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THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT  
(FIFTH SESSION)

68<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENT OF KENYA  
DELEGATION TO THE 68<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE  
STATUS OF WOMEN HELD IN NEWYORK, USA  
11<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2024

Clerks Chambers  
Parliament Buildings  
**NAIROBI**

 <b>THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID</b>	
DATE: 31 MAR 2026	DAY: TUE
TABLED BY:	HON. MISHI MBOKO, MP LEADER OF DELEGATION
CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE:	Y. WAMBUL
<b>MARCH 2026</b>	



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## **PREFACE**

**Hon. Speaker,**

The National Assembly participated in the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nation Commission on the Status of Women that took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024. The delegation from the National Assembly was part of a multi-sectoral delegation comprising the Executive, Parliament, Judiciary, Constitutional Commissions and civil society actors. The high-level delegation was led by Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aisha Katana Jumwa, EGH, Ministry of Gender, Culture, Arts and Heritage.

The Kenyan delegation joined participants from around the globe including 2 heads of state, 3 vice-presidents, more than 100 Ministers and ministerial delegations, 4,800 civil society representatives across at least 1,000 official and parallel side events. Together, participants charted a course for accelerating gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through poverty eradication and strengthened financing and institutions. CSW68 provided a critical platform for members to deliberate and agree on actions to increase investment in policies and programmes that address gender inequalities and boost women's agency and leadership.

The Session, anchored on the priority theme of *“Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”* culminated in the adoption of Agreed Conclusions under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Agreed Conclusions emphasized that gender equality is inseparable from sustainable development, macroeconomic stability, and poverty eradication. The implications are legislative, fiscal and oversight oriented placing specific responsibility on legislative bodies to:

- (i) Strengthen oversight of gender-responsive budgeting.
- (ii) Review tax policy through a gender lens.
- (iii) Expand social protection legislation.
- (iv) Address illicit financial flows.
- (v) Ensure domestic resource mobilization aligns with gender equality commitments.
- (vi) Institutionalize gender impact assessment of Bills.

- (vii) Strengthen public debt oversight in relation to fiscal space for social investment.
- (viii) Enhance legal protection against economic violence and discriminatory financial practices.

As a State Party to the key international and regional human rights instruments on gender equality, Kenya reaffirmed its commitments at CSW68 and endorsed the Agreed Conclusions as part of the African Group. Parliament plays a central role in translating these commitments into domestic action through legislation, budgetary oversight, and accountability mechanisms. The National Assembly, through its active participation in Kenya's CSW68 delegation, reinforced the message that legislative bodies are not merely observers of global gender commitments, but they are the primary instruments through which those commitments are financed, legislated, and enforced at the national level.

The delegation acknowledges the cooperation and support accorded to it by the Ministry of Gender, Culture, Arts and Heritage, the Head of Public Service and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations. Similarly, we thank the offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly, and the Secretariat that accompanied the delegation for the support extended to the delegation in participating in the session.

**Hon. Speaker,**

It is my pleasure and humble duty to submit the Report of the National Assembly Delegation to the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women for noting and action where necessary.

  
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**HON. MISHI MBOKO, CBS, MP**  
**LEADER OF THE DELEGATION**

**DATED:** 12th March 2026

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 Introduction

1. The 68<sup>th</sup> United Nations Commission on the Status of Women took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024 and considered the priority theme of, “*Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective*”
2. The National Assembly was represented by Members of Parliament comprising-
  - (i) The Hon. Mishi Juma Hamisi, MP (Leader of the Delegation)
  - (ii) The Hon. Rahab Mukami Wachira, MP
  - (iii) The Hon. Jessica Nduku Kiko Mbalu, MP
  - (iv) The Hon. Donya Dorice Aburi, MP
  - (v) The Hon. Rozaah Akinyi Buyu, MP
  - (vi) The Hon. Marianne Jebet Kitany, MP
  - (vii) The Hon. Agnes Matane Pareyio, MP
  - (viii) The Hon. Beatrice Adagala, MP.

### 1.1 Background

3. The United Nations 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. It is a functional Commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), established in 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.
4. The Commission holds a two-week annual event where representatives of the UN Member States, civil society groups, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the media and other UN entities converge at the UN Headquarters, in consultative status with ECOSOC, to discuss priority themes critical to the well-being of women around the globe.
5. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) first met at Lake Success, New York, in February 1947, two years after the founding of the United Nations. From its inception, the Commission was supported by a unit of the United Nations that later became the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) in the UN Secretariat. The CSW forged a close relationship with Non-Governmental Organizations, with those in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) invited to participate as observers.

6. From 1947 to 1962, the Commission focused on setting standards and formulating international conventions to change discriminatory legislation and foster global awareness of women's issues.
7. Since the codification of the legal rights of women needed to be supported by data and analysis, the Commission embarked on a global assessment of the status of women. Extensive research produced a detailed, country-by-country picture of their political and legal standing, which over time became a basis for drafting human rights instruments.
8. In 1963, efforts to consolidate standards on women's rights led the UN General Assembly to request the Commission to draft a Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which the Assembly ultimately adopted in 1967.
9. As evidence began to accumulate in the 1960s that women were disproportionately affected by poverty, the work of the Commission centred on women's needs in community and rural development, agricultural work, family planning, and scientific and technological advances. The Commission encouraged the UN system to expand its technical assistance to further the advancement of women, especially in developing countries.
10. In 1972, to mark its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Commission recommended that 1975 be designated International Women's Year, an idea endorsed by the General Assembly to draw attention to women's equality with men and to their contributions to development and peace. New UN offices dedicated to women were established, in particular the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).
11. In the following decades, the Commission organized four major World Conferences on Women and established several UN offices dedicated to various aspects of women's rights.
12. In 1985, as part of follow-up to the Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi, the Commission took the lead in coordinating and promoting the UN system's work on economic and social issues for women's empowerment. Its efforts shifted to promoting women's issues as cross-cutting and part of the mainstream, rather than as separate concerns.
13. In 2011, the four parts of the UN system, Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), (International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women) INSTRAW, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) and UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), merged to become UN Women, now the Secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women.

14. During the Commission's annual two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. They discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the key global policy document on gender equality, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly held in 2000 (Beijing+5), as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic, and social fields. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

## 1.2 Methods of Work

15. The Commission adopts multi-year programmes of work to appraise progress and make further recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action. These recommendations take the form of negotiated agreed conclusions on a priority theme. The Commission also contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

16. The Commission also considers one priority theme, based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly and linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; evaluates progress in implementing agreed conclusions from previous sessions as a review theme; discusses emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men, that require timely consideration; considers in closed meeting the report of its Working Group on Communications; agrees on further actions for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women by adopting agreed conclusions and resolutions; contributes gender perspectives to the work of other intergovernmental bodies and processes; reports on the aspects relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women of the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council, in order to contribute to its work; and celebrates International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March, whenever it falls within its Session.

17. The 68<sup>th</sup> session was structured around the following programme of work:

Modality	Description
<b>General Discussion</b>	Opening plenary discussions on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly (Beijing+5), allowing all member states to present national statements.

<b>Ministerial Segment</b>	High-level roundtables for ministers (11–15 March 2024) focused on mobilising financing for gender equality and good practices for strengthening institutions.
<b>Interactive Dialogues</b>	Structured dialogues among member states, UN entities, and civil society on the priority and review themes, and on emerging issues.
<b>Expert Panel</b>	An interactive expert panel on the priority theme, bringing together academics, practitioners, and policy experts.
<b>Intergovernmental Negotiations</b>	Two weeks of negotiations among all member states to produce the Agreed Conclusions — the session’s primary outcome document.
<b>Side Events</b>	Hundreds of official and parallel side events hosted by member states, UN agencies, and civil society organisations throughout the session.
<b>NGO Forum</b>	A parallel civil society forum (NGO CSW68) convened from 10–22 March 2024, providing space for non-governmental voices to engage with the session’s themes.

### **1.3 Normative frameworks**

18. In the preamble of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the States Parties express their concern that “in situations of poverty, women have the least access to food, health, education, training and opportunities for employment and other needs” and their conviction that “the establishment of the new international economic order based on equity and justice will contribute significantly towards the promotion of equality between men and women”.
19. In the Beijing Platform for Action, it is underscored that women’s poverty is related to the absence of economic opportunities, lack of access to economic resources, education and support services and low levels of participation in decision - making. Emphasis is also placed on the need for resources to achieve the strategic objectives under each critical area of concern. In reviews of the implementation of the Platform for Action, insufficient budget allocations for gender equality have been identified as a barrier across all 12 critical areas of concern.
20. In Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1), ending poverty is recognized as the greatest global challenge and as indispensable to the achievement of sustainable development. Through Goal 1, Member States commit to

ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030, including by reducing by at least half the proportion of women, men, boys and girls living in poverty. The Goal also addresses the need to ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources so developing countries can implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

21. An evolving normative framework on unpaid care and domestic work has emerged over the past several years. The Commission on the Status of Women recognized the increased demand for unpaid care work arising from the intersecting crises and has called for measures to reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work in the pandemic response.

#### **1.4 Relevance of the CSW68**

22. It is estimated that the world is at least 131 years away from closing the gender equality gap. Women and girls around the world continue to face disproportionate burdens, gender biases and systemic discrimination, which hinder their autonomy, deny them equal opportunities and obstruct their fundamental human rights.
23. CSW68 is a key moment to take stock of some of the most pressing issues and emerging challenges that are holding back progress on gender equality and build consensus on policies and action that can reduce the disparities in wealth, income, and access to opportunities that women and girls face.
24. Women's poverty has stark implications for the Sustainable Development Agenda. If current trends continue, around 342 million women worldwide will live in extreme poverty in 2030. Poverty increases the risk of violence against women and girls, limits education and employment opportunities, as well as their access to health care and financial inclusion. In turn, these factors keep women poorer. With rising conflicts, climate and humanitarian crises, women are the first to absorb the deepest shocks, lose their income, and take on more unpaid care and domestic work. Women and girls living in fragile contexts are nearly 8 times more likely to live in extreme poverty.
25. Despite the clear need for investing in gender equality, financial investment in women remains alarmingly low. Data from 48 development economies shows that an additional \$360 billion is needed per year to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. Burdened by debt, more countries, often the poorest, are unable to spend on essential public services that poor women and girls depend on. In the meantime, women's organizations that are vital to advancing and protecting women's rights, get insufficient financial aid. Less than one percent of the official development assistance (ODA) is going to organizations advocating for women's rights.

26. These gender equality gaps are not inevitable. CSW68 was an opportunity for Member States, civil society and experts to discuss and agree on actions to increase investment in policies and programmes that address gender inequalities and boost women's agency and leadership.

### **1.5 The Priority Theme, Review Theme and Emerging issues for CSW 68**

27. The 68<sup>th</sup> CSW session was held under the priority theme, "*Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective*". It built upon the outcomes of the 63rd CSW, which focused on reinforcing "social protection systems, access to public services, and sustainable infrastructure for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."

28. The priority theme was grounded in a stark global reality: globally, 10.3% of women lived in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$2.15 per day and they were poorer than men. Further, any progress towards ending poverty would need to be 26 times faster to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

29. Women experience higher poverty rates than men, and the gender-poverty gap is projected to persist into the mid-century. Solutions to end women's poverty are widely recognized, that is, investing in policies and programmes that address gender inequalities and boosting women's agency and leadership. Such investments yield enormous dividends and over 100 million women and girls could be lifted out of poverty if governments prioritized education and family planning, fair and equal wages, and expanded social benefits. Almost 300 million jobs could be created by 2035 through investments in care services. Closing gender gaps in employment could boost Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita by 20 per cent across all regions.

30. It is possible to make policy choices aimed at accelerating progress towards ending poverty and achieving inclusive, sustainable development for all. Accomplishing those goals requires investment in a comprehensive set of economic and social policies aimed at driving women's full economic participation, supported by gender-responsive, accountable institutions. An additional \$360 billion per year is needed to achieve gender equality across key Sustainable Development Goals, including ending poverty and hunger.<sup>1</sup> The Secretary-General called for a Sustainable Development Goal stimulus to rapidly scale up financing to accelerate progress towards the Goals. The stimulus requires action in three areas-

- (i) tackling the high cost of debt and risk of debt distress;
- (ii) massively increasing affordable and long-term financing issued by multilateral development banks; and

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), "The costs of achieving the SDGs: Gender equality."

(iii) expanding contingency financing.

31. By mobilizing resources equitably and targeting investments and policies towards ending women's and girls' poverty, it is possible to move towards a new development paradigm centred on care for people and the planet. Gender equality is a powerful catalyst for reducing poverty and driving sustainable development. By ensuring equal access to opportunities and decision-making for all, societies can create healthier and just economies. This session offered women and global leaders involved in gender affairs an opportunity to present their views and commitments towards achieving this goal.
32. The review theme was: *Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls* (Agreed Conclusions of CSW63, 2019).
33. The Bureau of the Commission, following consultations prior to the session, also identified *Artificial Intelligence to advance gender equality: challenges and opportunities* as the emerging issue for the sixty-eighth session.
34. Key debates covered feminist financing, reform of the international financial architecture, GBV, social protection, and preparations for Beijing+30.

#### **1.6 Kenya's Country Position Paper on the 68<sup>th</sup> CSW**

35. Kenya's participation at CSW68 was motivated by the Government's ongoing commitment to gender equality as a cornerstone of its development agenda. As a country that has made notable strides in women's political representation and institutional reforms, Kenya sought to share its experiences, advocate for robust global commitments, and bring home outcomes that can advance gender equality domestically.
36. Kenya prepared a Country Position Paper (CPP) to articulate its priorities, evidence base and the country's position on the 68<sup>th</sup> CSW priority theme. The Position Paper is attached as **Annex I**. The Position Paper was adopted during a pre-CSW meeting for the Kenya Government delegation that was organized by the Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 at the Pride Inn Azure, Westlands. It was an opportunity for Gender Sector fraternity in Kenya to develop and/or validate our common position relating to both the Priority and Review themes.
37. The Position Paper highlighted some of the measures that the Government had put in place to address women's poverty, bolster institutional capacity, and foster financial inclusion. These efforts align with the objectives outlined in the "Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" and contribute to the gender-responsive implementation of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

38. The paper underscored that to accelerate progress in the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through poverty alleviation and gender responsive financing, concerted efforts must be made to address the multifaceted challenges faced by women and girls, including legislative gaps, inadequate resource allocation, and systemic barriers. By prioritizing gender equality in policy-making, investing in institutional capacity building, and ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities are useful ingredients for creating a more inclusive and prosperous society for all.
39. It was concluded that financial institutions, including banks and microfinance institutions, need to collaborate with community-based organizations to develop gender-responsive financial products. These specialized financial products should account for the absence of traditional collateral, offer alternative financing solutions such as patient capital, equity, or quasi-equity and be adapted to particular contexts e.g. cross border trade and marine environment.
40. Public sector actors, in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and educational institutions, could implement financial literacy programmes that aim to enhance women's financial knowledge and skills. By empowering entrepreneurs with financial knowledge, they can make informed decisions about their financing options.
41. To improve long-term financial inclusion, public state actors, in partnership with financial institutions, need to focus on expanding the presence of banks, Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs), and Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). Establishing more branches, introducing mobile banking units, and leveraging technology to offer financial services in remote areas are long-term strategies.
42. Community-based organizations and other non-state actors can take the lead in facilitating informal financial networks and develop policies that aim to strengthen and formalize informal financial networks. This can be achieved by encouraging the creation of community-based lending and borrowing associations and peer-to-peer lending platforms.
43. In summary, the Paper highlighted that while Kenya has established a strong constitutional, legislative and policy framework to advance gender equality and women's economic empowerment, poverty among women remains multidimensional and structurally entrenched. It underscored the disproportionate burden of poverty, unpaid care work, limited land ownership and constrained access to productive resources faced by women and girls, despite significant gains in financial inclusion, affirmative financing, social protection expansion and access to justice. The Paper emphasized the need to strengthen gender-responsive budgeting, improve tracking of public expenditure, operationalize the two-thirds gender principle, expand care economy reforms, and align climate and fiscal policy with gender priorities. Ultimately, it framed gender equality not

merely as a social objective, but as a fiscal, institutional and governance imperative requiring sustained political commitment and increased resource allocation.

44. The Country Position Paper was presented at the 68<sup>th</sup> CSW on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### **1.7 Africa's Position Paper on the 68<sup>th</sup> CSW**

45. Prior to the 68<sup>th</sup> CSW, the African Union Ministers responsible for Gender and Women Affairs held preparatory meetings. The 68<sup>th</sup> pre-Commission on the Status of Women in Africa (Pre-CSW68) Ministerial consultations convened by the African Union Commission in partnership with UN Women, ECA, ITU, and UNDP were held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at Addis Ababa and virtually.

46. The 68<sup>th</sup> Pre-CSW Africa Consultations, were held with a view to build consensus on strategies and actions for ensuring that African women and girls are not left behind by development policies, processes and institutions aiming to eradicate poverty, reform the financial system and strengthen development institutions.

47. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Common Africa Position for CSW68 and made recommendations on the following -

- (a) Addressing women's poverty through social and institutional measures;
- (b) Reforming financial architecture to be gender sensitive;
- (c) Investing in women's rights institutions and organisations;

48. Some of the key messages from Africa's Position Paper included-

- (a) Women's poverty is structural, driven by inequalities in the household, labour market and state institutions, and compounded by discrimination, conflict, climate change and economic shocks;
- (b) International financial systems require reform to address Africa's development financing gaps and the specific needs of women and girls.
- (c) Sovereign debt burdens and illicit financial flows constrain fiscal space, undermining investments in social development and gender equality.
- (d) Climate change, conflict and humanitarian crises disproportionately affect women, intensifying poverty and food insecurity.
- (e) Gender-responsive budgeting and progressive tax reforms are essential tools for accelerating poverty eradication.
- (f) Women's organizations and civic spaces must be strengthened to enhance accountability, participation and inclusive decision-making.
- (g) Digital inclusion and access to technology are critical enablers for women's economic participation, trade and financial inclusion.
- (h) Eradicating the feminization of poverty requires deliberate, systematic and accountable state action, not isolated programmes.

49. Kenya, as a member of the African Group, endorsed the Africa Common Position and coordinated closely with the Group during negotiations to ensure the CAP priorities were reflected in the CSW68 Agreed Conclusions.

## CHAPTER TWO: DELIBERATIONS AT THE CSW 68

50. Governments, Civil Society Organizations, Experts and Activists from across the globe came together to agree on actions and investments that can end women's poverty and advance gender equality.
51. As a Member State, Kenya effectively participated in the CSW68 meeting in New York. The Kenyan Delegates participated in interactive dialogues, interactive expert panels, consultations and side events. The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Culture, Arts and Heritage Hon. Aisha Jumwa, and, in her absence, the Principal Secretary led the Kenyan Delegates through daily briefing meetings in which programme and daily schedule of work was shared and distributed. Feedback for previous events was also shared by delegates.

### 2.1 MAIN PROGRAM

52. The CSW 68 comprised of the Main Program and Side-Events. The Main Program and a program for the side-events are attached as **Annex 2 and 3** respectively.
53. The session of the Commission included a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human rights and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the deliberations of the Commission. The segment included ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices, as well as a general discussion on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The Council recommended that statements identify goals attained, achievements made and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges in relation to the priority theme and the review theme.
54. Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aisha Jumwa led the Kenya delegation to the opening of CSW68 on 11 March 2024, and delivered Kenya's National Statement underscoring actions taken by the Government in empowering women and girls and strengthening gender-responsive economic and social policies. The National Statement is attached as **Annex 4**
55. Kenya highlighted that women constitute 32% of Cabinet, and that the Judiciary had established 11 specialised GBV courts equipped with judicial officers trained in trauma-informed approaches to prioritise survivors' safety. Also highlighted were: the Women Enterprise Fund, affirmative action in procurement, the National Care Policy, the two-thirds gender principle working group, and participation in the African Girls Can Code Initiative.

### **2.1.1 Ministerial Roundtable**

56. The Ministerial segment ran from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 and featured two high-level roundtables for ministers and senior officials. The roundtables were the centerpiece of the session's ministerial engagement where Ministers also presented their country position papers.
57. In Ministerial Roundtable 1 held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the theme was "*Mobilizing financing for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls: Policies and strategies to end women's and girls' poverty.*" The Minister-level discussions focused on closing the \$360 billion annual financing gap for gender equality. Key themes included: gender-responsive budgeting, innovative financing instruments, domestic resource mobilisation, reform of international financial architecture, and investment in the care economy. Ministers stressed the need for Official Development Assistance (ODA) to be better targeted at women's organisations and grassroots initiatives
58. In Ministerial Roundtable 2 held from 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the theme was "*Good practices for strengthening institutions and maximizing financing to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.*" This roundtable examined how national institutions can be reformed and resourced to deliver gender equality outcomes. Ministers shared experiences on gender mainstreaming in government, national women's machineries, accountability frameworks, and data systems. The African Union Ministerial Consultation Meeting was held on 15 March to coordinate Africa's position.
59. Kenya participated in the ministerial segment, representing Kenya in discussions on both themes. Kenya's contributions highlighted the country's experiences with gender-responsive governance, including women's representation in Cabinet and the specialised Gender Based Violence court system.

### **2.1.2 Interactive dialogue among youth representatives**

60. The CSW68 Youth Forum was held from 15 to 17 March 2024, opening at the UN Secretariat before moving to the United Nations International School. The forum convened over 400 young leaders from across the globe including activists, experts, and advocates with diverse experiences.
61. The Commission held one interactive dialogue on the priority theme which facilitated exchanges among youth representatives from delegations of Member States on the 14 March 2024. Participants exchanged experiences, knowledge, lessons learned and good practices, with an emphasis on the multiple dimensions of inequality, which exacerbate how young women and girls experience poverty. The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines, Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, made an introductory statement and chaired the dialogue.

62. Speakers underscored the imperative of recognizing and tackling the distinct obstacles encountered by underrepresented and marginalized women and girls, which heightened their vulnerability to poverty throughout their lives. The compounding socioeconomic hurdles faced by women and girls subjected to discrimination and inequality based on such factors as race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity were emphasized as critical concerns. Effective strategies for poverty eradication must include acknowledgement of, and measures to address, the multiple and intersecting dimensions of poverty, with the comprehensive inclusion of all women and girls in all their diversity ensured in the design, implementation and evaluation of interventions. They emphasized that women and girls in impoverished circumstances faced significant barriers in gaining access to essential resources, such as food, health care, housing, education, skills training and employment opportunities.
63. Participants highlighted the role of education and its lack thereof as a major impediment for girls and women living in poverty. They emphasized that school attendance and retention rates were adversely affected by several factors, including conflicts, the disproportionate burden of care and domestic work, harmful social norms and practices, and inadequate financial resources for educational expenses. Securing financing for education, establishing robust social protection mechanisms and redistributing the burden of care and domestic work were therefore considered essential in improving literacy rates and the quality of education for all women and girls.
64. Speakers voiced concern with regard to barriers to employment options and overrepresentation of women in the informal economy. Lack of decent pay and the gender pay gap perpetuated the economic vulnerability and impoverishment of women. In addition, the substantial time commitment required for the unpaid care and domestic responsibilities taken on by women, particularly among the world's poorest households, remained a significant barrier to gaining access to the education, training and skill development necessary for engaging in formal employment opportunities.
65. Participants highlighted the critical nexus between poverty and violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, underscoring it as a major area of concern that profoundly affected the health and safety of young women and girls, resulting in heightened school dropout rates and hindering their ability to secure and maintain meaningful employment.
66. Speakers underscored the significant challenges posed by the lack of access to quality health-care services and by insufficient food and nutrition in the ongoing struggle to eradicate poverty among young women and girls. Access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, including contraception to prevent unplanned pregnancies, emerged as a crucial tool in breaking the cycle of poverty for many low-income families.

67. As a way forward speakers highlighted a range of strategies aimed at empowering young women and girls and enhancing and enforcing social protection schemes in which discriminatory gender norms were acknowledged and efforts were made to counteract them. These include-
- (i) establishing robust regulatory and policy frameworks with a gender lens to address the challenges encountered by young people;
  - (ii) achieving gender equality in political leadership and decision-making roles at all levels and supporting youth participation in electoral processes and intergovernmental decision-making, with a view to ensuring that youth voices were heard and considered;
  - (iii) forming partnerships with youth-led and women-led civil society organizations as these were recognized as central to the eradication of poverty;
  - (iv) increase in travel and technology grants to facilitate the participation of young people from conflict affected or impoverished areas in international dialogues;
  - (v) a comprehensive approach involving government, international financial institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations for coordinated and impactful interventions;
  - (vi) increased investments in key areas such as education, care systems, social protection mechanisms, digital literacy and skills, entrepreneurship, menstrual health, gender-responsive crisis response and rural development with a view to combating poverty among young women and girls.
68. Speakers called for the solutions proposed by young people to current challenges to be applied immediately and not relegated for consideration in the future. Speakers also highlighted the significance of the upcoming Summit of the Future and the Pact for the Future as important opportunities to integrate youth perspectives into efforts addressing global challenges and to collectively envision the future.
69. The Youth Forum was aligned with the CSW68 priority theme and served as a dynamic space for young people to engage directly with policymakers, articulate their ideas, and foreground their priorities on accountability. Young leaders emphasized the intersection of education, poverty, and gender: *“Girls are often seen as taking up space. Education is a tool for getting women and girls out of poverty, especially in the rural areas.”* Youth delegates called for increased political representation of young women and meaningful inclusion in decision-making processes at all levels. The Forum stressed the importance of the 2024 United States’ Presidential elections year, with 2.6 billion people expected to vote, as an opportunity to demand greater investment in gender equality. Youth called for accountability in implementation of Generation Equality Forum commitments, Beijing Platform obligations, and SDG 5 targets ahead of Beijing+30 in 2025. The Forum’s finale produced the *“CSW68 Global Youth and Adolescent Recommendations”*, a set of recommendations casting a gender lens on poverty reduction efforts.

### **2.1.3 Interactive expert panel on the priority theme**

70. The Commission held one interactive expert panel dialogue on the priority theme with the participation of experts from Governments, representatives of civil society and other stakeholder groups that work on the priority theme. The panel was convened to provide evidence-based analysis on the priority theme, drawing on research, data, and policy expertise from across disciplines. The panel examined multiple dimensions of the gender-poverty nexus and presented recommendations for member state action.

71. Key themes from the expert panel included:

- (a) Macroeconomic policy and its potential for reducing and redistributing poor women's unpaid labour.
- (b) The international financial system and its structural impact on women's poverty in developing countries, including through debt burden and conditionality.
- (c) Gender-responsive climate finance as a key lever for just climate action and tackling intersecting inequalities.
- (d) Learnings on promoting gender-responsive budget systems, including from developing country experiences.
- (e) Sexual and reproductive health and rights as a key pillar to addressing poverty from a gender perspective.
- (f) The Orange Bond Initiative: a financial instrument connecting grassroots women's organisations to capital markets for gender equality investment.
- (g) Applying the human rights framework to address gendered poverty, with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights presenting on accountability mechanisms.

72. The panel findings fed directly into the intergovernmental negotiations on the Agreed Conclusions.

### **2.1.4 Interactive dialogues on the review theme**

73. The Commission held two interactive dialogues with voluntary presentations by Member States from different regions on the review theme. The review theme for CSW68 revisited the Agreed Conclusions of CSW63 (2019) on "*Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.*"

74. The interactive dialogue on the review theme examined progress made since 2019 and identified persistent gaps, with particular attention to:

- (a) The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on social protection systems and the disproportionate burden borne by women, including as care workers and as recipients of social services.

- (b) Universal health coverage and maternal health as both a social protection and a poverty reduction issue, particularly in low-income countries.
- (c) The role of sustainable infrastructure in enabling women's economic participation and reducing time poverty.
- (d) Access to public services including education, health, and social protection for women in rural areas, conflict zones, and other marginalised settings.
- (e) The critical importance of gender-sensitive design of social protection programmes to avoid reinforcing existing inequalities.

75. A high-level panel convened by UN Women discussed how social protection can be harnessed to realise human rights, promote gender equality, and eradicate poverty, especially in the context of multiple crises and repeated shocks. As a member of the African Group, Kenya participated in these dialogues, drawing on domestic experience with cash transfer programmes and health insurance coverage.

76. An additional interactive dialogue was held on the emerging issue of “*Artificial Intelligence to advance gender equality: challenges and opportunities*” where member states and experts examined how AI can both advance and impede gender equality outcomes depending on how it is designed, governed, and deployed.

## **2.2 SIDE-EVENTS CO-HOSTED OR SPONSORED BY KENYA**

77. Kenya co-hosted four official and parallel side events during CSW68. These events provided Kenya with a platform to showcase domestic progress, engage international partners, and contribute to the global conversation on gender equality themes relevant to the session.

### **2.2.1 From Commitment to Action: Accelerating achievements of Generation Equality Forum (GEF) on Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Kenya.**

78. The official CSW68 side event was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The event focused on Kenya's accountability as co-leader of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) GBV Action Coalition. It took stock of progress against Kenya's 12 GEF commitments on GBV and examined pathways to translate pledges into concrete action at national and county levels. The Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) 2022 found that 34% of women aged 15–49 have experienced physical violence since age 15, with the rate rising to 58% among divorced, separated, or widowed women.

79. The panellists included the Government of Kenya, Government of Iceland, Ford Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, GEF-UK, European Union, Equality Now and UN-Women. Cabinet Secretary Aisha Jumwa affirmed Kenya's commitment as co-leader of the GEF GBV Action Coalition to accelerate efforts toward gender equality and the elimination of harmful practices. Anne Wang'ombe, Principal Secretary, State

Department for Gender and Affirmative Action. She spoke on Kenya's role as co-leader of the GEF GBV Action Coalition, reaffirming the commitment to accelerating gender equality and eliminating harmful practices that deprive victims of their dignity. Other speakers outlined Kenya's wide range of commitments to gender equality, detailing Kenya's 12-action plan targeting GBV at both national and county levels, including toll-free lines and clinics for GBV survivors. Since the global adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Kenya has adopted policy and legal measures on GBV including the Sexual Offences Act (2006), the National Policy on Prevention and Response to GBV (2014), the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2019), and the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act (2015).

80. It was noted that 12 Specialized Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Courts had been established, staffed by judicial officers trained in trauma-informed approaches that prioritize victims' safety, dignity, and privacy.
81. The Session concluded by underscoring the need for GEF and related initiatives, the adoption of a multi-sectoral approach, renewing the attention to the impact of GBV; the Emerging issues around GBV, for instance the technology facilitated GBV, need to advance data collection initiatives, the alertness of the GEF closing window and to maximise the available opportunities and amplifying the voices of GBV survivors. Kenya committed to investing USD 23 million for GBV prevention and response by 2022, increasing to USD 50 million by 2026 through a co-financing model

### **2.2.2 Promoting Women's Empowerment: Exploring the intersection of Unpaid Care work and land rights for Gender Justice**

82. The side event focusing on the dual burden of unpaid care work and insecure land rights as structural drivers of women's poverty was held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The panellists included Government of Kenya, Government of Zimbabwe, Government of Senegal, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Oxfam, UN Women, and Canadian High Commission.
83. Panellists examined two intersecting structural barriers that trap women in poverty: the disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work, and unequal access to and control over land. The discussion drew on Kenya's policy experience and evidence from across Africa and the Global South. According to the 2012 World Bank Development Report, unpaid care work contributes USD \$10 trillion of output per year, equivalent to 13% of global GDP, yet remains invisible from official GDP calculations and government policies. The International Labour Organization (ILO) finds that three-quarters of all unpaid care work globally is undertaken by women and girls
84. In Kenya, specifically, women spend an estimated four hours and 38 minutes per day on unpaid domestic and care work, compared to one hour and one minute for men. This

disproportionate care burden leads to time poverty and opportunity costs, reduced access to education and skills development, increased labour force participation gender gaps, increased income inequality, and mental health burdens.

85. The total economic value of women's unpaid care activities stands at KShs.237.8 billion, compared to Sh31.8 billion for men. If unpaid care work were remunerated, each woman aged 15 years and above would earn KShs.118, 845 annually, while men in the same age group would earn KShs.22, 676.
86. Kenya's National Care Policy was developed in response to these findings and is viewed as a structural approach to redistributing the burden of unpaid care through investment in care infrastructure, including childcare, eldercare, and community services. This policy, the second of its kind in Africa after Cape Verde, seeks to recognize, reduce, redistribute, reward, represent, and resource (5R+) unpaid care work and to integrate gender-responsive care planning into national and county budgets. By recognizing the value of care work, redistributing responsibilities, and creating policies that make care work more manageable, the country is taking a major step toward closing the gender gap. This initiative has the potential to transform lives, uplift women, and boost Kenya's economy.
87. Panellists assessed women's land rights as an economic empowerment issue as secure land tenure enables women to access credit, invest in agriculture, and build wealth. Land is a key social and economic asset, crucial for cultural identity, political power, and participation in decision making. In Kenya, only 27% of women own land either alone or jointly, compared to 34% of men.
88. It was noted that customary land tenure systems continue to disadvantage women in many parts of Kenya. Less than 2% of land in Kenya is owned by women, and only 10.3% of Kenyan women own land title deeds. Because land is the primary factor of production, without land the level of poverty is quite high for women. Separated, divorced, and widowed women risk losing their homes to their husbands or their husbands' families under customary laws. Legislative and policy reforms were therefore identified as crucial to strengthen women's land rights, including implementation of Kenya's Community Land Act and National Land Policy. The Constitution of Kenya (Chapter Five) provides that there shall be equitable access to land, security of land rights, and elimination of gender discrimination in law, customs and practices related to land and property. This is reinforced by the Matrimonial Property Act (2013), the Community Land Act (2016), and the National Land Policy (2009). The Ardhisasa (National Land Information Management System) had also been launched to promote transparent and gender-disaggregated land records.
89. At the end of the session, it was observed that women's unpaid care burden reduces their ability to participate in paid work, access education, and engage in civic life.

### **2.2.3 Bridging the Gender Digital Divide- Amplifying Financial Inclusion to Address Time Poverty in Kenya**

90. The event was held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014 sponsored by the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and Mama Doing Good. The panellists included representatives from the Government of Kenya, Government of Zimbabwe, Government of Rwanda, Government of Uganda, Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CRAWN) Trust and World Bank.
91. The objective of this session was to examine how bridging the gender digital divide can unlock financial inclusion for women in Kenya, and how digital tools can reduce women's time poverty.
92. The Hon. Mishi Mboko, CBS, made remarks during the session. She observed that, since the advent of mobile money in Kenya, revolutionized by M-Pesa, has been a cornerstone of financial inclusion in the 21st century. Mobile phone adoption stands at 93% for men and 88% for women the highest in the African region. The number of mobile money accounts grew from KShs.1.27 million in 2007 to KShs.68.03 million by December 2021. Yet a persistent gap sees women lagging behind men in harnessing digital tools, manifesting in access, ownership of digital devices, digital fluency, and the capacity to make meaningful use of technology.
93. In Kenya, because numerous basic services are delivered through digital platforms such as e-Citizen, iTax, and Ardhisasa, women from poor and marginalized communities who lack digital access cannot fully benefit from the digital economy. Unaffordability is consistently the main barrier to digital inclusion. The digital divide is amplified by time poverty: women disproportionately shoulder unpaid care work and dependence on low-quality public services, creating a cyclical pattern of inequality where women have less time for educational, entrepreneurial, or leisure activities.
94. Certain government actions had been undertaken to amplify financial inclusion. Over 10,000 government services have been digitized through the e-Citizen platform, with financial services including NSSF and social protection programmes accessible digitally thus creating a natural push for women to acquire digital skills. Constituency Digital Hubs, Public WiFi access points in markets and schools, and a Digital Learning Programme had been established. The Universal Service Fund supports network access in far-flung areas. Additionally, social protection programmes including the National Government Affirmative Action Fund, the Women Enterprise Fund, and the Hustler Fund are accessible through mobile finance platforms. Kenya Women Parliamentarians (KEWOPA) in collaboration with Google through the "#IamRemarkable" initiative, has been promoting digital skills transformation among women.

95. At the end of the session it was underscored that there is need to promote and support research into robust mobile and digital systems that can reach people in remote areas. Enacting regulations encouraging banks and financial institutions to serve all population segments, including low-cost banking and lending accounts, and strengthening consumer protection laws would enhance financial access.
96. There is a need to strengthen partnerships between state and non-state actors to unlock digital potential for the most excluded women and also to establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the effectiveness of digital and financial inclusion strategies.

#### **2.2.4 Leveraging on health investments for better maternal outcomes and poverty reduction**

97. The event was held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and was co-hosted by the Government of Kenya. Speakers from the Government of Rwanda, Governor of Homabay County - H.E Gladys Wanga, The Hon Millie Odhiambo, MP, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) South Africa, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Options Consultancy Limited gave insights on the topic.
98. This event focused on the intersection of maternal health, health financing and women's poverty. It examined the critical link between investment in maternal health, women's economic empowerment, and poverty reduction. Poor maternal health outcomes are both a cause and a consequence of women's poverty: women who die or suffer serious illness during childbirth are disproportionately poor, and the economic costs of poor maternal health trap families in cycles of poverty.
99. It was observed that The World Health Organization (WHO) defines the SDG target 3.1 as reducing maternal mortality to less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030. In Kenya, in 2020, the maternal mortality ratio was 530 deaths per 100,000 live births which is significantly higher than the global average of 223 per 100,000. Kenya's neonatal death rate is 21 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to a global rate of 18 per 1,000. Poverty exacerbates maternal health challenges by limiting access to essential healthcare services including prenatal care, skilled attendance during childbirth, and postnatal care. Women living in poverty are at higher risk of maternal complications and mortality
100. In November 2023, Parliament enacted four health laws: the Social Health Insurance Act, the Primary Healthcare Act, the Digital Health Act, and the Facilities Improvement Financing Act establishing the Social Health Authority and three health funds to move towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). While health insurance coverage remains low at 25% overall and less than 5% among the low-income group, the new Social Health Insurance framework provides fully publicly-financed primary healthcare and guaranteed access to emergency care, designed to alleviate financial barriers.

101. The Parliament of Kenya, as the budget-making body, plays a critical role in increasing health investment and ensuring it reaches the most vulnerable women, particularly in rural counties.
102. The four most critical interventions for maternal health outcomes were identified as family planning, antenatal care, skilled delivery care, and postnatal care. Addressing inequalities in sexual and reproductive health and rights, and engaging stakeholders at all levels including community leaders and women's groups, are essential to fostering a supportive environment for maternal health and poverty reduction.

## **CHAPTER THREE: CONCLUSIONS ADOPTED BY MEMBER STATES**

### **3.1 Agreed Conclusions adopted by Members States**

103. The Agreed Conclusions adopted by Member States provide a blueprint for all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society and youth to promote the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The Conclusions present recommendations directed at governments, intergovernmental bodies, civil society, and other stakeholders for implementation at international, national, regional, and local levels
104. After more than two weeks of intensive negotiations, CSW68 adopted its Agreed Conclusions by consensus on 22 March 2024, in a session chaired by H.E. Antonio M. Lagdameo, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, with facilitation by H.E. Yoka Brandt, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations. The Agreed Conclusions constituted the session's primary outcome document and set out a comprehensive roadmap for accelerating gender equality by addressing poverty, strengthening institutions, and improving financing with a gender perspective. T
105. The Commission also adopted the Resolution on Women, the Girl Child and HIV and AIDS, calling for increased investment in gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the HIV-AIDS response.
106. CSW68 also marked a historic milestone: for the first time, Agreed Conclusions included explicit recognition of the importance of investing in girls' specific needs to break intergenerational cycles of discrimination, violence, and poverty.
107. The key thematic areas of the Agreed Conclusions are summarised below:
- (a) **Integrate a gender perspective into financing for development commitments**

The Agreed Conclusions called on member states and the international community to:

- (i) Implement bold reforms to the international financial architecture to make it more equitable, inclusive, and gender-responsive, including through debt relief for developing countries and improved access to concessional finance.
- (ii) Increase official development assistance (ODA) for gender equality and women's empowerment, noting that less than 1% of ODA currently reaches women's rights organisations.
- (iii) Strengthen gender-responsive budgeting across all levels of government, including through mandatory gender impact assessments of fiscal policy measures.

- (iv) Develop innovative financing instruments for gender equality, including social impact bonds, blended finance, and gender-lens investing mechanisms.
- (v) Adopt progressive taxation measures and combat illicit financial flows that deprive developing countries of resources for gender equality programmes.
- (vi) Raise USD 300 million for women's organisations operating in conflict and crisis settings over a three-year period, in line with Generation Equality Forum commitments.

**(b) 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**

The Agreed Conclusions called on member states to:

- (i) Accelerate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly (Beijing+5), in advance of the 30th anniversary review in 2025.
- (ii) Fulfil obligations under the Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol, including by withdrawing reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.
- (iii) Strengthen accountability frameworks for gender equality commitments, including through national review processes, data systems, and civil society engagement.
- (iv) Ensure full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in all decision-making processes, including in peace negotiations, climate forums, and economic governance bodies.
- (v) Protect and guarantee universal access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), aligned with the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action.
- (vi) Invest in high-quality, sex-disaggregated, and intersectional data systems, with particular attention to women with disabilities, indigenous women, and other marginalised groups.
- (vii) Address the structural drivers of women's poverty, including discriminatory laws and practices, unequal access to education and health care, and the unequal distribution of unpaid care work.

**(c) Consider the importance of the ratification of and, for those that have done so, implementation of the fundamental conventions of the International**

## **Labour Organization (ILO) and note the importance of other relevant international labour standards**

The Agreed Conclusions recognised the importance of:

- (i) Ratifying and fully implementing ILO fundamental conventions, including those on freedom of association and collective bargaining, elimination of forced and child labour, and non-discrimination in employment.
- (ii) Extending social protection to all women workers, including those in the informal economy, domestic workers, and agricultural workers, in line with ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation No. 202.
- (iii) Closing gender pay gaps through legislation, pay transparency measures, and collective bargaining, in line with the ILO Equal Remuneration Convention.
- (iv) Eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work, including through implementation of ILO Convention No. 190 and its accompanying Recommendation No. 206.
- (v) Addressing the care economy through policies that redistribute, reduce, and recognise unpaid care work, and ensure paid care workers, predominantly women, have decent working conditions.
- (vi) Investing in quality job creation in sectors where women are concentrated, including agriculture, health, education, and care, with particular attention to decent work standards.

### **3.2 Kenya's Endorsement of the Agreed Conclusions**

108. Kenya endorsed the Agreed Conclusions as part of the African Group and the broader UN membership, affirming the following commitments from its official Communiqué on the Outcomes:

1. That the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its reviews, and outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development.
2. Recognition of the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
3. That Governments bear primary responsibility for follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda at national, regional and global levels.
4. That progress in achieving gender equality has been held back due to poverty, absence of economic opportunities including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to quality education, and women's limited participation in decision-making.

5. Further concern that climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately affect women and girls.
6. Deep concern that all forms of violence against women and girls are pervasive, under recognized and underreported, particularly at the community level.
7. That empowerment of and investment in girls, and strengthening of their voice, agency and leadership are key factors in eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and poverty.
8. That empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and as agents of change in their own lives and communities.
9. That girls remain more likely than boys to be excluded from education due to child labour, early and forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), GBV, sexual violence, abuse and harassment and lack of safe and adequate sanitation.
10. Commitment to increase investments in inclusive, affordable and equitable quality education including early childhood education, youth and adult literacy programmes.
11. The importance of promoting the rights, participation and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities and addressing the barriers they face.
12. The importance of the empowerment of indigenous women and girls.
13. That national mechanisms for gender equality are important institutions contributing to policy development and implementation.
14. Recognition of the major contributions of civil society organizations, especially women's rights organizations, in promoting and protecting the human rights of all women and girls.
15. The importance of full engagement of men and boys as agents, beneficiaries of change, and allies in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

### **3.3 69th Session of the Commission on Status of Women**

109. The 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be a special session with its main focus being the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, marking the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Beijing+30.

## CHAPTER FOUR: OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 4.1 Observations

110. The Delegation observed that Kenya's official Communiqué on the Outcomes had identified the following six priority areas for national action:

- (a) **With respect to gender responsive financing-** integrating a gender perspective into financing for development commitments, including through gender-responsive budgeting across national and county governments;
- (b) **With respect to institutions and social policies-** implementation of gender-responsive economic and social policies and strengthen public institutions, including the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action and the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC);
- (c) **With respect to fiscal space for women-** expansion of the fiscal space for investments to end poverty for women and girls, including through increased budget allocations for gender equality programmes;
- (d) **With respect to sustainable development-** fostering new development strategies towards sustainable economies and sustainable societies, aligned with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).
- (e) **With respect to women's organisations-** engaging and financing women's organizations and collectives, supporting women's cooperatives, trade unions, and associations to advocate for rights at work. Fully engaging men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change.
- (f) **With respect to data and statistics-** enhancing multidimensional poverty data and statistics by strengthening capacities of Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, collecting and using disaggregated gender statistics, and strengthening cooperation among all stakeholders in systematic data collection.

111. The Delegation further observed that:

- (a) Kenya's participation at CSW68 was substantive, high-level, and impactful. The delegation contributed to key deliberations, hosted and co-hosted four side events, and endorsed the Agreed Conclusions as Kenya's collective commitment to a global roadmap for ending women's and girl's poverty;
- (b) The session reinforced that gender equality is not only a matter of rights but of economic imperative. As Kenya continues implementation of its Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda and prepares for Beijing+30 in 2025, the outcomes of CSW68 provide a clear framework for renewed domestic action and Kenya had committed to a comprehensive national review process;
- (c) Kenya role as co-leader of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) Gender-Based Violence Action Coalition, carries with it a national commitment to invest USD 50 million by 2026 in GBV prevention and response through a co-financing model. This obligation requires sustained parliamentary oversight and budgetary support;

- (d) The State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action(SDGAA) would lead follow-up on the Agreed Conclusions, coordinating with line ministries, county governments, civil society, and development partners to translate the global commitments into concrete and measurable results for the women and girls of Kenya;
- (e) The daily feedback and reflections shared by Kenyan delegates while in New York were invaluable in informing the delegation's positions and enriching Kenya's overall contribution to the session;
- (f) A clear chronological outline of activities, processes and events entailed in the preparation of CSW should be documented. A thorough briefing to the Leadership and Key Stakeholders, including the National Assembly, setting out the roles and responsibilities of all actors, should be prepared well in advance of future sessions;
- (g) The criteria and process governing invitations to the National Planning Committee (NPC), accreditation, and inclusion on the official Kenyan Delegation List require re-evaluation. It was observed that certain state organs had nominated representatives in response to a formal letter from the SDGAA, only for some representatives to be excluded from the Head of Public Service List, notwithstanding the readiness of their nominating organisations to facilitate their own travel. This requires a transparent and consistent process going forward;
- (h) The Principal Secretary SDGAA, the Secretariat and CSW Delegates should be informed in advance of any Side Events where senior Kenyan Officials, including Members of Parliament are expected to speak to enable proper coordination, preparation, and visibility; and
- (i) The meaningful involvement of Parliament in the CSW planning process is both necessary and overdue. Further, timely provision of relevant information by the SDGAA to all delegates, including background documents, programme schedules, and speaking briefs, is essential to enable adequate preparation and effective participation.

#### **4.2 Recommendation**

112. The Delegation to the 68<sup>th</sup> Session on the Commission of the Status of Women urges the National Assembly to Note this Report.

## **ANNEXURES**

**Annex 1- Kenya's Position Paper**

**Annex 2- CSW 68 Main Program**

**Annex 3- CSW 68 Side-Events Program**

**Annex 4- Kenya's National Statement**

**Annex 5- CSW 68 Agreed Conclusions**

Annex 1 - Country  
Position Paper

Annex 1 - Country

Position Paper



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**MINISTRY OF GENDER, CULTURE, THE ARTS AND HERITAGE**

**COUNTRY POSITION PAPER TO THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW68)**

**THEME: “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women  
and girls by **addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender  
perspective**”.**

**11<sup>TH</sup> – 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024, UN HEADQUARTERS**

**NEW YORK**

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AGOA	Africa Growth and Opportunity Act
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
ASALS	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action
CBC	Competency-Based Curriculum
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
EAC	East African Community
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
HELB	Higher Education Loans Board
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICDP	International Conference on Population and Development
Ksh	Kenya Shillings
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
LPO	Local Purchase Order
MSWG	Multi-Sectoral Working Group
MTP	Medium-Term Plan
NEMIS	National Education Management Information System
NHIF	National Health Insurance Fund
NITA	National Industrial Training Authority
NGAAF	National Government Affirmative Action Fund
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
PPP	Public-Private Partnerships
SAGAs	Semi Autonomous Government Agencies
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering Mathematics
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
WEE	Women's Economic Empowerment
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

The Sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, convening from 11 – 22 March 2024, is themed "accelerating gender equality and Women's Empowerment by tackling poverty and Enhancing Institutional and Financial Systems with a Gender Perspective." This session builds upon the outcomes of the 63rd CSW, which focused on reinforcing "social protection systems, access to public services, and sustainable infrastructure for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls."

This report evaluates the initiatives undertaken by the Government of Kenya to address women's poverty, bolster institutional capacity, and foster financial inclusion. These efforts align with the objectives outlined in the "Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action" and contribute to the gender-responsive implementation of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

### **Global Context**

#### **1.2 Women and Poverty Globally**

Globally, recent years have witnessed a convergence of crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions, unsustainable sovereign debt levels, and a cost-of-living crisis, exacerbating poverty. Simultaneously, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation deepen poverty and inequality. Women are disproportionately affected by poverty, with the gender poverty gap projected to persist. Climate change disproportionately impacts women and girls, particularly those in impoverished or rural communities reliant on natural resources. In the worst-case climate scenario, an estimated 158.3 million additional women and girls could fall into poverty by 2050.

Women and girls, grappling with the effects of climate change such as flood, droughts and other crises, often face displacement, both within and beyond borders. Women and girls make up half of internally displaced or stateless persons globally. Those in humanitarian and fragile contexts confront acute poverty, heightened violence risks, and limited educational and employment prospects. Women and girls in fragile areas are 7.7 times more likely to live in extreme poverty or on less than \$2.15 a day.

The 2023 report on Financing for Sustainable Development highlights a concerning trend, with 70-80 million more people living in poverty in 2022 compared to pre-pandemic forecasts, stalling global progress toward poverty eradication. Notably, 62.8 per cent of those thrust into extreme poverty are women from Africa.

While progress has been made in narrowing the global gender gap in health, education, economic participation, and political empowerment, significant disparities persist. The World Bank and the World Economic Forum indicate that 68.8% of the gender gap closed in 2019, up from 68.0% in

2017. However, economic participation and political empowerment gender gaps remain wide, with indices of 57.8% and 24.7%, respectively, in 2020. It is projected that, without concerted efforts, bridging the gender gap will take 99 years.

Women's poverty is recognized as a human rights issue, impeding their enjoyment of an adequate standard of living and other related economic, social, and cultural rights. Accelerating progress towards ending poverty and achieving inclusive, sustainable development necessitates policy decisions that prioritize investment in economic and social policies promoting women's full economic participation, supported by gender-responsive and accountable institutions.

## NATIONAL CONTEXT

### 1.3 Women and Poverty in Kenya

According to the United Nations (UN), poverty entails more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Its manifestations include **hunger and malnutrition, limited access to basic services such as education, health, water, social discrimination** and exclusion as well as lack of participation in **decision making**. Poverty and inequality prevent women and girls from enjoying the right to an adequate standard of living and other interrelated **economic, social, and cultural rights**. In Kenya, like many parts of Africa and the developing world, women and girls continue to bear the largest and most direct cost to existing inequalities that cut broadly across society.

Poverty levels have been declining in Kenya, according to the KIHBS 2015/16 the poverty index was 36.1% rising to 45.1 in 2020. In 2021, the overall headcount rate for individuals at the national level was 38.6 per cent (40.7 per cent in rural areas and 34.1 per cent on urban areas. However, the poverty rate in 2022 was reported at 26.4% nationally, a significant reduction from the 2021 figures. These fluctuations in poverty levels highlight the complex and dynamic nature of the poverty in Kenya

In Kenya, women constitute **50.4 %** of Kenya's population which is projected **at 50% (KNBS)**. In 2020, statistics indicated that approximately **20.9 million** Kenyans lived in abject poverty, representing **42.9%** of Kenya's population. In 2019, poverty severity in rural areas was **36 percent (12.1million)** compared to **20% (14.5 million) of in urban areas**. Poverty trends also indicate that women living in rural areas have higher poverty rates compared to their urban counterparts at 38.0 and 29.7 respectively.

The Kenya Comprehensive Poverty Analysis Report 2020, shows that more than half (**53%**) of the population representing **23.4 million** Kenyans are multidimensionally poor, deprived in realization of at least 3 basic needs, services and rights. Multidimensional poverty incidence in rural areas (**67%**) is more than twice the incidence in urban areas (**27%**). Geographical

disparities in poverty indicate that there are inequalities in accessibility and availability of services.

The report further indicates that adult women are more likely to be multidimensionally poor and experience a greater deprivation incidence compared to men. **More than 65 percent of women** are multidimensionally poor compared to **56 percent of men**. Young women are also more likely to be multidimensionally poor than young men; half of young women (**50%**) are multidimensionally poor compared to **47 percent** of young men.

Female-led households both in rural and urban settings tend to experience higher poverty at **38.8%** compared to their male headed households at **32,7%**. Further, rural households have the highest poverty rate at 42.5% while urban female households have a poverty rate of 31.9%

Some of the factors that contribute to women and girls' vulnerability are susceptible to poverty at the household and community level due to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and other harmful cultural attitudes and beliefs around gender roles. More women-led households than men-led households cannot afford the basic basket of goods measured by the food and overall poverty lines. In **2022 37% of Women led households** were living in absolute poverty compared **35% men-led households**.

**With regard to Access to Land, Financial Products, and Services**, Studies show that women who have access to and ownership of land are better positioned to generate income, access credit, and contribute to sustainable agricultural practices. According to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2022, 33% of women and 45% of men own a house either alone or jointly, while 27% of women and 34% of men own land either alone or jointly. This unequal distribution has significant implications for women's economic empowerment and financial security.

Between 2018 and 2022, **1,693,757** title deeds were registered and 152,416 land parcels geo-referenced countrywide. Statistics also show that 25% of women own agricultural land, including 3% who own agricultural land alone. Sixty-two per-cent (62%) of women do not have title deeds for the agricultural land they own and while 13% who own agricultural land have a title deed with their name on it. 22% of the men have their name on the title deed, while 59% did not have a title deed for their agricultural land. The data therefore underscores the importance of improving land tenure systems, increasing the issuance of title deeds, and raising awareness about land rights to enhance the proportion of the population with secure tenure rights to land (SDG Report 2023)

## **2. LEGAL FRAMEWORKS ON POVERTY ERADICATION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Kenya, as an active participant in global initiatives, recognizes the pivotal role of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. This recognition is underscored by the comprehensive normative frameworks that shape and guide these endeavours, extending from the global to the national levels.

### **2.1 Global Normative Framework That Addresses Poverty Eradication for The Achievement of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls**

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted in 1979, also referred to as the Internal Bill of Rights for women, underscores **the** importance of women's participation in **economic and social spheres**, recognizing that women's voices are essential in **shaping policies related to poverty eradication**.

Poverty is also the first critical area of concern of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA). The Platform emphasizes women's voices are crucial in shaping policies related to economic development, education, healthcare, and other areas impacting poverty. Further, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 2015, **ending poverty is recognized as the greatest global challenge and is indispensable to the achievement of sustainable development**. Through Goal 1, Member States commit to ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030, including by reducing by **at least half the proportion of women, men, boys and girls living in poverty**. The Goal also addresses the need to ensure significant **mobilization of resources** from a variety of sources so developing countries can implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

At the regional level, the first aspiration of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, envisions a prosperous Africa based on **inclusive growth and sustainable development** with a focus being “to eradicate poverty in one generation and build shared prosperity through social, and economic transformation of the continent” (African Union Commission 2015). This is reinforced by the sixth Aspiration that focuses on Africa whose **development is people-driven**, relying on the **potential offered by the African people**, especially its **women and youth, and caring for children**.

In the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** of the **Third International Conference on Financing for Development** (resolution 69/313), achieving gender equality and the realization of women's human rights is recognized as essential for **inclusive, equitable economic growth** and sustainable development. It reiterates the need for **gender mainstreaming** in the formulation and implementation of all **financial, economic, environmental and social policies**, including through **targeted actions and investments**.

**The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, (The Maputo Protocol)**, requires state parties to address all forms of prejudice against women by establishing policy and to integrate gender considerations into their legislative instruments and governmental processes. The protocol requires state parties to confront socio-cultural norms rooted in stereotypes that disadvantage women, recommending strategies such as education, information, and communication initiatives. Additionally, the protocol emphasizes the importance of promoting participatory governance through affirmative actions, ensuring women's meaningful participation in leadership and decision making including in the political arena.

## **2.2 National Normative Framework That Addresses Poverty Eradication for The Achievement of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls**

At the national level, the goals and aspirations of the global and regional human rights instruments on ending poverty are incorporated in the constitution of Kenya, related laws, policies and strategies.

In line with the international and regional aspirations and goals on human rights, the Government of Kenya has undertaken legislative, policy and strategic measures aimed at eradicating poverty for the realization of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

**2.3 The Kenya Constitution:** The constitution recognizes that well-being is multidimensional. Article 43 stipulates that every person has the following economic and social rights (a) The highest attainable standard of health which includes the right to health care services including reproductive health care: (b) To accessible and adequate housing and to reasonable standards of sanitation (c) To be free from hunger and to have adequate food for acceptable quality (d) To clean and safe water in adequate quantities (e) To social security and (f) To education. The Constitution also emphasizes gender equality, freedom from discrimination and enhancing the well-being and representation of all vulnerable and marginalized groups. This implies that the denial of any of these social economic rights in Kenya contributes to poverty among Kenyans.

**2.4 National Legislation:** Various legislation and regulations contribute to creating an enabling environment for poverty eradication and gender equality in Kenya. These laws collectively contribute to creating a legal framework that promotes economic empowerment, gender equality, and social inclusion, thereby facilitating efforts towards poverty eradication in Kenya. These include:

- i. **Employment Act, No. 11 of 2007:** Mandates paid maternity leave and paternity leave, prohibits discrimination in employment, and ensures equal remuneration for men and women, promoting gender equality and economic empowerment.

- ii. **Employment (Amendment Act, 2021) which amends the 2007 Act to include provisions of pre-adoptive leave.** It entitles employees to one(1) month pre-adoptive leave with full pay where a child is placed in the continuous care and control of the said employee from the date of placement of the child.
- iii. **Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act of 2015:** Reserves a percentage of government tenders for youth, women, and persons with disabilities, promoting inclusive economic participation and empowering marginalized groups.
- iv. **Legislation addressing land rights:** Including the Matrimonial Property Act (2013), which recognizes spouses as equal property owners and protects women's rights to land ownership, and the Land Act (2016), which addresses land tenure and management, ensuring equitable access to land resources.
- v. **Succession Act, Community Land Act 2016, National Land Commission Act 2012 and the Land registration Act 2012:** which all entrench principles of gender equality in access to land, and enshrine the rights of women to own land and property are in place.
- vi. **Legislation combating gender-based violence (GBV):** Such as the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2019) and the Protection Against Domestic Violence (PADV) Act (2015), which provide legal protection and support for women and girls affected by GBV.
- vii. **Basic Education Amendment Act, 2017:** Ensures access to free and quality sanitary towels for girls enrolled in public basic education institutions, addressing menstrual hygiene challenges and promoting gender equality in education.

### **3. POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR ADDRESSING POVERTY ERADICATION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

#### **3.1 National Policy Framework**

**Kenya Vision 2030:** The Vision is Kenya's long-term development blueprint, built on three pillars (economic, social and political). The Vision recognises that there are inequalities and inequities across different groups of population which should be priorities in Kenya's development agenda. The vision for gender, youth and vulnerable groups is premised on equity in power and resource mobilization between sexes, and improved livelihoods for all vulnerable groups. The strategy aims to increase opportunities among women, youth and disadvantaged groups in all economic, social and political decision-making processes. The vision is implemented through five-year development plans (Medium Term Plans).

#### **3.2 Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda and MTP IV**

The current Medium-Term Plan (MTP) IV, is a five-year development plan aligned with Kenya Vision 2030. It outlines specific **programmes, policies and institutional frameworks** necessary for enhancing women's economic participation, improving access to education and healthcare and promoting their leadership and decision-making roles.

Additionally, the **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)**, entrenched within MTP IV, prioritizes women's economic empowerment, realization of the 2/3 gender principle of the constitution, strengthening gender desks at police stations, enhance funding of Anti-FGM Board and legislation and free sanitary towels programme. This economic strategy recognizes the significance of women's economic empowerment in fostering equitable development and offers support through access to finance, markets, skills development, and entrepreneurship.

### **3.3 Economic and Social Policies that Address Poverty Eradication for The Achievement of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls**

- i. **National Policy on Gender and Development (NPGAD):** The Policy recognizes that gender is central and cross-cutting and therefore programmes and strategies should incorporate gender equality as a goal. The policy also underscores social, cultural, legal, and political factors that perpetuate inequalities.
- ii. **National Land Policy, 2009** which states that "Land is crucial to the economic, social and cultural development of Kenya. The objective of the policy is to promote Land Reforms, which will secure land rights, provide for sustainable development and reduction of poverty.
- iii. **The National Social Protection Policy 2011, (revised 2024):** The Policy builds on Kenya's commitment to poverty eradication as articulated in related policy documents, and development plans including Vision 2030. The Policy implementation is intended to reduce poverty and the vulnerability of the population to economic, social and natural shocks and stress.
- iv. **The National Agricultural Policy (NAP) 2021:** The policy emphasizes modernization through smart agriculture and the enhancement of research, development, commercialization, and innovation (R&D&C&I) efforts. It also focuses on strengthening the agro-food product value chain for both domestic and international markets, fostering talent development and skilled manpower, and promoting sustainable agriculture practices
- v. **Sessional Paper No. 4 of 2013 on Employment Policy and Strategy in Kenya (EPS)** It identifies and proposes integrated interventions that take a holistic view of the economy while recognizing Kenya's regional and international commitments.

- vi. **The National Policy on Labour Migration** provides a framework for the promotion of inclusive and sustainable development of the country through safe, orderly and productive. Achievements include the development of bilateral labour agreements with key destination countries, competency assessment of over 280,000 individuals, and training of over 270,000 people in various industrial skills. Additionally, a curriculum on care management has been developed, benefiting over 200,000 potential migrant workers. The policy has facilitated the placement of over 260,000 job seekers, resolution of over 24,000 labour disputes, and repatriation of distressed Kenyans. Moreover, it has contributed to promoting occupational safety and health, with hundreds of thousands of workers medically examined and workplaces audited for compliance with regulations.
- vii. **Gender Policy in Education:** This policy provides a framework for the planning and programming of gender-responsive education at all levels. There is consensus that girls and women's empowerment, in general, has been seriously impeded by several factors, such as cultural and religious practices, inadequate policy guidelines, poverty, and lack of community awareness. These have impacted negatively on women's access, participation and performance in education. Strategies being pursued to address gender inequalities in the Education Sector include the provision of school boarding facilities in ASAL areas, affirmative action in admission into public universities, bursary allocations, provision of resources for science laboratories especially in girls' schools, community sensitization and mobilization, continuous curriculum review, assessment and improvement of pedagogy to address gender responsiveness, and, the formulation of policy guidelines such as re-admission of school age girls who get pregnant while in school. Provision of free sanitary towels in all public schools to all girls who reached puberty, which serves as a school retention strategy. All these strategies aim to reduce existing gender disparities in access, retention, transition and achievement in education and training.
- viii. **The National Care Policy** is informed by a Time-Use Survey undertaken by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) in 2021 to generate evidence on the contribution of care work to the national economy. The Policy aims to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and family as nationally appropriate. Nationally, the population aged 15 years and above spend about 12.2 per cent of their day (about 3 hours) on unpaid domestic and care work. On average women spend approximately 5 hours per day on unpaid work, which is about five times more than men (about 1 hour).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.knbs.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Kenya-Time-Use-Survey-2021\\_1.pdf](https://www.knbs.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Kenya-Time-Use-Survey-2021_1.pdf)

- ix. **Draft Women’s Economic Empowerment Policy:** To promote women’s entrepreneurship development and socio-economic empowerment.
- x. **Public Service Commission Diversity Policy:** The policy aims at promoting diversity in the public service workforce by ensuring public service institutions achieve a workforce that is representative of all citizens from diverse communities and equal opportunities to men, women, members of all ethnic groups, Persons Living with Ddisabilities and the youth.
- xi. **The Model Gender Mainstreaming Policy for TVETS, 2023:** The Policy addresses critical aspect of gender disparities within the TVET Landscape, with elements of inclusion.

### **Strategies**

**SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy (2022-2030):** The Strategy focuses on critical entry points and efforts to overcome bottlenecks and provide interventions that have been undertaken to fast-track the SDGs implementation. The aim is to stimulate economic recovery and accelerate progress in the implementation of SDGs in Kenya.

**County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs):** CIDPs outline gender equality as one of the principles guiding the implementation of county laws, policies and programmes. In addition, county governments have put in place gender-specific laws and policies to guide their programming and implementation of gender equality and women’s empowerment. These include gender policies to guide the integration of gender considerations in the planning and execution of various interventions. Furthermore, several County Governments have enacted Women Empowerment Fund Acts and Regulations that provide for the establishment and management of funds, which aim to accelerate the provision of funding to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) owned by women and girls.

## **4. GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ADDRESSING POVERTY ERADICATION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

State capacity to address women’s poverty depends on technical expertise, availability of resources, organizational structures, and the level of commitment to promoting gender equality. Coordination at various government levels, including central and ministerial levels is also critical for the effective delivery of gender equality outcomes. Institutions responsible for promoting and monitoring gender equality should have **sufficient resources, visibility, clear mandates** and

**authority** to coordinate a government-wide initiative. Further, they also need access to gender-disaggregated statistics and data on gender equality outcomes. Citizen-generated data is now being recognized by government officials, who often lack the expertise, time, and resources to collect real-time data, as a valuable source of information. The data however, must first undergo after a validation process by KNBS.

The presence of champions within the state apparatus, extending beyond women's or gender ministries, plays a crucial role in advancing gender equality initiatives. Gaining access to influential decision-making arenas, such as Ministries of Finance, is essential for driving the implementation of gender-related policies. Participatory oversight, through Parliaments and civil society organizations, for monitoring of gender-related policies and outcomes is also essential. Representation of women in key public institutions that are critical in advancing gender equality ensures their voices are considered in the formulation and implementation of policies, legislation and strategies that contribute to the well-being of the citizenry.

#### **4.1 Institutional Arrangements**

Kenya comprises two-tier Governments (National and 47 county governments) that are distinctive and interdependent. The Government is structured through the constitution with administrative and policy-making powers being distributed to its three arms namely the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary.

**4.1.1 The Executive:** this arm is headed by the president of the republic and implements government laws and policies. The executive exists at both the National Government and County Government levels. The National Executive shall comprise of the President, the Deputy President, the A.G., Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries and the entire National Civil Service. The laws require the president to appoint between 14 and 22 cabinet secretaries reflecting ethnic, gender and regional diversity. At the county level, it comprises the Governor, Deputy Governor and the entire Public Service. The current Cabinet consists of **7 women Cabinet Secretaries** out of 22, representing a commendable **32 per cent of the cabinet**. Additionally, three other women hold key Executive positions, including the Advisor on National Security, the Advisor on Women's Rights and Agency, and the Secretary to the Cabinet, elevating the overall representation of women in the Executive to **39 per cent**. This reflects an improvement from the 2017 Cabinet, which featured a 30 per cent representation of women. Women also occupy key financial docket: Office of the Auditor General, Controller of Budget, Salaries and Remuneration Commission as well as Commission on Revenue Allocation.

- i. **The State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action.:** The State Department for Gender derives its mandate from Executive Order No. 2 of 2023. The mandates of the Department have been expanded - It includes Gender Policy Management; Special Programmes for Women Empowerment; Gender Mainstreaming in Ministries, State Departments, State Agencies; Community Mobilization on Gender Issues; Domestication

of International Treaties or conventions on Gender; policy and programmes on Gender Violence; Affirmative action policy; Promote equity; Undertake a national survey on special needs; and mainstreaming affirmative action in Ministries, Departments and Agencies; and Ensure Compliance with affirmative action principles as envisaged in the Constitution.

The Department is domiciled within the Ministry of Gender, Culture, the Arts and Heritage under the Presidency with the overall mandate of steering the country's direction in the implementation of the Constitution and Kenya's international obligations on matters of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. The Ministry is headed by a Cabinet Secretary (Minister) while the Department is led by a Principal Secretary for Gender and Affirmative Action to drive this process. Under this structure, Gender Officers have been deployed to all Ministries to provide technical guidance on gender mainstreaming which includes planning, policy-making and coordination, facilitation, implementation, regulation and monitoring. At the devolved level, Officers at the County and sub-county levels have been assigned work on coordinating gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. The officers across the Ministries, Departments and Agencies have largely spearheaded and contributed to and implementation of gender policies in their sectors

The Department also oversees key public agencies including the National Government Affirmative Action Fund; Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Board; Gender Violence Protection Centers; Women Enterprise Fund (Public Finance Management Act, No. 18 of 2012).

The Department also coordinates the National Gender Sector Working, a robust platform for gender advocates drawn from state and non-state actors, a mechanism that has been replicated at the sub-regional level. The Department also works with other institutions Established under the constitution.

- ii. **Women's Rights and Agency Office:** The Office of the President's Advisor on Women's Rights was established vide the Executive Order No. 1 of January 2023. The core mandate of the Office is to advise the President on matters pertaining to Women's Rights and Empowerment. The Office further supports the coordination of the President's special projects and adoption of the Women's Agenda across all sectors, as outlined in the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) plan and Women's Charter. The Office has diligently played its advisory role to H.E the president on women's leadership including the two thirds gender rule of the constitution economic empowerment and investments as well Gender Based violence. The office of the Women's; Rights and Agency Rights has reinforced gender policy and programming in the country

- iii. **National Police Service: National Police Service - Establishment of Policare:** The multi-agency, survivor-centered, one-stop center by the National Police Service brings together various service providers including the police, forensic investigators, health providers, psychologists, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP), a magistrate on call, medico-legal experts, gender experts, correctional personnel, among others in the response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Policare centers have been gazetted in 2 counties and the Policare Policy Statement and Standard Operating Procedures launched. Through mobilization of resources, the centers will be replicated across the country

**4.1.2 The legislature:** The legislature exists at both the national and county levels. At the national level, there is established a two-chamber Parliament consisting of the National Assembly and the **Senate**. The role of the National Assembly enact legislation, determine the allocation of revenue between the two levels of government, oversee national revenue, expenditure and State organs and approve declarations of war and extensions of states of emergency. The Senate is the backbone of the counties, and its actions will determine the effectiveness of the devolved units in delivering services to Kenyans. The Senate represents the countries and protects their interests. It participates in law-making, debates and approves Bills concerning counties (Articles 109-113). It determines the allocation of national revenue among counties (Article 217), and exercises oversight over national revenue allocated to the county governments.

**4.1.3 The Judiciary:** It is an arm of government which coordinates the administration of justice through a system of courts that is, it interprets the laws that are made by the parliament. The Judiciary also interprets the Constitution. Before a bill becomes law, the judiciary checks that it does not conflict with the constitution of the land therefore it is the custodian of justice. The judiciary is headed by the chief justice who is appointed by the president. It comprises of a chain of judges, magistrates and other officers of the courts. The Judiciary is not devolved i.e., the County Governments do not have a distinct judiciary this four-tier structure is created at the top of which is the Supreme Court. The Judicial Service Commission is key to most judicial appointments. The entire court system is divided into a hierarchical system wherein the superior courts consist of the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, High Court and Industrial Court among others, whereas the subordinate courts are made up of Magistrate court, Kadhi court and martial court.

Presently the women make up over 44% of the Judiciary. The offices of the Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice, Principal Judge of the Employment and Labour Relations Court, Registrar of the Supreme Court, Registrar of the High Court, Registrar of the Environment and Land Court and Registrar of Tribunals, among other courts, are occupied by women. Additionally, there are 86 males against 91 female judges; 244 males against 298 female judicial officers (magistrates).

Among the practicing lawyers 7,426 are male 6,481 are females. The statistics indicate that gender gaps are closing in the Judiciary.

Access to justice is increasingly recognized as a critical dimension of tackling gender inequality. A lack of access to justice can impact the social, emotional, and financial outcomes of survivors/victims and their families. Kenya's survivor-centered approach towards enhancing access to justice for SGBV victims/survivors has taken shape through a wide range of piece meal policy and institutional reforms accompanied by a variety of strategies and programmes. Most recently in 2022, the Office of the Chief Justice unveiled the Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ) Vision for the Kenya Judiciary. In particular, the Strategic Plan canvassed the issue of access to justice leading to creation of the country's first Sexual and Gender Based Violence court. Special courts and procedures are a commonly used tool globally to address these issues, provide efficient and sensitive adjudication of SGBV cases and enhance justice for women and girls.

According to the Gender Based Violence caseload statistics for magistrate courts for the FY 2020/2021, the GBV case load is highest in almost all regions with large population concentrations in Kenya. For instance, Nairobi leads in the GBV case load with 6.3% out of the 28,146 cases filed nationally, with the Makadara Station alone accounting for over 70% of this caseload.

Research showed that good practice requires cooperative institutional practices that work to eliminate sexual violence/SGBV and provide victims with safety and the ability to successfully uphold and pursue their rights. Judicial officers, through their own innovation, have managed to enhance the child friendly court environments that has improved management of child sexual offences. Occasionally, the children's court have held ad hoc special sessions to fast-track SGBV cases. There is also the adoption of ACM, which despite early implementation challenges, has improved court room processes in SGBV cases. The adoption of friendly customer services and good case file management has also helped to accelerate access to justice.

In this regard, the Judiciary has developed the Sexual and Gender Based violence Strategy. The overall purpose of this strategy is to accelerate access to justice for survivors/victims of SGBV through the establishment of Specialized courts in Kenya. To date 12 (Twelve) **Specialized Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Courts have been set up**. The courts which are to be replicated in all parts of the country, are uniquely designed to handle the delicate nature of SGBV-related cases, a much-needed departure from the traditional approach which has often led to re-traumatization of victims. These courts embody a trauma-informed approach that prioritizes the victims' safety, dignity, and privacy. The Courts are **staffed with judicial officers who have been trained on the intricacies related to SGBV, including survivors' needs and are equipped to handle the complexities of such cases with utmost sensitivity.**

**Establishment of A Small Claims Court:** This is a specialized Court created by statute with specific duties and power designed to provide a judicial determination involving small amounts of money. The courts are characterized by simplicity of procedure, cost effectiveness and speedy resolution of disputes thereby enhancing access to and expeditious delivery of justice. In Kenya, the Small Claims Court is required to adopt measures that ensures timely disposal of cases using the least expensive method, equality, fairness of process and simplicity of procedure. The statutory lead time for all filed cases is sixty (60) days. The pecuniary jurisdiction of the Court is set at one million shillings as per the provisions of Section 12(3) of the Act

The establishment of the court is part of a wider initiative to enhance the ease of doing business in the country by providing an enabling environment for investment, competitiveness and accelerated private sector growth through reduction of cost and time of resolving commercial disputes. Since FY 2021-2022, thirty-seven (37) SCCs are operational with a total of eighty-one (81) adjudicators designated to preside over them.

**Key achievements of the court include: Enhanced access to and expeditious delivery of justice** as at 31st January, 2024, **50,666** cases valued over Kshs **9.2 billion** have been heard and determined in the various courts.

Established Assisted Filing Desks across all registries to assist the unrepresented and vulnerable litigants file their claims. This service has helped ensure the scale-up access to justice as envisioned under Article 48 of the constitution by prioritizing basic and community-level justice for the vulnerable and SMEs. Most women in Kenya have SMEs that they use to take care of their families. In this regard the Small Claims Court has enabled women thrive in their businesses by ensuring a cost-effective access to justice without hefty fees or worry about finding an advocate to represent them. The examples of SMEs that women have benefited from through SCC include salon owners, outside catering businesses, mama mboga's, among others.

**Small Claims Court General Statistics of Women, Who Have Filed Cases as of 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

S. No	Unit	Male Count	Female Count
	Milimani Small Claims Court	3317	1199
	Kajiado Small Claims Court	947	407
	Thika Small Claims Court	2273	1149
	Eldoret Small Claims Court	2195	901
	Machakos Small Claims Court	1893	826
	Nyeri Small Claims Court	624	312

	Naivasha Small Claims Court	631	262
	Nakuru Small Claims Court	1586	822
	Kakamega Small Claims Court	937	372
	Mombasa Small Claims Court	650	379
	Kisumu Small Claims Court	541	327
	Meru Small Claims Court	530	259
	Busia Small Claims Court	81	31
	Taveta Small Claims Court	26	14
	Wajir Small Claims Court	1	1
	Migori Small Claims Court	26	9
	Moyale Small Claims Court	5	2
	Loitoktok Small Claims Court	5	6
	Mandera Small Claims Court	0	14
	Malaba Small Claims Court	6	5
	Kakuma Small Claims Court	6	2
	Chuka Small Claims Court	5	6
	Embu Small Claims Court	11	3
	Kericho Small Claims Court	22	3
	Kerugoya Small Claims Court	2	1
	Kisii Small Claims Court	57	22
	Kitale Small Claims Court	20	5
	Kitui Small Claims Court	40	25
	Lamu Small Claims Court	5	3
	Makindu Small Claims Court	25	20
	Malindi Small Claims Court	27	13
	Muranga Small Claims Court	18	4
	Nanyuki Small Claims Court	9	4
	Ruiru Small Claims Court	14	11
	Siaya Small Claims Court	7	4
	Narok Small Claims Court	30	16
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16572</b>	<b>7439</b>

The court has faced challenges. Despite this, Court has persisted in striving to accomplish its primary goal of augmenting accessibility to and swiftly providing justice. It is evident that the court will revolutionize the way justice is administered if it makes focused interventions meant to increase efficiency. The court is still dedicated to providing exceptional services, and it looks to the Commission and institution for pertinent support as well as policy interventions in this regard.

#### **4.2 Commissions and Independent Offices**

Article 59 of the Constitution: The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), the Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHCR), and the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ or the office of the ombudsman).

The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) is a Constitutional Commission established pursuant to Articles 59 (4) & (5) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. It is operationalized by the National Gender and Equality Commission Act, 15 of 2011. The Commission's mandate is to promote gender equality and freedom from discrimination for all people in Kenya with focus on special interest groups, which include: **women, children, youth, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), older members of society, and minority and marginalized groups.**

The functions of the Commission as provided in section 8 (a- p) of the National Gender and Equality Commission Act No. 15 of 2011 are executed through audits, issue of advisories, facilitation, coordination, and monitoring. The Commission also has the function of research, and coordination of public education programs, and has powers of receiving complaints and investigations. The Commission monitors, facilitates, and advises on the integration of the principles of gender equality and freedom from discrimination in all national and county policies, laws, and administrative regulations in all public and private institutions. The Commission is the principal organ of the State in ensuring compliance with all treaties and conventions ratified by Kenya relating to issues of gender equality and freedom from discrimination and relating to Special Interest groups. Sections 27 to 29 of the National Gender and Equality Commission Act, 2011 provide for quasi-judicial powers including jurisdictions to investigations.

The Commission has been exercising its mandate advocating for inclusive legislatures and gender-responsive policies in both public and private sectors which include:

- i. **Conducting Research to Inform Public Policy, Administrative and Programmatic Interventions** – undertaking several pieces of research such as, Inequality Diagnostic Study Report, Kenya, a **study that examines the causes and drivers of inequality**, with a focus on **labor market dynamics, taxation policies, social transfers, and gender inequalities, Status of Equality and Inclusion in Kenya**, the status of affirmative action funds, Social Protection Programmes, and equalization fund among others. The recommendations are distilled into advisories which are submitted to agencies with the greatest responsibility including parliament of ensuring implementation.
- ii. **Guidelines to Support National and County Assemblies** adherence to gender equality and inclusion:
  - a. **The Handbook for Legislators on Equality and Inclusion in Law Making Process (2018)**. The guide provides legislators with checklists and minimum

indicators to consider when formulating laws, reviewing bills or programs, and in debating about matters of law pertaining to inclusion to ensure consistent consideration of principles of gender equality and inclusion.

- b. **Guide for County Government Leadership. Integration of Gender Equality, Inclusion in County Development (2021).** The guide provides County Governments with practical skills of entrenching principles of gender equality and inclusion in County Development including in the development of policies.
  - c. **Guidebook on Equality and Inclusion-Centred Planning and Budgeting (Gender Responsive Budgeting Guidebook).** The guide was developed with the support of the National Treasury and Planning, and the Office of Controller of Budgets among others to support national and county governments prepare gender responsive plans and budgets. The booklet has been extensively used at County level.
- iii. **Advise and facilitate policy, laws, regulations, standards and guidelines to aid compliance:** The Commission reviews bills and policies at national and county levels and issues advisories thereof. The Commission reviews the language used by drafters to avoid any derogatory terms and phrases in describing the status and needs of Special Interest Groups. Since 2013, the Commission has reviewed and issued memoranda on 480 legal instrument and facilitation development of model gender policies to support sub-national Governments in developing and implementing Gender specific frameworks.
  - iv. **Advocacy to Enactment relevant legislations in the promotion of gender equality and inclusion for example: Art 100 And Art 81b On Not More Than Two Thirds Gender Rule).** In 2018, the Commission published processes, lessons learned, and missed opportunities in the efforts towards the development of mechanisms for the realization of this principle.
  - v. **Coordinate and Facilitate Mainstreaming issues pf Special Interest Groups:** The Commission regularly coordinates meetings to discuss issues affecting SIGs including Every quarter each SIG divisions hold coordination meeting for actors in the sector including the non-state actors. Through that platform, the Commission had the opportunity to extensively advise on the review of the Sexual Offenses Act, 2006, Children Act,2022, the Minimum age of Consent for sex. NGEC has supported established and strengthening of the EITWG in 39 counties.
  - vi. **Public Litigation Cases** – The Commission has pursued public interest litigation and has been enjoined in several matters in the Constitutional Court.
  - vii. **Advisories.** The Commission has issued advisories to Parliament on matters of inclusion. For example, advisory on the compliance of Parliament with the not more than two thirds

gender principle and in particular opportunities within the advisory issued by Chief Justice on the dissolution of Parliament on September 2, 2022; provision for lactation services to lactating women Parliamentarians in August 2019. Other advisories have been directed to political parties, the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, and IEBC on the need for inclusion. When inclusion is observed at these levels of key institutions, that is Office of Public Prosecutions, Political parties and IEBC, it is an opportunity to realize inclusion at Parliament and county legislative.

On resources allocation, the Commission has relied mostly from the Government coupled with support from development partners such as IDLO which has enabled the institution to discharge its mandates effectively

## **5. RESOURCE ALLOCATION FOR ADDRESSING POVERTY ERADICATION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**Resource Allocation:** Percentage of the national budget allocated to the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action and the National Gender and Equality Commission has remained low at **0.19 percent for the financial year 2019/2020, 0.14 percent in 2020/2021, 0.13 percent in 2021/2022 and 0.12% in 2022/2023** and lastly **0.14 in 2023/2024**. This has been attributed to budget cuts across all Government Ministries and Departments due to austerity measures. Through partnerships, there are grants amounting to **Kshs 23 million from UNFPA and 640 million from the Government of Finland**, for a 3-year project program while the **UN Women** contributed **Kshs. 46,972,322.40** in form of a grant through a one- year agreement which ended on 30th June 2023.

The Government of Kenya (GOK) development budget consists of allocations to SAGAs (Women Enterprise Fund, Uwezo Fund, and National Government Affirmative Action Fund) for Socio-Economic Empowerment of women, youth, PWDs and other vulnerable members of the society and the counterpart funds. The approved budgetary allocations for the FY 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 was KShs. 3,342.51M, KShs. 3,620.97M and KShs. 3,945.82M respectively,

**Anti-FGM Board - increased Staffing and Funding** - For the Financial Year 2021/2022, the Government allocated Kshs. 129M for GBV and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) elimination. A further Kshs. 120M was allocated as Counterpart for GBV Prevention and Response Kenya-Finland bilateral program for 2021-2024.

## **6. SPECIFIC POLICY INTERVENTIONS FOR ADDRESSING POVERTY ERADICATION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

## **6.1 Implementing macroeconomic policies and reforms for job creation and the promotion of women's full, equal and productive employment and decent work**

The implementation of macroeconomic policies and reforms aimed at job creation and promoting women's full, equal, and productive employment is crucial for addressing inequalities and fostering inclusive growth. Recognizing the gendered barriers that hinder women's participation in economic spheres, efforts have been made to mainstream gender into budgetary processes through Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB). Additionally, significant strides have been made in the education sector, including the introduction of free primary and secondary education. Increased budget allocations to critical sectors such as health and agriculture have also been observed. SMEs development has been prioritized to mitigate the negative impacts of macroeconomic policies on unemployment, with affirmative funds enhancing women's participation in these ventures. Furthermore, poverty reduction initiatives in various counties focus on increasing agricultural production, developing commodity value chains, and improving rural infrastructure to uplift incomes and living standards.

## **6.2 Creating decent, good quality jobs for women in the care economy in the public and private sectors**

There have been measures taken by the government to stimulate public provision of full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men. At the policy level, the Government is committed to driving processes and development programs that aim at providing full and productive employment for all citizens. One strategy is the multisectoral approach which recognizes that development is sustainable when sectors like manufacturing, agriculture, private sector, and trade sector operate in a structured and coordinated manner. Women-led and targeted programs and projects have been designed with forward and backward linkages to strengthen the value chains. Some of the programs that have been implemented with a high degree of success are; **the Business Sector Programme Support (BSPS); Wholesale/Retail Trade Hubs; Public-Private Partnerships (PPP);** and the development of **SME Parks** among others.

## **6.3 Undertaking targeted measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work, through flexibility in working arrangements, and the provision of infrastructure, technology and public services, such as accessible and quality childcare and care facilities for children and other dependents.**

Efforts to address gender disparities in unpaid care and domestic work are multifaceted. The National and County Governments have taken initiatives in this area, these include:

- i. **National Care Policy:** Collaborative efforts by the National and County Governments has contributed to the National Care Policy. This policy aims to recognize, reduce, and

redistribute the unequal burden of unpaid care and domestic work disproportionately borne by women.

- ii. **Empowering Marginalized Groups:** Initiatives are underway to support women, youth, and persons with disabilities. The 30% public procurement preservation and reservation scheme facilitates their access to government opportunities.
  - iii. **ICT Incubation Hubs:** At the county level, ICT incubation hubs are being established. The plan is to extend these hubs to constituency levels, providing youth with essential training and work experience to create market-ready ICT services and products.
  - iv. **Creating ICT-Related Jobs for Women:** Education and professional development programs are opening doors for women in ICT-related employment. Equipping them with the necessary work experience enhances their prospects.
  - v. **Biashara (Business) Centers:** Pioneering “one-stop shop” *biashara* (business) centers offer comprehensive business development services to women, youth, and people with disabilities.
  - vi. These strategic actions collectively contribute to promoting gender equality, enhancing economic opportunities, fostering inclusive development and reducing poverty.
- 6.4 Interventions for the Achievement of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls and for eradicating poverty**

#### **6.4.1 Strengthening women’s participation in decision making**

Various measures have been taken to enhance women’s participation in public and private life. These include capacity building, technical assistance to counties, and inter-governmental sectoral forums. Civic education programmes have been rolled out country-wide to create awareness to both men and women about their role in the development process. Public participation guidelines have provided clear procedures on how to engage all people including men and women, the youth, marginalized communities and people living with disabilities to participate in matters that affect their lives.

- i) **Multi-Sectoral Working Group:** Following the 2022 general election in Kenya, there was a slight increase in women's representation compared to previous terms. This increase can be attributed to sensitization campaigns aimed at promoting women’s involvement in political leadership and decision making. In the 13<sup>th</sup> Parliament, out of **349 positions, 81 seats (representing 23.3%)** were held by women. At the local government level, out of the 47 County Governors, **7 (15%)** are women, while Deputy Governors were **8 (17%)**. With regard to Senators, **21 out of 67 (31.3%)** were women. Additionally, in the Members of County Assemblies (MCAs), **718 out of 2166 (33%)** seats were held by women.

Considering that gender parity target was not met following the 2022 elections, upon taking office, His Excellency the President, Dr. William Samoei Ruto directed for the immediate resumption of the process of enacting legislation on the implementation of the '*not more than two-thirds gender principle*' envisaged in Article 27(8) of the Constitution of Kenya. Consequently, the Cabinet Secretary responsible for Gender and Affirmative Action, established the Multi-Sectoral Working Group (MSWG) comprising of both state and non-state actors to formulate a framework for the implementation of the gender principle. The Working Group is expected to deliver its mandate by February 2024 by submitting its report with recommendations on the implementation of the gender principle in both elective and appointing positions, informed by comprehensive public participation and consultative measures.

Moreover, women's voices serve as advocates for gender equality, a fundamental prerequisite for poverty reduction. Beyond policy development, women's voices contribute to the broader fabric of communities and families. Recognizing the pivotal roles women play within these units, engaging them in the conversation ensures that poverty eradication strategies consider the interconnectedness of individuals and communities in essence, the empowerment and inclusion of women's voices are pivotal in crafting comprehensive, empathetic, and impactful approaches to poverty eradication on a global scale.

- ii) **Capacity Building:** Various actors have initiated programs to enhance the capacity of women in political participation. The Ministry of Gender, Culture, the Arts and Heritage developed and implements a training manual for aspiring women leaders in collaboration with the Kenya School of Government, which targets women in their diversity including youth and women with disabilities. Other agencies include the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties which also developed a capacity building program for women in political leadership that has training and financing components. The Kenya Women Parliamentarians Association (KEWOPA) also trains women candidates on online safety during campaigns. The Civil Society through the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA-K), hired election monitors and observers accredited by IEBC, to track and report election-related GBV meted on female aspirants. They further provided pro-bono services for women who had been politically aggrieved after the election.

In order to strengthen women's capacity to engage and influence discussions at the county assemblies, a curriculum was developed to guide the female Members of County Assemblies on how to ensure gender responsiveness in County Assembly development agenda is taken to account.

- iii) **Male Engagement and Inclusion:** The Government is making efforts to involve men and boys as champions, change agents and role models in the fight against GBV. The fifth Thematic Area on Male Engagement and Inclusion was officially launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023, under the National Gender Sector Working Group. The Government will institutionalize male engagement and include strategic interventions in all policies and national plans.

## 6.5 Strengthening organizational systems processes

National and local budgets are also important policy tools, **to raise, allocate and spend public funds**. They can be designed to support equitable allocation of resources to combat poverty and inequality. **Strengthening gender analysis** in national and local budget processes is essential to enable governments to cost, allocate and spend for gender equality.

Challenging gender bias in institutions is integral to adopting and implementing gender responsive budgets. This means understanding how budget decision are made, who makes them and whether women are meaningfully engaged in budget decision-making. Collaboration with poor women's organizations, worker organizations and collectives are key to understanding the budget cycle and identifying points of influence at the national and local levels.

## 6.6 Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)

- i. The Government of **Kenya adopted Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)**, which seeks to mainstream gender into the budgetary process from planning to implementation, monitoring and evaluation. GRB has been increasingly used as an effective tool, both to hold the government accountable for its commitment to gender equality and to achieve gender equality.? The Government of Kenya has embraced budget reforms, which include the public's participation in the budget-making process to allow transparency and negotiations.
- ii. Public sector hearings of the budget preparation are announced through the local media, which gives women the opportunity to make their contribution to the budget development process. The other positive development is the shift to programme-based budgeting, which provides for the financing of specific programmes/projects. This shift has enabled the government to track budgetary allocations that target gender-responsive budgeting targeting programmes that benefit women, and hence lead to their empowerment. The use of sex-disaggregated data has greatly informed allocation and utilization of resources. The GRB demonstrates the government's commitment to the reduction of discrimination against women, especially in economic participation through the allocation of resources to initiatives which promote the empowerment of women and girls.
- iii. The Public Finance Management Act 2012, Guidelines for Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in Kenya by National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) 2014 and 2018, The County Assembly Gender Responsive Budgeting guide have facilitated the processes at all levels.
- iv. There is evidence of progress on strengthening financial systems to track and make public, allocations to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. In 2023,

the needs assessment, design, and implementation of the Control of Budget Management Information System (COBMIS) was finalized by the Office of Controller of Budget in partnership with UN Women and UNICEF under the UN Joint Devolution Programme (UNJDP). COBMIS is a system that automates and effectively produces reports on social and gender issues as well as produces quarterly, semi-annual, and annual national and county budget implementation review reports that flag social and gender issues. This will make it possible to track the utilization of the resources allocated for gender programmes in the 47 counties. The government is in the process of procuring the server and other equipment needed to host and operationalize the system for use by county governments, ministries and departments. The next step will be to roll out the system and conduct capacity building for national and county government officials.

- v. **Standard Charter of Accounts (SCOA) system.** SCOA is the accounting system used by the National Treasury to improve public financial management (PFM) processes such as allowing consistency between budget allocations and integrated financial management system (IFMIS) codes, facilitate performance accounting and integrating recurrent and development activities. The system was update with gender specific codes to track the gender financing from the allocation by the national treasury in partnership with UN Women and UNICEF. The roll out of SCOA to counties and ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) will be undertaken upon clearance by the Cabinet. The programme proposes to partner with International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the roll out of SCOA in the 14 select counties, which are Busia, Garissa, Isiolo, Kajiado, Kilifi, Mandera, Marsabit, Narok, Samburu, West Pokot, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir, and West Pokot. This includes capacity building of county staff on the revised system.
- vi. The government is also working toward enhanced data systems and monitoring of the progress of gender-responsive budgets through the UNSDCF 2023-2026 and joint programmes such as the joint UN Women, UNDP and UNICEF programme on devolution,
- vii. Additionally, the Government continues to support various affirmative action initiatives that exist to empower women. These programmes include the Women Enterprise Fund, Uwezo Fund, National Government Affirmative Action Fund, Youth Enterprise Development Fund and Access to Government Procurement Opportunities. In FY 2017/2018, Kshs. 2,166.3 million (WEF), Kshs.445.0 million (*Uwezo* Fund), Kshs. 26,794.6 million (AGPO), and Kshs.549.2 million (YEDF) were disbursed. In FY 2018/2019, Kshs. 3,085.0 million (WEF), Kshs.267.0 million (UWEZO Fund), Kshs. 30,139.7 million (AGPO), and Kshs.323.2 million (YEDF) were disbursed. In FY 2019/2020, the funds disbursed were as follows: Kshs. 3,503 million (WEF), Kshs.250.0 million (*Uwezo* Fund), Kshs. 32,739 million (AGPO); and Kshs. 600 million (YEDF).

The National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) has disbursed to counties a total of Kshs. 12,097,963,874.25 in the form of grants to vulnerable members of the society since its inception in 2014. The targeted groups have also undergone entrepreneurship training.

#### **6.7 Specific Youth based interventions For the Achievement of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls and for eradicating poverty**

**Prioritizing the entry into and advancement in labour markets of young women by ensuring access to education and technical and vocational skills training and eliminating the barriers girls and women face in the transition from school to work**

Various programmes enhancing equity in education include the strengthening of science, technology, engineering and Mathematics programmes; Youth Skilling, Employment and Wealth creation; the Higher Education Loans Board; the Presidential Secondary School Bursary; County and Constituency Funds; other bursary funds available include the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) education bursary at county level and the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) bursary at constituency level), private sector scholarships, digital literacy programme, early childhood development education (ECDE), enhancing inclusivity in Education and training for learners who may be excluded or marginalized, consideration by county education boards (CEB) for gender inclusivity, and the 100 per cent transition from primary to secondary school.

- i) **The Kenya Youth Employment and Opportunities Project (KYEOP)** this is a transformational project that aims to empower and uplift the well-being of the youth in Kenya by equipping them with essential training, internship and business grant opportunities. The development objective of the project is to *increase employment and earning opportunities among targeted young people across Kenya by targeting over 280,000 youth during the project period in urban and rural areas in 17 implementing counties.*

The main beneficiaries of the project are youth between 18-29 years of age (with some components extending up to 35 years) who are jobless and have experienced extended spells of unemployment or who are currently working in vulnerable jobs.

**As of October 2023**, the project had reached **310,889 vulnerable youth**, **50%** of them women. This **includes 133,453** through skilling interventions and business support. About **86% of youth** earned a wage or were self-employed; **20%** of those employed before the interventions saw an increase in income; **and 48% of** the recipients of business support interventions created jobs for others.

ii) Major achievements during the **Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2020/21 - 2022/23 show that under** the Social Protection, Culture and Recreation Sector: 19,900 youth were provided with employment opportunities; 61,391 youth trained in life skills, **29,415** in core business skills, **27,162** in job-specific skills and 159,210 in entrepreneurship skills. At the same time 88 Youth Empowerment Centres were operationalized and 25 new Centres constructed; **11,400** talented youths were identified and nurtured; 2,715 youth were engaged in green jobs and **390,335** youth in the President's Award Programme. In addition, **102,095** youth were sensitized on social vices, harmful cultural practices and contemporary issues, 165,050 youth in peace, volunteerism and national cohesion, **35 youth SACCOS operationalized, 1,847 youth** trained on online jobs and **32,430 youth on AGPO and Affirmative Action Funds.**

iii) **Kenya Private Sector Alliance Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Accelerator program (K-YEEAP):** The Program is an innovative youth employment solution that seeks to use a market development approach to create **1 million jobs** and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth and women in the private sector in the next 5 years. **(2023 - 2027)**

The K-YEEAP will work to accelerate and scale up small enterprises through financing, access to **markets, business coaching and mentorship** while increasing access to **supply chain opportunities** from large enterprises. It will also support the digital transformation of small businesses, increase digital and digitally-enabled job opportunities for young people as well as public sector digital transformation for efficient service delivery and job creation. Further K-YEEAP will increase relevant and market-oriented skills for industry transformation by working closely with the TVET ecosystem.

iv) **Capacity building by the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA):** The Authority (NITA) has played a key role in developing capacities for the job market by undertaking the following:

- **Vocational Training:** By offering skills development programs, enhances the employability of young people, making them better equipped to secure gainful employment.
- **Alignment with Industry Needs:** NITA collaborates with industries to ensure that the training provided aligns with the needs of the job market. This strategic alignment helps bridge the skills gap and ensures that young people are trained in areas where there is demand.
- **Apprenticeships and Internships:** NITA facilitates apprenticeships and internships, enabling youth to gain practical experience in various industries. This

hands-on training enhances their skills and makes them more attractive to potential employers.

- **Certification and Recognition:** NITA offers certification for skilled individuals, providing formal recognition of their expertise. This certification is valuable for youth entering the job market, as it validates their skills and enhances their competitiveness.
- **Promotion of Technical Careers:** By promoting technical and vocational education, NITA contributes to changing societal perceptions about blue-collar jobs. This, in turn, encourages more youth to pursue technical careers, meeting the demand for skilled workers in various sectors.
- **Life-Long Learning:** NITA's emphasis on continuous learning encourages a culture of ongoing skill development. This is crucial in a rapidly evolving job market, ensuring that the youth are adaptable and capable of meeting emerging challenges.

## **6.8 Interventions through the Use of Technology for the Achievement of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls and for Eradicating poverty**

**Digital transformation** investment in land administration can result in direct benefits such as cost savings, better services, and new revenue streams, as well as indirect benefits, including alignment with other government policies and societal goals. The Ministry of Lands and Physical Planning (MoLPP) and the National Land Commission (NLC) have taken a significant step in land management and administration by launching the **National Land Information Management System (NLIMS)**, known as *Ardhisasa*.

This system aims to achieve efficiency, transparency, reliability, and accessibility of land records and transactions and will be critical in promoting Kenya's attainment of SDG target 1.4 (on equal rights to economic resources including land and inheritance) and 5.a. (on reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources) which take deep dives into leveraging land governance, management, and tenure security to alleviate poverty and enhance gender equality. These targets focus on equal rights to economic resources, including land and inheritance, and reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources. The NLIMS is expected to improve **land governance, management**, and tenure security to alleviate poverty and enhance gender equality. Nairobi City County has digitized all the land records which are disaggregated by age and sex, and efforts are currently ongoing to implement the same in the rest of the Counties. The data will support policy formulation and decision-making in relation to addressing the disparity in access to land.

### 6.8.1 Strengthening health systems

Health is a fundamental human right. Good health helps people escape poverty and is a critical factor in long term economic development. The health sector in Kenya is most developed and centred in the urban areas, where private sectors investments are the greatest, since they are not considered to yield sufficient return in the low populated areas. **Kenya has in recent years, undertaken a number of health system and financial reforms to increase coverage for quality health services, improve availability of essential medicines and reduce out of pocket payments. The delivery of Universal health coverage (UHC) is aimed at ensuring that all citizens have access to quality affordable health care without the risk of getting into financial hardship. It seeks to actualize 100% cost subsidy on essential health services by assuring 100% health coverage for every Kenyan.**

A two-phase strategy to model the UHC has been developed and launched in the four UHC pilot counties. Other measures that have been undertaken by government include the Managed Equipment Service (MES), developed to support devolution of equitable, accessible, affordable and quality health care by providing Kenyans with excellent uninterrupted health services regardless of their location in the Country. Other key interventions include Digitization of health services, harmonization, and integration of information systems to ensure efficiency in service delivery and portability of patient data

### 6.8.2 Strengthening Education

Women and Girls' education is important for strategic development. Better educated women tend to be healthier, participate more in the formal labour market, earn higher incomes, have fewer children, marry at a later age, and enable better health care and education for their children, should they choose to become mothers. All these factors combined can help lift households, communities, and nations out of poverty. In Kenya, commendable progress has been made in the implementation of the goals on education. These were mainly as a result of the introduction of free primary education (FPE) in 2003 that led to significant increase in both GER and NER. It is also as result of the fact that the push for attainment of UPE is enshrined and protected under the Bill of Rights in the Kenya Constitution 2010. Education is one of the most critical factors of empowering and driving positive economic development and social progression in any country and therefore has positive effect on all the other SDGS and their respective targets and indicators.

**Some of the interventions include :** Mainstreaming ECDE into basic education, provision of social support to vulnerable children as well as those with special needs., Competency Based

Curriculum and Competency Based Education and Trainings, Enhancing awareness on retrogressive cultural practices that hampers access to quality, Expansion and equipment of TVETs and linkages between skills development and industrial requirements to ensure students move into gainful employment after training, 100 percent transition rate in both primary and secondary education to enhance access to quality education.

## **7. STRENGTHENING THE GENERATION AND DISSEMINATION OF DATA AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION DISAGGREGATED BY SEX IN ALL SECTORS FOR ADDRESSING POVERTY ERADICATION AND FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

Kenya is among the countries implementing the UN Women Programme Initiative of **Making Every Woman and Girl Count (MEWGC)**. Further, Kenya has established an interagency coordination mechanism on gender statistics that is co-chaired by the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. Through the mechanism, a Gender Sector Statistics Plan (GSSP), has been developed.

The Gender Sector Statistics Plan which is part of the Kenya Strategy for the Development of Statistics (KSDS), is aimed at strengthening Kenya's statistical capacity in gender statistics. It has been used to offer strategic direction for the sector for the period **2019/20–2022/23**. Gender statistics are central in understanding the dynamics of, and for promoting gender equality because they provide relevant information, including indicators and benchmarks for measuring progress and analyzing underlying factors.

Capacity building on gender statistics has been carried out for all Government agencies. This has largely contributed to the production of knowledge products on gender statistics which include **user-friendly reports, policy briefs and research papers**.

In justifying the implementation of the Gender Sector Statistical plan, the strategy recognizes gender data and statistics as indispensable tools for devising evidence-based policies to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. Comprehensive and periodic statistics on the status of women, men, girls and boys, including data disaggregated by sex and other socioeconomic characteristics, are important for setting priorities, planning interventions and putting the spotlight on the indicators of success.

The plan therefore provides a basis to accomplish the following three main goals: a. Achieve an enabling legal and policy environment for the production and use of gender statistics b. Incorporate a gender perspective into the design of surveys, censuses and other data sources (citizen-generated data, administrative data for ministries, counties, departments and agencies) by tackling gender issues avoiding gender biases in measurement, and improving data analysis and use, with data presentations that deliver gender statistics in a format that is easy to use by

policymakers, planners and all stakeholders. Under this arrangement, the Inter-Agency Gender Statistics Technical Committee serves as a liaison between gender statistics users and producers to:

- i. Identify thematic areas of concern and national priorities for the production of timely gender statistics (key indicators for national policy and planning requirements).
- ii. Advise on statistical data and information compilation methodologies, including compliance with international best practices in the sector.
- iii. Identify existing gender data, its format and national entities producing the data.
- iv. Prepare, review, implement and monitor national gender statistics strategic plans.
- v. Review and validate gender statistics documents that are to be submitted to governments and development partners for funding.
- vi. Formulate a national dissemination and revision policy for gender statistics, in line with the National Statistical System. Document evidence-based gender equality and women's empowerment progress in all sectors.
- vii. Strengthen the capacity of the Central Planning Unit and Gender Policy and Research Directorates in the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action to ensure the above goals are realized within the period covered by the plan.

**Time Use Survey:** In 2022, Kenya finalized its first-ever **Time Use Survey**, ~~making this the first time use survey in East Africa.~~ The survey revealed that generally, women shoulder the burden of unpaid work since they spend a considerable amount of time on activities related to unpaid domestic and care work than men do. Nationally, persons age **15 years** and above spend **12.2 per cent** of a day (approximately 3 hours) on unpaid work and the proportion of time spent on similar activities by women is about **5 times** higher (**18.7%**) compared to men (**3.6%**). Further, **women** spend approximately **7 times more** on unpaid care work (**2.4%**) than men (**0.4%**) and about **5 times** more (**16.3%**) on unpaid domestic work than their counterparts (**3.2%**). In both rural and urban areas, the pattern is similar where men spend less time on unpaid work than women. For both sexes, the proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work is slightly higher in urban areas compared to rural areas. However, time spent on unpaid domestic work alone is lower for women who reside in **urban (15.9%)** than women in **rural areas (16.5%)**. Across all counties, women spend more time on unpaid work with Marsabit county reporting the highest proportion of time spent by women (30.2% approximately 7 hours) followed by Wajir (26.8%) Samburu (24.2%), Mandera (23.8%) and Garissa (23.7%).

## **7.1 Collaboration between the State Department and Non-state actors**

The State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action and Non-State agencies are collaborating at different levels to enhance women's and girls' economic empowerment. The State Department collaborated with UN Women and KNBS to undertake a survey on the levels of poverty and how it affects various groups in Kenya which led to the development of the Kenya Comprehensive Poverty Report of 2020. The findings of the report are expected to inform policy decisions on poverty alleviation.

### **7.2 Challenges in Strengthening Institutions, Systems, and Processes**

Despite efforts to establish an implementation framework for achieving the two-thirds gender principle, Kenya has yet to legislate on it as outlined in Article 27 (8) of the 2010 Constitution. There's a lack of adequate systems to monitor allocation and expenditure on gender-related programs and Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) implementation. Resource allocation for national machineries is further strained by budget cuts resulting from austerity measures. The absence of gender indicators in the Performance Contracting of public sector agencies compromises gender mainstreaming efforts. Limited funding for the sanitary towels program impacts its coverage for all primary school girls in menstruation, as they are only provided with seven eight packets per year, leaving f months uncovered. Disposal of sanitary towels poses an environmental challenge, as most schools dispose of them in pit latrines, given that sanitary towels are not biodegradable. Few schools have improvised incinerators for disposal.

### **7.3 Opportunities for in Strengthening Institutions, Systems, and Processes exist in**

Identifying and prioritizing budget allocations within both national and county budgets towards vital sectors that bolster Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB); Ensuring Policies and Legislation are in harmony with gender responsiveness principles, fostering inclusivity and equality; Advancing the Affirmative Action Policy, outlined in Executive Order No. 2 of 2023, to empower vulnerable individuals and groups by offering affirmative action and equal opportunities, thereby maximizing their potential; and Implementing the Special Needs Survey, as outlined in Executive Order No. 2 of 2023, to facilitate data-driven decision-making processes. This survey will offer critical insights into the needs and challenges faced by individuals with special needs, in alignment with the Constitution of Kenya.

## **8. FINANCIAL INCLUSION FOR POVERTY ERADICATION AND GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Eradicating women's and girls' poverty require financing from all sources to enhance women's empowerment through the provision of decent work for women, accessible public services, social infrastructure, social protection and sustainable infrastructure. Financial exclusion and lack of access to financial services intensifies women's poverty. Data on financial inclusion in

developing countries show that 74% of men have a bank account compared to 68% of women. Furthermore, women-owned and women-led businesses are confronted with major barriers including exclusion from financial institutions or insufficient access to financial services

In Kenya, according to the Finance Report 2021, **Access to formal financial products has increased from 26.7% in 2006 to 83.7% in 2021**, while access to ‘informal only’ finance has decreased **from 32.1% to 4.7%** over the same period. The financially excluded population has decreased from **38.4%** in 2006 to **11.6%**, in the 2021 survey. The progress in financial inclusion can be attributed to **several factors including the bank branch expansion throughout the country and the outstanding growth of digital finance and mobile money**. According to the Central Bank of Kenya’s Bank Supervision Annual Reports (CBK, 2021), the **bank branch network grew from 576 to 1,459 during the period 2006-2016, reflecting a 153% increase**. **Mobile money, pioneered by M-Pesa in 2007**, provided a new financial product which did not require ownership of a bank account, making it accessible to the majority of the population, regardless of location and social status. Based on data from the Central Bank of Kenya, the number of mobile money accounts increased from **1.27 million in 2007 to 68.03 million as of December 2021**. However, the large number of accounts could also be because people may own multiple accounts. **The number of mobile money accounts grew in tandem with that of mobile money agents over the same period and went from 1,582 in 2007 to 298,272 in 2021**. While mobile money agents were initially located in urban areas, they are now spread across the country facilitating access for the population in rural areas.

While progress has been made in terms of financial inclusion, differences persist among various segments of the population that remain excluded from the financial system, with significant disparities in financial access and usage across different demographic groups. With respect to **gender, the uptake of formal financial products has increased over time and the gender gap has decreased steadily from 12.7% in 2006 to 4.2% in 2021**. Despite the narrowing gap, access to specific services, such as banking, still show gender disparities, with **38% of women** owning a bank account compared with **50% of men**. According to the KDHS 2022, twenty-nine percent of women and 39 per cent of men have and use a bank account.

Women continue to rely heavily on informal financial products to meet their needs, regardless of income or education, showing that informal finance still adds value alongside formal services. In terms of age, young people between 18 and 25 years of age remain excluded compared to the adult population with 71.8% of youth having access to formal financial products against approximately 90% of adults. However, with the introduction of mobile money, the share of youth with access to formal financial products has increased substantially from less than 10% recorded during the first survey in 2006.

### **Legislation policies, and strategies for financial inclusion**

## 8.1 Legislative frameworks

**The Constitution of Kenya, 2010:** Chapter 4 on the Bill of Rights specifically, Article 27 (3) states that women and men have the right to equal treatment, including the right to equal opportunities in political, economic, cultural and social spheres. Further to this, there are **legal instruments regulating the finance sector which include:**

- i. The Central Bank of Kenya Act, 2021(Amendment 2023), empowers CBK to license, regulate and supervise digital credit providers to ensure a **fair and non-discriminatory** marketplace for access to credit. Section 44 of the Banking Act restricts increase in bank charges
- ii. Public Finance Management Act 2012 (Financial Inclusion Fund) Regulations 2022.
- iii. The Micro and Small Enterprises Act, 2012; and the Trade Remedies Act, 2017.
- iv. Co-operative societies Act 2005 - An Act of Parliament relating to the constitution, registration and regulation of co-operative societies
- v. Information and Communications Act 1998 regulates mobile money, one of the prevalent forms of financial services in Kenya is regulated by the Kenya Information and Communications Act (KICA), 1998
- vi. Microfinance act No. 19 of 2006 regulates the provision of microfinance in Kenya. The *Microfinance Regulations 2008* to operationalize the *Microfinance Act (2006)*
- vii. SACCO Societies Act No. 14 of 2008 - For Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations, SACCOs have become a critical source of credit. According to the Kenya Union of Saving and Credit Cooperatives, the SACCOs have disbursed over Kshs **600 billion** to their members with **SMEs** accounting for a significant portion of loans.
- viii. SACCOs have therefore been successful in promoting financial inclusion by focusing mainly on low-income individuals and communities that are often excluded from traditional banking

## 8.2 Policy Frameworks and strategies/intervention for Financial Inclusion

The Kenya Vision 2030, economic pillar seeks to improve the prosperity of all Kenyans through an economic development programme, covering all the regions of Kenya. The main aim is to achieve an average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 10 per cent per annum until 2030.

- i. **Medium Term Plan IV** of the Vision is aligned with the Government's **Bottom-up Transformation Agenda** whose objectives are aimed at alleviating poverty by: bringing down the cost of living by lowering the annual inflation rate to 5%; eradicating hunger

and creating 1,200,000 jobs annually. The MTPIV social pillar captures interventions towards sustainable development among other objectives.

- ii. **National Policy on Gender and Development, 2019:** prioritizes economic empowerment through financial inclusion of women and girls.
- iii. **National Policy on Women Economic Empowerment:** the policy recognizes the role played by different actors in the economic empowerment of women and girls in various sectors including industry and trade, agriculture, and education
- iv. **Women Economic Empowerment Strategy 2020- 2025** - provides a framework for accelerating measures towards women's economic empowerment.

### 8.2.1 Strategic Interventions on Financial Inclusion

The following interventions by the Government and non state actors are steadily contributing to the financial inclusion of women:

- i. **Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) Program:** Through this programme women, youth and persons with disability have been awarded government tenders and this has uplifted the standard of living for this category of people. The amount awarded as tenders to women has been increasing from **Kshs 15,547.2 million (USD 98.4 Million)** awarded in 2018/2019 YF, **Kshs. 10,906.1 million (USD69.025 million)** for the 2019/20 FY, **Ksh. 19,178.5 million (USD121.4 million)** for the FY 2020/21 FY, **Kshs. 22,614.5 million (USD143.1 million)** for the 2021/22 FY and an expected amount of **Kshs. 24,876.0 million (USD157.4 million)** for the 2022/23 (KNBS, 2023).
- ii. **National Government Affirmative Action Fund:** was enacted through Legal Notice No.24 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and published on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015. The Fund is governed by the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (National Government Affirmative Action Development Fund), Regulations, 2016. The Fund was established with the primary objective of enhancement of access to financial facilities for women through a revolving fund for **enhancement of economic empowerment initiatives**, support of **value addition initiatives** by the affirmative action groups; **socio-cultural development** and **nurturing of talent for the youth**, among other mandates.
- iii. Since its inception, the Fund has disbursed **Kshs.16.6 B (USD 109210526)** for various initiatives. a) Bursary and Scholarship -Supported **262,953 vulnerable students and special needs** children and **28,258 trainees in technical and vocational institutions.** b) Women Economic Empowerment: **20,182 affirmative action groups and 128 Women**

**owned SACCOs** have been funded for enterprise development activities and c) Value Addition Initiatives: **13,499 affirmative action groups provided** with funds to support various value addition income generating initiatives.

- iv. **Women Enterprise Fund:** established under the Legal Notice No.147 of August 2007 Fund as a National Fund primarily to provide accessible and **affordable credit** and **business support services** to women entrepreneurs to **start and/or expand** business for **wealth and employment creation**. Since inception, the Fund has disbursed over **Ksh 27.3 billion (USD 180, 014272)** to **155675 women** groups and **2,252,864 beneficiaries**.
- v. **The Uwezo (Empowerment) Fund:** Aimed at enabling women, youth and persons with disabilities access finances to **promote businesses and enterprises** at the constituency level, thereby enhancing **economic growth** towards the realization of the same and the Sustainable Development Goals No.1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and 3 (promote gender equality and empower women). Since the Fund's inception in 2014, the state had disbursed **Sh7.5 billion to 82, 246** groups across **all 290 constituencies benefiting 51, 086 women groups, 29, 168 youth groups and 2, 021 groups** of persons with disabilities nationally.
- vi. **50 million Women Speak Platform:** The virtual platform is intended to empower millions of women in Africa to start, grow and scale up businesses by providing a one-stop shop for their specific information needs. Kenya is leading with the number of women registered in this platform with **127,457 women registered as of August 2023**.

#### **8.2.2 Inclusion of Women in Design, Supervision and Implementation of Construction Projects to Foster Women Economic Empowerment**

The Government is undertaking specific projects aimed at empowering women's participation in male dominated sectors. An example is women's inclusion in the construction sector which aligns with SDG 1. No Poverty: SDG 4. Quality Education's 5. Gender Equality's 10. Reduced Inequalities: and SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

The construction industry has long been recognized as a vital driver of economic growth and development in Kenya. It plays a pivotal role in shaping the country's infrastructure, supporting job creation, and fueling various sectors of the economy. Kenya's construction sector has seen remarkable growth in recent years, and its continued expansion holds the key to fostering economic progress, improving living standards, and addressing critical challenges.

According to a study on women representation in the built environment by the Women in Real Estate (WIRE) advocacy, gender discrimination persists in spite of a slight increase in number of women venturing into the country's construction industry.

The Government of Kenya recognizes the need to develop enabling policies and laws that, govern activities in the construction industry coupled with mentorship of women to take up construction industry professional courses that will open doors for them to effectively practice in the built environment, and therefore economically empower them. The Government is therefore developing the **National Public Works Policy 2024** which includes a provision for mentorship of women in construction with a view of positioning them in all processes of construction ranging from decision-making, designing, supervision and implementation of construction projects. Additionally, women entrepreneurs/Businesswomen are being targeted to invest in the construction industry.

### **8.3 Mobile Banking and Financial Inclusion in Kenya**

M-Pesa, Airtel, *T-Kash* are mobile money transfer and savings services that allow users to make bill payments, buy airtime, and get credit. They have transformed the face of financial inclusion in Kenya. Millions of individuals now have access to financial services and can engage in the formal economy, especially those unbanked. The Communications Commission of Kenya reported that in September 2021 there were **29.1 million M-Pesa** customers in Kenya, making up **63%** of the population. According to the research, Kenyans used **M-Pesa to do business worth KSh 5.1 trillion (about \$47 billion) in the three months ended in September 2021.**

### **8.4 Banking Agents**

Bank agents, contracted by financial institutions or mobile network operators process clients' transactions. Examples of these bank agents include **Co-op Kwa Jirani agent, Equity Bank agent, Family Bank Pesa Pap** and **KCB Mtaani**. These agents have greatly improved financial inclusion in Kenya due to their strategic locations at the community levels such as markets where most women are found.

### **8.5 Financial Products and Services**

**Various financial products and services targeting include:**

- i. **Queen Banking by Family Bank:** Family Bank unveiled an exclusive woman banking proposition dubbed '**Queen Banking**' and set aside KES 50 billion kitties for the next 2 years to cater for the diverse individual and business needs of women to promote women's economic empowerment and deepen financial inclusion in Kenya. **Queen Banking** caters for the needs of three types of women, namely the **Woman in Business**, the **Professional Woman** and the **Chama Woman**. The product is exclusive to businesses with at least **51 per cent of the shares controlled by women or 100 per cent owned by women, businesses where women constitute more than 30 per cent of the board or more than 25 per cent of senior management or businesses that have products or services specifically geared to benefit women**

- ii. **Msamaria Women's Loan by Cooperative Bank:** Offers financial empowerment to women who are seeking working and investment capital. Features of the loan include: The Msamaria Women Loan Product features are as follows: Flexible Working capital loans for operational & investment expenditure, Unsecured Limits from **Ksh5,000.00** of up to **Ksh.10Million** with a repayment period of 24 months, empowerment training and networking forums, Insurance Package Benefit- Femina Medical Cover, Critical illness cover, Personal Accident cover, Death and Permanent Total Disability
- iii. **Stanbic Bank Dada:** The bank rolled out a women's proposition, *DaDA* aimed at championing women's empowerment. Over **29,000 women** have been signed up and over **10,000 women** have undergone capacity building offered capacity building on entrepreneurial skills

### Strategic interventions on financial inclusion

#### 8.6 Bottom-up economic transformation Agenda: This is the National Governments Agenda which seeks to transform the financial landscape by:

- i. Providing financial and capacity-building support for women through the **Hustler Fund** for **women-led co-operative societies, *chamas*, merry-go-rounds and table banking initiatives** and **protect them from predatory interest rates charged** by unscrupulous money
- ii. **Establishing a Social Welfare Fund** for Kenyan women working abroad to provide a safety net for distressed diaspora citizens;
- iii. The bottom-up economic transformation plan commits to the following:
  - **ending the criminalization** of work by enacting a right-to-work law
  - **making trading licenses and provision of a trading location an entitlement to every citizen** who applies;
  - working with county governments to **provide street trading premises**, addressing
  - **bureaucracy and regulatory compliance costs**,
  - **availing Sh50 billion a year to provide MSMEs with access to affordable finance:** and
  - establishment of **MSME business development Centre** in every ward and **industrial park and business incubation center in every TVET institution**

**8.7 Hustler fund: is a digital financial inclusion** intervention designed to improve financial access for personal, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Kenya. The core objective of the Fund is to offer holistic financial solutions targeting people at the bottom of the pyramid. The main pillars within the financial inclusion fund are: Affordable credit; competitive

savings and Pension products; comprehensive insurance solutions; access to affordable housing and Market linkages. This Fund is intended to cushion and mitigate financial shocks for the informal sector which accounts for more **than 80% of the**

Women borrowers can register groups, access credit and accumulate savings without human interface. The Hustler fund has over **8,198,738 saving groups; 51,860 groups have been** registered with a membership of **1,182,390 beneficiaries**.

In the period of one year, the Hustler Fund disbursed **Ksh. 36.87 billion (USD242.6 million)** to **21.2 million people** and mobilized **Ksh 1.843 billion (USD12.13 million)** in savings. These funds help women reinvest in their businesses, families and communities producing multiple effects that spur economic growth.

## **8.8 Social Protection**

Major achievements during the **Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2020/21 - 2022/23** the Social Protection, Culture and Recreation Sector disbursed cash to 756,485 older persons; 38,118 households with persons with severe disabilities (PWsD); and 278,188 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs); Empowered 167,797 Community Self-Help Groups through mobilization, registration, and capacity building, linked 139,822 groups to MFIs for financial support Registered and issued 120,929 PWDs with disability cards; Granted tax exemption certificates to 5,533 PWDs; Supported 10,291 PWDs with assistive devices against a target of 12,000; Provided scholarships to 7,550 learners. Rescued 10,149 street persons, against a target of 8,500; Supported 66,900 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) with Presidential Secondary School education scholarships in the review period.

The budgetary allocation for the sector increased from **Kshs.53,026.08 million in 2020/21** to **Kshs.69,151.94 million in 2021/22 and Kshs. 64,550.15 million in 2022/23** financial years respectively. The actual expenditure for the period was **Kshs.51,910.79 million and Kshs.64,502.68 million and Kshs. 59,226.09** for the 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/2023 financial years respectively.

The sector has prioritized the implementation of the following key strategic interventions: - Review the existing labour laws to align them with emerging issues in the labour employment sector, upgrade and expand the existing industrial and training centres, and strengthen the linkages between training institutions and industry. Social Development and Children services, National safety programs that support Social Economic growth and development (NGAAF, WEF) and Sports, Arts and Social Development Fund (SASDF) to promote and develop Sports, Arts and social development including Universal Health.

## 9. OTHER KEY INTERVENTIONS FOR ADDRESSING POVERTY ERADICATION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

### 9.1 Education

The Government has put in place mechanisms to access and equity in TVET institutions by investing in the following:

**Infrastructure development:** increased the number of TVET institutions from 52 in 2013 to 238 in 2022, representing a growth of **435%** at a total cost of **Ksh. 10.6 billion**. The enrolment has grown from **55,945 trainees in 2013 to 318,179 (176,437 male and 141,742 female) in 2022** (representing **469%** increase); the enrolment shows a parity index of 0.80. The improved enrolment is as a result of increased Government support through:

**(a) Capitation to TVET trainees:** Disbursement of Ksh. 10.3B to over 318,179 trainees since 2019.

**(ii) Higher Education Loans Board Loans (HELB) to TVET trainees amounting to Ksh. 11.1B.**

#### Support and Provision of Finances for Education for Women and Girls and Strengthening of Institutions

HELB Products	Female	%	Male	%	Total Students
Undergraduate loan TVET loan	86,117	38%	139,932	62%	226,049
Post graduate loans	505	37%	825	63%	1357
TVET loan	49,195	46%	58,723	54%	107,918
Afya Elimu	2,942	59%	2,073	41%	5,015
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>138,759</b>		<b>201,580</b>		<b>340,339</b>

Construction of four (4) Special TVET institutions at a total cost of Ksh. 800 M to promote equity and participation in TVET.

**9.2 Sanitary Towels Programme: Investment in sanitary towels has contributed to the retention of girls in school.** Since the inception of the programme in the 2011/2012

Financial Year, approximately 7.9 million girls have benefitted from the provision of sanitary towels. The provision of sanitary towels has contributed to the access, retention, performance and transition of the vulnerable girls in all regions across the country.

**9.3 Gender Based Violence - Generation Equality Forum (GEF): The Government is a co-leader in the Global Generation Equality Action Coalition on ending Gender Based Violence In 2020,** the Government committed to investing **USD 23 million** for GBV prevention and response by 2022 and increasing the resource allocation up to USD 50 million by 2026 through a co-financing model. Towards this, the government has also established a GBV survivors fund through a co-financing model in partnership with private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders for economic empowerment of GBV survivors. GROOTS Kenya, The Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD), Mastercard Foundation, and Centre for Rights Educations and Awareness (CREAW) Kenya collectively established the 50 million Jasiri fund to support GBV survivors in 10 counties: Busia, Kajiado, Kwale, Mandera, Tana River, Kiambu, Kakamega, Nairobi, Mombasa and Kilifi. The Government also allocated Kshs. 102 million towards the elimination of FGM and Kshs. 200 million on GBV in the 2020/2021 FY and another Kshs 110 million in the 2021/2022 FY. Further, the Government of Finland allocated Kshs. 120 million in the Kenya–Finland Programme on GBV. In this programme, the Government of Kenya set aside Kshs. 18.9 million as counterpart funds. UNFPA allocated an additional Kshs. 28 million for GBV and FGM programming for FY 2021/2022. The Gates foundation through Amref supported the establishment of the GEF secretariat at the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action through a grant of USD 500,000 for a period of two years.

**9.4 Climate Change Strategies and Financing:** Climate change has had intense impacts on women and girls, especially those in poor households or rural communities with greater dependence on natural resources for food, water and fuel. The UN Secretary General report on the CSW 68 priority theme notes that in the worst-case climate scenario, an additional 158.3 million women and girls could be pushed into poverty by 2050. The Government of Kenya has put in place strategies to address Climate change:

- a. **Climate Change Action Plan:** The outlines strategies to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. It includes measures for sustainable agriculture, forestry, and renewable energy development.
- b. **Sustainable Agriculture:** The plan emphasizes sustainable agricultural practices that enhance resilience to climate change. This includes promoting climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, and conservation agriculture techniques. Training programs are designed to equip farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to

adapt to changing climate conditions, improve crop yields, and diversify income sources.

- c. **Renewable Energy Access:** The plan promotes the development and use of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal power. Access to clean and affordable energy is crucial for poverty reduction, as it improves livelihoods, supports economic activities, and reduces dependency on traditional and often unsustainable energy sources.
- d. **Natural Resource Management:** Sustainable management of natural resources, including water and forests, is a key component of the action plan. This helps protect ecosystems, ensure water availability, and reduce vulnerability to climate-related shocks, all of which are important for the livelihoods of communities, particularly those dependent on agriculture and natural resources.
- e. **Resilience Building:** The plan includes measures to build the resilience of communities to climate-related risks and disasters. This involves implementing early warning systems, improving infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events, and developing community-based adaptation strategies. Resilient communities are better equipped to protect their livelihoods, assets, and economic activities, which are critical components of poverty reduction.
- f. **Green Jobs and Economic Opportunities:** The promotion of green jobs and sustainable business practices is embedded in the action plan. This involves supporting industries and enterprises that contribute to environmental sustainability and create employment opportunities. By fostering the growth of environmentally friendly businesses, the plan aims to enhance economic opportunities for communities, leading to improved income levels and reduced poverty.
- g. **Community Engagement and Participation:** The action plan emphasizes the importance of community engagement and participation in decision-making processes related to climate change. This ensures that the needs and perspectives of vulnerable and marginalized groups are considered in the planning and implementation of climate-related interventions.
- h. **Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Financing: Granular gender and climate change hotspot mapping** has been launched. It will also identify hotspots of vulnerability to climate change from a gender perspective and provide evidence-based information for policymakers.
- i. The results of the hotspot analysis will help policymakers to develop effective, gender-inclusive, streamlined policies which target priority areas where climate risk and vulnerability are high to allow for improved resource

utilization. An initial hotspot mapping in the Agriculture, Energy and Water sectors is almost complete, demonstrating the levels of vulnerabilities in the mentioned sectors across all counties in Kenya.

The enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan (GAP) adopted by COP 25 in 2019 provides a framework to guide Parties on activities that may be implemented to ensure gender-responsive climate policies and actions at the national level.

The Government of Kenya has mainstreamed some of the actions in the Medium-Term Plans of the Kenya Vision 2030, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the National Climate Change Action Plans. The Government is developing Kenya's first National Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (NGCCAP) for the period 2023-2027. The main goal of the Plan is to mainstream gender into climate change initiatives, programs and policies nationally. It will further be part of implementing the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan by domesticating it from the global to the national level. The outcomes and recommendations from the Hotspot mapping will go a long way in informing some of the interventions in Kenya's GAP.

The "Kenya Economic Empowerment of Women through Climate-Smart Agriculture in Arid and Semi-Arid Central Areas (WEE-CSA)" project is a four-year gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture (CSA) project being implemented in the three Arid and Semi-arid lands (ASAL) counties of Laikipia, Kitui and West Pokot. The project, funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), aims to increase investments in women's capacities to ensure more equitable access to assets and productive resources that would strengthen women's rights and cope with increased climate variability. Specifically, the project seeks to invest in building the capacities of the national and county-level institutions to ensure the engendering and implementation of CSA policies, which will ensure the sustainability of such efforts.

### **Lessons learnt on financial inclusion**

1. Women remain disproportionately disadvantaged in the real economy concerning their livelihoods, income, and education; and it is essential to recognize that the promotion of financial inclusion must go hand in hand with efforts to foster equal access for women to opportunities and resources. Addressing the root causes of gender inequality is essential to achieve a more sustainable and inclusive financial system and to create a conducive environment that supports women's economic empowerment and participation in the wider economy.
2. **The role of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).** It is important to understand the barriers and challenges faced by MSMEs, particularly those owned by women, and how financial sector policies as well as other interventions can create an enabling environment to support their development and growth. Financial institutions can

also play a vital role in supporting women-owned businesses by developing tailored financial products and services that cater to their specific needs.

3. **The digital financial divide and the relation with digital financial education.** While individuals may have access to technology, such as mobile phones or the internet, they may lack the skills to use them effectively. Digital financial education becomes a critical factor for financial inclusion, especially for those segments that remain excluded from digital financial services.
4. The link between financial education and financial health, particularly for vulnerable segments with low income and job insecurity. The issue is particularly relevant in consideration of the significant increase in the number of casual labourers especially women, which highlights the need for policies that promote financial health and well-being for these segments.

## 10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through the lenses of poverty alleviation, institution strengthening, and gender-responsive financing is an urgent imperative. To accelerate progress in this endeavour, concerted efforts must be made to address the multifaceted challenges faced by women and girls, including legislative gaps, inadequate resource allocation, and systemic barriers. By prioritizing gender equality in policy-making, investing in institutional capacity building, and ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities are useful ingredients for creating a more inclusive and prosperous society for all. It is through collective action, sustained commitment, and a gender-transformative approach that can truly accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, thereby fostering a more just and equitable world for generations to come

1. Financial institutions, including banks and microfinance institutions, need to collaborate with community-based organizations to develop gender-responsive financial products. These specialized financial products should account for the absence of traditional collateral, offer alternative financing solutions such as patient capital, equity, or quasi-equity and be adapted to particular contexts e.g cross border trade and marine environment.
2. Public sector actors, in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and educational institutions, could implement financial literacy programmes that aim to enhance women's financial knowledge and skills. By empowering entrepreneurs with financial knowledge, they can make informed decisions about their financing options.
3. To improve long-term financial inclusion, public state actors, in partnership with financial institutions, need to focus on expanding the presence of banks, Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs), and Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). Establishing

more branches, introducing mobile banking units, and leveraging technology to offer financial services in remote areas are long-term strategies.

4. Community-based organizations and other non-state actors can take the lead in facilitating informal financial networks and develop policies that aim to strengthen and formalize informal financial networks. This can be achieved by encouraging the creation of community-based lending and borrowing associations and peer-to-peer lending platforms.
5. Developing and implementing strategic frameworks towards enhancing financial inclusion.

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The Basic Education Amendment Act, 2017:

## **Policies**

National Policy on Gender and Development (NPGAD)  
The National Social Protection Policy 2011, (revised 2024)  
The National Agricultural Policy (NAP) 2021Sessional Paper No. 4 of 2013 on Employment  
Policy and Strategy in Kenya (EPS)  
The National Policy on Labour Migration Policy  
Gender Policy in Education  
The Draft National Care Policy  
The Public Service Commission Diversity Policy  
SDGs Recovery and Acceleration Strategy (2022-2030)

## **Vision 2030**

County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs)  
Economic Survey 2021, 2022 and 2023  
National Demographic Health Survey 2023

Annex 2

Main  
Program

Annex 2  
Main  
Program

**SIXTY-EIGHT SESSION OF CSW: PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**  
**11 – 22 March 2024**

<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>Monday, 11 March 2024</b>	<b>Tuesday, 12 March 2024</b>	<b>Wednesday, 13 March 2024</b>	<b>Thursday, 14 March 2024</b>	<b>Friday, 15 March 2024</b>
10.00 am – 1.00 pm	<p><b>Opening of the session</b>            - Election of officers (Item 1)            - Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (Item 2)            - Introduction of documents (Item 3 as a whole)</p> <p><b>General discussion</b> (Item 3)  <i>(opens)</i>            Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly</p> <p><b>Deadline for inscription on list of speakers: Wednesday, 6 March, 1 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Ministerial round tables on the priority theme</b></p> <p>10.00 – 11.30            MRT 1: Mobilizing financing for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls: Policies and strategies to end women's and girls' poverty</p> <p>11.30 – 1.00            MRT 2: Good practices for strengthening institutions and maximizing financing to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	<p><b>Ministerial round tables on the priority theme</b></p> <p>10.00 – 11.30            MRT 3: Mobilizing financing for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls: Policies and strategies to end women's and girls' poverty</p> <p>11.30 – 1.00            MRT 4: Good practices for strengthening institutions and maximizing financing to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p>	<p><b>General discussion</b>            (Item 3) <i>(continued)</i></p> <p><b>1 p.m.: deadline for submission of draft proposals</b></p>	<p><b>Interactive dialogue</b>  <b>Review theme</b></p> <p>Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls</p> <p><b>In parallel with</b></p> <p><i>Informal consultations on agreed conclusions</i></p>
1-3 p.m.					
3.00 – 6.00 pm	<p><b>General discussion</b>            (Item 3) <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>General discussion</b>            (Item 3) <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>General discussion</b>            (Item 3) <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p><b>Interactive dialogue with youth representatives on the priority theme</b></p> <p>Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective</p> <p><b>In parallel with</b></p> <p><i>Informal consultations on agreed conclusions</i></p>	<p><b>Interactive dialogue</b>  <b>Review theme</b></p> <p>Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls</p> <p><b>In parallel with</b></p> <p><i>Informal consultations on agreed conclusions</i></p>

**NB: The Bureau recommends that the Ministerial segment conclude on Friday, 15 March 2024, at 6.00 pm.**

WEEK 2	Monday, 18 March 2024	Tuesday, 19 March 2024	Wednesday, 20 March 2024	Thursday, 21 March 2024	Friday, 22 March 2024
10.00 am – 1.00 pm	<p><b>Interactive expert panel on priority theme</b></p> <p>Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective</p> <p><b>In parallel with</b></p> <p><i>Informal consultations on agreed conclusions</i></p>	<p><b>General discussion (Item 3) (continued)</b></p> <p><b>In parallel with</b></p> <p><i>Informal consultations on agreed conclusions</i></p>	<p><b>Floating holiday of Nowruz - No formal meetings to take place</b></p> <p><i>Informal consultations on agreed conclusions</i></p>	<p><b>Interactive dialogue</b> <b>Focus area/emerging issue</b></p> <p>Artificial intelligence to advance gender equality: challenges and opportunities</p> <p><b>In parallel with</b></p> <p><i>Informal consultations on agreed conclusions</i></p>	<p><b>Follow-up to the Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions (Item 5) - introduction and discussion</b></p> <p><b>Introduction of draft proposals</b> <b>Action on draft proposals</b> <b>Action on draft agreed conclusions</b> <b>Action on any other outstanding issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provisional agenda for the 69<sup>th</sup> session of CSW (Item 6)</li> <li>- Adoption of the report of the CSW on its 68<sup>th</sup> session (Item 7)</li> <li>- Closure of the 68<sup>th</sup> session</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>Opening of 69<sup>th</sup> session</b> <b>Election of Bureau</b></p>
1-3 p.m.					
3.00 – 6.00 pm	<p><b>General discussion (Item 3) (continued)</b></p> <p><b>In parallel with</b></p> <p><i>Informal consultations on agreed conclusions</i></p>	<p><b>Closed meeting to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications (Item 4)</b></p> <p><i>followed by</i></p> <p><b>General discussion (Item 3) (concludes)</b></p> <p><b>In parallel with</b></p> <p><i>Informal consultations on agreed conclusions</i></p>	<p><i>Informal consultations on agreed conclusions</i></p>	<p><i>Informal consultations on agreed conclusions</i></p>	

Annex 3

CSW Side-Events

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## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
1.	UNDP	Driving Change: How Non-Traditional Livelihoods Can Advance Gender Equality – Insights From India	08:00am-09:30am		
2.	ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development	Empowering And Investing In Women: How Digital Inclusion Can Narrow The Gender Divide	10:00am-11:00am		bbcommission@itu.int
3.	United Kingdom	What Adolescent Girls Want: Priorities And Solutions	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	ecamilletti@unicef.org
4.	Pakistan, UN Women	Women Empowerment in Pakistan	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
5.	OIC and The Government of Egypt	OIC Celebration of The International Year of The Family 2024 Empowering Families For Sustainable Future: Best Practices In Upholding Women's and Girls Human Rights	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	oic.un.ny@gmail.com
6.	Malawi & Plan International	Accelerating Gender Equality Through Social Protection and Digital Innovation in Malawi	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	ronaldphiri8@gmail.com
7.	The Permanent Mission of the State of Israel, the Ministry for Social Protection and the Advancement of the Status of Women, Women's Spirit – Financial Independence for Women Victims of Violence, Devorah Forum, INSPIRE, American Muslim and Multifaith Women	Heroes Of October 7th And Beyond Women As Agents Of Change In Times Of Conflict	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
8.	Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Southern Africa Trust (SAT) Zimbabwe Women's Resource and Communication Network (ZWRCN)	Unpaid Care Work in Africa: Who Bears The Burden	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	matashane-marite@un.org akanengoni@southafricatrust.org thokor@zwrcn.org.zw
9.	Germany	Breaking The Single Parent Poverty Trap – Intersectional Insights and Promising Policies to Support Single Parents	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
10.	Indonesia	Institutions and Resources for Women's Human Rights And Women Empowerment	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
11.	Egypt	Women and Cyber Violence	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
12.	Cameroon	Show Casing Best Practices on Women Empowerment, Youth, Peace and Security in Cameroon	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
13.	Government of Mongolia and Asian Development Bank	Improvement of the Situation of women and Girls in Rural Areas: Ensuring Equal Access to Quality Public Services and Economic Empowerment	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building	ulziibayar.mng.un@gmail.com; etugenod@gmail.com
14.	France	Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: How to Make Progress and fight and Impunity? (France CSW68 Side Event)	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
15.	Nordic Council of Ministers, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden	A Gender-Equal Future For Financial Freedom	01:15pm-02:30pm	ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Building	
16.	Malta, OSCE	Empowering Women For Justice: Advancing Gender Quality in Organized Crime Prevention and Exit Strategies	01:15pm-02:30pm	Permanent Mission of Malta To the U, 244E 48 <sup>th</sup> Street	
17.	World Bank	Engaging Women as Leaders to End Poverty on a Livable Planet	01:15pm-03:00pm	Delegates Dining Room, West Terrace	
18.	Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN, and UN Women	Financial Empowerment of Women and Girls over The Whole Life Cycle	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	franziska.chariah@bmeia.gv.at
19.	Sierra Leone Mission, UN Women; Irish Aid, Trocaire And 50/50 Group	Beyond the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment(GEWE) Act in Sierra Leone	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
20.	State of Palestine, ESCWA and UN Women	Differential Impact on Women and Girls During the War in Gaza	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room, Conference Building	
21.	European Union	Ministerial Meeting of The Group of Friends For the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls	03:00pm-04:15pm	ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Building	
22.	League of Arab States (LAS)	Breaking Chains: Women's Quest for Life In Gaza	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 1, Conference Building	

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
23.	Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Greece and Iceland	Parliamentarians as Drivers For Women Empowerment	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	asega@coe.int
24.	UNDP	UNDP CSW68 High-Level Side Event – Towards Gender Equal Economies: Making Public Finance Work for Gender Equality	03:00pm-04:30pm	Millennium Hilton New York, One UN Plaza and Virtual	
25.	Mission of Latvia, Council of Ministers, NGO CSW/NY	Ending Economic Gender-Based Violence	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 4, General Assembly Building	
26.	Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein, Council of Europe	Catalysts For Change: Breaking Down Gender Stereotypes In Media And Advertising	04:45pm-06:00pm	ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Building	
27.	Costa Rica, Chile, Colombia, Finland, the Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR)	A Care-Led Transition Towards A Sustainable Future: Pathways To Address Poverty And The Climate Crisis With A Gender Lens	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room F, General Assembly Building	alejandra@gi-escr.org
28.	Government of Kenya and Equality Now	From Commitment To Action: Accelerating Achievements Of Generation Equality Forum (GEF) On Gender Based Violence (GBV)	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 1, Conference Building	
29.	Hungary and Roads of Success	Financial Inclusion To Empower Women In Humanitarian Contexts, Including Survivors Of Sexual Violence In Conflict	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	hungaryun.ny@mfa.gov.hu

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
30.	South Africa	CSW Side Event By South Africa	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	passmoorj@dirco.gov.za
31.	SADC, UN Women, UNAIDS	Taking Stock Of Progress Made On CSW Resolution 60/2 On "Women, The Girl Child And HIV"	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	j.utamura-nzisabira@unwomen.org; kdambuza@sadc.int
32.	International Trade Centre, UN Women, Government of Kenya (Office of the President's Women's Rights Advisor), Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, Republic of Ecuador	Launch Of The Itc-Un Women Global Campaign On Gender-Responsive Public Procurement	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	iaguiar@intracen.org

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
1.	Australia, Burkina Faso, Poland, ChildFund Alliance, Children Believe, ACEV, Equimundo	The Importance Of Care In Achieving Gender Equality: Early Childhood Development (ECD), Parenting Services, And Policies	08:00am-09:30am	Scandinavia House, 58 Park Ave, New York, NY 10016 (Virtual Registration)	
2.	Netherlands	Public Participation Of Women And Girls In All Their Diversity	08:15am-09:30am	The Netherlands Permanent Representation to the UN, 666 Third Avenue on the 18th floor	
3.	Poland, Global Fund For Widows	Widowhood, Self-Determination, And Equality: Financial Empowerment Of Widows As A Tool To Eradicate Poverty	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
4.	Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Family and Social Services	Unveiling The Untold: The Devastating Effects Of Conflict On Women And Girls	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	ukb@aile.gov.tr
5.	The Permanent Mission of Belgium and the Delegation of the European Union to the UN	Harnessing Social Protection To Tackle Poverty And Empower Women And Girls	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	newyorkun@diplobel.fed.be
6.	Zimbabwe	Breaking Barriers And Bridging The Financial Gap: Advancing Gender Equality Through Financial Inclusion Of Women And Girls.	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room C, Conference Building	

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
7.	Permanent Mission of Afghanistan and Permanent Mission Malta, Canada's Feminist Forum for Afghanistan, ICAN (International Civil Society Action Network), Peace Direct and the Women's Regional Network	Crimes Against Humanity In Afghanistan With A Gender Lens: Strengthening Global Coordination	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 1, Conference Building	info@afghanistan-un.org
8.	Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone and Every Woman Treaty	The Necessity Of A New Optional Protocol To CEDAW To End Violence Against Women And Girls	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room F, General Assembly Building	Amjad Chatila: amjad@everywoman.org
9.	Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women	Gender-Sensitive Parliaments: Advancing Gender Equality To End Poverty	10:00am-12:45pm	ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Building	Ms. Marie-Graziella NGUINI (mgn@ipu.org ; +41 22 919 41 45)
10.	Permanent Mission of Luxembourg, Center for Reproductive Rights, others (TBC)	The Impacts Of Poverty And Criminalization On Access To Abortion	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	Veda Yagnik VYagnik@reprorights.org
11.	Estonia	Equality Bodies During The Crises: Guardians Of The Equality Legislation In Difficult Times	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	mattias.varem@mfa.ee
12.	The Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations, Global Network of Women	Empowering Peace: Cost-Effectiveness And Value-Added Of Women's Conflict Prevention Work	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	katrina@gnwp.org

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
	Peacebuilders (GNWP), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding				
13.	State Audit Office of North Macedonia, State Audit Office of Republic of Serbia, Sida and UN Women	Supreme Audit Institutions As Agents For Increasing Accountability Toward Financing For Gender Equality	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	tanja.janevska@dzr.gov.mk; assistant.pr@mfa.gov.mk
14.	Sweden, Ukraine, Poland, Moldova	Trafficking In Human Beings In Europe	01:15pm-2:30pm	Virtual	
15.	Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP, UN Women, World Bank	Integrated And Gender-Responsive Financing Of Sustainable Development In Bosnia And Herzegovina	01:15pm-2:30pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	darko.zelenika@mvp.gov.ba
16.	Australia	Gender Equality As A Core Economic Imperative: How Government Structures, Processes And Evidence Can Shift The Dial On Gender Equality	01:15pm-2:30pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
17.	Italy, Burkina Faso, UK, World Bank, UNICEF, UNFPA, The Girl Generation: Africa-Led Movement, Survivor testimonies, youth organizations.	Financing The Elimination Of Female Genital Mutilation	01:15pm-2:30pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
18.	World Bank	Unveiling Healthcare Challenges For LBT Women	01:15pm-2:30pm	Conference Room F, General Assembly Building	

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
19.	Denmark	Afghan Women Journalists Under The Taliban	01:15pm-2:30pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
20.	Indonesia, Morocco, State of Qatar, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, and UNWOMEN	Advancing Women In The Judiciary: A High-Level Side Event On The Occasion Of The 68th Session Of The Commission On The Status Of Women And To Commemorate International Women Judges' Day	01:15pm-2:30pm	Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building	
21.	Office of the President of the General Assembly and UN Women	Closing The Gender Gap In Education: How To Address Long-Term Barriers And Emerging Challenges In A World Of Complex Crises? High-Level Event Hosted By The President Of The General Assembly For Its 78th Session	01:15pm-2:30pm	ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Building	pornrawe.poenate etai@un.org, brenda.pumarolm edina@un.org
22.	Lebanon, the Arab Women Organization and UN Women, in cooperation with Egypt, Germany, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Spain and Sweden	The Care Economy In An Evolving World: Equal Sharing Of Caregiving And Household Responsibilities Between Men And Women As Tool For Social Equity And Cohesion	03:00pm-4:15pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
23.	Government of Canada, in collaboration with the Province of Manitoba, and the Ontario Native Women's Association, the Government of Mexico, and Canada's International Development Research Centre	Indigenous Women's Voices On The Barriers And Opportunities Towards Their Inclusive Socio-Economic Development	03:00pm-4:15pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	cassandra.morin @international.gc .ca ; fatima.sanogo@in ternational.gc.ca

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
24.	Costa Rica, Equality Now, UNFPA	Violencia Sexual: Fortalecimiento De Las Instituciones Para Erradicar Las Barreras A La Justicia Para Mujeres Y Niñas Con Discapacidad	03:00pm-4:15pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	aobando@equalitynow.org
25.	International Telecommunication Union	Towards Gender Transformative Digital Skills Education	03:00pm-4:15pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
26.	Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women	Gender-Sensitive Parliaments: Advancing Gender Equality To End Poverty	03:00pm-06:00pm	ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Building	Ms. Marie-Graziella NGUINI (mgn@ipu.org ; +41 22 919 41 45)
27.	Fiji	Catalyzing Women's Economic Empowerment: Integrating Evidence-Based Policies And Gender-Responsive Accountability Measures For Lasting Impact	04:30pm-5:30pm	Millenium Hotel UN Plaza, One UN Plaza, New York , NY 10017	
28.	OHCR	Special Rapporteur On Violence Against Women And Girls	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
29.	Organisation internationale de la Francophonie	Concertation Francophone De Haut Niveau Sur "L'autonomisation Des Femmes Francophones : Levier Pour Une Inclusion Économique Durable"	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	rotane.khaled@francophonie.org
30.	Antigua and Barbuda and UN Women	SIDS And Gender Equality- Charting The Course Toward Resilient Prosperity For All Using A Gender Lens.	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
31.	UNDP	High-Level Dialogue For Latin America And The Caribbean On Financing For Gender Equality: Reducing Inequalities And Strengthening Democracies	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	marta.alvarez@undp.org
32.	UNSRC Symphony Orchestra, United Voices 4 Peace	Global Women In Music	07:30pm-09:00pm	NYU Skirball, 566 LaGuardia Place, New York	

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
1.	UN Global Compact - Brazil Network	Women Leadership Breakfast	08:00am-10:30am	TBC	
2.	UN DESA	Urgent Action For Gender Equality In The SDGs: Accelerating Progress For Women And Girls By 2030	09:00am-10:15am	Virtual	
3.	FAO	Alternative Approaches To Collateral To Increase Rural Women's Access To Finance	09:00am-10:30am		
4.	Australia, Mexico and Alternative to Violence	"Boys Don't Cry : The Role Of Men And Masculinity In Prevention Of Gender-Based Violence"	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	czechdelegation.csw@vlada.gov.cz
5.	Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus and Permanent Mission of Portugal	"Breaking The Link Between Poverty And Violence Against Women And Girls: The Role Of Gender Mainstreaming In Policymaking And In Financing"	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room F, General Assembly Building	unmission@mfa.gov.cy

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
6.	Iceland	Effective Climate Action: Community Based Adaptation And Gender-Responsive Finance	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
7.	OSCE/ Ireland/ Italy	No Woman's Land Unpacking The Nexus And Finding Solutions To Gender, Corruption And Access To Natural Resources	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	equality@osce.org
8.	Mission of Albania, Mission of Türkiye, UN Women	Gender Responsive Budgeting As A Transformative Approach Towards An Inclusive And Equitable Society	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
9.	Spain	Parity Democracy And Social Justice	10:30am-12:00pm	Instituto Cervantes	
10.	Finland, Qatar, Italy & UN Women	No Poverty Eradication Without The Empowerment Of Women And Girls – Next Steps For The Future Of Afghanistan	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	laura.jukka@gov.fi
11.	Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations	Financial Inclusion For Gender Equality	11:30pm-12:45pm	Trusteeship Chamber, Conference Building	dwrightianhao@gmail.com
12.	Inter-Parliamentary Union	Equal Voice And Power For A Peaceful World: Lessons Learned And The Way Forward	11:30pm-12:45pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	mgn@ipu.org; mdm@ipu.org; gender@ipu.org
13.	Côte d'Ivoire	The Chain Of Socio-Economic And Cultural Empowerment Of Women In Côte D'ivoire. Practical Cases Of "With" And Zazou+	11:30pm-12:45pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	M. Michel KOUAKOU, email elmikwajo@yahoo

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
					o.fr - 646-886-9743
14.	UNCTAD	Empowering Women Through Trade: Breaking Barriers And Transforming Subsistence Into Value Chain Participation	11:30pm-12:45pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	Mariangela Linoci, mariangela.linoci@unctad.org
15.	United Nations Global Compact	Business Leadership Dialogue: Moving Forward Faster On Gender Equality	12:00pm-04:30pm	The Yale Club, New York	<a href="mailto:events@unglobalcompact.org">events@unglobalcompact.org</a> (Invitation Only)
16.	Mexico, Humans Rights Watch, International Labor Organization	Mobilizing For Ratification Of ILO Convention On Violence And Harassment (C190): Ahead Of Its 5 Year Anniversary	01:00pm-02:30pm	Permanent Mission of Mexico	
17.	Islamic Development Bank Group	Shifting Dynamics: Enhancing Women's Economic Empowerment And Employment In The Arab Region	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
18.	The Permanent Mission of India to the UN, NY	Financing For Gender Equality And Women's Empowerment	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 1, Conference Building	
19.	UN ESCAP	Financial Resilience, Inclusion, And Entrepreneurship: Addressing Structural Barriers To Reach Gender Parity In Asia And The Pacific	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	Sara Diaz Moriones (sara.diazmoriones@un.org)
20.	Global Forum of Communities Discriminate on Work and Descent (GFoD), UN Women. Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN	Addressing The Root Causes Of Poverty Among Women And Girls From Descent Communities And The Impact Of Un Programming & NGOs	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room F, General Assembly Building	Johannes Butscher, johannes@globalforumCDWD.org

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
21.	the Kingdom of Morocco and UNFPA	Economic Empowerment Of Women And Girls, A Lever For Achieving Inclusion And Confronting Poverty	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	majdamoutchou@gmail.com
22.	Denmark	Times They Are A-Changin: How Social Dialogue Can Combat Sexual Harassment And Violence In The Work Place	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building	
23.	Jordan	Gender Responsive Budgeting To Accelerate Gender Equality And The Empowerment Of Women And Girls In The Mena Region	01:15pm-02:30pm	ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Building	
24.	Organizer: Ministry of State for Women's Affairs – Libya. Co-organizers: Arab Women Organization	The Effectiveness Of International Law In Protecting Women During Wars And Armed Conflict: From Prevention To Effective Enforcement, Lessons Learnt From The Arab Region.	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	m.abusnaina@mofa.gov.ly
25.	International Youth Organization	Gender, Equality, And Diversity: New Youth Agenda (OIJ)	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room F, General Assembly Building	
26.	Fòs Feminista, the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN, the GEF Action Coalition on Bodily Autonomy and SRHR, and the GEF Action Coalition on Feminists Movements and Leadership	Feminist Financing For SRHR And Gender Equality: Policies, Partnerships & Practices	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	AVega@fosfeminista.org

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No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
27.	Government of Tanzania	Land And Poverty Eradication Initiatives In Tanzania	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
28.	Islamic Republic of Iran	Economic Empowerment Of Women; The Family Enhancement And Social Development	03:00pm-04:15pm	ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Building	
29.	UNESCO	Eliminating Poverty: Structural Interventions Through Education, Culture And Science	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	<a href="mailto:l.gray@unesco.org">l.gray@unesco.org</a>
30.	UNOSSC, UN Women, ASUL, CIDRN, DAWN, GenDev	Leveraging South-South Cooperation For Gender Equality: Reflections From The Global South	03:00pm-04:30pm	FF-11 Doha Conference Room, UNOSSC, 304 East 45th Street	
31.	Fiji	Fiji/ADB: Unlocking Potential: A Framework To Create A More Gender-Inclusive Private Sector In The Pacific	03:30pm-04:40pm	Millenium Hotel UN Plaza, One UN Plaza, New York , NY 10017	
32.	Nordic Council of Ministers , Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden	Paving The Way For A Gender-Equal Economy	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
33.	FFP+ Group of Friends	Feminist Foreign Policy	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 1, Conference Building	
34.	OIF/Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie	Le Budget Sensible Au Genre, Un Outil D'égalité Dans Le Financement Des Politiques Publiques	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	Madame Isabelle Kempeneers, Conseillère

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No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
					auprès du Réseau des femmes parlementaires de l'APF ikempeneers@apf-fr.org
35.	Ukraine	Ukraine's Post-War Recovery: Gender Mainstreaming For Women's Empowerment	04:45pm-06:00pm	ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Buidling	Yaroslava Sochka
36.	Singapore and Indonesia	Gender Equality & Family Development In South-East Asia	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
37.	Spain, AFAMMER	NGOs: Essential For Equality And The Leadership Of Rural Women	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	carmen.quintanilla@afammer.es
38.	Germany, UN Women Germany, Plan International, HelpAge Deutschland	Ageism & Poverty – An Intergenerational Exchange: Girls, Young Women And Older Women	05:00pm-06:15pm	Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations	<a href="mailto:Lara.Biel@plan.de">Lara.Biel@plan.de</a>
39.	Chile, Sweden, Global Campaign for Equality in Family Law	The Economics Of Family Law - A Domino Effect On Gender Equality	05:30pm-07:30pm	Church of Sweden, 5 E 48 <sup>th</sup> St, New York	
40.	World Bank	We Finance Code: Collective Action To Close The Gender Finance Gap	06:00pm-07:15pm	Delegates Dining room	
41.	World Health Organization (WHO)	Gender And The Undervaluation Of Health And Care Work – Debate And Launch Of The Who Fair Share For Health And Care Report	06:00pm-08:00pm	Northeast Corner Reception Area,	healthworkforce@who.int

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No.	COUNTRY/ENTITY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
WEDNESDAY, 13 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024					
				UNHQ General Assembly Building	

No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
THURSDAY 14 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024					
1.	Finland, UNIDO	Advancing Gender Equality In Stem Industries: Strategies For Increased Participation And Leadership	08:00am-09:00am	Virtual	gender-coordinator@unido.org
2.	UNFPA	Sharing Good Practices On GBV Response Coordination, Protection, Social Services, Referral Pathways And Health System Response	09:00am-10:00am	Virtual	
3.	Coalition of Finnish Women Associations NYTKIS, Finnish Federation of Graduate Women, National Council of Women of Finland, UN Women Finland and Young Women's Christian Association of Finland	18th International Helvi Sipilä Seminar: Gender Responsive Budgeting – The Core Tool For Gender Equal Future	09:00am-10:15am	Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations, 605 Third Avenue, 10158 New York	
4.	Spain, EU-LAC Foundation, UN Women	High Level Dialogue: Basis For A Bi-Regional Agreement On Care Between Latin America, The Caribbean And The European Union	09:30am-11:00am	Instituto Cervantes	

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No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
5.	Group of Friends of Mountainous Countries, Utah Valley University	Kyrgyzstan Mission To The United Nations	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	Nazik Moldotasheva
6.	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	Connecting The Dots: Investing In Gender Data For Gender Equality	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
7.	Singapore	Empowering Women At Home, Workplaces And The Community: Singapore's Whole-Of-Society Partnership To Transform Mindsets	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
8.	Government of Kenya, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and OXFAM	Promoting Women's Empowerment: Exploring The Linkage Between Unpaid Care Work And Land Rights For Gender Justice	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room E, General Assembly Building	
9.	Convened by UNICEF, Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO), and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in collaboration with partners	We Deserve Better: Unlocking The Power Of Social Protection For Women And Girls	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	lwhitehead@unicef.org AND cceravolo@unicef.org
10.	The Gambia, Republic of Malta, State of Qatar and IAEA	Women's Empowerment: Women In Nuclear And Related Fields	10:00am-11:30am	Virtual	
11.	The Government of Norway and UNFPA	Unlocking 12 Trillion Of Economic Growth - Investing In Women-Centric Solutions	11:00am-12:30pm	The Westin Hotel, 212 E 42 <sup>nd</sup> St., New York	
12.	State of Palestine and UN Women	Palestinian Women's Rights And Civil Protection	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room E, General Assembly Building	admin@palestinemissionun.org

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No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
13.	Chile	The Care Society: The Intersection Of Poverty Eradication And Economic Justice For All Women And Girls	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	Maria Perdomo mperdomo@minrel.gob.cl; Ignacia Zalaquett izalaquett@minrel.gob.cl
14.	UN Women Generation Equality and the Economic Justice and Rights Action Coalition	Generation Equality: Driving Feminist Financing And Accountability For Women's Economic Justice And Eradicating Women's Poverty	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 1, Conference Building	gef.coordination.hub@unwomen.org
15.	International Development Law Organization (IDLO)	Leading The Way: Women's Empowerment And Leadership In Customary And Informal Justice Systems	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	mbecker@idlo.int
16.	Ministry of Gender Lesotho and UNFPA Lesotho	Addressing GBV, Hunger And Poverty As Well As Environment And Climate Change Through Bee Keeping In The Kingdom Of Lesotho.	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	futholetsatsi@gmail.com
17.	European Union, International IDEA, UN Women, IPU, UCLG	Women And Youth In Democracy Empowerment (WYDE): Advancing Women's Political Participation And Decision-Making Through Social Norms Change, Networking And Global Advocacy	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
18.	Benin, CARE International	Women's Political Participation In West Africa: Accelerating Gender Equality And Empower All Women And Girls	12:30pm-02:30pm	African Union Observer Mission (Nelson Mandela Hall), 305 East 47th Street, 5th Floor	

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No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
19.	European Union	HERPOWER: Education To Advance Gender Equality	01:00pm-02:15pm	EU Delegation, 666 Third Avenue	
20.	The Governments of Indonesia and Sweden	Budgeting With Equality Perspective: From Policy To Action	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
21.	Zambia	Girls Education And Women Empowerment And Livelihoods – Zambia	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building	
22.	Norway, Sonke Gender Justice, Reach Out, MenEngage Africa	Accelerating Gender Equality In Fragile Settings: A Focus On Women And Girls	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
23.	Government of the Republic of Moldova and UNFPA	Gender-Responsive Family Policies: Fostering Women’s Choices And Opportunities	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room E, General Assembly Building	unmoldova@mfa.gov.md
24.	Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations, Santa Marta Group	Innovative Partnerships To End Trafficking In Women And Girls: The Santa Marta Group Model	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
25.	Panama, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica	Partnerships For Strengthening The Inter-American Decade Of Rural Women By The OAS/CIM And Its Universalization	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room, 1, Conference Building	
26.	Brazil	National And International Action To Combat Inequalities And Build Gender Equality	01:15pm-02:30pm	ECOSOC Chamber, Conference Building	comunic.delbrasonu@itamaraty.gov.br

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No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
27.	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sweden and UNDP	Beyond Women's Inclusive Empowerment: Poverty Reduction, Institutional Enhancement, And Women's Economic Empowerment	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	thirdcommittee@ksamission-gov.net
28.	Kazakhstan and UN Women	Strengthening And Expanding Social Protection Systems To Ensure Inclusiveness And Gender Sensitivity	01:15pm-02:45pm	Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan, 305 East 47th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10017	Amirbek Islamuly, amirbek.it@gmail.com
29.	Mexico (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Institute of Women), Oxfam (Mexico, Canada, and Latin America and the Caribbean), Global Alliance for Care, UN Women	Care As A Human Right And Its Intersection With Public Finance And Fiscal Justice	01:30pm-03:00pm	Permanent Mission of Mexico	
30.	UN Global Compact	Organization's Key Role Achieving SDG 5	01:30pm-08:00pm	TBC	
31.	Asociatia Eliberare, Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations	Better Protections For Women And Girls From Trafficking In Human Beings For The Purpose Of Sexual Exploitation	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	Ioana Bauer ioana@eliberare.com
32.	South Africa	Gender Based Discrimination Imposed By International Sports Bodies That Promote Exclusion Of Athletes With Differences Of Sexual Development (DSD) In Sports	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	passmoorj@dirco.gov.za
33.	Colombia	FFP As A Key Response To The Multiple Crisis In The Region	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 1, Conference Building	

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No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
34.	Ireland	The Role Of Development Partners In Funding Gender Equality And The Empowerment Of Women And Girls	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
35.	Department of Peace Operations, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Permanent Missions of Australia and Mozambique to the United Nations	Protecting Women's Right To Participate	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
36.	OAS, The Trust for the Americas and Fundación Microfinanzas BBVA, Panama and Colombia	Gender-Lens Financing & Innovating To End Poverty	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 1, Conference Building	<a href="https://www.fundacionmicrofinanzasbbva.org/csw68-gender-lens-financing-innovating-to-end-poverty/">https://www.fundacionmicrofinanzasbbva.org/csw68-gender-lens-financing-innovating-to-end-poverty/</a>
37.	Government of Canada and the International Fund For Agricultural Development	Harvesting Empowerment: Women's Resource Rights To Advance Gender Equality, Poverty Alleviation, And Food Security In Agriculture	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
38.	Netherlands, UN Women Economic Empowerment	Feminist Climate Justice, Poverty And Environmentally Sustainable Systems: How Governments And Organizations Are Taking	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	

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No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
		Innovative Action At The Nexus Of These Issues			
39.	Dominican Republic	Violence	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
40.	Qatar	Social Protection Systems, Access To Public Services And Sustainable Infrastructure In The GCC Countries	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	

No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
1.	Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas de las Américas (ECMIA), Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas (FIMI), Gobierno de México	Abordando Las Pobrezas Desde La Visión De Justicia Económica De Las Mujeres Y Juventudes Indígenas	08:00am-09:15am	Permanent Mission of Mexico	
2.	Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, Japan Women's Watch, International Women's Year Liaison Group and The National Women's Committee of the United Nations NGOs	Women's Multidimensional Poverty Challenges And Grassroots Responses: Insights From Japan, Sri Lanka, And Guatemala	09:00am-09:30am	Virtual	office@jaww.info

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No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
3.	UNESCO, UNICEF, Population Council, SDG4 Youth and Student Network	Driving Accountability And Leadership: The Global Platform For Gender Equality In And Through Education	09:00am-10:15am	UNICEF Headquarters, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY, 10017	e.mcomish@unesco.org
4.	The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the UN, the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Congolaises Actives Médias, Free Media RDC, Kilalo Press and Presses Partout Media Production House	Media For 1325: Journalists And Peacebuilders Unite To Advance WPS Worldwide	09:00am-10:30am	Virtual Meeting	
5.	Armenia	Financial Independence For Gender Equality And Poverty Reduction: Women's Empowerment Through Economic Involvement	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
6.	The Commonwealth Secretariat and The Bahamas	Gender Equality And Climate Change In The Commonwealth	10:00am-11:15am	Trusteeship Chamber, Conference Building	gender@commonwealth.int
7.	Mali	Find Out A Way To Strengthen Empowerment Of Women In Context Of Conflict	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
8.	SADC, UN Women, UNAIDS, Frontline-AIDS	Socio-Economic Empowerment Policies For HIV Prevention Among Adolescent Girls And Young Women	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room D, Conference Building	j.utamura-nzisabira@unwomen.org; tkomanyane@frontlineaids.org;

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No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
					kdambuza@sadc.int
9.	International Indigenous Women's Forum, UNICEF, Joint SDG Fund, UN Women, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Equality Fund, OCD India	From Commitment To Action: Financing The Implementation Of The Committee On The Elimination Of Discrimination Against Women's General Recommendation No.39 (2022) On The Rights Of Indigenous Women And Girls	10:00am-11:45am	Virtual	katrien.martens@unwomen.org
10.	UN-Habitat and UNCDF	Promoting Women's Leadership In Investment Decisions In Cities	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
11.	Permanent Mission Of Mauritania To The UN, United Cities And Local Governments, And Nouakchott Region.	Promote Women's Political Participation For Equitable And Strong Public Institutions	11:30am-12:45pm	Trusteeship Chamber, Conference Building	
12.	Permanent Mission Of Pakistan To The Un And Islamic Relief Worldwide	Rhetoric To Reality In Building Climate Resilience: Adaptation And Loss And Damage	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
13.	Islamic Development Bank Group	Empowering Youth And Women For A Sustainable Future While Fostering Inclusivity In The Age Of Ai, Technology And Social Media	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
14.	UN Women and ECLAC	Social Inclusion And Poverty Alleviation For The Well-Being Of Women And Girls	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room E, General Assembly Building	
15.	Botswana	Operation Gen Z, The Nexus Of A GBV-Free Generation	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	

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No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
16.	Uganda	Exploring The Nexus Of Gender Responsive Policies And Equitable Agri-Food Systems	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	bibi@emergingag.com
17.	Haiti	Women's Economic Empowerment, The Expected Financing Dividend Gender-Sensitive For Peace And Development In Haiti	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building	
18.	Uganda	Urgent Response To The Gender And Refugee Question Among IGAD Member States	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
19.	Columbia	Colombian FFP Official Launch	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	jorduz@colombiaun.org
20.	FAO and the African Development Bank	Investing In Gender Equality And Women's Empowerment To Transform Agrifood Systems	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room E, General Assembly Building	
21.	UNRISD	Launching Of The Book "Care And Ecofeminism: Consolidating Progress And Building Egalitarian Futures In Latin America"	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
22.	Togo in partnership with the country office of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Plan International Togo	Strengthening The Socio-Economic Resilience Of Women And Young People To Prevent Violent Extremism.	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
23.	Malawi and Power to Youth Malawi	Empowering Local Leaders For Inclusive Education Initiatives	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	ekaliya@humanri ghts.mw; emmakaliya@gm ail.com

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No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
24.	CEDAW, UN Women, OHCHR	Building a Future Where Care is Valued And Shared: Leveraging CEDAW to Advance The Care Economy	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	angela.chung@unwomen.org
25.	Senegal	Side Event By Senegal	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	

No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
1.	Türkiye, Women and Democracy Foundation (KADEM)	Invisible Struggles And Bravehearts: Being A Woman In Palestine	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	nurbanu.kucuk@kadem.org.tr, betul.ozelcicek@kadem.org.tr
2.	Ministry of Gender and CARE International in Uganda	Care (U) And Ministry Of Gender's Progressive Achievements Of Shifting / Transforming Social Norms	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
3.	UNICEF	From Data Collection To Data Dissemination And Use: Rendering Adolescent Girls More Visible In Official Statistics	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
4.	Islamic Development Bank Group	Empowering Conflict-Affected Women And Girls: Integrating Economic Empowerment And Capacity Building For Sustainable And Inclusive Peace	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room D, Conference Building	

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5.	Indonesia's Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection and Indonesian Women Congress	Addressing Poverty, Strengthening Institutions, And Financing For Women Empowerment	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building	tantridjatmika@gmail.com
6.	Republic of Korea	Time To Care: Launch Of The Social Institutions And Gender Index (SIGI) 2024 Regional Report For Southeast Asia	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building	
7.	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Australia, UN Women and World Bank	"Collective Action To Drive Gender Equality And Empowerment In Pacific Markets"	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
8.	Zimbabwe	Creating Safe Space For Women And Girls; Catalyzing Their Social And Economic Security: A Case Of Collaboration Between Government, Un Agencies, Local Authorities And CSOs In Zimbabwe.	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
9.	HelpAge International, International Labour Organization of the United Nations (ILO), IOE and ITUC, European Government – Irish Aid (TBC), LMIC government representative (TBC)	Beyond Crisis: Driving Gender Equality And Empowerment For Women And Girls Of All Ages Through Social Protection	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	dedova@ilo.org; tanvi.patel@helpage.org
10.	UNDRR, UNFPA, UN Women, Australia, Norway, the Philippines	Launch Of The Gender Action Plan To Support Implementation Of The Sendai Framework For Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	undrr-sendaigap@un.org
11.	Republic of the Philippines	Women In Technical Vocational Education And Training (TVET): Unlocking Digital Empowerment	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	Ms. Mayang Ignacio (mayang_ignacio@sagelighthousesideas.com); Mylene Somera

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					(mhsomera@tesda.gov.ph); Nadine Guevarra-De Dios (nypm3com@gmail.com)
12.	Solomon Islands, International Federation for Peace & Sustainable Development (IFPSD)	Sustainable Financing For Women And Girls	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	Mrs. Sally Kader info@ifpsd.org
13.	Islamic Development Bank Group	Path To Prosperity: Fostering Financial Inclusion For SMEs, Women And Girls In The Journey Towards Sustainable Financial Development By 2030	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
14.	Uganda	The Special Session To Fast Track The Disposal Of SGBV Cases In Uganda	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building	
15.	Pakistan	Women Under Foreign Occupation	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
16.	Permanent Mission of Spain at United Nations, CIMA Asociación de Mujeres Cineastas y Medios Audiovisuales (Spain), UN Women National Committee of Spain, UN Women National Committee of Australia, Spain Film Commission, Geena Davis Institute on	"Launching Of The First Global Network Of Women Of Film And Audiovisual Media"	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	isaraventosar@gmail.com

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	Gender				
17.	Nepal- LDC Chair, Botswana-LLDC Chair, SIDS Chair, LDC Watch, Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development-APMDD , UNOHRLLS	“Making Taxes Work For Women: Challenges And Opportunities In Reforming National And Global Tax Systems”: Voices From Developing Countries In General, LDCs, SIDS, And LLDCs In Particular.	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
18.	UN Women	Financing Social Protection And Care Systems For The Fulfilment Of Human Rights, Gender Equality And Poverty Reduction.	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	<a href="mailto:mamadou-bobo.diallo@unwomen.org">mamadou-bobo.diallo@unwomen.org</a>
19.	International IDEA, Myanmar Women Parliamentarians Network, Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the UN	Women’s Political Participation And Empowerment In Post-Coup Myanmar	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
20.	UNFPA, UNWomen, WHO	Linking Agendas, Bridging Silos: Comprehensive Sexuality Education And The Prevention Of Gender-Based Violence	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	<a href="mailto:pmladenov@unfpa.org">pmladenov@unfpa.org</a>
21.	UN-Habitat, Huairou Commission, UNANIMA and member state	Investing In Access To Adequate Housing For All Women And Girls	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	UN-HabitatHRSIUnit-unhabitat-hrsiunit@un.org
22.	Haiti	Towards A Fairer And More Inclusive Society: Social Protection Measures For More Self-Reliant And Reinforcement Of The Resilience Of Women As Economic Development And Sustainable Peace's Agents	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024</b>					
1.	World Bank	Unearthing Equality: Advancing Social Protections For A Gender Inclusive Artisanal And Small-Scale Mining Sector	09:00am-10:00am		
2.	The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities for Sustainable Development, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, International Civil Society Centre, Open Data Watch, Danish Institute for Human Rights, UNDESA- Statistics Division	Harnessing And Leveraging The Power Of Citizen-Generated Gender Data For Strengthening And Transforming Gender Data Systems And Institutions	09:45am-11:00am	United Nations DC2, 23rd Floor Conference Room  (DC2-2330)/Hybrid	Siqi Qu (siqi.wu1@un.org)
3.	United Kingdom	Promoting Women's Health For The Advancement Of Gender Equality	10:00am-11:15am	UK Mission to the UN, 28th floor, One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 885 Second Avenue	
4.	UN Department of global Communications	2024 Un Civil Society Conference: Empowering Women Leaders In Civil Society For Global Change	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 12, general Assembly Building	Hawa Diallo, Civil Society Unit, UN Department of Global Communcations ; diallo9@un.org

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

5.	International Development Law Organization (IDLO)	Gender Equality In Climate Action: The Role Of Legal And Policy Frameworks In Delivering A Gender-Responsive Just Transition	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	mbecker@idlo.int
6.	World Bank	Eradicating Poverty Through Promoting Productive Work For Women In South Asia – The World Bank’s Partnership With Governments	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room D, Conference Building	mmaruo@worldbank.org
7.	Columbia	Why Shifting Beyond GDP Is Critical For Achieving Gender Equality And The Empowerment Of All Women And Girls	10:00am-11:30am		
8.	Bolivia	Promoting Women's Financial Inclusion In Latin America: Challenges And Opportunities	10:30am-12:30pm		
9.	European Union	Promoting Women's Full Inclusion In Economy And Labour Market To Address Poverty: Closing The Gender Gaps And Empowering Through Rights	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
10.	UNFPA	Civil Registration And Vital Statistics To End Child Marriage	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
11.	International Telecommunication Union	Shaping Inclusive Futures: Gender And AI At Work	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
12.	The Permanent Mission of India to the UN, NY	Women-Led Development: Challenges & Enablers For Women’s Leadership	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building	
13.	Zambia	Coaching Boys Into Men (Zambia)	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
14.	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, IOM, UN Women, UNCDF, Women in Migration Network	Advancing Gender Equality And Women’s Empowerment In The Context Of Poverty And Migration	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

15.	Republic of the Philippines	Going Digital: Women's Empowerment Through Digitalization	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	Mr. Christian Lagdaan (christian.lagdaan@pco.gov.ph); Nadine Guevarra-De Dios (nypm3com@gmail.com)
16.	International Telecommunication Union, World Summit on the Information Society	Empowering Women In The Digital Age: WSIS Commitment To Gender Inclusion	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
17.	Permanent Missions of Mauritania, South Korea (TBC), Norway (TBC), UN Women (TBC), CTED	The Prevention Of Violent Extremism In The Sahel And Meaningful Consultations On Gender	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	Odhran McCarthy, Liaison Officer, UNICRI New York Office (odhran.mccarthy@un.org)
18.	UN Partnerships Office	Fashion Industry's Role In Women's Economic Empowerment	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	juliette.thiriez@un.org
19.	World Bank	Power With Full Force: Getting Gender Equality In The Hydropower Sector	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	Nathyeli Acuna, nacuna@worldbank.org
20.	SIERRA LEONE MISSION, UN WOMEN; IRISH AID; WOMEN'S FORUM	Mainstreaming Gender In Big Five Game Changers In Sierra Leone	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
21.	Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United	Fragile Contexts, Strong Women: The Role Of Faith-Based Organizations In Promoting Women's Leadership	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

	Nations and Caritas Internationalis				
22.	Costa Rica	Menstrual Justice	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building	
23.	Uganda	Gender Action Learning System( GALS) Methodology: A Development Tool To Transform Gender-Gender Relations At Household And Community Level And Its Application In Governmental And Multilateral Organisation Programme	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
24.	Columbia	Tech-Facilitated Sexual Exploitation And Abuse: Strengthening National, Regional And International Responses	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
25.	Government of Kenya, Women Enterprise and Mama Doing Good	Bridging The Gender Digital Divide: Amplifying Financial Inclusion To Address Time Poverty	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	

No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2024</b>					
1.	Malawi, Plan International & IDinsight	Evidence-Informed Social Protection Systems For Gender Equality And The Empowerment Of Women And Girls	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building	arthur.chibwana@idinsight.org
2.	UNRISD, IDRC, GAC, Southern Voice, CIPPEC, United Nations Foundation	Care Economy In The Multilateral System: Uniting Stakeholders For Global Impact	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	maria.estrada@un.org

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

3.	Government of Kenya and Council of Governors	Leveraging On Health Investments For Better Maternal Outcomes And Poverty Reduction	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
4.	MISSION OF SIERRA LEONE, UN WOMEN, CARE INTERNATIONAL	Addressing Feminized Poverty Through Financial Inclusion	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
5.	Mexico	The Regional Gender Agenda in Latin America	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
6.	Government of Tanzania	Financing For Gender Equality: Empowering Women And Girls' Access To Public Services In Tanzania	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
7.	Uganda	Financing and Accountability For Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
8.	South Africa	Gender and Finance	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	passmoorj@dirco.gov.za
9.	Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See and ADF International, with Juristes Pour L'Enfance Le Syndicate de la Famille	Too High A Cost: End Surrogacy Now— Preventing The Exploitation And Commodification Of Women And Children	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
10.	The Permanent Mission of India to the UN, NY	Investing In The Prevention Of Gender-Based Violence	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 8, General Assembly Building	
11.	UNRISD - GAC - UN WOMEN	The Care Economy In Africa: Existing Challenges And Opportunities	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	maria.estrada@un.org
12.	Spain, Women's Major Group, GWLVoices, UN-Women	Feminist Perspectives Towards A Care Economy And The Role Of The International Financial Architecture Reform	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	contact@womensmajorgroup.org

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

13.	UN Women, in partnership with UNDP, UNFPA, OHCHR	Multi Stakeholder Partnerships And Practices To Push Forward For Gender Equality, Human Rights And Democracy	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 4, General Assembly Building	
14.	Uganda	SGBV	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
15.	Uganda	A Quality & Inclusive Education For Girls' Empowerment: A Strategic Tool For Ending Harmful Practices	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
16.	UNRISD, UN Women, IDRC, AVINA, OXFAM, GAC	Caring In Crisis: Exploring The Impacts Of Climate Change On Care Responsibilities And Poverty	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	maria.estrada@un.org
17.	Office of the President of the General Assembly, GWL Voices	Reimagining A Gender-Inclusive Financial Architecture For Poverty Eradication	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	office@gwlvoices.com

No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>THURSDAY, 21 MARCH 2024</b>					
1.	Eswatini Deputy Prime Minister's Office	Accelerating Gender Equality And Women's Economic Empowerment Through Clean Energy Investment	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
2.	Mexico	Gendered Inequalities Of Poverty: Feminist And Human Rights-Based Approaches	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	
3.	UN Women/OECD/ILO Canada, Iceland, Panama and Switzerland	The Gender Pay Gap: Addressing Gendered Income Inequality. Applying The Principle Of Equal Pay For Work Of Equal Value In Times Of Crisis And Rising Poverty	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	brunella.canu@unwomen.org; <a href="mailto:dedova@ilo.org">dedova@ilo.org</a>

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

4.	Sierra Leone Mission, Mission 89	Bridging Gender Disparities And Combating Trafficking And Exploitation Across Different Platforms Through Policy Development And Social Protection Intervention	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
5.	Mission of Ukraine and Women's refugee commission, HIAS	Localization Of A Gender-Responsive Approach To Recovery And Reconstruction In Ukraine	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
6.	The Gambia	Empowerment Of Women And Girls By Addressing Poverty Through Sexual And Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Financing In The Gambia	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
7.	UNFCU/UNFCU Foundation	The Power Of Partnerships: Accelerating Gender Equality Through Financial Inclusion Initiatives	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	Liz Philippe
8.	DRC Permanent Mission and La Caisse de Solidarité Nationale et de Gestion Humanitaire des catastrophes	Plus De Solidarité Et D'action Humanitaire En Faveur Des Femmes Vitimes Des Catastrophes	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	
9.	The Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See and the Center for Family and Human Rights	Celebrating Ability: Investing In And Accompanying Children And Adults With Down Syndrome And Their Families	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
10.	International Development Law Organization (IDLO)	Role Of Women In Shaping Justice Systems: A Conversation On The Forthcoming CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	mbecker@idlo.int
11.	Mali	Experience Of Mali	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
12.	World Bank	Bridging The Divide: Empowering Futures Through Gender-Inclusive Infrastructure Financing	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

13.	Hosted by the Government of Timor-Leste, in collaboration with the Government of Chile, G7+ Intergovernmental Body, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), and the World Food Programme (WFP)	Caring For Change: Social Protection's Role In Gender Equitable Care For Nutrition And Zero Hunger	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	timorleste.unmission@gmail.com
14.	The Permanent Missions of Austria and Sierra Leone to the UN, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and UN Women	Investing In Women's Leadership: Women's Participation In Recovery And Reconstruction Efforts	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	franziska.chariah@bmeia.gv.at
15.	Botswana	Beijing+30, Agenda 2030; #The30factor; Leveraging On PPP	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room D, Conference Building	
16.	Permanent Mission of Myanmar and GEN	Food Insecurity And Poverty: The Role Of Women And Financial Institutions To Resolve The Issue	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room C, Conference Building	myanmarmission@verizon.net
17.	Spain	Bridging Gaps, Building Futures: Exploring The Intersection Of Care Work, Poverty Elimination, Social Protection, And Gender Equality	04:45pm-06:00pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	

## CSW68 SIDE EVENTS: 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2024

No.	COUNTRY	TOPIC	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
<b>FRIDAY, 22 MARCH 2024</b>					
1.	UN Department of Global Communications	Strengthening Gender Equality in Generative A.I.	09:00am-10:30am	Virtual	
2.	United Kingdom, UN Women	Women Advocacy Coalition – Gender Transformative Financing	10:00am-11:15am	Conference Room C, Conference Building	Paul Robbins (paul.robbins2@fcdo.gov.uk)
3.	Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone’s Experience In Rolling Out Gender- Based Violence Information Management Systems	11:30am-12:45pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	
4.	Türkiye, Foundation for a Drug Free World/COJEP International	United Nations Drug Free World Conference Sustainable Solutions Per The UNGASS 2016 Consensus, Education, Equality and Justice for Women; Conscience to Empower Women And Create Drug Free Communities	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	Hugues SANON, COJEP/FDFWA event coordinator, huguesanimator@yahoo.com
5.	Outreach Division, UN Department of Global Communications; Manevia Forum	2024 Un Civil Society Conference: Strengthening Women's Voices And Leadership Capacity Toward A Sustainable Future	01:15pm-02:30pm	Conference Room 12, General Assembly Building	Hawa Diallo, diallo9@un.org
6.	Senegal, African Renaissance & Diaspora Network (ARDN)	The Economic Empowerment Of Women Of Africa And The Diaspora In The Struggle For Climate Justice	03:00pm-04:15pm	Conference Room 6, General Assembly Building	arlene.katzive@ardn.ngo
7.	Republic of The Philippines	Mind The GAP(Gender and Poverty): A Forum on Gender Mainstreaming in Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls	09:00pm-11:59pm	Virtual	Nadine Guevarra-De Dios (nypm3com@gmail.com)

## CSW68 KENYA SIDE EVENTS STATUS

No.	TOPIC	SPONSOR	PANELISTS/SPEAKERS	TIME	DATE	VENUE
1.	From Commitment to Action: Accelerating achievements of Generation Equality Forum (GEF) on Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Kenya.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Equality Now</li> <li>○ State Department for Gender &amp; Affirmative Action</li> </ul>	Government of Kenya Government of ICELAND Ford Foundation Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation GEF-UK, EU Equality Now UN-Women	8:15am-9:30am	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	ECOSOC Chamber, Conference building (581 Pax)
2.	Promoting Women's Empowerment: Exploring the intersection of Unpaid Care Work and Land Rights for Gender Justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)</li> <li>○ Oxfam</li> </ul>	Government of Kenya Government of Zimbabwe Government of Senegal IGAD Oxfam UN Women Canadian High Commission	8:15am-9:30am	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	ECOSOC Chamber, Conference building (581 pax)
3.	Bridging the Gender Digital Divide: Amplifying Financial Inclusion to Address Time Poverty in Kenya.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Women Enterprise Fund</li> <li>○ Mama Doing Good</li> </ul>	Government of Kenya Government of Rwanda Government of Zimbabwe Government of Uganda Crown Trust World Bank	4:45pm-6:00pm	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Conference Room 12, GA Building (129 pax)
4.	Leveraging on health investments for better maternal outcomes and poverty reduction.	Council of Governors	Government of Kenya Government of Rwanda Governor - Homabay County Parliament (Millie Odhiambo) UNICEF - South Africa UNFPA - Kenya Options Consultancy Limited	10:00am-11:15am	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Conference room 6, GA Building (123 pax))

Annex 4

Kenya's National  
Statement

Index A

Kepler's laws  
statements



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**STATEMENT**

**BY:**

**HON. AISHA JUMWA KATANA**

**CABINET SECRETARY - MINISTRY OF GENDER, CULTURE,  
THE ARTS AND HERITAGE AND HEAD OF GOVERNMENT  
DELEGATION**

**TO THE**

**68<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF  
WOMEN (CSW)**

**MARCH 2024**

**UN HEADQUARTERS NEW YORK**

**Chairperson,**

**Congratulations** for chairing this 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Kenya aligns itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the **African Group**.

**Chairperson,**

The Government of Kenya recognizes that ending poverty and achieving inclusive sustainable development, requires **investment** in economic and social policies supported by **gender responsive** and **accountable institutions**.

The Government has put in place a legal framework that promotes economic empowerment and gender equality, facilitating efforts towards poverty eradication in Kenya.

**Kenya Vision 2030**, is reinforced by Kenya's **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)**, which aims at alleviating poverty by lowering the annual inflation rate to **5%**; eradicating hunger and creating **1,200,000** jobs annually.

**Chairperson,**

Women's representation in key dockets testifies to Kenya's reinforcement of the gender equality agenda. In the executive, women account for **32%** of the Cabinet Secretaries (Ministers).

Three women have been elevated to the highest level of Government as **Advisors on Women's Rights** and **National Security** and the **Secretary to Cabinet**. Additionally, women occupy financial dockets namely: **Auditor General, Controller of**

**Budgets, Salaries and Remuneration Commission, Commission on Revenue Allocation.** A woman is at helm of the **Devolution** discourse, **chairing the Governors' Council.**

**Chairperson,**

Given the importance of the Judiciary on access to justice, women constitute **91** out of **177 judges** and **298** of **542** magistrates. Moreover, the **Chief Justice** and **Deputy Chief Justice** are women.

The Judiciary has established eleven (11) Specialized Gender Based Violence Courts, **staffed with well-trained judicial officers.** They embody trauma-informed approaches that prioritize survivors' safety and dignity.

**Chairperson,**

The Government budget reforms through public sector hearings provide women with an opportunity to contribute to the budget making process.

**Control of Budget Management Information System (COBMIS)** has strengthened financial systems. The **Standard Chart of Accounts systems** track and publicize allocations for gender programming.

**Chairperson,**

Currently **49.5 percent** of women own a mobile phone. Technological changes and shift towards digital platforms have boosted women owned enterprises. Commercial banks have tailor-made unique financial products for women.

**The Hustler fund** seeks to cushion and mitigate financial shocks for the informal sector which accounts for more **than 80% of the workforce** and **contributes over 33%** of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

**Chairperson,**

In fulfilment of the Generation Equality commitments, a co-financed model of a GBV survivors' fund with non-state actors is in place and an allocation of **USD2.7 million** for elimination of FGM and GBV. Through partnerships, **USD4.3 million** was allocated by Government of Finland and **USD0.2 million** by UNFPA.

On Climate Change, the Government launched a granular gender and climate change hotspot mapping and is developing a National Gender and Climate Change Action Plan.

**In conclusion,** Kenya will constructively engage and share its experiences during this session. We look forward to a bold and action-oriented outcome which should build up to the Summit of the Future, Pact for the Future and the 2025 World Social Summit.

**I THANK YOU**

# Annex 5

CSW 68

Agreed

Conclusions

Examples

can also  
be used

conjunctions



## Economic and Social Council

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25 March 2024

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### Commission on the Status of Women

#### Sixty-eighth session

New York, 11–22 March 2024

Agenda item 3 (a) (i)

**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: accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective**

### **Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective**

#### Agreed conclusions

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>1</sup> the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly<sup>2</sup> 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,<sup>3</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>4</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>5</sup> and the Optional Protocols thereto,<sup>6</sup> as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>7</sup> the International Covenant on Civil and

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<sup>1</sup> *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.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; and vols. 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531.

<sup>7</sup> See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.



Political Rights,<sup>8</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>9</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>10</sup> and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families<sup>11</sup> 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 their human rights and fundamental freedoms 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 Development<sup>12</sup> 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 addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective 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 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 Development and its Programme of Action<sup>13</sup> and the outcome documents of its reviews. It recognizes that the 2030 Agenda, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,<sup>14</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>15</sup> the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>16</sup> the New Urban Agenda,<sup>17</sup> the World Summit for Social Development and the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage<sup>18</sup> contribute, inter alia, to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full realization of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., vol. 2220, No. 39481.

<sup>12</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>13</sup> *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.

<sup>14</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

<sup>15</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>16</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>17</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

<sup>18</sup> General Assembly resolution 74/2.

perspective. The Commission recalls the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.<sup>19</sup>

6. The Commission reiterates that the 2030 Agenda 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 law 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.

7. The Commission further recalls the Declaration on the Right to Development,<sup>20</sup> the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>21</sup> and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.<sup>22</sup>

8. The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives, and their follow-up mechanisms in their respective regions and countries, in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

9. 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, in particular by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

10. 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. 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.

11. The Commission recognizes that progress in achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the full enjoyment of their human rights has been held back owing to the persistence of poverty. It acknowledges that the Beijing Platform for Action identifies that poverty affecting women and girls is directly related to, inter alia, the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to quality education and support services and women's limited participation in the decision-making process due to, inter alia, systematic failures that may lead to exclusion and discrimination.

12. The Commission acknowledges that multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization are obstacles to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in addressing poverty and

<sup>19</sup> See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>20</sup> General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

<sup>21</sup> General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

<sup>22</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/1.

strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. 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.

13. The Commission expresses concern that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and that the feminization of poverty persists. It notes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, social justice, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and their human rights; and recognizes the importance of taking positive action, including in the form of policies and partnerships, at the local, national, regional and international levels, that address existing inequalities, among and within countries, in the distribution of and access to services, resources and infrastructure, as well as access to food, water, health, quality education, training and opportunities for employment and decent work in urban and rural, remote and maritime areas and other human settlements in order to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and vulnerability.

14. The Commission recognizes with deep concern that women and girls are at greater risk of poverty and experience higher poverty rates than men and boys and that the gender poverty gap is projected to persist. It acknowledges that, currently, 10.3 per cent of women are living in extreme poverty and, if current trends continue, an estimated 8 per cent of women worldwide (342 million) will be subsisting on less than \$2.15 a day in 2030, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa. It further notes with concern that women and girls in poverty experience multiple and compounding deprivations that are intensified by other dimensions of inequality, including race, colour, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status, and their experiences of poverty are shaped by negative social norms and gender stereotypes.

15. The Commission recognizes that global challenges and emergencies, including those related to health, energy and food security, natural disasters and geopolitical tensions and wars often disproportionately affect women and girls, and that these have pushed people, in particular women and girls, further behind and into extreme poverty.

16. The Commission reaffirms the right to food and recognizes that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, which are exacerbated by gender inequality and discrimination. It notes with concern that it is estimated that almost twice as many women as men suffer from malnutrition and that, in many countries, girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases. It recognizes the critical role of women in both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity, malnutrition, excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries, and acknowledges women's contribution to more than 50 per cent of the food produced globally and that they represent 70 per cent of agricultural workers.

17. 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 by women and girls. It is deeply concerned that water scarcity and disruptions to supply induced by, inter alia, 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 women earning a livelihood.

18. The Commission remains deeply concerned that all women and girls, especially in developing countries, including small island developing States, and particularly

those in vulnerable situations, are often disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, extreme weather events and natural disasters and other environmental issues, such as land degradation, desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms, persistent drought, floods, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, including disproportionate exposure to risk and increased loss of life and livelihoods, and reiterates its deep concern over the challenges posed by climate change to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication. It recalls that the parties to the Paris Agreement acknowledged that they should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and intergenerational equity and, in this context, also recalls the adoption of the second gender action plan by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its twenty-fifth session.

19. The Commission recalls the establishment of the women and peace and security agenda and reaffirms that the full, equal 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.

20. 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 reiterates that all forms of violence against women and girls, in public and private spheres, online and offline, including sexual and gender-based violence, such as sexual harassment, rape, gender-related killings, including femicide, and 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 remains deeply concerned by the magnitude of various forms of violence against women and girls, including violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, and the significant physical, sexual, psychological, social, political and economic harm that it causes throughout their life course. It expresses deep concern that women and girls may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of multidimensional poverty, including intergenerational poverty, disability and limited or lack of access to justice, effective legal remedies and psychosocial services, including protection, rehabilitation and 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.

21. The Commission recognizes that systemic bias embedded in the economic and social structures of society expose women and girls to a disproportionately high risk of violence and that, in turn, violence heightens women's risk of poverty, economic hardship, financial dependence, economic exclusion and homelessness, including in old age, because of, inter alia, the associated out-of-pocket health expenditures, loss of earnings and unequal participation in the labour market, which can translate into limited or no access to contributory social security benefits. It further condemns all violence experienced by women that comprises actions aimed at making women financially dependent or exerting abusive control of finances, and recognizes that the economic independence of women can expand their options for leaving abusive and violent relationships.

22. The Commission acknowledges the need to address the effects of armed conflict and post-conflict situations on women and girls, including victims and survivors of sexual violence.

23. The Commission recognizes that poverty, unemployment, lack of socioeconomic opportunities and pervasive gender inequality are among the underlying causes that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking. It expresses serious concern over the significant and enduring trafficking of women and girls, recognizes that trafficking in persons disproportionately affects them, and stresses the need for Member States to enact or update national laws and establish comprehensive policies, programmes and other measures that prevent trafficking and provide for the protection of trafficked women and children, including girls, from revictimization and appropriate assistance and protection in the best interests of the child. It further stresses the importance of coordinating national measures and international cooperation to enhance the positive effects of all anti-trafficking efforts.

24. The Commission also recognizes that the empowerment of and investment in girls are critical, including for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and that the strengthening of their voice, agency and leadership are among key factors in breaking the cycle of gender inequality, in eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and poverty and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Commission further recognizes that empowering girls requires their active participation in decision-making processes and as agents of change in their own lives and communities.

25. The Commission stresses the urgency of eliminating persistent historical and structural inequalities, including economic inequality, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and recognizes the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of many religious and other communities in various parts of the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, antisemitism, Christianophobia and prejudices against persons of other religions or beliefs, discrimination based on stigmatization, gender stereotypes, discriminatory laws, policies and negative social norms, unequal power relations, the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work between women and men and within the household and all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence. It further acknowledges that such deprivations are among the root causes of the feminization of poverty.

26. The Commission recognizes that, despite gains in providing access to quality education, girls are still more likely than boys to remain excluded from education. It also recognizes that among the barriers to girls' equal enjoyment of their right to education there are specific barriers that girls face, such as the feminization of poverty, child labour undertaken by girls, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, early and repeat pregnancies, all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, sexual violence, abuse and harassment on the way to and from and at school, in their technology-mediated environment, the lack of safe and adequate sanitation facilities, including for affordable menstrual hygiene management, the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work performed by girls and gender stereotypes and negative social norms that lead families and communities to place less value on the education of girls than that of boys and may influence the decision of parents to allow girls to attend school.

27. The Commission reaffirms that the commitment to continue to increase investments in inclusive, affordable and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, including early childhood education, youth and adult literacy programmes and initiatives, digital education, cultural education, education for sustainable development, digital technologies for education, skills enhancement, affordable higher education and vocational training, is essential to help women and girls to overcome poverty and vulnerability. In this regard, it emphasizes the importance of addressing the shortage of qualified teachers and inadequate curricula,

school equipment and infrastructure. It further reaffirms the importance of the empowerment of women and girls in and through education and safe, healthy and stimulating learning environments that enable all learners to achieve their full potential and physical, mental and emotional well-being.

28. The Commission expresses concern about the unequal pace of social and economic development and access to education within and among countries and the structural and systemic barriers undermining women's and girls' ability to securely access equitable and quality education and to become equipped with the knowledge, awareness and skills for their social empowerment and women's economic empowerment, especially in developing countries, including the least developed countries, and small island developing States and African countries.

29. The Commission reaffirms that the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is crucial for gender equality and the empowerment of women, including their economic empowerment and their full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in public and private life. It recognizes that the provision of safe water, sanitation, hygiene, waste and electricity services is fundamental for achieving universal health coverage, strengthening primary health care, improving quality care and reducing the costs and impacts of the spread of antimicrobial resistance. It is deeply concerned that progress in reducing maternal mortality has stagnated in recent years, with almost 95 per cent of deaths occurring in low- and lower-middle-income countries. It also recognizes that the causes, experiences and consequences of poverty can have a disproportionate impact on women and girls and that they may have limited or no access to safe, available, affordable, accessible, quality and inclusive health-care services, including those related to mental health, maternal and neonatal health, and menstrual health and hygiene management, and underlines the need for ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education. It further recognizes that women with physical and mental health conditions are more vulnerable to experiencing sexual and gender-based violence and that violence is a risk factor for mental health conditions, non-communicable diseases and chronic health conditions.

30. The Commission further recognizes that women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, which limits women's ability to participate in the labour market and 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, including in the context of addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. 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 and girls and boys 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 paid maternity, paternity or parental leave.

31. The Commission acknowledges that women and girls, throughout their life course, including adolescent girls, experience multidimensional forms of poverty and often have limited access to critical infrastructure such as water, sanitation and electricity, which, inter alia, restricts their time for other activities, such as education and leisure, or, for women, earning a livelihood. It acknowledges that the higher likelihood of career interruptions, part-time employment, lower earnings, concentration in the informal sector and more time spent on unpaid care and domestic work, which limits women's agency to decide how to spend their time, results in women having fewer assets, savings and social protection benefits, such as pension, health insurance or paid sick leave.

32. The Commission stresses that Member States, who bear the main responsibility for social integration and social inclusion, should strengthen care and support systems, including the care economy, in which all receive the basic social services, care and support that they need, on the basis of the principles of equality and non-discrimination, including through gender-responsive poverty eradication measures, labour policies, public services and social protection programmes, promoting the rights and well-being of all women and girls and the active participation of every member of society, as well as a collective responsibility, involving States, communities and families, as well as the private sector.

33. The Commission also recognizes that universal access to social protection plays a central role in reducing inequality, accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty. It also recognizes that to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, social protection policies must include a gender perspective, including the principle that everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living, health and well-being for themselves and their families, including food, clothing, housing, medical care, necessary social services and education, and that motherhood, parenthood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. It further recognizes that social protection systems can make a critical contribution to the fulfilment of human rights for all women and girls, including those living in poverty, in particular those in vulnerable situations and subject to discrimination.

34. The Commission reaffirms the importance of improving public services and sustainable infrastructure and technology, including in rural, remote and maritime areas, such as transportation, access to safe water and sanitation facilities, in order to enhance the safety of all women and girls. It further recognizes the importance of safe, affordable and accessible, as well as age- and disability-responsive and sustainable, land and water transport systems and roadways that respond to the needs of all women and girls, in particular those living in poverty.

35. The Commission emphasizes that efforts to close the digital divides within and among countries, including the gender digital divide, must be expanded and grounded in digital equity, access and affordability to ensure that no one is left behind in the digital economy and society, as new technological developments can perpetuate existing patterns of poverty, inequality, discrimination and all forms of violence, including gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology in the absence of effective safeguards and oversight, including in the algorithms used in artificial intelligence-based solutions. It notes that addressing gender-related biases in technology can contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and, in particular, the feminization of poverty, and that a gender-responsive approach should therefore be taken in the design, development, deployment and use of policies related to digital technologies with full respect for human rights.

36. The Commission recognizes that women and girls with disabilities are disproportionately affected by poverty due to barriers such as discrimination and limited access to education, women's employment, health-care services, infrastructure, financial services and information and communications technology. The Commission emphasizes the importance of promoting the rights, participation and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities on an equal basis with others. It further underlines the need to recognize disability as a cross-cutting issue in all relevant policy and programming and to translate this into actions. It also stresses the need for measures to address the specific barriers that they face, to promote their physical, psychosocial and financial resilience and to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women with disabilities, including in disaster preparedness and

response planning for emergency situations and evacuations, humanitarian emergency response and health-care services.

37. The Commission emphasizes the importance of the empowerment and capacity-building of Indigenous women and girls and of allocating resources that target their well-being, in particular in the areas of poverty eradication, quality and inclusive education, health-care services, information and communications technologies, infrastructure and public services, as well as financial services, employment and decent work for women and access to economic resources, including land and natural resources. It further stresses the importance of promoting awareness and understanding of their rights and ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of Indigenous women and, as appropriate, girls in developing policies and programmes, as well as in the economy and the transmission of traditional, scientific and technical knowledge, languages and spiritual and religious traditions and practices, and decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, including through digital technologies, as well as productive employment and decent work for Indigenous women. It further acknowledges that the inherent diversity of these communities, as well as their challenges, demand special attention.

38. The Commission also recognizes the significant contribution of women and girls of African descent to the development of societies and the importance of ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making of women of African descent in all aspects of society, including by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

39. The Commission recognizes that poverty, in particular the feminization of poverty, and underdevelopment are among the drivers of migration and it therefore emphasizes the importance of addressing the situations of vulnerability that migrant women and girls face, particularly migrant women in the informal economy and in less skilled work, to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants regardless of migration status. It also recognizes the positive contributions of migrant women towards inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, underlining the value and dignity of women's labour, in all sectors, including in care and domestic work, while recognizing the contribution of women migrant workers, including through the sending of remittances, which are fundamental for the empowerment of women and are a vital source of support for their families and communities.

40. The Commission recognizes older women's positive contribution to the economy and society, including through the provision of care and domestic work and support. It also recognizes the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older women, including by progressively taking measures to combat age discrimination, neglect, abuse and all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, as well as social isolation and loneliness; providing social protection, access to food, water and housing, health-care services, employment, information and communications technologies, including new technologies and assistive technologies, legal services and justice; and addressing issues related to social integration and gender inequality through mainstreaming the rights of older persons into sustainable and people-centred development strategies, urban policies and poverty reduction strategies, bearing in mind the crucial importance of intergenerational solidarity for social development.

41. The Commission recognizes the important role and contribution of rural women and those living in remote and maritime areas in the eradication of poverty and in enhancing sustainable agricultural and rural development, as well as sustainable fisheries. It highlights the importance of their access to economic opportunities,

economic and productive resources, quality education and support services. It also highlights the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and, as appropriate, girls in the design, implementation and follow-up of policies and activities that affect their livelihoods, well-being and resilience, and that their perspectives are taken into account in decision-making processes.

42. The Commission recognizes that public institutions can drive pro-poor, inclusive and gender-responsive economic policies with a people-centred approach and full respect for human rights and that women's participation in these institutions is essential to combat gender bias and stereotypes both in policymaking and policy outcomes. It further recognizes that ministries of finance determine the scope and direction of national fiscal policy, but may have limited capacity to analyse the gender impacts of fiscal policy, including taxation and spending. It acknowledges that national mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are important institutional actors that contribute to policy development and can transform public policy values.

43. The Commission is concerned about the negative impacts of the global economic and financial crises on sustainable development and the realization of the human rights of all women and girls, and acknowledges that there are long-standing gaps and challenges within the international financial system, which limit capacity to scale up financing for poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It further recognizes that the twenty-first century requires an international financial architecture that is more fit for purpose, equitable and responsive to the financing needs of developing countries and the needs of all women and girls living in poverty, and in this regard stresses the urgent need for bold and ambitious reforms.

44. The Commission recognizes with deep concern that tighter global financial conditions have contributed significantly to a finance divide between and within countries, leading to higher external borrowing costs, which could, inter alia, make it more difficult for developing countries, especially low- and middle-income countries and small island developing States, to pay for external debt servicing and could push more countries towards debt distress, and undermine their debt sustainability and affect the fiscal space available for essential social spending to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by, inter alia, addressing poverty, strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective and on the provision of social protection and basic public services, such as health care, and education, on which women and girls living in poverty depend. It emphasizes that, while domestic public resources continue to be an important source of financing for public goods and services and help to reduce inequality through redistribution, those efforts need to be supported by an enabling economic environment and strengthened international cooperation.

45. The Commission is deeply concerned about the impact of illicit financial flows, in particular those caused by tax evasion, on the economic, social and political stability and development of societies and especially on developing countries and their progress in financing the 2030 Agenda, which exacerbate the challenges faced by women and girls living in poverty, including multidimensional poverty. It also recognizes the need of countries to work together to eliminate base erosion and profit shifting and to ensure that all companies, including multinationals, pay taxes to the Governments of countries where economic activity occurs and value is created, in accordance with national and international laws and policies, in order to mobilize domestic resources towards the empowerment of women and girls.

46. The Commission recognizes that fighting corruption at all levels and in all its forms is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource

mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication and sustainable development, which may undermine efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

47. The Commission reaffirms that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development. The Commission recalls that the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda set out policies that seek to, inter alia, increase financial inclusion; ensure that policy and regulatory environments support financial market stability, integrity and the promotion of financial inclusion in a balanced manner and with appropriate consumer protection; and work towards the strengthening of financial literacy, capacity development for developing countries and full and equal access to formal financial services for all, including women living in poverty. It acknowledges that lack of access to financial services intensifies challenges for women living in poverty. Furthermore, women in the informal economy, women-owned and women-led enterprises, including women with informal micro-businesses, are often confronted with major barriers to equal access to financing, financial institutions, financial services and skills development training.

48. The Commission emphasizes the special importance of predictable, timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solutions to the debt problems of developing countries to promote their economic growth and sustainable development and to create fiscal space for addressing the challenges of women and girls living in poverty.

49. The Commission calls for the need to mobilize resources equitably and target investments and policies towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty affecting women and girls. The Commission acknowledges the Secretary-General's efforts to address the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap through a Sustainable Development Goal stimulus to rapidly scale up financing to accelerate progress towards the Goals. It also recognizes the importance of strengthening international development cooperation and maximizing its effectiveness, transparency, impact and results.

50. 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 by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. 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 and reprisals directed at, and threats to the physical security of, their members.

51. 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 addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective 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.

52. The Commission acknowledges women's and girls' critical contributions to their families, and communities and societies. 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 by addressing poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and the feminization of poverty, and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective, and also recognizes the need to ensure that all poverty eradication 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.

53. The Commission is concerned that the lack of disaggregated data and gender statistics is limiting the capacity of policymakers to effectively address poverty affecting women and girls. Without robust data collection systems and methods, countries cannot estimate costs and allocate and spend resources to implement pro-poor laws and policies, including those that support ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions. It recognizes that addressing poverty requires informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated and individual-level data, measurement of multidimensional poverty to rapidly progress towards ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

54. 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:

#### **Integrate a gender perspective into financing for development commitments**

(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 by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective;

(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 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Optional Protocols thereto, limiting the extent of any reservations, formulating 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, reviewing 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) Consider the importance of the ratification of and, for those that have done so, implementation of the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization and note the importance of other relevant international labour standards;

(d) Fulfil existing commitments and obligations related to financing for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the

protection and full realization of their human rights, including through the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,<sup>23</sup> the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development,<sup>24</sup> the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and its follow-up processes, including by gender mainstreaming through, inter alia, targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies; through the adoption and strengthening of sound policies and enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the achievement of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment at all levels; by ensuring women's full, equal, and meaningful participation at decision-making and leadership levels in the economy; by eliminating violence and discrimination in all its forms, including gender-based violence; and by linking policies on economic, social and environmental development to ensure that all people, in particular all women and girls living in poverty, benefit from sustained, inclusive, equitable economic growth and sustainable development;

(e) Take measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and the feminization of poverty, which are major barriers to women's economic empowerment and sustainable development, and to ensure access to health-care services and education for children, including girls, living in poverty in order to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, by implementing comprehensive and participatory poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural and macroeconomic issues in order to ensure an adequate standard of living for all women and girls, including through social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure;

(f) Create and sustain effective partnerships to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including by improving tax systems, promoting financial inclusion, including access to financial services, enhancing capacity-building and productive capacity, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, encouraging the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, particularly women;

(g) Examine the impact of poverty, including extreme poverty and multidimensional poverty, on different groups of women and girls, including those facing various forms of discrimination, such as those living in poverty and experiencing food insecurity and water scarcity, women who are unemployed or with low incomes, women and girls who lack access to formal education, women and girls living in rural, remote or maritime areas, women and girls who are refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced, stateless and migrants, women and girls of African descent, women and girls belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, women and girls with disabilities, Indigenous women and girls, and older women;

(h) Promote, design and implement comprehensive, participatory poverty eradication policies and invest in approaches that address systemic barriers and structural root causes of gender inequality to ensure an adequate standard of living for all women and girls and improve their living conditions, and enable women's empowerment and their equal participation in decision-making, including through full and productive employment and decent work, safe and affordable housing and shelters, comprehensive and universal social protection, social services, public and financial services and sustainable infrastructure;

<sup>23</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>24</sup> General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

(i) Ensure that all development strategies are gender-responsive and fully respect human rights, including the right to development, have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind, especially women and girls living in or at risk of poverty, and work towards ending the structural barriers to women's and girls' access to economic resources;

(j) Urgently address the challenges posed by the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification that disproportionately affect women and girls, particularly those living in poverty, owing to gender inequality and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods, including by strengthening the full, equal and meaningful participation, representation and leadership of women at all levels of decision-making in climate and environmental action, including in science, technology, research and development, and by promoting the integration of a gender perspective into environmental and climate change policies, including in developing and implementing national policies and plans related to the United Nations environmental conventions, as appropriate, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; strengthen, protect, safeguard and preserve local, Indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors; and improve climate resilience and expand all women's and girls' access to education, adequate livelihood opportunities, health-care facilities and infrastructure, and other basic services, especially in disaster, relief and humanitarian situations;

(k) 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; facilitate adequate and simplified access to financing for, and build the capacities of, women's, grass-roots women's and youth organizations and Indigenous women leading local adaptation and mitigation efforts, including through the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms; and promote the provision of quality public goods and services that benefit women and girls experiencing poverty;

(l) Ensure that the perspectives of women, and girls, as appropriate, are taken into account in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and in humanitarian emergencies and that they effectively and meaningfully participate, on equal terms with men, in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to conflict prevention, peace mediation, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as take into account the perspective of women and girls who are internally displaced and who are refugees; and ensure that the human rights of all women and girls are fully respected and protected in all response, recovery and reconstruction strategies and that appropriate measures are taken to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls in this regard;

(m) Urges all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and provide emergency assistance through mechanisms that provide vital services to women and girls living in situations of armed conflict, including those subjected to acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, to alleviate the extreme poverty and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation; ensure the safety and well-being of civilian populations, particularly women and girls, who lack access to basic services and work towards eliminating the root causes of such poverty;

(n) Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws, social infrastructure and policies for sustainable development, as well as enable the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women, including young women, in all spheres and levels of public life and their equal access to policy- and decision-making processes and eliminate gender stereotypes and negative social norms;

(o) Eliminate all forms of discrimination, including those exacerbated by poverty and hunger, against all women and girls and implement targeted measures and universal social protection interventions to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and ensure that all women and girls enjoy equal access, both in law and in practice, to social protection, public and financial services, productive resources and sustainable infrastructure, which can, inter alia, contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and, in particular, the feminization of poverty, and to the reduction of gender inequality through the adoption, where needed, of laws and comprehensive policy measures and their effective and accelerated implementation and monitoring, ensuring women's full and productive employment and decent work, and women's and girls' access to justice and accountability for violations and abuses of their human rights and fundamental freedoms; and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, at all levels comply with international human rights obligations;

(p) 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, 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, including by ratifying key international treaties that provide protection against gender-based violence and sexual harassment;

(q) Enact or strengthen and enforce laws and policies to eliminate all forms of violence, discrimination and harassment against women of all ages in the world of work, in public and private spheres, and provide means of effective redress in cases of non-compliance; ensure safety for women in the workplace; address the multiple consequences of violence and harassment, considering that violence against women and girls is an obstacle to gender equality and women's economic empowerment; and, if applicable, develop measures to promote re-entry of victims and survivors of violence into the labour market;

(r) Take appropriate measures to combat trafficking and raise public awareness about the risks of trafficking in persons, including women and girls, and the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, addressing all forms of associated violence, and discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour;

(s) 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;

(t) Ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation and representation of women in diverse situations and conditions in all spheres of public life and at all levels, as well as their leadership in decision-making processes, including in economic policy, budget and financial processes, public institutions and in designing and implementing poverty eradication policies to address institutional gender biases,

and promote pro-poor, economic and social policy actions that fully respect the human rights of all women and girls;

(u) Accelerate efforts and provide adequate resources to promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all decision-making bodies at all levels of government, including by eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions, building women's capacity as agents of change and empowering them to participate actively and equally in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national sustainable development, poverty eradication and other relevant policies, strategies and programmes;

(v) Promote the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of young women and, as appropriate, adolescent girls in decision-making processes in the context of addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and gender-responsive financing, including by addressing the gender-specific barriers, such as all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, child, early and forced marriage and adolescent pregnancy, as well as the unequal distribution of unpaid care work, that cause adolescent girls to fare worse than adolescent boys at higher poverty thresholds, in order to promote sustainable growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all young women;

(w) Promote labour and employment policies that respect relevant international labour standards and ensure women's economic autonomy, independence and empowerment, including by enhancing their full and productive employment, promoting an adequate minimum wage, statutory or negotiated, and equal pay for work of equal value, supporting the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors by promoting occupational safety and health protection to workers, including in the informal economy, and facilitating the recruitment, promotion and retention of women in all sectors, including sustainable energy, fisheries, forestry, agriculture and tourism, including through temporary special measures, policies on care work, in addition to universal social protection policies and quality and affordable childcare and parental and other leave, care services for older persons and persons with disabilities, and the promotion of work-life and work-family balance, and the right to organize and bargain collectively, as a means to eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women;

(x) Protect and promote the right of all women to work and their rights at work and equal treatment in the workplace, including equal access to decent work, equal pay for work of equal value and productive and financial resources, by, inter alia, eliminating occupational segregation, negative social norms and gender stereotypes, violence and sexual harassment, discriminatory practices in career advancement, addressing structural barriers and protecting women against abuse and discrimination, including during pregnancy and maternity, in order to advance gender equality;

(y) Implement gender-responsive policies and programmes to support financial inclusion as well as to ensure equal access to credit, social security, markets, financial skills, technology, rural infrastructure and finance networks to support women entrepreneurs, women-led and women-owned businesses, as well as women-owned nano-, micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and women in the informal economy by promoting women's financial literacy and ensuring equal access to credit and inclusive finance and providing equal access to technologies that are safe, affordable and accessible, identifying and addressing barriers facing women in entrepreneurship, providing targeted support, capacity-building and business and leadership training to women and promoting role models of women in business;

(z) Mainstream a gender perspective into agricultural policies and projects and focus on closing the gender gap in, inter alia, investments and innovation in small-scale agricultural production and distribution, sustainable fisheries, and value chains

supported by integrated and multisectoral policies, in order to improve women's productive capacity and income, strengthen their resilience and achieve equitable access to all forms of financing, markets and networks, technologies, including agricultural technology information and know-how, equipment, decision-making forums and associated agricultural resources, and ensure that agriculture, food security and nutrition-related programmes and policies take into consideration the specific needs of all women and the barriers that women face in accessing agricultural inputs and resources;

(aa) Eliminate occupational segregation by addressing structural barriers, all forms of discrimination, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, promote women's participation and equal access to the labour market and, through education and training, support women in diversifying their educational and occupational choices, including in emerging fields and growing economic sectors, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as information and communications technology, and recognize the value of sectors that have large numbers of women workers;

(bb) Promote legal, administrative and policy measures that strengthen social protection schemes, including unemployment protection schemes and ensure women's full and equal access to pension systems, including access to income security for older women, through contributory and/or non-contributory schemes that are independent of their employment trajectories, and reduce gender gaps in coverage and benefit levels in order to contribute to the eradication of poverty;

(cc) Encourage the private sector, as outlined in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to contribute to the fulfilment of the right of women, including women living in poverty, to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work, to develop and strengthen workplace environments and institutional practices that value them and offer them equal opportunities, including by ensuring that gender equality and the empowerment of all women are considered a necessary dimension of human resources management, based also on the principles of full and productive employment and decent work, equal pay for work of equal value, as well as the prevention of and protection against discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, abuse and gender-based violence in the workplace;

(dd) Enact legislation and undertake legislation and administrative reforms, where necessary, to realize the equal rights of all women, including rural women, women in remote areas and on islands, to economic and productive resources and eliminate any barriers, legal inconsistencies and discriminatory policies and laws, where they exist, that impede women's equal rights and women's economic empowerment; realize the right of all women to work and their rights at work, building their capacities and skills to manage enterprises and cooperatives, facilitating formalization and ensuring their financial and digital inclusion, as well as their access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, financial services, appropriate new technologies and inheritance rights, including diverse types of land tenure;

(ee) Take measures to prevent, detect, address and end all violence experienced by women that comprises actions aimed at economic abuse, making women financially dependent or exerting abusive control of finances, including the limiting of women's access to credit, funds, health care, employment and education and excluding women from financial decisions and denying women's rights with regard to property ownership, land and inheritance and freedom of movement, and review practices and stereotypes that undermine their land rights, including in the context of customary and traditional systems, which often govern land management,

administration and transfer in rural areas, and ensure equal access to justice and legal assistance in this regard;

(ff) Take measures to remove structural barriers and improve the financial inclusion and literacy of all women and girls by developing financial and digital literacy programmes and advisory services in, inter alia, banking, modern trading and financial procedures; promote the full and equal access of women to formal financial services, resources and products, including timely and affordable credit, savings, insurance and remittance transfer schemes, as well as innovative tools and platforms, such as online and mobile banking, payment platforms and digitalized payments; and adopt, pursue or review national financial inclusion strategies, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, consider including financial inclusion as a policy objective in regulation and mainstream a gender perspective into finance sector policy and regulations;

(gg) Promote, respect, protect and fulfil the right to quality education for all women and girls throughout their life course and at all levels, especially for those who have been left furthest behind, in particular for girls living in poverty, including by protecting and investing in public education systems, and infrastructure, including access to electricity, safe water, sanitation and hygiene, including menstrual hygiene, as well as by eliminating barriers and discriminatory laws and practices using innovative approaches that tackle the root causes of gender inequality; provide universal access to safe, inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education; create conditions for gender-sensitive, safe and inclusive digital learning environments, and foster, as appropriate, intercultural and multilingual education for all and recognize traditional and ancestral knowledge for Indigenous women and girls; strengthen efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and harassment against all women and girls, including adolescent girls, on the way to and from and at school and other educational institutions, and eliminate negative social norms and gender stereotypes in education systems;

(hh) Promote and invest in quality, equitable, affordable, accessible and inclusive education, lifelong learning, reskilling, and vocational training and studies for all women and girls, including adolescent girls, including free and compulsory primary and secondary education, education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as literacy and financial and digital education, leadership training, career development, scholarships and fellowships as well as vocational and technical education and training, including for pregnant adolescents and young mothers, as well as single mothers, to enable them to continue and complete their education, and provide quality education for those who did not receive formal education, as well as special initiatives for keeping girls in school through early childhood, primary, secondary education, and for promoting women's access to tertiary education, to ensure that they acquire the knowledge and skills to attain high-quality jobs and participate in the sustainable economy;

(ii) 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, reduce out-of-pocket spending that further exacerbates the situation of women experiencing poverty and ensure access, including through universally accessible primary health-care and support services and social protection mechanisms, 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 all communicable and non-communicable diseases and ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education;

(jj) Take measures to significantly reduce maternal, perinatal, neonatal, infant and child mortality and morbidity and increase access to quality health services for newborns, infants and children, as well as all women before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth, including those living in poverty, by providing antenatal and postnatal care, sufficient numbers of skilled birth attendants and adequately supplied birthing facilities, interventions, such as improving transportation and health-care infrastructure, to ensure that women can access emergency obstetric services, and training and equipping community health workers, nurses and midwives to provide basic prenatal and postnatal care and emergency obstetric care, inter alia, by providing voluntary, informed family planning and empowering women to identify risk factors and complications of pregnancy and childbirth and facilitating their access to health facilities, including in addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective ;

(kk) 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 Development 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 addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective;

(ll) Increase financial investments in quality, affordable, resilient and accessible public health-care systems and facilities, and in safe, effective, quality, essential and affordable health-care services, including preventive, diagnostic, curative and rehabilitation services, and sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as in health technologies, including digital health technologies and digital tools developed for women's and girls' health and well-being; promote decent work with adequate remuneration for women working in the health and social sectors, effective retention and equitable and broad distribution of the health workforce, and in capacities to optimize the existing health workforce; address all rare, communicable and non-communicable diseases, including HIV and AIDS, and waterborne and neglected tropical diseases, and provide information on nutrition and healthy lifestyles, including through community outreach and private sector engagement, and with the support of the international community, with a view to supporting each country's path towards achieving universal health coverage for all women and girls, including those living in poverty;

(mm) 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;

(nn) Recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, including through sustained investments in the care economy and by promoting work-life balance, and by taking steps to measure the value of this work in order to determine its contribution to the national economy; adopt measures to promote equal sharing of responsibility between women and men and within the household with respect to care and household work and implement legislation and policies, including paid maternity, paternity, parental and other leave schemes, increased flexibility in working arrangements, such as facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers and part-time work, without reductions in labour and social protection, and all appropriate measures to promote the reconciliation of work and family responsibilities, through the provision of infrastructure, technology and public services, including accessible, affordable and quality social services, childcare and care facilities and services for children, older persons and other dependants;

(oo) Provide social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure that support the productivity and economic viability of women's work and protect women, especially those working in the informal economy, including in rural and urban areas, by taking measures to address unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, including by promoting occupational safety and health protection for all workers, including those in precarious work and low-paid sectors in which women are overrepresented, such as care and health care;

(pp) Establish or strengthen inclusive, comprehensive and universal social protection systems, including floors, that integrate a gender perspective to ensure full access to social protection for all women and girls, including those living in poverty, without discrimination of any kind, and take measures to progressively achieve higher levels of protection, including for those working in the informal economy;

(qq) Invest in equitable, high-quality, inclusive, affordable and accessible public services, which has proven to be effective in promoting the rights of all women and girls, including those living in poverty, and achieving gender equality, and increase public investment to support the development of human capabilities, address unpaid care work and support decent work for all women, while recognizing that public spending on social infrastructure produces positive spillover benefits and enhances the productivity of the economy and contributes to the financial independence of women;

(rr) Significantly increase public and private sector investment in evidence-based initiatives aimed at eliminating the gender digital divide, especially for women and girls living in poverty, and build more inclusive innovation ecosystems to promote safe innovation for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and ensure full respect for all women's and girls' human rights in the digital context, including by using innovative finance mechanisms and tools, inter alia, mobile banking, online payment platforms and digitalized payment, and developing specialized financing instruments to strengthen the contribution of women, including women living in poverty, to economic growth and their continued participation in the digital economy;

(ss) Enhance efforts to achieve universal and affordable connectivity and facilitate and promote access to information and communications technology and safety in digital spaces for women and girls, to enhance women's productivity and mobility in the labour market, while taking measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls that occurs through or is amplified by the use of

technology; promote equal and affordable access to digital skills, connectivity and the Internet, using a multidimensional approach that includes speed, stability, affordability, language, training, capacity-building, local content and accessibility, including for persons with disabilities, in order to ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are available to all women and girls; work towards closing digital divides, including the gender digital divide, and ensure that programmes, services and infrastructure are adaptable and suited to tackling different technological barriers; and strive particularly to remove barriers and provide support for non-users and the least connected in the context of addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective;

(tt) Respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all women and girls with disabilities, including by addressing all barriers that prevent or restrict their full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making and in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of policies and programmes, including when it comes to addressing poverty, strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective, as well as health, quality education, distance learning, productive employment and decent work, including remote work for women with disabilities, and rehabilitation and other independent living support services and assistive technologies that enable them to maximize their well-being and realize their independence and autonomy, and ensure that their priorities and rights are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, and developed in close consultation with them;

(uu) Respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all Indigenous women and girls by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face, including eliminating and preventing all forms of violence and poverty, food insecurity, water scarcity, degradation of natural habitats and land degradation, forced displacement, limited access to information and communications technologies, infrastructure, financial services and education, and ensuring their access to health care, public services, the Internet and digital services, quality and inclusive education, and Indigenous women's employment, decent work and economic resources, including land and natural resources, and promoting their full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in the economy, and in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, taking into account the 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 and the preservation, revitalization and promotion of their languages, as well as the transmission of their traditional, scientific and technical knowledge;

(vv) Recognize the significant contributions and leadership of migrant women in their communities of origin, transit and destination in fostering inclusive growth and sustainable development, including to address poverty, underlining that poverty and underdevelopment are among the drivers of migration; and take appropriate steps to promote their full, equal and meaningful participation in the development of local solutions and opportunities, and to recognize the importance of protecting labour rights and a safe environment for women migrant workers in all sectors, including, but not limited to, those in care and domestic work, including through fair and ethical recruitment and the prevention of exploitation, and to facilitate safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, as well as labour mobility, and take steps to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including, inter alia, by considering reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, as appropriate, and to

consider measures to address the different challenges that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

(ww) Promote and protect the rights of older women and increase their resilience by ensuring their equal access to social, legal, digital and financial services, infrastructure, health-care services, social protection, adequate economic and financial resources, education, lifelong learning and training, such as vocational training, protection from violence and abuse, including in digital contexts, and their full, meaningful and equal participation in decision-making and public life, recognizing that older women make a substantial contribution to sustainable development efforts;

(xx) Take measures to adopt or develop legislation and policies that provide women living in rural, remote and maritime areas with access to land and support women's cooperatives and agricultural programmes, including for subsistence agriculture and fisheries; strengthen access to safe drinking water and sanitation and safe cooking and heating practices to improve their health and nutrition; strengthen efforts to empower them as important actors in achieving food security and improved nutrition, fulfilling the right to food, and support their full, equal and meaningful participation in all areas of economic activity, including commercial and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture; promote decent working conditions and personal safety, facilitating sustainable access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, land, water and natural resources, and local, regional and global markets, and valuing traditional and ancestral knowledge and contributions of women living in rural, remote and maritime areas, including, inter alia, Indigenous women and women of African descent, to the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, for present and future generations;

(yy) Dismantle discriminatory financial practices that hinder the financial independence of women, including requirements mandating women to have a male co-signer to access financial services, and ensure women's legal capacity and equal rights with men to conclude contracts, regardless of marital status; as well as protect the rights of widows within inheritance regimes and with regard to the allocation of marital property;

#### **Implement gender-responsive economic and social policies and strengthen public institutions**

(zz) Strengthen authority, operational and technical capacities and resources for national mechanisms working on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls to support gender-responsive approaches and mainstreaming a gender perspective in ministries and public agencies, including labour, economic and financial government agencies, and into the design, delivery and evaluation of financing policies and plans aimed at enhancing access to affordable quality basic services for all women and girls, particularly women and girls living in poverty;

(aaa) Implement legislation and policies to prevent and combat all forms of corruption and ensure resources are directed towards pro-poor, quality public infrastructure, public services and social protection on which women living in poverty rely;

#### **Expand fiscal space for investments to end poverty for women and girls**

(bbb) Expand fiscal space and strengthen institutions towards supporting economic and societal transformations to end women's poverty, securing sustainable development by focusing on reducing systemic risks and structural inequalities, and urgently take comprehensive and targeted measures to address the root causes and challenges of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition affecting women and girls in the light of its

negative impacts on sustainable development, through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels;

(ccc) Recognize the urgency of providing predictable, sustainable and sufficient development finance to developing countries from all sources in order to significantly increase resources for ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme and multidimensional poverty, affecting women and girls, including by taking steps towards reforms that ensure a stable, inclusive and sustainable international financial architecture;

(ddd) Strengthen standards and regulatory frameworks on the labelling of gender-focused bond issuances to ensure demonstrable, additive and measurable impact is being achieved through the reporting on key performance indicators;

(eee) Take concrete steps to support gender-responsive budgeting and tracking across all sectors of public expenditure, to address gaps in resourcing all national and sectoral plans and policies for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls to ensure their effective implementation; and increase transparency and accountability in the planning, budgeting and financing process, adopt practices to identify potential gender impacts of budget decisions and develop and strengthen methodologies and tools to monitor and evaluate investments for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

(fff) Foster the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women, as well as encourage the active engagement of women's rights organizations and feminist groups, in budget processes through open budgets, community and citizen participation in monitoring of service delivery, including in the process and outcomes of gender-responsive budgeting, and ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of all public programmes and services;

(ggg) Strengthen national and local planning and budgetary processes to enable governments to cost, allocate and invest in policies and programmes that, inter alia, address challenges facing all women and girls living in poverty, including by conducting gender analyses that are embedded in policy and decision-making processes, and by increasing the capacity of ministries of finance in assessing the different impact of fiscal policies on women;

(hhh) Promote efforts towards inclusive, effective international tax cooperation, including on combating tax evasion and avoidance and curbing illicit financial flows, to expand fiscal space, and include a focus on directing resources to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, among women and girls throughout their life course;

(iii) Ensure tax systems do not inadvertently reinforce gender biases in society, including, inter alia, by assessing the impact of taxation policies on gender equality, with a focus on promoting women's access to work and resources, and encouraging steps to increase the progressivity of tax policies with a focus on taxing those with the highest ability to pay, including via wealth and corporate taxation, and preventing regressive taxation that disproportionately impacts women with low or no incomes;

(jjj) Take concrete steps towards eliminating the practice of gender-based price differentiation, where it exists, also known as the "pink tax", which contributes to feminization of poverty, whereby goods and services intended for or marketed to women and girls cost more than similar goods and services intended for or marketed to men and boys;

(kkk) Encourage the allocation of subsidies and tax incentives to pro-poor policies and programmes for the eradication of poverty and the promotion of gender equality;

(lll) Improve international debt mechanisms to support debt review, debt payment suspensions and debt restructuring, as appropriate, with an expansion of support and eligibility to vulnerable countries in need; commit to continuing to assist developing countries in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt and in implementing resilience measures so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis; recognize the importance of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external and domestic debt sustainability; call for strengthened multilateral actions and coordination by all creditors to address the deteriorating debt situation; recognize the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, and debt restructuring as debt crisis prevention, management and resolution tools; and acknowledge that these measures can enhance fiscal space for investments for all women and girls living in poverty.

(mmm) Consider, as appropriate, stronger debt management initiatives for some low- and middle-income countries that are not part of the existing debt relief initiatives, which now have large debt burdens that may create constraints on mobilizing the resources needed to achieve sustainable development goals, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and stresses the importance of medium- and long-term debt sustainability to deal with debt, including non-Paris Club debt;

**Foster new development strategies towards sustainable economies and sustainable societies**

(nnn) Encourage championing programmes that increase the capacity of women-led and women-owned businesses and can contribute to advancing gender equality and women's economic empowerment, which has a positive impact on economic growth and helps to reduce poverty, while recognizing the critical role of women as producers and traders and the need to address their specific challenges in order to facilitate their full, equal and meaningful participation in domestic, regional and international trade and promoting export-led growth in developing countries that responds to individual development needs, considering that international trade is an engine for inclusive growth and poverty eradication and that it contributes to the promotion of sustainable development, structural transformation and industrialization, particularly in developing countries;

(ooo) 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, including by implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries and exchanging best practices to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals 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 in the context of addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective;

(ppp) 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 to meet development goals and targets, through investments for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls living in poverty;

#### **Engage and finance women's organizations and collectives**

(qqq) Promote a safe and enabling environment for all civil society actors and increase public and private financing, including robust, sustainable, flexible, multi-year financing, for civil society organizations, prioritizing local community-level initiatives, and strengthen monitoring and accountability at the national, regional and international levels, as appropriate;

(rrr) Support women's collectives, cooperatives, trade unions and associations in advocating for protecting and promoting the right to work and rights at work, including freedom of association, peaceful assembly and collective bargaining, and equal pay for work of equal value; prevent and remove barriers to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the world of work and implement policies that ensure the participation of collectives, cooperatives, associations, workers' organizations and unions of women workers, both employed and self-employed, in labour policy and programme design and implementation; and support these organizations in advocating for full, productive and decent work and mediate access for all women, particularly women living in poverty, to entitlements and service delivery;

(sss) Support the important role of civil society actors and organizations, trade unions and national human rights institutions, where they exist, in promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, in particular those living in poverty, as well as in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and the 2030 Agenda, and take steps to protect such actors, including women human rights defenders, integrate a gender perspective into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defence, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to prevent discrimination in all its forms, violations and abuses against them, such as online and offline threats, harassment, violence and reprisals; and combat impunity by ensuring that violations or abuses are promptly and impartially investigated and that those responsible are held accountable;

(ttt) Fully engage men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including their economic empowerment, and the respect of their rights and fundamental freedoms, by understanding and addressing the root causes of gender inequality, such as unequal power relations, legal, economic and social status, gender stereotypes and practices that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls and the feminization of poverty; designing and implementing national policies and programmes that address the roles and responsibilities of men and boys, including the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in care and domestic work; occupational segregation in working life including its vertical and horizontal dimensions, in all sectors; ensuring the enforcement of child support laws; and eliminating social norms that condone violence against women and girls and attitudes by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys as contribution to poverty eradication and women's economic empowerment;

(uuu) Combat household and family poverty and social exclusion by investing in family-oriented policies addressing the multidimensional aspects of poverty, including extreme poverty, faced by women and girls living in poverty, focusing on their access to education, training, science and technology, health, employment, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, paying special attention to social protection measures that take into account a gender perspective, work-life and work-family balance and intergenerational solidarity, child allowances for parents and carers, and pension benefits for older persons;

#### **Enhance multidimensional poverty data and statistics**

(vvv) Strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and government institutions, by providing financial, technical and human resources, including for developing countries, from all sources to collect, analyse, disseminate and use disaggregated data and gender statistics on multidimensional poverty, including on women and girls living in poverty, as well as on the formal and informal economy, income and asset distribution within households, unpaid care and domestic work, women's access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, and women's participation at all levels of decision-making, including on how women's engagement impacts policymaking, to ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, marital status, migration status, disability, geographical location, educational level and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;

(www) Strengthen cooperation among all relevant stakeholders in the systematic collection and analysis of comprehensive and disaggregated data in order to address challenges faced by women and girls living in or at risk of poverty to inform policy and programme design, implementation and assessment, including in the areas of social inclusion, decent employment creation and inequality reduction, and increase opportunities to use data;

(xxx) Develop disaggregated and gender-sensitive measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product, inter alia, to comprehensively measure and recognize the value and contribution of unpaid care and domestic work to economic and social progress, as well as have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation, including in the consideration of informing access to development finance and technical cooperation.

55. 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 and to ensure synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

56. 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 addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

57. 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 towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.

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