

**Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the
Millennium Development Goals for women and girls
AGREED CONCLUSIONS**

Preamble

25. The Commission notes that with regards to Millennium Development Goal 7 (Environmental sustainability) while progress has been made globally in access to safe drinking water, progress on access to basic sanitation has been particularly slow, and the target is likely to be missed, with serious implications for women and girls, especially those living in vulnerable conditions. The Commission expresses concern that the lack of access to safe drinking water particularly affects women and girls and that they frequently bear the burden for its collection in rural and urban areas, and further recognizes the need for further improvement in this regard. The Commission further notes that the lack of adequate sanitation facilities disproportionately affects women and girls, including their labour force and school participation rates and increases their vulnerability to violence. The Commission further notes that **women and girls are often disproportionately affected by desertification, deforestation, natural disasters and climate change due to gender inequalities, and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods.**

28. The Commission is concerned that several critical issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women were not adequately addressed by the Millennium Development Goals such as, inter alia: violence against women and girls; child, early and forced marriage; women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid work, particularly unpaid care work; women's access to decent work, the gender wage gap, employment in the informal sector, low paid and gender-stereotyped work such as domestic and care work; **women's equal access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources including land, energy and fuel**, and women's inheritance rights; women's sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences; universal health coverage; non-communicable diseases; accountability for violations of human rights of women and girls; and women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels. The Commission recognizes that unless all dimensions of gender inequality are addressed, gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights of women and girls cannot be achieved.

34. *The Commission is deeply concerned that climate change poses a challenge to the achievement of sustainable development and that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the impacts of desertification, deforestation and natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, and is also deeply concerned that the adverse impacts of climate change on women and girls, especially those living in poverty can be exacerbated by gender inequality and discrimination, and expresses profound alarm that greenhouse gas emissions*

continue to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development and in this regard emphasizes that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority.

A. Realizing women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights

(k) Address the multiple and intersecting factors contributing to the disproportionate impact of poverty on women and girls over their lifecycle as well as intra-household gender inequalities in allocation of resources, opportunities and power by realizing women's and girls' civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development; and ***ensure women's and girls' inheritance and property rights, equal access to quality education, equal access to justice, social protection, and an adequate standard of living, including food security and nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, energy and fuel resources and housing***, as well as women's and adolescent girls' access to health including sexual and reproductive health care services, and women's equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, women's full participation and integration in the formal economy, equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and equal sharing of unpaid work;

(aa) ***Guarantee women's and girls' inheritance rights and their full and equal access to and control over assets and natural and other productive resources, including full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property***, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit capital, finance, financial assets, science and technology, vocational training, information and communication technologies and markets, and to ensure equal access to justice and legal assistance;

(dd) Ensure non-discriminatory access for women of all ages to gender-responsive, ***universally accessible, available, affordable, sustainable, and high quality services and infrastructure, including health care, safe drinking water and sanitation, transport, energy, housing, agricultural technology, financial and legal services, and information and communication technologies***;

(gg) Recognize that caregiving is a critical societal function and therefore emphasize the need to value, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work by prioritizing social protection policies, including accessible and affordable social services, including care services for children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and persons living with HIV and AIDS, and all others in need of care; ***the development of infrastructure including access to environmentally sound time-and-energy-saving technologies***; employment policies, including family friendly policies with maternity and paternity leave and benefits; promote the equal sharing of responsibilities and chores between men and women in care giving and domestic work to reduce the domestic work burden of women and girls and to change the attitudes that reinforce the division of labour based on gender;

B. Strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women

(rr) Promote equal opportunities and the full and equal participation of women and men as agents and beneficiaries of people-centered sustainable development, and reaffirm that eradication of poverty based on sustained economic growth, social development, environmental protection and social justice requires the involvement of women in economic and social development;

(tt) Promote the integration of a gender perspective in environmental and climate change policies and strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources to ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies and policies related to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events and slow onset impacts, including drought, ocean acidification, sea level rise, and loss of biodiversity on the lives of women and girls; and ensure a comprehensive approach to address the hardships faced by women and girls by integrating their specific needs into humanitarian response to natural disasters and into the planning, delivery and monitoring of disaster risk reduction policies to address natural disasters and climate change, and ensuring sustainable natural resources management;