

NGO CSW Advocacy Research Group
CSW66 Recommendations Brief
on Decision-Making, Implementation, and Monitoring

***Recommendation 1.** Investment in gender-responsive policies and programs that prioritize girls and women of all ages (including underrepresented, rural, Indigenous and people with disabilities) in **decision-making, implementation, and monitoring** of mitigation and adaptation strategies at the local, community and national level.*

Relevant UN Precedent Language

[CEDAW/C/GC/37 General recommendation No. 37 \(2018\) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change](#)

36. To ensure that women and girls are provided with equal opportunities to lead and to participate and engage in decision-making in activities relating to disaster risk reduction and climate change, the Committee recommends that States parties:

- (a)** Adopt targeted policies, such as temporary special measures, including quotas, as provided for in article 4 of the Convention and in general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, as one element of a coordinated and regularly monitored strategy to achieve the equal participation of women in all decision-making and development planning relating to disaster risk reduction and climate change;
- (b)** Develop programmes to ensure the participation of and leadership by women in political life, including through civil society organizations, in particular women's organizations, at various levels, in particular in the context of local and community planning and climate change and disaster preparedness, response and recovery;
- (c)** Ensure the equal representation of women in forums and mechanisms on disaster risk reduction and climate change, at the community, local, national, regional and international levels, in order to enable them to participate in and influence the development of policies, legislation and plans relating to disaster risk reduction and climate change and their implementation. States parties should also take positive measures to ensure that girls, young women and women belonging to indigenous and other marginalized groups are provided with opportunities to be represented in those mechanisms;
- (d)** Strengthen national institutions concerned with gender-related issues and women's rights, civil society and women's organizations and provide them with adequate resources, skills and authority to lead, advise, monitor and carry out strategies to prevent and respond to disasters and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change;
- (e)** Allocate adequate resources to building the leadership capacity of women and creating an enabling environment for strengthening their active role in disaster risk reduction and response and climate change mitigation, at all levels and across all relevant sectors.

[E/CN.6/2020/L.1 Annex Political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, 2020](#)

11.(f) "...promoting women's participation and leadership in decision-making on environmental and climate change issues"

[The Agreed Conclusions of the 65th Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW65\)](#)

14. "...reaffirmed the need to promote women's full and effective participation and leadership in decision-making on the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, recognize women's and girls' important role as agents of change...."

55. "...national efforts towards the empowerment of women, through promoting the control, ownership, management and participation of women in all sectors and levels, which includes the mobilization of adequate financial resources...."

61(m) "Develop and implement policies and programmes, including through appropriate funding and innovative measures to promote women as leaders, executives and managers...."

Evidence in statistical data and relevant reports

- [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Women's Leadership Key to Reducing Disaster Mortality](#) (2019) When disaster strikes, women are disproportionately impacted compared to men. In April 1991, when Bangladesh was hit by a powerful cyclone, 90% of those killed were women. Bangladesh has made its cyclone preparedness programme more inclusive of women. Women are involved in the design of early warning systems, the building of cyclone shelters and in raising community awareness. This has managed to lower the ratio of female to male deaths by almost two-thirds.
- <https://data.ipu.org/women-av>

From November 2019, world and regional averages of the percentage of women in parliament are now being published on Parline, the IPU's open data platform: <https://data.ipu.org/women-av>

- [World Economic Forum. Why female leadership is crucial to tackle climate change and other crises. Women's leadership is good for the planet by Dr Marga Gual Soler](#) (2021)

Women's participation in decision making is good for the planet: research shows a clear linkage between women's leadership and pro-environmental outcomes. For example, countries with higher proportions of women in parliament are more likely to ratify international environmental treaties, to create protected areas, and to have stricter climate change policies. Countries where women enjoy greater social and political status have lower emissions and climate footprints.

Good Practice

[United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction: Japan Back Women's Leadership in DRR](#) (2015)

“Japan will train 40,000 officials and people in local regions around the world as leaders who will play key roles in disaster risk reduction and reconstruction. One of the major projects that will be undertaken through this initiative is the launch of the Training to Promote Leadership by Women in Disaster Risk Reduction.”