

## **Input for the 2025 High-level Political Forum**

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

### **Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.**

The interconnected crises of climate change, COVID-19, economic instability, and widespread ongoing conflicts have disproportionately impacted women, their rights, and gender equality. This undermines progress across multiple SDGs through a CEDAW lens. The systemic exclusion of women from decision-making exacerbates these crises, as highlighted in GR 40, which emphasizes that gender parity in governance and policy design is essential to achieving sustainable development.

Regarding SDG 1, these crises have deepened the feminization of poverty, pushing women into extreme poverty, violating Articles 11 and 13 on economic and social rights. The overrepresentation of women in informal and low-paying sectors limits their access to necessary financial services, economic decision making and social protection. This highlights the need for policies designed to enhance social protection services targeting women.

For SDG 3, overwhelmed health systems have restricted access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, increasing maternal mortality risks and exacerbating mental health challenges linked to gender-based violence, in violation of Article 12.

SDG 5 has suffered setbacks, with surging conflicts and domestic and violence, reduced access to justice, and limited political participation for women, contravening Articles 2, 7, and 16. GR 40 underscores the importance of dismantling structural barriers, including gender stereotypes, to ensure women's full and equal participation in all spheres of life.

Under SDG 8, job losses in female-dominated sectors, unsafe working conditions, volatile labor markets, a persistent digital gender gap, and increased, yet undervalued care responsibilities have undermined women's economic empowerment, violating Article 11. SDG 14 (Life Below Water) GR 40 calls for integrating women's leadership in environmental governance to ensure their equal participation in decision-making related to marine conservation and climate resilience.

**Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.**

Integrating science and evidence-based approaches with gender-responsive implementation has effectively advanced multiple SDGs while promoting women's rights and equality under CEDAW.

1. Gender-Responsive Digital Health Innovations (SDG 3, SDG5): Digital health innovations, aligned with Article 12, have improved access to healthcare for women through gender-sensitive telemedicine platforms, remote maternal health monitoring systems reducing rural maternal mortality, while promoting digital health literacy programs for women and girls.
2. Gender-Responsive Blue Economy Initiatives (SDG 8, SDG 14): GR 40 stresses that women's traditional ecological knowledge should be recognized in climate change adaptation strategies. Sustainable aquaculture, women-led conservation projects, and inclusive marine policies to ensure women's participation in decision-making and economic empowerment.
3. Parity-Based Data-Driven Policies (SDG 5, SDG 17): Data-driven gender equality programs, rooted in Article 3, have strengthened interventions by leveraging gender-disaggregated data to track intersectional poverty, analyze labor market gaps, and assess gender-specific impacts of marine policies. GR 40 underscores the necessity of intersectional data to ensure equitable resource distribution and policymaking.

**Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.**

1. Integrated Food Security and Climate-Smart Agriculture Program (SDG 2, 5, 7, 8, 13, 15): GR 39 and GR 40 highlight the importance of women's participation in agricultural decision-making. This program empowers women through agricultural cooperatives equipped with digital technologies, climate-smart training, clean energy solutions, and gender-responsive microfinance.
2. Digital Skills and Green Jobs Initiative (SDG4, 5, 7, 8, 9): GR 40 underscores the need for gender-sensitive STEM education and digital literacy. This initiative provides free digital literacy training, apprenticeships in renewable energy, childcare support, and mentorship networks, thus ensuring that women have equal access to emerging job markets.
3. Community-Based Environmental Protection and Social Enterprise Program (SDG 1,5, 11, 13, 14, 15): Women-led waste management, ecosystem restoration, and green technology enterprises are supported by technical training, legal assistance, and market linkages, fostering environmental and economic resilience.

**Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

Strengthening SDG implementation through a CEDAW lens requires targeted, interconnected measures, with GR40 highlighting parity as a fundamental principle:

- **Data-Driven Implementation:** Expanding intersectional data systems, gender-responsive monitoring frameworks, and budgeting tools to align resource allocation with CEDAW principles.
- **Digital Transformation in Healthcare:** Scaling telemedicine, maternal health monitoring in rural areas, and digital health literacy programs.
- **Economic Empowerment and Environmental Protection:** Supporting women-led cooperatives, climate-smart farming, and financial support for environmental enterprises.
- **Crisis Response:** Establishing gender-sensitive crisis management frameworks, social protection for informal workers, and mechanisms to combat gender-based violence.
- **Institutional Coordination:** Enhancing UN collaboration, technical assistance, and capacity-building, while ensuring policy coherence with GR 40's recommendations on parity-based governance.

**Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.**

Advancing gender equality through a CEDAW-aligned, SDG-focused strategy requires systemic transformation across key areas:

- **Crisis Response and Recovery:** Gender-responsive impact assessments, dedicated funding for women's economic recovery, and strengthened social protection systems.
- **Digital Transformation in Healthcare:** Prioritizing universal access, infrastructure investment, and digital literacy for women.
- **Environmental and Economic Justice:** Safeguarding women's rights in climate governance, integrating traditional knowledge in conservation, and establishing gender-responsive climate financing.
- **Data and Accountability:** Collecting intersectional data, monitoring gender-specific SDG targets, and implementing gender-responsive budgeting.
- **Implementation Strategies:** Prioritizing marginalized women, aligning SDG efforts with CEDAW obligations, and funding women-led initiatives.

GR40 reinforces the imperative of parity-based decision-making as a transformative approach to achieving the SDGs, ensuring that gender equality is not only a goal but a foundational principle of sustainable development.

