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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

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an examination of the challenges of and opportunities for 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 towards the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 70/1), and concludes with recommendations for consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women.

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I. Introduction

1. The Commission on the Status of Women, at its sixty-sixth session, will consider as its 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”, in accordance with its multi-year programme of work (2021–2024). The present report provides an analysis of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction and includes recommendations that build coalitions of support to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women through holistic and integrated policies and programmes that uphold human rights, build resilience and foster regenerative green and blue economies and gender-responsive, just transitions (E/CN.6/2020/3).¹

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.

3. The present report provides an assessment of the gender dimensions of normative frameworks relating to climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It draws on the findings of an expert group meeting on the priority theme, convened by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) from 11 to 14 October 2021, and research and data from United Nations entities and other sources.

II. Climate, environment and disaster trends and gendered impacts

4. Climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, land degradation, pollution and the COVID-19 pandemic have accelerated and intensified into widespread and interlinked crises. Climate change has caused increasingly frequent and severe

¹ *Our Common Agenda: Report of the Secretary-General* (United Nations publication, 2021); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), “Green economy”, available at www.unep.org/explore-topics/green-economy; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), “Focus on green recovery”, available at www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/themes/green-recovery; World Bank, “What is the blue economy?”, 6 June 2017; and Mukhisa Kituyi, “Why a sustainable blue recovery is needed”, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 21 July 2021.

disasters, disrupted ecosystems and contributed to biodiversity loss. The interlinked crises threaten the full realization of human rights, in particular the rights to life and dignity, development, a life free from violence and discrimination, an adequate standard of living, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, water and sanitation, a healthy environment and others, with acute impacts on women and girls, in particular in rural, indigenous and migrant contexts.

5. Increasing greenhouse gas emissions, largely produced by burning fossil fuels, are 62 per cent higher than in 1990, when international climate negotiations began, and are likely to far exceed the global target of well below 2°C by the end of the century if global warming continues at the current rate.² The current nationally determined contributions submitted by parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change place the world on a dangerous pathway of above 2°C. The consequences for humans and ecosystems are spiralling: warming, acidifying and deoxygenating oceans; melting ice caps and rising sea levels; extreme weather events associated with floods, droughts and wildfires; loss of habitats and flora and fauna; and threats to agricultural production, food security and human settlements and health. Human influence has unequivocally warmed the atmosphere, oceans and land,³ 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.⁴

6. Human pressures will push 1 million species to extinction in the coming years,⁵ with the catastrophic risk of losing 30–50 per cent of all species by 2050.⁶ Globally, indigenous peoples, local communities, the urban poor and women and girls disproportionately suffer the effects of biodiversity loss (E/CN.6/2020/3). Between 2019 and 2020, deforestation of primary rainforest, which is critical for biodiversity and carbon storage, increased by 12 per cent,⁷ and that pace was maintained in 2021. Parts of the Amazon now emit more carbon than they absorb,⁸ although protected conservation areas and indigenous territories, home to 80 per cent of biodiversity on land, remain carbon sinks.⁹

7. Land degradation, caused mainly by rapid expansion and unsustainable management of industrial agriculture, grazing and forestry, affects 3.2 billion people,

² World Meteorological Organization (WMO), *WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin*, No. 17 (25 October 2021).

³ International Panel on Climate Change, “Summary for policymakers”, in *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*, Valérie Masson-Delmotte and others, eds. (2021).

⁴ Valérie Masson-Delmotte and others, eds., *Global Warming of 1.5°C: An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Gas Emission Pathways, in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty* (International Panel on Climate Change, 2018).

⁵ Sandra Díaz and others, eds., *Summary for Policymakers of the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (Bonn, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019).

⁶ Andrew Deutz and others, *Financing Nature: Closing the Global Biodiversity Financing Gap* (Paulson Institute, The Nature Conservancy and Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability, 2020).

⁷ See <https://research.wri.org/gfr/forest-pulse>.

⁸ Luciana V. Gatti and others, “Amazonia as a carbon source linked to deforestation and climate change”, *Nature*, vol. 595, No. 7867 (15 July 2021).

⁹ M. Finer and N. Mamani, “The Amazon and climate change: carbon sink vs. carbon source”, *Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project*, No. 144 (2021).

in particular rural communities and smallholder farmers, many of whom are women.¹⁰ Globally, a quarter of employed women work in agriculture, forestry and fishing,¹¹ and agriculture remains the most important employment sector for women in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.¹² However, less than 13 per cent of agricultural landholders are women, although with regional variations.¹³

8. Drylands cover some 40 per cent of the world's land area, with concomitant drought, displacement, and land, water and food insecurity affecting the very poor, in particular women and children.¹⁴ The gender food security gap widened significantly, from 6 per cent in 2019 to 10 per cent in 2020, as COVID-19-related disruptions of food and nutrition systems and increasing food prices caused more women and girls to confront hunger and undernourishment.¹⁵

9. Pollution contributes to ecosystem destruction and climate change. Every year, 3.8 million people, disproportionately women and children, die of household air pollution caused by cooking and heating fuelled by biomass on inefficient stoves.¹⁶ The rising tide of plastic pollution in oceans and other water bodies accounts for 85 per cent of all marine litter, with disastrous consequences for health, food security and livelihoods, in particular those of microplastics on the health of women and girls.¹⁷

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.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹

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.²⁰ By 2050, 216 million people could move

¹⁰ Valérie Masson-Delmotte and others, eds., *Climate Change and Land: An IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems* (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2019).

¹¹ World Bank, "Employment in agriculture, female (% of female employment) (modeled ILO estimate)", World Bank Open Data. Available at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGR.EMPL.FE.ZS>.

¹² International Labour Organization (ILO), *Women at Work: Trends 2016* (Geneva, 2016).

¹³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Gender and Land Rights Database, available at www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/en/.

¹⁴ International Union for the Conservation of Nature, "Drylands and land degradation", June 2017.

¹⁵ *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021* (United Nations publication, 2021).

¹⁶ World Health Organization, "Household air pollution and health", 22 September 2021.

¹⁷ UNEP, *From Pollution to Solution: A Global Assessment of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution* (Nairobi, 2021).

¹⁸ Bruno Oberle and others, *Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want* (Nairobi, UNEP, 2019).

¹⁹ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Global Outlook Report 2021: The State of Climate Ambition* (New York, 2021).

²⁰ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2021* (Geneva, 2021).

within their countries as a result of climate change.²¹ 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.²² 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.²³

12. The economic impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are substantial. At the current rate of emissions, the world faces a loss of 15–25 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP), but if emissions are reduced by 45 per cent by 2030, biodiversity and economic losses – including an 8 per cent loss of GDP – will still be significant, though less disastrous.²⁴

13. These trends reinforce and magnify existing gender inequalities, leading to even greater deficits of decent work among women.²⁵ 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 work²⁶ – 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.²⁷

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.²⁸

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.²⁹

²¹ Viviane Clement and others, *Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration* (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2021).

²² CARE International, “Evicted by climate change: confronting the gendered impacts of climate-induced displacement”, 6 July 2020.

²³ UNEP and others, *Gender, Climate and Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change* (2020).

²⁴ *Our Common Agenda* (United Nations publication, 2021).

²⁵ ILO, *The Employment Impact of Climate Change Adaptation: Input Document for the G20 Climate Sustainability Working Group* (Geneva, 2018).

²⁶ Silke Staab, Seemin Qayum and Bobo Diallo, “COVID-19 and the care economy: immediate action and structural transformation for a gender-responsive recovery”, Policy Brief, No. 16 (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), 2020).

²⁷ Mary Picard, “Empowering women in climate, environment and disaster risk governance: from national policy to local action”, background paper prepared for the Expert Group Meeting during the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, October 2021.

²⁸ International Planned Parenthood Federation, “Impacts of the climate crisis on sexual and reproductive health and rights”, expert paper prepared for the Expert Group Meeting during the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, October 2021; and Women Deliver, “The link between climate change and sexual and reproductive health and rights: an evidence review”, January 2021.

²⁹ UN-Women, “COVID-19 and violence against women and girls: addressing the shadow pandemic”, Policy Brief, No. 17 (2020).

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](#)).³⁰

III. Normative and policy frameworks

16. In the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, it is emphasized that unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, notably in industrialized countries, are at the root of global environmental degradation, poverty and inequalities, with specific impacts on the health and livelihoods of women and girls. The twenty-fifth anniversary review and appraisal of its implementation ([E/CN.6/2020/3](#)) called for gender-responsive policies, programmes and financing for effective environmental governance, natural resource management, disaster risk reduction and climate action in the framework of a just transition, with decent work and social protection for all and care at the centre.

17. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals made an integral connection between sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, with a comprehensive agenda across the Goals to address environmental and climate challenges.

18. The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in its general recommendation No. 34 (2016), made the important link between environmental degradation and the human rights of rural women and underscored States' obligations to uphold the rights of rural women to land and natural resources ([CEDAW/C/GC/34](#)). In general recommendation No. 37 (2018), the Committee emphasized the disproportionate impacts of climate change and disasters on women and girls and called for the protection and promotion of their human rights in relation to disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation ([CEDAW/C/GC/37](#)).

19. Under the Rio conventions, progress has been made on mainstreaming gender into key processes and mechanisms and achieving gender balance in representation. Gender action plans have been adopted and are being implemented, including the 2015–2020 Gender Plan of Action under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the enhanced five-year Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan (2019–2024) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Gender Action Plan under the Convention to Combat Desertification (2017).

20. The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change recognized the centrality of gender equality, the empowerment of women, intergenerational equity and human rights, including the rights to health and development and the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations ([FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#)). More recently, the Glasgow Climate Pact emphasized gender equality, the empowerment of women and the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in climate action ([FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/L.16](#)).

21. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (General Assembly resolution [69/283](#)) was aimed at integrating gender perspectives, as well as

³⁰ Front Line Defenders, *Global Analysis 2020* (Dublin, 2021).

those relating to age, disability and culture, into all policies, plans and decision-making processes as a priority for the prevention of new risk, the reduction of existing risk and the management of residual risk. The Sendai Framework recognized the participation of women as critical for disaster risk reduction, effectively managing systemic risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes.

22. In its landmark resolution of 2021 ([A/HRC/48/L.23/Rev.1](#)), the Human Rights Council recognized the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and encouraged States to adopt policies for the enjoyment of that right as appropriate, including with respect to biodiversity and ecosystems, bearing in mind that other human rights obligations, including those related to gender equality, must be respected.

IV. Integrating gender perspectives into climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

23. National legal and policy frameworks on climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction do not yet provide a cohesive basis for gender-responsive governance that fulfils the rights and needs of women and girls, nor do they ensure women's participation in decision-making. Those laws and policies that do incorporate gender equality considerations tend to describe women as vulnerable groups rather than as agents of change, decision makers and participants in climate and environment action and disaster risk management with rights to the equitable sharing of benefits.³¹ Only a third of 192 national energy frameworks from 137 countries include some gender considerations; women are characterized therein as potential stakeholders or beneficiaries, but rarely as agents of change.³²

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 destruction³³ 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](#)).³⁴

25. Cities are responsible for more than 70 per cent of emissions and consume 78 per cent of the world's energy; they are also disproportionately exposed to climate risk.³⁵ Cities are at the forefront of climate action; over 1,000 cities and local

³¹ Picard, "Empowering women in climate".

³² International Union for the Conservation of Nature and others, "Energizing equality: the importance of integrating gender equality principles in national energy policies and frameworks", September 2017.

³³ *Our Common Agenda* (United Nations publication, 2021).

³⁴ OECD, *Gender and the Environment: Building Evidence and Policies to Achieve the SDGs* (Paris, 2021).

³⁵ United Nations News, "Cities: a 'cause of and solution to' climate change", 18 September 2019; and United Nations, "Cities and pollution" (n.d.).

governments have committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2050,³⁶ although more can be done to integrate gender perspectives, in particular in the planning and use of sustainable transport and urban infrastructure systems.

26. Governments implement their current obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equal sharing of benefits chiefly through national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Analysis of 254 such strategies and action plans of 174 countries over 23 years (1993–2016) showed that 56 per cent refer to women or gender, and a quarter of the 174 most recent strategies and action plans include gender considerations or activities involving women, but only 9 per cent have a corresponding dedicated budget.³⁷ A subsequent review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in 2010–2018 provided similar results,³⁸ signalling missed opportunities for gender-responsive biodiversity policies and programming.³⁹

27. Governments prepare and update United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change nationally determined contributions every five years, presenting their climate change mitigation and adaptation commitments. A comparison of the first- and second-generation nationally determined contributions revealed progress in references to gender or women (from 46 to 96 per cent) and gender-responsive targets, policies and measures (from 13 to 55 per cent), but less so in gender-responsive indicators (from 0 to 13 per cent). Gender mainstreaming made modest inroads, with 24 per cent of 120 countries identifying national gender equality institutions as part of climate change governance and only 27 per cent noting the importance of women's participation in decision-making on climate action.⁴⁰

28. An all-of-government approach, based on the coordination and capacity-building of parliamentarians, national gender equality mechanisms, mayors and municipalities and the institutions responsible for climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction and their financing, is crucial to enable gender-responsive climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

V. Promoting the participation and leadership of women

29. Women and girls are taking climate and environment action at all levels,⁴¹ yet notwithstanding significant contributions, the participation and leadership of women fall short of gender parity or of reaching a critical mass to influence decisions and policies.⁴² In international climate meetings under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 40 per cent of delegates and 27 per cent of heads or deputy heads of delegation were women in 2019 (FCCC/CP/2020/3) compared with

³⁶ C40 Cities, "From LA to Bogotá to London, global mayors unite to deliver critical city momentum to world leaders tasked with keeping 1.5 degree hopes alive at Glasgow's COP26", 2 November 2021.

³⁷ International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Environment and Gender Information, "Gender and biodiversity: analysis of women and gender equality considerations in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)", January 2017.

³⁸ Available at www.cbd.int/doc/c/fcc3/ac3d/eba5d8364f8e8d5950fef9bf/sbi-02-02-add3-en.pdf.

³⁹ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Addressing Gender Issues and Actions in Biodiversity Objectives* (Montreal, 2019).

⁴⁰ UNDP, *Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Global Outlook Report 2021*.

⁴¹ OECD, *Gender and the Environment*.

⁴² Bina Agarwal, "Does women's proportional strength affect their participation? Governing local forests in South Asia", *World Development*, vol. 38, No. 1 (January 2010); and Olaf Westermann, Jacqueline Ashby and Jules Pretty, "Gender and social capital: the importance of gender differences for the maturity and effectiveness of natural resource management groups", *World Development*, vol. 33, No. 11 (November 2005).

49 and 39 per cent, respectively, in virtual sessions held in the first half of 2021 (FCCC/CP/2021/4). At the national level, only incremental gains can be reported: in 2020, 15 per cent of ministers of environmental sectors were women compared with 12 per cent in 2015, while the parliamentary representation of women increased to 25.4 from 22.3 per cent.⁴³ At the local level, the participation of women in local government hovers at just over 36 per cent, and only 33 per cent of countries mandate quotas for the participation of women in land governance.⁴⁴

30. These gender gaps are of critical concern, as the equal participation and leadership of women make climate, environment and disaster risk governance more effective. The representation of women in national parliaments leads countries to adopt more stringent climate change policies, resulting in lower emissions.⁴⁵ At the local level, the participation of women in natural resource management is associated with better resource governance and conservation outcomes,⁴⁶ and the application of gender quotas enhances conservation and climate interventions and leads to a more equal sharing of benefits (E/CN.6/2020/3).⁴⁷

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.

VI. Expanding gender-responsive finance

32. Climate stabilization and environmental sustainability, with gender equality and care at the centre, require significantly increased public and private financing. The biodiversity financing gap is estimated to be between \$598 billion and \$824 billion per year over the next decade.⁴⁸ Meeting the Paris Agreement target of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C is estimated to cost between \$1.6 trillion and \$3.8 trillion annually.⁴⁹ Developed countries have yet to meet the annual commitment of \$100 billion to support developing countries in addressing climate change. At the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, parties to the Convention urged

⁴³ International Union for the Conservation of Nature, "New data reveals slow progress in achieving gender equality in environmental decision making", 1 March 2021.

⁴⁴ UN-Women and United Nations, Department of Social and Economic Affairs, *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2021* (New York, 2021).

⁴⁵ Astghik Mavisakalyan and Yashar Tarverdi, "Gender and climate change: do female parliamentarians make difference?", *European Journal of Political Economy*, vol. 56 (January 2019).

⁴⁶ Craig Leisher and others, "Does the gender composition of forest and fishery management groups affect resource governance and conservation outcomes? A systematic map", *Environmental Evidence*, vol. 5, No. 6 (2016).

⁴⁷ Nathan J. Cook, Tara Grillos and Krister P. Andersson, "Gender quotas increase the equality and effectiveness of climate policy interventions", *Nature Climate Change*, vol. 9, No. 4 (April 2019); and *Our Common Agenda* (United Nations publication, 2021).

⁴⁸ Deutz and others, *Financing Nature*.

⁴⁹ Heleen de Coninck and others, "Strengthening and implementing the global response", in *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, Masson-Delmotte and others, eds.

developed countries to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing countries from 2019 levels by 2025 (FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/L.16).

33. Large-scale public and private finance is needed to support countries in shifting from fossil fuel dependency to climate-resilient, low-carbon economies. Reallocation of the \$423 billion spent annually on fossil fuel subsidies⁵⁰ could finance a gender-responsive, just transition, with social protection for all to pave the way (E/CN.6/2020/3).⁵¹ Public finance, in the form of grants in particular, should prioritize gender-responsive climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. In 2018–2019, 57 per cent of aid for climate mitigation and adaptation from members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development addressed gender equality, amounting to \$18.9 billion.⁵²

34. The multilateral climate finance mechanisms, including the Adaptation Fund, Climate Investment Funds, the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, incorporate gender considerations to differing degrees, but they are largely confined to project preparation, with minimal attention given to gender-responsive implementation or outcomes.⁵³ They remain largely inaccessible to women's organizations owing to financing architectures oriented towards large-scale, multimillion-dollar projects.⁵⁴ Following the principle of subsidiarity would allow interventions to be financed and implemented through national or subnational grants facilities, with conditions and reporting requirements tailored to women's organizations.⁵⁵

35. Increased public and private sector financing for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises owned by women, including women's informal businesses, is essential for advancing gender-responsive climate and environment initiatives. Diverse financial instruments can provide accessible, affordable funding to enterprises and cooperatives owned by women, including gender bonds, highly concessional loans, risk guarantees and grants, reducing the need for collateral that many women lack. Such investments have direct benefits for the climate and environment resilience of the broader community and could be readily brought to scale. Meaningful safeguard, accountability and transparency mechanisms, including for public finance used to leverage private finance, are needed to ensure adherence to gender equality, human and labour rights and environmental standards.⁵⁶

VII. Building the resilience of women

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.

⁵⁰ UNDP, "Alternative uses of pre-tax fossil-fuel subsidies per year", 2021.

⁵¹ *Our Common Agenda* (United Nations publication, 2021).

⁵² OECD, "Development finance for gender equality: the generation equality forum action coalitions", June 2021.

⁵³ Liane Schalatek, "Core steps to increase quality and quantity of gender-responsive climate finance", expert paper prepared for the Expert Group Meeting during the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, October 2021.

⁵⁴ Women's Environment and Development Organization and Prospera, "Women's organizations and climate finance: engaging in processes and accessing resources", 2019.

⁵⁵ Schalatek, "Core steps to increase quality".

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

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.

37. The climate and environmental impacts of unsustainable agricultural and food systems and their consequences for women, girls and communities are well known.⁵⁷ Transforming these systems targets both industrial agriculture and the agricultural subsidy regime. Industrial agriculture is highly dependent on monocultures, genetically modified seeds and massive inputs of costly, fossil fuel-dependent chemical pesticides, fertilizers and machinery. Globally, government support to agriculture reaches an estimated \$540 billion annually, with the effect of compromising 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement commitments. Two thirds of this amount contributes to distorting food prices, damaging health and degrading environments, including the quality of agrobiodiversity and soil critical to capturing carbon and sustaining life. Repurposing agricultural subsidies would improve sustainable productivity and environmental outcomes, boosting the livelihoods, food security and resilience of 500 million smallholder farmers worldwide, many of them women, if women are deliberately involved in formulating repurposing strategies, such as agroecology.⁵⁸

38. Women farmers, producers and cooperatives have increasingly taken up sustainable practices, such as agroecology, agroforestry, the diversification of production systems, conservation agriculture and ecosystem-based approaches to agriculture (A/74/238), to support climate-resilient livelihoods and food sovereignty.⁵⁹ These approaches link science and technology with ancestral knowledge, practices and techniques for sustaining the diversity and quality of farming systems, crops, seeds, water and soil, ecological pest and weed management and the provision of food and nutrition through diversified and balanced diets.⁶⁰

39. Despite the critical importance of forests to livelihoods and food security, women have less access to forests and forest resources and limited participation in decision-making with regard to forest management at all levels.⁶¹ However, the greater participation of women in governance leads to better resource conservation and regeneration. Including women in local forest committees improves information and communication on the need for conservation, including by conveying conservation ethics to children, increases community monitoring of forest use violations and enables the application by women of knowledge of forest plants and species. Involving older women in conservation can aid in conflict resolution and attaining community compliance with conservation and sustainable use, given their experience, social networks and interest in preserving forest legacies for future generations. Including landless women, who are the most dependent on forests for their livelihoods, helps to ensure that landless households follow forest use rules. Mobilizing women's groups, in particular those of poor women, can improve forest protection and enhance the collective strength of women. Forest allocations of sufficient size and conditions to allow for regeneration, accompanied by government

⁵⁷ FAO, *Emissions Due to Agriculture: Global, Regional and Country Trends 2000–2018*, FAOSTAT Analytical Brief, No. 18 (Rome, 2020); and UNEP, *Global Gender and Environment Outlook* (Nairobi, 2016).

⁵⁸ FAO, UNDP and UNEP, *A Multi-Billion-Dollar Opportunity: Repurposing Agricultural Support to Transform Food Systems* (Rome, FAO, 2021).

⁵⁹ Eric Holt-Giménez and Miguel A. Altieri, "Agroecology, food sovereignty, and the new green revolution", *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, vol. 37, No. 1 (2013).

⁶⁰ See www.fao.org/agroecology/overview/scaling-up-agroecology-initiative/en/; and Stephen R. Gliessman, *Agroecology: The Ecology of Sustainable Food Systems* (Boca Raton, Florida, CRC Press, 2019).

⁶¹ Esther Mwangi and others, "Gender and sustainable forest management in East Africa and Latin America", *Ecology and Society*, vol. 16, No. 1 (2011).

technical support and gender-responsive training, enable women to participate more effectively in conservation efforts.⁶²

40. Support to gender-responsive sustainable fisheries in the blue economy would improve the management and conservation of fisheries in tandem with much-needed investment in small-scale fisheries, which are more efficient than industrial fishing in terms of catch efficiency, employment generation and environmental sustainability, with most of the fish caught for human consumption.⁶³ While men tend to fish, women are responsible for some 90 per cent of informal and formal processing and much small-scale marketing. More broadly, women are key stewards of fisheries and marine ecosystems and are active in promoting conservation and sustainable fisheries, but are often left out of policies, programmes and decision-making. Only 1 of 71 major seafood companies is led by a woman, and 90 per cent of directors are men. Notwithstanding the creation of new blue economy ministries, women head only 13 per cent of ministries relating to fisheries. Gender-based violence is prevalent in fisheries and is deployed to maintain control over rights and access to their resources, with consequences for sexual and reproductive health and rights, including HIV infection rates in fishing communities that are 4 to 14 times higher than national averages.⁶⁴

41. The sustainable energy transition, which is crucial for climate change mitigation, environmental conservation and disaster risk reduction, offers both challenges to and opportunities for the resilience of women. Expanding decentralized sustainable energy solutions based on hydropower, solar, wind, biomass or geothermal energy in areas unserved by national electricity grids would yield significant benefits for all, but in particular for the livelihoods and resilience of women and girls by reducing their unpaid care and domestic work. Decentralized renewable energy mini-grids and energy cooperatives can create opportunities for the leadership and employment of women and are more affordable and accessible to consumers. However, women's enterprises and cooperatives need appropriate technology transfer, financing, information and training to acquire, operate and manage sustainable energy technologies effectively (E/CN.6/2020/3).

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.⁶⁵ 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.⁶⁶ 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.⁶⁷ 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.⁶⁸ Retraining and

⁶² Bina Agarwal, "Gender and forest conservation: the impact of women's participation in community forest governance", *Ecological Economics*, vol. 68, No. 11 (September 2009).

⁶³ UN-Women. *Women's Economic Empowerment in Fisheries in the Blue Economy of the Indian Ocean Rim: A Baseline Report* (New York, 2020).

⁶⁴ International Union for the Conservation of Nature, "New data reveals slow progress".

⁶⁵ Christina Kwauk and Olivia Casey, *A New Green Learning Agenda: Approaches to Quality Education for Climate Action* (Brookings Institution, 2021).

⁶⁶ UNESCO, World Water Assessment Programme, "Accelerating gender equality in the water domain: a call for action", 2021.

⁶⁷ International Renewable Energy Agency, *Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective* (Abu Dhabi, 2019).

⁶⁸ Ibid.

reskilling programmes that provide equal access to women could help to increase these figures.⁶⁹

43. Closing the gender gaps in access to education, information and skills is key to resilience and closely linked to bridging the global gender digital divide⁷⁰ and enabling equal access to risk-informed knowledge and communications, forecasting and preparedness, including early warning systems. Although poor rural women are among the most digitally disadvantaged, women farmers and producers with access to mobile devices that enable them to receive climate and market information are better equipped to understand and cope with changing climate and market conditions.⁷¹

44. Fulfilling the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is foundational to building the resilience of women and girls. Climate change, environmental degradation and disasters have differential gendered health effects, including on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and exacerbate existing gender gaps in access to and outcomes of health care. Strengthening health systems and service delivery by incorporating disaster risk reduction is critical. Similarly important are policies and programmes that increase access to and the availability of sexual and reproductive health services and information, extend psychosocial support during and after disasters, prevent the increased risk of child marriage and provide essential services for the prevention of, response to and recovery from sexual and gender-based violence.⁷²

45. Access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure is fundamental for building resilience, but significant gender gaps remain in all areas (E/CN.6/2019/3). Water scarcity and disruptions to supply induced by climate and environmental crises and disasters result in women walking long distances or waiting hours in queues to obtain water. Water and sanitation services and infrastructure underpin disaster recovery, but the requirements of women and girls for safe, clean and private sanitation facilities and menstrual hygiene management products are usually absent from disaster relief and humanitarian shelters. Participatory gender-responsive planning would support accessible, affordable and sustainable public services and infrastructure.⁷³ Universal gender-responsive social protection systems can both protect against the disproportionate impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters and bolster the resilience of women and communities, a lesson that has been learned most recently from the COVID-19 pandemic.

46. Appropriate caution must be taken regarding the contradictory and detrimental economic, social and environmental impacts of large-scale agricultural, forestry, energy and infrastructure development on women and girls, indigenous peoples and other marginalized communities, as well as on ecosystems and habitats, including projects with climate and environment goals. The expansion of biofuel plantations for renewable energy based on land acquisition on a vast scale has accelerated deforestation, reduced biodiversity and increased, rather than decreased, carbon emissions while displacing local and indigenous communities and depriving women

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Oliver Rowntree and others, *Connected Women: The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2020* (GSM Association, 2020).

⁷¹ Sophia Huyer and Samuel Partey, “Weathering the storm or storming the norms? Moving gender equality forward in climate-resilient agriculture”, *Climatic Change*, vol. 158, No. 1 (January 2020).

⁷² International Planned Parenthood Federation, “Impacts of the climate crisis”; and Staab, Qayum and Diallo, “COVID-19 and the care economy”.

⁷³ Staab, Qayum and Diallo, “COVID-19 and the care economy”.

and their households of livelihoods.⁷⁴ Extensive reforestation initiatives have had similar negative consequences when designed and implemented without the free, prior and informed consent of those affected, in particular poor and indigenous women.⁷⁵ Lithium extraction for batteries to meet spiralling demand for renewable energy and green technologies requires huge quantities of water, often in desert regions, and chemical leaks from mines pollute water sources, leading to reproductive health problems and significantly heightened stress on women's time and labour with regard to providing clean water and food.⁷⁶ No programme, large or small, can be considered to be sustainable or contributing to resilience if it increases, rather than decreases, the unpaid care and domestic work of women and girls.⁷⁷

VIII. Enhancing gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex

47. Notwithstanding some progress, significant gaps remain in gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex on climate, environment and disaster risk reduction across sectors, with insufficient metrics to adequately capture the gendered drivers and impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and men, the gendered differences in vulnerability and adaptive capacity and the specific contributions of women to environmental conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation.⁷⁸ Simultaneous disaggregation by other dimensions, including income, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity and geographic location, is very limited, yet critical to understanding those most affected by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters. Consequently, it limits decision maker and practitioner knowledge and capacity to develop and adopt effective, evidence-based policies and programmes at all levels.⁷⁹

48. Although the framework of the Goals offers 20 unique indicators, 9 per cent of the total, that broadly address both gender equality and environmental considerations, many of the environmental goals and targets lack any gender-related indicators. Strengthening the gender-environment nexus in the framework of the Goals, including through the development of additional indicators disaggregated by sex, would be an important step towards measuring and monitoring gender-responsive sustainable development.⁸⁰

49. The lack of data disaggregated by sex and gender statistics is one of many factors that render women and girls and their needs and priorities invisible to policymakers, thrown into relief by the COVID-19 policy response, in which women's rights and issues were sidelined. Fewer than 20 per cent of the more than 3,000 labour market and social protection measures adopted across 221 countries and

⁷⁴ Saturnino M. Borrás, Jr., Philip McMichael and Ian Scoones, "The politics of biofuels, land and agrarian change: editors' introduction", *Journal of Peasant Studies*, vol. 37, No. 4 (2010); and Sophie Jane Tudge, Andy Purvis and Adriana De Palma, "The impacts of biofuel crops on local biodiversity: a global synthesis", *Biodiversity and Conservation*, vol. 30, No. 11 (September 2021).

⁷⁵ UN-Women and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Realizing Women's Rights to Land and Other Productive Resources*, 1st ed. (2013).

⁷⁶ Kate Aronoff and others, *A Planet to Win: Why We Need a Green New Deal* (Brooklyn, New York, Verso, 2019).

⁷⁷ *The World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Gender Equality and Sustainable Development* (United Nations publication, 2014).

⁷⁸ Alvina Erman and others, *Gender Dimensions of Disaster Risk and Resilience: Existing Evidence* (Washington, D.C., World Bank and Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, 2021).

⁷⁹ UNEP and International Union for the Conservation of Nature, *Gender and Environment Statistics: Unlocking Information for Action and Measuring the SDGs* (Nairobi, UNEP, 2018).

⁸⁰ UN-Women, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UNEP and International Union for the Conservation of Nature, "Mainstreaming gender in environment statistics for the SDGs and beyond: identifying priorities in Asia and the Pacific", 2019.

territories through November 2021 could be considered gender-sensitive in terms of the economic security or unpaid care of women.⁸¹ Filling data gaps in the gender-environment nexus, including with regard to climate change and disaster risk reduction, is thus a key step in informing policies and programmes to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

50. No consolidated internationally agreed framework for monitoring progress that integrates gender and climate data exists, with the exception of indicator 13.b.1, which measures support to least developed countries and small island developing States with regard to climate change planning and management that includes women, young people and local and marginalized communities.⁸² Nationally determined contributions are a tool that can increase efforts relating to climate-related gender statistics, but only 20 countries (22 per cent) included data disaggregated by sex in their nationally determined contributions in 2021.⁸³

51. Although the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity included an indicator regarding the participation of women and girls in decision-making related to biodiversity it is unclear whether the disaggregation by sex of indicators involving people will be required. Given that the framework is expected to be finalized in 2022, advocacy efforts to further enhance the monitoring framework are continuing.

52. The Sendai Framework monitor allows countries to report systematically against the global targets and indicators of the Sendai Framework. Countries are encouraged to disaggregate the data by sex, age and disability status, but in practice very few do.⁸⁴ When disasters occur, the lack of data disaggregated by sex on deaths, injuries, displacement and property loss obscures the needs, priorities and capacities of women to cope and recover. Adding indicators on job loss, reduced paid work hours, increased unpaid care and domestic work, violence against women and girls and the destruction of care facilities and public transportation would help to capture the differentiated impacts on women.⁸⁵

53. The data requirements for monitoring the gender dimensions of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are substantial and require significant investments and capacity-building. Drawing upon the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which Governments are encouraged to collect data on environmental impacts on women, and the framework of the Goals will help Governments to align national efforts across sectors to create an enabling environment for gender-responsive data collection. This entails dedicated political will, improved statistical capacities based on an understanding of the gender-environment nexus and stronger coordination and cooperation across sectors and at various levels, including line ministries, national gender equality mechanisms,

⁸¹ UNDP and UN-Women, “COVID-19 global gender response tracker: global factsheet”, Version 3, 11 November 2021.

⁸² UN-Women, “Measuring the nexus between gender equality and women’s empowerment and the environment, including climate change and disaster risk reduction”, informational paper prepared for the Expert Group Meeting during the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, October 2021.

⁸³ International Union for the Conservation of Nature, *Gender and National Climate Planning: Gender Integration in the Revised Nationally Determined Contributions* (Gland, Switzerland, 2021).

⁸⁴ Picard, “Empowering women in climate”.

⁸⁵ UN-Women, “Measuring the nexus between gender equality and women’s empowerment and the environment”.

national statistical systems, researchers, civil society, the private sector and international organizations.⁸⁶

IX. Fostering a gender-responsive, just transition

54. Fundamental changes to economies and social protection and care systems are required to respond to the planetary crisis and forge lasting recovery, as the COVID-19 period has amply demonstrated.⁸⁷ The world of work is intrinsically connected to the natural environment, with more than 1.2 billion jobs relying on a stable environment and ecosystems.⁸⁸ Climate change, environmental degradation and disasters threaten jobs, livelihoods and economic and social rights and security, with decent work at stake, in particular for women, most of whom work in informal and vulnerable jobs. The Paris Agreement calls for a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work, which is reinforced by the International Labour Organization guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all, on managing transitions to environmentally sustainable, low-carbon economies to create decent jobs at scale, minimize impacts on affected workers, make the economy more inclusive, eradicate poverty and promote social protection.⁸⁹ However, it is estimated that more than 80 per cent of new jobs created by dismantling fossil fuel dependency, primarily through the phase-out of coal mining and coal-fired power, will be in sectors currently dominated by men. Therefore, eliminating occupational segregation and gender-based discrimination in labour markets is critical for a gender-responsive, just transition.⁹⁰

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.⁹¹ 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.⁹²

⁸⁶ UNEP and International Union for the Conservation of Nature, *Gender and Environment Statistics*.

⁸⁷ Staab, Qayum and Diallo, “COVID-19 and the care economy”.

⁸⁸ Guillermo E. Montt, *The Future of Work in a Changing Natural Environment: Climate Change, Degradation and Sustainability* (Geneva, ILO, 2018).

⁸⁹ Marieke Koning and Samantha Smith, “Just transition and gender: a review”, expert paper prepared for the Expert Group Meeting during the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, October 2021.

⁹⁰ Catherine Saget, Adrien Vogt-Schilb and Trang Luu, *Jobs in a Net-Zero Emissions Future in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Washington, D.C., and Geneva, Inter-American Development Bank and ILO, 2020).

⁹¹ Staab, Qayum and Diallo, “COVID-19 and the care economy”.

⁹² ILO, “Social protection for a just transition: a global strategy for increasing ambition in climate action”, 2019.

X. 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.**

57. **To fulfil these objectives, the Commission on the Status of Women may wish to urge Governments and other stakeholders to take the actions set out below.**

Integrating gender perspectives into climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

(a) **Fulfil existing commitments and obligations under the Rio conventions and the Sendai Framework related to climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction in a holistic and integrated manner, taking fully into account their gender action plans and calling for the creation of such plans where there are none and integrating gender perspectives into nationally determined contributions, national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;**

(b) **Promote and protect the right of women and girls to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and adopt policies for the enjoyment of this right;**

(c) **Recognize the disproportionate and distinct effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls, in particular those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and ensure that policies and programmes reflect these impacts to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls in cities and coastal and rural areas;**

(d) **Recognize the impacts of climate and environmental crises and disasters on women and girls in conflict- and crisis-affected settings, and systematically integrate gender perspectives into climate and security mechanisms and programming;**

(e) **Integrate gender perspectives into the design, funding, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity and environmental degradation and pollution, including microplastics, as well as into needs assessments, forecasting and early warning systems, and prevention, preparedness, response and recovery plans;**

(f) **Strengthen coordination and gender mainstreaming across sectors and all levels of government for the integrated formulation and implementation of gender-responsive climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;**

(g) **Strengthen the capacity of national gender equality mechanisms at all levels with sustainable and adequate funding, including through official development assistance, to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, delivery and evaluation of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;**

Promoting the participation and leadership of women

(h) **Ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women at all levels of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction governance, including in national institutions and delegations to the Conferences of the Parties to the Rio conventions and other decision-making forums, taking appropriate special measures, including quotas, with particular attention given to enabling the participation of young women;**

(i) **Leverage the participation and influence of women in managing the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, including in conflict- and crisis-affected settings;**

Expanding gender-responsive finance

(j) **Significantly increase investment in gender-responsive climate change and in environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, national and international resource mobilization and allocation, with increased priority given to gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance;**

(k) **Fulfil existing climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction financial commitments, including the annual commitment of \$100 billion to support developing countries in addressing climate change, and integrating gender perspectives;**

(l) **Repurpose environmentally harmful subsidies for fossil fuels and agriculture to finance policies and programmes to strengthen and increase the resilience of women and girls to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters;**

(m) **Increase public and private financing to women's organizations and enterprises for climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction initiatives;**

Building the resilience of women

(n) **Build and strengthen the resilience of women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters through the financing and provision of sustainable infrastructure and public services, social protection and decent work for women;**

(o) **Promote lifelong learning, training and education, including in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, for women and girls, and leverage the ancestral knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local**

communities for gender-responsive climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and disaster risk reduction;

(p) Take concrete measures to realize the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, to build the climate, environmental and disaster resilience of all women and girls;

(q) Prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in contexts of climate and environmental crises and disasters, ensuring the provision of essential services to victims and survivors of violence;

(r) Promote and protect the rights of women environmental human rights defenders and ensure that violations and abuses against them are investigated and that those responsible are held accountable in line with global and regional agreements, when applicable;

Enhancing gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex

(s) Strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and government institutions to collect, analyse, disseminate and use data on climate change, environmental and systemic risks and disaster impacts, disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics, including on links between climate change and child marriage and other areas with distinctive impacts on women and girls, and support developing countries in ensuring high-quality, reliable and timely gender statistics to inform climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;

Fostering a gender-responsive, just transition

(t) Support and finance gender-responsive, just transitions to regenerative green and blue economies with social protection and care at the centre;

(u) Invest in gender-responsive public services, universal social protection, health and care systems and sustainable transport and infrastructure to reduce the unpaid care and domestic work of women and girls, increase paid decent work for women and facilitate their participation in just transitions;

(v) Promote the equal access of women to decent work in green and blue economic sectors, such as sustainable energy, fisheries, forestry and agroecology, by eliminating occupational segregation and discriminatory social norms.

58. The Commission may wish to call upon the United Nations system and other international organizations, including international financial institutions, to work collaboratively to support Member States in implementing, measuring and monitoring the above-mentioned recommendations at all levels.