



United Nations

Commission on the Status of Women

**Report on the sixty-sixth session
(26 March 2021 and 14–25 March 2022)**

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Summary

At its sixty-sixth session, the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2020/15, considered as its priority theme “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”. It considered as its review theme “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”, evaluating progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of its sixty-first session.

Pursuant to the organization and methods of work of the Commission, as set out in Council resolution 2015/6, the session included a ministerial segment comprising an opening segment, four ministerial round tables and one general discussion. The session also included an interactive expert panel on the priority theme and an interactive dialogue on the emerging issue of harnessing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic recovery for gender equality and a sustainable future. 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 sixty-first session, which were followed by comments and an interactive dialogue among representatives of 28 partner countries and civil society organizations that provided comments and posed questions at the invitation of the presenting countries.

The Commission adopted agreed conclusions on the priority theme, in which it reaffirmed existing commitments and 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 regulatory frameworks;
- (b) Integrate gender perspectives into climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;
- (c) Expand gender-responsive finance;
- (d) Enhance gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex;
- (e) Foster a gender-responsive just transition.

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 ensure women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

The work of the Commission on the priority theme and its agreed conclusions as well as the interactive dialogue on the emerging issue constitute inputs to the work of the Economic and Social Council and to the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

In addition, the Commission adopted:

- (a) A draft resolution entitled “Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women”, for action by the Council;
- (b) A draft resolution entitled “Thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women”, for action by the Council;

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- (c) A draft resolution entitled “Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS”;
 - (d) A draft resolution entitled “Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts”;
 - (e) A draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission”, for action by the 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.

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Chapter I

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

A. Agreed conclusions of the sixty-sixth 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.

Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

Agreed conclusions

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, twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and stresses the need to further strengthen their implementation.

2. The Commission reiterates that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³ 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 Rights,⁸ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁹ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination¹⁰ and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families¹¹ 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 course.

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 1, annexes I and II.

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

³ General Assembly resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

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.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

3. The Commission reaffirms that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews, and the outcomes of relevant major United Nations conferences and summits and the follow-up to those conferences and summits, have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹² and to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

4. 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. It acknowledges that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and women's full, equal effective and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction is essential for achieving sustainable development, promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, enhancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productivity, ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere and ensuring the well-being of all. It recognizes that women and girls play a vital role as agents of change for sustainable development.

5. 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 in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

6. The Commission reaffirms the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences, including the International Conference on Population and Development¹³ and its Programme of Action and the outcome documents of its reviews. It recognizes that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,¹⁴ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,¹⁵ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹⁶ the New Urban Agenda,¹⁷ the World Summit for Social Development and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage¹⁸ contribute, inter alia, to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

7. 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

¹² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹³ *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.

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

¹⁶ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution 74/2.

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 all 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.

8. The Commission reaffirms the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention and the Glasgow Climate Pact, as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹⁹ the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,²⁰ the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,²¹ the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants²² and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.²³

9. The Commission recalls that the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Glasgow Climate Pact acknowledge that climate change is a common concern of humankind. It reaffirms the long-term temperature goal in the Paris Agreement to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and notes, as recognized in the Pact, that the impacts of climate change will be much lower at a temperature increase of 1.5°C compared with 2°C. It resolves to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C; and recognizes that limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, including reducing global carbon dioxide emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 relative to the 2010 level and to net zero around mid-century, as well as deep reductions in other greenhouse gases.

10. The Commission also recalls in this regard article 2, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, which provides that the Paris Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.

11. The Commission further recalls that Member States should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, and the right to development, as well as gender equality, the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity. The Commission encourages Member States to increase the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in climate action and to ensure gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation, which are vital for raising ambition and achieving climate goals.

12. The Commission takes note of the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at its

¹⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

²¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2244, No. 39973.

²² *Ibid.*, vol. 2256, No. 40214.

²³ UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/4, annex II.

twenty-fifth session, of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan, and recognizes the value of national gender and climate change focal points.

13. The Commission recognizes that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 calls for the integration of gender, age, disability and cultural perspectives into all policies and practices while taking into account national circumstances, and consistent with domestic laws as well as international obligations and commitments, and that women’s and youth leadership should be promoted. It also recognizes that empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender-equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key, including for effectively managing disaster risk and for designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes. It recalls that the Sendai Framework recognizes women’s participation and leadership as critical for disaster risk reduction.

14. The Commission recalls General Assembly resolution [71/312](#) of 6 July 2017, in which the Assembly endorsed the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”, and recognizes the importance of gender equality and the crucial role of women and youth in the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

15. The Commission also recalls the establishment of the women and peace and security agenda and reaffirms that the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding is one of the essential factors for the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.

16. The Commission further recalls the Declaration on the Right to Development,²⁴ the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples²⁵ and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.²⁶

17. 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. It also reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the promotion, protection and full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction.

18. The Commission expresses concern that climate change, the pollution of air, land and water, biodiversity loss and decline in ecosystem functions and services threaten the full enjoyment of human rights of all women and girls and have acute impacts on women and girls, especially on rural, indigenous and migrant women and girls.

²⁴ General Assembly resolution [41/128](#).

²⁵ General Assembly resolution [61/295](#), annex.

²⁶ General Assembly resolution [71/1](#).

19. The Commission acknowledges that multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization are obstacles to women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life as well as to the elimination of violence. 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 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.

20. 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 which are critical to ensure a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities towards an inclusive, low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development and sustainable economy. It recalls the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and notes the importance of their effective implementation.

21. The Commission calls for the creation of space for youth, especially young women and girls, to participate in shaping the decisions on climate change, environmental degradation and disasters that will affect their future and, to this end, enhancing curricula at all levels of education. It recognizes multi-stakeholder efforts on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the realization of their human rights, taking note of all international, regional and national initiatives in this regard, to advance the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

22. The Commission reaffirms that climate change is among the greatest challenges of our time and affects all regions. It expresses profound alarm that greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise globally. It recognizes that countries are already experiencing increasing impacts, including biodiversity loss, extreme weather events, land degradation, desertification and deforestation, sand and dust storms, persistent drought, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, causing severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment, agricultural, industrial and commercial systems, global trade, supply chains and travel, with devastating impact on sustainable development, including on poverty eradication and livelihoods, threatening food security and nutrition and water accessibility. It remains deeply concerned that all women and girls, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States, are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters and are disproportionately exposed to risk and increased loss of livelihoods during and in the aftermath of disasters. It further acknowledges the important role of women and girls as agents of change, along with indigenous peoples and local communities, in safeguarding the environment.

23. The Commission stresses the urgency of eliminating persistent historical and structural inequalities, racism, stigmatization and xenophobia, unequal power relations between women and men, discriminatory laws and policies, negative social norms and gender stereotypes, the unequal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, gender-based violence, and eradicating poverty and disadvantages in access to resources, social protection systems and public services, including universal health services and quality education, to realize gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including in the

context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

24. The Commission notes the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and noting the importance for some of the concept of “climate justice” when taking action to address climate change.

25. The Commission recognizes that gender inequality, coupled with climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, poses a challenge for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with disproportionate impacts on women and girls, especially those in vulnerable and marginalized situations and conflict settings and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

26. The Commission is concerned that climate change, environmental degradation and more frequent and intense disasters caused by natural hazards often result in the loss of homes and livelihoods, water scarcity and disruption to supply, destruction and damage to schools and health facilities, including transportation systems, and the displacement of women and girls and their families and communities. It recognizes that, as a result of displacement, including forced and prolonged displacement, women and girls face specific challenges, including separation from support networks, homelessness, increased risk of all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and reduced access to employment, education and essential health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, and psychosocial support.

27. The Commission reiterates the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into disaster risk management, taking into account the perspectives of all women and girls, including those in vulnerable situations and women and girls with disabilities. It recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of all women and girls, older women, widows, indigenous women and girls, local communities, youth, volunteers, migrants, academia, scientific and research entities and networks, business, professional associations, private sector financing institutions and the media, in all forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

28. The Commission expresses concern that the economic and social fallout of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has compounded the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters and has pushed people further behind and into extreme poverty. It further expresses deep concern over the increased demand for unpaid care and domestic work and the reported surge in all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, as well as harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

29. The Commission emphasizes the critical role that women play in disaster response and COVID-19 recovery efforts. It recalls that women represent the vast majority of front-line health and social workers and that they are significantly engaged in the delivery of essential and public services. It recognizes that the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation. It further recognizes that sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies are needed to reduce risks of future shocks, including through strengthening health systems

and achieving universal health coverage, and that all responses are implemented with full respect for human rights. It expresses deep concern that, despite international agreements, initiatives and general declarations, there is a lack of equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, especially for developing countries.

30. The Commission emphasizes that legal, policy and programme frameworks and all decision-making processes regarding climate and environmental action and disaster risk management should provide a cohesive basis for gender-responsive governance that respects, protects and fulfils all human rights and responds to the needs of all women and girls in diverse situations and conditions as agents and beneficiaries of change. It reaffirms that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for addressing the global response to climate change. It acknowledges that the capacities of women and girls to take action and build resilience depend on closing the gender gaps, removing existing structural barriers, negative social norms and gender stereotypes and strengthening women's access to education, knowledge, universal social protection, finance, technology, mobility and other assets as well as ownership of and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance. It recognizes that women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making are critical for making climate change and environmental actions and disaster risk reduction and recovery efforts more effective. The Commission also recognizes that women's and girls' knowledge of their communities and environment can position them to develop meaningful, effective and culturally relevant solutions to local climate, environmental and disaster challenges.

31. The Commission acknowledges the important role of national machineries for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the relevant contribution of national human rights institutions where they exist, and the important role of civil society and the media in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

32. The Commission recognizes the need to take a whole-of-government approach to ensure that climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes are gender-responsive, including through the coordination and capacity-building of parliamentarians, national gender equality mechanisms, mayors, local elected officials, and municipalities and the institutions responsible for measures to address climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction. It emphasizes the importance of the work of the scientific community in support of strengthening the global response to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters and respecting and protecting traditional and ancestral knowledge, including of indigenous peoples.

33. The Commission recognizes that women's and, as appropriate, girls' full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in multilateral, national and local policy processes are vital for achieving sustainable development and climate, environmental and disaster risk reduction goals, while regretting that women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making processes.

34. The Commission recognizes that women often take the lead in promoting an environmental ethic, reducing resource use and reusing and recycling resources to minimize waste and excessive consumption, and that women can have a particularly powerful role in influencing sustainable consumption

decisions. It also recognizes that women in many communities provide the main labour force for subsistence production and have responsibility for safeguarding the natural environment and adequate and sustainable resource allocation within the household and the community.

35. The Commission welcomes the major contributions of civil society organizations, especially women's, young women's, girls', youth-led, grass-roots and community-based organizations, rural, indigenous and feminist groups, women human rights defenders, women journalists and media professionals and trade unions in promoting and protecting the human rights of all women and girls, placing their interests, needs and visions on local, national, regional and international agendas and in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of measures to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. It expresses concern that such civil society organizations face many challenges and barriers to full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership, including diminishing funding, as well as violence, harassment, reprisals directed at, and threats to the physical security of, their members.

36. The Commission expresses concern that climate change, environmental degradation, exposure to hazards and biodiversity loss have increased vulnerability and inequality with direct and indirect implications for the enjoyment of human rights and the well-being of young women and girls, including adolescent girls, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States.

37. The Commission recognizes the important role of young women and girls in accelerating climate and environmental action and disaster risk reduction and that tackling these challenges requires coordinated action between Governments and other stakeholders, including women- and youth-led organizations. It also recognizes that young women are too often excluded from consultations on issues that affect them and encourages Member States to further promote the participation and perspectives of youth in climate and environmental action and disaster risk reduction.

38. The Commission acknowledges that strengthening the resilience of all women and girls throughout their life course and of their communities and societies to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters is essential to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns across economies. It also acknowledges that natural resources and ecosystems and women's labour are treated as infinite and are undervalued in the current metrics of economic growth, such as gross domestic product, despite being essential to all economies and the well-being of present and future generations and the planet. It further acknowledges that recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, and rewarding and representing paid care workers, would greatly contribute to this transformation. Although significant gender gaps remain in all areas, including in pay, pensions and care, the Commission further recognizes that equal pay for work of equal value and equal access to social protection, universal health coverage, public services, sustainable infrastructure, livelihoods, land and natural resources are fundamental for strengthening the resilience of women and girls, especially those in vulnerable situations.

39. The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against women and girls, which are rooted in historical and structural inequalities and unequal power relations between men and women. It recognizes that the adverse impacts

of climate change and environmental challenges increase and exacerbate the vulnerability of women and girls to discrimination and all forms of violence. It reiterates that violence against women and girls in all its forms and manifestations, online and offline, in public and private spheres, including sexual and gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment, domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicide, harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, as well as child and forced labour, trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation and abuse are pervasive, underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level. It expresses deep concern that women and girls may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of multidimensional poverty, disability, limited or lack of access to justice, effective legal remedies and psychosocial 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 all women and girls and that it violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

40. The Commission recognizes that girls are often at greater risk of being exposed to and experiencing various forms of discrimination, violence and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, as well as child labour and trafficking, which, among other things, hinder the realization of their rights, and reaffirms the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls, including by partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for advancing the rights of girls.

41. The Commission also recognizes that violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment in private and public spaces, including in educational institutions and the world of work, as well as in digital contexts, impedes participation and decision-making in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes and leads to a hostile environment.

42. The Commission further recognizes that the growing prevalence of violence against women and girls in digital contexts, especially on social media, and the lack of preventive measures and remedies underline the need for action by Member States in partnership with other stakeholders to prevent and respond to violence and harassment online and offline and other negative effects of technological development. It recalls that emerging forms of violence, such as cyberstalking, cyberbullying and privacy violations, are affecting a high percentage of women and girls and compromising, inter alia, their health, their emotional, psychological and physical well-being and their safety.

43. The Commission underlines the particular impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls in conflict-affected and post-conflict settings, and stresses that the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making and leadership is critical in all stages of peace processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The Commission further expresses concern about the heightened risks of violence against women and girls during disasters and conflicts, including violence and abuse in shelters during disasters and conflicts. It emphasizes the need to address sexual and gender-based violence both during and in the aftermath of disasters and conflicts, including by adopting preventive approaches that take into account the needs and perspectives of victims and survivors.

44. The Commission recognizes the disruption caused by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters to education systems across the world, often keeping girls, adolescent girls and young women out of school and limiting their access to education, including to the skills and knowledge needed to adapt and respond to these challenges. It reaffirms the right to education for all women and girls and stresses that equal access to inclusive, equitable and quality education provides them with opportunities, capacities and understanding that enable women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and strengthen the voice, agency and leadership of women and girls in climate, environmental and disaster risk action.

45. The Commission also recognizes the adverse impact of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on health as well as on the other environmental determinants of health, such as clean air, safe water and sanitation, including menstrual health and hygiene management, safe, sufficient and nutritious food and secure shelter, and in this regard underscores the need to foster health in climate change adaptation efforts and disaster risk reduction strategies, underlining that resilient, people-centred and accessible health systems are necessary to protect the health of all women and girls, particularly those in vulnerable situations.

46. The Commission reaffirms that the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is foundational to building the resilience of all women and girls. It further recognizes that climate change, environmental degradation and disasters have differential health effects for women and girls and exacerbate existing gender gaps in access to and outcomes of health services, especially when goods and services are limited or unavailable owing to the destruction of infrastructure, roads and clinics, particularly in rural and remote areas. It underlines the need for strengthening access to gender-responsive, safe, available, affordable, accessible, quality and inclusive health-care services, including those related to mental health, maternal and neonatal health, menstrual health and hygiene management, and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education.

47. The Commission recognizes that women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, which can be exacerbated by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, limits women's ability to participate in decision-making processes and occupy leadership positions, and poses significant constraints on women's and girls' education and training, and on women's economic opportunities and entrepreneurial activities. It stresses the need to recognize and adopt measures to reduce, redistribute and value 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, social protection policies and accessible, affordable and quality social services, including care services, childcare and maternity, paternity or parental leave.

48. The Commission acknowledges women's and girls' critical contributions to their families and communities in climate action, resilience-building, protection and conservation of the environment and disaster risk reduction. It recognizes the importance of implementing family-friendly and family-oriented policies aimed at, inter alia, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and their enjoyment of all human rights in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction, and also recognizes the need to ensure that all sustainable development policies and programmes 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.

49. The Commission stresses the importance of investing in accessible and sustainable infrastructure and technology, including in rural areas, such as access to safe water and sanitation, including water for irrigation, energy, transport and information and communications technology, and other physical infrastructure for public services.

50. The Commission recalls that the human rights to safe drinking water and to sanitation are essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. It is deeply concerned that water scarcity and disruptions to supply induced by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters disproportionately affect women and girls, with women walking long distances or waiting hours in queues to obtain water, which restricts their time for other activities, such as education and leisure, or for earning a livelihood. The Commission underlines that gender-responsive water and sanitation services and infrastructure are key to bolstering the resilience of all women and girls, and further recognizes the need to expand women's and girls' access to adequate, safe and clean water and sanitation facilities, including for menstrual health and hygiene, especially in disaster relief and humanitarian shelters.

51. The Commission underscores that rapid technological change, including new and emerging digital technologies, has an impact on women's employment opportunities and can accelerate progress towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes and facilitate efforts to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as bridge digital divides both between and within countries. It emphasizes the importance of promoting equal access to information and communications technologies that are affordable and accessible, and to the Internet for all women and girls, as well as digital literacy, finance and capacity-building, working towards closing digital divides, including the gender digital divide, and targeting science, technology and innovation strategies to reduce patterns of inequality and promote the empowerment of all women and girls and women's full, equal and effective participation in public life, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and notes with concern that new technological developments can perpetuate existing patterns of inequality and discrimination, including in the algorithms used in artificial intelligence-based solutions.

52. The Commission recognizes that soils, forests, fisheries, water and biomass, among others, are principal sources of income, livelihood, food security, social protection and employment, particularly for women and girls living in poverty. It also recognizes that the unsustainable depletion or deterioration of natural resources can displace communities, especially women, from income-generating activities while greatly adding to unremunerated work and that, in both urban and rural areas, environmental degradation results in negative effects on the health, well-being and quality of life of the population at large, especially women and girls of all ages. It further recognizes the importance of sustainable fisheries and of the elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing for their food security, livelihoods and health. The Commission emphasizes the fundamental importance for women and girls of healthy oceans and a sustainable ocean-based economy in climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, as well as the impact of pollution on ecosystem destruction and climate change, including the disproportionate impact of household air pollution on women and girls as well as the

consequences of plastic pollution, including in oceans and other water bodies, for food security, livelihoods and the health of women and girls.

53. The Commission emphasizes that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls can result in greater food security, better nutrition and more inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems for all and that their unequal access and rights to important resources and productive assets, such as land, water, pasture, agricultural inputs, technology and information, as well as extension and advisory services, limit their potential to be productive in agriculture, to become empowered for making strategic decisions and to realize their rights. It also emphasizes that unequal food systems disproportionately affect women and girls, making them more vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition, which is exacerbated, *inter alia*, by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.

54. The Commission recognizes the need to ensure just transitions that promote sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, including for women, as well as the need to involve workers and their communities in discussions that affect their livelihoods, including through making financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development, including through the deployment and transfer of technology and the provision of support to developing country parties. It expresses concern that discriminatory social norms and persistent gender gaps and inequality in education and vocational training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and occupational segregation keep women from attaining and retaining decent work and quality jobs in sustainable economies and in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. It emphasizes that closing gender gaps, including in digital and financial literacy, and ensuring full and equal access to quality education, training, information, skills development, leadership and mentorship programmes, and technical and financial support, is key to increasing women's and girls' resilience and empowering them as agents of change in climate action.

55. 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 adequate 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.

56. The Commission is concerned that the lack of disaggregated data and gender statistics on climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction across sectors, especially with regard to women and girls in the context of environmental conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation, is limiting the capacity of policymakers to identify gender differences in vulnerability and adaptive capacity, as well as to develop and adopt effective, evidence-based policies and programmes at all levels. It recognizes that disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, complemented by traditional knowledge.

57. The Commission recognizes the important roles and contributions of indigenous women, rural women, women smallholder farmers and women who use coastal marine resources as agents in eradicating poverty and enhancing sustainable agricultural and fisheries development and food security, and as guardians of biodiversity. It highlights the importance of ensuring that the perspectives of all indigenous and rural women and girls are taken into account and that they fully and equally participate in the design, implementation, follow-up to and evaluation of policies and activities that affect their livelihoods, well-being and resilience. It underlines the fact that meaningful progress in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls necessitates closing gender gaps, introducing gender-responsive policies, interventions and innovations, including in agriculture and fisheries, and ensuring women's equal access to agricultural and fisheries technologies, technical assistance, productive resources, land tenure security and access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance and natural resources, as well as access to and participation in local, regional and international markets.

58. The Commission also recognizes that indigenous women and girls, regardless of age, often face violence, discrimination, exclusion and higher rates of poverty, and limited access to health-care services, information and communications technology, infrastructure, financial services and education, and employment for women, while also recognizing their cultural, social, economic and political contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster preparedness, response and management, and environmental conservation and management.

59. The Commission stresses the particular challenges that all women and girls with disabilities face in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, including their increased susceptibility to diseases, heat stress, reduced mobility and social exclusion. It also stresses the need for measures to address the specific barriers they face, to promote their physical, emotional, psychosocial and financial resilience and to ensure all women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in disaster response planning for emergency situations and evacuations, humanitarian emergency response and health-care services.

60. The Commission emphasizes the importance of recognizing the positive contributions of migrant women and girls and of promoting a gender and human rights perspective in migration policies and programmes to address the situations of vulnerability that migrant women and girls face, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, as well as to address all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, that may occur as a result of displacement, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants.

61. The Commission recognizes the importance of the full engagement of men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes in order to combat and eliminate the gender stereotypes, sexism and negative social norms that fuel discrimination and all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and undermine gender equality, while noting the ongoing need to educate children from a young age regarding the importance of gender equality, human rights, treating all

people with dignity and respect and promoting a culture of peace, non-violent behaviour and respectful relationships.

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

Strengthen normative, legal and regulatory 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 without discrimination of any kind, including in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;

(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) Respect and fulfil existing commitments and obligations under the Rio conventions, the Paris Agreement, the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 related to climate change, biodiversity, desertification, environment and disaster risk reduction in a holistic and integrated manner, taking into account their gender action plans and calling for the creation of such plans where there are none, and highlighting the importance of integrating a gender perspective in, and ensuring the participation of indigenous women when elaborating, nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, land degradation neutrality targets and national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction, while also noting the importance of the ongoing discussions regarding the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(d) Give due consideration to incorporating gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls into the review of global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, including through the global and regional platforms on disaster risk reduction and the 2023 midterm review of the Sendai Framework, as part of the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles;

(e) Promote and protect the rights of all women and girls relating to the enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and adopt policies

and programmes for the enjoyment of these rights, including by addressing the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters;

(f) Identify and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, in relation to land tenure security and access to, ownership of and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, and ensure women's and girls' access to justice and accountability for violations of their human rights, with particular attention given to older women, widows and young women;

(g) Step up multi-stakeholder efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, negative stereotyping and violence based on religion, belief or nationality, in order to support the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and leadership of women and, as appropriate, girls in climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;

(h) Integrate a disability-inclusive and gender perspective into the development, review and implementation of laws, policies and programmes on climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, sustainable natural resources management, including land and water, land-use and urban planning and disaster risk reduction, that support the resilience, adaptive capacities, livelihoods, food security, access to safe water and sanitation, health and well-being of all women and girls in rural and urban areas; and ensure women's equal rights to economic resources, including access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, and technology and financial services, including microfinance;

Integrate gender perspectives into climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

(i) Integrate gender perspectives into the design, funding, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity protection, and environmental degradation and pollution, including from chemicals, pesticides and plastics, such as microplastics, as well as into needs assessments, forecasting and early warning systems, and disaster prevention, preparedness, response, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction plans at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate;

(j) Recognize and promote awareness of the disproportionate and distinct effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls, in particular those facing violence, discrimination and displacement, harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage, and insecurity of land tenure, income and food, and ensure that policies and programmes reflect these impacts; and take targeted action to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of all women and girls, including in cities and tropical, arctic, coastal, mountainous and rural areas;

(k) Recognize the disproportionate impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on all women and girls who are in conflict and post-conflict settings and humanitarian emergencies, and systematically integrate gender-responsive and age-sensitive perspectives into relevant mechanisms, policies and programming, while promoting the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-

making and their leadership as critical to all stages of peace processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, as well as taking into account the perspectives of women and girls who are internally displaced and those who are refugees, implementing measures to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination in these situations and ensuring that the human rights of all women and girls are fully respected and protected in climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction response and recovery strategies;

(l) Strengthen coordination and gender mainstreaming across sectors and all levels of government in the integrated formulation, implementation and evaluation of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, including by supporting research and awareness-raising activities at the national, regional and international levels on the impact of technological, demographic, urbanization, migration and climate change trends on women and girls;

(m) Strengthen the capacity of national gender equality mechanisms at all levels, particularly in the least developed countries and small island developing States, with sustainable and adequate funding and scaled-up, voluntary technology transfer, including through national budget allocations and official development assistance, to ensure the participation of such mechanisms in climate, environmental and disaster risk governance and to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;

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

(o) Ensure the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, representation and leadership of women at all levels of relevant climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction decision-making bodies and processes, set specific targets and timelines to achieve gender balance through, inter alia, temporary special measures, such as quotas, and provide adequate resources, travel funds, capacity-building and training to enable this participation;

(p) Promote the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of young women and, as appropriate, adolescent girls in decision-making processes on climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction action by addressing gender-specific barriers, ensuring their full and equal access to quality education, technology and skills development, leadership and mentorship programmes, increased technical and financial support, and protection from all forms of violence and discrimination;

(q) Protect and promote the rights of all women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, and take measures to address their disproportionate exposure to risk, increased loss of livelihoods, disruption to physical, social, economic and environmental networks and support systems, and even loss of life during and in the aftermath of disasters;

(r) Recognize that adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters are among the drivers and factors that compel

women and girls to leave their countries of origin and, in this regard, develop and expand policies and programmes for the protection of migrant women and girls and their families affected by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, taking note of relevant recommendations from State-led consultative processes, such as the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, and the Platform on Disaster Displacement, while recognizing the significant contribution and leadership of women in migrant communities and taking appropriate steps to ensure their full, equal and meaningful participation in the development of local solutions and opportunities;

(s) Leverage and strengthen the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the influence of all women and girls, especially those from rural areas and from the most affected communities, as well as those in vulnerable situations, in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and in climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives and programmes, including in conflict settings and humanitarian emergencies, and encourage sharing and learning;

(t) Promote a gender-responsive approach and the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in decision-making and leadership of women and, as appropriate, girls in water and sanitation and household energy management in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes; take measures to reduce the time spent by women and girls on collecting household water and fuel and protect them from threats, assaults and sexual and gender-based violence while doing so and when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or practising open defecation and urination; ensure access to water and sanitation and hygiene, including menstrual health and hygiene management, for all women and girls, especially those in marginalized and vulnerable situations, including in schools and other educational settings, workplaces, health centres, public and private facilities and at home; and address widespread silence and stigma, as well as the negative impact of inadequate and inequitable access to sanitation on the access of girls to education;

Expand gender-responsive finance

(u) Increase the gender responsiveness of investment in climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes by scaling up technology transfer, capacity-building and the mobilization of financial resources from all relevant sources, including public, private, national and international resource mobilization and allocation;

(v) Urge developed countries to fully implement their respective official development assistance commitments, including 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 help them, inter alia, to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction and policies and programmes;

(w) 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 multiple 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 all women and girls and for improving their lives and well-being;

(x) Encourage efforts to increase the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in climate action and to ensure gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation, which are vital for raising ambition and achieving climate goals; to provide enhanced support, in accordance with the Glasgow Climate Pact, in particular by developed country parties, including through financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, to assist developing country parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation, in continuation of their existing obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and encourage other parties to provide or continue to provide such support voluntarily; and to urgently scale up action and support, as appropriate, including finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, for implementing approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in developing country parties that are particularly vulnerable to these effects;

(y) Recognize, in accordance with the Glasgow Climate Pact, the need to mobilize climate finance from all sources to reach the level needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, including by significantly increasing support for developing country parties, beyond \$100 billion per year, while noting with deep regret that the goal of developed country parties to mobilize jointly \$100 billion per year by 2020 in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation has not yet been met, and welcoming the increased pledges made by many developed country parties and the “Climate finance delivery plan: meeting the US\$100 billion goal” and the collective actions contained therein, urge developed country parties to fully deliver on the \$100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025 and emphasize the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges;

(z) Provide national gender equality mechanisms and entities responsible for climate change, environmental and disaster risk management and reduction policies, among others, with adequate human and financial resources to ensure that a gender perspective is integrated into the design, implementation and evaluation of relevant policies, programmes and projects;

(aa) Increase public and private financing to women’s civil society organizations, including young women’s, girls’ and youth-led organizations, feminist groups and women’s cooperatives and enterprises for climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction initiatives, including those that apply local and indigenous knowledge and solutions, and strengthen monitoring and accountability at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate;

(bb) Build and strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters through the financing and provision of sustainable infrastructure and public services, social protection and decent work for women;

(cc) Foster the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women and, as appropriate, girls living in rural areas; increase investment in gender-responsive, sustainable rural development strategies and technological solutions to address climate change, environmental degradation and disasters;

and strengthen rural women's economic empowerment, adaptive capacity and resilience and their access to land tenure security, decent work, infrastructure, information and communications technologies, and financial services, in particular for women heads of households and women smallholder farmers;

(dd) Promote and protect the rights of all indigenous women and girls by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face, including violence and higher rates of poverty, ensuring access to quality and inclusive education and employment, health care, public services, economic resources, including land and natural resources, and promoting their full and effective participation in the economy and in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, taking into account the principle of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and their ancestral knowledge and practices, and recognizing their cultural, social, economic and political contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental action and disaster resilience;

(ee) Promote and invest in gender-responsive, quality and inclusive education, lifelong learning, reskilling and training, including in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, for women and girls, including pregnant adolescents and young mothers, as well as single mothers, to enable them to continue and complete their education and to acquire the knowledge and skills that can strengthen their resilience and adaptive capacities in order to attain high-quality jobs in the sustainable economy; address negative social norms, gender stereotypes and persistent gender gaps in education at all levels, particularly in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and information and communications technology; and integrate the causes and consequences of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction into educational curricula at all levels;

(ff) 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 and 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 and with the best interests of the child as their basic concern, with 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;

(gg) 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, including in humanitarian settings, and ensure the availability, accessibility and acceptability of quality health-care services to address all communicable and non-communicable diseases, including water-borne and neglected tropical diseases, including through universally accessible primary health care and support services and social protection mechanisms, so as to help ensure the climate change, environmental and disaster risk resilience of all women and girls;

(hh) Increase financial investments in quality, affordable and accessible health-care systems and facilities and in safe, effective, quality, essential and affordable medicines and vaccines for all, as well as in health technologies, including through community outreach and private sector engagement, and with the support of the international community, with a view to promoting each country's path towards achieving universal health coverage for all women and girls, in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters;

(ii) 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 Development²⁷ 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, including in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;

(jj) Take all appropriate measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting work-life balance, the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within households and men's and boys' equitable sharing of responsibilities with respect to care and household work, including men's responsibilities 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 childcare 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 and girls' empowerment in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, including in situations of response to extreme weather events;

(kk) Bridge the digital divide, including the gender digital divide, to enable equal access to risk-informed information, knowledge and communications, by taking concrete measures to promote equal access for all women and girls to digital training, capacity-building, forecasting and preparedness, including early warning systems, through equal access to information and communications technologies, mobile devices and the Internet, so as to promote their empowerment and digital literacy and enable them to develop the skills needed to better cope with the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, in particular for poor women, women in rural and remote areas, and women farmers and producers;

²⁷ *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.

(ll) Encourage the development, adoption and implementation of effective measures and, as appropriate, national legislation or regulations aimed at minimizing the risks posed by chemicals, in particular to pregnant women, infants and children, and intensify research that takes into account a gender perspective on the impact of environmental pollutants and other harmful substances, including the impact on reproductive health, in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters;

(mm) Eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spaces, online and offline, such as sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicides, all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, as well as trafficking in persons and modern slavery and other forms of exploitation, which are exacerbated in contexts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence and end impunity, and take appropriate measures to create a safe, enabling and violence-free working environment for women, especially front-line workers and workers involved in disaster response and recovery, including by ratifying key international treaties that provide protection against gender-based violence and sexual harassment;

(nn) Ensure women's and girls' equal access to justice and essential services, including by providing access to comprehensive social, health and legal services for victims and survivors and by providing accessible, confidential, supportive and effective mechanisms for all women wishing to report incidences of violence, and increase women's legal literacy and awareness of available legal remedies and dispute resolution mechanisms, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction and by strengthening the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of judicial and relevant institutions at all levels;

(oo) Adopt, strengthen and implement policies, strategies and programmes to address the root causes of, prevent and end all forms of violence against women and girls, including by combating gender stereotypes and negative social norms and engaging all relevant stakeholders, including men and boys, journalists and media workers, religious and community leaders, civil society organizations, including women's organizations, and research and educational institutions;

(pp) Strengthen the role and responsibility of the private sector, and encourage and, where appropriate, require all business enterprises to carry out environmental and human rights due diligence, taking into account the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including with regard to the enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and by conducting meaningful and inclusive consultations with potentially affected groups and other relevant stakeholders, especially those who are at particular risk;

(qq) 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, particularly those working on issues related to the environment, land and natural resources, and the rights of indigenous peoples; integrate a gender perspective into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights and to prevent discrimination, violations and abuses against them, such as threats, harassment, violence and reprisals; and combat impunity by taking steps to ensure that violations or abuses are promptly and impartially investigated and that those responsible are held accountable;

(rr) Recognize the role of women journalists and media professionals in raising public awareness about climate change, environmental and disaster issues and take measures to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment in which they can perform their work independently and without undue interference, including by combating all forms of discrimination, harassment and violence, online and offline;

Enhance gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex

(ss) Strengthen the capacity and coordination of national statistical and data production offices and government institutions to collect, analyse, disseminate and use data and statistics on climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, including data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, marital status, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, while safeguarding privacy rights and data protection, in order to inform the design, implementation and tracking of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, improve approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and support developing countries in this effort, including through the mobilization of financial and technical assistance to ensure high-quality, reliable and timely disaggregated data and gender statistics;

(tt) Support and fund research and analysis to better understand the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls, including in relation to child, early and forced marriage, trafficking in persons, paid and unpaid care and domestic work, health and education, food production, water and sanitation, violence against women and girls, and in other areas, to determine the linkages between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, in order to inform policies and programmes and to assess women's abilities to cope with and adapt to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States;

Foster a gender-responsive, just transition

(uu) Support and finance a gender-responsive, equitable and sustainable transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, that work for all people and the planet, taking into account the potential of ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions, with gender-sensitive and age-inclusive social protection and care at the centre;

(vv) Protect and promote all women's right to work and rights at work and ensure the equal access of women to decent work and quality jobs in all sectors, such as sustainable energy, fisheries, forestry, agriculture and tourism, by eliminating occupational segregation, discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, and violence and sexual harassment, supporting the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors, ensuring equal pay for work of equal value, protecting them against discrimination and abuse and ensuring the safety of all women in the world of work, and promoting the right to organize and bargain collectively to advance, as well as access to sustainable livelihoods, including in the context of a just transition of the workforce.

63. 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 for Sustainable Development and to ensure synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

64. 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 achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

65. 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 all women and girls and in supporting Governments and national gender equality mechanisms, 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 for Sustainable Development towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

B. Draft resolutions 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 resolutions:

Draft resolution I Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution [2020/15](#) of 17 July 2020, in which it decided that the Commission on the Status of Women should review, as appropriate, its methods of work, adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution [2015/6](#) of 8 June 2015, taking into consideration the outcome of the process of alignment of the agendas of the General Assembly and the Council and its subsidiary bodies, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Commission for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",¹

Recognizing that the organization of work of the Commission should contribute to advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

¹ General Assembly resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

Platform for Action² and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing also that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women³ are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the realization of their human rights,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and underlining the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming,

Recognizing the key role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in supporting the work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of Member States in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and recognizing the efforts of Member States towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

Recognizing the importance of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and, in this respect, the work of the Commission,

Recognizing also multi-stakeholder efforts on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the realization of their human rights, and taking note of all international, regional and national initiatives in this regard,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions [72/305](#) of 23 July 2018 and [75/325](#) of 10 September 2021, and resolution [75/290 A](#) of 25 June 2021, in which the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies to further enhance their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴ and to the global response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its impacts, and also requested the Council to promote a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields and, to that end, to ensure that the agenda, work programme and discussions in its segments and forums and its subsidiary bodies contribute to their implementation as well as the response to major challenges to the achievement of sustainable development, while ensuring that subsidiary bodies deliver on their specific mandates and functions,

Reaffirming the commitment to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls contained in the 2030 Agenda, and acknowledging that the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment

² *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 1, annexes I and II.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁴ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

of all women and girls is crucial to making progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets and that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if women and girls are denied opportunities and the full realization of their human rights,

1. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, and further reaffirms its mandate and its important role in overall policymaking and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which it is recognized that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls is essential for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

2. *Also reaffirms* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the process of implementation of the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits and the need for a coordinated follow-up to all major conferences and summits by Governments, regional organizations and all of the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system within their respective mandates, and recognizes the need to increase cooperation between the Commission and other relevant United Nations bodies, mechanisms and processes in this regard;

3. *Further reaffirms* that the Commission will continue to contribute to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as well as the realization of their human rights;

4. *Decides* that the Commission will report on the aspects relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women of the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council, in order to contribute to its work;

5. *Also decides* that the session of the Commission will continue to include a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human rights and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the deliberations of the Commission, and that the segment will include ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices, as well as a general discussion on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

6. *Further decides* that the Commission will continue to hold, on an annual basis, a general discussion that will commence during the ministerial segment on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and recommends that statements identify goals attained, achievements made and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges in relation to the priority theme and the review theme;

7. *Decides* that statements made during the general discussion will continue to be subject to strict time limits that will be determined prior to the session by the Bureau of the Commission and consistently applied by the Chair;

8. *Also decides* that the Commission will continue to consider one priority theme at each session, on the basis of the Beijing Platform for Action

and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its linkages to the 2030 Agenda;

9. *Further decides* that the consideration by the Commission of the priority theme shall focus on ways and means to accelerate the implementation of commitments in the context of current challenges, through not more than two interactive expert panels or other interactive dialogues to identify key policy initiatives and strategies in order to accelerate implementation on the basis of an exchange of national, regional and global experiences, lessons learned, good practices and new insights based on evidence, research and evaluation, with an emphasis on results achieved, and to strengthen dialogue and commitment for further action, and that the expert panels could include experts from Governments, the United Nations system, civil society and other stakeholder groups that work on the theme under consideration;

10. *Decides* that the Commission will maintain, and encourages it to consider ways to further enhance, the interactive nature of the discussions on its priority theme, with the participation of high-level representatives and of experts from a wide range of substantive areas to share experiences and lessons learned on the priority theme to strengthen commitment for further action, and also encourages the Commission to continue to engage with civil society and other stakeholder groups in this respect;

11. *Also decides* that the outcome of the annual discussions on the priority theme shall be in the form of short and succinct agreed conclusions, negotiated by all Member States, which shall focus on action-oriented recommendations for steps and measures to close remaining gaps, meet challenges and accelerate implementation, to be taken by Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms and entities of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, and that the agreed conclusions shall be widely disseminated to the United Nations system and made widely available by all Member States to the public in their own countries so as to encourage follow-up action;

12. *Further decides* that, ahead of each session, the schedule of informal consultations on the session outcomes should be set according to a clear timetable, giving due consideration to working hours, which allows for consultations and coordination in order to reach a timely and substantial outcome;

13. *Decides* that the Commission will, as necessary, discuss emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women and girls that require timely consideration, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives is required, and with attention to relevant issues on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council, in particular its annual main theme, as applicable;

14. *Requests* the Bureau of the Commission, prior to the session, to identify such an emerging issue, trend, focus area or new approach, in consultation with all Member States, through their regional groups, and taking into account inputs from other relevant stakeholders, for consideration by the Commission through an interactive dialogue;

15. *Decides* that the outcome of the discussion on that emerging issue, trend, focus area or new approach will be in the form of a summary by the Chair

of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau;

16. *Also decides* that, at each session, the Commission will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on a priority theme of a previous session, as its review theme, through an interactive dialogue that includes:

(a) Member States of different regions, on a voluntary basis, presenting their lessons learned, challenges and best practices that identify means for accelerated implementation through national and regional experiences;

(b) Ways to support and achieve accelerated implementation, including through addressing data gaps and challenges in the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data with regard to the theme, at the national, regional and global levels;

17. *Invites* all Member States to meaningfully involve civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders in preparatory processes for the work of the Commission, including by considering holding consultations with them at the national level on the priority theme and the review theme;

18. *Decides* that the outcome of the discussion on the review theme will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau;

19. *Requests* the Commission to consider ways to further strengthen the review theme process;

20. *Calls upon* the Commission to further enhance its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system, including in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, expanding its cooperation with other intergovernmental processes and functional commissions through, as appropriate, the exchange of information and transmission of the outcomes of its work, joint informal interactive events and the participation of its Chair, in consultation with the Bureau, in relevant processes;

21. *Reaffirms* the role of the Commission to contribute to the work of the Council from its substantive perspective and to continue to align, as appropriate, its thematic priorities with those of the Council in order to provide effective and targeted inputs from a gender perspective;

22. *Invites* all gender-specific United Nations entities and other relevant United Nations entities and bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to contribute, where appropriate, to the discussion of the Commission;

23. *Invites* the regional commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission;

24. *Decides*, in view of the traditional importance of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, that, in accordance with Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 and 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, such organizations should be encouraged to participate, to the maximum extent possible, in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation process relating to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements to ensure full utilization of existing channels of communication with non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate broad-based participation and the dissemination of information;

25. *Also decides* to continue to strengthen existing opportunities for non-governmental organizations, in accordance with Council resolutions 1996/6 and 1996/31, to contribute to the work of the Commission, including by allocating time for them to deliver statements on themes relevant to the session, during panels and interactive dialogues and at the end of the general discussion, taking into account geographical distribution;

26. *Calls upon* the Commission to continue to ensure the participation of relevant stakeholders from all regions, including non-governmental organizations, civil society and youth, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, so as to leave no one behind, including through increased attention to accessibility, and to consider ways to strengthen their contribution, in consultation with Member States and mindful of the intergovernmental nature of the Commission;

27. *Also calls upon* the Commission to consider organizing an interactive dialogue on the priority theme, within its annual programme of work, to facilitate exchanges among youth representatives from delegations of Member States, which will be open to all Member States and follow the Commission's existing modalities for interactive dialogues;

28. *Notes with appreciation* the continuation of the annual parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and their contribution to the discussion of the Commission, as well as the programme of side events held on the occasion of the sessions of the Commission;

29. *Encourages* all Member States to consider including in their delegations to the Commission technical experts, planning and budgeting experts and statisticians, including from ministries with expertise relevant to the themes under consideration, as well as parliamentarians, members of national human rights institutions, where they exist, and representatives of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors, including youth, as appropriate;

30. *Encourages* the Bureau of the Commission to continue to play a proactive role in the preparations for the session, including through regular briefings and consultations with Member States;

31. *Also encourages* the Bureau of the Commission to continue to propose interactive dialogues, such as high-level events and ministerial and expert workshops that engage Member States and relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage dialogue and enhance the impact of its work;

32. *Encourages* Governments and all other stakeholders to undertake comprehensive preparations for each session of the Commission, at the national, regional and global levels, as applicable, so as to strengthen the basis for follow-up to outcomes and implementation;

33. *Requests* the Commission to continue to apply a thematic approach to its work and to adopt a multi-year programme of work to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation; in selecting its priority theme, the Commission should take into consideration, in addition to the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the programme of work of the Council, as well as the 2030 Agenda, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council system and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

34. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on the priority theme, including conclusions and recommendations for further action;

35. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on progress made on the review theme at the national level;

36. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in the annual report to the Council on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system an assessment of the impact of the input of the Commission to discussions within the United Nations system;

37. *Decides* that, at its seventy-first session, in 2027, the Commission should further review, as appropriate, its methods of work.

Draft resolution II Thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the significance of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995,

Recalling that the Council, in its resolution [2020/15](#) of 17 July 2020, requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider and make a recommendation at its sixty-sixth session on how best to utilize the year 2025, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of their human rights,

Reiterating the commitment to using all opportunities and processes in 2025 and beyond to accelerate and achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹ in order to achieve concrete results in each review cycle, and strive for the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030, including through the contribution of a gender perspective to the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²

Recognizing multi-stakeholder efforts towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, as well as the realization of their human rights, and taking note of all international, regional and national initiatives,

A. Theme for the Commission on the Status of Women in 2025

1. *Decides* that at its sixty-ninth session, in 2025, the Commission on the Status of Women will undertake a 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,³ including an assessment of current challenges that affect the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

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 1, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

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

gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a gender perspective;

2. *Calls upon* all States to undertake comprehensive national-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and encourages the regional commissions to undertake regional reviews so that the outcomes of intergovernmental processes at the regional level can feed into the 2025 review to be undertaken by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session;

3. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, as well as national human rights institutions where they exist, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and in this regard calls upon Governments to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including youth, at all levels on preparations for the 2025 review so as to benefit from their experience and expertise;

B. Themes for the Commission on the Status of Women in 2026 and beyond

4. *Requests* the Commission at its sixty-ninth session to decide on its future multi-year programme of work;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session a report containing proposals on the Commission's priority and review themes for 2026 and beyond.

C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-seventh 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-sixth session and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-seventh 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

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

“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: innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
 - (ii) Review theme: challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-second session);

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

Report of the Secretary-General on challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls

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

Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the ministerial round tables

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

Documentation

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. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
- 6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-eighth session of the Commission.
- 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-seventh session.

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolutions and decision adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 66/1 Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,² the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,³ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,⁴ the key actions for its further implementation⁵ and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁶ the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,⁷ the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030,⁸ Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ including the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, as well as its resolutions 60/2 of 24 March 2016, 62/2 of 23 March 2018 and 64/2 of 2 July 2020 on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, submitted pursuant to its resolution 64/2;¹⁰

2. *Reiterates* the continued resolve to achieve the commitments made in resolution 60/2, and urges Member States to accelerate their implementation;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-eighth session.

* 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 1, annexes I and II.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

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

⁴ *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.

⁵ General Assembly resolution [S-21/2](#), annex.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁷ General Assembly resolution [48/104](#).

⁸ General Assembly resolution [75/284](#), annex.

⁹ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

¹⁰ [E/CN.6/2022/7](#).

Resolution 66/2
Release of women and children taken hostage, including those
subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949¹ and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,² as well as relevant international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁴ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁴ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁶ the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment⁷ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights,⁸

Recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ recognizing its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, addresses the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls, as well as ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls,

Taking duly into account the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [61/177](#) of 20 December 2006,¹⁰

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts,¹¹ as well as all relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning hostage-taking and General Assembly resolution [61/172](#) of 19 December 2006,

Recognizing that women and children bear particular vulnerabilities when taken hostage, including sexual violence and reproductive health concerns,

Noting that the girl child may be disproportionately exposed to violence when taken hostage, which may have long-term effects on her physical and psychological well-being, and further noting that boys can also be victims in these circumstances,

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

³ General Assembly resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

⁴ See General Assembly resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

⁸ [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

⁹ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.

¹¹ Resolutions [39/2](#), [40/1](#), [41/1](#), [42/2](#), [43/1](#), [44/1](#), [45/1](#), [46/1](#), [48/1](#), [50/1](#), [52/1](#), [54/3](#), [56/1](#), [58/1](#), [60/1](#), [62/1](#) and [64/1](#).

Recognizing that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

Recalling the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of the civilian population as such,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹² as well as the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,¹³ and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”,¹⁴ including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children, and reaffirming also the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth,¹⁵ fifteenth,¹⁶ twentieth¹⁷ and twenty-fifth¹⁸ anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [57/337](#) of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and its subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security, as well as the Council resolutions on children and armed conflict and the Council resolutions on kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking by terrorists,

Recalling also the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹⁹ and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,²⁰ which provides a framework to effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons, and recalling further the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,²¹

Expressing grave concern about the growing number and increasingly protracted nature of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they cause, while also holding back progress for women and children, and recognizing the need to strengthen the protection of women and children during armed conflict in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Noting that women and children who are taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, including in armed conflicts, whether international or

¹² *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 1, annexes I and II.

¹³ General Assembly resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution [S-27/2](#), annex.

¹⁵ 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; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

¹⁶ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum ([E/2010/27](#) and [E/2010/27/Corr.1](#)), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

¹⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7* ([E/2015/27](#)), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex.

¹⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2020, Supplement No. 7* ([E/2020/27](#)), chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

²¹ General Assembly resolution [64/293](#).

non-international, are victims of serious violations or abuses of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, which continues to have a negative impact on efforts to put an end to those conflicts and causes suffering to the families of those women and children, and stressing in this regard the need to address the issue from a humanitarian perspective, among others,

Noting also the particular impact that trafficking in persons in situations of armed conflict has on women and children, including their increased vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence, and expressing solidarity with and compassion for women and children who are trafficked, as noted in, inter alia, the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,²²

Emphasizing that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population as such, including taking women and children hostage, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

Cognizant that States that are parties to an armed conflict have a responsibility not to take hostage and subsequently imprison women and children in armed conflicts and to ensure accountability as regards the implementation of relevant mechanisms, policies and laws in order to protect them, bearing in mind that all parties to armed conflict must refrain from hostage-taking,

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of kidnapping and hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, including those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

Noting with concern the serious threats posed by transnational organized crime in some regions and its increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism, and strongly condemning the incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed for any purpose, including raising funds or gaining political concessions,

Recognizing that addressing the problem of hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community, in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, in order to bring such abhorrent practices to an end and hold perpetrators accountable,

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children, including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children and the respect for international law, including international humanitarian law,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,²³

²² General Assembly resolution 72/1.

²³ E/CN.6/2022/8.

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable;

2. *Condemns* all violent acts committed against the civilian population as such, in violation of international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, in particular the immediate release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, including by strengthening international cooperation in the field;

3. *Also condemns* the acts committed in the context of hostage-taking, in particular torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, murder, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and trafficking in women and children, including for the purpose of slavery, and deplores their consequences, and stresses the importance of ensuring the safety of women and children during armed conflict;

4. *Urges* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all measures necessary, in a timely manner, to determine the identity, fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, and to the greatest possible extent, to provide their family members, through the appropriate channels, with all relevant information they have on their fate and whereabouts;

5. *Invites* States, in this regard, to adopt a comprehensive approach, including all appropriate legal and practical measures and coordination mechanisms;

6. *Recognizes* the need for the collection, protection and management of information on women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, according to international and national legal norms and standards, and urges States to cooperate with each other and with other appropriate actors working in this area by, inter alia, providing all relevant and appropriate information;

7. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the provisions of international humanitarian law and to take all measures necessary for the protection of the civilian population as such, including measures to prevent and combat acts of hostage-taking;

8. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe, timely and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

9. *Also urges* all parties to armed conflicts to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross and, where relevant, with national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, in establishing the fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;

10. *Stresses* both the need for increased accountability and the responsibility of all States to investigate, prosecute or bring to justice, in accordance with international law, those responsible for war crimes, including those crimes involving hostage-taking and sexual violence;

11. *Also stresses* the need to address the issue of the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, also as part of peace processes, with reference to all justice and rule

of law mechanisms, on the basis of transparency, accountability and public involvement and participation;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of exchanging objective, reliable and impartial information, including through improved analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age, on hostages, verifiable by relevant international organizations, in facilitating their release, and calls for assistance, as appropriate, to those organizations in this regard;

13. *Welcomes* the progress made in the release of women and children taken hostage in situations of armed conflicts, but expresses grave concern over the continuation of this problem;

14. *Highlights* the importance of the appropriate victim-centred rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned in armed conflicts, as well as children born in captivity, recognizing their particular vulnerability to violence, including sexual violence, in those situations, and urges the concerned States to take all measures practically possible to this end;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the present resolution, to continue to widely disseminate information, in particular relating to Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) of 31 October 2000;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations, including international humanitarian organizations, to use their capabilities and undertake efforts to facilitate the immediate and safe release of women and children who have been taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, as well as to seek to ensure their rehabilitation, family reunification and community-based reintegration;

17. *Invites* the special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council, within their respective mandates, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, to continue to address the issue of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts and its consequences;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-eight session a comprehensive report covering all aspects of the present resolution, including relevant practical recommendations to address issues relating to the release of women and children taken hostage in armed conflicts, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations;

19. *Decides* to consider the question at its sixty-eight session.

Decision 66/101
Chairs' summaries of the discussions held under agenda item 3*

5. At its 12th meeting, on 25 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 interactive dialogues on the review theme, the interactive expert panel discussion on the priority theme and the interactive dialogue on the emerging issue under agenda item 3:

Chair's summary of the ministerial round tables on climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes: advancing gender equality through holistic and integrated actions from global to local;¹

Chair's summary of the ministerial round tables on women's voice and agency: good practices towards achieving women's full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;²

Chair's summary of the interactive dialogues on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;³

Chair's summary of the interactive expert panel on building resilient futures: bridging the gap between the physical science and social science communities to advance gender equality in the context of climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction;⁴

Chair's summary of the interactive dialogue on the emerging issue of harnessing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic recovery for gender equality and a sustainable future.⁵

* For the discussion, see chap. III and annex.

¹ [E/CN.6/2022/11](#).

² [E/CN.6/2022/12](#).

³ [E/CN.6/2022/13](#).

⁴ [E/CN.6/2022/14](#).

⁵ [E/CN.6/2022/15](#).

Chapter II

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

6. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd and 12th meetings, on 14 and 25 March 2022. It had before it the annotated provisional agenda ([E/CN.6/2022/1](#)) and proposed organization of work ([E/CN.6/2022/1/Add.1](#)).
7. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 March, the Chair of the Commission, Mathu Joyini (South Africa), made a statement and noted that the sixty-sixth session of the Commission would be held in a hybrid format involving in-person formal meetings and virtual informal meetings, owing to the circumstances imposed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and would not in any way create a precedent to the work of the Commission.
8. At the same meeting, 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.
9. Also at the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Commission decided, without setting a precedent for future sessions, that Member States, observer States, intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and related organizations, as well as civil society organizations, may submit a pre-recorded statement, which would be played in the conference room during the general discussions and ministerial round tables at its sixty-sixth session.

Action taken by the Commission

10. At its 12th meeting, on 25 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled “Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women” ([E/CN.6/2022/L.5](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Commission on the basis of informal consultations.
11. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.
12. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Council for its adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution I).
13. Also at its 12th meeting, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled “Thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women” ([E/CN.6/2022/L.6](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Commission on the basis of informal consultations.
14. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.
15. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Council for its adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution II).

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”

16. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd to 10th meetings, from 14 to 22 March, and 12th meeting, on 25 March. It held general discussions on the item at its 2nd and 5th to 10th meetings.¹ 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.6/2022/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes (E/CN.6/2022/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2022/4);

(d) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the discussion guide for the ministerial round tables to be held under the priority theme “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes” (E/CN.6/2022/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2022/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (E/CN.6/2022/7);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2022/8);

(h) 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/50/30-E/CN.6/2022/9);

(i) Note by the Secretariat on the results of the seventy-ninth and eightieth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2022/10);

(j) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2022/NGO/1-147).

17. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 March, the Chair of the Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the Economic and Social Council, Collen Vixen Kelapile (Botswana), and the President of the General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid (Maldives), addressed the Commission.

¹ Written statements under the general discussion of agenda item 3 were submitted by the delegations of Bahrain, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and two non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, Nor Luyce Mentoring Center for Youth and Voluntary Service Overseas.

18. At the same meeting, the Commission heard pre-recorded statements by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and by civil society and youth representatives.
19. Also at the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) made an introductory statement.
20. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences made statements.
21. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Belarus (on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family)² and Turkey (also on behalf of Australia, Indonesia, Mexico and the Republic of Korea).
22. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Lesotho (on behalf of the Group of African States), France (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), Belgium (on behalf of the following members of the LGBTI Core Group: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and the European Union, as well as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the non-governmental organizations Human Rights Watch and OutRight Action International), the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) (pre-recorded), Cambodia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Angola (on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries)³ and Botswana (on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries).⁴
23. At the 5th meeting, on 15 March, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Turkey, Morocco, the Republic of Korea, Austria, Germany (pre-recorded) and Israel (pre-recorded).
24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Chile (on behalf of the Group of Friends of Older Persons),⁵ Fiji (on behalf of the Pacific Islands

² The Group of Friends of the Family is composed of Bangladesh, Belarus, the Comoros, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

³ 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.

⁴ The Group of Landlocked Developing Countries is composed of Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, the Niger, North Macedonia, Paraguay, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

⁵ The Group of Older Persons is composed of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Uruguay.

Forum), Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean Community and in her national capacity) and [Malawi (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community).

25. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the European Union (on behalf of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls) made a statement.

26. Also at the 5th meeting, the observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iceland (pre-recorded), Uzbekistan (pre-recorded), Serbia (pre-recorded), the Netherlands (pre-recorded, followed by an in-person statement), Egypt, Sweden, Liechtenstein, Finland, New Zealand (pre-recorded), France, Kazakhstan, Jordan, Ireland, Oman, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago and Luxembourg made statements.

27. At the same meeting, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of the Russian Federation.

28. At the 6th meeting, on 16 March, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Zambia, Armenia, Argentina, Ecuador, Latvia, Denmark, Algeria (pre-recorded), India (pre-recorded), Mongolia (pre-recorded), Senegal, Brazil, Kenya, Togo and Nigeria.

29. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Pakistan (pre-recorded), Italy, Estonia (pre-recorded), Albania, Cameroon (pre-recorded), Paraguay, Canada, the Plurinational State of Bolivia (pre-recorded), Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zimbabwe (pre-recorded), Mauritius (pre-recorded), Panama, Côte d'Ivoire, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (pre-recorded), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Qatar, Suriname (pre-recorded), Angola, Chile (pre-recorded), the Gambia and Chad.

30. At the 7th meeting, on 16 March, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua (pre-recorded), Australia (pre-recorded, followed by an in-person statement), Japan (pre-recorded, followed by an in-person statement) and the Congo.

31. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the United Arab Emirates (pre-recorded), Rwanda (pre-recorded), Antigua and Barbuda, Sierra Leone, Fiji, Malta (pre-recorded), Tunisia (pre-recorded), the United Republic of Tanzania, Mali, Ethiopia (pre-recorded), Nepal, Viet Nam (pre-recorded), Ukraine (pre-recorded), North Macedonia (pre-recorded), Saint Lucia, Guinea, the Niger, Indonesia (pre-recorded), Peru (pre-recorded), Nauru (pre-recorded), Botswana, Malawi, Dominica, the Marshall Islands (pre-recorded), Burundi and China (pre-recorded), as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine (pre-recorded).

32. Also at the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of India, Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Armenia.

33. At the 8th meeting, on 17 March, the Chair of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls made a statement.

34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Haiti (pre-recorded), Mexico (pre-recorded), Cuba, Saudi Arabia (pre-recorded), the Philippines (pre-recorded), Malaysia and Iraq.

35. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Cabo Verde, Belize, Benin, Croatia, Slovenia, the Bahamas, Greece, Georgia (pre-recorded), Norway, Timor-Leste, Lithuania, Burkina Faso (pre-recorded), Romania (pre-recorded), Maldives, Andorra (pre-recorded), Poland (pre-recorded), Lebanon, Namibia (pre-recorded), El Salvador, Tajikistan (pre-recorded), the Lao People's Democratic Republic (pre-recorded), Hungary (pre-recorded), Cambodia (pre-recorded) and Uruguay (pre-recorded).

36. At the 9th meeting, on 17 March, statements were made by the representatives of Switzerland, Afghanistan and the Russian Federation.
37. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Czechia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Singapore, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Federated States of Micronesia, Bulgaria, Bhutan, Yemen, Monaco, Cyprus, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Palau, Gabon, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Kuwait, Belgium and Eritrea, as well as by the observer for the Holy See.
38. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the International Development Law Organization, the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (pre-recorded) and the International Organization for Migration (pre-recorded).
39. Also at the 9th meeting, pre-recorded statements were made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.
40. At the 10th meeting, on 22 March, statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh and Ghana.
41. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Guatemala (pre-recorded), Liberia, South Sudan, Spain (pre-recorded), the Sudan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Thailand, Djibouti and Costa Rica.
42. Also at the same meeting, pre-recorded statements were made by the observers for the Commonwealth and the League of Arab States.
43. Also at the 10th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: ACT Alliance - Action by Churches Together (pre-recorded); Advocates for Human Rights (pre-recorded); Advocates for Youth; African Women's Development and Communication Network (pre-recorded); Alliance for Arab Women (pre-recorded); Amnesty International (pre-recorded); Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women; Canadian Federation of University Women (pre-recorded); CHIRAPAQ – Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú (pre-recorded); Congregations of St. Joseph (pre-recorded); Education International (pre-recorded); Foundation for Studies and Research on Women (pre-recorded); Girls Learn International (pre-recorded); Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (pre-recorded); Green Hope Foundation (pre-recorded); International Disability Alliance (pre-recorded); International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (pre-recorded), International Planned Parenthood Federation (pre-recorded); International Trade Union Confederation (pre-recorded); Lutheran World Federation (pre-recorded); MenEngage Global Alliance (pre-recorded); New Generation in Action (pre-recorded); Public Services International (pre-recorded); Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights (pre-recorded); United Cities and Local Governments (pre-recorded); Voice of Specially Abled People, Inc. (pre-recorded); Women in Europe for a Common Future; Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (pre-recorded); and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (pre-recorded).

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

Priority theme: achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

Ministerial segment

Ministerial round tables

44. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 14 and 15 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission held four ministerial round tables on the priority theme, “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”.

Topic A

Climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes: advancing gender equality through holistic and integrated actions from global to local

Ministerial round table 1

45. Ministerial round table 1 was chaired by the Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities of South Africa, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, who made opening remarks.
46. Statements were made by the representatives of Turkey, the Dominican Republic and Nigeria.
47. Statements were also made by the observers for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Egypt, Chile (pre-recorded), Cameroon (pre-recorded), Suriname (pre-recorded), Italy, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates (pre-recorded), New Zealand (pre-recorded), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jordan, Luxembourg, Antigua and Barbuda, Panama, Ireland, Qatar, Belgium, Pakistan and Sweden.
48. The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme summarized the highlights of the round table.
49. The Chair of round table 1 (South Africa) made closing remarks.

Ministerial round table 3

50. Ministerial round table 3 was chaired by the Minister of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea, Young-ai Chung, who made opening remarks.
51. Statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, Armenia, Senegal, Bangladesh (pre-recorded), the Philippines (pre-recorded), Saudi Arabia (pre-recorded) and Iraq.
52. Statements were also made by the observers for Guyana, France, Fiji, Indonesia (pre-recorded), the United Republic of Tanzania, Saint Lucia, Spain (pre-recorded), Slovenia, Angola, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Maldives, El Salvador, Azerbaijan (pre-recorded) and Chad.
53. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction summarized the highlights of the round table.
54. The Chair of round table 3 (Republic of Korea) made closing remarks.

Topic B

Women's voice and agency: good practices towards achieving women's full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

Ministerial round table 2

55. Ministerial round table 2 was co-chaired by the Minister for Welfare of Latvia, Gatis Eglītis, and the Deputy Minister of Forestry and the Environment of South Africa, Makhotso Magdeline Sotyu.
56. The Co-Chair (Latvia) of ministerial round table 2 made opening remarks.
57. Statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Zambia, Austria, Algeria (pre-recorded), Ecuador, Morocco and Japan (pre-recorded).
58. Statements were also made by the observers for Kazakhstan, Samoa (pre-recorded), Finland, Liberia (pre-recorded), Canada, Lithuania, Malawi, Nepal, Cabo Verde, the Bahamas, Norway, Timor-Leste, Ukraine (pre-recorded), Peru (pre-recorded) and the Niger.
59. The Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programme, Civil Society and Intergovernmental Support of UN-Women summarized the highlights of the round table.
60. The Co-Chair of round table 2 (South Africa) made closing remarks.

Ministerial round table 4

61. Ministerial round table 4 was chaired by the Minister of Women, Genders and Diversity of Argentina, Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, who made opening remarks.
62. Statements were made by the representatives of Mongolia (pre-recorded), Denmark, Mexico, Cuba and Switzerland.
63. Statements were also made by the observers for Estonia (pre-recorded), the Netherlands (pre-recorded), Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago, Liechtenstein, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Portugal, Ethiopia (pre-recorded), Croatia, Greece, Georgia (pre-recorded), Paraguay, Romania (pre-recorded), Czechia, Botswana and Mali.
64. A statement was also made by the observer for the European Union.
65. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund summarized the highlights of the round table.
66. The Chair of round table 4 (Argentina) made closing remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

67. At its 12th meeting, on 25 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS" ([E/CN.6/2022/L.3](#)), submitted by Malawi,⁶ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community, and the Philippines.
68. At the same meeting, the observer for Malawi made a statement on behalf of the Southern African Development Community and the Philippines.

⁶ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

69. Also at the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

70. Also at the 12th meeting, the Secretary of the Commission announced that Argentina, Haiti and Switzerland had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution. Subsequently, Congo, Mauritania⁶ and Morocco joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

71. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 66/1).

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

72. At its 12th meeting, on 25 March, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled “Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts” (E/CN.6/2022/L.4), submitted by Argentina, Azerbaijan,⁶ Georgia,⁶ the Philippines and Turkey.

73. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

74. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Commission announced that Switzerland had joined as a sponsor of the draft resolution. Subsequently, Canada and Mauritania⁶ joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

75. Also at its 12th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 66/2).

76. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Armenia.

Agreed conclusions on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

77. At its 12th meeting, on 25 March, the Commission had before it the draft agreed conclusions on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, as contained in an informal paper, in English only, and submitted by the Chair of the Commission (South Africa) on the basis of informal consultations and subsequently issued as document E/CN.6/2022/L.7.

78. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Germany), in her capacity as the facilitator of the draft agreed conclusions, made a statement.

79. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chair of the Commission (South Africa).

80. Also at its 12th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft 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).

81. Before the adoption of the draft agreed conclusions, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, the United States of America, South Africa (on behalf of the Group of African States), Nicaragua and the Russian Federation, as well as by the observers for Guatemala and China.

82. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council),⁷ India, Malaysia, Mexico and Iraq, as well as by the observers for Chile (on behalf of the Santiago Group)⁸, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Liechtenstein (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland), Yemen, Indonesia, Lebanon, Costa Rica, Tunisia, Ethiopia, El Salvador (also on behalf of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru), Egypt, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France.

83. Statements were also made by the observers for the Holy See and the European Union (also on behalf of its member States).

84. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Chairs' summaries of the discussions held under agenda item 3

85. At its 12th meeting, on 25 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. D, decision 66/101).

⁷ The Gulf Cooperation Council is composed of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

⁸ The Santiago Group is composed of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

Chapter IV

Communications concerning the status of women

86. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 11th (closed) meeting, on 23 March 2022. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (see para. 88 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.6/2022/R.1 and E/CN.6/2022/R.1/Add.1).

Action taken by the Commission

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

87. At its 11th (closed) meeting, on 23 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women.¹

88. 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-sixth 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-sixth 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.6/2022/R.1 and E/CN.6/2022/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 83 confidential communications, addressed to 52 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 34 replies from 21 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 the document symbol E/CN.6/2022/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, 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, domestic violence, sexual harassment, death threats, abductions, trafficking in women and girls, including for the purpose of forced labour, and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child and forced marriage;

(c) Abuse of power by law enforcement officials with impunity, including physical violence, sexual assault, torture, harassment and arbitrary detention;

(d) Concerning conditions for women in detention and penitentiary systems, including deliberate starvation and malnutrition, as well as forced abortion, forced labour, degrading treatment, and torture of and physical and sexual violence against those women;

(e) Systematic violations of the human rights of women, including discrimination, harassment, various forms of violence and impunity, some of which target women and girls in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including women belonging to ethnic minorities, women and girls with disabilities, and migrant and refugee women and girls, as well as widows;

(f) Increase in the cases of all forms of violence and inequalities against women, economic hardship of women, and in the number of widows and those who lost their breadwinners during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

(g) Death threats, torture, ill-treatment, harassment, including judicial harassment, travel bans, freezing of assets, arbitrary detention of and violence against women human rights defenders, some of which also target their family members, as a means of intimidation;

(h) Infringement of the right to health and insufficient access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health, and high rates of maternal mortality;

(i) Inadequate implementation and/or enforcement of laws aimed at promoting and protecting women's human rights, including incidents of discrimination in judicial proceedings;

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

(i) Civil and political rights, including the right to nationality, the right to be free from torture, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of religion;

(ii) Economic, social and cultural rights;

- (iii) Family life and marriage;
- (iv) Access to justice and equality before the courts;
- (v) Punishment for rape;

(k) Failure by States to adequately: exercise due diligence to prevent violence and discrimination against women and girls; investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators in a timely manner; provide protection and support for victims; 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 injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group expressed its concern about:

(a) Violence against women and girls, inter alia, rape, gang rape and other forms of sexual violence, torture, 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 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 lack of access to health care;

(c) The continued existence of legislation and/or practices in many areas that discriminated against women or had the effect of discriminating against women, the ineffective or inadequate 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;

(d) Discrimination and violence against women and girls in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including women belonging to ethnic minorities, women and girls with disabilities, and migrant and refugee women and girls, as well as widows;

(e) Torture, violence, harassment, including judicial harassment, and arbitrary detention of women human rights defenders, some of which also target their family members;

(f) Abuse of power, inter alia, in cases where violence against women, including sexual violence, is perpetrated by law enforcement personnel, as well as discrimination against women in judicial proceedings;

(g) The failure by some 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 noted that a number of communications also reflected on the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the social and economic situation of women and girls.

10. 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 the cooperation of Governments 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 international human rights law and relevant international standards.

Chapter V

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

89. There was no documentation submitted under agenda item 5, and no action was taken.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission

90. At its 12th meeting, on 25 March, the Commission considered agenda item 6. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for its sixty-seventh session ([E/CN.6/2022/L.2](#)).

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

Chapter VII

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

92. At the 12th meeting, on 25 March, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur (Argentina) introduced the draft report of the Commission on its sixty-sixth session, as contained in document [E/CN.6/2022/L.1](#).

93. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its sixty-sixth session and entrusted the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur (Argentina) with its finalization.

Chapter VIII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

94. The Commission held 12 formal meetings (1st to 12th) during its sixty-sixth session at United Nations Headquarters, on 26 March 2021 and from 14 to 17, on 22 and 23 and on 25 March 2022, and 4 virtual informal meetings during the session, on 18, 22 and 24 March 2022 (see also chap. II, para. 6, and chap. III, para. 16, as well as the annex to the present document).

B. Attendance

95. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States and representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and of intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Election of officers

96. The following officers were elected at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the sixty-sixth session, on 26 March 2021 and 14 March 2022, respectively, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its sixty-sixth session:

Chair:

Mathu Joyini (South Africa)

Vice-Chairs:

Song Hye Ryoung (Republic of Korea)

Māris Burbergs (Latvia)

Antje Leendertse (Germany)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:

Pilar Eugenio (Argentina)

D. Agenda and organization of work

97. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 March 2022, the Commission adopted its agenda, as contained in document [E/CN.6/2022/1](#). 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: achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;

- (ii) Review theme: women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session);
 - (b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including 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-seventh session of the Commission.
 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-sixth session.
98. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document [E/CN.6/2022/1/Add.1](#).

E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

99. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. In accordance with Council resolution 2015/6, the Commission appointed the Russian Federation at the 1st meeting of its sixty-sixth session, on 26 March 2021, to serve as a member of the Working Group for the sixty-sixth session.

100. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 March 2022, the Commission appointed Iraq, Morocco and Turkey as members of the Working Group for its sixty-sixth session.

F. Documentation

101. The list of documents before the Commission at its sixty-sixth session is available at www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw66-2022/official-documents.

Annex

Proceedings of the virtual informal meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-sixth session

1. Pursuant to the organization of work adopted at its 2nd meeting, on 14 March 2022, the Commission convened four virtual informal meetings to hold interactive dialogues on the review theme, an interactive expert panel discussion on the priority theme and an interactive dialogue on the emerging issue under agenda item 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

Interactive dialogues on the review theme: national voluntary presentations¹

2. At its 1st and 2nd virtual informal meetings, on 18 March 2022, the Commission held two interactive dialogues at which national voluntary presentations were made on the review theme, “Women’s empowerment in the changing world of work”.

Presentations by Egypt, Finland, Colombia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Georgia and Armenia

3. At the 1st virtual meeting, on 18 March, the Minister of Human Settlements of South Africa, Mmamoloko Kubayi, chaired the interactive dialogue and made a statement.

4. An introductory statement was made by the Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programme, Civil Society and Intergovernmental Support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

5. The Commission heard the pre-recorded voluntary presentation by the President of the National Council for Women of Egypt, Maya Morsy.

6. Comments were made and questions were posed by the representatives of Nigeria and the Global Fund for Widows, to which the Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Social and Humanitarian Issues of Egypt, Mahmoud Afifi, responded.

7. The Commission heard the pre-recorded voluntary presentation by the Minister for Nordic Cooperation and Equality of Finland, Thomas Blomqvist, including responses by a Senior Specialist at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, Hanna Onwen-Huma, to comments and questions by the representatives of South Africa and the Coalition of Finnish Women’s Associations, as well as by the representative of a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, Equality Now.

8. The Commission heard the voluntary presentation by the Presidential Adviser for Gender Equity of Colombia, Gheidy Gallo, who also responded to comments made

¹ See the Chair’s summary of the interactive dialogues under the review theme ([E/CN.6/2022/13](#)).

and questions posed by the observer for Sweden and the representative of the Colombian Chamber of Construction.

9. The Commission heard the pre-recorded voluntary presentation by the Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ensieh Khazali, including responses to comments and questions by the representatives of Padjadjaran University, the Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Islam and Muslims in Europe and the Lady Fatima Centre.

10. The Commission heard the pre-recorded voluntary presentation by the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Human Rights Issues of Georgia, Niko Tatulashvili, including responses to comments and questions by the observer for Lithuania and the representative of the UN-Women office in Georgia.

11. The Commission heard the pre-recorded voluntary presentation by the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Armenia, Tatevik Stepanyan, including responses to comments and questions by the representatives of the OxYGen Foundation for Protection of Women and Youth Rights, the Women's Support Centre and the United Nations Population Fund office in Armenia.

Presentations by Germany, Ukraine, Uganda, Argentina, South Africa and Chile

12. At the 2nd virtual meeting, on 18 March, the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Latvia) chaired the interactive dialogue and made a statement.

13. The Commission heard the pre-recorded voluntary presentation by the Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany, Ekin Deligöz, including responses to comments and questions by the representative of Colombia.

14. The Commission heard the voluntary presentation by the Commissioner for Gender Policy of Ukraine, Kateryna Levchenko, who also responded to comments and questions by the observers for Georgia and the Republic of Moldova.

15. The Commission heard the voluntary presentation by the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development of Uganda, Betty Amongi Akena.

16. The Commission heard the pre-recorded voluntary presentation by the Minister of Women, Genders and Diversity of Argentina, Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, including responses to comments and questions by the representative of Mexico and the observer for Spain.

17. The Commission heard the voluntary presentation by the Minister of Human Settlements of South Africa, Mmamoloko Kubayi, who also responded to comments and questions by the observers for Finland and Uganda.

18. The Commission heard the voluntary presentation by the Minister for Women and Gender Equality of Chile, Antonia Orellana, who also responded to comments and questions by the representatives of Argentina and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Interactive expert panel discussion on building resilient futures: bridging the gap between the physical science and social science communities to advance gender equality in the context of climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction²

19. At its 3rd virtual informal meeting, on 22 March, the Commission held an interactive expert panel discussion on building resilient futures: bridging the gap between the physical science and social science communities to advance gender equality in the context of climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction, which was chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Latvia), who made a statement.
20. The Commission heard the presentations by the co-founder of Diverse Voices and Action for Equality, Noelene Nabulivou; an independent expert on gender and the environment, Lorena Aguilar; and the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, David R. Boyd.
21. A statement was made by the discussant, the founder of the Green Hope Foundation, Kehkashan Basu.
22. In the ensuing discussion, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Philippines, South Africa and Switzerland.
23. Statements were made by the observers for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Costa Rica, the United Arab Emirates and the Sudan, as well as by the observer for the European Union.
24. Statements were also made by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Organizzazione Mondiale degli Agricoltori, Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van homoseksueliteit – COC Nederland, Ilitha Labantu, Oxfam, Danske Handicaporganisationer and Mujer para la Mujer A.C.
25. The following panellists responded to comments and questions: Noelene Nabulivou and David R. Boyd.
26. The discussant also responded to comments and questions.

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

Interactive dialogue on the emerging issue: harnessing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) recovery for gender equality and a sustainable future³

27. At its 4th virtual informal meeting, on 24 March, the Commission held an interactive dialogue on harnessing the COVID-19 pandemic recovery for gender equality and a sustainable future, which was chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Republic of Korea), who made a statement.
28. The Commission heard the presentations by the Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst Jayati Ghosh; the Gender Equality Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Coordination Body for Gender

² See the Chair's summary of the interactive expert panel discussion under the priority theme (E/CN.6/2022/14).

³ See the Chair's summary of the interactive dialogue on the emerging issue (E/CN.6/2022/15).

Equality of Serbia, Gordana Gavrilović; an economist, researcher and adviser at the Ministry of the Economy of Argentina, Mercedes D'Alessandro; a Reader in Environmental Politics at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sherilyn MacGregor; and the Chief Executive Officer of Tekano Health Equity of South Africa, Lebogang Ramafoko.

29. A statement was made by the discussant, the Chief of the Research and Data Section of UN-Women, Papa Seck.

30. In the ensuing discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and Japan.

31. Statements were made by the observers for Georgia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Arab Emirates and the Sudan, as well as by the observer for the European Union.

32. Statements were also made by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association; the World Young Women's Christian Association; and the Fundación BBVA para las Microfinanzas.

33. The following panellists responded to comments and questions: Mercedes D'Alessandro, Sherilyn MacGregor and Lebogang Ramafoko.

