

THE OUTCOME WE WANT: WAGGGS AT CSW66

#BringInTheGirls

Recognise and Invest in Girl's Agency and Voice

There is no policy decision that does not affect girls and young women. As experts in their own lives, their meaningful and diverse inclusion must be normalised and systematically included across all policy, strategy, and planning processes.

CALLS TO ACTION



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- 1 Ensure** the effective and meaningful participation and diverse representation of girls and young women in all areas of decision-making, from the local to the national level.
- 2 Design and resource** effective youth engagement strategies that meet girls and young women where they are at, embeds their participation and includes feedback and accountability mechanisms.
- 3 Establish and work** through local partners who form longstanding partnerships with girls and young women.
- 4 Recognise** girls as agents in resilience and recovery for disaster events and guarantee their participation in climate change and disaster risk reduction decision-making.

A Gender-Responsive Approach to Climate Change that Prioritises the Needs of Girls and Young Women

Girls are on the frontlines of the climate crises; disproportionately impacted, they are often taking action to mitigate and respond to its effects within their communities. Yet girls are largely absent from national climate action plans. We call upon Member States to recognise girls by prioritising the development of gender and age-responsive strategies and solutions. Girls and young women must also have access to climate education to understand why it is happening, the impacts and how they can respond.

CALLS TO ACTION

- 1 Invest** in gender-responsive policies and programs that prioritise girls and women of all ages (including underrepresented, rural, Indigenous and people with disabilities).
- 2 Promote** women and girls' full and effective participation and leadership in the decision-making, implementation, and monitoring of mitigation and adaptation strategies from the local to national level.
- 3 Commit** to compulsory climate education in schools and invest in non-formal educational settings to provide accessible information to reach diverse youth populations.
- 4 Support** local youth leadership and capacity in climate change and environmental sustainability by prioritising partnerships with youth, young women's and children's organisations.



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Increase Young Women's Access to Decent Work and Social Protections

Across many contexts, young women represent the highest proportion of unemployed youth². They are often overrepresented in the informal economy, affording them less access to social protections such as a decent wage and paid maternity leave, which makes them more vulnerable to the impacts of economic shocks. The gender digital divide, demonstrated by measures such as internet access and usage, creates additional barriers to workforce participation. Where women access decent work, they are under-represented within leadership positions and across traditionally male dominated sectors, especially in science technology, engineering and math fields (STEM).



CALLS TO ACTION

- 1 Bridge** the gender digital divide by ensuring girls and young women's access to digital literacy and STEM education in formal and non-formal educational settings.
- 2 Eliminate** workplace discrimination through the implementation of legal frameworks and by ensuring social protections are universal, including paid childcare and maternity leave.
- 3 Address** young women's unemployment and overrepresentation in the informal, low paid and precarious work sectors by providing access to training, mentorship and decent work opportunities.

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Put Girls and Young Women at the Centre of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery

COVID-19 exposed structural inequalities across every sphere of life, from health to the economy, security to social protection. Girls and women took on more caring and household responsibilities. In particular girls and young women experienced more mental health issues and were more likely than boys to drop out of school. The 'shadow pandemic' saw increased levels of violence against women and girls including domestic violence, cyberbullying and sexual exploitation, the impacts of which continue to be felt.

CALLS TO ACTION

- 1 Ensure** that governments adopt gender-responsive COVID-19 responses, recovery plans and strategies.
- 2 Prioritise** support and services that address the mental health and wellbeing of girls and young women, including those affected by gender-based violence.
- 3 Recognise and address** the increased levels of caring and household responsibilities undertaken by girls and young women during COVID-19, and support them to return to education including through the provision of alternative pathways.
- 4 Prioritise** achieving Sustainable Development Goal Five so that girls and young women are resilient to future global shocks.
- 5 Provide** sustainable funding to girls and womens' organisations that have been on the frontline of the shadow pandemic.



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²International Labour Office (2020), Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020, Technology and the future of jobs.

Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls in all its Forms (No Excuses)

Everyday women and girls experience violence. This is made worse during times of crises including COVID-19 and following natural disasters where girls and young women are more vulnerable to sexual assault, physical abuse, human trafficking and domestic violence. We call on Member States to seek solutions that address the intersecting impacts of climate change and gender-based violence.



CALLS TO ACTION

- 1 Implement** a zero-tolerance approach to Violence Against Women and Girls through the adoption, strengthening and enforcement of laws and policies on gender-based violence.
- 2 Guarantee** robust support mechanisms for gender-based violence survivors, as well as improved access to justice. In case of girl survivors, services and responses must take into account the best interests of the child.
- 3 Ensure** a coordinated approach to strategies relating to climate events and disaster relief efforts which include a gender-based violence lens.

Where evacuations or relocations do occur:

- **Ensure** that women and girls are involved in disaster risk reduction (DRR) planning, including consultation on final destinations and evacuation centres.
- **Involve** women and girls in the planning of assistance programmes and camp management to ensure that their needs are met in a way that is appropriate.

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Ensure that Girls and Young Women Have access to Affordable and Nutritious Food

In 2021, prices rose around the world as a result of climate change, natural disasters, conflict, food shortages and COVID-19. Due to globalised supply chains, the ripple effects of this disruption are being felt globally. In times of crises, famine and hunger, women and girls often eat last and least. Rural girls are the most likely to go without food due to low social status, poverty and discriminatory social norms.

CALLS TO ACTION

- 1 Immediately address** the impacts that inflation is having on girls and young women's nutrition, by ensuring access to affordable and nutritious food via social protection programmes, including school meals.
- 2 Invest** in real time monitoring of food prices at a local level to ensure a coordinated and timely response that prioritises girls and young women's nutritional needs during times of crisis.
- 3 Tackle** harmful norms and perceptions that regard girls as inferior to boys and prioritise boys' access to food.



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