

Commission on the Status of Women
60th session
14 – 24 March 2016

Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development
Draft agreed conclusions

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women. **(CSW 58 AC, para 1, updated)**
2. The Commission reaffirms that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as other relevant conventions and treaties provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and their human rights. **(Based on CSW58 AC, para 2, and E/CN.6/2016/3, paras 15 and 47)**
3. The Commission reaffirms the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences, and in particular the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.
4. The Commission reaffirms that the Beijing Platform for Action, together with the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits, laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and helped to shape the new Agenda for Sustainable Development **(A/RES/70/1, para 11)** that will leave no one behind.
5. The Commission welcomes the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reaffirms that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities. **(A/RES/70/1, parts of para 20)**
6. The Commission notes the universal context of gender equality and recognizes that no country has achieved equality for women and girls and significant levels of inequality between women and men persist. **(based on CSW58 AC, para 12, and CSW59 Political Declaration, para 4)**
7. The Commission stresses the urgency of full, effective and accelerated implementation, and emphasizes that the national implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must contribute to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. **(based on E/CN.6/2016/3, paras 13 and 48)** The systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial. **(A/RES/70/1, para 20)**
8. In order to ensure that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development delivers fully for women and girls and that its gains are irreversible **(A/RES/70/1, para 53)**, the Commission calls on States to: strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks; enhance national institutional arrangements; foster enabling

environments for financing gender equality and women's empowerment; strengthen women's leadership and support women's civil society organizations; and strengthen gender-responsive data collection, follow-up and review, monitoring and accountability processes.

9. The Commission urges governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, women's and other civil society organizations, and the private sector, to take the following actions at the national, regional, and global levels:

Strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks

- a) accelerate the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action as a foundation for sustainable development and other agreements that promote women's empowerment, and compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (a))**
- b) repeal discriminatory laws and provisions in constitutions, and ensure that gender-responsive, non-discriminatory laws and policies and temporary special measures that empower women and girls are in place without delay, and monitor their effective implementation; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (b))**
- c) ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and their human rights are central in national strategies, tools and instruments for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (c))**
- d) ensure coherence between national policies and strategies for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and those for sustainable development, to achieve results for all women and girls; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (d))**
- e) mainstream gender perspectives in all policies and programmes, by all government departments at all levels, to ensure gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (e))**

Enhancing national institutional arrangements

- f) ensure that institutional structures that are given the task of guiding and overseeing national implementation of the 2030 Agenda include national gender equality mechanisms and have responsibility for gender mainstreaming in their terms of reference; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (f))**
- g) strengthen and enhance the authority and power, as well as the funding and capacity of national gender equality mechanisms at all levels and in all sectors of government and increase political support for and visibility of such mechanisms; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (g))**
- h) ensure that all national planning, decision-making, policy action and budgeting processes for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reflect gender perspectives and benefit all women and girls; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (h))**

Fostering enabling environments for financing gender equality and women's empowerment

- i) ensure that macroeconomic policies contribute to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment by creating full and productive employment and decent work, mobilizing resources to finance social protection, infrastructure and essential services and reducing inequalities based on factors such as gender, age, income, race, ethnicity,

- migration status, disability and geographical location; **(based on E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (i), and paras 26 and 26)**
- j) significantly increase and maximize targeted financing for gender equality and women's empowerment across all sectors through all sources of funding, including domestic resources, official development assistance, the private sector and philanthropy; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (l))**
 - k) increase domestic resource mobilization by implementing progressive tax systems that fully integrate gender equality objectives, and shift the tax burden to groups with higher incomes, and by ensuring that corporations, the financial sector and extractive industries pay their fair share; **(based on E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (j))**
 - l) employ gender-responsive budgeting to ensure that national planning, costing and budgeting processes support gender equality objectives; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (k))**
 - m) monitor public expenditures, whether mobilized through domestic or international sources, and track and report on resource allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment to strengthen accountability for gender equality commitments; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (m))**
 - n) support and increase resources for women's organizations and gender equality advocates at the local, national, regional and global levels; **(based on E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (s) and CSW 58 AC, para 42 ddd)**
 - o) strengthen international cooperation and regulatory frameworks with a view to eliminating illicit financial flows and tax avoidance; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (n))**
 - p) promote a socially responsible and accountable private sector that meets gender equality and human rights standards, including the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the labour standards of the ILO and Women's Empowerment Principles; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (o) and para 36)**
 - q) assess the effectiveness of public-private partnerships in delivering public services and social protection essential for gender equality and women's empowerment, and take action to prevent discriminatory impacts on women and girls; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (p))**

Strengthening women's leadership and supporting women's civil society organizations

- r) Strengthen women's leadership and women's full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (q))**
- s) Create a safe and enabling environment for women's and other civil society organizations everywhere so that they can fully participate in the implementation and follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the local, national, regional and global levels; **(E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (r))**
- t) support the participation of civil society organizations, including women's human rights groups and gender equality advocates, in the national, regional and global follow-up and review and accountability processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; **(based on E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (v))**

Strengthening gender-responsive data collection, follow-up and review, monitoring and accountability processes

- u) support gender-responsive monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices to

- systematically design, collect and analyse gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant variables at the national level; **(based on E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (t))**
- v) Collect regularly and disseminate statistics on the minimum set of gender indicators and the core set of violence against women indicators endorsed by the Statistical Commission in 2013; **(based on CSW58 AC, para 42 (fff))**
 - w) Continue to develop and enhance standards and methodologies, for use at the national and international levels, to improve data to monitor progress for women and girls in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; **(based on CSW58 AC, para 42 (ggg))**
 - x) ensure that national reviews and monitoring frameworks, including the adaptation of indicators to the national context, build on the agreed global indicator framework and support monitoring of all goals and targets across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a gender-responsive manner; **(based on (E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (u))**
 - y) ensure that the network of follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development overseen at the global level by the High-level Political Forum systematically integrate a gender perspective. **(based on (E/CN.6/2016/3, para 49 (w))**
10. The Commission calls on the United Nations system to support Member States in their gender-responsive implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by offering integrated and coherent policy advice at all levels, and facilitating collection of disaggregated data and gender statistics; and to support the participation of other stakeholders, including women and girls and their organizations, in implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. **(Based on E/CN.6/2016/3, para 50(a) and (b))**
11. The Commission calls on UN-Women to continue to work towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights. The Commission also calls on UN-Women to continue to play a central role in supporting Member States, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. **(Based on GA res. 70/133, op 12 and pp)**
12. The Commission confirms that it will contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and will exercise its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that review processes benefit women and girls and lead to the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030. **(Based on E/RES/2015/6, para 2 and E/CN.6/2016/3, para 51.)**