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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”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: 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

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

Agreed conclusions

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹ the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly² and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth, twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and stresses the need to further strengthen their implementation.

2. The Commission reiterates that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵ and the Optional Protocols thereto,⁶ as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, such as the International Covenant

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

³ General Assembly resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; and vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution [66/138](#), annex.



on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁷ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁸ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁹ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination¹⁰ and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families¹¹ provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, throughout their life course.

3. The Commission reaffirms that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews, and the outcomes of relevant major United Nations conferences and summits and the follow-up to those conferences and summits, have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹² and to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

4. The Commission emphasizes the mutually reinforcing relationship among achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It acknowledges that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and women's full, equal effective and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction is essential for achieving sustainable development, promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, enhancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productivity, ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere and ensuring the well-being of all. It recognizes that women and girls play a vital role as agents of change for sustainable development.

5. The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives in their respective regions and countries, and their follow-up mechanisms, in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls including in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

6. The Commission reaffirms the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences, including the International Conference on Population and Development¹³ and its Programme of Action and the outcome documents of its reviews. It recognizes that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,¹⁴ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,¹⁵ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹⁶ the New Urban Agenda,¹⁷

⁷ See General Assembly resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

¹² General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

¹³ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution [69/15](#), annex.

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

¹⁶ General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex.

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.

the World Summit for Social Development and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage¹⁸ contribute, inter alia, to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

7. The Commission reiterates that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development needs to be implemented in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and respecting each country's policy space and leadership while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, including by developing cohesive sustainable development strategies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The Commission affirms that Governments have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels with regard to progress made.

8. The Commission reaffirms the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention and the Glasgow Climate Pact, as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹⁹ the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,²⁰ the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,²¹ the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants²² and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.²³

9. The Commission recalls that the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Glasgow Climate Pact acknowledge that climate change is a common concern of humankind. It reaffirms the long-term temperature goal in the Paris Agreement to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and notes, as recognized in the Pact, that the impacts of climate change will be much lower at a temperature increase of 1.5°C compared with 2°C. It resolves to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C; and recognizes that limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, including reducing global carbon dioxide emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 relative to the 2010 level and to net zero around mid-century, as well as deep reductions in other greenhouse gases.

10. The Commission also recalls in this regard article 2, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, which provides that the Paris Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.

11. The Commission further recalls that Member States should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution [74/2](#).

¹⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1673, No. 28911.

²¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2244, No. 39973.

²² *Ibid.*, vol. 2256, No. 40214.

²³ UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/4, annex II.

situations, and the right to development, as well as gender equality, the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity. The Commission encourages Member States to increase the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in climate action and to ensure gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation, which are vital for raising ambition and achieving climate goals.

12. The Commission takes note of the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at its twenty-fifth session, of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan, and recognizes the value of national gender and climate change focal points.

13. The Commission recognizes that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 calls for the integration of gender, age, disability and cultural perspectives into all policies and practices while taking into account national circumstances, and consistent with domestic laws as well as international obligations and commitments, and that women’s and youth leadership should be promoted. It also recognizes that empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender-equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key, including for effectively managing disaster risk and for designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes. It recalls that the Sendai Framework recognizes women’s participation and leadership as critical for disaster risk reduction.

14. The Commission recalls General Assembly resolution [71/312](#) of 6 July 2017, in which the Assembly endorsed the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action”, and recognizes the importance of gender equality and the crucial role of women and youth in the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

15. The Commission also recalls the establishment of the women and peace and security agenda and reaffirms that the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding is one of the essential factors for the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.

16. The Commission further recalls the Declaration on the Right to Development,²⁴ the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples²⁵ and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.²⁶

17. The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, are crucial for the full and equal participation of women and girls in society and for women’s economic empowerment and should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes. It also reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the promotion, protection and full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction.

²⁴ General Assembly resolution [41/128](#).

²⁵ General Assembly resolution [61/295](#), annex.

²⁶ General Assembly resolution [71/1](#).

18. The Commission expresses concern that climate change, the pollution of air, land and water, biodiversity loss and decline in ecosystem functions and services threaten the full enjoyment of human rights of all women and girls and have acute impacts on women and girls, especially on rural, indigenous and migrant women and girls.

19. The Commission acknowledges that multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization are obstacles to women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life as well as to the elimination of violence. It respects and values the diversity of situations and conditions of women and girls and recognizes that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment. It stresses that, while all women and girls have the same human rights, women and girls in different contexts have particular needs and priorities, requiring appropriate responses.

20. The Commission recognizes the importance of relevant International Labour Organization standards related to the realization of women's right to work and rights at work which are critical to ensure a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities towards an inclusive, low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development and sustainable economy. It recalls the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and notes the importance of their effective implementation.

21. The Commission calls for the creation of space for youth, especially young women and girls, to participate in shaping the decisions on climate change, environmental degradation and disasters that will affect their future and, to this end, enhancing curricula at all levels of education. It recognizes multi-stakeholder efforts on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the realization of their human rights, taking note of all international, regional and national initiatives in this regard, to advance the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

22. The Commission reaffirms that climate change is among the greatest challenges of our time and affects all regions. It expresses profound alarm that greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise globally. It recognizes that countries are already experiencing increasing impacts, including biodiversity loss, extreme weather events, land degradation, desertification and deforestation, sand and dust storms, persistent drought, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, causing severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment, agricultural, industrial and commercial systems, global trade, supply chains and travel, with devastating impact on sustainable development, including on poverty eradication and livelihoods, threatening food security and nutrition and water accessibility. It remains deeply concerned that all women and girls, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States, are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters and are disproportionately exposed to risk and increased loss of livelihoods during and in the aftermath of disasters. It further acknowledges the important role of women and girls as agents of change, along with indigenous peoples and local communities, in safeguarding the environment.

23. The Commission stresses the urgency of eliminating persistent historical and structural inequalities, racism, stigmatization and xenophobia, unequal power relations between women and men, discriminatory laws and policies, negative social norms and gender stereotypes, the unequal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, gender-based violence, and eradicating poverty and disadvantages in access to

resources, social protection systems and public services, including universal health services and quality education, to realize gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

24. The Commission notes the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and noting the importance for some of the concept of “climate justice” when taking action to address climate change.

25. The Commission recognizes that gender inequality, coupled with climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, poses a challenge for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with disproportionate impacts on women and girls, especially those in vulnerable and marginalized situations and conflict settings and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

26. The Commission is concerned that climate change, environmental degradation and more frequent and intense disasters caused by natural hazards often result in the loss of homes and livelihoods, water scarcity and disruption to supply, destruction and damage to schools and health facilities, including transportation systems, and the displacement of women and girls and their families and communities. It recognizes that, as a result of displacement, including forced and prolonged displacement, women and girls face specific challenges, including separation from support networks, homelessness, increased risk of all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and reduced access to employment, education and essential health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, and psychosocial support.

27. The Commission reiterates the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective into disaster risk management, taking into account the perspectives of all women and girls, including those in vulnerable situations and women and girls with disabilities. It recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of all women and girls, older women, widows, indigenous women and girls, local communities, youth, volunteers, migrants, academia, scientific and research entities and networks, business, professional associations, private sector financing institutions and the media, in all forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

28. The Commission expresses concern that the economic and social fallout of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has compounded the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters and has pushed people further behind and into extreme poverty. It further expresses deep concern over the increased demand for unpaid care and domestic work and the reported surge in all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, as well as harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

29. The Commission emphasizes the critical role that women play in disaster response and COVID-19 recovery efforts. It recalls that women represent the vast majority of front-line health and social workers and that they are significantly engaged in the delivery of essential and public services. It recognizes that the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation. It further recognizes that sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies are needed to reduce risks of future shocks, including through strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and that all responses are implemented with full respect for human rights. It expresses deep concern that, despite international agreements, initiatives and general declarations,

there is a lack of equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, especially for developing countries.

30. The Commission emphasizes that legal, policy and programme frameworks and all decision-making processes regarding climate and environmental action and disaster risk management should provide a cohesive basis for gender-responsive governance that respects, protects and fulfils all human rights and responds to the needs of all women and girls in diverse situations and conditions as agents and beneficiaries of change. It reaffirms that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for addressing the global response to climate change. It acknowledges that the capacities of women and girls to take action and build resilience depend on closing the gender gaps, removing existing structural barriers, negative social norms and gender stereotypes and strengthening women's access to education, knowledge, universal social protection, finance, technology, mobility and other assets as well as ownership of and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance. It recognizes that women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making are critical for making climate change and environmental actions and disaster risk reduction and recovery efforts more effective. The Commission also recognizes that women's and girls' knowledge of their communities and environment can position them to develop meaningful, effective and culturally relevant solutions to local climate, environmental and disaster challenges.

31. The Commission acknowledges the important role of national machineries for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the relevant contribution of national human rights institutions where they exist, and the important role of civil society and the media in 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.

32. The Commission recognizes the need to take a whole-of-government approach to ensure that climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes are gender-responsive, including through the coordination and capacity-building of parliamentarians, national gender equality mechanisms, mayors, local elected officials, and municipalities and the institutions responsible for measures to address climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction. It emphasizes the importance of the work of the scientific community in support of strengthening the global response to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters and respecting and protecting traditional and ancestral knowledge, including of indigenous peoples.

33. The Commission recognizes that women's and, as appropriate, girls' full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in multilateral, national and local policy processes are vital for achieving sustainable development and climate, environmental and disaster risk reduction goals, while regretting that women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making processes.

34. The Commission recognizes that women often take the lead in promoting an environmental ethic, reducing resource use and reusing and recycling resources to minimize waste and excessive consumption, and that women can have a particularly powerful role in influencing sustainable consumption decisions. It also recognizes that women in many communities provide the main labour force for subsistence production and have responsibility for safeguarding the natural environment and adequate and sustainable resource allocation within the household and the community.

35. The Commission welcomes the major contributions of civil society organizations, especially women's, young women's, girls', youth-led, grass-roots and community-based organizations, rural, indigenous and feminist groups, women human rights defenders, women journalists and media professionals and trade unions in promoting and protecting the human rights of all women and girls, placing their interests, needs and visions on local, national, regional and international agendas and in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of measures to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. It expresses concern that such civil society organizations face many challenges and barriers to full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership, including diminishing funding, as well as violence, harassment, reprisals directed at, and threats to the physical security of, their members.

36. The Commission expresses concern that climate change, environmental degradation, exposure to hazards and biodiversity loss have increased vulnerability and inequality with direct and indirect implications for the enjoyment of human rights and the well-being of young women and girls, including adolescent girls, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States.

37. The Commission recognizes the important role of young women and girls in accelerating climate and environmental action and disaster risk reduction and that tackling these challenges requires coordinated action between Governments and other stakeholders, including women- and youth-led organizations. It also recognizes that young women are too often excluded from consultations on issues that affect them and encourages Member States to further promote the participation and perspectives of youth in climate and environmental action and disaster risk reduction.

38. The Commission acknowledges that strengthening the resilience of all women and girls throughout their life course and of their communities and societies to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters is essential to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns across economies. It also acknowledges that natural resources and ecosystems and women's labour are treated as infinite and are undervalued in the current metrics of economic growth, such as gross domestic product, despite being essential to all economies and the well-being of present and future generations and the planet. It further acknowledges that recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, and rewarding and representing paid care workers, would greatly contribute to this transformation. Although significant gender gaps remain in all areas, including in pay, pensions and care, the Commission further recognizes that equal pay for work of equal value and equal access to social protection, universal health coverage, public services, sustainable infrastructure, livelihoods, land and natural resources are fundamental for strengthening the resilience of women and girls, especially those in vulnerable situations.

39. The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against women and girls, which are rooted in historical and structural inequalities and unequal power relations between men and women. It recognizes that the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental challenges increase and exacerbate the vulnerability of women and girls to discrimination and all forms of violence. It reiterates that violence against women and girls in all its forms and manifestations, online and offline, in public and private spheres, including sexual and gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment, domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicide, harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, as well as child and forced labour, trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation and abuse are pervasive, underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level. It expresses deep concern that women and girls

may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of multidimensional poverty, disability, limited or lack of access to justice, effective legal remedies and psychosocial services, including protection, rehabilitation, reintegration, and to health-care services. It re-emphasizes that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and that it violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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

41. The Commission also recognizes that violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment in private and public spaces, including in educational institutions and the world of work, as well as in digital contexts, impedes participation and decision-making in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes and leads to a hostile environment.

42. The Commission further recognizes that the growing prevalence of violence against women and girls in digital contexts, especially on social media, and the lack of preventive measures and remedies underline the need for action by Member States in partnership with other stakeholders to prevent and respond to violence and harassment online and offline and other negative effects of technological development. It recalls that emerging forms of violence, such as cyberstalking, cyberbullying and privacy violations, are affecting a high percentage of women and girls and compromising, inter alia, their health, their emotional, psychological and physical well-being and their safety.

43. The Commission underlines the particular impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls in conflict-affected and post-conflict settings, and stresses that the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making and leadership is critical in all stages of peace processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The Commission further expresses concern about the heightened risks of violence against women and girls during disasters and conflicts, including violence and abuse in shelters during disasters and conflicts. It emphasizes the need to address sexual and gender-based violence both during and in the aftermath of disasters and conflicts, including by adopting preventive approaches that take into account the needs and perspectives of victims and survivors.

44. The Commission recognizes the disruption caused by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters to education systems across the world, often keeping girls, adolescent girls and young women out of school and limiting their access to education, including to the skills and knowledge needed to adapt and respond to these challenges. It reaffirms the right to education for all women and girls and stresses that equal access to inclusive, equitable and quality education provides them with opportunities, capacities and understanding that enable women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and strengthen the voice, agency and leadership of women and girls in climate, environmental and disaster risk action.

45. The Commission also recognizes the adverse impact of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on health as well as on the other environmental determinants of health, such as clean air, safe water and sanitation, including menstrual health and hygiene management, safe, sufficient and nutritious

food and secure shelter, and in this regard underscores the need to foster health in climate change adaptation efforts and disaster risk reduction strategies, underlining that resilient, people-centred and accessible health systems are necessary to protect the health of all women and girls, particularly those in vulnerable situations.

46. The Commission reaffirms that the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is foundational to building the resilience of all women and girls. It further recognizes that climate change, environmental degradation and disasters have differential health effects for women and girls and exacerbate existing gender gaps in access to and outcomes of health services, especially when goods and services are limited or unavailable owing to the destruction of infrastructure, roads and clinics, particularly in rural and remote areas. It underlines the need for strengthening access to gender-responsive, safe, available, affordable, accessible, quality and inclusive health-care services, including those related to mental health, maternal and neonatal health, menstrual health and hygiene management, and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education.

47. The Commission recognizes that women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, which can be exacerbated by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, limits women's ability to participate in decision-making processes and occupy leadership positions, and poses significant constraints on women's and girls' education and training, and on women's economic opportunities and entrepreneurial activities. It stresses the need to recognize and adopt measures to reduce, redistribute and value unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household and by prioritizing, inter alia, sustainable infrastructure, social protection policies and accessible, affordable and quality social services, including care services, childcare and maternity, paternity or parental leave.

48. The Commission acknowledges women's and girls' critical contributions to their families and communities in climate action, resilience-building, protection and conservation of the environment and disaster risk reduction. It recognizes the importance of implementing family-friendly and family-oriented policies aimed at, inter alia, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and their enjoyment of all human rights in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction, and also recognizes the need to ensure that all sustainable development policies and programmes are responsive to the changing needs and expectations of families in fulfilling their numerous functions and that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected.

49. The Commission stresses the importance of investing in accessible and sustainable infrastructure and technology, including in rural areas, such as access to safe water and sanitation, including water for irrigation, energy, transport and information and communications technology, and other physical infrastructure for public services.

50. The Commission recalls that the human rights to safe drinking water and to sanitation are essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. It is deeply concerned that water scarcity and disruptions to supply induced by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters disproportionately affect women and girls, with women walking long distances or waiting hours in queues to obtain water, which restricts their time for other activities, such as education and leisure, or for earning a livelihood. The Commission underlines that gender-responsive water and sanitation services and infrastructure are key to bolstering the resilience of all women and girls, and further recognizes the need to expand women's and girls' access to adequate, safe

and clean water and sanitation facilities, including for menstrual health and hygiene, especially in disaster relief and humanitarian shelters.

51. The Commission underscores that rapid technological change, including new and emerging digital technologies, has an impact on women's employment opportunities and can accelerate progress towards 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 and facilitate efforts to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as bridge digital divides both between and within countries. It emphasizes the importance of promoting equal access to information and communications technologies that are affordable and accessible, and to the Internet for all women and girls, as well as digital literacy, finance and capacity-building, working towards closing digital divides, including the gender digital divide, and targeting science, technology and innovation strategies to reduce patterns of inequality and promote the empowerment of all women and girls and women's full, equal and effective participation in public life, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and notes with concern that new technological developments can perpetuate existing patterns of inequality and discrimination, including in the algorithms used in artificial intelligence-based solutions.

52. The Commission recognizes that soils, forests, fisheries, water and biomass, among others, are principal sources of income, livelihood, food security, social protection and employment, particularly for women and girls living in poverty. It also recognizes that the unsustainable depletion or deterioration of natural resources can displace communities, especially women, from income-generating activities while greatly adding to unremunerated work and that, in both urban and rural areas, environmental degradation results in negative effects on the health, well-being and quality of life of the population at large, especially women and girls of all ages. It further recognizes the importance of sustainable fisheries and of the elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing for their food security, livelihoods and health. The Commission emphasizes the fundamental importance for women and girls of healthy oceans and a sustainable ocean-based economy in climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, as well as the impact of pollution on ecosystem destruction and climate change, including the disproportionate impact of household air pollution on women and girls as well as the consequences of plastic pollution, including in oceans and other water bodies, for food security, livelihoods and the health of women and girls.

53. The Commission emphasizes that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls can result in greater food security, better nutrition and more inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems for all and that their unequal access and rights to important resources and productive assets, such as land, water, pasture, agricultural inputs, technology and information, as well as extension and advisory services, limit their potential to be productive in agriculture, to become empowered for making strategic decisions and to realize their rights. It also emphasizes that unequal food systems disproportionately affect women and girls, making them more vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition, which is exacerbated, *inter alia*, by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.

54. The Commission recognizes the need to ensure just transitions that promote sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, including for women, as well as the need to involve workers and their communities in discussions that affect their livelihoods, including through making financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development, including through the deployment and transfer of technology and the provision of support to developing country parties. It

expresses concern that discriminatory social norms and persistent gender gaps and inequality in education and vocational training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and occupational segregation keep women from attaining and retaining decent work and quality jobs in sustainable economies and in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. It emphasizes that closing gender gaps, including in digital and financial literacy, and ensuring full and equal access to quality education, training, information, skills development, leadership and mentorship programmes, and technical and financial support, is key to increasing women's and girls' resilience and empowering them as agents of change in climate action.

55. The Commission reaffirms the importance of significantly increasing investments to close resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate financial resources from all sources, including domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, the full implementation of official development assistance commitments and combating illicit financial flows, so as to build on progress achieved and strengthen international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

56. The Commission is concerned that the lack of disaggregated data and gender statistics on climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction across sectors, especially with regard to women and girls in the context of environmental conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation, is limiting the capacity of policymakers to identify gender differences in vulnerability and adaptive capacity, as well as to develop and adopt effective, evidence-based policies and programmes at all levels. It recognizes that disaster risk reduction requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age and disability, as well as on easily accessible, up-to-date, comprehensible, science-based, non-sensitive risk information, complemented by traditional knowledge.

57. The Commission recognizes the important roles and contributions of indigenous women, rural women, women smallholder farmers and women who use coastal marine resources as agents in eradicating poverty and enhancing sustainable agricultural and fisheries development and food security, and as guardians of biodiversity. It highlights the importance of ensuring that the perspectives of all indigenous and rural women and girls are taken into account and that they fully and equally participate in the design, implementation, follow-up to and evaluation of policies and activities that affect their livelihoods, well-being and resilience. It underlines the fact that meaningful progress in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls necessitates closing gender gaps, introducing gender-responsive policies, interventions and innovations, including in agriculture and fisheries, and ensuring women's equal access to agricultural and fisheries technologies, technical assistance, productive resources, land tenure security and access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance and natural resources, as well as access to and participation in local, regional and international markets.

58. The Commission also recognizes that indigenous women and girls, regardless of age, often face violence, discrimination, exclusion and higher rates of poverty, and limited access to health-care services, information and communications technology, infrastructure, financial services and education, and employment for women, while also recognizing their cultural, social, economic and political contributions to climate

change mitigation and adaptation, disaster preparedness, response and management, and environmental conservation and management.

59. The Commission stresses the particular challenges that all women and girls with disabilities face in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, including their increased susceptibility to diseases, heat stress, reduced mobility and social exclusion. It also stresses the need for measures to address the specific barriers they face, to promote their physical, emotional, psychosocial and financial resilience and to ensure all women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in disaster response planning for emergency situations and evacuations, humanitarian emergency response and health-care services.

60. The Commission emphasizes the importance of recognizing the positive contributions of migrant women and girls and of promoting a gender and human rights perspective in migration policies and programmes to address the situations of vulnerability that migrant women and girls face, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, as well as to address all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, that may occur as a result of displacement, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants.

61. The Commission recognizes the importance of the full engagement of men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies in the achievement of 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 order to combat and eliminate the gender stereotypes, sexism and negative social norms that fuel discrimination and all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and undermine gender equality, while noting the ongoing need to educate children from a young age regarding the importance of gender equality, human rights, treating all people with dignity and respect and promoting a culture of peace, non-violent behaviour and respectful relationships.

62. The Commission urges governments at all levels and as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, and invites civil society, inter alia, women's organizations, youth-led organizations, feminist groups, faith-based organizations, the private sector and national human rights institutions, where they exist, and other relevant stakeholders, as applicable, to take the following actions:

Strengthen normative, legal and regulatory frameworks

(a) Take action to fully implement existing commitments and obligations with respect to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination of any kind, including in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;

(b) Consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of particular priority, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocols thereto, limit the extent of any reservations, formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Conventions, review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them, withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the relevant Convention and implement the Conventions fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation and policies;

(c) Respect and fulfil existing commitments and obligations under the Rio conventions, the Paris Agreement, the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 related to climate change, biodiversity, desertification, environment and disaster risk reduction in a holistic and integrated manner, taking into account their gender action plans and calling for the creation of such plans where there are none, and highlighting the importance of integrating a gender perspective in, and ensuring the participation of indigenous women when elaborating, nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, land degradation neutrality targets and national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction, while also noting the importance of the ongoing discussions regarding 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;

(d) Give due consideration to incorporating gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls into the review of global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, including through the global and regional platforms on disaster risk reduction and the 2023 midterm review of the Sendai Framework, as part of the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles;

(e) Promote and protect the rights of all women and girls relating to the enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and adopt policies and programmes for the enjoyment of these rights, including by addressing the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters;

(f) Identify and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, in relation to land tenure security and access to, ownership of and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, and ensure women's and girls' access to justice and accountability for violations of their human rights, with particular attention given to older women, widows and young women;

(g) Step up multi-stakeholder efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, negative stereotyping and violence based on religion, belief or nationality, in order to support the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and leadership of women and, as appropriate, girls in climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;

(h) Integrate a disability-inclusive and gender perspective into the development, review and implementation of laws, policies and programmes on climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, sustainable natural resources management, including land and water, land-use and urban planning and disaster risk reduction, that support the resilience, adaptive capacities, livelihoods, food security, access to safe water and sanitation, health and well-being of all women and girls in rural and urban areas; and ensure women's equal rights to economic resources, including access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, and technology and financial services, including microfinance;

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

(i) Integrate gender perspectives into the design, funding, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity protection, and environmental degradation and pollution, including from chemicals, pesticides and plastics, such as microplastics, as well as into needs assessments, forecasting and early warning systems, and disaster prevention, preparedness, response, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction plans at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate;

(j) Recognize and promote awareness of the disproportionate and distinct effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls, in particular those facing violence, discrimination and displacement, harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage, and insecurity of land tenure, income and food, and ensure that policies and programmes reflect these impacts; and take targeted action to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of all women and girls, including in cities and tropical, arctic, coastal, mountainous and rural areas;

(k) Recognize the disproportionate impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on all women and girls who are in conflict and post-conflict settings and humanitarian emergencies, and systematically integrate gender-responsive and age-sensitive perspectives into relevant mechanisms, policies and programming, while promoting the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women at all levels of decision-making and their leadership as critical to all stages of peace processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, as well as taking into account the perspectives of women and girls who are internally displaced and those who are refugees, implementing measures to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination in these situations and ensuring that the human rights of all women and girls are fully respected and protected in climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction response and recovery strategies;

(l) Strengthen coordination and gender mainstreaming across sectors and all levels of government in the integrated formulation, implementation and evaluation of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, including by supporting research and awareness-raising activities at the national, regional and international levels on the impact of technological, demographic, urbanization, migration and climate change trends on women and girls;

(m) Strengthen the capacity of national gender equality mechanisms at all levels, particularly in the least developed countries and small island developing States, with sustainable and adequate funding and scaled-up, voluntary technology transfer, including through national budget allocations and official development assistance, to ensure the participation of such mechanisms in climate, environmental and disaster risk governance and to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;

(n) Refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

(o) Ensure the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, representation and leadership of women at all levels of relevant climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction decision-making bodies and processes, set specific targets and timelines to achieve gender balance through, inter alia, temporary

special measures, such as quotas, and provide adequate resources, travel funds, capacity-building and training to enable this participation;

(p) Promote the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of young women and, as appropriate, adolescent girls in decision-making processes on climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction action by addressing gender-specific barriers, ensuring their full and equal access to quality education, technology and skills development, leadership and mentorship programmes, increased technical and financial support, and protection from all forms of violence and discrimination;

(q) Protect and promote the rights of all women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, and take measures to address their disproportionate exposure to risk, increased loss of livelihoods, disruption to physical, social, economic and environmental networks and support systems, and even loss of life during and in the aftermath of disasters;

(r) Recognize that adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters are among the drivers and factors that compel women and girls to leave their countries of origin and, in this regard, develop and expand policies and programmes for the protection of migrant women and girls and their families affected by climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, taking note of relevant recommendations from State-led consultative processes, such as the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, and the Platform on Disaster Displacement, while recognizing the significant contribution and leadership of women in migrant communities and taking appropriate steps to ensure their full, equal and meaningful participation in the development of local solutions and opportunities;

(s) Leverage and strengthen the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the influence of all women and girls, especially those from rural areas and from the most affected communities, as well as those in vulnerable situations, in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and in climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives and programmes, including in conflict settings and humanitarian emergencies, and encourage sharing and learning;

(t) Promote a gender-responsive approach and the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in decision-making and leadership of women and, as appropriate, girls in water and sanitation and household energy management in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes; take measures to reduce the time spent by women and girls on collecting household water and fuel and protect them from threats, assaults and sexual and gender-based violence while doing so and when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or practising open defecation and urination; ensure access to water and sanitation and hygiene, including menstrual health and hygiene management, for all women and girls, especially those in marginalized and vulnerable situations, including in schools and other educational settings, workplaces, health centres, public and private facilities and at home; and address widespread silence and stigma, as well as the negative impact of inadequate and inequitable access to sanitation on the access of girls to education;

Expand gender-responsive finance

(u) Increase the gender responsiveness of investment in climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes by scaling up

technology transfer, capacity-building and the mobilization of financial resources from all relevant sources, including public, private, national and international resource mobilization and allocation;

(v) Urge developed countries to fully implement their respective official development assistance commitments, including the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets and help them, inter alia, to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction and policies and programmes;

(w) Strengthen international and regional cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and invite all States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation focusing on shared development priorities, with the involvement of all relevant multiple stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector, while noting that national ownership and leadership in this regard are indispensable for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and for improving their lives and well-being;

(x) Encourage efforts to increase the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in climate action and to ensure gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation, which are vital for raising ambition and achieving climate goals; to provide enhanced support, in accordance with the Glasgow Climate Pact, in particular by developed country parties, including through financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, to assist developing country parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation, in continuation of their existing obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and encourage other parties to provide or continue to provide such support voluntarily; and to urgently scale up action and support, as appropriate, including finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, for implementing approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in developing country parties that are particularly vulnerable to these effects;

(y) Recognize, in accordance with the Glasgow Climate Pact, the need to mobilize climate finance from all sources to reach the level needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, including by significantly increasing support for developing country parties, beyond \$100 billion per year, while noting with deep regret that the goal of developed country parties to mobilize jointly \$100 billion per year by 2020 in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation has not yet been met, and welcoming the increased pledges made by many developed country parties and the “Climate finance delivery plan: meeting the US\$100 billion goal” and the collective actions contained therein, urge developed country parties to fully deliver on the \$100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025 and emphasize the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges;

(z) Provide national gender equality mechanisms and entities responsible for climate change, environmental and disaster risk management and reduction policies, among others, with adequate human and financial resources to ensure that a gender perspective is integrated into the design, implementation and evaluation of relevant policies, programmes and projects;

(aa) Increase public and private financing to women's civil society organizations, including young women's, girls' and youth-led organizations, feminist groups and women's cooperatives and enterprises for climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction initiatives, including those that apply local and indigenous knowledge and solutions, and strengthen monitoring and accountability at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate;

(bb) Build and strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacities of all 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;

(cc) Foster the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women and, as appropriate, girls living in rural areas; increase investment in gender-responsive, sustainable rural development strategies and technological solutions to address climate change, environmental degradation and disasters; and strengthen rural women's economic empowerment, adaptive capacity and resilience and their access to land tenure security, decent work, infrastructure, information and communications technologies, and financial services, in particular for women heads of households and women smallholder farmers;

(dd) Promote and protect the rights of all indigenous women and girls by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face, including violence and higher rates of poverty, ensuring access to quality and inclusive education and employment, health care, public services, economic resources, including land and natural resources, and promoting their full and effective participation in the economy and in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, taking into account the principle of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and their ancestral knowledge and practices, and recognizing their cultural, social, economic and political contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental action and disaster resilience;

(ee) Promote and invest in gender-responsive, quality and inclusive education, lifelong learning, reskilling and training, including in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, for women and girls, including pregnant adolescents and young mothers, as well as single mothers, to enable them to continue and complete their education and to acquire the knowledge and skills that can strengthen their resilience and adaptive capacities in order to attain high-quality jobs in the sustainable economy; address negative social norms, gender stereotypes and persistent gender gaps in education at all levels, particularly in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and information and communications technology; and integrate the causes and consequences of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction into educational curricula at all levels;

(ff) Develop policies and programmes with the support, where appropriate, of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education programmes, including scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education that is relevant to cultural contexts and that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians and with the best interests of the child as their basic concern, with information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and foster informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal

guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to, inter alia, enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and other risks;

(gg) Take concrete measures to realize the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health for all women and girls, including in humanitarian settings, and ensure the availability, accessibility and acceptability of quality health-care services to address all communicable and non-communicable diseases, including water-borne and neglected tropical diseases, including through universally accessible primary health care and support services and social protection mechanisms, so as to help ensure the climate change, environmental and disaster risk resilience of all women and girls;

(hh) Increase financial investments in quality, affordable and accessible health-care systems and facilities and in safe, effective, quality, essential and affordable medicines and vaccines for all, as well as in health technologies, including through community outreach and private sector engagement, and with the support of the international community, with a view to promoting each country's path towards achieving universal health coverage for all women and girls, in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters;

(ii) Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development²⁷ and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, and recognizing that the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on all matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, as a contribution to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and the realization of their human rights, including in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;

(jj) Take all appropriate measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting work-life balance, the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within households and men's and boys' equitable sharing of responsibilities with respect to care and household work, including men's responsibilities as fathers and caregivers, through flexibility in working arrangements, without reductions in labour and social protections, support for breastfeeding mothers, the provision of infrastructure, technology and public services, such as water and sanitation, renewable energy, transport and information and communications technology, and the implementation and promotion of legislation and policies, such as maternity, paternity, parental and other leave schemes, as well as accessible, affordable and quality social services, including childcare and care facilities for children and other dependants, take steps to measure the value of this work in order to determine its contribution to the national economy, and challenge gender stereotypes and negative social norms in order to create an enabling environment for women's and girls' empowerment in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, including in situations of response to extreme weather events;

(kk) Bridge the digital divide, including the gender digital divide, to enable equal access to risk-informed information, knowledge and communications, by taking

²⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

concrete measures to promote equal access for all women and girls to digital training, capacity-building, forecasting and preparedness, including early warning systems, through equal access to information and communications technologies, mobile devices and the Internet, so as to promote their empowerment and digital literacy and enable them to develop the skills needed to better cope with the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, in particular for poor women, women in rural and remote areas, and women farmers and producers;

(ll) Encourage the development, adoption and implementation of effective measures and, as appropriate, national legislation or regulations aimed at minimizing the risks posed by chemicals, in particular to pregnant women, infants and children, and intensify research that takes into account a gender perspective on the impact of environmental pollutants and other harmful substances, including the impact on reproductive health, in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters;

(mm) Eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spaces, online and offline, such as sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicides, all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, as well as trafficking in persons and modern slavery and other forms of exploitation, which are exacerbated in contexts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, 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 working environment for women, especially front-line workers and workers involved in disaster response and recovery, including by ratifying key international treaties that provide protection against gender-based violence and sexual harassment;

(nn) Ensure women's and girls' equal access to justice and essential services, including by providing access to comprehensive social, health and legal services for victims and survivors and by providing accessible, confidential, supportive and effective mechanisms for all women wishing to report incidences of violence, and increase women's legal literacy and awareness of available legal remedies and dispute resolution mechanisms, including in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disaster risk reduction and by strengthening the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of judicial and relevant institutions at all levels;

(oo) Adopt, strengthen and implement policies, strategies and programmes to address the root causes of, prevent and end all forms of violence against women and girls, including by combating gender stereotypes and negative social norms and engaging all relevant stakeholders, including men and boys, journalists and media workers, religious and community leaders, civil society organizations, including women's organizations, and research and educational institutions;

(pp) Strengthen the role and responsibility of the private sector, and encourage and, where appropriate, require all business enterprises to carry out environmental and human rights due diligence, taking into account the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including with regard to the enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and by conducting meaningful and inclusive consultations with potentially affected groups and other relevant stakeholders, especially those who are at particular risk;

(qq) Support the important role of civil society actors in promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women; take steps to protect such actors, including women human rights defenders, particularly those working on issues related to the environment, land and natural resources, and the

rights of indigenous peoples; integrate a gender perspective into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights and to prevent discrimination, violations and abuses against them, such as threats, harassment, violence and reprisals; and combat impunity by taking steps to ensure that violations or abuses are promptly and impartially investigated and that those responsible are held accountable;

(rr) Recognize the role of women journalists and media professionals in raising public awareness about climate change, environmental and disaster issues and take measures to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment in which they can perform their work independently and without undue interference, including by combating all forms of discrimination, harassment and violence, online and offline;

Enhance gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex

(ss) Strengthen the capacity and coordination of national statistical and data production offices and government institutions to collect, analyse, disseminate and use data and statistics on climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, including data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, marital status, migration status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, while safeguarding privacy rights and data protection, in order to inform the design, implementation and tracking of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, improve approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and support developing countries in this effort, including through the mobilization of financial and technical assistance to ensure high-quality, reliable and timely disaggregated data and gender statistics;

(tt) Support and fund research and analysis to better understand the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls, including in relation to child, early and forced marriage, trafficking in persons, paid and unpaid care and domestic work, health and education, food production, water and sanitation, violence against women and girls, and in other areas, to determine the linkages between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, in order to inform policies and programmes and to assess women's abilities to cope with and adapt to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States;

Foster a gender-responsive, just transition

(uu) Support and finance a gender-responsive, equitable and sustainable transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, that work for all people and the planet, taking into account the potential of ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions, with gender-sensitive and age-inclusive social protection and care at the centre;

(vv) Protect and promote all women's right to work and rights at work and ensure the equal access of women to decent work and quality jobs in all sectors, such as sustainable energy, fisheries, forestry, agriculture and tourism, by eliminating occupational segregation, discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, and violence and sexual harassment, supporting the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors, ensuring equal pay for work of equal value, protecting them against discrimination and abuse and ensuring the safety of all women in the world

of work, and promoting the right to organize and bargain collectively to advance, as well as access to sustainable livelihoods, including in the context of a just transition of the workforce.

63. The Commission recognizes its primary role for the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which its work is grounded, and stresses that it is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to ensure synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

64. The Commission calls upon the United Nations system entities, within their respective mandates, and other relevant international financial institutions and multi-stakeholder platforms to support Member States, upon their request, in their efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

65. The Commission calls upon the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to continue to play a central role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and in supporting Governments and national gender equality mechanisms, upon their request, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector, employers' organizations and trade unions, and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of 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 towards 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.
