International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action¹¹ and the outcome documents of its reviews. It recognizes that the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,¹² the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,¹³ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development¹⁴ and the New Urban Agenda contribute,¹⁵ inter alia, to the improvement of the situation of all women and girls in the context of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure. The Commission recalls the Paris Agreement,¹⁶ adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.¹⁷

5. The Commission recalls the Declaration on the Right to Development¹⁸ and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.¹⁹

6. The Commission recognizes the importance of relevant International Labour Organization standards related to the realization of women's right to work and rights at work that are critical for the economic empowerment of women, and to social protection and public services, including the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) of the International Labour Organization, and recalls the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work,²⁰ and notes the importance of their effective implementation.

7. The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives in their respective regions and countries, and their follow-up mechanisms, in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls including through promotion of their access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure.

8. The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, are crucial for the full and equal participation of women and girls in society and for women's economic empowerment and should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty and the reduction of social exclusion. The Commission also reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹¹ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹² General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

¹³ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

¹⁶ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution 41/128.

¹⁹ General Assembly resolution 71/1.

²⁰ International Labour Organization, *Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*.

to the promotion, protection and full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

9. The Commission reiterates that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development needs to be implemented in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting each country's policy space and leadership while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, including by developing cohesive sustainable development strategies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The Commission affirms that Governments have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels with regard to progress made.

10. The Commission emphasizes the mutually reinforcing relationship among achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It acknowledges that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and women's full and equal participation and leadership are essential for achieving sustainable development, promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, enhancing sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productivity, ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere and ensuring the well-being of all.

11. The Commission recognizes the progress made in women's and girls' access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, particularly in the areas of health and education. The Commission also recognizes that significant challenges and gender gaps remain, and that, in some contexts, progress could be undermined by budget cuts and austerity measures. The Commission stresses the importance of not reversing the levels of protection previously achieved and of addressing the remaining gaps that constrain equal access for women and girls to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure.

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

13. The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against all women and girls, which is rooted in historical and structural inequality and unequal power relations between men and women. It reiterates that violence against women and girls in all its forms and manifestations, in public and private spheres, including sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, are pervasive, underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level. It expresses deep concern that women and girls may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of multidimensional poverty, limited

or lack of access to justice, effective legal remedies and services, including protection, rehabilitation, reintegration, and to health-care services. It re-emphasizes that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and that it violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

14. The Commission stresses that sexual harassment in private and public spaces, including in educational institutions and the workplace, as well as in digital contexts, leads to a hostile environment, which has a further negative impact on women and girls in the enjoyment of their rights and equal opportunities, including full and equal access to public services and sustainable infrastructure, and has negative and physical and mental health consequences for the victims and may negatively affect their families.

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

16. The Commission recognizes that poverty, unemployment, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, lack of social protection, pervasive gender inequality and violence, discrimination, marginalization and persistent demand are among the underlying causes that make women and girls vulnerable to human trafficking.

17. The Commission expresses its deep concern about slow or stagnant economic growth and development, the rising inequalities within and among countries, volatile food and energy prices, continuing food and energy insecurity, the remaining effects of the world financial and economic crises, water scarcity, epidemics, demographic changes, unplanned and rapid urbanization of populations, insufficient investment in development, unsustainable fisheries practices and use of marine resources, natural hazards, natural disasters and environmental degradation, the increasing challenges caused by humanitarian emergencies, displacement, armed conflicts and the adverse impacts of climate change, all of which are exacerbating the disadvantages, vulnerabilities and inequalities that women and men, girls and boys and their families face in accessing social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure.

18. The Commission expresses concern that the feminization of poverty persists and emphasizes that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is indispensable for women's economic empowerment and sustainable development. It recognizes that parents, including young parents, who live in poverty may not have access to health and education for their children, thus perpetuating the cycle of intergenerational poverty. The Commission acknowledges the need to elaborate and implement, where appropriate, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, comprehensive, participatory, gender-sensitive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues in order to ensure an

adequate standard of living for women and girls, including through social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure.

19. The Commission expresses its concern about the continuing significant gender gaps in labour force participation and leadership, wages, income, pensions and social protection, as well as access to economic and productive resources. It is further concerned about the undervaluation of female-dominated industries, unequal working conditions and limited opportunities for career advancement, as well as the growing high incidence of informal and non-standard forms of employment where women are overrepresented. It also expresses concern that these factors can restrict women's access to social protection when entitlements are tied closely to formal employment, which can perpetuate women's economic insecurity and poverty. The Commission recognizes that investments in and the provision of equitable, inclusive, quality, accessible and affordable early childhood education and care services are crucial in enabling women to enter and remain in the labour market.

20. The Commission is deeply concerned that climate change poses challenges for poverty eradication and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure and sustainable development, and that women and girls, especially in developing countries, including small island developing States, are often disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, extreme weather events and natural disasters and other environmental issues, including land degradation, desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms, persistent drought, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification. Furthermore, the Commission recalls the Paris Agreement and that the parties thereto acknowledged that they should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and intergenerational equity and, in this context, also recalls the adoption of a gender action plan by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-third session.²¹ It acknowledges the necessity for every person, including women and girls, of present and future generations to have access to an environment adequate to their health and well-being and the critical importance of ensuring such access for the empowerment of women and girls and the sustainable development and resilience of communities. The Commission recognizes the important role of sustainable development in averting the loss and damage associated with the effects of climate change and in reducing the risk of loss and damage, especially for women and girls in vulnerable situations, as well as the active role of women as agents of change in safeguarding the environment.

21. The Commission emphasizes that social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. It stresses the need for coordinated approaches, financing and policy coherence at all levels to ensure that social protection systems, public services and infrastructure policies complement one another.

22. The Commission stresses the need for integrated approaches to the design, implementation and evaluation of social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure that respond to the needs of women and girls and recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work, enable the mobility of women and girls, strengthen women's participation in public and political life, as well as their economic opportunities, in particular their full and productive

²¹ FCCC/CP/2017/11/Add.1, decision 3/CP.23.

employment and decent work and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and strengthen their resilience to shocks.

23. The Commission recognizes that social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure have not adequately addressed the needs of caregivers and care recipients. It further recognizes that women and girls often undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, including caring for children, older persons, persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV and AIDS, which continues to be undervalued and underrecognized. Such uneven distribution of responsibilities between women and men is a significant constraint for women's completion of, or progress in, education and training, on entry and re-entry and advancement in the paid labour market and on their economic opportunities and entrepreneurial activities, and can result in gaps in social protection, pay and pensions. It also recognizes that creating an enabling environment for the social and economic empowerment of all women and girls requires addressing attitudes and negative social norms by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys at the household and community levels. The Commission stresses the need to recognize and adopt measures to reduce and redistribute the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household and by prioritizing, inter alia, sustainable infrastructure, nationally appropriate social protection policies and accessible, affordable and quality social services, including care services, child care, maternity, paternity or parental leave.

24. The Commission notes that universal access to social protection plays a central role in reducing inequality, eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and promoting inclusive growth. It reiterates that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their families, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and that motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. The Commission, however, is concerned that gaps in coverage remain, especially for women and girls. It recognizes that social protection systems can make a critical contribution to the fulfilment of human rights for all, in particular for those who are trapped in poverty and those who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations and subject to discrimination.

25. The Commission notes the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of all human rights, including the right to social security, as well as access to social protection systems, and expresses concern at the low levels of birth registration among some indigenous women and girls, women and girls with disabilities, migrant women and girls and women and girls in rural areas, and expresses further concern that all persons without birth registration may be more vulnerable to marginalization, exclusion, discrimination, violence, statelessness, exploitation and abuse.

26. The Commission reaffirms the right of every human being to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, without distinction of any kind, and recognizes that its full realization is vital for women's and girls' lives and well-being and for their ability to participate in public and private life, and that it is crucial for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. It recognizes that targeting and eliminating the root causes of gender inequality, discrimination, stigma and violence in health-care services, including the unequal and limited access to public health services, is important for all women and girls.

27. The Commission emphasizes the need to accelerate progress towards the goal of universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to gender-responsive quality health services and quality, essential, affordable and effective medicines for all, and that it is critical to promote physical and mental health and well-being, especially through primary health care, health services and social protection mechanisms, including the promotion thereof through community outreach and private sector engagement and with the support of the international community. It stresses the importance of strengthening health systems in terms of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality in order to better respond to the needs of all women and girls, including those living in rural areas, and enabling the active participation of women in the design and implementation of health systems.

28. The Commission expresses its deep concern that, as a result of the lack of or limited access to essential health-care services and information and limited agency over their own lives, rural women experience significant disparities in health, including reproductive health outcomes, such as higher rates of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity and obstetric fistula, as well as more limited options for family planning, than women in urban areas. It expresses further concern that those disparities are exacerbated by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

29. The Commission recognizes that, despite gains in providing access to education, girls are still more likely than boys to remain excluded from education. It also recognizes that among the gender-specific barriers to girls' equal enjoyment of their right to education are the feminization of poverty, child labour undertaken by girls, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, early and repeat pregnancies, all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence and harassment on the way to and from and at school, in their technology-mediated environment, the lack of safe and adequate sanitation facilities, including for menstrual hygiene management, the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work performed by girls and gender stereotypes and negative social norms that lead families and communities to place less value on the education of girls than that of boys and may influence the decision of parents to allow girls to attend school.

30. The Commission recognizes that women public service workers are underrepresented in leadership and decision-making roles, and overrepresented in front-line service delivery roles. The Commission further recognizes the need to provide workers with decent work and just and favourable conditions of work, including living wages, especially for women engaged in the delivery of public services.

31. The Commission recognizes that transport systems, when planned, should take into account the needs of women and girls, and that certain features, including inaccessible platforms, overcrowded carriages or poorly lit stops can create barriers for women's and girls' access to public services. The Commission reaffirms the importance of safe, affordable, accessible, age-, gender- and disability-sensitive and sustainable land and water transport systems and roadways that meet the needs of women and girls, and the commitment to enable meaningful participation of women and girls in social and economic activities by integrating transport and mobility plans into overall rural, urban and territorial plans and promoting a wide range of transport and mobility options.

32. The Commission expresses deep concern that women and girls face particular barriers in accessing safe and affordable drinking water and adequate

and equitable sanitation and hygiene, especially those living in isolated and remote communities, including in post-disaster settings, evacuation and refugee camps and in informal urban and rural settlements. It is also concerned that women and girls are particularly affected by water scarcity, unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene, and that they shoulder the main burden of collecting household water and care responsibilities arising from water-borne diseases in many parts of the world, restricting their time for other activities, such as education and leisure, or for earning a livelihood.

33. The Commission recognizes the potential benefits and challenges of new forms of information and communications technology, including artificial intelligence, for the use and delivery of public services, in fields such as social protection, public services and infrastructure while more attention needs to be paid to the impacts of such technology on women and girls.

34. The Commission acknowledges the benefit of implementing family-oriented policies aimed, inter alia, at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the full participation of women in society, work-family balance and the self-sufficiency of the family unit and recognizes the need to ensure that all social and economic development policies, including social protection policies, as well as public services and sustainable infrastructure, are responsive to the changing needs and expectations of families in fulfilling their numerous functions and that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected.

35. The Commission recognizes that the sharing of family responsibilities creates an enabling family environment for women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, which contributes to development, that women and men make a significant contribution to the welfare of their family, and that, in particular, women's contribution to the home, including unpaid care and domestic work, which is still not adequately recognized, generates human and social capital that is essential for social and economic development.

36. The Commission acknowledges the important role of national mechanisms for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, the relevant contribution of national human rights institutions, where they exist, and the important role of civil society in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

37. The Commission acknowledges that all women and girls may not be able to fully access and benefit from social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure when they face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization. It respects and values the diversity of situations and conditions of women and girls and recognizes that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment. It also stresses that while all women and girls have the same human rights, women and girls in different contexts have particular needs and priorities, requiring appropriate responses.

38. The Commission recognizes that the positive contributions of migrant women and girls, in particular women migrant workers, have the potential to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination. It underlines the value and dignity of migrant women's labour in all sectors, including the labour of domestic and care workers. It is concerned that many migrant women, particularly those who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work, are especially vulnerable to

abuse and exploitation. The Commission acknowledges the importance of assisting women migrant workers at all skills levels to have access to social protection in countries of destination and profit from the portability of applicable social security entitlements and earned benefits in their countries of origin or when they decide to take up work in another country. The Commission also recognizes the need to strengthen efforts to provide, make available and disseminate accurate, timely, accessible and transparent information on migration-related aspects for and between States, communities and migrants at all stages of migration.

39. The Commission acknowledges the need to address the effects of armed conflict and post-conflict situations on women and girls, including victims and survivors of sexual violence, and their access to social protection systems.

40. The Commission recognizes the challenges faced by refugee women and girls and the need to protect and empower them, including in countries affected by armed conflict and post-conflict situations, and the need to strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees by providing humanitarian assistance to people in need.

41. The Commission stresses the importance of strengthening the voice, agency, participation and leadership of women and girls as users and beneficiaries of social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure. It also acknowledges the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and leadership of women at all levels of decision-making in the design, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies in these sectors so that they support the empowerment of women and girls and address remaining gaps and biases.

42. The Commission welcomes the major contributions made by civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders, girls' and youth-led organizations and trade unions in placing the interests, needs and visions of women and girls, including those living in rural areas, on local, national, regional and international agendas, including the 2030 Agenda. It also recognizes the importance of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with civil society in the implementation of measures to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

43. The Commission reaffirms the importance of significantly increasing investments to close resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through, inter alia, the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, the full implementation of official development assistance commitments and combating illicit financial flows, so as to build on progress achieved and strengthen international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. It also affirms that accelerated investments in social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure, including in rural areas and outer islands, are important for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

44. The Commission underscores that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, and recognizes that domestic resources are first and foremost

generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels, including well-functioning, efficient and transparent tax systems.

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

46. The Commission recognizes the importance of the full engagement of men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies in the promotion of women's and girls' access to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure and in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

47. The Commission urges governments at all levels and as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, and invites civil society, inter alia, women's organizations, producer, agricultural and fisheries organizations, youth-led organizations, feminist groups, faith-based organizations, the private sector, national human rights institutions, where they exist, and other relevant stakeholders, as applicable, to take the following actions:

Strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks

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

(b) Consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of particular priority, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocols thereto, limit the extent of any reservations, formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Conventions, review their reservations regularly, with a view to withdrawing them, withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the relevant Convention, and implement the Conventions fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation and policies;

(c) Ensure women's full and equal participation, including in institutions of governance and the judicial system, and secure their empowerment and full and equal access to justice;

(d) Consider ratification of and, for those that have done so, implementation of the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization, and note the importance of other relevant international labour standards, namely the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) and the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204) of the International Labour Organization, as well as the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), on decent work for domestic

workers, of the International Labour Organization, in order to contribute to women's access to social protection;

(e) Refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

(f) Ensure the right to social security in national legal frameworks, as well as ensure universal access to social protection, supported by national strategies, policies, action plans and adequate resources, to enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(g) Adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to the design, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure to ensure that gender-responsive policymaking processes, including public financial management and public procurement processes, are designed to realize gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(h) Ensure that social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure contribute to efforts to eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and end impunity, and to provide protection and equal access to appropriate remedies and redress to comprehensive social, health and legal services for all victims and survivors to support their full recovery and reintegration into society, including by providing access to psychosocial support and rehabilitation, and access to affordable housing and employment, and bearing in mind the importance of all women and girls living free from violence, such as sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicide, as well as elder abuse; and address the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination, monitoring and evaluation by, inter alia, encouraging awareness-raising activities, including through publicizing the societal and economic costs of violence, and working with local communities;

(i) Eliminate harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, which may have long-term effects on girls' and women's lives, health and bodies, including increased vulnerability to violence and sexually transmitted diseases, and which continue to persist in all regions of the world despite the increase in national, regional and international efforts, including by empowering all women and girls, working with local communities to combat negative social norms that condone such practices and empowering parents and communities to abandon such practices, confronting family poverty and social exclusion and ensuring that girls and women at risk or affected by these practices have access to social protection and public services, including education and health care;

(j) Devise, strengthen and implement comprehensive anti-trafficking strategies that integrate a human rights and sustainable development perspective, and enforce, as appropriate, legal frameworks, in a gender- and age-sensitive manner, to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons and raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls; take measures to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to modern slavery and sexual exploitation; provide access, as applicable, to

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

(k) Take all appropriate measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the reconciliation of work and family life, the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men and men's equitable sharing of responsibilities with respect to care and household work, including as fathers and caregivers, through flexibility in working arrangements, without reductions in labour and social protections, support for breastfeeding mothers, the provision of infrastructure, technology and public services, such as water and sanitation, renewable energy, transport and information and communications technology, and the implementation and promotion of legislation and policies such as maternity, paternity, parental and other leave schemes, as well as accessible, affordable and quality social services, including child care and care facilities for children and other dependants, take steps to measure the value of this work in order to determine its contribution to the national economy, and challenge gender stereotypes and negative social norms in order to create an enabling environment for women's empowerment;

(l) Ensure access to social protection for unpaid caregivers of all ages, including coverage for health care and pensions, and in this regard strengthen social protection schemes that promote, as appropriate, the economic, social and legal recognition of unpaid care and domestic work, and allow such work to be valued within contributory schemes;

(m) Invest in and strengthen family-oriented policies and programmes that are responsive to the diverse, specific and changing needs of women and girls and their families, as well as address the imbalances, risks and barriers that they face in enjoying their rights and protect all family members against any form of violence, and ensure that adequate measures are in place to protect and support women, including in cases of widowhood, such as access to the full range of social services and access to justice, as those policies and programmes are important tools for, inter alia, fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity;

(n) Fully engage men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies in: promoting women's and girls' access to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure; eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, in both public and private spheres, by understanding and addressing the root causes of gender inequality, such as unequal power relations, gender stereotypes and practices that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls; designing and implementing national policies and programmes that address the roles and responsibilities of men and boys, including the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in care and domestic work; ensuring the enforcement of child support laws; and transforming, with the aim of eliminating, negative social norms that condone violence against women and girls and attitudes by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys;

(o) Integrate a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies, plans and programmes, including budget policies, where lacking, on social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, ensuring coordination between line ministries, gender policymakers, gender equality mechanisms and other relevant government organizations and institutions with gender expertise, and appropriate collaboration with the private sector, non-governmental and civil society organizations and national human rights institutions, where they exist, paying increased attention to the needs of women and girls to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres;

(p) Guarantee the universal registration of births and ensure the timely registration of all marriages, including by removing physical, administrative, procedural and other barriers that impede access to registration and by providing, where lacking, mechanisms for the registration of births and marriages, including customary and religious marriages, bearing in mind the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of the rights of individuals, including the right to social security, as well as access to public services;

(q) Strengthen the capacity of national mechanisms for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, at all levels, with sustainable and adequate funding, including through official development assistance, to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, delivery and evaluation of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, enhancing their linkages and implementing these three focus areas;

(r) Eliminate all forms of discrimination against all women and girls and implement targeted measures to address, inter alia, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and ensure that all women and girls enjoy equal access, both in law and in practice, to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, which can, inter alia, contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and, in particular, the feminization of poverty, and to the reduction of inequalities through the adoption, where needed, of laws and comprehensive policy measures and their effective and accelerated implementation and monitoring, ensuring women's and girls' access to justice and accountability for violations of their human rights; and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations;

(s) Promote and protect the rights of indigenous women and girls living in rural and remote areas by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face, including violence, ensuring access to quality and inclusive education, health care, public services, economic resources, including land and natural resources, and women's access to decent work, and promoting their meaningful participation in the economy and in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, while respecting and protecting their traditional and ancestral knowledge, recognizing that indigenous women and girls living in rural and remote areas, regardless of age, often face violence and higher rates of poverty, limited access to health-care services, information and communications technologies, infrastructure, financial services, education and employment, while also recognizing their cultural, social, economic, political and environmental contributions, including to climate change mitigation and adaptation;

(t) Promote and protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities, who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including by ensuring their access, on an equal basis with others, to economic and financial resources and disability-inclusive and accessible social infrastructure, transportation, justice mechanisms and services, in particular in relation to health and education and productive employment and decent work for women with disabilities, as well as by ensuring that the priorities and rights of women and girls with disabilities are fully incorporated into policies and programmes and that they are closely consulted and actively involved in decision-making processes;

(u) Adopt national gender-responsive migration policies and legislation, in line with relevant obligations under international law, to: protect the human rights of all migrant women and girls, regardless of migration status; recognize the skills and education of women migrant workers to promote their economic empowerment in all sectors and, as appropriate, facilitate their productive employment, decent work and integration into the labour force, including in the fields of education and science and technology; recognize the importance of protecting labour rights and a safe environment for women migrant workers and those in precarious employment, including preventing and addressing abuse and exploitation, protecting women migrant workers in all sectors and promoting labour mobility; provide newly arrived migrant women with targeted, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, accessible and comprehensive information and legal guidance on their rights and obligations, including on compliance with national and local laws, obtaining work and resident permits, status adjustments, registration with authorities, access to justice to file complaints about rights violations, as well as access to basic services; encourage cooperation among various stakeholders, including countries of origin, transit and destination, in ensuring that migrant women and girls have adequate identification and the provision of relevant documents to facilitate access to social protection mechanisms; and facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returning migrant women and girls by providing them with equal access to social protection and services;

(v) Take measures to adopt or develop legislation and policies that provide rural women with access to land and support women's cooperatives and agricultural programmes, including for subsistence agriculture and fisheries, in order to contribute to school feeding programmes as a pull factor to keep children, in particular girl children, in school, noting that school meals and take-home rations attract and retain children in schools and recognizing that school feeding is an incentive to enhance enrolment and reduce absenteeism, especially for girls;

(w) Strengthen efforts to achieve universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and provide HIV-sensitive social protection measures, including cash transfers and other multisectoral programmes, as appropriate, to ensure access to health care, education, housing and employment for all women and girls living with, at risk of or affected by HIV and AIDS, including co-infections and other sexually transmitted infections; address their specific needs and concerns without stigma or discrimination; and promote the active and meaningful participation, contribution and leadership of women and girls living with HIV and AIDS in HIV and AIDS responses;

(x) Promote the effective and meaningful participation of older women, where relevant, in the design and implementation of normative and political

frameworks related to social security and social protection systems, public services and infrastructure that benefit them;

(y) Promote access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure and mainstream a gender perspective when designing and monitoring public policies, taking into account the specific needs and realities of women and girls of African descent and bearing in mind the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024);²²

(z) Ensure that women and girls belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities have equal and non-discriminatory access to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure, including quality education, and take steps to provide affordable child care and affordable transportation to and from work;

(aa) Eliminate occupational segregation by addressing structural barriers, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, promoting women's equal access to and participation in labour markets and in education and training, supporting women so as to diversify their educational and occupational choices in emerging fields and growing economic sectors, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics and information and communications technology, and recognizing the value of sectors that have large numbers of women workers;

(bb) Enact or strengthen and enforce laws and regulations that uphold the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value in the public and private sectors as a critical measure to eliminate the gender pay gap, provide in this regard effective means of redress and access to justice in cases of non-compliance, and promote the implementation of equal pay policies through, for example, social dialogue, collective bargaining, job evaluations, awareness-raising campaigns, pay transparency and gender pay audits, as well as through certification and review of pay practices and increased availability of data and analysis on the gender pay gap;

(cc) Provide social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure that support the productivity and economic viability of women's work and protect women, especially those working in the informal economy, in rural and urban areas, while supporting their transition from the informal to the formal economy to ensure an adequate standard of living, and take measures to address unsafe and unhealthy working conditions in the informal economy by promoting occupational safety and health protection for workers in the informal economy;

(dd) Take measures to facilitate the financial inclusion and financial literacy of women and their equal access to formal financial services, including timely and affordable credit, loans, savings, insurance and remittance transfer schemes; integrate a gender perspective into finance sector policy and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, encourage financial institutions, such as commercial banks, development banks, agricultural banks, microfinance institutions, mobile network operators, agent networks, cooperatives, postal banks and savings banks, to provide access to financial products, services and information to women and encourage the use of innovative tools and platforms, including online and mobile banking;

²² General Assembly resolution 69/16, annex.

Strengthen women's and girls' access to social protection

(ee) Encourage and recognize the efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection systems and measures, including national safety nets and programmes for all women and girls, such as food and cash-for-work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and increase investment, capacity-building and systems development;

(ff) Improve the design, implementation and evaluation of social protection systems and nationally appropriate measures based on context-specific assessment of risks and vulnerabilities for all women and girls;

(gg) Work towards establishing or strengthening inclusive and gender-responsive social protection systems, including floors, to ensure full access to social protection for all without discrimination of any kind, and take measures to progressively achieve higher levels of protection, including facilitating the transition from informal to formal work;

(hh) Ensure that social protection measures are effectively incorporated into humanitarian response in the context of natural disasters, armed conflict and post-conflict situations and other emergencies, while strengthening gender-responsive programming and planning; and recognize the important role social protection systems can play in disaster risk management strategies in building the resilience of communities and individuals and helping them cope with shocks, including those related to climate change, including through the transition of short-term emergency response programmes into long-term social protection systems;

(ii) Implement nutrition policies and provide integrated food and nutritional support and services, with special attention to women, girls, infants and young children; ensure their access at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food requirements for an active and healthy life; and support adequate care and optimal feeding practices, especially during pregnancy, lactation and infancy when the nutritional requirements are increased, including promoting exclusive breastfeeding up to six months, with adequate complementary feeding thereafter, therefore contributing to women's full and equal access to social protection and resources;

(jj) Promote legal, administrative and policy measures that strengthen unemployment protection schemes and ensure women's full and equal access to pensions, including access to income security for older women, through contributory and/or non-contributory schemes that are independent of their employment trajectories, and reduce gender gaps in coverage and benefit levels;

(kk) Assist migrant workers at all skills levels to have access to social protection in countries of destination and to profit from the portability of applicable social security entitlements and earned benefits in their countries of origin or when they decide to take up work in another country;

(ll) Guarantee access to maternity protection and promote, inter alia, paid maternity, paternity and parental leave and adequate social security benefits for both women and men, taking appropriate steps to ensure they are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits and promoting men's awareness and incentivizing their use of such opportunities, as a means of enabling women to increase their participation in the labour market; recognize the social significance of maternity, paternity, motherhood, fatherhood and the shared responsibility of parents in the upbringing of children;

and provide appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities through the development of universal and affordable services and facilities for the care of children, including breastfeeding facilities in the workplace;

(mm) Assess the need for and promote the revision of conditionalities, where they exist, related to cash transfer programmes, inter alia, to avoid reinforcing gender stereotypes and exacerbating women's unpaid work; and ensure that they are adequate, proportional and non-discriminatory and that non-compliance does not lead to punitive measures that exclude women and girls who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations;

Strengthen access to public services for women and girls

(nn) Ensure that quality public services are available, affordable, accessible and acceptable to all women and girls, including in situations of natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies, displacement and armed conflict and post-conflict situations;

(oo) Prioritize investments that contribute to the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including through accessible and affordable child care and other support services; extend the coverage and ensure equitable, inclusive, quality, accessible and affordable early childhood education and care services and facilities; and increase the availability of after-school services for children and adolescents;

(pp) Identify and remove barriers that constrain women's and girls' access to public services, such as geographic, legal and institutional barriers, including in rural and remote areas, in order to guarantee their access to these services on a regular basis and during emergencies;

(qq) Take concrete measures to realize the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health for all women and girls; and ensure the availability, accessibility and acceptability of quality health-care services to address all communicable and non-communicable diseases, including through universally accessible primary health care and support services and social protection mechanisms;

(rr) Accelerate progress towards the goal of universal health coverage for all women and girls that comprises universal and equitable access to affordable, quality, essential and effective health-care services and medicines for all, while ensuring that the use of such services and medicines does not expose the users to financial hardship;

(ss) Ensure and increase financial investments in affordable and accessible quality public health-care systems and facilities for all women and girls with safe, effective, quality, essential and affordable medicines and vaccines for all, as well as health technologies, the systematic utilization of new technologies and integrated health information systems, including through community outreach, private sector engagement and the support of the international community;

(tt) Increase investments in a more effective, socially accountable, motivated, appropriately equipped and well-trained health workforce, with ongoing education and training; and address the shortage and inequitable distribution of health-care workers by promoting decent work with adequate remuneration and incentives to secure the presence of qualified health-care professionals in rural and remote areas, including by utilising digital technologies for health-care providers and patients, enabling safe working

environments and conditions and expanding community-based health education and training;

(uu) Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, and recognizing that the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on all matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, as a contribution to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and the realization of their human rights;

(vv) Take measures to reduce maternal, neonatal, infant and child mortality and morbidity and increase access to quality health care before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth for all women through interventions such as improving transportation and health-care infrastructure, to ensure that women can access emergency obstetric services, and training and equipping community health workers, nurses and midwives to provide basic prenatal and postnatal care and emergency obstetric care, inter alia, by providing voluntary, informed family planning and empowering women, to identify risk factors and complications of pregnancy and childbirth and facilitating their access to health facilities;

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

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

(yy) Continue to develop and strengthen appropriate policies, strategies and programmes to enhance the employability of women, including young women, and their access to better remunerated employment options through formal and non-formal education, educational curricula and skills development and vocational training, lifelong learning and retraining and long-distance education; facilitate women's access to and opportunities in emerging fields, such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, information and communications technology and technical development, by expanding the scope of education and training, particularly in developing countries; and enhance women's and, as appropriate, girls' participation as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders;

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

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

Make infrastructure work for women and girls

(bbb) Develop and adopt gender-responsive strategies on mitigation and adaptation to climate change to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to and recover from adverse impacts of climate change, including natural disasters and extreme weather events, through the provision of essential infrastructure, social protection and public services that are sustainable, as well as appropriate financing technology, humanitarian assistance and forecast and early warning systems, and through, inter alia, the promotion of their health and well-being, as well as access to sustainable livelihoods and the provision of adequate resources, while ensuring women's meaningful participation in decision-making, at all levels, on environmental issues, in particular on strategies and policies related to the impacts of climate change, and by ensuring the integration of the specific needs of women and girls into humanitarian responses to natural disasters, into the planning, delivery, implementation and monitoring of disaster risk reduction policies, in particular, urban and rural infrastructure and land-use planning and resettlement and relocation planning during the aftermath of natural disasters, and into sustainable natural resources management; and ensure that social protection systems, public services and infrastructure are sustainable through the

integration of climate-smart dimensions and tools, including accurate and downscaled climate services developed in participation with the sectors involved, connecting science, policy and practice;

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

(ddd) Conduct systematic and transparent assessments of the gender and environmental impacts of infrastructure projects with the full, equal and effective participation of women and girls through social dialogues, thereby promoting the enjoyment of their human rights;

(eee) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water, as well as access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all women and girls, as well as for menstrual hygiene management, including for hygiene facilities and services, in homes, schools, temporary shelters for refugees, migrants or people affected by natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies or armed conflict and post-conflict situations and in all other public and private spaces; take measures to reduce the time spent by women and girls on collecting household water; address the negative impact of inadequate and inequitable access to drinking water and to sanitation and energy services on the access of girls to education; and promote women's full, effective and equal participation in decision-making on water and sanitation;

(fff) Ensure that every household has access to adequate levels of affordable and reliable electricity through appropriate grid and decentralized off-grid solutions, including from renewable energy sources, that are adequately maintained and support women's and girls' specific livelihood needs;

(ggg) Provide targeted support and incentives for women's participation and leadership as users and producers of energy; and strengthen the provision of clean fuel for cooking to curb indoor air pollution, which disproportionately affects women and children;

(hhh) Integrate a gender perspective into the planning and use of public spaces, the design and development of smart cities, communities and rural areas and intelligent mobility planning processes; and promote the mobility and empowerment of women and girls, including those with disabilities and those who are homeless, and promote inclusive societies, including through adequate housing, and in doing so ensure that public urban, rural and peripheral transport, including land and water transport systems and infrastructure, are sustainable, accessible, safe, affordable and gender-responsive, that they take into account the different needs of women and men, girls and boys and are adapted to be used by persons with disabilities and older persons;

(iii) Promote safe public spaces and improve the security and safety of women and girls through gender-responsive rural and urban planning and infrastructure, including sustainable, safe, accessible and affordable public transportation systems, prevent and eliminate violence and harassment against

women on their journey to and from work, and protect women and girls from being physically threatened or assaulted, including from sexual violence, while collecting household water and fuel and when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or practicing open defecation;

Mobilize resources, strengthen women's participation and improve evidence

(jjj) Take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, for example through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, including by enhancing revenue administration through modernized, progressive tax systems, improved tax policies, more efficient tax collection and increased priority on gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance to build on progress achieved and ensure that official development assistance is used effectively to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(kkk) Take steps in the design, implementation and pursuit of fiscal policies and gender responsive-budgeting to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by, inter alia, optimizing fiscal expenditures to extend social protection coverage, facilitating greater access to social protection and financial and business services, including credit for women, and promoting costing and cost-benefit calculation of the investments needed to ensure access to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure, bearing in mind that such policies and budgeting play a critical role in reducing poverty and inequality and supporting inclusive growth;

(lll) Encourage the international community and promote partnerships to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and to protect the poor and people in vulnerable situations, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, improving tax systems, promoting access to financial services, enhancing productive capacity, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, encouraging the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all;

(mmm) Urge developed countries to fully implement their respective official development assistance commitments, including the commitment made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets, and to help them, inter alia, to promote social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(nnn) Strengthen international and regional cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and invite all States to enhance South-South and triangular

cooperation, focusing on shared development priorities, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector, while noting that national ownership and leadership in this regard are indispensable for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and for improving their lives and well-being;

(ooo) Support the important role of civil society actors in promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women; take steps to protect such actors, including women human rights defenders, and to integrate a gender perspective into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights and to prevent violations and abuses against them in rural areas, inter alia, threats, harassment and violence, in particular on issues relating to labour rights, the environment, land and natural resources; and combat impunity by taking steps to ensure that violations or abuses are promptly and impartially investigated and that those responsible are held accountable;

(ppp) Ensure equal opportunities for women and girls in cultural, recreational and sport activities in all areas, including administration, management and participation in physical activities and sports at the national, regional and international levels, such as access, coaching, training, competition, remuneration and prizes;

(qqq) Consider evaluating the costs and benefits of private sector participation in social protection systems, public service delivery and infrastructure development;

(rrr) Create and strengthen gender-responsive accountability mechanisms, such as audits, and include beneficiaries and users in the evaluation of social protection, public service and infrastructure projects;

(sss) Strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex, income, age, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, to support policies and actions to improve the situation of women and girls through access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, and to monitor and track the implementation of such policies and actions, and enhance partnerships and the mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance to enable developing countries to systematically design, collect and ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely disaggregated data and gender statistics.

48. The Commission recognizes its primary role for the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which its work is grounded, and stresses that it is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to ensure synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

49. The Commission calls upon the United Nations system entities, within their respective mandates, and other relevant international financial institutions and multi-stakeholder platforms to support Member States, upon their request, in their efforts to enhance social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

50. The Commission recalls General Assembly resolution [72/181](#) of 19 December 2017, and encourages the secretariat to continue its consideration of how to enhance the participation, including at the sixty-fourth session of the

Commission, of national human rights institutions that are fully compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles),²³ where they exist, in compliance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

51. The Commission calls upon the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to continue to play a central role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and in supporting Governments and national women's machineries, upon their request, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector, employers' organizations and trade unions, and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-third session and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. 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":
 - (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution [2018/8](#));

²³ General Assembly resolution [48/134](#), annex.

* For the discussion, see chaps. VI and VII.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

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

- (b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men;
- (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

Documentation

Reports of the Secretary-General:

- Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts
- Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS
- Proposals on the Commission's priority and review themes for 2021 and beyond

Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the activities of the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcome of relevant sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women and responses thereto

5. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-fourth session.

C. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decision adopted by the Commission is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Decision 63/101

Chairs' summaries of the discussions held under agenda item 3*

4. At its 14th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to bring to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the following Chairs' summaries of the four ministerial round tables, the high-level interactive dialogue on the priority theme, the high-level interactive dialogue, the two interactive dialogues on the review theme, the interactive dialogue on the focus area and the two

* For the discussion, see chaps. III and V.

expert panel discussions on the priority theme and on the review theme under agenda item 3:

Chairs' summary of the ministerial round tables on good practices in the provision of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, including for recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work;¹

Chairs' summary of the ministerial round tables on good practices and policies for the design, and the provision and implementation, of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, including for the promotion of women's representation in various sectors and all levels;²

Chair's summary of the high-level interactive dialogue among ministers on building alliances for social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;³

Chair's summary of the high-level interactive dialogue on accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: exchange of best practices in preparation for the 25-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action;⁴

Chair's summary of the interactive dialogues on women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development;⁵

Chair's summary of the interactive dialogue on the focus area: women and girls of African descent;⁶

Chair's summary of the interactive expert panel discussion on harnessing synergies and securing financing;⁷

Chair's summary of the interactive expert panel discussion on the data challenge – and opportunity: good practices;⁸

¹ E/CN.6/2019/11.

² E/CN.6/2019/12.

³ E/CN.6/2019/13.

⁴ E/CN.6/2019/16.

⁵ E/CN.6/2019/15.

⁶ E/CN.6/2019/17.

⁷ E/CN.6/2019/14.

⁸ E/CN.6/2019/18.

Chapter II

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

5. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd meeting, on 11 March. It had before it its annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work ([E/CN.6/2019/1](#) and [E/CN.6/2019/1/Add.1](#)).

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 11 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work (see chap. VIII, sect. D), on the understanding that further adjustments would be made, as necessary, during the course of the session.

Chapter III

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”

7. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd to 14th meetings, from 11 to 22 March. It held a general discussion on the item at its 2nd, 4th to 7th, 9th, 12th and 13th meetings. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the Entity (E/CN.6/2019/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (E/CN.6/2019/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the sixtieth of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2019/4);

(d) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the discussion guide for the ministerial round tables to be held under the priority theme “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls” (E/CN.6/2019/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2019/6);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women (A/HRC/41/3-E/CN.6/2019/7);

(g) Note by the Secretariat on the results of the seventieth and seventy-first sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2019/10);

(h) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2019/NGO/1-140).

8. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 March, the Chair of the Commission, the Secretary-General, the President of the Economic and Social Council at its 2019 session, Inga Rhonda King (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés (Ecuador), and the President of the Security Council for the month of March 2019, Marlène Schiappa (France), addressed the Commission.

9. At the same meeting, an introductory statement was made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

10. Also at the same meeting, a joint statement was made by two civil society representatives.

11. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

12. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States and on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States), Norway (on behalf of the LGBTI Core Group),⁹ Algeria (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) and Namibia (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community).

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the State of Palestine (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Romania (on behalf of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine, as well as the European Union), Nauru (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum) and Thailand (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

14. At the 4th meeting, on 12 March, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Namibia, the Republic of Korea, Israel, Albania, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Estonia, Chile and Canada.

15. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Bahamas (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Cabo Verde (on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries),¹⁰ Mexico (on behalf of the Group of Friends of Older Persons),¹¹ Kiribati, Mauritius, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Sierra Leone, Latvia, the Netherlands, Angola, Uzbekistan, Switzerland, New Zealand, Iceland, Sweden, Zambia, Denmark, Australia, Egypt, Czechia, Austria and Botswana.

16. At the 5th meeting, on 13 March, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium, Algeria, Norway, Qatar, Kenya, Ireland, the Niger, Brazil, Guatemala, Kuwait, Tunisia and Malawi.

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Viet Nam, Luxembourg, the Dominican Republic, Mozambique, Romania, Nepal, Samoa, Turkey, Paraguay, the Bahamas, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, Cameroon, Mali, Cabo Verde, Seychelles, Maldives, the United Republic of Tanzania, Fiji, South Sudan, Armenia, Nauru, the Marshall Islands, Morocco and Gabon.

18. At the 6th meeting, on 13 March, the Chair of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, Ivana Radačić, made an introductory statement.

19. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Congo, Nicaragua, Haiti, Iraq, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

20. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Burkina Faso, Senegal, Burundi, Montenegro, Guyana, Guinea, the Gambia, Malta, Zimbabwe, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Georgia, Italy, Greece, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, Slovenia, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan,

⁹ The LGBTI Core group is composed of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, El Salvador, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Montenegro, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay.

¹⁰ The Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries is composed of Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor-Leste.

¹¹ The Group of Friends of Older Persons is composed of Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Uruguay.

Indonesia, Portugal, Argentina, Panama, Lebanon and Andorra, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

21. At the 7th meeting, on 14 March, statements were made by the representatives of Ecuador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Liechtenstein and Mongolia.

22. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Lithuania, Germany, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines, Tajikistan, Antigua and Barbuda, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Uruguay, Cuba, Uganda, Slovakia, Afghanistan, Mexico, Singapore, Rwanda, the Central African Republic, Togo, the Sudan, Ethiopia, Cyprus, Poland, Bulgaria and Tonga.

23. At the 9th meeting, on 15 March, statements were made by the representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, Bahrain, China, the Russian Federation and Peru.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Pakistan, El Salvador, Solomon Islands, Monaco, Benin, the Republic of Moldova, Lesotho, Costa Rica, Hungary, Papua New Guinea, the Federated States of Micronesia, Jordan, Bhutan, Yemen, Oman, Finland, Mauritania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Libya, Suriname, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Jamaica, the United States of America, the Syrian Arab Republic and India, as well as by the observer for the Holy See.

25. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the League of Arab States.

26. At the 12th meeting, on 18 March, a statement was made by the observer for Chad.

27. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Economic Community of Central African States, the African Union, the International Development Law Organization, the Sovereign Order of Malta, the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

28. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Regional Commissions New York Office (on behalf of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

29. Also at the 12th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; International Transport Workers' Federation; Widows for Peace through Democracy; Abaad Resource Center for Gender Equality; Amnesty International; Association of Families and Women in Rural Areas; Canadian Federation of University Women; Christian Aid (also on behalf of ActionAid, Association for Women's Rights in Development, Center for Economic and Social Rights, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, Public Services International and Womankind Worldwide); Human Rights Advocates; Ilitha Labantu; International Association of Women Judges; International Federation of Business and Professional Women; International Planned Parenthood Federation; Pacific Rim Institute for Development and Education; Soroptimist International; Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund;

World Federation of Trade Unions; World Youth Alliance; Coalition Against Trafficking in Women; Fundación BBVA para las Microfinanzas; the Grail (also on behalf of Girl Scouts of the United States of America); World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women; Graduate Women International; International Association of Democratic Lawyers; and Women's Federation for World Peace International.

A. Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Ministerial segment

High-level interactive dialogue on accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: exchange of best practices in preparation for the 25-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action*

30. At the 5th meeting, on 13 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission held a high-level interactive dialogue on accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: exchange of best practices in preparation for the Beijing +25 review and reappraisal, which was chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Colombia), who made an opening statement.

31. The Executive Director of UN-Women made a statement and responded to the questions posed by the Vice-Chair (Colombia).

32. An interactive dialogue ensued, during which the representatives of Nigeria, Ireland, China, Spain, Ecuador, Qatar, Peru, Brazil and Kenya participated.

33. The observers for Cuba, Argentina, Fiji, Australia, Latvia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Ukraine, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Zambia, Croatia, Turkey, Georgia, Thailand, Costa Rica, Germany, Jordan, Zimbabwe, Kazakhstan, Italy, Burkina Faso, Nepal, the United Republic of Tanzania, Myanmar, Kiribati, South Africa and Cyprus, as well as the observer for the European Union, also participated.

34. The following invited speakers responded to the questions posed by the Vice-Chair (Colombia): Chairperson of the National Council of Namibia, Margaret Mensah-Williams; Adviser and Senior Political Affairs Officer at the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations in New York, Louise Sharene Bailey; journalist, author and coordinator of the Global Media Monitoring Project, Sarah Macharia; Senior Counsel on Civil and Human Rights at Google, Malika Saada Saar; United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst; member of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, Ivana Radačić; Special Envoy of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and former Chair of the National Human Rights Institution of Kenya, Florence Simbiri-Jaoko; Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Sima Samar; and Sex Discrimination Commissioner of Australia, Kate Jenkins.

35. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the discussion: International Alliance of Women and Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú.

* See the Chair's summary of the high-level interactive dialogue ([E/CN.6/2019/16](#)).

B. Priority theme: social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls*

1. Ministerial segment

Ministerial round tables held in parallel

36. At its 3rd meeting, on 11 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission held four ministerial round tables in parallel meetings on the priority theme, “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”.

Topic A: Good practices in the provision of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, including for recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work

Round table 1

37. Ministerial round table 1 was chaired by the Minister of Public Service, Gender and Youth Affairs of Kenya, Sicily Kanini Kariuki, who made a statement.

38. In the ensuing discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Guatemala, Malawi, the Russian Federation and China, as well as by the observers for New Zealand, Botswana, Czechia, Maldives, Switzerland, Cabo Verde, Paraguay, Argentina, Slovenia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Gabon, the Dominican Republic, Hungary, South Africa, Uruguay and Côte d’Ivoire.

39. The observer for the European Union also participated in the discussion.

40. The Deputy Executive Director of the International Trade Centre summarized the key issues raised during the discussion and the way forward.

Round table 2

41. Ministerial round table 2 was chaired by the High Presidential Adviser for Women’s Equality of Colombia, Ana María Tribín Uribe, who made an opening statement.

42. In the ensuing discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, the United Kingdom and Peru, as well as by the observers for Turkey, Sri Lanka, Samoa, Nepal, Mexico, the Sudan, the United States, the Gambia, Cameroon, North Macedonia, Sierra Leone, the Central African Republic and Mali.

43. The Assistant Secretary-General of UN-Women summarized the key issues raised in the discussion and the way forward.

44. The Chair of the ministerial round table 2 (Colombia) made a statement.

Topic B: Good practices and policies for the design and provision and implementation of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure, including for the promotion of women’s representatives in various sectors and all levels

Round table 3

45. Ministerial round table 3 was chaired by the Minister of Health and Labour of Estonia, Riina Sikkut, who made an opening statement.

* See the Chairs’ summaries of the ministerial round tables ([E/CN.6/2019/11](#) and [E/CN.6/2019/12](#)), of the high-level interactive dialogue among ministers ([E/CN.6/2019/13](#)) and of the interactive expert panel discussion ([E/CN.6/2019/14](#)).

46. In the ensuing discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Ireland, Qatar, Nigeria, Belgium, Japan and Brazil, as well as by the observers for the Bahamas, Latvia, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire, Zambia, Germany, Bangladesh, Greece, Angola, Portugal, Finland and Timor-Leste.

47. A statement was also made by the observer for the State of Palestine.

48. The Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund summarized the key issues raised in the discussion and the way forward.

Round table 4

49. Ministerial round table 4 was chaired by the Mayor of Baghdad, Thikra Mohammed Jabir Alwash, who made an opening statement.

50. In the ensuing discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, Canada, Spain, the Niger, the Republic of Korea, Trinidad and Tobago and Chile, as well as by the observers for Mauritius, Austria, Morocco, Lithuania, Indonesia, Luxembourg, the United Republic of Tanzania, Denmark, the Philippines, Cuba, Ukraine, Uganda and South Africa.

51. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services summarized the key issues raised in the discussion and the way forward.

2. Ministerial segment

High-level interactive dialogue among ministers on building alliances for social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

52. At its 4th meeting, on 12 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission held a high-level interactive dialogue among ministers on building alliances for social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, which was chaired by the Minister for Equality, Immigration and Integration of Ireland, David Stanton, who made an opening statement.

53. The following guest speakers responded to the questions posed by the Chair of the high-level interactive dialogue: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet; Chair of the Elders, Mary Robinson; and Chief Executive Officer of Plan International, Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen.

54. An interactive dialogue ensued, during which the representatives of Estonia, Nigeria, Guatemala, Brazil, Canada, the Republic of Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, Qatar, Ecuador, Namibia, Iraq, Spain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya and Peru participated.

55. The observers for Switzerland, Australia, South Africa, Indonesia, Fiji, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Austria, the Bahamas, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Lithuania, Georgia, Portugal, Uruguay, Italy, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, Finland, Ukraine, New Zealand and Denmark also participated.

56. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council participated in the dialogue: International Disability Alliance; Oxfam International (also on behalf of the Uganda Women's Network); IPAS; and the European Women's Lobby.

3. Interactive expert panel discussion on harnessing synergies and securing financing

57. At its 10th meeting, on 15 March, the Commission held an interactive expert panel on harnessing synergies and securing financing, moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Estonia), who made an opening statement.

58. Statements were made by the following panellists: Minister of Family and Social Inclusion of Cabo Verde, Maritza Rosabal; Director of the Ramalingaswami Centre on Equity and Social Determinants of Health at the Public Health Foundation of India, Gita Sen; co-founder and Director of Ladysmith, Tara Cookson; Gender Specialist with the Transport Global Practice at the World Bank, Nato Kurshitashvili; and Senior Researcher at the Centro de Informaciones y Estudios del Uruguay, Fernando Filgueira.

59. The expert discussant, Head of the Social Policy Unit in the Social Protection Department of the International Labour Organization, Christina Behrendt, made a statement and summarized the points raised by the panellists.

60. An interactive discussion ensued, during which the representative of Kenya and the observers for South Africa, Italy and Cuba participated.

61. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the discussion: Center for Economic and Social Rights; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women; Women Engage for a Common Future; Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; Plan International; Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer; Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing; and Yale International Relations Association.

62. The panellists responded to the comments made and the questions raised by the delegations.

C. Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development*

1. Ministerial segment

National voluntary presentations

63. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 13 and 14 March, in parallel with the general discussions, the Commission held two interactive dialogues at which national voluntary presentations were made on the review theme, "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development".

64. At its 6th meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Kenya) made opening remarks.

65. At the same meeting, the Officer-in-Charge of Economic Empowerment of UN-Women made a statement.

66. At the 7th meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Estonia) made opening remarks.

* See the Chairs' summaries of the national voluntary presentations (E/CN.6/2019/15) and of the interactive expert panel discussion (E/CN.6/2019/18).

Presentations by Italy, Qatar, Spain, the Philippines, Egypt and Bulgaria

67. At the 6th meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observer for Italy, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the observers for Bulgaria and Mexico.

68. At the same meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the representative of Qatar, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the representatives of Iraq and Ghana.

69. Also at the same meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the representative of Spain, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the observers for Argentina and Portugal.

70. Also at the 6th meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observer for the Philippines, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the observers for Australia and Thailand.

71. At the same meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observer for Egypt, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments from the representatives of UN-Women and of the European Union.

72. Also at the same meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observer for Bulgaria, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the observers for Italy, Austria and Singapore.

Presentations by Cabo Verde, Honduras, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia and Algeria

73. At the 7th meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observer for Cabo Verde, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the representative of Spain and the observer for Uruguay.

74. At the same meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observer for Honduras, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the observers for the Dominican Republic and Panama.

75. Also at the same meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observer for Panama, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the observers for El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Honduras.

76. Also at the 7th meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the representative of Saudi Arabia, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the observers for the United Arab Emirates and Maldives.

77. At the same meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observer for Slovakia, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the representative of Namibia and the observer for Luxembourg.

78. Also at the same meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the representative of Algeria, followed by comments and questions by the observer for Cuba.

2. Interactive expert panel discussion on the data challenge – and opportunity: good practices

79. At its 11th meeting, on 18 March, the Commission held an interactive expert panel discussion on the data challenge – and opportunity: good practices, moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Iraq), who made an opening statement.

80. Statements were made by the following panellists: Director of Data Use at Development Initiatives, Claudia Wells; Regional Director for Africa at the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Davis Adieno; Head of the Gender Statistics Division at the Department of Statistics in Jordan, Manal Sweidan; Senior Adviser for the 2030 Agenda at the International Disability Alliance, Orsolya Bartha; and Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Census, Surveys and Demography Statistics Division of the Samoan Bureau of Statistics, Taiaopo Faumuina.

81. An interactive discussion ensued, during which the representatives of Ghana and Nigeria participated, as well as the observers for Cuba, Italy, the Dominican Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Morocco and Zimbabwe.

82. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the discussion: Women Deliver; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women; Women for Water Partnership; Fundación BBVA para las Microfinanzas; Plan International; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts; Sociologists for Women in Society; Women's Federation for World Peace International; and The Salvation Army.

83. The panellists responded to the comments and questions raised by the participants.

D. Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men: empowerment*

1. Ministerial segment

Interactive dialogue on the focus area: women and girls of African descent

84. At the 8th meeting, on 14 March, the Commission held an interactive dialogue on the focus area, "Women and girls of African descent", under two themes, moderated by the Vice-Chair (Colombia), who made an opening statement.

Theme 1: Enhancing political participation and economic empowerment for women of African descent, including through enhanced access to social protection and public services and economic and social integration, particularly with regard to education, health care and housing

85. Under theme 1, statements were made by the following guest speakers: member of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Dominique Day, and General Coordinator of the Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women's Network, Caren Paola Yañez.

86. An interactive discussion ensued, during which the representative of Brazil and the observers for Mexico, South Africa, the Bahamas, Costa Rica and Uruguay, as well as the observer for the European Union, participated.

87. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund also participated in the discussion.

88. The representative of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also participated in the discussion.

Theme 2: Addressing inequalities, discrimination and violence faced by women and girls of African descent

* See the Chair's summary of the interactive dialogue ([E/CN.6/2019/17](#)).

89. Under theme 2, statements were made by the following speakers: Executive Coordinator of ODARA (Black Women's Institute), Valdecir Nascimento; Programme Manager in the Research and Data Unit of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Sami Nevala; and Executive Director of UN-Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

90. An interactive discussion ensued, during which the representative of Brazil and the observers for Costa Rica and the Bahamas participated.

91. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated: Youth Bridge Foundation; International Association of Democratic Lawyers; the Grail; Novant Health; US Human Rights Network; Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women; International Trade Union Confederation; American Association of Jurists; and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

E. Action taken by the Commission

1. Agreed conclusions on social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

92. At the 14th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission had before it the draft agreed conclusions on social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as contained in an informal paper, in English only, and submitted by the Chair of the Commission (Ireland) on the basis of informal consultations and subsequently issued as document [E/CN.6/2019/L.3](#).

93. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the agreed conclusions and decided to transmit them to the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [68/1](#) and [70/1](#) (see chap. I, sect. A).

94. Before the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Guatemala.

95. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States and in a national capacity), Brazil, Liechtenstein, the United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union and in a national capacity), the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Comoros (also on behalf of Bahrain, Belarus, Cameroon, Djibouti, the Gambia, Indonesia, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe), Japan, Kuwait and Tunisia, as well as by the observers for Mexico, Mauritania, Argentina (also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay), Djibouti, the United States, South Africa, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Lebanon, the Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.

96. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

97. Statements on a point of order were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, and the Chair provided clarification and took note that the delegations of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia disassociated themselves from the agreed conclusions as adopted.

98. The Secretary also made a clarification, in response to the question posed by the representative of the Comoros.

99. A statement on a point of order was also made by the representative of Guatemala.

2. Chairs' summaries of the discussions held under agenda item 3

100. At its 14th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission decided to bring to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the Chairs' summaries of the discussions held under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision [63/101](#)).

Chapter IV

Communications concerning the status of women

101. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 13th (closed) meeting, on 20 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (see para.103 below);¹

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2019/R.1 and E/CN.6/2019/R.1/Add.1).

Action taken by the Commission

Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

102. At its 13th (closed) meeting, on 20 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women.¹

103. At the same (closed) meeting, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Working Group and to incorporate it into the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session. The report of the Working Group read as follows:

1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women met in closed meetings before the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/235 and was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI), 1983/27, 1992/19, 1993/11 and 2009/16.
2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and the replies by Governments thereon (E/CN.6/2019/R.1 and E/CN.6/2019/R.1/Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women, no such communications having been received by the Secretary-General.
3. The Working Group considered 38 confidential communications, addressed to 26 States, received directly by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The Working Group noted that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.
4. The Working Group noted that there were 14 replies from 10 Governments.
5. The Working Group recalled its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, in which it was stated that the Working Group should perform the following functions:
 - (a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments, that appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

¹ The report was also circulated internally among the members of the Commission under document symbol E/CN.6/2019/R.2.

(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, that would indicate the categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission.

6. The Working Group noted that a number of communications of a general nature had been submitted, as had communications alleging specific cases of discrimination against individual women and girls.

7. The Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications had most frequently been submitted to the Commission:

(a) Sexual violence against women and girls, including rape, *inter alia*, marital rape and gang rape, and trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced prostitution;

(b) Other forms of violence against women and girls, *inter alia*, in public and private spheres, including domestic violence, targeted killings of women, death threats, trafficking in women and girls, including for the purpose of forced labour, slavery, organ removal and recruitment for drug trafficking, forced sterilization of women and girls with disabilities, and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child and forced marriage;

(c) Physical violence, sexual assault, torture, harassment and arbitrary detention by law enforcement officials with impunity, as well as lack of due process and delays in proceedings;

(d) Inadequate conditions for women in detention and penitentiary systems, including a lack of proper bathroom facilities, access to basic health care, degrading treatment and torture of and physical and sexual violence against those women;

(e) Systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, including discrimination, harassment, sexual violence and impunity, some of which target women and girls in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including women and girls with disabilities, and migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls;

(f) Killings, death threats, intimidation, cyberbullying, torture, ill-treatment, harassment, including judicial harassment, travel bans, asset freeze orders, arbitrary arrest and detention of and violence, including sexual violence, against women human rights defenders, some of which also target their family members, as a means of exerting pressure on them to stop their activities;

(g) Violations of the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, as stipulated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as insufficient access to health care services;

(h) Ineffective government institutions, and inadequate implementation and/or enforcement of laws aimed at promoting and protecting women's human rights and addressing persisting inequalities;

(i) Legislation, policies and/or stereotypical practices and attitudes that discriminate against women in the areas of:

(i) Civil and political rights, including freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of movement, freedom of association, the right to be free from torture, and equality before the courts;

(ii) Economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to health, and the right to education;

- (iii) Nationality;
- (iv) Right to own and inherit property;
- (v) Family, marriage and guardianship;
- (vi) Access to justice;
- (vii) Punishment for rape;

(j) Failure by States to adequately: combat stereotypes about women, including through media; exercise due diligence to prevent violence and discrimination against women and girls; investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators in a timely manner, resulting in impunity; provide protection and support for victims; ensure access to justice; and ensure equal opportunities for women and girls.

8. During its consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, and its consideration of the question of whether any of those appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group expressed its concern about:

(a) Violence against women and girls including in private and public spheres, inter alia, rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture and targeted killings, trafficking in women and girls and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child and forced marriage, and their adverse effects on the full enjoyment by women and girls of all fundamental rights;

(b) Violations of the right of women to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, as stipulated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as access to health care;

(c) The persistence of gender stereotypes, reinforced by discriminatory laws, policies and practices;

(d) The continued existence of legislation and/or practices in many areas that discriminated against women or had the effect of discriminating against women, ineffective or insufficient implementation of existing laws aimed at protecting and promoting the human rights of women and addressing persistent inequalities as well as the lack of such laws, notwithstanding States' international obligations and commitments;

(e) Discrimination and violence against women and girls in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including women and girls with disabilities, and asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant women and girls;

(f) Killings, torture, violence, harassment, including judicial harassment, and arbitrary arrest and detention of women human rights defenders, some of which also target their family members;

(g) The persisting climate of impunity and abuse of power, including in many cases where violence against women, including sexual violence, is perpetrated or condoned by law enforcement personnel;

(h) The failure by States to adequately exercise due diligence in order to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and to investigate and prosecute such crimes, punish perpetrators and provide protection and assistance to victims.

9. The Working Group expressed appreciation for the cooperation extended by the Governments that had submitted replies or clarifying observations with regard to the communications received, recognizing their importance. Expressing concern about the continuing gap between the number of communications and the number of replies received, the Working Group called upon all Governments that had not done so to make such submissions in the future. The Working Group considered such cooperation essential for it to discharge its duties effectively. From the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that Governments had explained their positions, carried out investigations into the allegations made and/or taken measures, such as improving the enforcement of existing legislation, introducing programmes and services to better protect and assist women, including women who were victims of violence, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of violence and making efforts to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by women, in accordance with relevant international standards.

Chapter V

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

104. At its 13th meeting, on 20 March, the Commission considered item 5 of its agenda. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 14 December 2018 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women ([E/CN.6/2019/8](#));

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the input by the Commission on the Status of Women to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development ([E/CN.6/2019/9](#)).

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission

105. At its 14th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission considered item 6 of its agenda. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for its sixty-fourth session ([E/CN.6/2019/L.2](#)).

106. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its sixty-fourth session and recommended them to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session

107. At the 14th meeting, on 22 March, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur (Estonia) introduced the draft report of the Commission on its sixty-third session, as contained in document [E/CN.6/2019/L.1](#).

108. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its sixty-third session and entrusted the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur with its finalization.

Chapter VIII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

109. The Commission on the Status of Women held its sixty-third session at United Nations Headquarters on 23 March 2018 and from 11 to 22 March 2019. The Commission held 14 meetings (1st to 14th).

B. Attendance

110. The session was attended by representatives of 44 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and of intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Election of officers

111. The following officers were elected at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the sixty-second session, on 24 March 2017 and 12 March 2018, and at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the sixty-third session, on 23 March 2018 and 11 March 2019, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its sixty-third session:

Chair:

Geraldine Byrne Nason (Ireland)

Vice-Chairs:

Koki Muli Grignon (Kenya)

Mauricio Carabalí Baquero (Colombia)

Mohammed Sahib Mejid Marzooq (Iraq)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:

Rena Tasuja (Estonia)

D. Agenda and organization of work

112. At its 2nd meeting, on 11 March 2019, the Commission adopted its agenda, as contained in document [E/CN.6/2019/1](#). The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. 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”:
 - (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
 - (i) Priority theme: social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
 - (ii) Review theme: women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session);

- (b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
 - (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
 5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
 6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.
 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session.

113. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document [E/CN.6/2019/1/Add.1](#).

E. Documentation

114. The list of documents before the Commission at its sixty-third session is available from www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019/official-documents.