

**Commission on the Status of Women  
Sixty-fifth session  
15 – 26 March 2021**

**Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls**

**Draft agreed conclusions**

**with input from the NGO CSW Advocacy Research Group (22 Feb 2021)**

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth, twentieth and twenty-fifth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women. **(Based on CSW Agreed Conclusions) (Affirm)**

2. The Commission reiterates that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocols thereto, as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, such as **[the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention,]** the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, throughout their life cycle. **(Based on CSW Agreed Conclusions)**

*Precedent for **Convention on the Political Rights of Women** (1), which stated that women should be on equal terms with men, without any discrimination, entitled to vote in all elections, eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies established by national law, and entitled to hold public office and to exercise all public functions established by national law.(2)*

**Source 1:** FILE NAME : Ch\_XVI\_1 VOLUME : VOL-2 CHAPTER : Chapter XVI. Status of Women, TITLE : 16.1 Convention on the Political Rights of Women, New York, 31 March 1953

**Source 2:** Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels CSW 50 Agreed Conclusions 2006/B 2006 Paragraph 3

*Precedent for **Council of Europe Istanbul Convention**, “... landmark treaty of the Council of Europe opens the path for creating a legal framework at pan-European level to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence. The Convention also establishes a specific monitoring mechanism in order to ensure effective implementation of its provisions by the Parties.”*

**Source 1:** Council of Europe Istanbul Convention 2011 <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210>

3. The Commission **[recommits to their obligation of the 12 Critical Areas of Concern adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and]** reaffirms that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews, and the outcomes of relevant major United Nations conferences and summits and the follow-up to those conferences and summits, have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and that 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. **(Based on CSW Agreed Conclusions)**

**Precedent for 12 Critical Areas of Concern and adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women.**

**Source:** A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1. United Nations Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women September 1995 Chapter III

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/Beijing%20full%20report%20E.pdf>

4. The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, are crucial for women's economic empowerment and should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty and women's economic empowerment, and also reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that **[women, on equal terms with men, are]** entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the promotion, protection and full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. **(Based on CSW Agreed Conclusions)**

**Precedent for women, on equal terms with men** – “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right: a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies; b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government; c) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country. “

**Source:** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Article 7 sections a,b,c

5. The Commission recognizes that while there has been progress in the increased number of women elected or appointed to decision-making positions and while gender quotas have substantially contributed to women's representation in national and local legislatures, progress is too slow and full gender parity is far from being reached at all

levels of the executive and legislative branches of government and the public sector.  
(Based on E/CN.6/2021/3, para 9 and 16) (Affirm)

6. The Commission expresses concern that women remain significantly underrepresented in all aspects of decision-making and that violence against women in public life is widespread, while organized opposition to women's participation in public life is sometimes strong and violent. It notes that failure to expedite women's participation and decision-making in public life and the elimination of violence against women will make it impossible to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.  
(Based on E/CN.6/2021/3, para 3 and 7) (Affirm)

7. The Commission expresses concern that the COVID-19 pandemic is rolling back the limited progress made toward the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and that the effects of the pandemic are compounding existing obstacles to women's participation and decision-making in public life. **[Women's organizations are at the forefront of community responses in many countries and measures to increase women's leadership in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts are urgently needed.]** (Based on E/CN.6/2021/3, para 6 and 9)

*Precedent for Women's organizations are at the forefront of community responses in many countries and measures to increase women's leadership in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts are urgently needed – "The quality, relevance and effectiveness of policymaking and policy implementation increases when power is shared, as recently shown by the critical roles that women have played in responses to the coronavirus disease (COVID -19) pandemic. Women's organizations are at the forefront of community responses in many countries but struggle because of diminishing funding, increased demands for services, restricted movement and shrinking civic space. The pandemic is rolling back the limited progress made in the past 25 years with regard to women's empowerment and gender equality, and measures to increase women's leadership in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts are urgently needed. "*

*Source: E/CN.6/2021/3, para 6*

8. The Commission also expresses concern that women politicians as well as women voters, candidates and election administrators have faced targeted, gender-based violence in elections, intended to stop women from accessing power and limit their perspectives in policy formulation. (Based on E/CN.6/2021/3, para 40) (Affirm)

9. The Commission recognizes the need to implement international and national commitments and norms, including through temporary special measures, create more enabling environments and institutional systems, eliminate violence against women in public life and strengthen the voice, agency, participation and leadership of women who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, to reach equality in participation and decision-making in public life. (Based on E/CN.6/2021/3, para 4) (Affirm)

10. The Commission emphasizes that all people have an equal right to participate in their country's government through public office and informal leadership, that it is necessary to address inequality between men and women in the sharing of power, and that women's equal access to and full participation in decision-making, including in the private sector, is a critical strategy for achieving gender equality. (Based on E/CN.6/2021/3, para 2) (Affirm)

11. The Commission acknowledges the important contributions made by women's organizations **[and feminist movements, as well as media, labour unions and academia]** to promote legislation and mechanisms to advance gender equality, eliminate laws that are discriminatory against women, increase women's inclusion in public life **[and hold decision makers accountable for upholding the human rights of women and girls]**. (Based on E/CN.6/2021/3, para 30)

**Precedent for feminist movements, as well as media, labour unions and academia and hold decision makers accountable for upholding the human rights of women and girls:** *“Women play an influential role in public life outside formal public institutions through their involvement in women’s organizations and feminist movements, as well as in other civic engagement, including the media, labour unions and academia. Through those channels, women and gender equality advocates successfully promote legislation and mechanisms to advance gender equality and to eliminate laws that are discriminatory against women. They play a critical role in requiring decision makers to be accountable for upholding the human rights of women and girls.”*

**Source:** *E/CN.6/2021/3, para 30*

**12.** The Commission acknowledges the benefit of implementing family-oriented policies aimed at, inter alia, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the full participation and decision-making of women in public life, work-family balance and the self-sufficiency of the family unit and recognizes the need to ensure that all social and economic development policies are responsive to the changing needs and expectations of families in fulfilling their numerous functions and that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected. **(Based on CSW Agreed Conclusions)**  
**(Affirm)**

13. The Commission recognizes that negative social norms and gender stereotypes can threaten women's rights and participation in public life, and that efforts to increase understanding of gender equality and women's rights to participate in public life and decision-making, including the support and political will of male leaders, are vital for accelerating changes to social norms. **(Based on E/CN.6/2021/3, para 47 and 50) (Affirm)**

14. The Commission expresses concern that the feminization of poverty persists and emphasizes that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is indispensable for women's economic empowerment and sustainable development. **(Based on CSW Agreed Conclusions) (Affirm)**

15. The Commission also recognizes the importance of the full engagement of men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies in the promotion of women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. **(Based on CSW Agreed Conclusions) (Affirm)**

16. The Commission urges governments at all levels and as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, and invites civil society, inter alia, women's organizations, youth-led organizations, feminist groups, the private sector, national human rights institutions, where they exist, and other relevant stakeholders, as applicable, to take the following actions: **(Based on CSW Agreed Conclusions) (Affirm)**

### ***Strengthen normative, legal and regulatory frameworks***

- (a) Fully implement existing commitments and obligations with respect to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (a)) (Affirm)**
- (b) Undertake comprehensive reforms to eliminate laws, policies and regulations that discriminate against women **[by setting numerical goals and quotas and targeting women for appointment to public positions such as the judiciary or other professional groups that play an essential part in the everyday life of all societies]; (E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (b))**

**Precedent for numerical goals and quotas and targeting women for appointment to public positions such as the judiciary or other professional groups that play an essential part in the everyday life of all societies:** *"Where countries have developed effective temporary strategies in an attempt to achieve equality of participation, a wide range of measures has been implemented, including recruiting, financially assisting and training women candidates, amending electoral procedures, developing campaigns directed at equal participation, setting numerical goals and quotas and targeting women for appointment to public positions such as the judiciary or other professional groups that play an essential part in the everyday life of all societies."*

**Source:** *General recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women General Recommendation No. 23 (16th session, 1997) Article 7 (political and public life), Temporary Special Measures, paragraph 1.5*

- (c) Establish targets, timelines and action plans **[that include recruiting, financially assisting and training women candidates, amending electoral procedures and developing campaigns directed at equal participation,]** to achieve gender parity for all executive, legislative and administrative positions, as well as in public commissions, tasks forces and negotiations teams; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (c))**

**Precedent for recruiting, financially assisting and training women candidates, amending electoral procedures and developing campaigns directed at equal participation:** “Where countries have developed effective temporary strategies in an attempt to achieve equality of participation, a wide range of measures has been implemented, including recruiting, financially assisting and training women candidates, amending electoral procedures, developing campaigns directed at equal participation, setting numerical goals and quotas and targeting women for appointment to public positions such as the judiciary or other professional groups that play an essential part in the everyday life of all societies.”

**Source:** General recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women General Recommendation No. 23 (16th session, 1997, Article 7 (political and public life), Temporary Special Measures, paragraph 1.5

- (d) Appoint women to executive positions to form **[legally mandated]** local and national gender parity cabinets; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (d))**

**Precedent for legally mandated:** “Laws, policies and institutional arrangements should ensure the equal participation of individuals and groups in the design, implementation and evaluation of any law, regulation, policy, programme or strategy affecting them.”

**Source:** Draft guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs A/HRC/39/28 Report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights July 20, 2018, Article 195

- (e) Adopt electoral gender quota laws with 50 per cent targets and ensure implementation through rank order rules and sanctions for non-compliance; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (e)) (Affirm)**
- (f) Adopt and effectively implement a range of regulations and temporary special measures for the public and private sectors to accelerate equal participation of women in decision-making and leadership, including for women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (f)) (Affirm)**

- (g) Repeal or amend legal provisions that contribute to the shrinking of civic space and reduce women's organizations' abilities to register, engage in advocacy, receive external funding, and report on rights issues; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (g)) (Affirm)**
- (h) Improve collection and use of globally comparable data, disaggregated by sex, age and other factors on women's participation and decision-making in public administration, the judiciary, political parties and other areas of political and public life; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (h)) (Affirm)**

### ***Prevent and eliminate violence against women in public life***

- (i) Reform legal frameworks to criminalize violence against women in political and public life, both online and offline, and to end impunity **[and impose adequate penalties]**; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (i))**

**Precedent for impose adequate penalties:** "Ensure effective access for victims to courts and tribunals and that the authorities adequately respond to all cases of gender-based violence against women, including by applying criminal law and, as appropriate, ex officio, prosecution to bring alleged perpetrators to trial in, a fair, impartial, timely and expeditious manner and imposing adequate penalties."

**Source:** CEDAW, General Recommendation 35 (26 July 2017, 32 (a))

**Precedent for impose adequate penalties:** "Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the offenses established in accordance with this Convention are punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, taking into account their seriousness. These sanctions shall include, where appropriate, sentences involving the deprivation of liberty...."

**Source:** Istanbul Convention, Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, Article 45

**Precedent for impose adequate penalties:** "Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or law."

**Source:** Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 8

- (j) Build the capacity of law enforcement personnel, prosecutors and judges to apply laws on violence against women, respond to incidents, and hold perpetrators accountable; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (j)) (Affirm)**
- (k) Establish and ensure access to complaints and reporting mechanisms for survivors of violence; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (k)) (Affirm)**
- (l) Allocate resources for training, prevention and essential services to eliminate violence against women in political and public life; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (l)) (Affirm)**
- (m) Ensure that women human rights defenders, members of women's organizations and feminist movements are protected from violence for engaging in public life; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (m)) (Affirm)**
- (n) Continue to resource international and regional human rights mechanisms and special procedures to monitor, report and provide recommendations on violence against women in public and political life; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (n)) (Affirm)**
- (o) Set standards on what constitutes online violence against women in public life to be able to hold media, and companies who run social media platforms, accountable for removing such content; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (o)) (Affirm)**

- (p) Increase capacity of national statistical systems to collect data on violence against women in public life (both online and offline) regularly and systematically **[and establish and fund an annual data base to measure change and ensure accountability]**; (E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (p))

**Precedent for establish and fund an annual data base to measure change and ensure accountability:** “Collect, collate, analyse and disseminate reliable, comparable and anonymized data and statistics on a regular basis, disaggregate by sex and age, at the national and local levels on different forms of discrimination and violence, and also consider other relevant factors, such as accessibility, to inform the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes.”

Source: CSW57

**Precedent for establish and fund an annual data base to measure change and ensure accountability:** “The absence of adequate gender-disaggregated data and statistics on the incidence of violence makes the elaboration of programmer and monitoring of changes difficult.”

Source: Beijing Platform for Action, 120

**Precedent for establish and fund an annual data base to measure change and ensure accountability:** “Likewise, States parties have an international responsibility to create and continuously improve statistical databases and analysis of all forms of discrimination against women in general and women belonging to specific vulnerable groups in particular.

Source: CEDAW Article 28.10

**Add [Decrease violence against women in public life and build respect for women and girls in schools by including in the curriculum examples of women and girls who have achieved prominence in public life.]**

**Precedent for addition:** “Elaborate recommendations and develop curricula, textbooks and teaching aids free of gender-based stereotypes for all levels of education, including teacher training, in association with all concerned - publishers, teachers, public authorities and parents’ associations.”

Source: Beijing Platform for Action, 83(a)

**Precedent for addition:** “Collect The elimination of any stereotypical concept of the roles of men and women at all levels and in all forms of educating, by encouraging coeducation and other types of education which will help to achieve this aim and, in particular, by the revision of textbooks and school programmes and the adaptation of teaching methods.”

Source: CEDAW Article 10 (c)

**Precedent for establish and fund an annual data base to measure change and ensure accountability:** “The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.”

Source: Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 29 1.b

### **Strengthen gender-responsive institutional reforms**

- (q) Ensure gender-sensitive approaches to COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery by appointing women and gender equality advocates to leadership positions through gender parity targets for relevant task forces, standing committees and other decision-making bodies; (E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (q)) **(Strongly Support)**

**Precedent for this support:** “Among the guiding principles adopted in the Global Human rights Response Plan for COVID 19 is the need for attention to “gender equality, particularly to account for women’s and girls’ specific needs, risks and roles in the response as care providers, increased exposure to GBV with confinement measures, large numbers

*of front-line female health workers in the response, and key role as agents at the community level for communication on risks and community engagement.” The meaningful participation of women in needs assessments and response is also cited as an enabling factor. This recognition is an important first step and marks progress in humanitarian space”*

*Source: Gender-responsive humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Women*

- (r) **[Create a strong institutional framework with clear mandates, location at the highest possible level, accountability mechanisms, partnership with civil society, a transparent political process, adequate financial and human resources and continued strong political commitment for]** specialized gender equality committees or commissions and women’s caucuses, and networking forums, as well as institutional capacity-building on gender equality in parliaments, ministries and public administration; (E/ CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (r))

**Precedent for strong institutional framework with clear mandates, location at the highest possible level, accountability mechanisms, partnership with civil society, a transparent political process, adequate financial and human resources and continued strong political commitment:** “Reaffirms that States have primary responsibility for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and that gender mainstreaming and national machineries are necessary and play a critical role in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and that, in order for national machineries to be effective, a strong institutional framework with clear mandates, location at the highest possible level, accountability mechanisms, partnership with civil society, a transparent political process, adequate financial and human resources and continued strong political commitment are crucial.”

*Source: CSW52, 25 February–7 and 13 March 2008 Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 7, (E/2008/27-E/CN.6/2008/11).*

- (s) Ensure that all public institutions **[including government, trade unions and private sector]** have in place, and comply with, codes of conduct that establish zero tolerance for violence, discrimination and abuse, **[sexual harassment and abuse, cyber-bullying, exclusion and corrupt practices]** and **[maintain]** internal reporting and complaints mechanisms; (E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (s))

**Precedent for including government, trade unions and private sector and sexual harassment and abuse, cyber-bullying, exclusion and corrupt practices :** “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular: (a) The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings. (b) The right to the same employment opportunities, including the application of the same criteria for selection in matters of employment. (c) The right to free choice of profession and employment, the right to promotion, job security and all benefits and conditions of service and the right to receive vocational training and retraining, including apprenticeships, advanced vocational training and recurrent training.”

*Source: CEDAW: Article 11 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women New York, 18 December 1979*

**Precedent for sexual harassment:** “They should take into account diverse decision-making styles and organizational practices and take the necessary steps to ensure a gender-sensitive workplace, including a workplace free of sexual harassment and noted for its ability to recruit, promote and retain female staff.”

*Source: Women in power and decision-making CSW 41 Agreed Conclusions 1997/2 1997 Paragraph 3*

**Precedent for trade unions:** “The Commission expressed concern about the lack, at the local, national, regional and international levels, of sufficient information and data disaggregated by sex on the participation of women and men in decision-making processes in all areas, including the economy, the public and private sectors, the judiciary, international affairs, academia, trade unions, the media, non-governmental organizations and others”

**Source:** *Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels CSW 50 Agreed Conclusions 2006/B 2006 Paragraph*

**Precedent for exclusion:** *“The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, are crucial for the full and equal participation of women and girls in society and for women’s economic empowerment and should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty and the reduction of social exclusion.”*

**Source:** *Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls CSW 63 Agreed Conclusions 2019 Paragraph 10*

**Precedent for corrupt practices:** *“Discrimination and stigma, poverty and mistrust of authorities all limit the possibilities and incentives for individuals belonging to such groups to participate fully in society and make them particularly vulnerable to corruption or co-optation.*

**Source:** *A/HRC/30/26, 23 July 2015, Human Rights Council, Thirtieth session, Agenda items 2 and 3 Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General, Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, p.12, para 20.*

- (t) Ratify and put into force the ILO Convention (No. 190) on Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work; (E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (t)) **(Affirm)**
- (u) Increase transparency in institutions and allow members of women's organizations and feminist movements access to debates and decision-making processes, to voice their opinions and share their expertise **[without fear of retribution particularly online, gender-based abuse, cyberbullying and sexual harassment]**; (E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (u))

**Precedent for *without fear of retribution*:** “The Key recommendations for UN entities: ...Ensure a safe space for CSOs at the UN, and denounce all acts of reprisals at the highest level”

**Source:** UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, Working Group on Discrimination against women and girls

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WGWomen/Pages/WomenHumanRightsDefendersGender.aspx>

**Precedent for *particularly online, gender-based abuse, cyberbullying and sexual harassment*:** “Online, gender-based abuse, cyberbullying and sexual harassment is increasingly common against women active in public life.”

**Source:** E/CN.6/2021/3, para 40

### ***Increase the availability of high-quality financing in support of women's participation in public life***

- (v) Create conditions and incentives for women candidates' campaigns to be financially supported by public and **[DELETE private]** funds, including through gender-sensitive political financing, subsidies for **[unpaid care work, including childcare, skills development, mentoring and political campaigns through government financing,]** fundraising networks and non-partisan crowdfunding **[DELETE and endowments]**; (E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (v))

**Precedent for deleting *private and endowments*:** “Online Political campaigns that depend on large private donations often linked to personal wealth, moneyed networks and individual fundraising capacities disadvantage women. States in which political parties receive direct public funding tend to create a more level playing field.”

**Source:** E/CN.6/2021/3, para 56

**Precedent for *skills development and mentoring*** “Measures are needed to facilitate young women's increased leadership, such as access to education, sexual and reproductive health and rights, technology and skills development, leadership and mentorship programmes, and protection from violence and discriminatory legislation.”

**Source:** E/CN.6/2021/3, para 62

**Precedent for *unpaid care work*:** “Strengthen an enabling environment for women's participation in public life and decision-making by addressing women's poverty, unpaid care burden, unequal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, education and technology, and fostering skills development.”

**Source:** E/CN.6/2021/3, para bb

**Precedent for *childcare and campaigns*:** “For women in politics, these include establishing political party funds to assist women candidates with campaigns, promoting partisan fundraising networks to bundle small public contributions to women, providing subsidies, including for childcare costs, and increasing non-partisan fundraising.....”

**Source:** E/CN.6/2021/3, para 58

- (w) **[Mandate with laws and regulations]** and support with incentives that political parties finance women's campaigns and promote their leadership **[and eliminate discriminatory practices]**; (E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (w))

**Precedent for and eliminate discriminatory practices:** “Political parties are urged to remove discriminatory practices, incorporate gender perspectives into party platforms, and ensure women's access to executive bodies on an equal basis with men, including access to leadership positions as well as to appointed positions and electoral nominating processes.”

**Source:** *Women in power and decision-making CSW 41 Agreed Conclusions 1997/2 1997 Paragraph 5*

**Precedent for mandate with laws and regulations:** “A gender-sensitive constitutional and legal framework, especially electoral laws and regulations, is necessary to ensure that women can fully participate in such processes. Political parties can play a crucial role in promoting women's equal participation.”

**Source:** *E/CN.6/2021/3, para 10*

- (x) Raise **[to 2 percent]** the percentage of official development assistance funds that go to standalone gender equality targets and women's organizations; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (x))**

**Rational for to 2 percent:** “Underinvestment is also a persistent challenge. Direct funding of women's organizations accounts for less than 1 per cent of the global official development assistance provided for gender equality and women's empowerment (\$198 million).”

**Source:** *E/CN.6/2021/3, para 38*

**Precedent for raise to 2 percent:** “National gender equality mechanisms frequently lack the financing, capacity and decision-making clout to ensure that national planning and policymaking contribute to gender equality. While the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an increase in the need for the services that women's organizations provide, such as support to survivors of violence against women, many organizations are seeing cuts to their budgets and are forced to lay off staff and reduce activities, especially advocacy and policy work..... New funding and financing mechanism models to promote women's participation in public life are needed.”

**Source:** *E/CN.6/2021/3, para 57-58*

- (y) **[Ensure women's equal participation in the formulation of financial policies]** and increase the quality and quantity of funding available to support women in public life through the creation and financing of specific funds that prioritize direct funding to women's organizations and feminist movements; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (y))**

**Precedent for ensure women's equal participation in the formulation of financial policies:** “Devise mechanisms and take positive action to enable women to gain access to full and equal participation in the formulation of policies and definition of structures through such bodies as ministries of finance and trade, national economic commissions, economic research institutes and other key agencies, as well as through their participation in appropriate international bodies;”

**Source:** *CEDAW, Actions to be taken 165. By Governments paragraph(d) page 68*

### ***Strengthen women's voice and leave no one behind in public life***

- (z) Facilitate the entry of women into the political pipeline through capacity-building and training and awareness raising, and provide targeted support to women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination to participate in public life and politics **[by requiring binding political party leadership quotas for women from under-represented populations]; (E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (z))**

**Precedent for quotas and under-represented populations:** “Many States have adopted quotas for underrepresented groups to attenuate conditions that perpetuate substantive inequalities. In recent years, gender quotas have been introduced in countries where women historically had limited participation in politics, as in Afghanistan and Jordan. Quotas work best when accompanied by sanctions if they are not respected and when they are closely monitored by independent bodies, including national electoral bodies and human rights institutions. Once elected, it is crucial that individuals belonging to marginalized groups

*have equal opportunity to exercise power and authority. This can be partly achieved through training in political debate and negotiation techniques and confidence-building measures.”*  
**Source:** 23 July 2015 Human Rights Council, Thirtieth session, Agenda items 2 and 3, Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, pp.10-11 para 39.

**Precedent for quotas and under-represented populations:** “Quotas may increase access to elected positions for women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender individuals and members of minorities. Quotas work best when they are monitored and accompanied by sanctions for non-compliance.”

**Source:** 23 July 2015 Human Rights Council, Thirtieth session, Agenda items 2 and 3, Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, pp.17-18 para 70.

**Precedent for binding quotas:** “When binding quotas or reserved seats are introduced, effective and transparent mechanisms for monitoring compliance and the imposition of sanctions for non-compliance should be envisaged.”

**Source:** Draft guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs A/HRC/39/28 Report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights July 20, 2018 page 8, section 31.c.

**Precedent for political party leadership quotas:** “Adopt clear rules, as necessary, for candidate selection within parties, including, as appropriate, the implementation of concrete goals, targets and benchmarks, including, where appropriate, temporary special measures, such as quotas, for achieving equitable representation of women candidates in elected positions”

**Source:** Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels CSW 50 Agreed Conclusions 2006/B 2006 Paragraph 17(y).

**Precedent for political party leadership quotas:** “Encourage the nomination of more women candidates, including, inter alia, through political parties, quotas or measurable goals or other appropriate means for election to parliaments and other legislative structures, to increase their share and contribution in the formulation of public policy”

**Source:** Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly General Assembly Official Records Twenty-third special session Supplement No. 3 (A/S-23/10/Rev.1) Draft resolution II Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by General Assembly Paragraph 81(b).

- (aa) **[Fund and]** implement awareness raising **[programs, campaigns and public education]** measures **[in order to]** sensitize community and religious leaders, the media, men and boys and different generations of women to counter social norms that restrict women’s rights and participation in public life and decision-making and to take deliberate action to adjust them; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (aa))**

**Precedent for public educations:** “Ensure that education and training, especially teacher training, promote respect for human rights, the culture of peace, gender equality and cultural, religious and other diversity, and encourage educational and training institutions and organizations to adopt policies of equal opportunities and follow up their implementation with the participation of teachers, parents, boys and girls and the community”

**Source:** Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance CSW 45 Agreed Conclusions 2001/5 2001 Paragraph 3(d)

**Precedent for awareness raising programs:** “Encourage and support the participation of young people in programs, seminars and workshops on conflict resolution and human rights, negotiations for the peaceful settlement of disputes and the importance of a gender perspective in the promotion of a culture of peace, development and human rights of women.”

**Source:** Women and armed conflict CSW 42 Agreed Conclusions 1998/II 1998 page 3.

**Precedent for Fund and implement:** “Increase resources and support for grass-roots, local, national, regional and global women’s and civil society organizations to advance and

*promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls.”*

**Source:** *Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development CSW 60 Agreed Conclusions 2016 Paragraph 23(kk)*

**Precedent for Fund and implement:** *“Participation mechanisms are most effective when they are premised on empowerment and aimed at building the capacity, social capital, confidence, rights awareness and knowledge of individuals.<sup>57</sup> This includes strengthening skills and capacity of the public and of officials, and devoting resources to long-term, sustainable participatory mechanisms.”*

**Source:** *A/HRC/30/26, 23 July 2015, Human Rights Council, Thirtieth session, Agenda items 2 and 3 Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General, Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, p.12, para 44.*

- (bb)** Strengthen an **[inclusive and]** enabling environment for **[a diverse representation of]** women’s participation in public life and decision-making by addressing women’s poverty, unpaid care burden, unequal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, education and technology, and fostering skills-development; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (bb))**

**Precedent for a diverse representation:** *“Ensure the full and equal opportunity for the sustained participation and representation of indigenous women and girls and women and girls, as appropriate, from culturally diverse backgrounds in all relevant decision-making processes;”*

**Source:** *Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance CSW 45 Agreed Conclusions 2001/5 2001 Paragraph 1(i)*

**Precedent for a diverse representation:** *“Adequate representation of the diversity within societies should be reflected, as appropriate, in State institutions and governmental bodies;”*

**Source:** *Draft guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs A/HRC/39/28 Report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights July 20, 2018 page 4, section 20.d.)*

**Precedent for inclusive:** *“Formal participation structures should be accessible to and inclusive of individuals and groups that are marginalized or discriminated against, including those from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds, in particular women and girls. Specific permanent mechanisms for the participation of groups that have been historically excluded, or whose views and needs have been inadequately addressed in decision-making processes, such as indigenous peoples, minorities, and persons with disabilities, should be developed.”*

**Source:** *Draft guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs A/HRC/39/28 Report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights July 20, 2018 page 10, section 57.)*

**Precedent for inclusive:** *“Permanent structures for the continuous participation of civil society actors in international forums should be established, for example through the creation of civil society platforms. These structures should be created through impartial, non-discriminatory, transparent and participatory processes, and should be particularly accessible to and inclusive of individuals and groups facing discrimination.”*

**Source:** *Draft guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs A/HRC/39/28 Report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights July 20, 2018 page 19, section 105.)*

- (cc)** **[Allocate adequate financial and human resources in order to]** increase young women’s representation and participation in public life through community outreach, mentoring, capacity development programmes and early exposure to legislative and policymaking spaces; **(E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (cc))**

**Precedent for allocate adequate financial and human resources:** *“Accelerate efforts to develop, review and strengthen policies, and allocate adequate financial and human resources, in order to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls...”*

**Source:** *Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls CSW 57 Agreed Conclusions, 2013, Paragraph 34(ee).*

**Evidence for adequate financial and human resources:** “As in previous years of research, women are more progressive than men when it comes to attitudes about equality in leadership, with higher Index scores. This is especially pronounced in the youngest age group measured, 18-34-year olds ..... The wide gap between scores of men and women in this age group may indicate greater tensions when it comes to the topics of work and equality and could have lasting implications for the future, with stressors in the home, office and wider communities as these differences in opinion of who is suitable to lead embed. Further, it may load the young women in these countries with the role of calling and working for greater equality as the more progressive group.”

**Source:** *THE REYKJAVIK INDEX FOR LEADERSHIP Measuring perceptions of equality for men and women in leadership <https://reykjavikindex.com> p.8, section 2*

- (dd) Incentivize media, advertising, film and television industries to reverse gender-based discrimination in the portrayal of women leaders in public life and decision-making **[and support women in media as content creators, entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders]**; (E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (dd))

**Precedent for women as content creators, entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders:** “States must expand the scope of education and training, particularly in developing countries; and enhance women’s and, as appropriate, girls’ participation as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders.”

**Source:** *Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls CSW 63 Agreed Conclusions 2019 Paragraph 47(yy)*

**Precedent for women in media:** “Women play an influential role in public life outside formal public institutions through their involvement in women’s organizations and feminist movements, as well as in other civic engagement, including the media, labour unions and academia. Through those channels, women and gender equality advocates successfully promote legislation and mechanisms to advance gender equality and to eliminate laws that are discriminatory against women. They play a critical role in requiring decision makers to be accountable for upholding the human rights of women and girls”.

**Source:** *E/CN.6/2021/3, para 30, Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, Report of the Secretary-General, 21 December 2020.*

**Precedent for support women in media:** “The Beijing Platform for Action identifies women and the media as one of 12 critical areas of concern. As stated in the Beijing Platform for Action, gender stereotyping in advertising and the media is one of the factors of inequality that influences attitudes towards equality between women and men. Through a series of dialogues on the subject during its fortieth session, the Commission on the Status of Women examined measures to be used for increasing the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication.”

**Source:** *Women and the Media CSW Agreed Conclusions 1996/2, page 11, paragraph 1 .*

**Precedent for support women in media as content creators, entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders:** “Efforts are therefore necessary to increase women’s access to and participation in the media and information and communication technologies, including in their decision-making processes and new opportunities created through information and communication technologies.”

**Source:** *Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women CSW 47 Agreed Conclusions 2003/44 2003 Paragraph 2*

**Precedent for support women in media as content creators, entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders:** “Encourage regulatory bodies, where they exist, to promote full participation of women in the ownership, control and management in the ICT and media sector;”

**Source:** *Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women CSW 47 Agreed Conclusions 2003/44 2003 Paragraph 4(b).*

- (ee) Fund and support public information campaigns with positive messages and images of women's role in public life to help change stereotypes **[and to raise awareness of good practices for balanced participation of women and men in decision-making]**; (E/CN.6/2021/3, para 65 (ee))

**Precedent for raise awareness of good practices:** “Online activism is an increasingly critical tool for feminists, as digital platforms become public spaces in which new strategies to influence policy and politics are forged.<sup>22</sup> Online social campaigns have influenced transnational and global politics, such as the “MeToo” movement (#metoo), which had consequences for perpetrators and led to tangible policy reform in multiple countries, and the Ni Una Menos (not one woman less) movement (#niunamenos).

**Source:** E/CN.6/2021/3, para 35, *Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, Report of the Secretary-General, 21 December 2020.*

**Precedent for raise awareness of good practices:** “Recognize the important role the media can play in the elimination of gender stereotypes and, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, increase the participation and access of women to all forms of media, and encourage the media to increase public awareness of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;”

**Source:** *Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls CSW 58 Agreed Conclusions 2014 Paragraph 42(xx)*

**Precedent for balanced participation of women and men in decision-making:** “Initiatives and programs aimed at women's increased participation in decision-making were hindered by a lack of human and financial resources for training and advocacy for political careers; gender-sensitive attitudes towards women in society, awareness of women to engage in decision-making in some cases; accountability of elected officials and political parties for promoting gender equality and women's participation in public life; social awareness of the importance of balanced participation of women and men in decision-making; willingness on the part of men to share power; sufficient dialogue and cooperation with women's NGOs, along with organizational and political structures, which enable all women to participate in all spheres of political decision-making.”

**Source:** *Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly General Assembly Official Records Twenty-third special session Supplement No. 3 (A/S-23/10/Rev.1) Draft resolution II Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by General Assembly Paragraph 23.*

17. The Commission recognizes its primary role for the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which its work is grounded, and stresses that it is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to ensure synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda. **(Based on CSW Agreed Conclusions) (Affirm)**

18. The Commission calls upon the United Nations system entities, within their respective mandates, and other relevant international financial institutions and multi-stakeholder platforms to support Member States, upon their request, in their efforts to ensure women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. **(Based on CSW Agreed Conclusions) (Affirm)**

19. The Commission calls upon the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to continue to play a central role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and in supporting Governments and national women's machineries, upon their request, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector, employers'

organizations and trade unions, and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. **(Based on CSW Agreed Conclusions) (Affirm)**