



#Elevate4Equality

REACTION STATEMENT AND PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR CSW68 DRAFT AGREED CONCLUSIONS

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) welcomes and supports the draft agreed conclusions, released in preparation for the **Commission on the Status of Women 68 in March 2024**. As the only global movement geared entirely to every girl and any girl, with 8.8 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 153 countries, we express our support for much of the language included so far, however we emphasise the need to further strengthen it by highlighting the higher impact of poverty on girls and women and therefore the decrease in positive outcomes for girls and women in poverty.

The language used must leave no room for misinterpretation of the detrimental impact of poverty, and the immediate measures needed to counteract this, including the increased support needed for existing policies and declarations, as highlighted in paragraphs 3 the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. **(Verbatim CSW67 (para 3), CSW66 (para 3), CSW65 (para 3), CSW63 (para 3); and based on CSW62 (para 3), CSW61 (para 4), CSW60 (para 5)).** Paragraph 14 It re-emphasises that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and that it violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. (Based on CSW67 (para 49), CSW66 (para 39), CSW65 (para 23), CSW63 (para 13), CSW62 (para 25).

We must strengthen support and funding for civil society organisations, especially those run by and for women, and increase protection for their members and staff. We urge member states to protect the language used in paragraph 17 [the commission] expresses concern that such civil society organizations face many challenges and barriers to full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership, including diminishing funding, as well as violence, harassment, reprisals directed at, and threats to the physical security of, their members. (Based on CSW67 (para 82), CSW66 (para 35), CSW65 (para 58), CSW63 (para 42), CSW62 (para 42), CSW61 (para 39), CSW60 (para 21); adjusted to the priority theme)

We urge member states to protect and include the language proposed below to ensure girls and women are at the forefront of change and their voices are equally heard in the creation of policies and actions when addressing poverty worldwide.





ACCELERATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS BY ADDRESSING POVERTY AND STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS AND FINANCING WITH A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

We commend the emphasis placed on the inadequate levels of funding allocated globally to addressing the intersection issues for girls and women facing poverty.

Women and girls are often underrepresented in statistics when looking at poverty. From an objective financial viewpoint, women are underpaid globally, compounding with a lack of consideration for higher-level positions. Additionally, girls and women carry out disproportionately higher hours in unpaid labour, from house work to caring. These extra unpaid hours of labour add to the increasing workload girls and women are forced to bear, whilst, additionally, not being allowed their full and equal participation in policymaking, which is essential when addressing policymaking from a gender perspective. We therefore support the language used in **(qq)** to Introduce new metrics beyond Gross Domestic Product to capture the value and contribution of unpaid care work to economic and social progress; **(E/CN.6/2024/3 (para (dd))** and proposals **(ii)-(II)** which **'engage and finance women's organizations and collectives'** as these established groups which are women focused are in an optimal position for discerning the needs of girls and women in their communities.

It is our recommendation that the following language in paragraph **16** be strengthened, to highlight the impact of unpaid labour on educational opportunities and paragraph **19** to highlight the concerning levels of poverty faced by women worldwide.

- *The Commission further [DELETE recognizes] [ADD highlights] that women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, which limits women's ability to participate in decision-making processes and occupy leadership positions and poses significant constraints on women's and girls' education and training, and on women's economic opportunities and entrepreneurial activities, including in addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. It stresses the need to recognize and adopt measures to reduce, redistribute and value unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household and by prioritizing, inter alia, sustainable infrastructure, social protection policies and accessible, affordable and quality social services, including care services, childcare and maternity, paternity or parental leave. (Based on CSW67 (para 76), CSW66 (para 47), CSW65 (para 46), CSW63 (para 23), CSW62 (para 9), CSW61 (para 30); adjusted to the priority theme)*





- The Commission [DELETE recognizes] [ADD expresses concern] that women experience higher poverty rates than men and that the gender- poverty gap is projected to persist into mid-century. [DELETE It acknowledges that] currently, 10.3 per cent of women globally are living in extreme poverty, subsisting on less than USD \$2.15 a day. [DELETE It also acknowledges that] [ADD Additionally,] women and girls in poverty experience multiple and compounding deprivations that are intensified by other dimensions of inequality including race, ethnicity, disability, location, marital and migrant status, among others, and their experiences of poverty are shaped by gender norms and stereotypes. **(Based on E/CN.6/2024/3 (para 3, 15, 16, 17)).**

Girls' and women's full and equal participation in addressing poverty is paramount in establishing a societal change. We therefore look to strengthen paragraphs **4, 22, (d)** and **(hh)** to highlight the importance of and being agents for change, and the importance of women's perspective on policy making.

- It [DELETE acknowledges] [ADD reiterates] that women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation and decision making in addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective, is essential for achieving sustainable development, promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, enhancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productivity, ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere and ensuring the well-being of all. It [DELETE recognizes] [ADD emphasises] that women and girls play a vital role as agents of change for sustainable development. **(Based on CSW67 (para 4) CSW66 (para 4), CSW65 (para 9), CSW63 (para 10), CSW62 (para 8), CSW61 (para 6); adjusted to the priority theme)**

- The Commission [DELETE recognizes][ADD reiterates] that public institutions can drive pro-poor, inclusive and gender responsive economic policies and [ADD stresses] that women's participation in these institutions is essential to combat gender bias and stereotypes both in policy making and policy outcomes. It [DELETE further recognizes] [ADD is deeply concerned] that ministries of finance determine the scope and direction of national fiscal policy, but often have limited capacity to analyse the gender impacts of fiscal policy including taxation and spending. It acknowledges that national mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are important institutional actors that coordinate cross-sectoral policy development, that they can transform public policy values and responsiveness of public institutions, and that they are often limited in their effectiveness, as they are under-resourced and lack political authority. **(Based on E/CN.6/2024/3 (para 41, 42, 44, 46)).**





- *[ADD Create,] Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws, social infrastructure and policies for sustainable development, as well as enable women's full and equal participation in the economy, and their equal access to decision-making processes and leadership; (E/CN.6/2024/3 (para (b)))*

Poverty, additionally, has direct ties to lack of formal education, a human right which is disproportionately limited for girls worldwide. We offer support for paragraph **15**, with minor changes to strengthen the importance of access to formal education.

- *The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against women and girls, which are rooted in historical and structural inequalities and unequal power relations between men and women. It [DELETE recognizes] [ADD expresses concern] that systemic bias embedded in the economic and social structures of society expose [ADD girls and] women living in poverty to a disproportionately high risk of violence and in turn, violence heightens women's risk of poverty and economic hardship. (Based on CSW67 (para 49), CSW66 (para 39), CSW65 (para 23), CSW63 (para 13), CSW62 (para 25),*

In order to address global issues which are disproportionately affecting girls and women, it is important that member states 'expand a fiscal space for investments to end poverty for women and girls' and 'implement gender-responsive economic and social policies and strengthen public institutions'. We therefore look to emphasise the following paragraphs **(g), (i), (o), (s), and (v)**.

- *[ADD Pledge to] Significantly increase resources for addressing women's and girls' poverty through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international, including the scaling up of development finance through the reform of the multilateral development banks; (E/CN.6/2024/3 (para (e)))*





- [ADD Commit to] Ensuring a more effective global financial safety net and access to financing for countries in need to invest in ending women's poverty [ADD by mobilizing resources and funds, identifying the countries in need, and emphasis the grave consequences of women's poverty in those countries]; **(Based on E/CN.6/2024/3 (para (f))**

- Strengthen gender mainstreaming in climate financing and support women's organizations leading local adaptation and mitigation efforts; and strengthen consideration of debt sustainability in climate finance, including through the review of debt sustainability frameworks to incorporate climate vulnerabilities, risks and impacts [ADD with a focus on the impacts on women and girls], and gender and human rights assessments; **(E/CN.6/2024/3 (para (l))**

- Increase women's representation, leadership and participation in economic institutions [ADD through gender quotas, and urge equal proportionate merit-based employment] to address institutional gender biases and promote gender responsive, pro-poor economic policy action; **(E/CN.6/2024/3 (para (o)), and on A/RES/69/313 (para 6, 21))**

- Prevent corruption and direct resources to invest in pro-poor, [ADD women oriented] public services to strengthen the social contract; **(E/CN.6/2024/3 (para (r))**





Poverty, additionally, has direct ties to lack of formal education, a human right which is disproportionately limited for girls worldwide. We offer support for paragraph 15, with minor changes to strengthen the importance of access to formal education.

- *The Commission [DELETE recognizes] [ADD notes with concern] that, despite gains in providing access to education, girls are still more likely than boys to remain excluded from education. It also [DELETE recognizes] [ADD emphasizes] that among the gender-specific barriers to girls' equal enjoyment of their right to education are the feminization of poverty, child labour undertaken by girls, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, early and repeat pregnancies, all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence and harassment on the way to and from and at school, in their technology-mediated environment, the lack of safe and adequate sanitation facilities, including for menstrual hygiene management, the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work performed by girls and gender stereotypes and negative social norms that lead families and communities to place less value on the education of girls than that of boys and may influence the decision of parents to allow girls to attend school. (Verbatim CSW63 (para 29); and based on CSW67 (para 62), CSW65 (para 42), CSW62 (para 21))*

As per our statement in 2023: 'Women and girls are often at the forefront of urgent global pressures, yet they are commonly left behind, due to lack of support, skillset, education and economic position. When conflicts occur or when natural disasters happen, they are often left behind, displaced or abused, leading them to face further barriers including being pushed further beyond the poverty line and a reduction in their human rights. Despite these disproportionate impacts, their needs are also commonly forgotten in responses to global pressures. Therefore, collaborative work that includes women in decision-making needs to be done to avoid the disproportionality of the effects of armed and non-armed conflicts, climate change, and COVID-19.' **(Verbatim WAGGGS Zero Draft Reaction - CSW67)** Given the ongoing conflicts occurring internationally, some which have begun within the last year and many of which are ongoing, this statement should be strengthened and offered additional consideration.

We ask member states to protect the language used in paragraph (gg) Ensure that the perspectives of women, and girls as appropriate, are taken into account in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and in humanitarian emergencies and that they effectively and meaningfully participate, on equal terms with men, in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to conflict prevention, peace mediation, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as take into account the perspective of women and girls who are internally displaced and who are refugees; and ensure that the human rights of all women and girls are fully respected and protected in all response, recovery and reconstruction strategies and that appropriate measures are taken to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls in this regard; **(Verbatim CSW67 (para (III)), CSW65 (para (n)); and based on CSW62 (para (mmm)))**





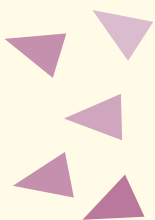
We also look to strengthen the language used in proposals from **paragraphs 10, 11, 20, (f)**

- *It recalls the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and [DELETE notes] [ADD stresses] the importance of their effective implementation. (Verbatim CSW67 (para 10); and based on CSW66 (para 20), CSW65 (para 6), CSW63 (para 6), CSW62 (para 6), CSW61 (para 3))*

- *The Commission [DELETE recalls] [ADD highlights] the establishment of the women and peace and security agenda and reaffirms that the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding is one of the essential factors for the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. (Verbatim CSW67 (para 11); and based on CSW66 (para 15), CSW65 (para 57), CSW62 (para 34))*

- *The Commission [DELETE acknowledges] [ADD supports] the Secretary-General's call for a Sustainable Development Goal stimulus to rapidly scale up financing to accelerate progress towards the Goals and mobilizing resources equitably and targeting investments and policies towards ending women's and girls' poverty. (Based on E/CN.6/2024/3 (para 8))*

- *[DELETE Encourage] [ADD Urge] the private sector to contribute to advancing gender equality through [ADD actively] striving to ensure women's full and productive employment and decent work, equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and equal opportunities, as well as [ADD ensuring the] protection against discrimination and abuse in the workplace [ADD through state policies]; (E/CN.6/2024/3 (para (d); based on A/RES/69/313 (para 41))*



Finally, we welcome the language in the document highlighting that gender inequality is the root cause of all forms of gender-based violence, and poverty is often a direct consequence of this, leading to a lack of education and opportunities, which further perpetuates the cycle of poverty. Consequently, we ask member states to protect language in **(a),(c)(g),(aa)-(ee)** and commit to ending poverty and, in consequence, the higher levels of violence faced by girls and women once and for all.

