



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-sixth session

14–25 March 2022

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and  
to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly  
entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and  
peace for the twenty-first century”**

### **Statement submitted by Lutheran World Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

### **Climate Change widens the inequality gaps, time to transform this reality**

The Lutheran World Federation welcomes the sixty-sixth United Nations Commission on the Status of Women with its ambitious goal of “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction policies and programs”, an urgent and necessary goal that cannot be postponed.

The Lutheran World Federation has a vision for all to live and work together for a just, peaceful and reconciled world. Our organization affirms the human rights and dignity of every person as well as the integrity of the planet and its ecosystem. Through its humanitarian and development work in different parts of the world, the Lutheran World Federation applies a human rights-based approach, including in its climate-related programs and advocacy.

Our faith-based perspective provides the grounds to mobilize short-term responses as well as motivate long-term change to address the spiritual and social roots of the current ecological crisis. Our faith-based approach emphasizes the need to have compassion for all living things and the moral imperative to care for the Earth while protecting the lives, livelihoods, and dignity of communities that are particularly vulnerable to climate change. Climate change is already disproportionately affecting the livelihoods of the poor and most vulnerable worldwide, especially those who are often faced with varied forms of discrimination and marginalization, such as women in situations of poverty, youth, children, people with disabilities, and indigenous people.

The Lutheran World Federation believes that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is at the core of sustainable development, a life of dignity, free of violence, deprivation and limitations for all. Our organization is acutely aware of the gendered impacts of climate change, with women and girls suffering the most. This deepening global crisis has further worsened the situation for indigenous women, especially in the global south, who are dependent on natural resources for their livelihood and survival.

The Lutheran World Federation recognizes the urgency to take action against the climate crisis, especially as it relates to women’s human rights and their ability to participate in climate action. Women experience unequal access to resources and face huge challenges to influence policies and participate in the decision-making processes. Yet their experiences of climate change and their extensive knowledge and expertise in adaptation strategies makes them effective actors and agents of change.

Climate Change exacerbates violence against women and girls around the world, especially in the most impoverished countries, where they have limited access to education, which undermines their livelihoods and exposes them to sexual, physical and psychological violence.

It is therefore imperative that any actions to address climate change incorporate a gender dimension. Women and girls are an essential part of the debates and decision-making to lessen the impacts of climate change. They must be included in all climate actions and solutions.

Overcoming the devastating climate impacts already hitting the most vulnerable requires the necessary climate finances for communities to adapt to climate risks and address unavoidable loss and damage.

The Lutheran World Federation member churches and country programs have been part of the global effort to respond to climate change for many years now. Our organization acknowledges the disproportionate effect of climate change on youth, particularly girls, and affirms their leadership in realizing climate justice. Youth will face the most of the catastrophic effects of climate change over the next years and generations. Youth also bring unique perspectives, creativity, and passion to this issue, yet they are often left out of discussions to find sustainable and equitable climate solutions. The Lutheran World Federation therefore continues to invest in youth leadership by supporting youth-led climate justice action around the world amplifying the voices of young people, harnessing their enthusiasm and vision for a sustainable, equitable and just future.

Through youth climate projects all around the world, our organization supports initiatives that focus on promoting the care of creation in local and national churches, building capacity of young people to participate in climate national, regional and global processes including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Lutheran World Federation promotes new green jobs, by building the capacity of women to install photovoltaic panels thereby showing communities how women can excel at traditionally considered men-only professions. In Mauritania, for example, our organization fosters climate change mitigation-related livelihoods by empowering women to become “solar engineers”.

The Lutheran World Federation believes that the sixty-sixth session of the Commission is a platform and a space to raise awareness, promote gender equality and equity, and amplify women and girls’ voices.

In this regard, and on behalf of its 148 member churches, representing 77 million Christians in 99 countries, the Lutheran World Federation makes an urgent call to the international community and UN Member States to:

- Ensure the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, including all the key gender dimensions and perspectives as enshrined in the Lima Work Program on Gender and the Gender Action Plan.
- Ensure that women and girls, their knowledge, experiences, differentiated needs and capacities, are incorporated into the creation, design and execution of programs to mitigate the impacts of climate change and guarantee their role as actors of development and subjects of rights.
- Empower young people, including girls, as agents of change who are committed to raising awareness of the devastating effects of climate change.
- Include work with churches and faith-based organizations, which welcome millions of people around the world, and work to empower women and girls to achieve the full enjoyment of their rights.
- Implement the decisions reached at the sixty-fifth session of the Commission to ensure that there are real and tangible efforts to achieve women’s economic empowerment.
- Reaffirm the role of civil society, including faith-based actors and recognize their expertise in addressing climate change, promoting gender justice and the realization of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.