

Commission on the Status of Women

Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2025

“Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”

March 2025

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is deeply connected to gender equality, the rights and the empowerment of all women and girls, recognizing gender equality as essential to achieving a just, inclusive, and sustainable world. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 explicitly focuses on ending gender discrimination, ensuring equal opportunities, and eliminating harmful practices. Additionally, gender equality is a cross-cutting theme across all the goals, the 2030 Agenda aims to dismantle systemic barriers and create a world where women and girls can fully participate and thrive in all aspects of society.

At its sixty-ninth session which took place from 10-21 March 2025, the Commission the Status of Women (CSW) focused on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) and the outcomes of the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#). The review included an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The contribution of the CSW to the 2025 High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development is based on the Political Declaration for the sixty-ninth session ([E/CN.6/2025/L.1](#)) adopted by the Commission on 10 March 2025, as well as the Chair’s summaries of the Ministerial roundtables and interactive dialogues contained in the session’s [programme of work](#).

(a) Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crisis on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.

The Commission on the Status of Women, at its sixty-ninth session:

- Recognized that no country has fully achieved gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and expressed concern that major gaps and obstacles remain, inter alia, structural barriers, discriminatory laws and practices, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, including gender based violence and domestic violence, armed conflict and the feminization of poverty, and that significant levels of inequality persist globally, including underrepresentation in decision-making at all levels, and that many women and girls experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, vulnerability and marginalization throughout their life course.
- Recognized how access to healthcare services for adolescent girls is essential to ensuring their empowerment and allowing them to live a life free from violence. It expressed concern that women and girls living in poverty face further barriers to their attainment of access to services, resources and infrastructure regarding health. The Commission underscored how women and marginalized communities face disproportionate challenges in accessing essential healthcare services. It highlighted the importance of ensuring that victims of gender-based violence, including conflict related sexual violence have universal access to quality social and healthcare services such as psychological and counselling services.

- Emphasized that crises exacerbate gender inequalities, particularly in employment, unpaid care work, and access to resources and that women and girls face higher risks of exploitation, discrimination, and violence, particularly in humanitarian settings. The Commission called for gender-responsive policies to mitigate the effects of economic and social disruptions on women’s empowerment.
- Recognized that economic crises disproportionately affect women, especially those in informal and precarious jobs. It noted that women’s labor force participation is often the first to be impacted during economic crises, especially as a large proportion tends to be in the informal sector, and made recommendations to ensure women’s access to decent work include targeted social protection programs, reskilling initiatives, and equal pay measures to ensure inclusive economic recovery.
- Further recognized that despite being at the frontline of environmental and climate emergencies, women and girls particularly those living in maritime communities, remain underrepresented in climate-related decision-making processes at all levels.
- Reaffirmed the importance of global cooperation and financial commitments to address gender gaps and support partnership towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including through strengthening North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships. It highlighted the important role of international organizations, private sector engagement and civil society organizations in building resilience against crises.

(b) 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 interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

On 11 and 12 March, the Commission on the Status of Women held two Ministerial round tables on “National mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls: recommitting to, resourcing and accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, also with a view to contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”, in the context of the 30-year anniversary and review of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Ministers presented their experiences, lessons learned and good practices in relation to the topic with emphasis on both progress made and setbacks to gender equality and reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the vision of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda.

More particularly, they highlighted three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence -based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered.

- 1) New and emerging trends and challenges that impact progress on gender equality

Ministers recognized the challenging global context of multiple and overlapping crises—from the rise in armed conflict, to the climate emergency, to economic instability—noting how these crises disproportionately harm women and girls and jeopardies progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda. Ministers stressed the importance of foreign policies that place gender equality and women’s and girls’ rights at the centre of international agendas as an inclusive solution to ensuring no one is left behind in peace processes. They noted progress in implementing national action plans aligned with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, to bolster women’s participation in peace-building and post-conflict recovery. Ministers underlined the enormous potential of new and emerging

digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, while also recognizing persistent digital divides and pervasive online gender-based violence. To harness the opportunities and mitigate the risks of digital technologies, Ministers shared several promising practices. These included training young women in emerging industries such as coding, robotics, and STEM; providing digital support services to survivors of gender-based violence during emergencies; and offering online gender mainstreaming courses for policymakers.

2) Filling financing gaps and increasing financing for gender equality

Furthermore, throughout the roundtable discussions, Ministers highlighted the role of public procurement policies in fostering women's economic empowerment, including through the prioritization of women-owned businesses in government contracts, as an evidence-based approach to achieving the SDGs. Ministers noted that mandating gender quotas in public procurement can drive structural change, enabling women entrepreneurs to participate in national economies on a more equal footing. Ministers recognized that incorporating gender perspectives into fiscal policies—through systematic budget reviews, targeted funding allocations, and gender impact assessments—enhances transparency and accountability, ensuring no one is left behind.

3) Amplifying women's voices and ensuring equal participation and leadership in decision-making at all levels

Moreover, throughout the round table discussions, Ministers discussed sustainable ways to amplify women's and girls' voices and ensure that no one is left behind. Ministers underscored that legal frameworks, quotas, and reserved seats have been instrumental in increasing women's representation in political leadership across different branches of government, including the executive, legislature, and judiciary. Ministers noted progress in securing women's participation in formal political offices and decision-making bodies, while also recognizing that further measures are needed to ensure their meaningful influence and engagement. Ministers emphasized the role of gender-responsive budgeting in sustaining progress, with dedicated budget lines for gender equality, care work, and the prevention of gender-based violence. Ministers also noted the significance of financial support for women's and girls' rights organizations, including through national grants, international development assistance, and partnerships with the private sector, as key to ensuring the sustainability of gender equality initiatives.

(c) 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.

In the Political Declaration adopted by CSW69, Ministers committed to taking further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation and resourcing of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and recognized that these can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. These actions include:

1. Ensuring that all women throughout their life course, including women working in the informal economy and in precarious work and low-paid sectors and women heads of households, enjoy equal access, both in law and in practice, to gender-responsive comprehensive and universal social protection systems, including floors, public and financial services, productive resources, sustainable infrastructures, markets and networks, as well as affordable technologies;

2. Harnessing the potential of technology and innovation and closing the digital divides within and between countries, including the gender digital divide, as well as expanding digital learning, literacy and capacity-building opportunities and addressing the risks and challenges emerging from the use of technologies, with full respect for the human rights of all women and girls, both online and offline, and mainstreaming a gender perspective in policy decisions and the frameworks that guide the development of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence;
3. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction policies, recognizing the disproportionate effect of climate change and natural disasters on women and girls, in particular those in vulnerable situations, strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters, and promoting women's participation and leadership in decision-making on environmental and climate change issues;

(d) Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2030 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.

In its review of the current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action the Commission also reviewed its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through its Political Declaration, the Commission reaffirmed the mutually reinforcing relationship between the achievement of gender equality and the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits. It has reiterated that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is vital for achieving sustainable development. The Political Declaration covered several substantive areas, where Member States and other stakeholders can take concrete action, including in areas covered by the 2030 SDG Summit Political Declaration.

The Commission also acknowledged the commitment outlined in the Pact for the Future to explore options for revitalizing the Commission on the Status of Women through an inclusive intergovernmental process involving all Member States while reaffirming its mandate. To gain insights into this process, the Commission held two interactive dialogues during the session. These discussions brought together a wide range of stakeholders who identified gaps, challenges, and opportunities in the Commission's work. Participants also outlined the necessary steps to ensure that its efforts effectively support and respond to the needs of national gender equality mechanisms in fulfilling the commitments of the 2030 Agenda.

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

a. Ensuring women's economic empowerment by promoting women's access to credit and entrepreneurship as well as capacity building, financial inclusion and financial literacy for women and girls, and enhancing cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, and by promoting, respecting, protecting and fulfilling women's rights to work and rights at work, taking into account obligations under relevant International Labour Organization conventions, enhancing women's full access to and equal opportunities in the labour market and decent work, taking effective action against discrimination, including based on maternity, as well as violence, and harassment in the world of work, enforcing labour rights including the right to organize and bargain collectively, promoting equal pay for work of equal value, providing social

security, supporting the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors, adopting all necessary measures to reducing labour market segregation, and closing the pay and pension inequality,

b. Recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women within the household and promoting work-life balance inter alia, through prioritizing public investments to develop and expand integrated care systems, including care leave policies, the provision of universal care and support services throughout the life course and the proper recognition, representation, remuneration and reward of care workers;

c. Harnessing the potential of technology and innovation and closing the digital divides within and between countries, including the gender digital divide, as well as expanding digital learning, literacy and capacity building opportunities and addressing the risks and challenges emerging from the use of technologies, with full respect for the human rights of all women and girls, both online and offline, and mainstreaming a gender-perspective in policy decisions and the frameworks that guide the development of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence;

d. Recognizing that women and girls are at greater risk of poverty, and therefore taking comprehensive and targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, the feminization of poverty, multidimensional and intergenerational poverty, as well as structural inequalities among and within countries in the distribution of and access to services, resources' and infrastructure, as well as access to food, water, health, quality education, training and opportunities for employment and decent work in urban and rural, remote and maritime areas and other human settlements in order to break the cycle of poverty and vulnerability, and removing structural barriers in this regard;

e. Ensuring that all women throughout their life course, including women working in the informal economy and in precarious work and low-paid sectors and women heads of households, enjoy equal access, both in law and in practice, to gender-responsive comprehensive and universal social protection systems, including floors, public and financial services, productive resources, sustainable infrastructures, markets and networks, as well as affordable technologies;

f. Promoting, respecting, and protecting and the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for all women and girls, throughout their life course and without distinction of any kind, towards the achievement of universal health coverage, including safe, available, affordable, accessible, quality and inclusive health-care services, as well as maternal and neonatal health, menstrual health and hygiene management and all communicable and non-communicable diseases;

g. Promoting, protecting, and fulfilling the right to education as a key driver of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the achievement of sustainable development, by ensuring access to inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all women and girls through, inter alia eliminating structural barriers that hinder their participation, strengthening international cooperation, investing in public education systems and infrastructure, and providing training and skills development, including in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), Information, and Communications Technologies (ICT);

h. Ensuring women's and girls' food security, nutrition, and well-being, including through engaging with grassroots women's organizations, and supporting women and girls in rural areas, Indigenous women, women smallholders and farmers accelerating efforts towards the eradication of poverty, hunger and inequality and supporting the transition to more sustainable agrifood systems;

i. Adopting, funding and, implementing national action plans to prevent, eliminate and respond to violence against all women and girls in all its forms and manifestations, in public and private spaces, online and offline, including through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence and end impunity, and take appropriate measures to create a safe, enabling and violence-free environment for women and girls;

j. Adopting a comprehensive approach to eliminating violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, including in its design, development and deployment, by combating the use of digital tools, such as social media and online platforms and artificial intelligence, for the purpose of harassment, racism, trafficking in persons and all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls;

k. Ensuring victims and survivors of all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict, have prompt and universal access to quality social and health care services such as psychological and counselling services as well as access to justice, including legal services to end impunity;

l. Mobilizing and strengthening communities, institutions and all relevant stakeholders to prevent, eliminate and respond to all forms of violence against all women and girls as well as its underlying root causes;

m. Accelerating progress towards women's full, equal and meaningful participation in leadership and decision-making, across sectors and at all levels, including through, as appropriate, temporary special measures, and ensuring a safe and enabling environment for women and girls and removing any structural barriers that prevent their participation;

n. Ensuring effective and well-resourced national machineries to promote, coordinate, implement and evaluate policies and programmes to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

o. Adopting and implementing a comprehensive approach to mainstreaming a gender perspective in planning, budgeting and funding processes, including through gender-responsive budgeting and tracking across all sectors;

p. Promoting safe and enabling environments for civil society actors, especially women's, young women's, girls', grass-roots and community-based organizations, rural, Indigenous, and feminist groups, women of African descent, women journalists and media professionals and trade unions, for the defense, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and prevent discrimination, violations and abuses against these actors, and, in accordance with national priorities, promoting access to flexible, sustainable and long-term funding and capacity building, to promote close cooperation between civil society and decision-makers, in the context of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

q. Strengthening the protection of all women and girls in armed conflict and ensuring women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making and in all stages of peace processes and mediation efforts, prevention and resolution of armed conflicts, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction, and in humanitarian action, as an essential factor for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and encouraging the development, implementation and financing of national action plans, as well as support for local women's organizations and peacebuilders, in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace;

r. Mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction policies, recognizing the disproportionate effect of climate change and natural disasters on women and girls, in particular those in vulnerable situations, strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters, and promoting women's participation and leadership in decision-making on environmental and climate change issues;