



United Nations

Commission on the Status of Women

**Report on the sixty-eighth session
(17 March 2023 and 11–22 March and
27 March 2024)**

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Note

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Summary

At its sixty-eighth session, the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution [2020/15](#), considered as its priority theme “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”. It considered as its review theme “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”, evaluating progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of its sixty-third session.

Pursuant to the organization and methods of work of the Commission, as set out in Council resolution [2022/4](#), 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, an interactive dialogue to facilitate exchanges among youth representatives from delegations of Member States on the priority theme, and an interactive dialogue on the emerging issue of artificial intelligence to advance gender equality: challenges and opportunities. The Commission considered its review theme through a series of presentations, made on a voluntary basis, by representatives of 10 Member States from various regions on lessons learned, challenges and achievements in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of its sixty-third session, which were followed by comments and an interactive dialogue among representatives of 21 partner countries and one United Nations entity 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) Integrate a gender perspective into financing for development commitments;
- (b) Implement gender-responsive economic and social policies and strengthen public institutions;
- (c) Expand fiscal space for investments to end poverty for women and girls;
- (d) Foster new development strategies towards sustainable economies and sustainable societies;
- (e) Engage and finance women’s organizations and collectives;
- (f) Enhance multidimensional poverty data and statistics.

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 towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

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 draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-eighth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission” for action by the Council. The Commission also adopted draft resolution [E/CN.6/2024/L.5](#), entitled “Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS”, and draft decision [E/CN.6/2024/L.4](#), entitled “Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts”.

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-eighth 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.

Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective

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 their human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout their life course.

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

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, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531.

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.

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 addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective 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 reaffirms the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences, including the International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action¹³ and the outcome documents of its reviews. It recognizes that the 2030 Agenda, 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 their human rights and fundamental freedoms by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. The Commission recalls the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.¹⁹

6. The Commission reiterates that the 2030 Agenda needs to be implemented in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting each country's policy space and leadership while remaining consistent with relevant international law 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.

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.

¹⁹ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

7. The Commission further recalls the Declaration on the Right to Development,²⁰ the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples²¹ and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.²²

8. The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives, and their follow-up mechanisms in their respective regions and countries, in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

9. 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, in particular by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

10. 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. 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.

11. The Commission recognizes that progress in achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the full enjoyment of their human rights has been held back owing to the persistence of poverty. It acknowledges that the Beijing Platform for Action identifies that poverty affecting women and girls is directly related to, inter alia, the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to quality education and support services and women's limited participation in the decision-making process due to, inter alia, systematic failures that may lead to exclusion and discrimination.

12. The Commission acknowledges that multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization are obstacles to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. 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.

13. The Commission expresses concern that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and that the feminization of poverty persists. It notes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for

²⁰ General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

²¹ General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

²² General Assembly resolution 71/1.

sustainable development, social justice, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and their human rights; and recognizes the importance of taking positive action, including in the form of policies and partnerships, at the local, national, regional and international levels, that address existing inequalities, among and within countries, in the distribution of and access to services, resources and infrastructure, as well as access to food, water, health, quality education, training and opportunities for employment and decent work in urban and rural, remote and maritime areas and other human settlements in order to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and vulnerability.

14. The Commission recognizes with deep concern that women and girls are at greater risk of poverty and experience higher poverty rates than men and boys and that the gender poverty gap is projected to persist. It acknowledges that, currently, 10.3 per cent of women are living in extreme poverty and, if current trends continue, an estimated 8 per cent of women worldwide (342 million) will be subsisting on less than \$2.15 a day in 2030, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa. It further notes with concern that women and girls in poverty experience multiple and compounding deprivations that are intensified by other dimensions of inequality, including race, colour, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status, and their experiences of poverty are shaped by negative social norms and gender stereotypes.

15. The Commission recognizes that global challenges and emergencies, including those related to health, energy and food security, natural disasters and geopolitical tensions and wars often disproportionately affect women and girls, and that these have pushed people, in particular women and girls, further behind and into extreme poverty.

16. The Commission reaffirms the right to food and recognizes that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, which are exacerbated by gender inequality and discrimination. It notes with concern that it is estimated that almost twice as many women as men suffer from malnutrition and that, in many countries, girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases. It recognizes the critical role of women in both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity, malnutrition, excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries, and acknowledges women's contribution to more than 50 per cent of the food produced globally and that they represent 70 per cent of agricultural workers.

17. 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 by women and girls. It is deeply concerned that water scarcity and disruptions to supply induced by, inter alia, 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 women earning a livelihood.

18. The Commission remains deeply concerned that all women and girls, especially in developing countries, including small island developing States, and particularly those in vulnerable situations, are often disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, extreme weather events and natural disasters and other environmental issues, such as land degradation, desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms, persistent drought, floods, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, including disproportionate exposure to risk and

increased loss of life and livelihoods, and reiterates its deep concern over the challenges posed by climate change to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication. It recalls that the parties to the Paris Agreement acknowledged that they should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and intergenerational equity and, in this context, also recalls the adoption of the second gender action plan by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-fifth session.

19. The Commission recalls the establishment of the women and peace and security agenda and reaffirms that the full, equal 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.

20. 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 reiterates that all forms of violence against women and girls, in public and private spheres, online and offline, including sexual and gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment, rape, gender-related killings, including femicide, and 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 remains deeply concerned by the magnitude of various forms of violence against women and girls, including violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, and the significant physical, sexual, psychological, social, political and economic harm that it causes throughout their life course. It expresses deep concern that women and girls may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of multidimensional poverty, including intergenerational poverty, disability and limited or lack of access to justice, effective legal remedies and psychosocial services, including protection, rehabilitation and 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.

21. The Commission recognizes that systemic bias embedded in the economic and social structures of society expose women and girls to a disproportionately high risk of violence and that, in turn, violence heightens women's risk of poverty, economic hardship, financial dependence, economic exclusion and homelessness, including in old age, because of, inter alia, the associated out-of-pocket health expenditures, loss of earnings and unequal participation in the labour market, which can translate into limited or no access to contributory social security benefits. It further condemns all violence experienced by women that comprises actions aimed at making women financially dependent or exerting abusive control of finances, and recognizes that the economic independence of women can expand their options for leaving abusive and violent relationships.

22. The Commission acknowledges the need to address the effects of armed conflict and post-conflict situations on women and girls, including victims and survivors of sexual violence.

23. The Commission recognizes that poverty, unemployment, lack of socioeconomic opportunities and pervasive gender inequality are among the underlying causes that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking. It expresses serious concern over the significant and enduring trafficking of women and girls, recognizes that trafficking in persons disproportionately affects them, and stresses the need for Member States to enact or update national laws and establish comprehensive policies, programmes and other measures that prevent trafficking and provide for the protection of trafficked women and children, including girls, from revictimization and appropriate assistance and protection in the best interests of the child. It further stresses the importance of coordinating national measures and international cooperation to enhance the positive effects of all anti-trafficking efforts.

24. The Commission also recognizes that the empowerment of and investment in girls are critical, including for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and that the strengthening of their voice, agency and leadership are among key factors in breaking the cycle of gender inequality, in eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and poverty and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Commission further recognizes that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and as agents of change in their own lives and communities.

25. The Commission stresses the urgency of eliminating persistent historical and structural inequalities, including economic inequality, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and recognizes the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of many religious and other communities in various parts of the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, antisemitism, Christianophobia and prejudices against persons of other religions or beliefs, discrimination based on stigmatization, gender stereotypes, discriminatory laws, policies and negative social norms, unequal power relations, the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work between women and men and within the household and all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence. It further acknowledges that such deprivations are among the root causes of the feminization of poverty.

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

27. The Commission reaffirms that the commitment to continue to increase investments in inclusive, affordable and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, including early childhood education, youth and adult literacy programmes and initiatives, digital education, cultural education, education for sustainable development, digital technologies for education, skills

enhancement, affordable higher education and vocational training, is essential to help women and girls to overcome poverty and vulnerability. In this regard, it emphasizes the importance of addressing the shortage of qualified teachers and inadequate curricula, school equipment and infrastructure. It further reaffirms the importance of the empowerment of women and girls in and through education and safe, healthy and stimulating learning environments that enable all learners to achieve their full potential and physical, mental and emotional well-being.

28. The Commission expresses concern about the unequal pace of social and economic development and access to education within and among countries and the structural and systemic barriers undermining women's and girls' ability to securely access equitable and quality education and to become equipped with the knowledge, awareness and skills for their social empowerment and women's economic empowerment, especially in developing countries, including the least developed countries, and small island developing States and African countries.

29. The Commission reaffirms that the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is crucial for gender equality and the empowerment of women, including their economic empowerment and their full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in public and private life. It recognizes that the provision of safe water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services is fundamental for achieving universal health coverage, strengthening primary health care, improving quality care and reducing the costs and impacts of the spread of antimicrobial resistance. It is deeply concerned that progress in reducing maternal mortality has stagnated in recent years, with almost 95 per cent of deaths occurring in low- and lower-middle-income countries. It also recognizes that the causes, experiences and consequences of poverty can have a disproportionate impact on women and girls and that they may have limited or no access to safe, available, affordable, accessible, quality and inclusive health-care services, including those related to mental health, maternal and neonatal health, and menstrual health and hygiene management, and underlines the need for ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education. It further recognizes that women with physical and mental health conditions are more vulnerable to experiencing sexual and gender-based violence and that violence is a risk factor for mental health conditions, non-communicable diseases and chronic health conditions.

30. The Commission further recognizes that women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, which limits women's ability to participate in the labour market and 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, including in the context of addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. 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 and girls and boys 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 paid maternity, paternity or parental leave.

31. The Commission acknowledges that women and girls, throughout their life course, including adolescent girls, experience multidimensional forms of poverty and often have limited access to critical infrastructure such as water, sanitation and electricity, which, inter alia, restricts their time for other

activities, such as education and leisure, or, for women, earning a livelihood. It acknowledges that the higher likelihood of career interruptions, part-time employment, lower earnings, concentration in the informal sector and more time spent on unpaid care and domestic work, which limits women's agency to decide how to spend their time, results in women having fewer assets, savings and social protection benefits, such as pension, health insurance or paid sick leave.

32. The Commission stresses that Member States, who bear the main responsibility for social integration and social inclusion, should strengthen care and support systems, including the care economy, in which all receive the basic social services, care and support that they need, on the basis of the principles of equality and non-discrimination, including through gender-responsive poverty eradication measures, labour policies, public services and social protection programmes, promoting the rights and well-being of all women and girls and the active participation of every member of society, as well as a collective responsibility, involving States, communities and families, as well as the private sector.

33. The Commission also recognizes that universal access to social protection plays a central role in reducing inequality, accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty. It also recognizes that to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, social protection policies must include a gender perspective, including the principle that everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living, health and well-being for themselves and their families, including food, clothing, housing, medical care, necessary social services and education, and that motherhood, parenthood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. It further recognizes that social protection systems can make a critical contribution to the fulfilment of human rights for all women and girls, including those living in poverty, in particular those in vulnerable situations and subject to discrimination.

34. The Commission reaffirms the importance of improving public services and sustainable infrastructure and technology, including in rural, remote and maritime areas, such as transportation, access to safe water and sanitation facilities, in order to enhance the safety of all women and girls. It further recognizes the importance of safe, affordable and accessible, as well as age- and disability-responsive and sustainable, land and water transport systems and roadways that respond to the needs of all women and girls, in particular those living in poverty.

35. The Commission emphasizes that efforts to close the digital divides within and among countries, including the gender digital divide, must be expanded and grounded in digital equity, access and affordability to ensure that no one is left behind in the digital economy and society, as new technological developments can perpetuate existing patterns of poverty, inequality, discrimination and all forms of violence, including gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology in the absence of effective safeguards and oversight, including in the algorithms used in artificial intelligence-based solutions. It notes that addressing gender-related biases in technology can contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and, in particular, the feminization of poverty, and that a gender-responsive approach should therefore be taken in the design, development, deployment and use of policies related to digital technologies with full respect for human rights.

36. The Commission recognizes that women and girls with disabilities are disproportionately affected by poverty due to barriers such as discrimination and limited access to education, women's employment, health-care services, infrastructure, financial services and information and communications technology. The Commission emphasizes the importance of promoting the rights, participation and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities on an equal basis with others. It further underlines the need to recognize disability as a cross-cutting issue in all relevant policy and programming and to translate this into actions. It also stresses the need for measures to address the specific barriers that they face, to promote their physical, psychosocial and financial resilience and to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women with disabilities, including in disaster preparedness and response planning for emergency situations and evacuations, humanitarian emergency response and health-care services.

37. The Commission emphasizes the importance of the empowerment and capacity-building of Indigenous women and girls and of allocating resources that target their well-being, in particular in the areas of poverty eradication, quality and inclusive education, health-care services, information and communications technologies, infrastructure and public services, as well as financial services, employment and decent work for women and access to economic resources, including land and natural resources. It further stresses the importance of promoting awareness and understanding of their rights and ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of Indigenous women and, as appropriate, girls in developing policies and programmes, as well as in the economy and the transmission of traditional, scientific and technical knowledge, languages and spiritual and religious traditions and practices, and decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, including through digital technologies, as well as productive employment and decent work for Indigenous women. It further acknowledges that the inherent diversity of these communities, as well as their challenges, demand special attention.

38. The Commission also recognizes the significant contribution of women and girls of African descent to the development of societies and the importance of ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making of women of African descent in all aspects of society, including by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

39. The Commission recognizes that poverty, in particular the feminization of poverty, and underdevelopment are among the drivers of migration and it therefore emphasizes the importance of addressing the situations of vulnerability that migrant women and girls face, particularly migrant women in the informal economy and in less skilled work, to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants regardless of migration status. It also recognizes the positive contributions of migrant women towards inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, underlining the value and dignity of women's labour, in all sectors, including in care and domestic work, while recognizing the contribution of women migrant workers, including through the sending of remittances, which are fundamental for the empowerment of women and are a vital source of support for their families and communities.

40. The Commission recognizes older women's positive contribution to the economy and society, including through the provision of care and domestic work and support. It also recognizes the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older women, including by progressively

taking measures to combat age discrimination, neglect, abuse and all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, as well as social isolation and loneliness; providing social protection, access to food, water and housing, health-care services, employment, information and communications technologies, including new technologies and assistive technologies, legal services and justice; and addressing issues related to social integration and gender inequality through mainstreaming the rights of older persons into sustainable and people-centred development strategies, urban policies and poverty reduction strategies, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational solidarity for social development.

41. The Commission recognizes the important role and contribution of rural women and those living in remote and maritime areas in the eradication of poverty and in enhancing sustainable agricultural and rural development, as well as sustainable fisheries. It highlights the importance of their access to economic opportunities, economic and productive resources, quality education and support services. It also highlights the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and, as appropriate, girls in the design, implementation and follow-up of policies and activities that affect their livelihoods, well-being and resilience, and that their perspectives are taken into account in decision-making processes.

42. The Commission recognizes that public institutions can drive pro-poor, inclusive and gender-responsive economic policies with a people-centred approach and full respect for human rights and that women's participation in these institutions is essential to combat gender bias and stereotypes both in policymaking and policy outcomes. It further recognizes that ministries of finance determine the scope and direction of national fiscal policy, but may have limited capacity to analyse the gender impacts of fiscal policy, including taxation and spending. It acknowledges that national mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are important institutional actors that contribute to policy development and can transform public policy values.

43. The Commission is concerned about the negative impacts of the global economic and financial crises on sustainable development and the realization of the human rights of all women and girls, and acknowledges that there are long-standing gaps and challenges within the international financial system, which limit capacity to scale up financing for poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It further recognizes that the twenty-first century requires an international financial architecture that is more fit for purpose, equitable and responsive to the financing needs of developing countries and the needs of all women and girls living in poverty, and in this regard stresses the urgent need for bold and ambitious reforms.

44. The Commission recognizes with deep concern that tighter global financial conditions have contributed significantly to a finance divide between and within countries, leading to higher external borrowing costs, which could, inter alia, make it more difficult for developing countries, especially low- and middle-income countries and small island developing States, to pay for external debt servicing and could push more countries towards debt distress, and undermine their debt sustainability and affect the fiscal space available for essential social spending to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by, inter alia, addressing poverty, strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective and on the provision of social protection and basic public services, such as health care, and education, on which women and girls living in poverty depend. It emphasizes

that, while domestic public resources continue to be an important source of financing for public goods and services and help to reduce inequality through redistribution, those efforts need to be supported by an enabling economic environment and strengthened international cooperation.

45. The Commission is deeply concerned about the impact of illicit financial flows, in particular those caused by tax evasion, on the economic, social and political stability and development of societies and especially on developing countries and their progress in financing the 2030 Agenda, which exacerbate the challenges faced by women and girls living in poverty, including multidimensional poverty. It also recognizes the need of countries to work together to eliminate base erosion and profit shifting and to ensure that all companies, including multinationals, pay taxes to the Governments of countries where economic activity occurs and value is created, in accordance with national and international laws and policies, in order to mobilize domestic resources towards the empowerment of women and girls.

46. The Commission recognizes that fighting corruption at all levels and in all its forms is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development, which may undermine efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

47. The Commission reaffirms that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development. The Commission recalls that the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda set out policies that seek to, inter alia, increase financial inclusion; ensure that policy and regulatory environments support financial market stability, integrity and the promotion of financial inclusion in a balanced manner and with appropriate consumer protection; and work towards the strengthening of financial literacy, capacity development for developing countries and full and equal access to formal financial services for all, including women living in poverty. It acknowledges that lack of access to financial services intensifies challenges for women living in poverty. Furthermore, women in the informal economy, women-owned and women-led enterprises, including women with informal micro-businesses, are often confronted with major barriers to equal access to financing, financial institutions, financial services and skills development training.

48. The Commission emphasizes the special importance of predictable, timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solutions to the debt problems of developing countries to promote their economic growth and sustainable development and to create fiscal space for addressing the challenges of women and girls living in poverty.

49. The Commission calls for the need to mobilize resources equitably and target investments and policies towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty affecting women and girls. The Commission acknowledges the Secretary-General's efforts to address the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap through a Sustainable Development Goal stimulus to rapidly scale up financing to accelerate progress towards the Goals. It also recognizes the importance of strengthening international development cooperation and maximizing its effectiveness, transparency, impact and results.

50. 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 by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. 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 and reprisals directed at, and threats to the physical security of, their members.

51. 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 addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective 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.

52. The Commission acknowledges women's and girls' critical contributions to their families, and communities and societies. 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 by addressing poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and the feminization of poverty, and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective, and also recognizes the need to ensure that all poverty eradication 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.

53. The Commission is concerned that the lack of disaggregated data and gender statistics is limiting the capacity of policymakers to effectively address poverty affecting women and girls. Without robust data collection systems and methods, countries cannot estimate costs and allocate and spend resources to implement pro-poor laws and policies, including those that support ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions. It recognizes that addressing poverty requires informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated and individual-level data, measurement of multidimensional poverty to rapidly progress towards ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

54. 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:

Integrate a gender perspective into financing for development commitments

(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 by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective;

(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 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Optional Protocols thereto, limiting the extent of any reservations, formulating 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, reviewing 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) Consider the importance of the ratification of and, for those that have done so, implementation of the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization and note the importance of other relevant international labour standards;

(d) Fulfil existing commitments and obligations related to financing for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the protection and full realization of their human rights, including through the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,²³ the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,²⁴ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and its follow-up processes, including by gender mainstreaming through, inter alia, targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies; through the adoption and strengthening of sound policies and enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the achievement of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment at all levels; by ensuring women's full, equal, and meaningful participation at decision-making and leadership levels in the economy; by eliminating violence and discrimination in all its forms, including gender-based violence; and by linking policies on economic, social and environmental development to ensure that all people, in particular all women and girls living in poverty, benefit from sustained, inclusive, equitable economic growth and sustainable development;

(e) Take measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and the feminization of poverty, which are major barriers to women's economic empowerment and sustainable development, and to ensure access to health-care services and education for children, including girls, living in poverty in order to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, by implementing comprehensive and participatory poverty eradication

²³ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

²⁴ General Assembly resolution [63/239](#), annex.

strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues in order to ensure an adequate standard of living for all women and girls, including through social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure;

(f) Create and sustain effective partnerships to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including by improving tax systems, promoting financial inclusion, including access to financial services, enhancing capacity-building and productive capacity, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, encouraging the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, particularly women;

(g) Examine the impact of poverty, including extreme poverty and multidimensional poverty, on different groups of women and girls, including those facing various forms of discrimination, such as those living in poverty and experiencing food insecurity and water scarcity, women who are unemployed or with low incomes, women and girls who lack access to formal education, women and girls living in rural, remote or maritime areas, women and girls who are refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced, stateless and migrants, women and girls of African descent, women and girls belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, women and girls with disabilities, Indigenous women and girls, and older women;

(h) Promote, design and implement comprehensive, participatory poverty eradication policies and invest in approaches that address systemic barriers and structural root causes of gender inequality to ensure an adequate standard of living for all women and girls and improve their living conditions, and enable women's empowerment and their equal participation in decision-making, including through full and productive employment and decent work, safe and affordable housing and shelters, comprehensive and universal social protection, social services, public and financial services and sustainable infrastructure;

(i) Ensure that all development strategies are gender-responsive and fully respect human rights, including the right to development, have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind, especially women and girls living in or at risk of poverty, and work towards ending the structural barriers to women's and girls' access to economic resources;

(j) Urgently address the challenges posed by the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification that disproportionately affect women and girls, particularly those living in poverty, owing to gender inequality and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods, including by strengthening the full, equal and meaningful participation, representation and leadership of women at all levels of decision-making in climate and environmental action, including in science, technology, research and development, and by promoting the integration of a gender perspective into environmental and climate change policies, including in developing and implementing national policies and plans related to the United Nations environmental conventions, as appropriate, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; strengthen, protect, safeguard and preserve local, Indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors; and improve climate resilience and expand all

women's and girls' access to education, adequate livelihood opportunities, health-care facilities and infrastructure, and other basic services, especially in disaster, relief and humanitarian situations;

(k) 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; facilitate adequate and simplified access to financing for, and build the capacities of, women's, grass-roots women's and youth organizations and Indigenous women leading local adaptation and mitigation efforts, including through the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms; and promote the provision of quality public goods and services that benefit women and girls experiencing poverty;

(l) Ensure that the perspectives of women, and girls, as appropriate, are taken into account in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and in humanitarian emergencies and that they effectively and meaningfully participate, on equal terms with men, in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to conflict prevention, peace mediation, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as take into account the perspective of women and girls who are internally displaced and who are refugees; and ensure that the human rights of all women and girls are fully respected and protected in all response, recovery and reconstruction strategies and that appropriate measures are taken to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls in this regard;

(m) Urges all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and provide emergency assistance through mechanisms that provide vital services to women and girls living in situations of armed conflict, including those subjected to acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, to alleviate the extreme poverty and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation; ensure the safety and well-being of civilian populations, particularly women and girls, who lack access to basic services and work towards eliminating the root causes of such poverty;

(n) Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws, social infrastructure and policies for sustainable development, as well as enable the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women, including young women, in all spheres and levels of public life and their equal access to policy- and decision-making processes and eliminate gender stereotypes and negative social norms;

(o) Eliminate all forms of discrimination, including those exacerbated by poverty and hunger, against all women and girls and implement targeted measures and universal social protection interventions to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and ensure that all women and girls enjoy equal access, both in law and in practice, to social protection, public and financial services, productive resources and sustainable infrastructure, which can, inter alia, contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and, in particular, the feminization of poverty, and to the reduction of gender inequality through the adoption, where needed, of laws and comprehensive policy measures and their effective and accelerated implementation and monitoring, ensuring women's full and productive employment and decent work, and women's and girls' access to

justice and accountability for violations and abuses of their human rights and fundamental freedoms; and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, at all levels comply with international human rights obligations;

(p) 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, 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, including by ratifying key international treaties that provide protection against gender-based violence and sexual harassment;

(q) Enact or strengthen and enforce laws and policies to eliminate all forms of violence, discrimination and harassment against women of all ages in the world of work, in public and private spheres, and provide means of effective redress in cases of non-compliance; ensure safety for women in the workplace; address the multiple consequences of violence and harassment, considering that violence against women and girls is an obstacle to gender equality and women's economic empowerment; and, if applicable, develop measures to promote re-entry of victims and survivors of violence into the labour market;

(r) Take appropriate measures to combat trafficking and raise public awareness about the risks of trafficking in persons, including women and girls, and the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, addressing all forms of associated violence, and discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour;

(s) 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;

(t) Ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation and representation of women in diverse situations and conditions in all spheres of public life and at all levels, as well as their leadership in decision-making processes, including in economic policy, budget and financial processes, public institutions and in designing and implementing poverty eradication policies to address institutional gender biases, and promote pro-poor, economic and social policy actions that fully respect the human rights of all women and girls;

(u) Accelerate efforts and provide adequate resources to promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all decision-making bodies at all levels of government, including by eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions, building women's capacity as agents of change and empowering them to participate actively and equally in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national sustainable development, poverty eradication and other relevant policies, strategies and programmes;

(v) Promote the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of young women and, as appropriate, adolescent girls in decision-making

processes in the context of addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and gender-responsive financing, including by addressing the gender-specific barriers, such as all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, child, early and forced marriage and adolescent pregnancy, as well as the unequal distribution of unpaid care work, that cause adolescent girls to fare worse than adolescent boys at higher poverty thresholds, in order to promote sustainable growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all young women;

(w) Promote labour and employment policies that respect relevant international labour standards and ensure women's economic autonomy, independence and empowerment, including by enhancing their full and productive employment, promoting an adequate minimum wage, statutory or negotiated, and equal pay for work of equal value, supporting the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors by promoting occupational safety and health protection to workers, including in the informal economy, and facilitating the recruitment, promotion and retention of women in all sectors, including sustainable energy, fisheries, forestry, agriculture and tourism, including through temporary special measures, policies on care work, in addition to universal social protection policies and quality and affordable childcare and parental and other leave, care services for older persons and persons with disabilities, and the promotion of work-life and work-family balance, and the right to organize and bargain collectively, as a means to eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women;

(x) Protect and promote the right of all women to work and their rights at work and equal treatment in the workplace, including equal access to decent work, equal pay for work of equal value and productive and financial resources, by, inter alia, eliminating occupational segregation, negative social norms and gender stereotypes, violence and sexual harassment, discriminatory practices in career advancement, addressing structural barriers and protecting women against abuse and discrimination, including during pregnancy and maternity, in order to advance gender equality;

(y) Implement gender-responsive policies and programmes to support financial inclusion as well as to ensure equal access to credit, social security, markets, financial skills, technology, rural infrastructure and finance networks to support women entrepreneurs, women-led and women-owned businesses, as well as women-owned nano-, micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and women in the informal economy by promoting women's financial literacy and ensuring equal access to credit and inclusive finance and providing equal access to technologies that are safe, affordable and accessible, identifying and addressing barriers facing women in entrepreneurship, providing targeted support, capacity-building and business and leadership training to women and promoting role models of women in business;

(z) Mainstream a gender perspective into agricultural policies and projects and focus on closing the gender gap in, inter alia, investments and innovation in small-scale agricultural production and distribution, sustainable fisheries, and value chains supported by integrated and multisectoral policies, in order to improve women's productive capacity and income, strengthen their resilience and achieve equitable access to all forms of financing, markets and networks, technologies, including agricultural technology information and know-how, equipment, decision-making forums and associated agricultural resources, and ensure that agriculture, food security and nutrition-related programmes and policies take into consideration the specific needs of all women and the barriers that women face in accessing agricultural inputs and resources;

(aa) Eliminate occupational segregation by addressing structural barriers, all forms of discrimination, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, promote women's participation and equal access to the labour market and, through education and training, support women in diversifying their educational and occupational choices, including in emerging fields and growing economic sectors, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as information and communications technology, and recognize the value of sectors that have large numbers of women workers;

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

(cc) Encourage the private sector, as outlined in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to contribute to the fulfilment of the right of women, including women living in poverty, to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work, to develop and strengthen workplace environments and institutional practices that value them and offer them equal opportunities, including by ensuring that gender equality and the empowerment of all women are considered a necessary dimension of human resources management, based also on the principles of full and productive employment and decent work, equal pay for work of equal value, as well as the prevention of and protection against discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, abuse and gender-based violence in the workplace;

(dd) Enact legislation and undertake legislation and administrative reforms, where necessary, to realize the equal rights of all women, including rural women, women in remote areas and on islands, to economic and productive resources and eliminate any barriers, legal inconsistencies and discriminatory policies and laws, where they exist, that impede women's equal rights and women's economic empowerment; realize the right of all women to work and their rights at work, building their capacities and skills to manage enterprises and cooperatives, facilitating formalization and ensuring their financial and digital inclusion, as well as their access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, financial services, appropriate new technologies and inheritance rights, including diverse types of land tenure;

(ee) Take measures to prevent, detect, address and end all violence experienced by women that comprises actions aimed at economic abuse, making women financially dependent or exerting abusive control of finances, including the limiting of women's access to credit, funds, health care, employment and education and excluding women from financial decisions and denying women's rights with regard to property ownership, land and inheritance and freedom of movement, and review practices and stereotypes that undermine their land rights, including in the context of customary and traditional systems, which often govern land management, administration and transfer in rural areas, and ensure equal access to justice and legal assistance in this regard;

(ff) Take measures to remove structural barriers and improve the financial inclusion and literacy of all women and girls by developing financial and digital literacy programmes and advisory services in, inter alia, banking, modern trading and financial procedures; promote the full and equal access of

women to formal financial services, resources and products, including timely and affordable credit, savings, insurance and remittance transfer schemes, as well as innovative tools and platforms, such as online and mobile banking, payment platforms and digitalized payments; and adopt, pursue or review national financial inclusion strategies, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, consider including financial inclusion as a policy objective in regulation and mainstream a gender perspective into finance sector policy and regulations;

(gg) Promote, respect, protect and fulfil the right to quality education for all women and girls throughout their life course and at all levels, especially for those who have been left furthest behind, in particular for girls living in poverty, including by protecting and investing in public education systems, and infrastructure, including access to electricity, safe water, sanitation and hygiene, including menstrual hygiene, as well as by eliminating barriers and discriminatory laws and practices using innovative approaches that tackle the root causes of gender inequality; provide universal access to safe, inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education; create conditions for gender-sensitive, safe and inclusive digital learning environments, and foster, as appropriate, intercultural and multilingual education for all and recognize traditional and ancestral knowledge for Indigenous women and girls; strengthen efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and harassment against all women and girls, including adolescent girls, on the way to and from and at school and other educational institutions, and eliminate negative social norms and gender stereotypes in education systems;

(hh) Promote and invest in quality, equitable, affordable, accessible and inclusive education, lifelong learning, reskilling, and vocational training and studies for all women and girls, including adolescent girls, including free and compulsory primary and secondary education, education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as literacy and financial and digital education, leadership training, career development, scholarships and fellowships as well as vocational and technical education and training, including for pregnant adolescents and young mothers, as well as single mothers, to enable them to continue and complete their education, and provide quality education for those who did not receive formal education, as well as special initiatives for keeping girls in school through early childhood, primary, secondary education, and for promoting women's access to tertiary education, to ensure that they acquire the knowledge and skills to attain high-quality jobs and participate in the sustainable economy;

(ii) 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, reduce out-of-pocket spending that further exacerbates the situation of women experiencing poverty and ensure access, including through universally accessible primary health-care and support services and social protection mechanisms, 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 all communicable and non-communicable diseases and ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education;

(jj) Take measures to significantly reduce maternal, perinatal, neonatal, infant and child mortality and morbidity and increase access to quality health services for newborns, infants and children, as well as all women before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth, including those living in poverty, by

providing antenatal and postnatal care, sufficient numbers of skilled birth attendants and adequately supplied birthing facilities, interventions, such as improving transportation and health-care infrastructure, to ensure that women can access emergency obstetric services, and training and equipping community health workers, nurses and midwives to provide basic prenatal and postnatal care and emergency obstetric care, inter alia, by providing voluntary, informed family planning and empowering women to identify risk factors and complications of pregnancy and childbirth and facilitating their access to health facilities, including in addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective;

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

(ll) Increase financial investments in quality, affordable, resilient and accessible public health-care systems and facilities, and in safe, effective, quality, essential and affordable health-care services, including preventive, diagnostic, curative and rehabilitation services, and sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as in health technologies, including digital health technologies and digital tools developed for women's and girls' health and well-being; promote decent work with adequate remuneration for women working in the health and social sectors, effective retention and equitable and broad distribution of the health workforce, and in capacities to optimize the existing health workforce; address all rare, communicable and non-communicable diseases, including HIV and AIDS, and waterborne and neglected tropical diseases, and provide information on nutrition and healthy lifestyles, including through community outreach and private sector engagement, and with the support of the international community, with a view to supporting each country's path towards achieving universal health coverage for all women and girls, including those living in poverty;

(mm) 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;

(nn) Recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, including through sustained investments in the care economy and by promoting work-life balance, and by taking steps to measure the value of this work in order to determine its contribution to the national economy; adopt measures to promote equal sharing of responsibility between women and men and within the household with respect to care and household work and implement legislation and policies, including paid maternity, paternity, parental and other leave schemes, increased flexibility in working arrangements, such as facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers and part-time work, without reductions in labour and social protection, and all appropriate measures to promote the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, through the provision of infrastructure, technology and public services, including accessible, affordable and quality social services, childcare and care facilities and services for children, older persons and other dependants;

(oo) Provide social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure that support the productivity and economic viability of women's work and protect women, especially those working in the informal economy, including in rural and urban areas, by taking measures to address unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, including by promoting occupational safety and health protection for all workers, including those in precarious work and low-paid sectors in which women are overrepresented, such as care and health care;

(pp) Establish or strengthen inclusive, comprehensive and universal social protection systems, including floors, that integrate a gender perspective to ensure full access to social protection for all women and girls, including those living in poverty, without discrimination of any kind, and take measures to progressively achieve higher levels of protection, including for those working in the informal economy;

(qq) Invest in equitable, high-quality, inclusive, affordable and accessible public services, which has proven to be effective in promoting the rights of all women and girls, including those living in poverty, and achieving gender equality, and increase public investment to support the development of human capabilities, address unpaid care work and support decent work for all women, while recognizing that public spending on social infrastructure produces positive spillover benefits and enhances the productivity of the economy and contributes to the financial independence of women;

(rr) Significantly increase public and private sector investment in evidence-based initiatives aimed at eliminating the gender digital divide, especially for women and girls living in poverty, and build more inclusive innovation ecosystems to promote safe innovation for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and ensure full respect for all women's and girls' human rights in the digital context, including by using innovative finance mechanisms and tools, inter alia, mobile banking, online payment platforms and digitalized payment, and developing specialized financing instruments to strengthen the contribution of women, including women living in poverty, to economic growth and their continued participation in the digital economy;

(ss) Enhance efforts to achieve universal and affordable connectivity and facilitate and promote access to information and communications technology and safety in digital spaces for women and girls, to enhance women's productivity and mobility in the labour market, while taking measures to prevent

and eliminate violence against women and girls that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology; promote equal and affordable access to digital skills, connectivity and the Internet, using a multidimensional approach that includes speed, stability, affordability, language, training, capacity-building, local content and accessibility, including for persons with disabilities, in order to ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are available to all women and girls; work towards closing digital divides, including the gender digital divide, and ensure that programmes, services and infrastructure are adaptable and suited to tackling different technological barriers; and strive particularly to remove barriers and provide support for non-users and the least connected in the context of addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective;

(tt) Respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all women and girls with disabilities, including by addressing all barriers that prevent or restrict their full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making and in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of policies and programmes, including when it comes to addressing poverty, strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective, as well as health, quality education, distance learning, productive employment and decent work, including remote work for women with disabilities, and rehabilitation and other independent living support services and assistive technologies that enable them to maximize their well-being and realize their independence and autonomy, and ensure that their priorities and rights are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, and developed in close consultation with them;

(uu) Respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all Indigenous women and girls by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face, including eliminating and preventing all forms of violence and poverty, food insecurity, water scarcity, degradation of natural habitats and land degradation, forced displacement, limited access to information and communications technologies, infrastructure, financial services and education, and ensuring their access to health care, public services, the Internet and digital services, quality and inclusive education, and Indigenous women's employment, decent work and economic resources, including land and natural resources, and promoting their full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in the economy, and in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, taking into account the 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 and the preservation, revitalization and promotion of their languages, as well as the transmission of their traditional, scientific and technical knowledge;

(vv) Recognize the significant contributions and leadership of migrant women in their communities of origin, transit and destination in fostering inclusive growth and sustainable development, including to address poverty, underlining that poverty and underdevelopment are among the drivers of migration; and take appropriate steps to promote their full, equal and meaningful participation in the development of local solutions and opportunities, and to recognize the importance of protecting labour rights and a safe environment for women migrant workers in all sectors, including, but not limited to, those in care and domestic work, including through fair and ethical recruitment and the prevention of exploitation, and to facilitate safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, as well as labour mobility, and take steps to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and

expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including, inter alia, by considering reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, as appropriate, and to consider measures to address the different challenges that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

(ww) Promote and protect the rights of older women and increase their resilience by ensuring their equal access to social, legal, digital and financial services, infrastructure, health-care services, social protection, adequate economic and financial resources, education, lifelong learning and training, such as vocational training, protection from violence and abuse, including in digital contexts, and their full, meaningful and equal participation in decision-making and public life, recognizing that older women make a substantial contribution to sustainable development efforts;

(xx) Take measures to adopt or develop legislation and policies that provide women living in rural, remote and maritime areas with access to land and support women's cooperatives and agricultural programmes, including for subsistence agriculture and fisheries; strengthen access to safe drinking water and sanitation and safe cooking and heating practices to improve their health and nutrition; strengthen efforts to empower them as important actors in achieving food security and improved nutrition, fulfilling the right to food, and support their full, equal and meaningful participation in all areas of economic activity, including commercial and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture; promote decent working conditions and personal safety, facilitating sustainable access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, land, water and natural resources, and local, regional and global markets, and valuing traditional and ancestral knowledge and contributions of women living in rural, remote and maritime areas, including, inter alia, Indigenous women and women of African descent, to the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, for present and future generations;

(yy) Dismantle discriminatory financial practices that hinder the financial independence of women, including requirements mandating women to have a male co-signer to access financial services, and ensure women's legal capacity and equal rights with men to conclude contracts, regardless of marital status; as well as protect the rights of widows within inheritance regimes and with regard to the allocation of marital property;

Implement gender-responsive economic and social policies and strengthen public institutions

(zz) Strengthen authority, operational and technical capacities and resources for national mechanisms working on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls to support gender-responsive approaches and mainstreaming a gender perspective in ministries and public agencies, including labour, economic and financial government agencies, and into the design, delivery and evaluation of financing policies and plans aimed at enhancing access to affordable quality basic services for all women and girls, particularly women and girls living in poverty;

(aaa) Implement legislation and policies to prevent and combat all forms of corruption and ensure resources are directed towards pro-poor, quality public infrastructure, public services and social protection on which women living in poverty rely;

Expand fiscal space for investments to end poverty for women and girls

(bbb) Expand fiscal space and strengthen institutions towards supporting economic and societal transformations to end women's poverty, securing sustainable development by focusing on reducing systemic risks and structural inequalities, and urgently take comprehensive and targeted measures to address the root causes and challenges of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition affecting women and girls in the light of its negative impacts on sustainable development, through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels;

(ccc) Recognize the urgency of providing predictable, sustainable and sufficient development finance to developing countries from all sources in order to significantly increase resources for ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme and multidimensional poverty, affecting women and girls, including by taking steps towards reforms that ensure a stable, inclusive and sustainable international financial architecture;

(ddd) Strengthen standards and regulatory frameworks on the labelling of gender-focused bond issuances to ensure demonstrable, additive and measurable impact is being achieved through the reporting on key performance indicators;

(eee) Take concrete steps to support gender-responsive budgeting and tracking across all sectors of public expenditure, to address gaps in resourcing all national and sectoral plans and policies for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls to ensure their effective implementation; and increase transparency and accountability in the planning, budgeting and financing process, adopt practices to identify potential gender impacts of budget decisions and develop and strengthen methodologies and tools to monitor and evaluate investments for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(fff) Foster the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women, as well as encourage the active engagement of women's rights organizations and feminist groups, in budget processes through open budgets, community and citizen participation in monitoring of service delivery, including in the process and outcomes of gender-responsive budgeting, and ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of all public programmes and services;

(ggg) Strengthen national and local planning and budgetary processes to enable governments to cost, allocate and invest in policies and programmes that, inter alia, address challenges facing all women and girls living in poverty, including by conducting gender analyses that are embedded in policy and decision-making processes, and by increasing the capacity of ministries of finance in assessing the different impact of fiscal policies on women;

(hhh) Promote efforts towards inclusive, effective international tax cooperation, including on combating tax evasion and avoidance and curbing illicit financial flows, to expand fiscal space, and include a focus on directing resources to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, among women and girls throughout their life course;

(iii) Ensure tax systems do not inadvertently reinforce gender biases in society, including, inter alia, by assessing the impact of taxation policies on gender equality, with a focus on promoting women's access to work and resources, and encouraging steps to increase the progressivity of tax policies with a focus on taxing those with the highest ability to pay, including via wealth

and corporate taxation, and preventing regressive taxation that disproportionately impacts women with low or no incomes;

(jjj) Take concrete steps towards eliminating the practice of gender-based price differentiation, where it exists, also known as the “pink tax”, which contributes to feminization of poverty, whereby goods and services intended for or marketed to women and girls cost more than similar goods and services intended for or marketed to men and boys;

(kkk) Encourage the allocation of subsidies and tax incentives to pro-poor policies and programmes for the eradication of poverty and the promotion of gender equality;

(lll) Improve international debt mechanisms to support debt review, debt payment suspensions and debt restructuring, as appropriate, with an expansion of support and eligibility to vulnerable countries in need; commit to continuing to assist developing countries in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt and in implementing resilience measures so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis; recognize the importance of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external and domestic debt sustainability; call for strengthened multilateral actions and coordination by all creditors to address the deteriorating debt situation; recognize the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, and debt restructuring as debt crisis prevention, management and resolution tools; and acknowledge that these measures can enhance fiscal space for investments for all women and girls living in poverty.

(mmm) Consider, as appropriate, stronger debt management initiatives for some low- and middle-income countries that are not part of the existing debt relief initiatives, which now have large debt burdens that may create constraints on mobilizing the resources needed to achieve sustainable development goals, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and stresses the importance of medium- and long-term debt sustainability to deal with debt, including non-Paris Club debt;

Foster new development strategies towards sustainable economies and sustainable societies

(nnn) Encourage championing programmes that increase the capacity of women-led and women-owned businesses and can contribute to advancing gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, which has a positive impact on economic growth and helps to reduce poverty, while recognizing the critical role of women as producers and traders and the need to address their specific challenges in order to facilitate their full, equal and meaningful participation in domestic, regional and international trade and promoting export-led growth in developing countries that responds to individual development needs, considering that international trade is an engine for inclusive growth and poverty eradication and that it contributes to the promotion of sustainable development, structural transformation and industrialization, particularly in developing countries;

(ooo) 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, including by implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries and exchanging best practices to support national plans to implement all the

Sustainable Development Goals 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 in the context of addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective;

(ppp) 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 to meet development goals and targets, through investments for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls living in poverty;

Engage and finance women's organizations and collectives

(qqq) Promote a safe and enabling environment for all civil society actors and increase public and private financing, including robust, sustainable, flexible, multi-year financing, for civil society organizations, prioritizing local community-level initiatives, and strengthen monitoring and accountability at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate;

(rrr) Support women's collectives, cooperatives, trade unions and associations in advocating for protecting and promoting the right to work and rights at work, including freedom of association, peaceful assembly and collective bargaining, and equal pay for work of equal value; prevent and remove barriers to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the world of work and implement policies that ensure the participation of collectives, cooperatives, associations, workers' organizations and unions of women workers, both employed and self-employed, in labour policy and programme design and implementation; and support these organizations in advocating for full, productive and decent work and mediate access for all women, particularly women living in poverty, to entitlements and service delivery;

(sss) Support the important role of civil society actors and organizations, trade unions and national human rights institutions, where they exist, in promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, in particular those living in poverty, as well as in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and the 2030 Agenda, and take steps to protect such actors, including women human rights defenders, integrate a gender perspective into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defence, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to prevent discrimination in all its forms, violations and abuses against them, such as online and offline threats, harassment, violence and reprisals; and combat impunity by ensuring that violations or abuses are promptly and impartially investigated and that those responsible are held accountable;

(ttt) Fully engage men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including their economic empowerment, and the respect of their rights and fundamental freedoms, by understanding and addressing the root causes of gender inequality, such as unequal power relations,

legal, economic and social status, gender stereotypes and practices that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls and the feminization of poverty; designing and implementing national policies and programmes that address the roles and responsibilities of men and boys, including the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in care and domestic work; occupational segregation in working life including its vertical and horizontal dimensions, in all sectors; ensuring the enforcement of child support laws; and eliminating social norms that condone violence against women and girls and attitudes by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys as contribution to poverty eradication and women's economic empowerment;

(uuu) Combat household and family poverty and social exclusion by investing in family-oriented policies addressing the multidimensional aspects of poverty, including extreme poverty, faced by women and girls living in poverty, focusing on their access to education, training, science and technology, health, employment, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, paying special attention to social protection measures that take into account a gender perspective, work-life and work-family balance and intergenerational solidarity, child allowances for parents and carers, and pension benefits for older persons;

Enhance multidimensional poverty data and statistics

(vvv) Strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and government institutions, by providing financial, technical and human resources, including for developing countries, from all sources to collect, analyse, disseminate and use disaggregated data and gender statistics on multidimensional poverty, including on women and girls living in poverty, as well as on the formal and informal economy, income and asset distribution within households, unpaid care and domestic work, women's access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, and women's participation at all levels of decision-making, including on how women's engagement impacts policymaking, to ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, marital status, migration status, disability, geographical location, educational level and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;

(www) Strengthen cooperation among all relevant stakeholders in the systematic collection and analysis of comprehensive and disaggregated data in order to address challenges faced by women and girls living in or at risk of poverty to inform policy and programme design, implementation and assessment, including in the areas of social inclusion, decent employment creation and inequality reduction, and increase opportunities to use data;

(xxx) Develop disaggregated and gender-sensitive measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product, inter alia, to comprehensively measure and recognize the value and contribution of unpaid care and domestic work to economic and social progress, as well as have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation, including in the consideration of informing access to development finance and technical cooperation.

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

between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

56. 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 addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

57. 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 towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. 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-eighth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-ninth 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-eighth session and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission set out below:

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

Documentation

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

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”:
 - (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution [2022/5](#));

Documentation

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

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

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

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General:

- Proposals on the Commission’s priority and review themes for 2026 and beyond

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

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 seventieth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-ninth session.

C. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following resolution and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 68/1

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 implementation and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵ the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,⁶ the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to end AIDS by 2030,⁷ Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁸ including the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, and recalling the 2023 political declarations of the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis,⁹ of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage¹⁰ and of the high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response,¹¹

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

⁶ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

⁷ General Assembly resolution 75/284, annex.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁹ Resolution 78/5, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution 78/4, annex.

¹¹ Resolution 78/3, annex.

Noting with deep concern that the global HIV epidemic still disproportionately affects women and girls, and acknowledging that the progress achieved in the realization of Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, has averted millions of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths since 2015, when the Goals were set,

Recognizing the need to intensify efforts to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 through addressing inequalities and fast-tracking the HIV response across the prevention and treatment continuum, including in the context of the 10-10-10 targets and 95-95-95 targets of the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and acknowledging the specific vulnerabilities of adolescent and young girls and women owing to, inter alia, unequal power relations in society between women and men, boys and girls,

Acknowledging that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive, multisectoral and gender-responsive approach to end the AIDS epidemic,

Noting with concern that regulations, policies and practices, including those that limit the legitimate trade in generic medicines, may seriously limit access to affordable HIV treatment and other pharmaceutical products in low- and middle-income countries, recognizing that improvements can be made, inter alia, through national legislation, regulatory policy and supply chain management, and noting that reductions in barriers to affordable products could be explored in order to expand access to affordable and good-quality HIV prevention products, diagnostics, medicine and treatment commodities for HIV, including for opportunistic infections and co-infections,

Stressing that gender equality and the political, civil, social, economic and cultural empowerment of women and girls, as well as the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, are fundamental in the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development,

Stressing also that the lack of protection and promotion of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and insufficient access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, aggravates the impact of the AIDS epidemic, especially among women and girls, increasing their vulnerability and endangering the survival of present and future generations,

Recognizing that children and adolescents are more likely to be lost to care and that children and adolescents on antiretroviral medication are less likely than adults to reach viral load suppression and that there are many challenges in diagnosing and treating infants, children and adolescents,

Stressing the value and importance of social protection for the most vulnerable in achieving universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to quality health services and ensures affordable and quality service delivery to people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, including women and children, and making sure that universal health coverage also promotes HIV/AIDS responses,

Recognizing that over 13.9 million children have lost one or two parents to AIDS and that those children have complex needs pertaining to protection, care and support and that they may be at increased risk of infection, as well as at increased risk of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of Member States and the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women and children, in particular the girl child, including the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the "HeForShe" campaign,

Deeply concerned that all forms of violence against women and girls, discrimination and harmful practices are among key contributing factors to the spread of HIV among women and girls,

Deeply concerned also by the increased vulnerability to HIV infection faced by women and girls living with disabilities resulting from, inter alia, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Noting with concern that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, internally displaced persons, refugees and, in particular, women and children, especially girls, are at increased risk of HIV infection,

Recognizing that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV infection and that they bear a disproportionate burden of the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including the care of and support for those living with and affected by HIV, and that this negatively affects the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to health,

Recognizing also that access to quality education and information and the retention of girls in school are critical elements in the prevention of HIV infection among women and girls,

Acknowledging the leadership of Governments, in cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other specialized agencies of the United Nations, the international donor community and financing mechanisms, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in increasing domestic and international resources to support programmes that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to address HIV and AIDS,

Welcoming the leadership and commitment shown in all aspects of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including in the HIV and AIDS response, by Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and people living with HIV, including through the African Union road map on shared responsibility and global solidarity for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria response in Africa,

1. *Takes note* of report of the Secretary-General,¹² submitted pursuant to its resolution 66/1 of 25 March 2022;¹³

2. *Calls upon* Governments, international partners and civil society to give full attention to the high levels of new HIV infections among young women and adolescent girls and the root causes, bearing in mind that women and girls are physiologically more vulnerable to HIV, especially at an earlier age, than men and boys, and that this is increased by discrimination and all forms of violence against women, girls and adolescents, including sexual exploitation and harmful practices;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to intensify efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life, recognizing that structural gender inequalities, discrimination, violence against women and girls and

¹² E/CN.6/2024/6.

¹³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2022, Supplement No. 7 (E/2022/27)*, chap. I, sect. D.

harmful masculinities undermine effective HIV responses and the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls;

4. *Calls upon* all Governments to enact and intensify the implementation of laws, policies and strategies to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls in the public and private spheres and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and trafficking in persons, and ensure the full engagement of men and boys in order to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV;

5. *Also calls upon* all Governments to intensify efforts to reduce the particularly high levels of HIV infection among women and girls, who epidemiological evidence shows are at higher risk, by reducing barriers to their participation in HIV prevention and care, where possible, as well as removing barriers to their full participation in society, and by addressing practices such as trafficking in persons that contribute to HIV risk and the social marginalization of women and girls;

6. *Further calls upon* all Governments to ensure a just and equitable world for women and girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

7. *Calls upon* all Governments to promote universal health coverage, as part of a comprehensive social protection package, which implies that all people have equal access, without discrimination of any kind, to nationally determined sets of the quality promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative basic health services needed and to essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, especially through the promotion of primary health care, while ensuring that the use of those services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a specific emphasis on women, children and the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

8. *Urges* Member States to adopt and implement measures that promote access to, retention in and completion of education by girls, including catch-up and second chances for literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, special initiatives for keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant, or caring for people living with and affected by HIV, and adopt and implement social protection measures as protective strategies to reduce new HIV infections among young women and girls;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to eliminate gender-based HIV-related stigma and discrimination against and among women and girls, so as to ensure the dignity, rights and privacy of women and girls living with, at risk of and affected by HIV, including in health, education, training and informal education and the workplace;

10. *Urges* Governments to eliminate gender inequalities and gender-based abuse and violence, increase the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and services, including, inter alia, sexual and reproductive health care, as well as full access to comprehensive information and education, ensure that women can exercise their right to have control over, and decide freely and responsibly on, matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, in order to increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV infection, and take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and strengthen their economic independence, and, in that context, reiterates the importance of the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality;

11. *Calls upon* Member States to recognize women's contribution to the economy and their active participation in caring for people living with and affected

by HIV and recognize, redistribute and value women's unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, the promotion of equal sharing of responsibilities with men and boys, and social protection targeted at women and girls who are vulnerable;

12. *Calls upon* Governments to accelerate efforts to scale up scientifically accurate, age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, 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, informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

13. *Also calls upon* Governments to take concrete long-term measures to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, programmes, treatment, care and support for all women and girls and to remove all barriers to achieving universal health coverage and improve access to integrated sexual reproductive health-care services, information, voluntary counselling and testing and commodities, while building the capacity of adolescent girls and boys, young women and men to protect themselves from HIV infection and enabling their use of available commodities, including female and male condoms, post-exposure prophylaxis and pre-exposure prophylaxis, while seeking to avoid risk-taking behaviour and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour;

14. *Urges* Governments to commit to remove, before 2030, obstacles that limit the capacity of low- and middle-income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products, diagnostics, medicines and commodities and other pharmaceutical products, as well as treatment for opportunistic infections and co-infections, and to reduce the costs associated with lifelong chronic care, including by amending national laws and regulations, so as to:

(a) Optimize the use to the full extent of existing flexibilities under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, as amended, specifically geared to promoting access to and trade in medicines and, while recognizing the importance of the intellectual property rights regime in contributing to a more effective AIDS response, ensure that intellectual property rights provisions in trade agreements do not undermine those existing flexibilities, as confirmed in the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health;

(b) Address barriers, regulations, policies and practices that prevent access to affordable HIV treatment by promoting generic competition, in order to help to reduce the costs associated with lifelong chronic care and by encouraging all States to apply measures and procedures for enforcing intellectual property rights in such a manner as to avoid creating barriers to the legitimate trade in medicines and to provide for safeguards against the abuse of such measures and procedures;

(c) Encourage the voluntary use, where appropriate, of new mechanisms such as partnerships, tiered pricing, open-source sharing of patents and patent pools benefiting all developing countries, including through entities such as the Medicines Patent Pool, to help to reduce treatment costs and encourage development of new HIV treatment formulations, including HIV medicines and point-of-care diagnostics, in particular for children;

15. *Calls upon* Governments and stakeholders to uphold commitments to eliminate mother-to-child transmission and keep mothers alive, including through integrating HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including confidential voluntary counselling and testing and elimination of mother-to-child/vertical transmission, with other primary health-care services, especially sexual and reproductive health-care services, and through means to prevent new infections among women and adolescent girls of reproductive age and the provision of sexual and reproductive health-care services and lifelong antiretroviral medication for women and girls living with HIV;

16. *Also calls upon* Governments and stakeholders to intensify combination prevention initiatives for women and girls for the prevention of new infections and to reverse the spread of HIV and reduce maternal mortality;

17. *Urges* Governments and stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by older women and women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

18. *Stresses* the importance of Governments, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes in developing and implementing strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at the point of care, significantly increasing and improving access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for opportunistic infections, and promoting a smooth transition from paediatric to adult treatment and related support and services, while taking into account the need to put in place programmes focused on delivering services to HIV-negative children born to women living with HIV, as they are still at high risk of morbidity and mortality, and developing actions to limit post-delivery transmission through breastfeeding through the provision of information and education;

19. *Calls upon* Governments and stakeholders to prioritize gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in all policies and programmes related to populations destabilized by armed conflict, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, who are at increased risk of HIV infection;

20. *Urges* Governments to increase political commitment and domestic financing to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through national HIV and AIDS responses targeting women and girls that respect, promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for women and girls, including in the context of the HIV epidemic, and promote equal economic opportunities and decent work for women and girls;

21. *Also urges* Governments to promote the active and meaningful participation, contribution and leadership of women and girls living with HIV, civil society actors, the private sector, youth and young men and women's organizations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender-responsive approach to the national response;

22. *Requests* Governments, the private sector, the international donor community and funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations to intensify financial and technical support for national efforts to end AIDS and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, focused on women and girls affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and also to intensify financial and technical support for mainstreaming gender and human rights perspectives in policies, planning, programmes, monitoring and evaluation;

23. *Requests* Governments to make available comprehensive data disaggregated by age, sex and other characteristics relevant in national contexts to inform targeted responses to the gender dimensions of HIV and AIDS;

24. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

25. *Encourages* the international community and research institutions to support action-oriented research on gender and HIV and AIDS, including on female-controlled prevention commodities;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Decision 68/101

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

The Commission on the Status of Women, recalling its resolution 66/2, decides to defer consideration of the question of “Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts” and to consider it at its sixty-ninth session under the sub-item entitled “Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters” of the item entitled “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’”.

Decision 68/102

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

4. At its resumed 17th meeting, on 27 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 dialogue among youth representatives on the priority theme, 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 mobilizing financing for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls: policies and strategies to end women’s and girls’ poverty;¹

Chair’s summary of the ministerial round tables on good practices for strengthening institutions and maximizing financing to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;²

Chair’s summary of the interactive dialogue among youth representatives on the priority theme “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”;³

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

¹ E/CN.6/2024/10.

² E/CN.6/2024/11.

³ E/CN.6/2024/12.

Chair's summary of the interactive dialogues on social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;⁴

Chair's summary of the interactive expert panel on accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective;⁵

Chair's summary of the interactive dialogue on the emerging issue and focus area of artificial intelligence to advance gender equality: challenges and opportunities.⁶

⁴ E/CN.6/2024/13.

⁵ E/CN.6/2024/14.

⁶ E/CN.6/2024/15.

Chapter II

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

5. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd meeting, on 11 March 2024. It had before it the annotated provisional agenda ([E/CN.6/2024/1](#)) and proposed organization of work ([E/CN.6/2024/1/Add.1](#)).

6. 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.

7. Also at the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Commission decided, without setting a precedent for future sessions, that the Cook Islands could participate in the current session of the Commission, in accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. It also decided that Member States and observer States of the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and related organizations, as well as civil society organizations, could submit a pre-recorded statement, which would be played in the conference room during the general discussions at its sixty-eighth session.

Chapter III

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

8. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd to 17th (resumed) meetings, from 11 to 19 and on 21, 22 and 27 March 2024. It held general discussions on the item at its 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 13th and 14th meetings. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the Entity ([E/CN.6/2024/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective ([E/CN.6/2024/3](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women ([E/CN.6/2024/4](#));

(d) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the discussion guide for the ministerial round tables to be held under the priority theme “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective” ([E/CN.6/2024/5](#));

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS ([E/CN.6/2024/6](#));

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts ([E/CN.6/2024/7](#));

(g) 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/56/21-E/CN.6/2024/8](#));

(h) Note by the Secretariat on the results of the eighty-fifth and eighty-sixth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women ([E/CN.6/2024/9](#));

(i) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council ([E/CN.6/2024/NGO/1–170](#)).

9. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 March, the Chair of the Commission (Philippines) and the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Commission.

10. At the same meeting, the Commission heard statements by the President of the General Assembly, Dennis Francis (Trinidad and Tobago), and the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Ivan Šimonović (Croatia).

11. Also at the same meeting, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme made a statement.

12. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Commission heard statements by a civil society representative and a youth representative.

13. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Women made an introductory statement.

14. Also at the same meeting, the Commission heard statements by the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and the Chair of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls.

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 11 March, the representative of Brazil (on behalf of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries)¹ made a statement.

16. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Uganda (on behalf of the African Group), Belgium (on behalf of the European Union), Sweden (on behalf of the LGBTI core group),² Belarus (on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family),³ Oman (on behalf of the Arab Group) and Tonga (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum).

17. At the 3rd meeting, on 11 March, statements were made by the representatives of Spain (on behalf of the Feminist Foreign Policy Plus Group), Mexico (on behalf of Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Türkiye and Australia), Switzerland, Latvia, Ukraine (pre-recorded), Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Austria, Morocco, Liechtenstein, the Philippines, Israel, Türkiye, Cabo Verde, Mongolia and Brazil.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Angola (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), the Lao People's Democratic Republic (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Guatemala, Viet Nam, Uzbekistan, Eswatini, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Barbados (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Estonia, Luxembourg, Poland, Sierra Leone, Iceland and Rwanda.

19. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the European Union (on behalf of the Group of Friends on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls) made a statement.

20. At the 5th meeting, on 12 March, statements were made by the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Egypt, China, Cuba, Panama and Algeria.

21. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Honduras (on behalf of the Council of Ministers of Women of Central America and the Dominican Republic of the Central American Integration System), South Africa, Chile, France, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Australia, Ireland, the United Arab Emirates, Paraguay, Albania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Denmark, the United States of America, Romania, Jordan, Nicaragua, Armenia, Chad, Canada, Uganda, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, New Zealand, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Malawi and Ecuador.

¹ 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.

² The LGBTI Core Group is composed of Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Timor-Leste, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the 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 International.

³ The Group of Friends of the Family is composed of Bangladesh, Belarus, Cameroon, the Comoros, Egypt, the Gambia, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

22. At the 7th meeting, on 13 March, statements were made by the representatives of Czechia, Costa Rica, Japan (pre-recorded), Spain, Mauritania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia, Tunisia (pre-recorded), Argentina (pre-recorded) and Nigeria.
23. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Suriname (pre-recorded), Kuwait, Guyana, Mali, Botswana, Qatar, Antigua and Barbuda, Lesotho (pre-recorded), Barbados, Nauru, Oman, the Bahamas, Benin, Burundi, the Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Guinea-Bissau, Togo, Kiribati, Liberia, Belize, Samoa, Madagascar, Namibia and North Macedonia (pre-recorded), as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.
24. At the 8th meeting, on 14 March, statements were made by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, the Russian Federation (pre-recorded), Lebanon and Mexico.
25. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Grenada, Tonga, Slovenia, Singapore, Kazakhstan, Papua New Guinea, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Georgia, Norway, Andorra, Libya, Croatia, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malta (pre-recorded), Greece, Indonesia, El Salvador (pre-recorded), Brunei Darussalam, Serbia, Tajikistan, Tuvalu, Eritrea, Yemen (pre-recorded), Solomon Islands, Uruguay, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Malaysia and the Congo.
26. At the 13th meeting, on 18 March, statements were made by the representatives of Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Senegal and Mozambique.
27. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Sudan (pre-recorded), the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, the United Republic of Tanzania, Cyprus, the Syrian Arab Republic (pre-recorded), Nepal, South Sudan, Belarus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Myanmar, the Marshall Islands, Italy, Micronesia (Federated States of), Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Monaco, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Guinea, Palau, Gabon, Cameroon, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ethiopia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Slovakia and Fiji, as well as by the observer for the Holy See.
28. At the 14th meeting, on 19 March, statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea and Portugal.
29. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Djibouti, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Thailand, Maldives, Haiti, Belgium and Hungary.
30. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the League of Arab States, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the International Development Law Organization, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States.
31. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the International Organization for Migration, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme (pre-recorded), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the International Labour Organization.
32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Geledés – Instituto da Mulher Negra, Global Network of Sex Work Projects, Limited, CHIRAPAQ - Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú, Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education, Widows for Peace

through Democracy, Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage, Women for Women's Human Rights – New Ways, Gender Equality Network, Frontline AIDS, Ltd., World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, United Cities and Local Governments, ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together, International Federation on Ageing, AARP, Young Diplomats of Canada, Oxfam International, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, Limited and AIESEC International.

33. Also at the same meeting, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Azerbaijan.

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

A. Priority theme: accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective*

1. Ministerial segment Ministerial round tables

34. At its 4th and 6th meetings, on 12 and 13 March, under the ministerial segment, the Commission held four ministerial round tables on the priority theme "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective".

Topic A Mobilizing financing for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls: policies and strategies to end women's and girls' poverty

35. Ministerial round tables 1 and 3 were held under the topic "Mobilizing financing for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls: Policies and strategies to end women's and girls' poverty".

Ministerial round table 1

36. Ministerial round table 1 was chaired by the Prime Minister of Latvia, Evika Siliņa, who made opening remarks.

37. Statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines, Egypt, Mongolia, Brazil, Zambia and Morocco.

38. Statements were made by the observers for Uzbekistan, Guatemala, Canada, Jordan, Ghana, Benin, South Africa, Armenia, Sierra Leone, Angola, Denmark, Ecuador, Guyana, the United Arab Emirates, Nepal and Kuwait.

39. The Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development summarized the highlights of the round table.

* See the Chairs' summaries of the ministerial round tables ([E/CN.6/2024/10](#) and [E/CN.6/2024/11](#)), of the interactive dialogue among youth representatives ([E/CN.6/2024/12](#)) and of the interactive expert panel discussion [E/CN.6/2024/14](#).

Ministerial round table 3

40. Ministerial round table 3 was chaired by the Minister of State, Family, Inclusion and Social Development of Cabo Verde, Fernando Elísio Freire, who made opening remarks.

41. Statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica, Colombia, Ukraine, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Mexico and Cuba.

42. Statements were made by the observers for the Republic of Moldova, Malawi, Kenya, Qatar, Botswana, Kiribati, Namibia, Slovenia, Norway, Slovakia, Libya, Belgium, Croatia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, New Zealand and Eritrea.

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

44. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York summarized the highlights of the round table.

Topic B

Good practices for strengthening institutions and maximizing financing to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

45. Ministerial round tables 2 and 4 were held under the topic "Good practices for strengthening institutions and maximizing financing to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".

Ministerial round table 2

46. Ministerial round table 2 was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Development, Labour and Welfare of Curaçao on behalf of Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Ruthmilda Larmonie-Cecilia, who made opening remarks.

47. Statements were made by the representatives of Liechtenstein, China, Algeria, Panama, Spain, Türkiye, Austria, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea and Israel.

48. Statements were made by the observers for Romania, Rwanda, Indonesia, Paraguay, Germany, France, Finland, Uganda, the Gambia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Nauru.

49. A statement was also made by the observer for the European Union.

50. The Director-General of the International Organization for Migration summarized the highlights of the round table.

Ministerial round table 4

51. Ministerial round table 4 was chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines, Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, who made opening remarks.

52. Statements were made by the representatives for Czechia, the Dominican Republic, Somalia, Lebanon, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago and Nigeria.

53. Statements were also made by the observers for Poland, Chile, Luxembourg, Sweden, Burundi, Mali, Kyrgyzstan, Estonia, Oman, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Belize, Kazakhstan, Singapore, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Uruguay, Lithuania, Australia, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Bahamas.

54. The Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund summarized the highlights of the round table.

2. Interactive dialogue among youth representatives on the priority theme

55. At its 9th meeting, on 14 March, the Commission held an interactive dialogue with youth representatives on the priority theme “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”, moderated by the Chair of the Commission (Philippines), who made an opening statement.

56. Presentations were made by the following panellists: doctor at Victoria Hospital in Bangalore, India, Harshita Umesh; founder of Voice of Romni, Anzhelika Bielova; junior researcher and activist, Youth Peer Education Network, Yassine Jrad; member of the Association of Women with Disabilities and the European Network on Independent Living, Melike Bal; and Communicator for the National Articulation of Indigenous Women Warriors of Ancestry, Samara Vaxun Crendo.

57. A statement was made by the following discussant: United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, Felipe Paullier.

58. In the ensuing dialogue, statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Mongolia, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Morocco, Brazil and Austria.

59. Statements were made by the observers for Ireland, Malta, Guyana, Denmark, Canada, Qatar, Germany, Mali, Hungary, Iceland, Burundi, Libya, Kenya, Uganda, Papua New Guinea, Sweden South Africa, as well as by the observers for the European Union.

60. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the dialogue: Stichting Choice for Youth and Sexuality, Nadam Foundation (via video link), International Disability and Development Consortium, The Grail, International Lesbian and Gay Association, Nor Luyce Mentoring Center for Youth and Plan International, Inc.

61. The panellists responded to comments and questions.

62. A statement was made by the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, United Nations System Coordination and Programme Results of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

3. Interactive expert panel discussion on the priority theme

63. At its 12th meeting, on 18 March, the Commission held an interactive expert panel discussion on the priority theme “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”, moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Argentina), who made an opening statement.

64. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Emeritus Professor in Sociology at the University of Essex, Diane Elson; independent expert on foreign debt, other international financial obligations and human rights, Attiya Waris (via video link); Professor of Planning and Public Affairs at the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, Ragui Assaad; member of the General Coordination Committee of the National Coordinator of Indigenous Women, Dulce Patricia Torres Sandoval; Vice-Chair of the United Nations Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, Laura Nyirinkindi; and Associate Professor in Feminist and Ecological Economics at the Department of Economics and Innovation at Jagiellonian University, Zofia Łapniewska.

65. In the ensuing discussion, a statement was made by the representative of the Philippines.

66. Statements were made by the observers for Cyprus, the United States of America, Finland, Burundi and Kenya, as well as by the observer for the European Union.

67. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the discussion: Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), BBVA Microfinance Foundation (via video link), Public Services International, Diverse Voices and Action for Equality, ActionAid, Oxfam International and Women's Refugee Commission.

68. The panellists responded to comments and questions.

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

Interactive dialogues on the review theme: national voluntary presentations

69. At its 10th and 11th meetings, on 15 March, the Commission held two interactive dialogues at which national voluntary presentations were made on the review theme "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls".

70. At the 10th meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Argentina) chaired the interactive dialogue and made a statement.

71. At the same meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, United Nations System Coordination and Programme Results of UN-Women made an introductory statement.

72. At the 11th meeting, the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management of the Philippines chaired the interactive dialogue and made a statement.

Presentations by Australia, Ukraine, Morocco, Rwanda, Poland and Iran (Islamic Republic of)

73. At the 10th meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observer for Australia, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the representative of Japan and the observer for Malaysia.

74. At the same meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the representative of Ukraine, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the representative of Spain and the observer for Georgia.

75. Also at the same meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the representative of Morocco, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the observers for Rwanda and Jordan.

76. Also at the 10th meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observer for Rwanda, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the representative of Morocco and the observer for Hungary.

* See the Chair's summary of the voluntary national presentations ([E/CN.6/2024/13](#)).

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

78. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund.

79. At the 10th meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observer for Iran (Islamic Republic of), subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the observers for Belarus, Jordan and Malaysia.

80. The panellists responded to comments and questions.

81. Statements were made by the observers for Denmark and the United States of America.

Presentations by Jordan, Mali, Mexico and Colombia

82. At the 11th meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observer for Jordan, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the representatives of Egypt and Morocco.

83. Also at same meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the observers for Mali, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the observers for Cameroon, Canada and Qatar.

84. Also at the same meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the representatives of Mexico, subsequent to which the presenters responded to comments and questions from the observers for Chile and Ecuador.

85. Also at the 11th meeting, a voluntary national presentation was made by the representative of Colombia, subsequent to which the presenter responded to comments and questions from the representatives of Brazil and Mexico.

86. At the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representative of Cuba and the observers for Denmark and Burundi.

87. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

C. 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 and focus area: artificial intelligence to advance gender equality: challenges and opportunities

88. At the 15th meeting, on 21 March, the Commission held an interactive dialogue on the emerging issue and focus area of artificial intelligence to advance gender equality: challenges and opportunities, moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Latvia), who made an opening statement.

89. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Global Chief Privacy and Artificial Intelligence Governance Officer at Wipro, Ivana Bartoletti; researcher at the Center for the Study of Law, Internet and Society and member of the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, Estela Aranha (via video link); Executive Director of DataGénero, Ivana Feldfeber; Associate Professor at the Department of Media and Digital Culture, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Paola

* See the Chair's summary of the interactive dialogue ([E/CN.6/2024/15](#)).

Ricaurte Quijano; and researcher at the Institute of Legal Science, Faculty of Law, University of Latvia, Irena Barkane (via video link).

90. In the ensuing discussion, statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines, Israel, Japan, Colombia, Ukraine, Saudi Arabia and Senegal.

91. Statements were made by the observers for the United States of America, Malaysia, Kenya, South Africa, Mali and Australia, as well as by the observer for the European Union.

92. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the discussion: Equality Now, International Federation of Journalists (via video link), Association for Progressive Communications, Kırmızı Biber Derneği, Swedish Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights (RFSL), International Trade Union Confederation, Graduate Women International (via video link) and Women at the Table.

D. Action taken by the Commission

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

93. At the 16th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision entitled “Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts” (E/CN.6/2024/L.4), submitted by Azerbaijan and the Philippines, which the Commission adopted (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 68/101).

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

94. At the same meeting, the Commission had before it a draft resolution entitled “Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS” (E/CN.6/2024/L.5), submitted by Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

95. The observer for Angola introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the Southern African Development Community, which the Commission adopted (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 68/1).

Agreed conclusions on accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective

96. At its 17th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission had before it the draft agreed conclusions on accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective, as contained in an informal paper, in English only, and submitted by the Chair of the Commission (Philippines) on the basis of informal consultations and subsequently issued as document E/CN.6/2024/L.3.

97. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Commission made a statement.

98. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Commission (Netherlands (Kingdom of the)), in her capacity as the facilitator of the draft agreed conclusions, made a statement.

99. Also at its 17th 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).

100. Before the adoption of the draft agreed conclusions, statements were made by the representatives of Nigeria, Mauritania, Mexico, and Cuba.

101. Statements after the adoption were made at the 17th resumed meeting, on 27 March, by the representatives of Japan, the Russian Federation, Colombia (on behalf of the Buenos Aires Group),⁴ China, Mauritania, Tunisia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Liechtenstein (on behalf of the Mountains Group),⁵ Senegal, Egypt, Argentina and Morocco.

102. Statements were also made by the observers for Uganda (on behalf of the African Group), Qatar (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Yemen, Indonesia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Djibouti, Libya, Cameroon, Belarus, Malaysia, the United States of America, Mali, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Nicaragua, Iraq, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Syrian Arab Republic, Barbados (on behalf of the Caribbean Community) and France.

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

Chairs' summaries of the discussions held under agenda item 3

104. At its resumed 17th meeting, on 27 March, the Commission decided to bring to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the Chairs' summaries of the discussions held under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 68/102).

⁴ The Buenos Aires Group is composed of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

⁵ The Mountains Group is composed of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland.

Chapter IV

Communications concerning the status of women

105. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 15th (closed) meeting, on 21 March, and at its 16th meeting, on 22 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (see para. 106 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.6/2024/R.1 and [E/CN.6/202/R.1/Add.1](#)).

Action taken by the Commission

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

106. At its 15th (closed) meeting, on 21 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women.¹

107. 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-eighth 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-eighth 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.6/2024/R.1](#) and [E/CN.6/2024/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 41 confidential communications, addressed to 32 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 19 replies from 16 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.6/2024/R.2/Rev.1](#).

(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 alleging specific cases of violence, injustice and discrimination against individual women and girls had been submitted, as had communications of a general nature.

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 abuse, forced prostitution and sexual slavery;

(b) Other forms of violence against women and girls, inter alia, physical, psychological and sexual violence, femicide, domestic violence and marital rape, sexual harassment and abuse, forced sterilizations and abortions, infanticide, death threats, so-called honour crimes, abductions, trafficking in women and girls, including for the purpose of forced labour, harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child and forced marriage, and online violence and violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology;

(c) Abuse of power by law enforcement officials while performing their duties, often with impunity and lack of accountability, including all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination, sexual assault, torture, harassment, threats, arbitrary arrest and detention, cruel and degrading treatment and physical and sexual violence against women, as well as inhumane and concerning conditions for women in detention and penitentiary systems, including forced labour and deprivation of food, water and menstrual sanitary and hygienic products;

(d) Systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, including discrimination, harassment and abuse, forced displacement, including due to natural and human-made disasters and armed conflicts, various forms of violence and impunity, some of which target women and girls in vulnerable and marginalized situations, including women and girls belonging to religious minorities, those with HIV, those with disabilities, those living in poverty and rural areas, and migrant, refugee and Indigenous women and girls;

(e) Death threats, torture, ill-treatment, harassment and abuse, including judicial harassment, and arbitrary detention of and violence against women human rights defenders, some of which also target their family members, as a means of intimidation, as well as restrictions on their relevant advocacy and activities;

(f) Infringement of the right to health and insufficient access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including preventive health care, lack of access to sanitary and hygienic products, especially for menstrual health, and to contraceptive supplies, limited access to education and information on family planning and health issues, lack of health and peripartum care, lack of appropriate and preventive measures against infectious diseases, and undernourishment resulting in reproductive complications and high rates of maternal mortality;

(g) Inadequate implementation and/or enforcement of laws aimed at promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls, including

insufficient and inadequate support for victims and survivors, incidents of slowness and discrimination in judicial proceedings, including in cases of child custody, and the use of gender stereotypes and sexist attitudes that undermine the credibility of women's testimonies;

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

(i) Civil and political rights, including freedom of opinion, expression and assembly, political participation, freedom of movement, the right to be free from torture and freedom of religion or belief;

(ii) Economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to work in safe and healthy working conditions, the right to education and the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health;

(iii) Family life and marriage;

(iv) Access to justice and equality before the courts;

(v) Accountability for rape and punishment of perpetrators;

(i) Failure by States to adequately: promote and protect the human rights of women and girls; ensure equal opportunities for women and girls; guarantee the right to education; exercise due diligence to prevent violence and discrimination against women and girls, including in the case of forced marriage and forced reconciliation as a result of rape; investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence and discrimination against women and girls in a timely manner; and provide sufficient protection and support for victims and survivors of violence.

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, domestic violence, rape, including gang rape and marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence, so-called honour crimes, 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 their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) Violations of the right of women to health, including sexual and reproductive health and 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 services;

(c) The continued existence of legislation and/or practices in many areas that discriminated against women and girls or that had the effect of discriminating against women and girls, the ineffective or inadequate implementation of existing laws aimed at protecting and promoting the human rights of women and girls 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 religious minorities, migrant, refugee and internally displaced women and girls, those with HIV, those with disabilities, those living in poverty and rural areas and Indigenous women;

(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 sexual and gender-based violence is perpetrated by law enforcement personnel, as well as discrimination against women in judicial proceedings based on gender stereotypes and sexist attitudes that undermine the credibility of women's testimonies;

(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 sufficient protection and assistance to victims and survivors.

9. The Working Group noted that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continued to have a disproportionate impact 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 fulfil its mandate effectively. From the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that most 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 and girls, including those who were victims of violence, investigating, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of violence and making efforts to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by women and girls, in accordance with international human rights law and relevant international standards.

Chapter V

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

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

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission

109. At its 16th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission considered agenda item 6. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for its sixty-ninth session ([E/CN.6/2024/L.2](#)).

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

Chapter VII

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

111. At the resumed 17th meeting, on 27 March, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur (Cabo Verde) introduced the draft report of the Commission on its sixty-eighth session, as contained in document [E/CN.6/2024/L.1](#).

112. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its sixty-eighth session and entrusted the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur (Cabo Verde) with its finalization.

Chapter VIII

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

113. The Commission held 18 formal meetings (1st to 17th (resumed)) during its sixty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters, on 17 March 2023 and from 11 to 22 and on 27 March 2024 (see also chap. II, para. 5, and chap. III, para. 8).

B. Attendance

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

C. Election of officers

115. The following officers were elected at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the sixty-eighth session, on 17 March 2023 and 11 March 2024, respectively, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its sixty-eighth session:

Chair:

Antonio Manuel Revilla Lagdameo (Philippines)

Vice-Chairs:

Yoka Brandt (Netherlands (Kingdom of the))

Māris Burbergs (Latvia)

María Florencia González (Argentina)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:

Dúnia Eloisa Pires do Canto (Cabo Verde)

D. Agenda and organization of work

116. At its 2nd meeting, on 11 March 2024, the Commission adopted its agenda, as contained in document [E/CN.6/2024/1](#). 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: accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective;
 - (ii) Review theme: social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and

the empowerment of women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-third 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 of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission.
 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-eighth session.

117. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document [E/CN.6/2024/1/Add.1](#).

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

118. 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 [2022/4](#), at the 2nd meeting of the sixty-seventh session, on 6 March 2023, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Morocco to serve as a member of the Working Group for the sixty-eighth session.

119. At the 1st and 2nd meetings of the sixty-eighth session, on 17 March 2023 and 11 March 2024, respectively, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Saudi Arabia to serve as member of the Working Group for the sixty-eighth session, and Spain and Ukraine to serve as members of the Working Group for the sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions of the Commission.

F. Documentation

120. The list of documents before the Commission at its sixty-eighth session is available at www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw68-2024/official-documents.

