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**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**



KIIT MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2022

**COMMITTEE: UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF
WOMEN**

**AGENDA: Gender Responsive
Climate Action**



Letter From the Executive Board

Esteemed Members of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, In our capacity as the Executive Board of this meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, we hereby issue this letter dated 22nd August, 2022 acknowledging the presence of all the member State representatives who shall be present to discuss the agenda in consideration, its implications and what measures can be adhered so as to fulfil the goals entrusted to this Committee via its mandate, while ensuring compliance to the principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations. History has shown that peace and security can be built only on the basis of respect and mutual acceptance. And therefore taking into consideration the spirit of mutual respect, we request every concerned stakeholder to look at the agenda with a multi-dimensional approach in order to allow the conclusion to be more holistic and substantially fulfilling. The negotiation on Economic Empowerment of Women with special emphasis on Gender Responsive Climate Action cannot be conceptually or practically decoupled from matters of regional trust and security and it is expected from you as responsible and integral members of the global community to appreciate and apply the said nexus in the forthcoming discussions. Initiation of a productive and substantive deliberation shall be the first step towards this and we shall acknowledge the significance that it carries so as to bring out the most assuring results in the coming course of time. We look forward to stimulating debate and a wholesome exchange of ideas during the proceedings in the upcoming meeting of this Committee, with a strong emphasis on decorum and diplomatic etiquette. We are certain that these proceedings shall prove to be fruitful in determining the path to be taken to solve some issues that prove to be a great challenge to the maintenance of a peaceful global status quo.

*Komal Mekala
(Chairperson)*

*Maaheen Faisal
(Vice Chairperson)*



History

Women's rights have been a concern of the United Nations (UN) since 1945, when the United Nations Charter promised in its preamble "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small." The Commission on the Status of Women enforces multi-year programs, created in 1987, which establishes priority themes driving discussion and action. CSW will often pick a point of societal contention, a topic that affects women's rights and demands immediate action, to serve as the focus for negotiations and discussion. Every year, representatives from 45 Member States gather at UN Headquarters in New York to discuss and review global progress towards gender equality and the advancement of women's rights. The CSW consists of Member States from around the globe: 13 from Africa, 11 from Asia, 9 from Latin America and Caribbean, 8 from Western Europe and other States, and 4 from Eastern Europe. The Commission on the Status of Women works alongside UN Women to Promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Mandate of the Committee

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by UN Economic and Social Council resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In 1996, ECOSOC in resolution 1996/6 expanded the Commission's mandate and decided that it should take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities.



Introduction

Climate change affects women, men, boys and girls in different ways. Entrenched and systemic discrimination can lead to gender-differentiated impacts of climate change with respect to health, food security, livelihoods and human mobility, among other things. Intersectional forms of discrimination can make some women and girls more vulnerable to climate change, while excluding women and girls from climate action makes it less effective and further exacerbates climate harms.

The meaningful, informed and effective participation of women and girls with diverse backgrounds in relevant decision-making processes lies at the heart of a rights-based, gender responsive approach to climate action.

This inclusive approach is not only a legal, ethical and moral obligation; it will also contribute to climate action that is more effective.

Climate change has serious ramifications in four dimensions of food security: food availability, food accessibility, food utilisation and food systems stability. Women farmers currently account for 45-80 percent of all food production in developing countries depending on the region. About two-thirds of the female labour force in developing countries, and more than 90 percent in many African countries, are engaged in agricultural work.

In the context of climate change, traditional food sources become more unpredictable and scarce. Women face loss of income as well as harvests— often their sole sources of food and income. Related increases in food prices make food more inaccessible to poor people, in particular to women and girls whose health has been found to decline more than male health in times of food shortages. Furthermore, women are often excluded from decision-making on access to and the use of land and resources critical to their livelihoods.

For these reasons, it is important that the rights of rural women are ensured in regards to food security, non-discriminatory access to resources, and equitable participation in decision-making processes.



Agenda Brief

In many of these contexts, women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men—primarily as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change.

Furthermore, they face social, economic and political barriers that limit their coping capacity. Women and men in rural areas in developing countries are especially vulnerable when they are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood. Those charged with the responsibility to secure water, food and fuel for cooking and heating face the greatest challenges. Secondly, when coupled with unequal access to resources and to decision making processes, limited mobility places women in rural areas in a position where they are disproportionately affected by climate change. It is thus important to identify gender-sensitive strategies to respond to the environmental and humanitarian crises caused by climate change.

Current situation

Today, women make up more than 40% of the workforce worldwide. About 70% of women in developed countries and 60% in developing countries have paid employment. Over the past two decades, there has been a trend of accelerated growth in the number of women occupying paid jobs. The zones of gender inequality in the labour market have decreased, and the number of female entrepreneurs is noticeably increasing. The level of education received by women is increasing all over the world. Thanks to new job opportunities, women have become more independent, their status in the family and society has changed.

However, the gender pay gap still exists. The gender pay gap is defined as the difference between the average earnings of men and women as a percentage of the earnings of men. Often used to analyse the position of women in the economy; allows you to measure progress towards gender equality at the national and international levels. According to the UN, women around the world earn 77 cents of every dollar men earn for work of equal value, with the wage gap for women with children even wider. At the current rate, it will take 70 years to close the global gender pay gap.

To help solve the problem, in 1951, at the 34th session of the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Convention on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women for Work of Equal Value No. 100 was adopted. The Convention entered into force in 1953 and has been ratified by 173 countries. In a study conducted by KPMG for Australia, the proportion of factors (drivers) shaping the gender pay gap:



- Discrimination, gender stereotypes and bias in recruitment and acceptance payment decisions (39% of the gender gap);
- Breaks in the professional career of women (25%);
- Employment of men and women mainly in different sectors of the economy: there are spheres in which female labour dominates with predominantly lower wages (occupational and industrial segregation) (17%);
- Part-time (part-time) employment (7%);
- Unpaid work, including housework to care for family members (7%);

In general, the share of factors related to family and children accounts for 39% of the gender pay gap.

Climate change has different implications for women, men, boys and girls. Entrenched systemic discrimination can lead, among other things, to gender-differentiated impacts on health, food security, livelihoods and human mobility. Overlapping forms of discrimination can expose some women and girls to greater vulnerability in the context of climate change, while excluding women and girls from climate action reduces its effectiveness and further exacerbates the damage associated with climate change.

Human rights-based, gender-responsive climate action is central to the meaningful, informed and effective participation of women and girls from different backgrounds in relevant decision-making processes. This inclusive approach is not only in line with legal, ethical and moral standards; it also contributes to the effectiveness of the fight against climate change.

In its resolution 38/4 (A / HRC / RES / 38/4), the Human Rights Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights “to undertake, within available resources, a scoping study on the integration of a gender-responsive approach to climate action at local, national, regional and international levels for the full and effective realisation of women's rights”.

Published on 10 November 2015, the UNESCO Science Report: Towards 2030 notes that “women are not equally represented in key science areas related to climate change as skilled workers, professionals and decision-makers. While women are reasonably well represented in a number of related scientific disciplines, notably health, agriculture and environmental management, they are in an overwhelming minority in other areas that will be vital to the transition to sustainable development, such as energy, mechanical engineering, transport, information and computer technologies, the latter of which is especially important for warning systems, information exchange and environmental monitoring”.

Moreover, “as men tend to have higher socioeconomic status, women are disproportionately affected by droughts, floods and other extreme weather events, and are disproportionately marginalised when it comes to making decisions about recovery and adaptation,” the Report says. “A number of economic sectors will be severely affected by climate change, but these



changes will not necessarily affect women and men equally. In the tourism sector, for example, women in developing countries tend to earn less than men and are less likely to occupy leadership positions. Women are also overrepresented in the informal non-agricultural sector: 84% in sub-Saharan Africa, 86% in Asia and 58% in Latin America. Thus, there are pronounced gender differences in the ability to cope with the shocks of climate change”.

Men and women experience climate change differently. In many developing countries, there are cultural norms that discourage women from being employed. This leads to the fact that a woman's income for subsistence (for example, collecting water and growing food in the household) depends on the sectors that are influenced by the climate. Gender inequality in resource allocation and limited land use mean that women have fewer choices. For example, land-use restrictions imposed on women mean that they do not have access to fertile agricultural land, financial resources, and thus lack the ability to easily diversify their fields of activity.

The fact that women and girls are often responsible for most of the unpaid household chores means that climate change directly affects their daily lives. This means they often have to walk far to collect increasingly rare food, fuel and water. In addition, they must take care of their family members who may be at risk of health risks associated with climate change. In view of the above, women may find themselves in situations where they have less time to receive education, engage in income-generating activities and participate in community decision-making processes. This, in turn, deepens unequal relationships between men and women.



Questions to ponder upon:

- How does gender equality affect climate change?
- How can you ensure women's participation and leadership in climate policymaking?
- What are some innovative practices to advance gender-responsive climate action?
- How to ensure gender-equitable access to financial resources and technologies that are resulting from investment in climate action?
- How does energy pricing affect gender specific outcomes?
- How are women more vulnerable to the effects of climate change?
- How are women effective actors or agents of change in relation to both mitigation and adaptation?
- How does inadequate access to water and poor water quality affect women and their responsibilities?
- How can member states make financing mechanisms flexible enough to reflect women's priorities and needs?
- How can governments be encouraged to incorporate gender perspectives into their national policies?



Reference Links for Further Reading:

1. Gender and climate change Evidence and experience
https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/resrep01985.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3Ab22d9a37fa4602b2938ff3ac368a310c&ab_segments=&origin=&acceptTC=1
2. Climate Change and Gender Justice: International Policy and Legal Responses
https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/j.ctv941w8s.16.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3Adbcf6a84b43ab5ac1730b4b3572d21f4&ab_segments=&origin=
3. Addressing women in climate change policies: A focus on selected east and southern African countries
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:ca0aa88c-a568-34ea-acf8-7632256cf054>
4. Gender Responsive Climate Change Strategies for Sustainable Development
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/309012527>
5. Gender Equality in National Climate Action: Planning for Gender-Responsive Nationally Determined Contributions
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323402183_Gender_Equality_in_National_Climate_Action_Planning_for_Gender-Responsive_Nationally_Determined_Contributions
6. Gender Angle to the Climate Change Negotiations
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228550606>
7. The Environment and Gender Index: ranking gender accountability by governments in climate change policies
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:2d8f68cf-5f4c-3acf-86d6-f9252db638cd#pageNum=1>



1. Gender and Climate Change
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2. Climate change: learning from gender analysis and women's experiences of organising for sustainable development
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:d4e61fa9-7b3a-3127-a6df-47ad59399114>

3. The Importance of Gender Equality in Climate Action
<https://uu.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1522679/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

4. Gender-Responsive Strategies on Climate Change: Recent Progress and Ways Forward for Donors
https://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Gender-responsive-strategies-on-climate-change_progress-and-ways-forward-for-donors.pdf

5. Gender equality in climate action: Women at the core
<https://www.pwc.in/assets/pdfs/consulting/esg/gender-equality-in-climate-action.pdf>

6. Gender Responsive Alternatives To Climate Change
<https://actionaid.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Monash-GRACC-Report-Global-.pdf>

7. The Economics of the Gender Pay Gap
[She's-Price\(d\)less-2019-Summary-report_0.pdf \(wgea.gov.au\)](https://www.wgea.gov.au/She's-Price(d)less-2019-Summary-report_0.pdf)

8. Analytical study on gender-responsive climate action for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/41/26>

