

# MENENGAGE ALLIANCE AT CSW66



**14-25 MARCH 2022**  
 **CSW66**  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

**CLIMATE CHANGE • ENVIRONMENT  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**  
**GENDER EQUALITY AT THE CENTRE OF SOLUTIONS**

## Summary Report

This document provides a summary recap of the Alliance's participation in CSW66

## Political Analysis

The **66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66)** recently concluded following two weeks of official deliberations, high-level segments and civil society, government and United Nations parallel and side events taking place from 14 to 25 March, 2022 at UN Headquarters in New York, USA. CSW is the United Nations largest dedicated yearly session focused on gender equality and women's empowerment - this year centering the priority theme, **"Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes"** - for the first time in CSW history

Civil society organizations held over **800 events** with approximately **50,000 participants** joining online for the mostly virtual session this year, with some in-person participation taking place for a limited number of participants. As well, 213 virtual side events organized by Member States and UN entities in collaboration with civil society organizations took place. This year's session included the participation of **two Heads of State, three vice-presidents, and 111 ministers**.<sup>1</sup> In addition the [Secretary-General's Town Hall](#) opened a space for dialogue with feminist, women's rights, youth, LGBTQIA+ and climate justice advocates to bring forward their key questions, concerns and asks.

After a month of complex political negotiations, Member States adopted the [CSW66 Agreed Conclusions](#) on Friday 25 March, laying out the framework of action steps for policymakers to advance women's and girls' full and equal participation and leadership in the designing and implementation of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies and programs moving forward, although many feminist advocates analyzed that the outcomes remained insufficient to meet the current challenges facing women, girls and LGBTIQ peoples in the context of climate and gender justice.

The **Executive Director of UN Women, Sima Bahous** summarized the [outcomes of the session](#) by stating that: "The agreements reached by the Commission come at a point when the world urgently needs new and coherent solutions to the interlocking crises that impact us all. We now have a pathway with practical, specific measures for global resilience and recovery, and a shared understanding that solutions depend on bringing women and girls to the center. Let's capitalize on the work done here, put these agreements into immediate practice and move these decisions forward through all the major forums ahead, including COP27."<sup>2</sup>

The **High-level Multistakeholder Intergenerational Dialogue on Generation Equality** took place on the sidelines of CSW66, thorough a 24-hour marathon of Generation Equality Forum events, reflecting and taking stock on the journey of the high-level initiative over the course of the last year since the Mexico and Paris Forums took place in 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2022/03/press-release-un-commission-on-the-status-of-women-reaffirms-womens-and-girls-leadership-as-key-to-address-climate-change-environmental-and-disaster-risk-reduction-for-all>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

Across six Action Coalitions and the Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact, over **2000 commitments** have been made by local, national, regional and global stakeholder from government, civil society, private sector and United Nations agencies to advance the **Global GEF Blueprint** to accelerate the achievement of gender justice over the course of the next five years. Notably, the online [Commitments Dashboard](#) was launched, as a public facing, searchable platform of all multi-stakeholder commitments.

- See our **Joint MenEngage Alliance GEF Commitment** [here](#).

## Negotiations on the Agreed Conclusions

In preparation for the CSW66 negotiations on the agreed conclusion, following on the heels of feminist climate justice mobilization and advocacy at COP26, **the Women's Rights Caucus** and the [Women and Gender Constituency](#), called for attention to **five key issues and central demands for the language negotiations at CSW66**, that would help fulfill some of the broken promises from COP26 and advance a progressive agenda toward gender and environmental justice in the CSW66 agreed conclusions.

These included:

- **Recognize and redress loss and damage**, centering the most marginalized people and communities in addressing climate impacts, particularly women and girls in all their diversities;
- Commit to **ending the sovereign debt crisis**, to ensure fiscal space for climate action and gender equality;
- **Dismantle false solutions**, particularly the emphasis on net zero and nature-based solutions in the climate and biodiversity arenas;
- Advance a **just and equitable energy transition**, shifting from a fossil-fuel based economy to a low-carbon and renewable energy system that upholds human rights of women and gender diverse individuals, and advances social and environmental justice; and
- **Fulfill historical obligations** to provide gender-just climate finance that is predictable, adequate, transparent, accountable, accessible and in the form of grants rather than loans.

## Loss and Damage

Of particular concern for the feminist climate justice demands, was the issue of Loss and Damage. The ongoing debate on Loss and Damage “has been contentious within the international climate negotiations because of questions of fairness and equity, and proving historical responsibility for climate change, in paying for the losses and damages associated with climate change”<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/explainers/what-is-climate-change-loss-and-damage/>

Global South countries have continued to call upon Global North countries to compensate them for loss and damage. Developed nations have politically resisted centering these financial responsibilities by arguing that these matters fall under the negotiations on adaptation, or expressing their **lack of understanding on the complexity of the subject, which feminist advocates have called a diversion strategy**, since the subject of loss and damage has been at the forefront of climate justice advocacy and negotiations for two decades.<sup>4</sup> And yet **growing tension between developing and developed countries continues every year** as the issue of Loss and Damage as its centrality is being felt more and more around the world, especially in the Global South. **CSW66 was no exception.**

## The Nexus of Climate and Gender Justice

**The Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Glasgow Climate Pact, are not gender policy framework**, and the monumental advocacy taking place by feminist, youth and indigenous climate justice movements to continue deepening commitment, funding and accountability mechanisms for the advancement of human rights in climate justice mechanisms has experienced much pushback. With CSW66 under the priority theme saw an opportunity for feminist climate justice movements to seek to **advance the normative framework on the nexus between climate and gender justice, and to find ways to apply an intersectional feminist approach to tackling the gender transformative climate justice agenda.**

The Agreed Conclusions noted that “that the impacts of climate change will be much lower at the temperature increase of 1.5 °C compared with 2 °C” and “It resolves to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C”. As well the Commission reaffirmed that:

“Climate change is among the greatest challenges of our time and affects all regions. It expresses profound alarm that greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise globally. It recognizes that countries are already experiencing increasing impacts, including biodiversity loss, extreme weather events, land degradation, desertification and deforestation, sand and dust storms, persistent drought, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, causing severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment, agricultural, industrial and commercial systems, global trade, supply chains and travel, with devastating impact on sustainable development, including on poverty eradication, livelihoods, threatening food security and nutrition and water accessibility.”

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<sup>4</sup> The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts was established at the COP19 UN climate conference in November 2013 to address losses and damage in developing countries. The Mechanism's role was recognised in 2015 in Article 8 of the Paris Agreement and it was reviewed in 2019 at COP25, during which developing countries demanded that it be enhanced and strengthened, to include additional finance from developed countries. However, consensus was not reached on developed countries' obligation.

Critically, the **disproportionate impacts on all women and girls was noted**, as well as *"acknowledges the important role of women and girls as agents of change, along with indigenous people and local communities, in safeguarding the environment and reiterates the urgency of scaling up actions and support, as appropriate, including finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, for implementing approaches for averting, **minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in developing countries** that are particularly vulnerable to these effects (CSW66 Agreed Conclusions para 24)".*

Notably, the Commission highlighted the need to "eliminate persistent historical and structural inequalities, **racism, stigmatization and xenophobia, unequal power relations between women and men**" and to 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**" a key language win for the SRHR and climate justice agenda, as a first instance of this language in CSW agreed upon language.

The Agreed Conclusions noted the need to 'promote and protect the rights of all **indigenous women and girls by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face**', as well as the need to 'taking into account the principle of free, prior and informed consent of **indigenous peoples and their ancestral knowledge and practices**, and recognizing their cultural, social, economic and political contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental action and disaster resilience'. Lastly, the commission supported "the important role of civil society actors in promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls; and to take steps to protect such actors, including **women human rights defenders**".

"It's not enough for Global North countries like the United States, Australia, and countries in the European Union to simply recognise the gendered impacts of climate change," said **Noelene Nabulivou from DIVA for Equality, Fiji**. "They must commit to recognising their historic responsibility to address issues like extractivism, climate financing and debt justice and to mitigate the socioeconomic and environmental loss and damage caused by climate change."<sup>5</sup>

"The negotiation rejected the recognition of environmental women human rights defenders who are at the forefront of fighting the climate crisis and injustices. If the future CSW and other intergovernmental processes such as COP27 are to succeed, the only way is to institutionalize meaningful and democratic participation of civil society with the actual power to shape the global policies and frameworks," said **Misun Woo, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development**.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://fosfeminista.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CSW66-Press-Release-EN.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://fosfeminista.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CSW66-Press-Release-EN.pdf>



## Overview of outcomes of language on the role of men and boys

The **MenEngage Alliance Advocacy Working Group and Global Environmental and Climate Justice** working group, with coordination role by the **Global Secretariat**, collaborated to provide inputs to the text of the official outcome document of CSW66 – the Agreed Conclusions, as well as on the Methods of Work Resolution at CSW, alongside feminist advocates through the Women's Rights Caucus. MenEngage members participated in sharing collective inputs with government representatives of **Rwanda, Botswana, Zambia, South Africa, Madagascar, Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium, EU, CARICOM, Canada, USAID, Morocco, Jordan, and Nepal**, across four rounds of technical inputs.

MenEngage Alliance supported and amplified calls by feminist, women's rights, LGBTIQ rights, youth, indigenous and climate justice advocates to center these demands in the negotiations of the agreed conclusions. Standing **behind, and with, the leadership of feminist climate activists, indigenous people, and youth climate movements** the Alliance advocated in **challenging the dominant patriarchal - socio-economic and political systems perpetuating climate change**, and for their calls for systemic transformation and a just transition to green economies of care. Climate change is one of the most urgent global challenges facing the world today, with immediate impacts already being felt around the globe, although unequally, with many contexts and communities in the Global South who, as we speak, are experiencing devastating and deadly consequences to the climate crisis. **MenEngage Alliance worked alongside the Women's Rights Caucus** to amplify these demands for structural change, as well as advocating for a more robust framework to articulate the nexus between climate and gender justice, and the impacts of climate change on women, girls and LGBTQIA+ people.

In regards to the men and masculinities lens incorporated within the CSW66 Agreed Conclusions, the resolution cited **five references to the engagement of men and boys** across various paragraphs of the outcome document. Member States agreed that engaging men and boys continues to be one important strategy to the achievement of climate and gender justice, while highlighting the disproportionate impacts on women and girls:

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

The Agreed Conclusions also noted the need to **'eliminate 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'**.

It also calls on Member States, to **'take all appropriate measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting work- life balance, the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within households and men's and boys' equitable sharing of responsibilities with respect to care and household work, including and men's responsibility as fathers and caregivers'** (reiterating CSW61 Agreed upon language). The importance of promoting **'non-violent behavior and respectful relationships'** among men and boys (language from AHRC/Resolution 35/10) and a **'culture of peace'** (language from the preamble of the Beijing Platform for Action) was included too.

Key elements of the Alliance's language recommendations were not included by Member States in the final text, including the call for moving beyond the roles and responsibilities of men and boys as individuals, to centering and addressing systemic transformation, through working to dismantle patriarchal masculinities and systems. The Alliance sought for a recognition and acknowledgement "that gender inequality and climate change and environmental degradation are **inherently linked to deep-rooted patriarchal masculinities and systems based on domination, exploitation and unequal power relations**, and the need to address patriarchal masculinities and norms that perpetuate gender inequality and environmental degradation and to support initiatives to work with men and boys in the promotion of alternate notions of manhood". It also called for the Commission to reaffirm **"the importance of holding all persons in positions of authority and power, especially men and including politicians and policy makers, private sector leaders and law enforcement officials, accountable for not complying with and/or upholding laws and regulations relating to gender and climate justice"**.

A common call was expressed by **UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres**, who spoke at the [SDG Dialogues: High level event on the Role of Men and Boys in Eliminating Gender-Based Violence](#) stating that:

"We must end all gender-based violence. We must reach the hearts and minds of men and boys. Men created this problem and men must fix it. And men must look in the mirror and begin to improve the lopsided unequal power relations, toxic masculinities and cultural norms and stereotypes that have fueled this violence for millennia".

He called into focus the efforts of the UN Spotlight Initiative, where 180,000 men and boys are learning positive masculinities, nonviolent conflict resolution, and participating in gender-based violence prevention and working with women survivors.

## Shrinking CSO space and backlash at the UN

In preparation for CSW66, through the **#UNMuteCSW campaign** the Danish and Costa Rican governments mobilized other member states to [endorse a set of recommendations](#), following the consultative session with CSOs called the **meaningful inclusion of civil society at the UN in times of covid-19**. These recommendations, developed in consultation with civil society organizations were sent to the United Nations Secretary General, and included recommendations to bridge the digital divide, ensure meaningful engagement in key processes of the UN and the call for a special envoy for civil society engagement across all UN spaces for more meaningful and robust partnership between Member States, UN Agencies and feminist and women's rights organizations.

However, last minute announcements on access by civil society organization with consultative status under ECOSOC, to be able to enter the UN premises just a few dates before the CSW66 conference start date, sparked great concern and mobilization by feminist advocates, who noted the marginalization caused to feminists in the Global South, or who are not New York based, in being able to travel to join the deliberations on such short notice. For most Global South CSO activists, the late announcement made it impossible to arrange finances, visas and logistics for travel. For many, lack of access to the UN building to attend CSW66 was a:

“determining factor for many global South, women environmental human rights defenders, climate frontline State activists and non-NYC based civil society organizations who decided not to travel, recognizing they would not be able to directly engage Member States at the CSW66. The critical lack of their participation **will be a significant missed opportunity for CSW66, and potentially affect the quality, value, and impact of the Agreed Conclusions, which will likely now fail to reflect the realities and solutions of grassroots organizations of women and girls in all their diversity**. In the context of the urgent current climate and environmental crisis and loss and damage, and the need for additional technical expertise and knowledge of the intricate and nuanced linkages between gender equality and climate change, the absence of civil society experts and activists will lead to a glaring gap in the outcomes of this CSW66.”

On the last day of the negotiations the **Women's Rights Caucus organized a Press Conference**, “to comment on the state of negotiations on the agreed conclusions. Particularly, the WRC wanted to express concern over the lack of commitment to climate justice during this year's CSW”.<sup>7</sup> Concerns over the restriction of civic space during this CSW66 were of particular concern. Nadia van der Linde of WO=MEN noted that “I'm one of the few activists who could make it into the UN building, of course this is not a surprise. I'm from the Global North and have a Global North passport.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIAWfs8A9x0>



**These inequalities are really unacceptable** and it is not a step forward when country delegations get to come together and CSOs are stuck in virtual space. It is only leveling the playing field further.”

**WRC CSW66 Press Conference - You can [watch it here](#).**

## **MenEngage Alliance at CSW66**

### **Global Environmental and Climate Justice Working Group**

Reflecting this year's focus on the climate emergency, the MenEngage Alliance Environmental and Climate Justice Working Group mobilized throughout CSW66 to advance the Alliance's collective aims in the session. The group worked to strategize, organize, and prepare our advocacy for this year's session. The working group, made up of members from across MenEngage regional networks, aims to strengthen the Alliance's engagement, position, and clarity on climate justice. It seeks to mobilize and work with members and partners towards deconstructing patriarchal masculinities and creating a climate- and gender-just world.

**Participant members include:** YouthNet for Climate Justice and Fridays for Future (Bangladesh); MÄN (Sweden); Rural development initiative (Rwanda); Community Transformation Foundation Network (COFTONE) (Uganda); Red Cross Togo (Togo); Center ANNA (Russia); The Gender Lab (India); MenEngage Belgium network; Grenada Conservation Fund (Grenada); IGDS/UWI (Trinidad and Tobago).

Collectively, the Alliance centered the **ongoing need to better understand how harmful ideals of manhood, i.e. masculinities that include the need to have power over others - 'others' often understood as women, less powerful men, children and nature - destroy livelihoods and perpetuate environmental degradation**. As well, on the need to further explore and unpack these root causes of the climate crisis. Doing so, we will be able to help strengthen future and existing solutions for climate change adaptation & resilience, by exposing the harms of patriarchal masculinities & working with men & boys as allies to transform unequal power structures and systems alongside feminist, indigenous and youth climate movements. Through **intersectional feminist approaches that are accountable to our planet and to all women, girls, and gender non-conforming individuals** and marginalized groups, the Alliance committed to centering our work on human-rights based & gender-transformative practices.

Throughout CSW66, MenEngage Alliance expressed its collective politics, calling on:

- Leaders must be held to account for their actions, or more appropriately, their inactions. Political complacency, delay, and excuses must be seen for what they are: gross failures of leadership, and a tragic failure for humanity and all life on Earth.

- Ending all impunity for decision-makers and holding men in positions of power - in corporations, financial institutions and governments - accountable for their environmentally destructive practices.
- Men who are guilty of ecological destruction or ecocide should be prosecuted in order to prevent further crimes.
- Advocacy with boys and men on their multiple roles and responsibilities in the climate crisis and to put forward analyses on the interconnections between patriarchal masculinities & their contributing role in perpetuating the climate crisis. Make the harm of men in power positions visible and make the link with patriarchal structures and norms clear.

## MenEngage Alliance CSW66 Tools for advocates

- CSW66 MenEngage Alliance Call to Action: Policy and Programmatic Recommendations: (EN/SP/FR) <https://menengage.org/resources/call-to-action-policy-and-programmatic-recommendations-for-csw66/>
- Language Mapping (CSW66): Climate Justice, Women's Rights, and Transforming Patriarchal Masculinities (EN/SP/FR): <https://menengage.org/resources/language-mapping-csw66-climate-justice-womens-rights-and-transforming-patriarchal-masculinities/>
- Video recordings of Climate Justice sessions at the Ubuntu symposium <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZEc8nrtg9eVxhAbEKlnx5ytOQMZWBFUz>
- Ubuntu Symposium Discussion Papers: [Men, Masculinities and Climate Justice](#)

### Feminist Resources

- [Brief on a Feminist Decolonial Global Green New Deal](#)

### Youth Resources

- CSW66 Global Youth Recommendations: Youth, Gender, and Climate: [https://e303bb68-0f86-4625-b0df-382bc663b63a.filesusr.com/ugd/13b9c9\\_9d3e5a90dd2b4243a6c49b89a3b8fd8b.pdf](https://e303bb68-0f86-4625-b0df-382bc663b63a.filesusr.com/ugd/13b9c9_9d3e5a90dd2b4243a6c49b89a3b8fd8b.pdf)

## Oral Statement

MenEngage Alliance, alongside the Global Environmental and Climate Justice Working Group, in partnership with youth climate movement [Fridays for Future \(Bangladesh\)](#) and indigenous organizations (including [Community Transformation Foundation Network](#) (COTFONE), Uganda) came together to draft an oral statement for the CSW General Discussion. The statement highlights the imperative to further explore and unpack the root causes of the climate crisis and take bold and transformative actions for climate, gender, and social justice.

Read the transcript [here](#).

Watch the video [here](#).



## Written Statement

Through the Global Environmental and Climate Justice Working Group, MenEngage Alliance and [Sonke Gender Justice](#) submitted a written statement, calling for action in response to the gendered impacts of climate change.

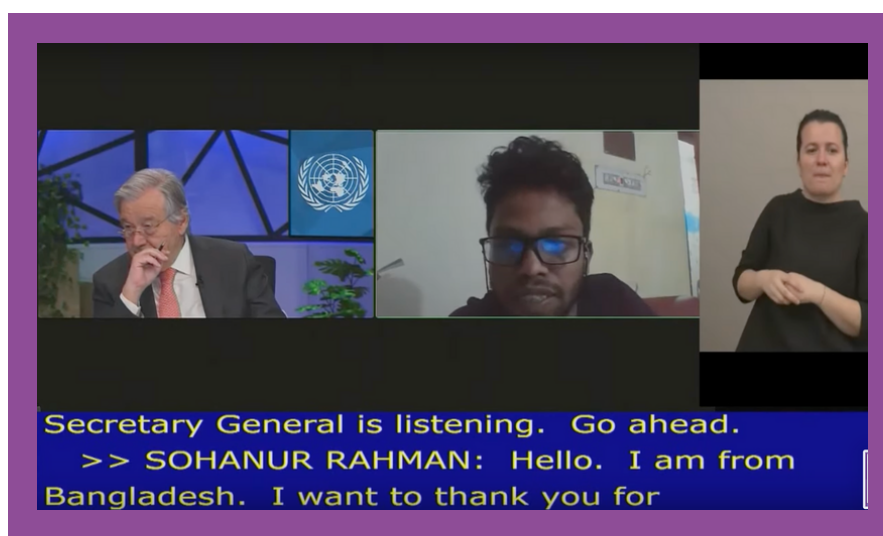
[Click here](#) to read the Joint Written Statement

## MenEngage Alliance at the CSO Town Hall with UNSG

One of the highlights of this year's CSW was seeing Sohan Rahman, one of the members of the Alliance's Environmental and Climate Justice Working Group, join the UN Secretary General's Townhall meeting as part of the civil society participants. Sohan Rahman is the Executive Director of the youth-led organization Bangladesh Model Youth Parliament, coordinator of YouthNet for Climate Justice and founding member of the youth movement Fridays for Future Bangladesh.

[Click here](#) to watch the session.

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## Events by MenEngage members at CSW66

### Masculinities and Patriarchy in Climate Change and Gender Justice: Collective Learnings for Building Political Momentum at CSW66 and Beyond

This pre-CSW learning session was hosted by the Global Secretariat for members and partners to unpack key themes towards accountable advocacy in solidarity and allyship with women's rights, feminist, SRHR, and LGBTQIA+ activists and organizations at CSW66. The session explored the feminist political agenda for CSW66, and its links to men and masculinities through an accountable advocacy and allyship movement-building. The aim was to build understanding on this year's priority theme, negotiations, geopolitics, and the possible roles of civil society. As well as to develop an action plan for meaningful engagement throughout the CSW66 with tools, tips, and resources.

### Transforming Patriarchal Masculinities for Women's Rights, Gender, and Climate Justice NGO CSW Parallel Event

This session addressed the links between the climate crisis and patriarchy, gender norms, engaging men and boys, and transforming masculinities. Recently we have seen increasing interest & understanding on the links between these issues. The session brought forward the urgency to address the root causes of the Climate Crisis, especially by dismantling patriarchal systems and norms, including holding men in positions of power accountable; with growing actions and work with men and boys aiming to strengthen allyship and solidarity with feminist, youth and climate justice organizations and movements. Key research, practical work and participatory exercises to unpack our collective understanding were among the key features of the session. Youth and Climate Justice Movements from the front lines of the climate crisis shared experiences and expertise in this session.



This event was co-organized by members of the MenEngage Climate Justice Working Group as part of [NGO CSW](#). Speakers included: Daysi Flores, [JASS](#), Kayinga Muddu Yisito, COTFONE, Uganda, Aniket Wakankar, [The Gender Lab](#), India, and Vidar Vetterfalk, MÄN Sweden.

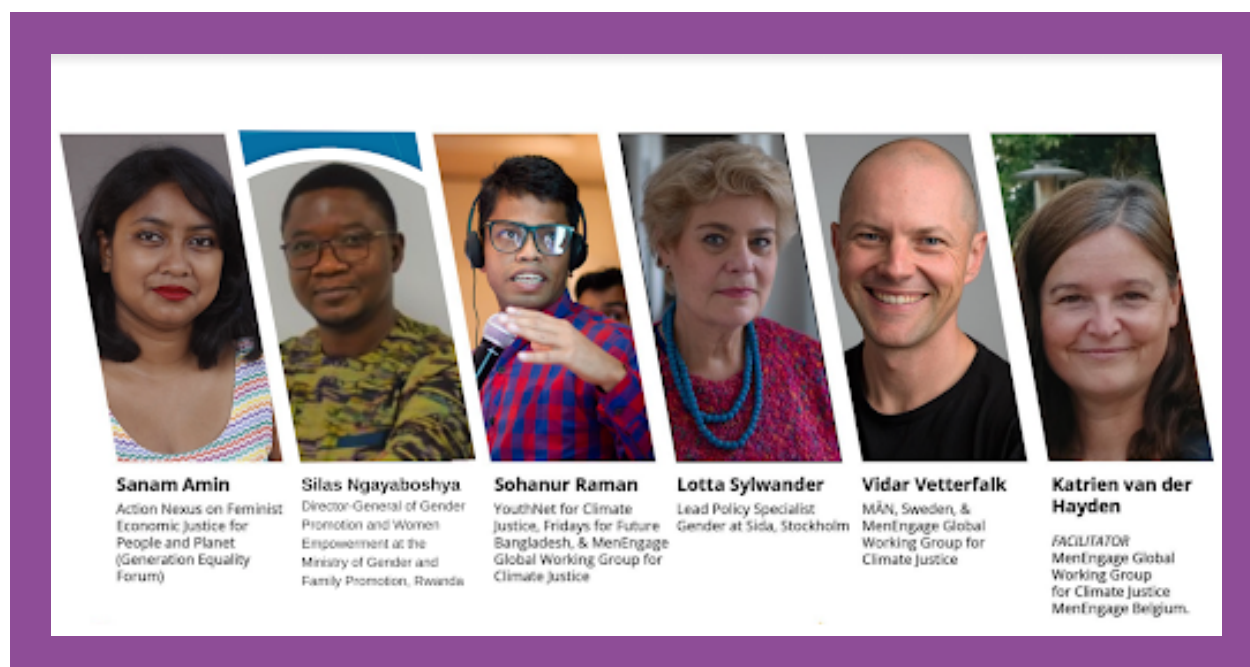
**Please find the recording of the [Parallel event here](#).**

## Climate Justice as Gender Justice: Making the case to address Masculinities and Patriarchy in Climate Change, CSW Side Event

This session unpacked the links between the climate crisis and patriarchy, gender norms, engaging men and boys, and transforming masculinities. To seriously tackle the climate crisis, addressing its root causes is fundamental. These include patriarchal systems and norms. Dismantling them starts with holding men in positions of power accountable, and working with men and boys to strengthen allyship and solidarity with feminist, youth, and climate justice movements. This session discussed insights from policy, research, and practice with civil society, UN agencies, and governments who prioritize these issues sharing experiences and expertise.

This event was co-organized by members of the MenEngage Climate Justice Working Group [as part of the CSW66](#). Speakers included Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge, [Minister of Gender and Family Promotion](#), Rwanda, Lotta Sylwander, Lead Policy Specialist Gender at [Sida](#), Sanam Amin, [Action Nexus on Feminist Economic Justice for People and Planet \(Generation Equality Forum\)](#), Sohanur Rahman, Fridays for Future Bangladesh. Sohanur Rahman is the Chief Executive of a Youth led organization titled Bangladesh Model Youth Parliament, Vidar Vetterfalk, International Project Manager, [MÄN](#), Sweden, and Katrien Van der Heyden, MenEngage Belgium.

**Please find the recording of the [Side event](#) here.**





## Male engagement to address harmful norms and promote gender equality

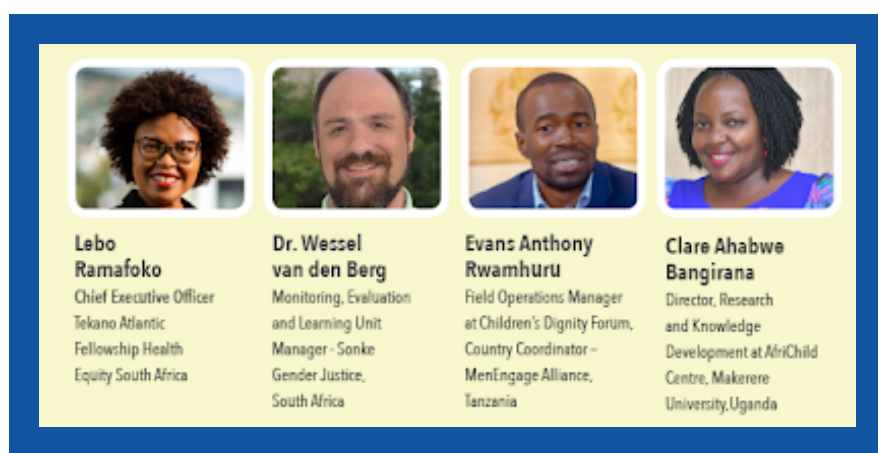
During the first week of CSW66 [Sonke Gender Justice](#) and [MenEngage Africa](#) hosted the side event “Male engagement to address harmful norms and promote gender equality” and speakers include: Dr Chiemezie Atama, Rouzeh Eghtessadi, Dr Tammary Esho and Elias Mundi.

The discussion saw speakers share the work done around engaging men and boys in gender equality during the Covid-19 era. Speakers reflected on partnerships with feminist leadership and the role men play as partners and allies in addressing harmful gender and social norms and practices, such as FGM and child marriages, that perpetuate gender-based violence against women and girls, compromising their health and well-being.



## Addressing shifts in the world of work and care work

[Sonke Gender Justice](#) and [MenEngage Africa](#) hosted a second side event featuring speakers addressing the changes needed in the world of work in lieu of ILO C190 and the recent acknowledgements of the role of care work. The panel made the case for the need to examine and propose holistic solutions that will move us towards a gender-sensitive, inclusive and resilient recovery for our economies within our respective nations. Speakers included: Lebo Ramafoko, Dr. Wessel van den Berg, Evans Anthony Rwamhuru and Clare Ahabwe Bangirana.



## Patriarchy, Masculinities and the Climate Emergency

This parallel event organized by [MenEngage Africa](#), [ACT Alliance](#) and [Sonke Gender Justice](#) brought together speakers who are at the forefront of transforming masculinities. From advocating for policy change to mobilizing community responses, this session argued why climate action by member states and civil society must include the transformation of discriminatory social norms and structures.



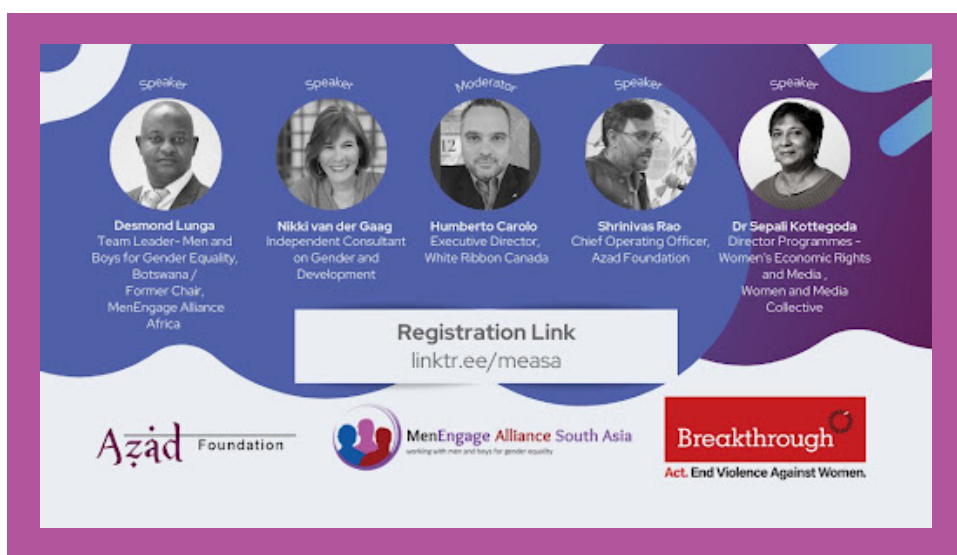
## Men and Unpaid Care Work: Global perspectives – Covid and beyond

[MenEngage South Asia](#), [Azad Foundation](#) and [Breakthrough India](#), presented the programmatic experiences of several organizations from around the world, during and after COVID, on working with men and boys to build more gender-just families and communities, and to create care economies that contribute to women's economic empowerment in a changing world. Participants were encouraged to contribute their questions, experiences and ideas as part of this dialogue.

The session was moderated by Humberto Carolo, Executive Director, White Ribbon Canada and Global Co-Chair of MenEngage Alliance, with speakers:

- Desmond Lunga, Team Leader – Men and Boys for Gender Equality, Botswana and Former Chair, MenEngage Alliance Africa
- Nikki van der Gaag, Independent Consultant on Gender and Development
- Shrinivas Rao, Chief Operating Officer, Azad Foundation, and
- Dr Sepali Kottegoda, Director Programmes – Women's Economic Rights and Media, Women and Media Collective

[Click here](#) to watch the session.



### Gendered Environmental Impact of Conflict: Perspectives of Front-line Women Activists

[PAX](#) and [WILPF](#) featured a panel of practitioners and women activists who shared their insights on the nexus of gender, conflict, and environment. The discussion examined the impacts of conflict-linked climate risks and environmental degradation through a gender lens. Panelists from Iraq, Syria, South Sudan, and Colombia shared their experiences and analysis of the various gendered impacts of militarism and conflict on the environment, as well as the importance of gender equality in influencing environmental peacebuilding in conflict-affected areas.

Panelists included: Professor Julia Duany, Professor, Dr. John Garang Memorial University, South Sudan; Ms. Esraa Falah Hasan, Activist, Iraq; Ms. Alva Ali, Activist, Ahimsa Center Network of Nonviolent Leaders, Syria, and; Ms. Diana María Salcedo López, Director, LIMPAL (WILPF) Colombia. Ms. Maha Yassin of the Clingendael Institute moderated the session.

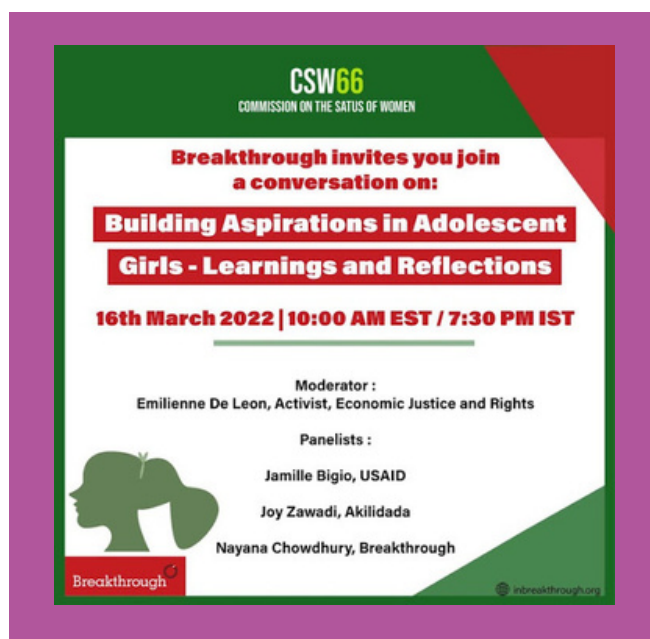
[Click here](#) to watch the full session.



### Building Aspirations in Adolescent Girls - Learnings and Reflections

During this session, organized by [Breakthrough India](#), experts from different countries discussed various dimensions, best practices and learnings for fostering girls' aspirations for their economic empowerment. Panelists explained what needs to be done to build aspirations of adolescent girls and young women, who are the key stakeholders and what kind of norms need to be shifted.

Panelists included: Kamille Bigio, USAID, Joy Zawadi, Akilidada, Nayana Chowdhury, Breakthrough



### Sexualised Exploitation of Women and Girls and Global Climate Crisis

During this parallel event organized by [Unizon \(Sweden\)](#) and [Men for Gender Equality – MÄN \(Sweden\)](#), panelists talked about addressing prostitution, pornography and other forms of commercial sexualised exploitation in the situation of climate crisis. Together with women's NGOs from Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia and the USA the session explored the links between resource extraction, climate displacement and other consequences of climate change, on the one hand, and growing vulnerability and exploitation of women and girls, on the other hand.

Speakers included: Florence Keya, Founder of the Maisha Girls Safe House (Kenya), Rosi Orozco, Author, Founder of Comision unidos vs trata (Mexico), Dolzodmaa Purevjav, Program Coordinator at Talita Asia (Mongolia), Vednita Carter, Founder of Breaking Free and Vednita Carter Presents, Ambassador-At-Large at the United Nations, Author (USA).

Watch the session [here](#).

## Men Engaging the Empowerment of Women in A Changed World

The parallel event organized by [Silke Endress International](#) aimed to define the social and cultural changes needed in order to create an enabling and equitable environment for women and girls to feel empowered to fulfill their full potential in this changed world.

Panelists included: Quentin Walcott, Executive Director CONNECT, Gary Barker, PhD, President and CEO, Promundo-US, Neil Irvin, Executive Director, Men Can Stop Rape and The Honorable Anthony Brown, United States Representative, 4th Congressional District, Maryland (Invited).



## Women and youth at the frontlines of the climate change response: How to challenge inequalities in leadership, recognition and responsibility

This event was organized by UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector, Permanent Delegation of Iceland to UNESCO and a member of the UNESCO Group of Friends for Gender Equality with the participation of the Youth UNESCO Climate Action Network (YoU-CAN) and the Coalition of Partners of the UNESCO Transforming MEN'talities Initiative.



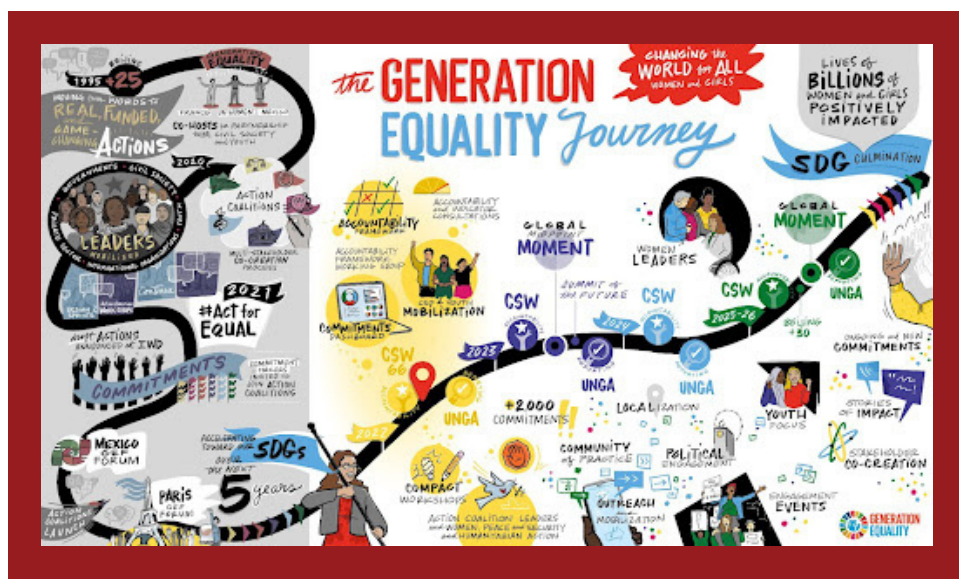
This interactive panel discussion moderated by Humberto Carolo, Executive Director of White Ribbon, and Global Co-Chair of the MenEngage Alliance, brought together a diverse group of experts to highlight the gendered challenges of climate change adaptation, mitigation and response. The event shed light on the unequal impact of climate change on women, youth and vulnerable groups, and showcased promising practices to support and recognize the leadership and well-being of women and youth in this area.

Speakers included:

- Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences
- UNESCO H.E. Unnur Orradóttir-Ramette, Ambassador of Iceland to France, Permanent Delegate of Iceland to the OECD and UNESCO, Co-Chair of the UNESCO Group of Friends for Gender Equality
- H.E. Ivan Ivanisevic, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to France, Permanent Delegate of Montenegro to UNESCO
- Francisco Calí Tzay, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Sarah Hendriks, Director of the Programme, Policy and Intergovernmental Division, UN Women
- Michèle Nken, Youth UNESCO Climate Action Network (YoU-CAN)
- Sohanur Rahman, Leader in Fridays For Future, Member of the MenEngage Alliance's Climate Justice Working Group



## 24 hours Around-the-Clock Generation Equality at CSW66



During a 24-hour agenda on 16 March 2022, Generation Equality partners hosted over 30 side event sessions to share progress on their work, lessons learned, and opportunities ahead.

The Generation Equality side event sessions consisted of the flagship UN Women corporate side event, Action Coalition and WPS-HA Compact side events, and side events organized by other Generation Equality partners. The flagship UN Women Generation Equality high-level dialogue side event anchored messaging for all the events, with a focus on providing concrete information to stakeholders about the Generation. You can watch the session [here](#).

**The long awaited GEF Accountability Framework Session was carried out Thursday, 31 March 2022**, for a discussion aimed to address some of global GEF stakeholders key questions and concerns. Feminists activists have been eager to learn more about the details of the Monitoring and Accountability Framework, as over \$40 billion USD have been pledged as part of **GEF [Commitment Makers Dashboard](#), which compiles the over 1000 commitments** made by civil society, private sector, government and UN agencies to advance gender justice over the next 5 years. It serves as a key step in establishing an accountability framework to track their impact and contribution of all commitment makers. A first report will be published in the margins of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2022.

Through a series of consultations, UN Women together with the Accountability Framework Working Group has prepared [a brief overview of the framework](#) which has been shared previously. As well, [click here](#) to read the concept note.

## What is coming up at CSW in the coming year?

Through the multi-year program of work for the years 2021-2024 deliberated last year through [ECOSOC resolution 2020/15](#), it was mandated that the following priority themes for the upcoming years will be as follows:

- **2023: Priority theme:** Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Review theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-second session).