



**MenEngage Alliance**

working with men and boys for gender equality



# Advocacy Tool

## Language Mapping

Climate Justice, Women's Rights and  
Transforming Patriarchal Masculinities

Official Preparatory Reports of the 66th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women (2022), Human Rights Council Resolutions on Climate and Human Rights (2016-2021) & Other Climate Frameworks (2005-2020)

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document is a part of a language mapping series of existing key regional and global normative frameworks, both binding and non-binding, to collate the existing agreed languages on the role of transforming patriarchal masculinities and working with men and boys for the achievement of gender equality, social and climate justice. This document, in particular, brings together the existing agreed languages from across various international agreements related to men, masculinities and climate justice agenda.

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## CSW66 Expert Group Report

- Women's options to adapt to and survive climate and environmental threats and disasters, including migration, are strongly dependent on existing socio-cultural gender norms and practices and contextual realities, including recognition of their human rights, war and conflict, militarism and geopolitics, neoliberal capitalist systems, **masculinist and patriarchal traditional governance structures and processes and the reach of the State**.
- The global capitalist economy and market fundamentalism are premised on exploiting people and nature for the purposes of accumulation and profit and as such are major drivers of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, leaving people and nature behind. **Interrogating and dismantling patriarchal structures remains critical for addressing the root causes and differential outcomes of climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and disasters**.
- Coercive population control and contraception are never solutions for climate change and environmental degradation – conceived of in this long-disproved Malthusian discourse as the result of overpopulation or too many people on the planet and its finite resources, rather than of **the structural and systemic root causes inherent in capitalist patriarchy**. This narrative only serves to instrumentalize women's and girls' bodies, which may lead to violations of their sexual and reproductive rights and bodily autonomy and places unfair responsibility for tackling the climate and environmental crises on those least responsible and most severely affected. Protecting human rights related to gender equality, **SRHR, SOGIESC, bodily autonomy and integrity** and ensuring fair and equal access to sexual and reproductive health services strengthens the capacity of people most affected by systemic discrimination to participate in the development and implementation of solutions for their own wellbeing and that of the planet.
- Policies to mitigate and respond to GBV are in place in humanitarian and disaster risk response, including referral pathway systems, but implementation remains insufficient, **often hindered by discriminatory gender norms and local patriarchal values**.
- Grassroots feminist organizations and emerging collective voices on gender, environmental and climate justice, including women human rights defenders, play an integral role in advocating for the rights of all women and girls in climate and environment action and for the **transformation of exploitative patriarchal and capitalist structures and practices**.

# UN Secretary General's Report

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

**2. Gender inequality coupled with climate and environment crises is the greatest sustainable development challenge of the present time. Climate change, environmental degradation and disasters affect the entire planet and all peoples, although not in the same way or to the same degree, while gender inequality results in the denial of full human rights to half of humanity. Climate change and environmental crises and disasters disproportionately affect women and girls, in particular those in vulnerable and marginalized situations.** In turn, gender inequality and the unequal access of women to land and natural resources, finance, technology, knowledge, mobility and other assets constrain the ability of women to respond and cope in contexts of climate and environmental crises and disasters. The economic and social fallout of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has compounded the impacts of the climate and environment crises and pushed people further behind, women and girls disproportionately so. **The capacity of women and girls to take action and build a resilient future depends on removing structural barriers and gender gaps, while the participation and leadership of this group are critical for making climate, environmental and disaster risk action more effective.**

**5. Human influence has unequivocally warmed the atmosphere, oceans and land,<sup>[1]</sup> while climate change exacerbates poverty and inequalities, in particular those relating to gender, age, race, class, caste, indigenous status, migration status and disability, putting at risk all human and non-human life on earth.**

**10. These trends are driven by historic patterns of unsustainable production, consumption and land use, exploitation of resources, wealth accumulation and the destructive dependency on fossil fuels, principally in industrialized countries.** Extractive industries are responsible for 50 per cent of the world's carbon emissions and more than 80 per cent of biodiversity loss. Those least responsible for climate change and environmental degradation are often the most adversely affected. Least developed countries and small island developing States, among the most vulnerable to climate change, contribute only 7 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Peace & Security/Feminist Peace**

**11.** Climate and environmental crises and disasters exacerbate threats to peace and security, affecting in particular fragile or conflict-affected countries and women and girls ([S/2021/827](#)), causing loss of livelihoods and depletion of natural resources and fuelling migration and displacement. In 2020, climate-related disasters accounted for over 30 million newly displaced people.<sup>[1]</sup> By 2050, 216 million people could move within their countries as a result of climate change.<sup>[2]</sup> While data disaggregated by sex are not available, evidence suggests that **climate displacement disproportionately affects women and girls in developing countries, including in distinct ways such as a heightened risk of gender-based violence and child marriage, impacts on maternal and neonatal health and a greater burden of unpaid care and domestic work.**<sup>[3]</sup> Increased competition over resources is linked to conflicts within and between countries. Fragile and conflict-affected countries are less resilient and less prepared to respond to and cope with these trends.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Unpaid Care, Economic Justice

**13.** These trends reinforce and magnify existing gender inequalities, leading to even greater deficits of decent work among women.[1] **Entrenched discriminatory norms, unequal power relations, violence against women and girls and the gender division of labour in households and communities underlie women's relationship to natural resources in many contexts.** The limited access of women to public services, social protection and infrastructure increases their vulnerability to climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risks. Crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic reveal that economies and **human existence depend on the paid and unpaid care and domestic work** of women – and in fact intensify this work [2] – which in turn impedes the resilience and rights of women. Women's survival rates are lower in disasters, as is their access to relief and assistance, compromising their livelihoods and prospects for recovery.[3]

**36.** Building the resilience of women, their communities and societies to climate change and environmental and systemic risks is part of the global undertaking of **transforming unsustainable patterns of production and consumption across economies** – in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, energy and infrastructure, among others. Recognizing, reducing and redistributing unequal labour practices, including unpaid care and domestic work, in **these areas and drawing attention to promising practices of cooperation and collective care can greatly contribute to this undertaking.** This would entail transforming the care economy and social protection and health systems, removing structural barriers and closing gender gaps with regard to access to education, employment, information and technology.

**42.** **The green transition has the potential to create decent jobs for women. However, discriminatory social norms and stereotypes, persistent gender gaps** in secondary and tertiary science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and occupational segregation keep young women from attaining high-quality jobs in the green economy and in climate, environment and disaster risk governance.[1] Less than 17 per cent of the water sector workforce is made up of women notwithstanding their critical role in the management of water resources.[2] In renewable energy, women occupy 31 per cent of mid-management positions, but are strikingly underrepresented in senior positions and in policymaking and decision-making.[3] Women make up 32 per cent of the renewable energy workforce, compared with 22 per cent in conventional energy, but are concentrated in lower-paying non-technical positions.[4] Retraining and reskilling programmes that provide equal access to women could help to increase these figures.[5]

## SRHR

**14.** **Climate and environmental crises and disasters can curtail the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls** when goods and services are limited or unavailable owing to the destruction of infrastructure, roads and clinics, in rural and remote areas in particular. Entrenched gender discrimination compounds the risks for young women and adolescent girls and gender-diverse persons.[1]

## Violence Against Women & Girls - Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders

**15.** **The shadow pandemic of violence against women and girls during COVID-19 exemplifies the surge of gender-based violence that occurs in crises and disasters.[1] Women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in particular are subject to violence and exclusion. The increase in femicide and threats and violence against women**

**environmental human rights defenders**, including indigenous women, is alarming. In 2020, at least 331 environmental defenders were killed, including 44 women, 69 per cent of whom were defending land rights, the rights of indigenous peoples and environmental rights and 28 per cent of whom were defending the rights of women ([A/HRC/46/35](#)).[2]

### **Economies of Care & Just Green Transition**

**24.** The relative absence of gender considerations in laws and policies is paralleled by the use of GDP as a measure of progress. **GDP fails to capture the costs of environmental destruction [1] and the value of the unpaid care and domestic work, principally carried out by women and girls, that subsidizes economic growth and development.** The interwoven dimensions of care for people and care for the planet are difficult to express in laws, policies and financing because most are sectoral and implemented by different line ministries and institutions. Only a few countries have incorporated gender equality, climate change, environment, disaster risk reduction and financing under the umbrella of gender-responsive national sustainable development strategies and allocations ([E/CN.6/2020/3](#)).[2]

**55. A gender-responsive, just transition is predicated on the centrality of gender equality and care in policies and programmes and an economy that works for all people and the planet while upholding rights and the principle of leaving no one behind, inclusive of people facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on the basis of sex, income, age, race, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation, among others.**[1] An alternative development model is called for that places the elimination of inequalities and poverty above the imperative of economic growth and that combats wasteful consumption and environmental degradation rather than viewing them as ingredients of growth ([A/75/181/Rev.1](#)). Galvanizing green and blue economies through investment in expanded gender-responsive public services, universal social protection, health and care systems and sustainable transport and infrastructure that translate into new and abundant decent jobs for women and men should be at the heart of any just transition.[2]

### **Gender Mainstreaming**

**31. Women's, in particular young women's, civil society organizations face multiple barriers to participation and leadership, from shrinking democratic space and diminishing funding to threats to the physical security of their members. The situation is even more acute for indigenous women, women of African descent, LGBTIQ+ persons, persons with disabilities and those living in rural, remote and disaster-prone areas, given the difficulties of access and communications.** However, these groups have deep knowledge of community needs and priorities and are key to combating climate change and environmental degradation, reducing disaster risk and building resilience at all levels.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

**56.** Realizing gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls is essential for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction **requires holistic and integrated policies and programmes that uphold rights, build resilience and foster regenerative green and blue economies and gender-responsive, just transitions.** To address these challenges and take advantage of **opportunities to protect and care for people and**

**the planet, the following actions are significant and valuable, as demonstrated in the present report: integrating gender perspectives into governance at the international, national and local levels; ensuring the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and leadership of women; increasing financing for gender-responsive solutions; building the resilience of women and girls; increasing the quality and availability of gender statistics; and accelerating a gender-responsive, just transition.**



# Human Rights Council Resolutions

**Human Rights Council Resolution 47/24** of 26 July 2021

## Human Rights and Climate Change

- *Recalling* that the Paris Agreement acknowledges that climate change is a common concern of humankind and that parties should, when taking action to address **climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations with regard to human rights**, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, peasants, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, including people living in small island developing States and least developed countries, and in conditions of water scarcity, desertification, land degradation and drought, and the right to development, as well as gender equality, the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity,
- *Noting* the importance of the work of the scientific community and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including its assessment reports and special reports, in support of strengthening the global response to climate change, including considering the human dimension, and **indigenous peoples', peasants' and local communities' knowledge**,
- *Stressing* that human rights obligations, standards and principles have the potential to inform and strengthen international, regional and national policymaking in the area of climate change, thereby promoting policy coherence, legitimacy and sustainable outcomes,
- **Stressing the importance of the participation of women, including older women, and girls in climate action**,
- *Emphasizing* the importance of implementing the commitments undertaken under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on mitigation, adaptation and the provision and mobilization of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building to developing countries, and emphasizing also that realizing the goals of the Paris Agreement would enhance the implementation of the Convention and ensure the greatest possible adaptation and mitigation efforts in order to minimize the adverse **impact of climate change on present and future generations**,

**4. Calls upon all States to adopt a comprehensive, integrated, gender-responsive, age-inclusive and disability-inclusive approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation policies**, consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the objective and principles thereof, to address efficiently the economic, cultural and social impact and human rights challenges that climate change presents, for the full and effective enjoyment of human rights for all, and particularly to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of people in vulnerable situations, both in rural and urban areas, to respond to the adverse impact of climate change;

**15. Encourages** the continued discussions among States and relevant stakeholders on the possible **creation of a new special procedure** addressing the adverse impact of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights;

**16. Encourages relevant special procedure mandate holders to continue to consider the issue of climate change and human rights, including the adverse impact of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights**, particularly the rights of people in vulnerable situations, within their respective mandates;

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**Human Rights Council Resolution 44/7** of 16 July 2020

### **Human Rights and Climate Change**

- *Reaffirming* the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the objectives and principles thereof, and emphasizing that parties should, in all climate change-related actions, **fully respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights**,
- *Recalling* that the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>1</sup> acknowledges that climate change is a **common concern of humankind and that parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, and the right to development, as well as gender equality, the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity**,
- *Noting* the importance of the work of the scientific community and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including its assessment reports and special reports, in support of strengthening the global response to climate change, including **considering the human dimension, and indigenous peoples' and local communities' knowledge**,
- *Emphasizing* that the **adverse effects of climate change have a range of implications, which can increase with greater global warming, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights, including, inter alia, the right to life, the right to adequate food, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the right to adequate housing, the right to self-determination, the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, the right to work and the right to development, and recalling that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence**,
- *Stressing the particular vulnerabilities of older persons, including older women and older persons with disabilities, exposed by the implications of climate change*, including their increased susceptibility to diseases, heat stress, reduced mobility, social exclusion and reduced physical, emotional and financial resilience, as well as the need for measures to address their specific needs and to ensure their participation in disaster response planning for emergency situations and evacuations, humanitarian emergency response, and health-care services, as appropriate,

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<sup>1</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

- *Taking note with appreciation* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, focusing on climate change and human rights and on air pollution and human rights, the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, relating to climate change and poverty, the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, focusing on the right to food in the context of natural disasters, and the report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, on the human rights of older persons in emergency situations,
- *Noting also* the establishment and work of **regional, subregional and other initiatives, such as the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action** (Samoa Pathway) on addressing the adverse impact of climate change,

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**Human Rights Council Resolution 41/21** of 12 July 2019

### **Human Rights and Climate Change**

- *Recalling* that the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change acknowledges that climate change is a common concern of humankind and that parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective **obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, and the right to development, as well as gender equality, the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity,**
- *Noting* the importance of the work of the scientific community and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including its assessment reports and special reports, in support of strengthening the global response to climate change, **including considering the human dimension, and indigenous peoples' and local communities' knowledge,**
- *Recognizing* that climate change poses an **existential threat for some countries,** and recognizing also that climate change has already had an adverse impact on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments,
- *Expressing concern* that, while these implications affect individuals and communities around the world, the adverse effects of **climate change are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations owing to factors such as geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status, national or social origin, birth or other status and disability,**
- *Expressing concern* at the adverse impacts of **climate change on individuals with multiple vulnerability factors, including women and girls with disabilities,** and emphasizing the need for States to take and to support adequate measures to address their specific needs and

to ensure participation in disaster response planning for emergency situations and evacuations, humanitarian emergency response and health-care services,

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### Human Rights Council Resolution 38/4 of 5 July 2018

#### Human Rights and Climate Change

- Recognizing that poverty eradication is critical to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change resilience and the promotion and protection of human rights, **including the rights of women and girls, who account for the majority of people living in poverty worldwide.**
- **Recognizing that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change, and emphasizing that sudden-onset natural disasters and slow-onset events** seriously affect their access to food and nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, health-care services and medicines, education and training, adequate housing and access to decent work,
- **Recognizing also that women are not only victims but also agents of change, and that the integration of a gender-responsive approach into climate policies,** including by conducting gender analysis, ensuring women's right to participate, access to education and training and access to and control over adequate resources, such as clean energy and technology, would increase the effectiveness of climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Noting the importance for some of the concept of "**climate justice**" when taking action to address climate change,
- Noting also that the human rights obligations and responsibilities as enshrined in the relevant international human rights instruments provide roles for States and other duty bearers, **including businesses, to promote, protect and respect, as would be appropriate,** human rights, including those of women and girls, when taking action to address the adverse effects of climate change.
- Noting the importance of facilitating meaningful interaction between the human rights and climate change communities at both the national and international levels in order to build capacity to deliver responses to climate change that respect and promote human rights, taking into account the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action and other similar efforts
- Noting the work being undertaken on the rights of women and girls in the context of the adverse impacts of climate change by United Nations agencies, bodies and entities, including the **United Nations** Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the Committee on the Status of Women,

**5. Calls upon States to continue and enhance international cooperation and assistance, in particular in financing, the transfer of technology and capacity-building,** for mitigation and adaptation measures to assist developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, to better promote human rights in general and women's access in particular to food and nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, health-care services and medicines, education and training, adequate housing and decent work, clean energy, science and technology;

**6. Urges States to strengthen and implement policies aimed at increasing the participation of women in climate change responses at the local, national, regional and international levels,** and calls upon the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and other United Nations agencies to support upon request national programmes and projects in this regard;

**7.** Decides to incorporate into the programme of work for the forty-first session of the Human Rights Council, on the basis of the different elements contained in the present resolution, a panel discussion on the theme "Women's rights and climate change: climate action, best practices and lessons learned", focusing on best practices and lessons learned in the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls in the context of the adverse impacts of climate change;

**11. Encourages relevant special procedure mandate holders to continue to consider the issue of climate change and human rights, including the adverse impacts of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights, particularly women's rights, within their respective mandates;**

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**Human Rights Council Resolution 35/20** of 22 June 2017

### **Human Rights and Climate Change**

- Recognizing the particular **vulnerabilities of migrants and other non-nationals** who may face challenges associated with implementing appropriate responses in extreme weather conditions owing to their status and who may have limited access to information and services, resulting in barriers to the full enjoyment of their human rights,

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**Human Rights Council Resolution 32/33** of 1 July 2016

### **Human Rights and Climate Change**

- Noting further the establishment and work of regional and subregional initiatives on climate change, including the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change and the International Solar Alliance,
2. Emphasizes the urgent importance of continuing to address, as they relate to States' human rights obligations, the adverse consequences of climate change for all, particularly in developing countries and the people whose situation is most vulnerable to climate change, **especially children in a situation of extreme poverty, and deteriorating livelihood conditions;**
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[Human Rights Council Resolution 29/15](#) of 2 July 2015

[Human Rights Council Resolution 26/27](#) of 15 July 2014

[Human Rights Council Resolution 18/22](#) of 30 September 2011

[Human Rights Council Resolution 10/4](#) of 25 March 2009

[Human Rights Council Resolution 7/23](#) of 28 March 2008

**NOTE: No additional mapped language of relevance**

## Other Frameworks

### **Statement of the CEDAW Committee on Gender and Climate Change (7 August 2009)**

From CEDAW's examination of State Parties reports, it is apparent that climate change does not affect women and men in the same way and has a gender-differentiated impact. However, women are not just helpless victims of climate change – they are powerful agents of change and their leadership is critical. All stakeholders should ensure that climate change and disaster risk reduction measures are gender responsive, sensitive to indigenous knowledge systems and respect human rights. Women's right to participate at all levels of decision-making must be guaranteed in climate change policies and programmes.

And while CEDAW recognizes that all women have the right to adequate standards of living, housing and communications as well as immediate shelters during crisis situations due to natural disasters, women often face discrimination to access these. Sex-disaggregated data, gender-sensitive policies and program guidelines to aid Governments are necessary to protect women's rights to personal security and sustainable livelihoods.

Gender equality— including equal participation of women and men as well as accounting for the differentiated impacts on women and men from climate change and its response measures— should be included in UNFCCC agreements in alignment with various international agreements including but not limited to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action, and ECOSOC Resolution 2005/31.

### **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (13 September 2007)**

#### **Article 21:**

States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

#### **Article 22:**

- 1.** Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
- 2.** States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

#### **Article 44:**

All the rights and freedoms recognized herein are equally guaranteed to male and female indigenous individuals.

## **Climate Vulnerable Forum**

### **Dhaka-Glasgow Declaration of the CVF**

*Charged* the international community to respond proportionately to the unprecedented global injustice of the climate crisis, which now imminently threatens the safety and in cases the viability or very existence of a number of our most vulnerable and least responsible nations, through redoubled efforts during this decade to keep the 1.5°C limit on warming within reach, deliver and work to upscale and improve promised climate finance, to accelerate adaptation, to promote gender-based and socially inclusive action, and to ensure the necessary life- and livelihood- preserving support for loss and damage of the most vulnerable,

We also call for a prioritization of support for reskilling and up-skilling of workers and social safety net support to enable a just transition and promote green jobs, particularly through women's and youth empowerment, as we pursue low-carbon and carbon neutral development under the Paris Agreement.

### **Leaders Communique: 2018 CVF Virtual Summit**

Recognizing the CVF Summit Champions' efforts highlighting the special leadership and engagement of women in tackling climate change, while emphasizing the importance of mainstreaming gender considerations throughout climate action per the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan,

### **The Marrakech Communique**

*Expressing also* our support for continued implementation of our Road Map in the domains of agriculture, education, health, human rights, gender, labour, migration/displacement, science, tourism and water, building on meaningful initiatives for addressing climate change our Forum has already promoted in the UN Human Rights Council, the International Organization of Migration, the International Labour Conference, and the World Health Organization, among other fora.



## **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, Adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**

Overall, more than 1.5 billion people have been affected by disasters in various ways, with women, children and people in vulnerable situations disproportionately affected.

While recognizing their leading, regulatory and coordination role, Governments should engage with relevant stakeholders, including women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, poor people, migrants, indigenous peoples, volunteers, the community of practitioners and older persons in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards.

**(d)** Disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership. It also requires empowerment and inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory participation, paying special attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. A gender, age, disability and cultural perspective should be integrated in all policies and practices, and women and youth leadership should be promoted. In this context, special attention should be paid to the improvement of organized voluntary work of citizens;

**(g)** Disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, complemented by traditional knowledge;

**(j)** To strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes, and access to basic health-care services, including maternal, newborn and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters;

Empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key. Disasters have demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to “Build Back Better”, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures, making nations and communities resilient to disasters.

**(b)** To invest in, develop, maintain and strengthen people-centered multi-hazard, multisectoral forecasting and early warning systems, disaster risk and emergency communications mechanisms, social technologies and hazard-monitoring telecommunications systems; develop such systems through a participatory process; tailor them to the needs of users, including social and cultural requirements, in particular gender; promote the application of simple and low-cost early warning equipment and facilities; and broaden release channels for natural disaster early warning information;

**(i)** Women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes; and adequate capacity building measures need to be taken to empower women

for preparedness as well as to build their capacity to secure alternate means of livelihood in post-disaster situations;

### **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**

We will ensure gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment.

Women, representing half of the world's population, as well as indigenous peoples and the vulnerable, continue to be excluded from participating fully in the economy.

We reaffirm 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. We reiterate the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies. We recommit to adopting and strengthening sound policies and enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment at all levels, to ensure women's equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy and to eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination in all its forms.

We will encourage the full and equal participation of women and men, including persons with disabilities, in the formal labour market.

Evidence shows that gender equality, women's empowerment and women's full and equal participation and leadership in the economy are vital to achieve sustainable development and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity. We commit to promoting social inclusion in our domestic policies. We will promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws, social infrastructure and policies for sustainable development, as well as enable women's full and equal participation in the economy, and their equal access to decision-making processes and leadership.

Many people, especially women, still lack access to financial services, as well as financial literacy, which is a key for social inclusion. We will work towards full and equal access to formal financial services for all.

We are committed to women's and girls' equal rights and opportunities in political and economic decision-making and resource allocation and to removing any barriers that prevent women from being full participants in the economy. We resolve to undertake legislation and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology. We further encourage the private sector to contribute to advancing gender equality through striving to ensure women's full and productive employment and decent work, equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and equal opportunities, as well as protecting them against discrimination and abuse in the workplace. We support the Women's Empowerment Principles established by UN-Women and the Global Compact and encourage increased investments in female-owned companies or businesses.

We recognize that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly those that are women-owned, often have difficulty in obtaining financing. We urge countries to track and report resource allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.

We recognize the importance for achieving sustainable development of delivering quality education to all girls and boys.

With appropriate supporting policies, infrastructure and an educated workforce, trade can also help to promote productive employment and decent work, women's empowerment and food security, as well as a reduction in inequality, and contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals.

We will promote access to technology and science for women, youth and children.



# MenEngage Alliance

working with men and boys for gender equality

Find out more:

<https://menengage.org/our-work/advocacy/>