

Driving the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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1. The opening Session of the Commission

The opening session was notable for Mr. Ban Ki Moon delivering his last statement to the CSW as Secretary-General of the United Nations. He recounted how precious and valued the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda is to him, how he has prioritized it, advocated with Heads of State and other leaders, appointed to date the highest number of women leaders in the UN, rated the creation of UN Women as one of his greatest legacies, praised UN Women's achievements saying that **"our new global force has made its mark"** and expressed gratitude to **"our outstanding current Executive Director Phumzile."** He coined a new meaning of the term **FGM - Finally Girls Matter!**

In her speech, the Executive Director (ED) highlighted the importance of the first CSW of the new 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and how it had made gender equality and women's empowerment its centre piece while committing to integrate gender equality systematically into the implementation of the whole agenda. She described the CSW as the largest, most critical intergovernmental forum with diverse women's voices that can influence the road to 2030 and exhorted **all to seek implementation through modalities that match the bold, ambitious and transformative agenda where there can be no 'business as usual'**. She proudly announced that the **first ever Youth CSW Forum** had been held, launched UN Women's Youth and Gender Equality Strategy and made *«herstory»* by inviting a young woman leader to present the [message from the Forum](#).

2. Priority theme - Key messages

The landmark set of [Agreed Conclusions](#) on the priority theme- a high end outcome as ED called - it was adopted. It established detailed, progressive, value added and positive commitments and trajectory to effectively implement and monitor the progress of the historic gender equality compact contained in the entire 2030 Agenda in conjunction with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPFA).

The priority theme of **"Women's Empowerment and the Link to Sustainable Development"** which helped to frame, spell out and contextualize gender equality issues in conjunction with the 2030 Agenda had **special cross-sectoral resonance**. Both the general debate and the plenary round tables of the first ever ministerial segment of CSW, focused on the implementation areas outlined in the [Secretary-General's Report prepared by UN Women](#), but also highlighted the emphasis Member States put on different themes and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as enablers and beneficiaries of gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEWE) achievement.

These ideas were well received by Member States and echoed in their statements elaborating on the extent to which they seek to incorporate the SDGs and GEWE in their national policies and actions. More importantly, they were comprehensively reflected in the Agreed Conclusions.

3. Agreed Conclusions of CSW 60 on the priority theme

A. Historic commitment to gender-responsive implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda

Leveraging its unique role as a key functional Commission and intergovernmental policymaking body the CSW evoked a historic commitment to, and set out **key enabling conditions for gender-responsive implementation, data, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and the systematic integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of the implementation of the entire agenda going beyond 2030 Agenda's reference to gender-sensitive follow-up and review commitment.**

Recognizing that the 2030 Agenda is of **unprecedented scope and significance, accepted by all countries and applicable to all and will be implemented by all counties**, it called on Member States to **"implement all goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature"** including by **developing cohesive sustainable development strategies to achieve GEWE and the integration of gender perspectives across all government policies and programmes at all levels.**

The two references the 2030 Agenda implementation in the Agreed Conclusions about **"respecting each country's policy space and leadership"** and **"taking into account national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policy space for sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, in particular for developing states"** was balanced in each case by a reference to **"while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments"** which include all the normative commitments made on GEWE.

There is no qualifier on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW, etc. On the contrary, it is recognized that **gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda "requires the acceleration of action on both recent and long-standing commitments to realizing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and their equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms."**

B. Essentiality of gender equality and women's empowerment for progress on all SDGs affirmed

The Agreed Conclusions welcomed the commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in the 2030 Agenda, recognized that **"women play a vital role as agents of development,"** that **realization of gender equality is crucial to progress across all SDGs and targets,** and that **the realization of full human potential and of sustainable development "is not possible if women and girls continue to be denied the full realization of their human rights and equal opportunities."**

C. Beijing Platform as foundational basis

Furthermore, the Commission reaffirmed that the BDPfA and the outcome documents of its reviews, and the outcomes of relevant major United Nations conferences, have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and that the **“full, effective and accelerated implementation of the BDPfA will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that will leave no one behind.”** It was also significant that **Regional Conventions and instruments** were recognized as **playing an important role in the achievement of GEWE and sustainable development**, thus encouraging the regional ownership of the gender equality agenda for Sustainable Development.

D. Women's human rights affirmations

That the Agreed Conclusions **strongly prioritized human rights of women and girls in the achievement of GEWE and SD and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda** is a major achievement. Besides BDPfA, there was an unequivocal recommitment to human rights treaties - CEDAW and CRC, with a call to ratify them and their Optional Protocols, to review reservations and withdraw those contrary to their purpose and to implement them fully by inter alia putting in place effective national legislation and policies. These instruments were reiterated as **providing an international legal framework and comprehensive set of measures for the full and equal realization of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls throughout their lifecycle.**

Such commitments to women's human rights are affirmed multiple times in the Agreed Conclusions, including as the imperative of the **promotion and protection of and respect for the human rights of women and girls for sustainable development** and that such rights are **“universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent.”** Importantly, the Commission therefore stressed the need for **mainstreaming women’s human rights into all policies and programmes, including those aimed at the eradication of poverty, and to “take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy civil, economic, social, cultural and political rights and development.”** It is significant that national human rights institutions are invited among others to contribute to gender responsive implementation of 2030 Agenda and human rights were referenced in the context of role of civil society and women's human rights defenders.

E. Major Role of Civil Society, feminist, youth-led organizations affirmed

Remarkable was the **welcoming of and recognition by governments of “the major contributions made by civil society including feminist groups, women's, community-based and youth-led organizations in placing the needs, interests, and visions of women and girls on local, national, regional and global agendas including the 2030 Agenda”** and a commitment **“to an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with them in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”**

They also pledged to **“promote a safe and enabling environment for all civil society actors so that they can fully contribute to a gender-responsive implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.”** There was a positive commitment to **increase resources and support for grass-roots,**

local, national, regional and global women's and civil society organizations working on gender equality and the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls.

F. Role of Socially Responsible and Accountable Private sector

The Commission called upon the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda. It recommended promoting a **socially responsible and accountable private sector** that acts in line with, among others, the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the fundamental principles and rights at work of the ILO, and labour, environmental and health standards, as well as the Women's Empowerment Principles established by UN Women and the Global Compact in order to achieve GEWE and **the realization of their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms**.

G. "Enyouthing" of CSW and women's movement

In a pioneering step, a **Youth Forum at CSW**, convened by UN Women, was held prior to the opening of CSW bringing together over 300 young women and men from across the world who called on the Commission to fully resource and implement UN Women's Youth and Gender Equality Strategy for empowering young women. The Youth CSW Declaration on Gender Equality and the Human Rights of Young Women and Girls, presented to the Chair of CSW60, Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, urged Member States to ensure a **gender-just and youth-accountable implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. This was reflected not only in the **reference to girls throughout the text**, but **youth-led organizations being identified as a key actor and stakeholder in paragraph 21** and among CSOs for open, inclusive and transparent engagement.

H. Men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and allies

It must be recalled that paragraph 20 of the 2030 Agenda stressed the importance of engagement of men and boys for ending discrimination and violence against women and the Agreed Conclusions was path-breaking in the way this game changing aspect of the implementation of gender equality compact of 2030 Agenda was addressed in both the preamble and in operative paragraphs. Key gains include normative aspects - the recognition of the importance of **the full engagement of men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and allies in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women as well as in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of Beijing Platform for Action and gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda**.

More operationally, there is a call to engage men and boys in designing and implementing national policies and programmes that aim to **ensure equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in caregiving and domestic work, eliminating social norms that condone violence against women and girls, and attitudes and social norms by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys, including by understanding and addressing the root causes of gender inequality such as unequal power relations, social norms, practices and stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls**.

I. Changing Social norms emphasized

The Agreed Conclusions is remarkable in the way it elevates the issues of changing social norms in the implementation of the gender equality compact and 2030 Agenda, building on the important work done in recent years in CSW. Besides the men and boys paragraph which is rich in references to **eliminating social norms that condone violence against women**, or attitudes and social norms of **subordination of women and girls, and of social norms among root causes of gender inequality there are other commitments that position this as an essential complement to changing legal norms and government policies.**

Member States and other actors are called upon to "**design and implement appropriate domestic policies at all levels that aim to transform discriminatory social attitudes and stereotypes as well as to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**" thus signaling the determination to create a new normal in society both as a means to and result of a gender-responsive implementation and achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

J. The implementation roadmap of the gender compact in the SDGs set out

The Agreed Conclusions set out a **roadmap for the why, what and how of implementation of all key SDGs** for gender equality and women's empowerment without singling out any particular SDG by number. The emphasis throughout is that all SDGs – over and above the dedicated SDG 5 and the gender-sensitive targets in 11 SDGs — have to be implemented in a gender responsive way even where there is no specific reference to GEWE but it has an impact on women and girls and involves their agency. This was a deliberate strategy adopted, as even the zero draft did not mention any particular SDG, but stressed the **importance of all SDGs and the entire agenda delivering for GEWE.**

The strategy and roadmap for implementation of the gender equality compact covered the ten 'I's as indicated in session 5 below and sought to create and reinforce the enabling environment at all levels, in all contexts and by all actors along the vectors of strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks, fostering an enabling environment for financing GEWE, strengthening women's leadership and women's participation in decision-making in all areas of sustainable development, strengthening gender-responsive data collection, follow-up and review processes, enhancing national institutional arrangements, setting out the parameters of international development cooperation, and the UN system's role and UN Women's central role in the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

While there is no mention of SDG 5 – "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" - in the Agreed Conclusions, **the full gender equality compact with SDG 5 at its heart as elaborated within the 2030 Agenda emerges stronger and more fully within the Agreed Conclusions**, with significant commitments made and actions outlined on all 6 SDG 5 Targets and 3 Means of Implementation.

- a. ***Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls (SDG 5.1), adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for GEWE and access to economic resources 5a and 5b***

Under the rubric of strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks, there is a clarion call to **eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls** (SDG 5.1) in law and practice through **development, adoption, accelerated and effective implementation and monitoring of laws and comprehensive policy measures, the removal of discriminatory and punitive measures where they exist, setting up legal, policy, administrative and other comprehensive measures including temporary special measures as appropriate to ensure women's and girls' equal access to justice and accountability for violations of their human rights.** Member States are asked to **enact laws, where they do not exist, and enact changes to discriminatory laws to make them more equitable and responsive to women and girls.** There was commitment to **enact legislation and undertake reforms to realize the equal rights of women to access economic and productive resources.**

b. *Elimination of all forms of violence against women (SDG 5.2) and of harmful practices (SDG 5.3)*

The Commission strongly condemned all forms of violence against all women and girls and expressed **deep concern** that discrimination and violence against women and girls particularly against those who are most vulnerable, continue in all parts of the world and include inter alia sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence, trafficking, femicide, as well as harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and FGM. They are recognized as **"...impediments to the full achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, and to the development of their full potential as equal partners with men and boys, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals."**

The Agreed Conclusions call upon all stakeholders to adopt, review and ensure the accelerated and effective **implementation of laws that criminalize violence** against women and girls (SDG5.2), as well as **comprehensive, multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive preventive, protective and prosecutorial measures and services** to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against all women and girls, in **public and private spaces**, as well as harmful practices.

c. *Valuing and recognizing unpaid care work, promoting shared responsibility and provision of essential services and social protection (SDG 5.4)*

Remarkable advance was made in addressing the implementation of the breakthrough commitment on unpaid care work and domestic work that was secured in SDG 5.4. The Agreed Conclusions called upon Member States and all other relevant stakeholders to **"recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work of women and girls"** (thereby going beyond 2030 Agenda which did not include commitment to reduce and redistribute), by **"prioritizing social protection policies, including accessible and affordable quality social services, and care services for children, persons with disabilities, older persons and persons living with HIV and AIDS, and all others in need of care, and promote the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men."**

Furthermore, the Commission recognized that achieving the 2030 Agenda requires **changing the current gender-based division of labour to ensure that unpaid care and domestic work is equally shared, recognized, reduced and redistributed.** *There were also strong directions on this in the*

paragraphs related to partnerships with men and boys, social norms, women's participation in public life and gender statistics contexts.

d. ***Women's Equal participation and leadership (SDG 5.5 and SDG 16)***

The Commission recognized the relevance of **women's effective and meaningful participation and need for equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making** in public and private sectors, and public political, social and economic life, and in all areas of sustainable development including through **Temporary Special Measures and by setting and working to achieve concrete goals, targets and benchmarks (SDG 5.5)**. It also recognized that it is essential to ensure that women, including rural women and indigenous women, are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes.

The Commission stressed the need for measures to ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making included by setting and working to achieve concrete goals, targets and benchmarks; by **providing education and training, and removing all barriers that directly and indirectly hinder the participation of women, and where applicable girls, in decision-making roles in all sectors and at all levels as well as taking appropriate measures to reconcile family, private and professional life and to ensure shared work and parental responsibilities between women and men to promote women's increased participation in public life.**

e. ***Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (SDG 5.6)***

It was a solid achievement that a **robust, comprehensive and progressive commitment was secured on the implementation of SDG 5.6 and SDG 3 on universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in the teeth of opposition by some groups and countries on account of their stance on SRHR, SOGI and abortion.** The fact that the text is from the Agreed Conclusions of the 58th session and was used as a consensus text **in no way diminishes the value of the achievement because this progressive affirmation is in the context of the gender-responsive 2030 Agenda implementation and at a time when it has become even more contentious.**

The Commission stressed the need for ensuring the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their **sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights** in accordance with BPfA and ICPD and their review conferences; **highlighted the need for the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and for the strengthening of health systems to make universally accessible and available quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services, commodities, information and education**, including, inter alia: a) safe and effective methods of **modern contraception**, emergency contraception, **prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy**; b) maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care and safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law. Equally significant was the recognition that the human rights of women includes **"the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality including their sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence"** which is an affirmation of sexual rights.

f. ***Holistic Women's economic empowerment agenda set***

The Commission recognized and set out a holistic approach that **women's equal economic rights, economic empowerment and independence are essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, vowed to increase awareness among decision makers of the necessity of **women's economic empowerment and their important contribution to global economic growth and poverty reduction**.

It underlined the **importance of undertaking legislative and other reforms to realize the equal rights of women and men**, as well as girls and boys where applicable, **"to access economic and productive resources, including land and natural resources, property and inheritance rights, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance,"** and **"women's equal opportunities for full and productive employment and decent work,"** and **"equal pay for equal work or work of equal value."**

The Agreed Conclusions recognized that **achievement of the 2030 Agenda requires the "full integration of women into the formal economy"** and called upon Member States and all other relevant stakeholders to implement **macroeconomic, labour and social policies which promote full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8) in order to promote GEWE**.

It also affirmed support for women's economic rights and independence, **"women's right to work and rights at work through gender-responsive policies and programmes that promote decent work for all; ensure equal pay for equal work or and work of equal value; protect women against discrimination and abuse in the workplace; invest in and empower women in all sectors in the economy by supporting women-led businesses,"** including by tailoring a range of approaches and instruments which facilitate access to **universal public services, finance, training and technology, markets, sustainable and affordable energy and transport and housing. (SDG 11)**

Emphasizing the importance of the **value chain from education and skills development to economic empowerment**, it called upon all stakeholders to **mainstream a gender perspective into education and training programmes, including science and technology, eradicate female illiteracy and support school-to-work transition through skills development to enable women's and girls' active participation** in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making, and **create conditions that facilitate women's full participation and integration in the formal economy**.

K. Interconnection with other SDGs

a. Poverty Eradication SDG 1

The AC came out strongly in making the enabler - beneficiary relationship between gender equality and women's empowerment and poverty eradication - that is, between SDG 1 and SDG 5. Indeed, they expressed concern on the continued **feminization of poverty** emphasizing that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions including extreme poverty is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. They acknowledged the **mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and poverty eradication and stressed the** need for ensuring an adequate standard of living for women and girls, **throughout their life cycle, including through social protection systems**. Poverty was also referenced in

relation to education, women's economic empowerment, rural and indigenous women and with reference to data and financing.

b. *End hunger and achieve food security SDG2*

It also recognized the important role and contribution of rural women and girls as well as local communities to **food security**, poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and sustainable development and committed to supporting their empowerment, and ensuring rural women's full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy, and political decision-making.

c. *Equal and inclusive quality education for all and promote lifelong learning SDG 4*

Strong emphasis was put on the importance of enabling the achievement of SDG 4 for women and girls for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. The Commission reaffirmed that **the realization of the right to education contributes to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (GEEWG) and their human rights**, sustainable development and poverty eradication, stressing the need for all women and girls to enjoy access to **lifelong learning opportunities** and equal access to **quality education** at all levels - **early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary as well as technical and vocational training**. The Agreed Conclusions noted with concern the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in, and completion of **secondary schooling, which is key to achieving GEEWG and the realization of their human rights and fundamental freedoms**.

Women's and girls' right to education throughout their life cycle at all levels, especially for those most left behind was affirmed. It recommended: a) providing **universal access to inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education**; b) promoting **learning opportunities for all**, c) **ensuring completion** of primary and secondary education and **eliminating gender disparities in access to all areas of secondary and tertiary education**; c) promoting **financial literacy**; e) ensuring that women and girls **have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships**; d) adopting **positive actions to build women's and girls' leadership skills and influence**; e) adopting measures that **promote, respect and guarantee safety of women and girls in the school environment**; and f) measures to **support women and girls with disability in all levels of education and training**.

d. *Water and sanitation*

In connection with SDG 6 and SDG 11, the Commission recognized that women and girls are **disproportionately affected by inadequate water and sanitation** facilities, that they have specific needs for menstrual hygiene management, and that **they are at greater risk of violence and harassment** when practicing open defecation. It also urged governments to improve **water management and wastewater treatment with the active participation of women and to provide universal and equitable access for all to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene**, in particular in schools, public facilities and buildings, paying special attention to the specific needs of all.

e. ***Compounded inequalities due to multiple intersectionalities and women in their diversity (SDG 10)***

While the Commission welcomed progress made towards GEEWG it emphasized that no country has fully achieved it, that significant levels of inequality between women and men, girls and boys persist globally, and **that many women and girls experience vulnerability and marginalization owing to, inter alia, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination throughout their life cycle.**

The emphasis of the Agreed Conclusions on empowering and addressing issues of **"all women and girls"** as subjects of sustainable development and human rights aligns with the new, all-inclusive scope of SDG 5 – **"to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls," embracing the needs, interests, rights, voice and leadership of all women and girls, "throughout their life cycle"** and in the context of **"multiple intersectionalities"** of identities and forms of discrimination.

Substantive equality related paragraphs on rural, indigenous, disabled, refugee and migrant women and those facing vulnerabilities in different contexts - conflict, natural disasters, climate change, poverty, etc., **lent further salience to affirmations of addressing gender equality and women's empowerment issues in a comprehensive yet targeted way to address the particularities of compounded discrimination. It also implicitly covers LGBT women facing discrimination and marginalization.**

Thus, the Agreed Conclusions have reinforced the 2030 Agenda's key pledge of leaving no one - **not one woman or girl- behind** as well as **strengthened the normative framework to apply to those beyond generic women's constituencies.** They also posit gender equality and women's empowerment at the **centre of all inequalities** in the context of other inequalities of age, race, ethnicities, etc.

f. ***Climate change SDG 13 and Paris agreement***

The Commission expressed **concern over the challenge climate change poses** to Sustainable Development and that **women and girls who face inequality and discrimination are disproportionately impacted by Climate Change**, environmental issues and diverse types of extreme weather events. Referring to and building on the **Paris Agreement on Climate Change**, the Commission also recognized that, when taking action to address climate change, countries should respect, promote, and consider gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

The Commission recognized the **critical role of women as agents of change and leaders in addressing climate change, and promote a gender-responsive approach**, the integration of a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies, financing, policies, and processes, towards achieving the meaningful and equal participation of women in decision making at all levels on environmental issues, and towards building the resilience of women and girls to the adverse effects of climate change.

g. ***WPS 1325, humanitarian and women's mobility (SDG 16)***

With conflicts, trafficking in persons ,terrorism and violent extremism and other conflict related emergencies, natural disasters and other humanitarian crisis and mass displacements disproportionately

affecting women and girls, the AC for the first time in a definitive way, underlined the imperative of ensuring that **"the rights, and specific needs of women and girls affected are addressed in international and national plans strategies and responses"** and are **empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision making processes at all levels in emergency, recovery, reconstruction, climate action, conflict resolution and peace building**. They asked that their human rights be **promoted and protected** and that **their needs and interests are prioritized in all development efforts, as well as in conflict, humanitarian and other emergency situations**.

In encouraging the World Humanitarian Summit to give due consideration to integrating a gender perspective into its deliberations, the **Agreed Conclusions stressed the importance of addressing sexual and gender-based violence as an integral and prioritized part of every humanitarian response as well as of providing education for all, especially girls, to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development**.

As we look towards the High level UN Summit on Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees in September 2016 in which context S-G's Report is proposing two outcomes - a **Global Compact on Refugees** and another one on Migrants, the AC addressed GEWE related issues relevant to both categories of **"women on the move."**

The Commission recognized the **positive "contribution of migrants, including women migrant workers, to sustainable development, and acknowledged the need to eliminate violence and discrimination against women migrant workers, and to promote their empowerment including through international, regional or bilateral cooperation among all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination."**

In the context of ensuring that no one is left behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the AC recognizes the **challenges faced by refugee women and girls and the need to protect and empower them, including in countries in conflict and post conflict situations and the need to strengthen the resilience of host communities and development support in host developing countries**.

The Commission recognized the need to take measures to **ensure women's effective participation at all levels and at all stages in peace processes and mediation processes, conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and recovery as laid out in UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security**.

h. The enabling Environment

Strengthening national GEWE institutions

Taking a cue from para 20 of 2030 Agenda which pledged to strengthen support to GEWE institutions at all levels, the AC gave a boost to national gender mechanisms for gender equality like women's ministries, and other bodies, by committing to **strengthening their authority and capacity and funding** and to **promote the visibility of and support for them thus enhancing the effectiveness and resourcing of national institutional arrangements and mechanisms for gender equality at all levels** including in **support of mainstreaming of gender perspectives across all policies and programs in all sectors of government**.

Governments are called upon to **enhance the coordination and coherence of national gender mechanisms with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders** and where appropriate, to ensure that "national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls," thus endorsing an **all of government approach to achieving the GEWE compact of the sustainable development agenda.**

Transformative Financing of gender equality and Sustainable Development

Taking inspiration from and building on the strong gender equality financing commitments in the AAAA, as well as in paragraph 20 of the 2030 Agenda, the Commission **committed to significantly increased investment** to close the gender resource gap by mobilizing funds from all sources, domestic and international, "including by enhancing revenue administration through modernized, progressive tax systems, improved tax policy and more efficient tax collection."

The Commission stressed the need for **building on progress achieved and strengthening international cooperation, in pursuing policy coherence and fostering enabling environments for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors and to reinvigorate the global partnership for SD.** Drawing upon para 6 of AAAA the AC reiterated the need for **gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies, and adopt and strengthen sound policies, enforceable legislation and transformative actions for the promotion of GEWE at all levels.**

The Commission committed to support and institutionalize a gender-responsive approach to **public financial management, including gender-responsive budgeting and tracking across all sectors of public expenditure, to address gaps in resourcing for GEWE** and ensure all national and sectoral plans and policies for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls **are fully costed and adequately resourced to ensure their effective implementation.**

It made a novel recommendation for eliminating the practice of **gender-based price differentiation**, whereby goods and services intended for or marketed to women and girls cost more than similar goods for men and boys (also known as the 'pink tax').

The AC urged developed countries to fully implement their respective **official development assistance commitments, to significantly close resource gaps in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**, including the commitment made by many developed countries, to achieve committed targets to LDCs and DCs and encouraged developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that **official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets and achieve GEWE.**

The AC highlighted the need for **strengthening international cooperation**, including the role of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, with the involvement of all relevant 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 GEWE.

Gender responsive data, indicators, monitoring, follow-up and review

To guide and measure systematic progress towards GEWE in the 2030 Agenda implementation, the Commission stressed the need for a **gender-responsive data collection approach in national follow-up and review** taking into account, where applicable, the **agreed global indicators framework**, and strengthen national statistical capacity, including **by enhancing technical and financial assistance to developing countries, to systematically design, collect and ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely data disaggregated by sex, age and income and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.**

The AC emphasized the need for: a) **enhanced technical and financial collaboration between and among countries with the support of United Nations entities, within their mandates**, b) and the participation of **civil society organizations** as appropriate, c) with the aim of **enhancing national statistical capacity**; d) technical and financial support for the **systematic design, collection and sharing of high-quality, reliable and timely data disaggregated by sex, age, income and other characteristics.**

Also significant was the commitment to **develop standards and methodologies to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics to capture discrimination and change needed in areas such as poverty, income distribution within households, unpaid care work, women's access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, participation at all levels of decision-making and violence against women to measure progress for women and girls on sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda.**

4. Family and gender equality

The debates in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals last December on the role of the family / families in the context of sustainable development saw itself played out in the Commission. As there is no reference in 2030 Agenda to the family there were delegations who did not want it reflected here unless it recognized different forms of family as in BPfA. Finally a solution was found whereby the Commission recognized the value of family as a contributor to development (not sustainable development).

It also recognized that gender equality and women's empowerment **improve the well-being of the family, and in this regard, it stressed the need for elaborating and implementing family policies aimed at achieving gender equality and women's empowerment and at enhancing the full participation of women in society.** Whilst this formulation is positive and was drawn from the 58th session, some delegations were disappointed **it did not recognize the different forms of modern family as in BPfA.**

5. The role of the UN System & UN Women

The Commission recognized **its primary role for follow-up to the BPfA in which its work is grounded.** Importantly it stressed that it is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls **throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda** and to ensure **synergies between the follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up of the 2030 Agenda.**

On the global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and its gender equality compact, the Commission affirmed that it would contribute to the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals taking place at the High Level Political Forum and will exercise its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming so **as to ensure that follow-up and review processes benefit all women and girls and contribute to the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by 2030**, reaffirming the expiration date for gender inequality and stressing the urgency of achieving the GEWE Project.

CSW 59 Political Declaration recognized the "**important role of UN Women**" in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and its "**central role**" in supporting Member States, coordinating the UN system, mobilizing civil society organizations, private sector and other stakeholders, for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the BDPfA, at all levels including through **systematic gender mainstreaming, resource mobilization, robust data, monitoring and accountability systems**.

This mandate was reiterated and further reinforced by CSW 60 Agreed Conclusions with the additional reference to the **full, effective and accelerated implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. In addition the **UN system and all UN entities within their respective mandates** are to support States upon their request, in their gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We as the coordinator of UN system will be required to support the UN system delivery of gender responsive implementation of 2030 Agenda and SDGs too.

As UN Women, we will need to work to **ensure that the 2030 Agenda is implemented in a gender-responsive manner** - which means acting immediately to support and mobilize governments, women's movement and other stakeholders across the vectors of the "Ten Is" reflected in the AC of CSW 60 in all countries, and which include:

Inspiration from the intergovernmental normative frameworks and human rights conventions including the historic commitments last year to achieve sustainable development, human rights, peace and security and humanitarian response and related strategies at all levels.

Indivisibility of the SDGs and targets - horizontal and vertical. All SDGs must deliver for gender equality and women's empowerment. SDG 5 and gender-sensitive targets threaded across all SDGs must be prioritized in the implementation of those targets.

Integration and systematic mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment across all SDGs and the entire 2030 Agenda implementation in its three dimensions, coordination of UN system and an all of government and all of society approach.

Institutions - creating, empowering, strengthening and resourcing of GEWE institutions at all levels engendering of all key institutions - political, economic, judicial, social, cultural, public services, etc.

Investment - significantly increased and enhanced financial investment and resources mobilization from all sources, at all levels - targeted and mainstreamed, transformative actions for financing GEWE.

Information - generating comprehensive GEWE related data, statistics, indicators, monitoring systems, frameworks, and capacities in SDG implementation, follow-up and review at all levels to assess progress and gaps.

Inclusion of all key stakeholders particularly the civil society, women's movement, youth, men and boys, faith-based organizations and private sector for movement building, transforming social norms and addressing the needs of all women and girls especially those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalization.

Innovation - driving political and social innovation which is the essence of GEWE transformation, Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), modalities and means of implementation, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), media including social media, innovative partnerships and advocacy platforms.

Implementation - localization through adoption and reform of laws, policies and measures including special measures and actions, the removal of discriminatory laws and policies, and ensuring their full effective and accelerated implementation.

Impact - these commitments must lead to actual change in the enabling environment and make systemic and substantive impact on the reality of all women and girls, especially those most marginalized.

For us, it is critical that women and girls live in a world of substantive gender equality by 2030, a reality that will only be possible through a committed, accelerated and gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda by all countries which is the biggest message of CSW 60.

6. Challenges and concerns

Whilst the eventual outcome was an excellent and potentially game changing one, the fraught process and political dynamics caused some concerns. The GEWE constituency had assumed that after the normative triumphs and commitments to GEWE of last year and that too at the highest levels, it would be a relatively easy win to agree on a roadmap and a strategy to implement the gender equality compact in the 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmental outcomes without contention.

However, contrary to that expectation we found, fortunately from a very small number of states and observers, an attempt to reopen and question some parts of the commitment itself and engage in questioning of references to SRHR, child, early and forced marriages, unpaid care work, feminists and women's human rights defenders, youth, women's human rights and forms of the family among others. There was a complete unwillingness to even entertain let alone negotiate on the LGBTQ and SOGI issues that some member states had put forward and clarification was made by a few on the definition of the term 'gender' and that Sharia will guide the implementation of this ACs.

There was some carryover also of the 2030 Agenda political discourse in the UNGA where some states including some developed ones wanted to highlight leadership and ownership and the right to decide how to implement this Agenda, keeping in mind their national circumstances and capacities and not have any prescriptions by the Commission. Also till the last hours a consensus outcome was not assured.

Under the circumstances, **thanks to deft facilitation by the German delegate (Andreas Glossner), political mobilization by the Chair and the Brazilian delegation**, which kept a positive atmosphere throughout, **the skillful negotiations by progressive delegations** including from among some key developing countries, **the advocacy by CSOs, and UN Women's substantive, policy, advocacy and strategic support to member states** and vigil, we achieved **another historic consensus at CSW 60 against many odds at each stage.**

Following adoption by consensus of the Agreed Conclusions, statements were made by some states and one observer to either [explain their positions or to express reservations](#) with regards to the adopted text. Some regretted the absence of frontier issues they would have liked to see addressed in a progressive way - for example on SOGI, LGTB, forms of family. Others sought to qualify how they interpret what is included especially with regards to SRHR. Some of these explanations raise concerns and indicate that we still have work to do in transforming national and regional patriarchies and related cultural and religious forces. We also need to ensure that the outcomes of regional level CSW preparatory meetings are translated into their global positions and to ensure that GEWE officials stay on to negotiate until agreement is reached.

7. The review theme – The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls

The review theme on Ending violence against women and girls with a novel system of voluntary presentations by governments on the implementation of CSW 57 Agreed Conclusions on the subject, generated much debate and understanding on efforts underway and solutions found to end this global pandemic and complex phenomenon which is both a cause and effect of gender inequality and discrimination. Supported by a [Report of the Secretary-General](#) prepared by UN Women, the recognition in the 2030 Agenda that the elimination of violence against women is both an overarching objective (paragraph 20) and a Sustainable Development Target 5.2 along with ending harmful practices 5.3, invested special significance to the review and enhanced the monitoring of implementation role of the CSW. We need to hone this mechanism for a true peer review and accountability facilitation and prepare concerned national authorities.

8. Commission's new resolution on "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS"

The **Commission's new resolution on "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS"** which was introduced by Botswana on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and adopted without a vote. The Resolution **reaffirms BDPfA and its review outcomes, acknowledges women and girls' vulnerabilities in the context of HIV**, the importance of **securing their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, ending all forms of violence against women and girls**, reducing the burden of care work, facilitating economic and political empowerment of women, implementing scientifically accurate age-appropriate comprehensive sex education (not comprehensive sexuality education), reducing HIV infection among women at higher risk, etc. The Resolution notes in preamble paragraph 11 **"the efforts of Member States and the UN system to end all forms of violence**

against women and children, including the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", and the HeForShe Campaign."

The Resolution in its operational paragraph 13 makes some important commitments that are transversal but have important implications for women and girls, namely to **remove before 2030, obstacles that limit the capacity of low and middle-income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products, diagnostics and other pharmaceutical products, treatment for opportunistic infections and co-infections, and to reduce costs associated with life-long chronic care.** More specifically, it calls for optimizing the use of existing flexibilities of the World Trade Organization (WTO) TRIPs Agreement, addressing affordable HIV treatment by promoting generic competition to reduce costs associated with life-long chronic care and encouraging the voluntary use of new mechanisms such as partnerships, tiered pricing, open-source sharing of patents and patent pools benefiting all developing countries to help reduce treatment costs and encourage development of new HIV treatment formulations, including HIV medicines and point-of-care diagnostics.

UN Women HIV/Health Team at HQ and ESARO along with other UN agencies provided substantial technical assistance and coordinated in the process of the drafting of the Resolution, working closely with SADC. UN Women also prepared the Secretary-General's report on 58th CSW Resolution on Women, the Girl Child and HIV and AIDS ([E/CN.6/2016/9](#)), which served as a basis for discussion of the Resolution adopted at 60th session. The Resolution and the SG report will have important implications in preparations for the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in June 2016 and ensuring that the Political Declaration integrates firm commitments to GEWE.

9. Looking forward & planning ahead

Next year, the sixty first session of CSW will focus on **"Women's economic empowerment and the changing world of work"**. This will be an important opportunity for normative landing of the recommendations of the High Level Panel of the S-G on Women's Economic Empowerment and for advancing key aspects of the commitments in AC of CSW 60, the BPfA and 2030 Agenda on the subject. The Panel which held its first consultative meeting during CSW60 consists of business leaders, politicians, academics and civil society and will be presenting its final report around the time of CSW 61. The roadmap for preparations of CSW 61 is being drawn up and IGSD will inform all concerned of what is expected of them.

We have to work through mitigation strategies on the reservations and political / cultural / religious aspects of some of the issues surrounding women's human rights. As always, pre-CSW preparations are essential and engaging Member States individually and in blocs on the CSW priority theme, noting their concerns and where possible addressing those concerns proved successful to the outcome of CSW60 and will also guide us for CSW 61. Ensuring that regional consultations at ministerial levels are held in all regions are well planned and the outcomes are transmitted to negotiating teams here to maintain a high standards outcome will be crucial.

10. Acknowledgements

Let me express my appreciation to all the colleagues who worked together to make this 60th session of the Commission a success. It is impossible to name each and everyone but let me mention the IGSD team and in particular Director Christine Brautigam for her choreography of the CSW arrangements, to Aina the new Secretary of the CSW, Sylvia, Estefania and Robert.

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Finally I would like to reiterate my gratitude to ED for her insightful and inspiring leadership throughout the session.