



# Report on the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the Priority Theme of the Sixty-sixth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

*“Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”*

9-10 February 2022, Bangkok

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## **I. Organization of the Meeting**

### **A. Background**

1. The Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the priority theme of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) was jointly convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on 9 and 10 February 2022. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the session was held online, via the Zoom platform.
2. The priority theme was considered within the context of relevant international frameworks including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (and the 2019 Asia-Pacific Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing+25 Review in particular); the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
3. The objectives of the Consultation were aligned with the priority theme of CSW66 and were meant to provide an opportunity for both state and non-state actors to consider possible areas for joint interventions (policy, programmatic) to address the intersectionality of gender equality, climate change, environment, and disaster risk reduction and management. The expected outcome was a set of recommendations to inform membership contributions to the Agreed Conclusions of CSW66.

### **B. Attendance**

4. Representatives of the following Governments attended the Consultation:
  - Members of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women from the Asia-Pacific region: Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines.
  - Other Governments from the Asia-Pacific region: Cambodia; China; Cook Islands; Fiji; Georgia; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Macao, China; Malaysia; Maldives; Marshall Islands (the); Micronesia (Federated States of); Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; Palau; Samoa; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Turkey; Tuvalu; Uzbekistan; Vietnam.
  - Other Governments: Sweden.

5. Representatives from the following inter-governmental organisations attended the Consultation: Asian Development Bank (ADB); Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Pacific Community (SPC); Pacific Island Forum Secretariat and South Asian Regional Trade Union Council.
  
6. Representatives from the following offices of the United Nations Secretariat, funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities attended the Consultation: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Organization for Migration (IOM); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR); United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).
  
7. Representatives of the following civil society organisations, and other entities attended the Consultation: ActionAid Bangladesh; ActionAid Cambodia; Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process (AGIPP); Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Asia Pacific Disability Constituency (APDC); Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD); Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC); Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW); Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice; Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Common Language; Cook Islands National Council of Women (CINCW); Dhinakaran; Duryog Nivaran (South Asia Network on DRR); Diverse Voices and Action for Equality; EConsult; Fiji Women's Rights Movement; Gender Equality Network; Gerakan Perempuan Peduli Indonesia (Indonesian Women Awareness Movement); Girl Up Indonesia; Hibiscus Foundation for Social Welfare; Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC); International Planned Parenthood Federation East and South East Asia and Oceania Region (ESEAOR); Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, Bangladesh; Juta Mewangi Enterprise (M) SDN BHD; Kochi Consulting Ltd.; MA Kyrgyzstan Rural Women's Association (ALGA); KAAM Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch (National Women Farmers Movement India); National University of Singapore; Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (National Rural Women Coalition); ; Participatory Development Action Pr; PEREMPUAN AMAN (Association of Indigenous Women of The Archipelago); Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Asia Pacific; Philippine Women's Economic Network; Punjab Commission on the Status of Women; Rural Women's Association, Kyrgyzstan; Shifting the Power Coalition; Study Centre DRR; Swarnonari Association; Tashkent Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education; Terre des Hommes Netherlands; The Nature Conservancy; Women4Biodiversity; Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and NRM (WOCAN); Yaung Chi Thit; Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Japan; and the Zonta Club Kathmandu.

## II. Proceedings

### A. Opening of the Meeting

8. Opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); Ms. Sarah Knibbs, Officer-in-Charge., United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UN Women); and Ms. Olga Djanaeva, Executive Director, ALGA Rural Women's Association on behalf of regional civil society actors.
9. Reflecting on the priority theme for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the speakers focused on the challenges and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region for achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls in the context of climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction. They recognized the issues that impact women and girls, including women's leadership and stewardship in the areas of natural resource management and environmental conservation, the water-food-climate nexus, loss of livelihoods and relevant (social and physical) infrastructural support, sexual and reproductive health and rights, girls' education as well as other relevant dimensions such as data collection, youth engagement and grassroots solutions for climate change and disaster risk reduction. The speakers also highlighted possible areas for joint policy and programmatic interventions and ways to enhance collaboration in the implementation of the different frameworks in the region.

### B. Session 1: Understanding the gendered impacts of climate change, environment degradation and disaster risk reduction

10. Discussions in Session 1 entitled "Understanding the gendered impacts of climate change, environment degradation and disasters" were facilitated by Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP. The introductory presentation was delivered by Ms. Sonia Akter, Assistant Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. A panel constituting Mr. Gerelt-Od Enkhbaatar, Statistician, Policy and Cooperation Department, National Statistics Office of Mongolia; Ms. Subhalakshmi Nandi, Senior Programme Officer Global Policy Advocacy and Gender Equality, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and Ms. Noelene Nabulivou, Executive Director, Diverse Voices and Action for Equality informed the discussions.
11. The panellists provided an overview of the key drivers of the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls, including through cultural norms, division of labour, higher poverty rates, lack of assets and land ownership, lack of access to education, sexual and reproductive health needs and gender-based violence. The need to shift gender norms on unpaid work and to redistribute the work equally between men and women was further highlighted as a key step towards achieving equality.

12. The panellists stressed the need for increased investments in data collection and evidence generation, to fully understand the gendered impacts of climate change and disasters. The unique and specific data collection methods required for gendered data collection were noted, including the need for additional funding and increased technical assistance.
13. The importance of amplifying the voice and representation of those most affected by climate change in policy discussions and decision making, to enable policies to be gender-responsive, was highlighted as a crucial step towards reducing gender inequalities. The panellists stressed that gender and climate justice must be brought to the forefront of our work, mainstreaming gender throughout economic recovery efforts and adopting a whole of society approach. The panellists further underscored the need for governments to commit to adequate climate financing and to secure institutional capacity.
14. Following the panel discussion, government representatives reflected on the vulnerability of many countries in the region to the impacts of climate change, especially Small Island Developing States. Representatives recognized that women are amongst the groups most impacted by climate change and disasters. Some of the reasons for this disproportionate vulnerability highlighted by representatives included, high rates of poverty, high participation in agriculture, and responsibilities for unpaid care and domestic work. Representatives noted the increase of gender-based violence and the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services following disasters.
15. Representatives shared their national action plans and progress achieved so far in addressing the gendered impacts of climate change, environment degradation and disasters. They showcased efforts targeted to restoring women's livelihoods following disasters, including funding for women's micro, small, and medium enterprises. Representatives shared programmes aimed at increasing women's capacities to adapt to the changing environment. Programmes to reduce gender-based violence following disasters and increase access to support services, as well as increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services were also highlighted. Efforts to integrate gender-responsive budgeting into climate responses and to work closely with women's organizations were also shared by representatives.
16. Representatives highlighted the need to further advance gender mainstreaming in climate change responses, including through financing, technical and technological support from the international community. Representatives called attention to the need for better coordination between all sectors and stakeholders in interventions. The need for development and social protection schemes to pull more women out of poverty and support broader development, thereby reducing women's vulnerability, was also emphasized by representatives.
17. Representatives of civil society organisations highlighted the importance of recognizing the varying capacities of women and girls and the specific vulnerabilities

that they face, based on their age, ethnicity, marital and socioeconomic status and educational level and/or sexual orientation, gender identity. They noted women's lack of access, control and ownership of land as further increasing their vulnerability to climate change and disasters. The need to close data gaps was emphasised as necessary to understanding and responding to the gendered impacts of climate change. Representatives called for further gender mainstreaming in budgets and prioritising gender specific needs, including sexual and reproductive health. Women's role as agents of change was emphasized, noting the significance of the role of women in biodiversity conservation and the need to increase women's participation in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

18. A representative from IOM emphasised the importance of addressing human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters. The representative noted the need for data and analysis to understand the gendered impacts of climate change and disaster related migration.

### **C. Session 2: Regional and national gender-transformative policies on climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction**

19. Session 2 entitled "Regional and national gender-transformative policies on climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction" was facilitated by Ms. Szilvia Lehel, Gender and Climate Finance Specialist, Bangkok Regional Hub, UNDP and Ms. Maria Holtsberg, Regional Advisor Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The introductory presentation was delivered by Ms. Sabra Ibrahim Noordeen, the Maldives Special Envoy on Climate Change, President's Office. The session included a panel discussion with the following panellists: Ms. Farah Kabir, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh; Mr. Le Quang Tuan, Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA); and Ms. Zonibel Woods, Senior Social Development Specialist, Asian Development Bank.
20. The panel discussion focused on the catalytic role of gender-responsive policies in driving climate ambition and advancing resilient and sustainable development. The panel highlighted key progress achieved in the region, including increased representation in decision-making, integration of gender considerations in national climate and disaster risk reduction and management policies, and improving recognition of the importance of gender-responsive climate finance. Panellists, however, identified persistent challenges in enabling gender-responsive action, in particular the lack of data to monitor and evaluate gender outcomes across policies, limited investments for women's empowerment, and the continuing prevalence of harmful gender norms.
21. Panellists called for a renewed commitment to a whole-of-society approach to meet existing agreements on gender equality including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to address inequalities and accelerate integrated action. Panellists underscored the need for greater accountability to women and the most marginalised

- sectors and emphasized the importance of sustained financial and technical support to enable the development and implementation of gender-responsive policies and programmes, including by public, multilateral and private actors.
22. Following the panel discussion, government representatives shared information on their respective countries' climate, disaster risk management and environment policies that supported gender equality and promoted women's empowerment. The good practices shared included mainstreaming of gender equality in national and sub-national strategies and guidelines such as nationally determined contributions, circular economy and disaster risk management plans; utilisation of synergetic approaches across thematic areas including, agriculture, forestry, water resources management, etc.; establishment of technical working groups and coordination mechanisms on gender equality and climate change; undertaking institutional capacity development using gender-responsive programming and gender-responsive budgeting; inclusive data collection and use of statistics and spatial data in decision making; establishment of gender-responsive monitoring plans; and forging partnerships with women's organizations, civil society organizations, and faith-based organizations.
  23. Government representatives also made recommendations to further promote women's leadership and policy roles within climate decision-making, especially at local levels, Representatives noted that whole-of-society approaches, which encompass synergies between related stakeholders, are needed to ensure resource mobilisation for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
  24. Representatives of academia and civil society organizations made recommendations to enable more gender-responsive policy processes, in particular, supporting local women farmers and grassroots organizations to collaborate in the region and respond to the needs of women from rural communities by enabling meaningful engagement in decision-making and setting up regional platforms; establishing synergies across policies; and systematically monitoring multilateral environmental agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Convention on Biological Diversity. A suggestion was made to ensure that a gender-lens is incorporated into the upcoming negotiations and implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Representatives further suggested developing gender-sensitive policy and programme evaluations and accountability mechanisms, while ensuring gender responsiveness in new funds and policies through the integration of gender into results frameworks and disbursement processes.

**D. Session 3: Women as actors of climate change, environment management and disaster risk reduction**

25. Session 3 entitled "Women as actors of climate change, environment management and disaster risk reduction" was facilitated by Mr. Mozaharul Alam, Regional Coordinator, Climate Change Programme, UNEP, and Ms. Branwen Millar, Gender



Advisor, UNDRR. The session included an overview presentation from Ms. Chandni Joshi, Chair, Women-Friendly Disaster Management, Nepal, and a panel discussion with Ms. Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Regional Manager, Shifting the Power Coalition, Fiji; Mr. Van Anh, Head of CHIASE, Viet Nam, and Mr. Miguel Musngi, Senior Officer, Poverty Eradication and Gender Division, ASEAN.

26. The panel recognised that across the Asia-Pacific region, women are at the forefront of climate change action, biodiversity conservation and reducing disaster risk. More needs to be done to value, promote and amplify women's voices, agency, participation and leadership, particularly in decision-making. Despite the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and extreme weather events and disasters on women, women are not adequately represented in policy and decision-making processes.
27. The panel highlighted the need for the full and equal participation and leadership of women at all levels of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction governance; as well as in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, climate change and environmental policies, plans and programmes. The panel recognised that women's diverse knowledge, skills and capacities need to be supported, invested in and utilised to achieve these aims.
28. The panel also shared good practices, including timely communication with government agencies on the needs of women community members following a disaster; women-led early warning systems in the Pacific that use appropriate and accessible technology to share information in real time and collect information from women, building the capacities of young women; programmes supporting rural women to access finance and renewable technology; and the policy and programmatic approaches to promote women's voices and engagement in the peace and security agenda with disaster risk reduction.
29. The panel highlighted several further actions needed, including greater political representation from women in local and national politics, upholding commitments in line with human rights obligations; recognising and accounting for women's contributions; sharing and learning from women's groups; and allocating significant human and financial resources to women's organisations, including securing women's access to finance and renewable technologies.
30. Government representatives echoed the points raised during the panel discussion, reaffirming their commitment to support women's leadership across the region, as well as showcasing some of their countries' policies and initiatives. They underscored the need to invest in building the capacity of women and bringing them to the forefront of policy discussions. The importance of gender-responsive climate financing was underlined by representatives, noting donors and funding organisations should take the necessary steps to support this process. Representatives further noted that women entrepreneurs should be supported in green business and sustainable energy.

31. A government representative underlined the importance of acknowledging traditional owners of land and that all sections of society should be represented in leadership. The substantial vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was noted and representatives highlighted the need to invest in capacity building for transformative leadership amongst women in SIDS to build communities' resilience to climate change. Representatives stressed the need to bring marginalized and vulnerable groups to the forefront of decision-making processes and to promote the voices of women working at the grassroots level. A representative highlighted that climate change is not only a scientific and technological issue but also an economic and social one. Due to the necessity of a global, multinational response to these issues, a call was made for a renewed commitment to multilateralism.
32. Civil society representatives stressed that climate risks need to be assessed from a gender perspective and women's voices heard in all their diversity, while climate financing benefits need to be equitably shared. The representatives emphasized the role of young women, girls and gender diverse youth, especially indigenous communities as well as the intersection of vulnerability and marginalization. A representative highlighted the need for accessible mental health structures targeted at women in the context of disaster mitigation and adaptation, access to education and the reduction of girl dropouts in the context of climate change. Another representative noted the challenge in improving sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights stem from, inter alia, women's social and economic marginalization, citing this as one of the least prioritized issues in humanitarian settings. Regarding women's role in agriculture and rural areas, the linkages between the environmental discussion and biodiversity, energy and agriculture were highlighted as becoming increasingly important. Governments were urged to phase out certain poisonous pesticides and to assist farmers, especially women farmers, to shift to agroecology to increase climate resilience and biodiversity. Another representative urged governments and civil society to acknowledge the significant role of women farmers and create more safe spaces for young feminist actors.
33. A representative from OHCHR underlined that many women, including indigenous women, possess the knowledge and skills needed for effective action and have taken action to protect the environment and human rights from environmental harm and climate impacts despite the increasing and significant risks. The representative called for the respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of women environmental human rights defenders, who are at particular risk in the region.

#### **E. Closing of the Meeting**

34. Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP, and Ms. Sarah Knibbs, Officer-in-Charge, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, facilitated the final session on review of recommendations and delivered the closing remarks.

35. They expressed appreciation to member States and all stakeholders for their active participation. They further expressed hope that governments will use the ideas shared in the consultation to further integrate the rights, needs and priorities of women into climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction policies, and to inform their contributions to CSW66.

### **III. Recommendations**

36. Based upon the discussion and taking into consideration the importance of achieving gender equality and promoting the empowerment of women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental management, and disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific region, the participants of the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation identified the following recommendations on the priority theme of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women:

#### **A. Strengthen the linkage between gender, climate change, environment, and disaster risk reduction interventions (policy and programmatic) and broader social, economic, cultural and political frameworks**

1. Promote an intersectional lens in national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, national climate change frameworks, and other national policies, acknowledging the factors - including class, race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, migration status and geographical location - that influence the differentiated impacts of climate and disaster risks experienced by population groups in vulnerable situations and locations, especially Small Island Developing States.
2. Ensure climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction is linked to broader social, economic, cultural and political frameworks in order to ensure gender-responsive and inclusive action.
3. Recognize the need for cross-sectoral, coordinated action to address the diverse and gendered challenges of human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change, and to integrate the migration, environment and climate change nexus in policies and frameworks at all levels, drawing linkages across global processes including the International Migration Review Forum, COP 27, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework for DRR.
4. Recognize the role of women's unpaid care and domestic work, including its exacerbation when having to respond to the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, through the creation of policies that value, reward, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and ensure the participation of unpaid care and domestic workers in policy dialogues.
5. Recognize and support the role of women in sustainable resource governance and biodiversity conservation, and value their knowledge in contributing to climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction interventions.
6. Noting the impact of climate change and disasters on women's health and well-being, ensure that health systems, including the health workforce, are strengthened to ensure

- access to and availability of sexual and reproductive health services as well as mental health and psychosocial support during and after disasters.
7. Recognize the importance of women's advancement and participation in the workforce in science, technology, engineering and mathematics sectors, to have meaningful participation in the implementation of solutions and designs for climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction interventions.
  8. Ensure that policies and programmes to address climate change, environmental degradation and disasters promote and protect human rights related to gender equality, including reproductive rights, in line with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and Beijing Platform for Action.
  9. Ensure voice and meaningful representation of women in all their diversity in policy and decision-making processes. Build collaboration between women's and youth organizations, organizations representing persons with disabilities and older persons, indigenous groups and environmental rights groups, including those at the grassroots and community level, to work with States in policy design and monitoring.
  10. Strengthen the technical capacity of sub-national mechanisms for inclusive and gender-responsive action to address climate change, environment degradation and disaster risk reduction to promote women's equality and empowerment.
  11. Recognise that in many contexts women are reliant upon natural resources for financial security, which is impacted directly by climate change and disasters, requiring anticipatory instruments such as forecast-based financing mechanisms and shock-responsive social safety nets that are based on a thorough assessment of existing gender inequalities, as well as investment in alternative income generation and financial stability.
  12. Noting that because decreased access to resources and income may have a direct impact on access to essential services and education for women and girls - reinforcing cycles of poverty, gender-based violence and harmful practices including child marriage - policies and programmes which span all sectors and services are critical.
  13. Ensure investment in and support the development of women and girls in achieving economic autonomy to guarantee stronger capacity and resilience.
  14. Ensure and expand commitment to adequate gender and climate justice financing by governments and stakeholders, including mechanisms to address loss and damage.

**B. Improve data availability on the gendered risks and impacts of climate change, environment degradation, and disasters to enhance inclusive and gender responsive policy development and programming**

15. Expand data collection and analysis of sex, age and disability-disaggregated data to understand the impacts of climate change and disasters, using quantitative and qualitative methods to understand the lived experiences of women and other affected populations, to inform evidence-based action. Strengthen data literacy and analysis in areas of existing gender inequalities, such as unpaid care work, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence and harmful practices including child marriage, access to resources and migration.

16. Ensure national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, national climate change adaptation plans, and other national policies and programmes for sustainable development include indicators to monitor the impacts on women's equality and empowerment.
17. Promote collaboration between women's ministries, ministries of health and the ministries that govern climate change, disaster risk management and environmental management by sharing responsibility for data collection and reporting between the ministries.
18. Continue to promote and support increased capacity to collect, analyse and use data to inform policies and programmes and to reduce disaster risk.

**C. Demonstrate strong political commitment by carrying out concrete actions guided by the acknowledgement of the rights, needs and priorities of women and marginalized groups.**

19. Utilise a gender-responsive and intersectional approach to the policy process by guaranteeing the meaningful and sustained engagement of feminist, women-led, and youth-led networks and organisations, including indigenous women environmental defenders and grassroots communities across all levels of decision-making through bottom-up approaches.
20. Transform harmful gender norms by promoting women's leadership in climate action, disaster risk reduction, environmental conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while institutionalizing policy changes aimed at renegotiating gender roles and facilitating shifts in behaviours and attitudes.
21. Strengthen policy coherence and the integration of gender and human rights across development, climate, disaster risk reduction, economic development and environmental policies established by gender frameworks and/or action plans of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to operationalise the humanitarian-development- and peace nexus and address multiple and intersecting inequalities, raise climate ambition, and strengthen accountability to women and the most disadvantaged sectors. Policies to consider in this context include the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAP)s, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Disaster Risk Reduction Plans.
22. Ensure evidence-driven decision-making informed by gender data and anchored in the intersectional analysis of compounding risks due to the worsening impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; climate change; disasters; environmental degradation on critical sectors including food, agriculture, water and sanitation, energy; and on gender equality.
23. Mobilize adequate financial and human resources to drive risk-informed development and implement gender-responsive climate and environmental action. This involves increasing the quantity and quality of public and private climate, environmental, and disaster risk financing; enhancing accountability mechanisms for financial institutions; elevating climate financing as a core gender equality issue; improving the gender-responsiveness of multilateral climate funds' operations; and establishing mechanisms to ensure dedicated financing for women and grassroots organizations.

24. Ensure a whole-of-society approach through adaptable sub-national, national, and regional governance mechanisms, linking ministries (working on women affairs, energy, agriculture, environment, treasury, disaster management and health) as well as by working in partnership with donors, financial institutions, and civil society organizations that operate in humanitarian, disaster, and development settings. Ensure the representation of the Women Affairs ministry in decision-making spaces related to climate, disasters and the environment.
25. Strengthen capacities on gender mainstreaming and adopt collaborative learning strategies at the regional and national level for governments and civil society to encourage synergistic actions on disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development, including through the Asia-Pacific Gender Community of Practice.

**D. Establish a comprehensive monitoring and accountability framework to evaluate outcomes as a result of the integration of gender equality into climate action, disaster risk management, environmental sustainability and other related sectors.**

26. Develop a harmonized set of gender, environment and disaster-related indicators to systematically track gender outcomes of disaster risk reduction, climate change and environmental policies.
27. Prioritize the collection, analysis and use of gender data to inform policy processes in the areas of disaster risk management, climate change, environment and other relevant sectors by promoting stronger engagement between national statistics offices, government ministries, civil society and other key users of data. Complement gender statistics with qualitative methods to further enhance the quality of data related to the agency and empowerment of women and other marginalized groups.
28. Improve the tracking and reporting of climate finance flows, and evaluate the impact on gender equality and the adaptive capacity of women, communities and at-risk groups.
29. Ensure that review and stocktaking exercises of international policy frameworks including the Sendai Framework for DRR, Paris Agreement, Water Action Decade 2018-2028, among others, and their respective gender action plans are gender-responsive in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

**E. Transform social, economic, and financial systems to achieve resilient and sustainable development.**

30. Leverage COVID-19 recovery to build ecological sustainability, long-term resilience, and adaptive capacities of women and communities by strengthening comprehensive universal social protection mechanisms, investing in gender-responsive infrastructure, and actively supporting women's economic empowerment through mobilizing and sustaining financial resources, promoting decent work, securing land and property rights, and supporting technological and digital development.
31. Strengthen partnerships between governments, private sector, and local and international financing institutions to bolster innovations and gender-responsive investments that facilitate the effective implementation of national and regional

- climate, disaster and environmental policies and plans towards resilient, low-carbon, and sustainable development.
32. Increase accountability through enhancing governance mechanisms and promoting a rule of law that provides protection and redress mechanisms for women and the sectors disproportionately impacted by the potential negative effects of the energy transition.

#### **F. Value, promote and amplify women's voices, agency, participation and leadership**

33. Leverage the participation and influence of women in managing the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and protection of the commons, including in conflict- and crisis-affected settings, recognising the diverse roles played by women, including as small-scale farmers, pastoralists and fishers in integrated governance, as well as indigenous and local community tenure and governance models.
34. Recognise and promote women's roles in biodiversity conservation and sustainable agri-food systems by developing policies and programmes that foster rural women's economic empowerment and access and control over productive resources and enables their engagement in sustainable food production that restores biodiversity, regenerates the agroecosystem, and provides resilience against climate change and other disaster risks.
35. Promote and protect the rights of women environmental human rights defenders and ensure that violations and abuses against them are investigated and that those responsible are held accountable in line with global and regional agreements.
36. Strengthen the capacity and engagement of national gender equality mechanisms at all levels with sustainable and adequate funding and promote intragovernmental coordination mechanisms that ensure the meaningful participation of gender ministries and women's organizations in the design, delivery and evaluation of all key national policy processes and programmes for risk-informed sustainable development, climate change, environmental and disaster risk governance to ensure gender mainstreaming policies and planning processes.
37. Engage directly with women's organizations in climate change adaptation and disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery as a key element of localization, and work with local women's organizations and networks to empower and strengthen their capacities as advocates and innovators, forging common spaces for interaction, dialogue and building alliances for feminist collective action.
38. Ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women at all levels of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction governance, including in national institutions and delegations to the Conferences of the Parties to the Rio conventions and other decision-making forums. Take appropriate special measures, including quotas, with particular attention given to enabling the participation of young women and youth, and ensuring participation at the local level, so that women and young women are not only viewed as users of resources but as managers of resources.
39. Develop comparable national baselines, based on qualitative and quantitative analyses, of the involvement of women, women's organizations and gender equality mechanisms in climate, environment and disaster institutions for monitoring over

time.

## **G. Support, invest in and utilise women's knowledge, skills and capacities**

40. Promote lifelong learning, training and education, including in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, for women and girls, and create pathways and opportunities for women to enter skilled trades and jobs including in the sustainable energy sector.
41. Leverage the ancestral knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities for gender-responsive climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and disaster risk reduction.
42. Invest in building the capacities of women, indigenous people, other marginalized groups and their organizations to enhance their leadership and negotiation skills, and equally invest in capacity-building of government officials to raise awareness on gender mainstreaming and the gender and climate/environment/disaster nexus, including the facilitation of training of trainers.
43. Increase the share of climate, environment and disaster risk finance that also supports gender equality outcomes and include dedicated budgets that focus on gender equality as a specific outcome of climate and environment investments.
44. Protect and expand eligibility and access to climate, environment and disaster finance mechanisms, including through grants with preferential access for women's organizations, ensuring that access to resources, information and services enable women's participation, including at local levels.
45. Increase public and private financing to women's organizations and enterprises for climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction initiatives by repurposing environmentally harmful subsidies for fossil fuels and agriculture to finance policies and programmes that strengthen the resilience of women and girls to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and prioritize investment in women-owned or women-led micro, small, and medium enterprises, particularly in sectors that promote climate-resilient agriculture and agroecology, decentralized sustainable energy, or other sustainability enterprises.
46. Strengthen the resilience of women and girls to climate and disaster risk through the financing and provision of sustainable infrastructure, accelerating access to decentralized renewable energy and safe fuel, and increased access to public services, adaptive social protection and social safety nets, and decent work for women.