



68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68)

CSW68 Global Youth and Adolescents Recommendations: Poverty Eradication, Strengthening Institutions, and Gender-Transformative Financing

PRIORITIES DOCUMENT

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Contact: unwomenngyas@gmail.com

Debt and Development Justice

- a) **Reaffirm the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda**, including the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, and the Generation Equality Forums' Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality. (Based on A/RES/77/193 PP.6)
- b) **Acknowledge that the historically extractive and colonial exploitative systems have induced the disproportionate burden of and the rising public debt on developing countries, further exacerbated after the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuing climate crisis**, with many countries on the verge of debt distress.
- c) **Acknowledge that large portions of national budgets are allocated for debt servicing**, leading to little or no resources to invest in critical gender equality services.
- d) **Reject extractive growth as the remedy for development, recognizing the redistribution of resources, opportunities, power, and wealth** as core to gender equality and full realization of human rights for all.
- e) **Ensure the permanent cancellation of all unsustainable and illegitimate debts, interest, and charges.**
- f) **Provide financing that does not create debt** by transforming approaches to the functionality of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and integrating qualitative standards and indicators into public financing.
- g) **Establish a fair debt resolution mechanism and platform** that is consensual and negotiated by all Member States.
- h) **Ensure inclusive and democratic negotiations for a UN Tax Framework Convention to end corporate tax abuses.**
- i) **Increase the influence and decision-making of women, girls, and gender-diverse youth over international financial institutions** with a conscious concern.
- j) **Develop and implement a more democratic and participatory approach to budgeting processes.**

Decolonization and Decolonial Approaches

- a) **Promote development justice that focuses on reducing inequities between countries and people**, and stops the transfer of wealth, power, and resources from the developing countries to wealthy countries, the Global South to the Global North, and from the working class to the rich.
- b) **Develop and deploy new decolonized feminist social contracts**, free from discrimination.
- c) **Resist the socially constructed hierarchies of racial, gender, class, caste sexuality, and ability-based inequalities** that underpin colonial, neoliberal, and capitalist structures, systems, and discourses.
- d) **Reaffirm that the peoples of the world ardently desire the end of colonialism in all its manifestations.** (Based on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples)
- e) **Challenge the colonial production of knowledge.**
- f) **Provide recognition, apologies, and reparations to all persons affected by colonization and work towards eliminating the harm, inequalities, and violence.**

- g) **Acknowledge that debt cancellation, symbolic apologies, and token payments for historic harms are not a substitute for the transformative demands of reparations** movements and approaches.
- h) **Recognize the reparations movement's struggles for recognition, atonement, and compensation.**
- i) **Support the decentralization and leadership of feminist youth-focused and youth-led organizations, networks, movements, and collectives in the Global South.**
- j) **Adopt a decolonial lens of accountability and examine, unpack, and reshape power dynamics, resource flows, and decision-making.**
- k) **Address and eliminate the exploitation of workers**, mainly from the Global South, in the form of neo-colonialist labor bondage by the private sector, such as exploitative and extractive labor contracts and informal labor, modern slavery, and harassment in violation of all labor rights.
- l) **Recognize the plurality of economic models**, including community economies, informal economies, and solidarity economies, and reject false solutions of economic growth.

Meaningful Youth Engagement and Young Feminist Co-Leadership

- a) **Commit to the systematic design, integration, and institutionalization of meaningful youth engagement**, especially of young women, girls, and adolescents, in all United Nations intergovernmental bodies and processes. (Based on A/RES/78/179)
- b) **Invest and allocate sustainable, accessible, and flexible funding and resourcing for meaningful youth engagement, centering the most marginalized.** (Based on A/RES/78/179 PP.9)
- c) **Create leadership opportunities for girls**, to ensure their meaningful engagement in all decisions impacting them. (Based on A/RES/78/188 PP.23)
- d) **Ensure challenges are addressed through community and grassroots-informed solutions.** (Based on A/RES/75/284 OP.61(b))
- e) **Create safe and inclusive spaces for youth, especially for young women and girls, to facilitate their full, effective, and meaningful engagement in all dimensions of life.** (Based on A/RES/76/137 PP 20 and A/HRC/RES/50/18)

Financing Youth and Intergenerational Feminist Movements, Actions, and Collectivization

- a) **Recognize that philanthropy and giving exist because of inequality, and colonial capitalist dynamics, and that feminist finance must dismantle these traditional hierarchical structures.**
- b) **Call upon regulatory bodies, inter alia, multilateral development banks, financial institutions, and bilateral finances, to implement regulations addressing gender biases in funding mechanisms**, as well as parameters and indicators to strengthen gender-transformative financing.
- c) **Call upon international development agencies to streamline bureaucratic procedures and ensure transparency and accountability** to facilitate responsive access to funding based on lived realities.
- d) **Increase multi-year, core, sustainable, accessible, and flexible gender-transformative funding** directed towards capacity-building programs for youth-led and girl-led organizations, networks, movements, and collectives. (Based on A/RES/64/130 and A/RES/56/117)

- e) **Prioritize the establishment and rigorous implementation of gender-transformative budgeting frameworks and participatory grant-making at all levels.** (Based on E/2005/23 E/CN.4/2005/135)
- f) **Ensure actionable plans with timelines for resources to be distributed fairly and equitably, without discrimination,** focusing on the distribution of resources to countries based on need. (Based on E/2005/23 E/CN.4/2005/135)
- g) **Guarantee all young women's economic independence and ensure access** to livelihoods, banking services, credit, and financial instruments tailored to their needs.
- h) **Develop dedicated funding mechanisms to sponsor the participation of youth working at the grassroots,** especially of young women, girls, and adolescents across United Nations processes.

Privatization, Corporate Power, and Multilateralism

- a) **Regulate and hold transnational corporations accountable,** through mechanisms that would bind corporations to protect, respect, and promote human rights.
- b) **Strengthen public-private partnerships to center gender-transformative considerations across economic growth and poverty reduction strategies,** frameworks, policies, and programs, thereby fostering an inclusive and equitable economic environment. (Based on CSW67 PP (gg))

Measurement, Monitoring, and Data Collection

- a) **Take effective policy-level changes that strengthen inclusion and representation in poverty data** through the use of disaggregated data and evidence-based processes.
- b) **Implement mechanisms for regular audits, public disclosures, and citizen participation in decision-making processes** to enhance transparency, and trust, and ensure efficient resource allocation, particularly in programs targeting women and girls.

Eliminating Gender Stereotypes and Harmful Social Norms

- a) **Address gender stereotypes and harmful traditional and conservative social norms,** including heteronormative gender roles and norms. (Based on A/RES/76/137 PP.13 and CSW67 E/CN.6/2023/L.3 PP.16))
- b) **Engage communities, including traditional and religious leaders, in developing solutions that support and promote girls' rights,** empowering girls to respect their freedom of speech and choice.
- c) **Advocate for an equal share of household and caregiving responsibilities.**
- d) **Mandate the implementation of educational programs that dismantle gender stereotypes and harmful social norms.**
- e) **Recognize the importance of ensuring the responsibility of men and boys as partners to advance gender equality,** realizing the benefits of gender equality to all of society and spheres of life, and in this regard, work with men and boys to dismantle the patriarchal structures that they benefit from, often at the expense of others.

Quality, Inclusive, and Gender-Transformative Education

- a) **Reaffirm that mandating universal quality education for women and girls, in all their diversity, is a critical tool for eradicating poverty and advancing gender equality.**
- b) **Implement the outcomes of the Transforming Education Summit and its Youth Declaration.**

- c) **Guarantee that all educational institutions provide nutritious, balanced meals and comprehensive hygiene facilities, ensuring safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all.** (Based on A/RES/78/174)
- d) **Integrate inclusive sexual and reproductive health and rights education into school curricula, including comprehensive and inclusive sexuality education.** (Based on A/HRC/32/32, E/2014/25, E/2016/27)
- e) **Adopt and endorse programs focused on vocational training and entrepreneurial education, emphasizing the need to enhance technical, vocational, and tertiary education, and ensuring equal access for all women and girls.** (Based on A/RES/78/174)
- f) **Commit to increasing financing directed towards the construction and improvement of educational infrastructure, particularly in rural and remote areas.** (Based on A/RES/78/174)
- g) **Ensure that education systems address the impacts and legacies of colonization.**

Decent Work, Care Work, and Labor Rights

- a) **Recognize the social and economic value of paid and unpaid care work and labor, most often shouldered by all women and girls, and reduce and redistribute this burden by providing support systems, strengthening public services and infrastructures, and promoting the human right to care as a collective social responsibility.**
- b) **Increase national budget allocations to finance and strengthen public services and infrastructures and reject their privatization.**
- c) **Protect and promote the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly, and collective bargaining as trade unions.**
- d) **Ensure safety for women, in all their diversity, in the workplace and address the multiple consequences of violence and harassment.** (Based on CSW61 OP(g)).
- e) **Reaffirm the importance of all relevant International Labour Organization standards** related to the realization of women's right to work and rights at work, and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- f) **Eliminate all forms of child labor and child, early, and forced marriages.**
- g) **Introduce a universal basic income** to enhance financial security and empowerment.

Social Protection for all

- a) **Ensure social protection is universal, binding, and enforceable by law.**
- b) **Expand access to social protection programs, encompassing quality education, healthcare, housing, childcare, and paid family leave, including paid parental, paternity, and maternity leave.**
- c) **Implement social protection programs, ensuring the provision of basic services and necessities, inter alia, nutritious food, clothing, clean water, menstrual products, and sanitation.**
- d) **Implement and enhance social protection systems that are inclusive and responsive to the specific needs of girls, in all their diversity.**
- e) **Establish care infrastructure to reduce the financial burden of essential services** that support women's care work, including transitioning towards a universal-coverage model of childcare and child benefits.
- f) **Invest in developing reliable, safe, accessible, efficient, and free transportation systems.**
- g) **Create and enhance infrastructure that makes public spaces more accessible and conducive to the well-being and safety of women and girls, in all their diversity.**

Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

- a) **Ensure decision-making spaces are safe and inclusive for women's participation**, addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. (Based on A/RES/76/137)
- b) **Reform economic policies to be gender-transformative, enforce laws effectively, and improve access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and services.** (Based on A/RES/78/174)
- c) **Address the root causes of gender-based violence and establish and strengthen institutional support systems for protection, rehabilitation, legal recourse, refuge and safe houses, and mental and medical support.** (Based on CSW66 Op.62 (cc))
- d) **Implement comprehensive legislation criminalizing all forms of sexual and gender-based violence**, ensuring that such laws are accessible, effectively enforced, and effectively hold perpetrators accountable. (Based on CSW66 Op.62 (cc))
- e) **Eliminate the use of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war.**

Health and Well-being

- a) **Provide and fund specialized mental health and psychosocial services in crisis and post-crisis situations.** (Based on A/RES/76/137)
- b) **Implement, mandate, and strengthen universal health coverage and advance targeted gender-transformative health programs.** (Based on A/RES/62/126 and A/RES/65/186)
- c) **Prioritize girls' health and well-being and invest in initiatives that champion girls' autonomy over their bodies**, including comprehensive sexuality education and reproductive rights. (Based on A/RES/76/137 and A/RES/62/126)
- d) **Increase funding for vital healthcare services and adopt gender-transformative laws to ensure equitable access to healthcare** and non-discrimination in healthcare settings. (Based on A/RES/62/126)
- e) **Tackle health issues stemming from poverty and allocate funds to menstrual health programs**, eliminating all taxes on menstrual products, and ensure the unimpeded and free access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare services. (Based on A/RES/62/126)
- f) **Invest in and promote research that focuses on understanding the health needs and requirements** of women, girls, and gender-diverse youth.
- g) **Reaffirm that peaceful, stable, and enabling political, social, and economic environments** are the essential foundation that will enable food security, improved nutrition, and poverty eradication, crucial for the growth and development of children and adolescents. (Based on A/RES/74/149)
- h) **Ensure sufficient and safe access to nutritious food for all children**, especially girls, at all times. (Based on A/RES/68/146 pp (41))

Gender-Transformative Legal and Judicial Reforms

- a) **Ensure the effective implementation of legislation and policies addressing gender issues**, by establishing measurable indicators to hold Member States accountable for their commitments to gender equality.
- b) **Ensure that justice and state entities are adequately trained and sensitized to avoid the re-victimization** of victims/survivors of gender-based violence. (Based on CSW65 Op.61(e) and (oo))
- c) **Review, strengthen, and enforce existing laws against discrimination, violence, and harassment**, and prioritize reversing regressive policies against LGBTQ+ persons.

- d) **Focus gender-transformative reforms on increasing transparency and accountability in legal and judicial processes**, addressing barriers such as institutional fragmentation, budget constraints, and entrenched corruption to ensure that resources reach their intended beneficiaries.
- e) **Complement legal reforms with the implementation of comprehensive awareness and education campaigns** to inform the public about laws, policies, and their rights.
- f) **Ensure legal support and representation for marginalized groups**, including establishing legal aid centers and offering pro bono services.
- g) **Conduct regular training for legal and judicial personnel on gender-transformity**, all women's and girls' rights, and child protection.
- h) **Establish regular resourcing, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms for legal reforms**.
- i) **Ensure access to justice prioritizes and focuses on the specialized needs of women and girls, including in rural and remote areas**, through decentralized and accessible legal mechanisms.

Crisis Response and Recovery

- a) **Ensure gender transformative investments and resources in response, recovery, adaptation, mitigation, and preparedness measures, centering a gender-just lens and an equitable and inclusive society for all people.**
- b) **Invest in promoting the leadership of women and girls as key stakeholders in crisis management.**
- c) **Prioritize gender transformative responses in disaster risk reduction and response plans** to ensure equitable resource allocation.
- d) **Strengthen efforts to prevent radicalization** and address underlying factors such as poverty, discrimination, and lack of opportunity that can contribute to radicalization.
- e) **Implement community-based crisis management approaches involving local populations and grassroots-level organizations.**
- f) **Implement monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of crisis response and recovery efforts.**
- g) **Increase public awareness and education on crisis preparedness.**

Demilitarization and, Women and Youth, Peace, and Security

- a) **Prioritize peace and ceasefire, focusing on the contributions of youth**, especially of young women and girls, including adolescent girls, in all peace efforts and in addressing conflict and wars to prevent the exacerbation of poverty. (Based on A/RES/76/137 PP 14)
- b) **Develop robust mechanisms for the continuous support, monitoring, and reporting of the conditions faced by human rights defenders.** (Based on A/RES/76/137 PP 14 and A/RES/62/126)
- c) **Reinforce international solidarity and cooperation** to address the needs of communities affected by conflict and violence. (Based on S/RES/2419)
- d) **Reduce military expenditure which reached a record high of US\$2.4 trillion in 2022.**
- e) **Reaffirm the Women and Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda.**
- f) **Put an end to the Western military-industrial complex's survival**, currently being executed by importing arms to the nations to continue the colonial legacies of war and conflict.
- g) **Recognize that militarism has a direct correlation with the exploitation of economic and natural resources, and in this regard, institute comprehensive global arms embargoes.**

Climate Change, Climate Financing, and Agriculture

- a) **Establish gender, intercultural, and age quotas in all climate finance-related processes**, and redirect finances to gender-transformative, and youth and child-responsive Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.
- b) **Finance the implementation of the agreement of the 5-year enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender** and the adoption of the second gender action plan.
- c) **Ensure a gender transformative just transition away from fossil fuels and extractive economic models** that have caused permanent and irreversible damage to various communities around the world by redirecting fossil fuel subsidies, the systematic cancellation of debts, the reallocation of record high military expenditures, as well as a just and equitable tax system, and strengthen universal social protections infrastructure, supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises, grant-based finance of locally-led feminist solutions, and capacity-strengthening and skill-building programs for transitioning workers, among others.
- d) **Transform the current climate finance landscape**, dominated by loans, and skewed towards private investment, perpetuating colonial cycles of debt, denominated in foreign currencies, and dependency on vulnerable territories, particularly in the Global South.
- e) **Scale up new and additional grant-based, highly concessional public and private finance, and non-debt instruments** especially to support developing countries and Small Island Developing States, for loss and damage, environmental disaster risk reduction, mitigation and adaptation efforts, and gender-transformative just transition, based on the principles of CBDR-RC. (Based on E/CN.6/2022/L.7 pp(aa))
- f) **Provide gender-transformative financing to women and young women farmers**, including land and resources, dedicated credit lines, training, and technology, and ensure their full, equal, effective, and meaningful participation, representation, and leadership at all levels. (Based on E/CN.6.2022/L.7 PP 53)
- g) **Actively engage with Indigenous peoples, local communities, women, girls, and youth-led movements and organizations, feminist movements and organizations, and trade unions** in the sustainable management of resources, respecting land rights and rights to self-determination and free, prior, and informed consent and further integrating poverty alleviation strategies within environmental policies. (Based on CSW66 OP 44 and A/RES/77/186 PP 41)
- h) **Ensure that all issued projects through carbon credits are regulated to support women, young women, Indigenous peoples, and local community-led solutions and businesses.**
- i) **Address and eliminate the systemic forced labor and other human and Indigenous rights abuses** that are present in the mining, processing, and production of materials for the clean energy industries.

Rural Women and Girls

- a) **Bridge the gap between remote rural, rural, and urban areas**, with leadership opportunities and capacity building for rural women and girls.
- b) **Establish gender-transformative frameworks that are fully inclusive of women and girls from rural and remote areas.**
- c) **Dedicate resources to the development of rural areas and sustainable agriculture** and support smallholder farmers, especially women farmers. (Based on A/78/464/Add.2)

- d) Ensure rural women and girls' economic empowerment, **including smallholders and women farmers, fishers, and Indigenous women.**

Migration

- a) **Develop and implement financial support mechanisms to ensure** access to economic opportunities and decent work for **young women and girl migrants, immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, forcibly displaced persons, and internally displaced persons.**
- b) **Implement policies that increase the representation and respect and further human rights of women and girl migrants, immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in decision-making positions at all levels.**
- c) **Invest in the livelihoods of women, girls, and gender-diverse youth, especially victims of forced migration due to harsh poverty conditions.**

Science, Technology, Innovation, and Closing the Gender-Digital Divide

- a) **Remove all barriers to systematic exclusions** to address the connectivity gap and the gender digital divide, especially in low-income, poverty, and remote or rural areas. (Based on A/HRC/RES/38/7 OP.5 (a))
- b) **Establish mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency from technology companies and digital service providers,** including social media companies.
- c) **Recognize that though technology provides great opportunities, it also poses the risk of perpetuating existing patterns of discrimination, inequalities, and violence.**



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