



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 December 2022

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-seventh session

6–17 March 2023

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

Normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [64/289](#), provides a summary of the normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in 2022 through its substantive support for intergovernmental processes. The report also highlights the Entity’s contribution to implementing the policy guidance provided by the Commission on the Status of Women, including examples of UN-Women operational activities in various regions.

* [E/CN.6/2023/1](#).



I. Introduction

1. In 2022, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) continued to support Member States in accelerating progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through research, policy analysis and recommendations in reports of the Secretary-General. The Entity placed a high priority on activities related to the provision of policy guidance, data, evidence and knowledge.

2. UN-Women continued to work on strengthening global norms and standards in the context of multiple and interlinked crises caused by factors such as geopolitical conflicts, climate change and environmental degradation, as well as on addressing the disproportionate impacts that women and girls face as a result. In addition, the Entity continued to lead and support efforts towards an inclusive, effective and gender-responsive recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as a crucial step towards mitigating the negative effects that the pandemic has had on the lives of women and girls and towards ensuring their full role in shaping responses to future shocks.

3. A central feature of the normative aspects of the Entity's work is the provision of substantive support to the Commission on the Status of Women, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and other intergovernmental bodies. With the aim of strengthening the integration of a gender perspective into the work and outcomes of those bodies, the Entity continued to focus on synergies between achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and progress towards sustainable development, peace and security, human rights and climate action.

4. The normative aspects of the Entity's work contribute to the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are aligned with the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda" (A/75/982). UN-Women continued to do its work in a context of multiple crises, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships, and to ensure that women and girls, in particular those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, are not left behind or further marginalized.

5. The Entity's long-standing efforts to ensure that women and girls are prioritized at the centre of humanitarian action were formally recognized when UN-Women became a full member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, in October 2022.

II. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

A. Commission on the Status of Women

6. As the substantive secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women, UN-Women continued to support the Commission in its role as the principal intergovernmental policymaking body that sets global standards and formulates policy recommendations to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and their human rights worldwide. The documentation prepared by UN-Women for the sixty-sixth session supported ministerial round tables, high-level interactive dialogues and expert panel discussions, including on the priority theme and the review theme.

7. The agreed conclusions on the priority theme, "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change,

environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes” (see [E/2022/27-E/CN.6/2022/16](#)) built on the report of the Secretary-General on the same topic ([E/CN.6/2022/3](#)). In the agreed conclusions, the disproportionate impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on all women and girls were recognized with concern, and the role of women and girls as agents of change was emphasized. Recommendations for actions included the following: strengthening normative, legal and regulatory frameworks; integrating a gender perspective into the design, funding, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation stages of policies and programmes related to climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction; expanding gender-responsive finance through the scaling up of technology transfer, capacity-building and the mobilization of financial resources from all sources; enhancing gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex; and fostering a gender-responsive, just transition.

8. The report of the Secretary-General on the review theme ([E/CN.6/2022/4](#)) included identification of trends in implementation on the basis of information received from 60 Member States, including their actions in the following areas: strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks; strengthening education, training and skills development; implementing economic and social policies for the economic empowerment of women; addressing the growing informality of work and the mobility of women workers; managing technological and digital change for the economic empowerment of women; strengthening the collective voice, leadership and decision-making of women; and strengthening the role of the private sector in the economic empowerment of women. UN-Women supported the Commission in its review of progress made in the implementation of the agreed conclusions adopted at the sixtieth session, on the theme “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”. A total of 12 Member States presented information, on a voluntary basis, on progress achieved, lessons learned and challenges faced and identified best practices for accelerated implementation.

9. UN-Women prepared the report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS ([E/CN.6/2022/7](#)), which provides reflections on recent evidence and contributions from 38 Member States and nine United Nations entities, including with regard to progress in HIV response for women and girls in the past decade, as well as critical areas of concern, including the challenges of HIV faced by young women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa. The Entity also provided policy support to the Southern African Development Community in preparation for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission, which resulted in the unanimous reaffirmation by Member States of Commission on the Status of Women resolution 60/2 on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS. Furthermore, UN-Women supported the Southern African Development Community in designing and launching the gender-responsive oversight model¹ for the region to monitor implementation of resolution 60/2 and to track the implementation of Member State commitments, with Mozambique being the first country to contextualize the model.

10. In preparation for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission, UN-Women collaborated with partners in the organization of regional consultations in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as of subregional consultations in Europe and Central Asia, to identify priorities and facilitate an exchange of good practices. At the global level, in October 2021, the Entity convened an expert group meeting on the priority theme, which examined the current context, identified key challenges and made specific recommendations that were focused on various issues relevant to achieving gender equality and the

¹ See www.sadcpf.org/index.php/en/documents/gender-responsive-oversight-model/1-documents/76-gender-responsive-oversight-model/gender-responsive-oversight-model-summary-booklet.

empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change and environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

11. In its catalytic role in enhancing synergies and coherence with other functional commissions with regard to promoting gender mainstreaming, UN-Women supported the participation of the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women in the Economic and Social Council management meeting held in June and July 2022, as well as efforts related to the ongoing review of Council subsidiary bodies as mandated in General Assembly resolution [75/290 A](#). In December 2022, the Chair participated in a thematic discussion on the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, convened by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to promote synergies between the mandates of the two commissions.

B. Gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system

12. UN-Women prepared the annual report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system ([E/2022/62](#)), with contributions from across the system. The report covered progress made in 2021 on accountability for gender mainstreaming by the entities of the United Nations system and the United Nations country teams, as measured by using the indicators of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (System-wide Action Plan 2.0) and the United Nations country team System-wide Action Plan gender equality scorecard. UN-Women provides technical support to entities and country teams in their implementation of the System-wide Action Plan 2.0. In 2021, a total of 71 United Nations system entities (1 more than in 2020) reported on progress against the 17 indicators of the System-wide Action Plan 2.0, with a total of 64 per cent of all ratings falling into the “meets requirement” or “exceeds requirement” category.

13. A total of 57 entities registered most of their gender-related results under Sustainable Development Goal 5 (5 more than in 2020) while many worked at the intersection of gender equality and other Goals. Under Goal 5, significant inter-agency collaboration was reported on target 5.2, eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, an area with a concurrent call to action to address the shadow pandemic, including in the digital sphere.

14. A significantly higher number of country teams (61 in 2021 compared with 38 in 2020) undertook the United Nations country team System-wide Action Plan gender equality scorecard exercise, of which 29 prepared comprehensive reports, designed to be aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework planning stage, and 32 prepared annual progress reports.

15. As in previous years, analysis of the comprehensive reports indicates that performance continues to be strongest in the area of collaboration and engagement with Governments and weakest in the area of resource allocation and tracking, although some progress has been detected. Analysis also indicates that, for the first time during the period from 2018 to 2021, one country team exceeded a financial target for gender parity.

16. The annual progress reports provided by 32 country teams indicated improved performance in relation to 9 out of 15 performance indicators, in particular monitoring and evaluation, capacity development, and incorporation of gender analysis into the common country analysis.

17. UN-Women provided technical support to the Economic and Social Council with regard to its resolution 2022/18 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system. The year 2022 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first adoption of the resolution, which includes a new recommendation that United Nations entities retain a strong focus with resources on gender equality issues and ensure that gender equality units are able to do so with specific and dedicated resources and expertise. It also includes the recommendation of more results-oriented action to tackle sexual harassment in workplaces in the United Nations system.

C. Multi-stakeholder partnerships

18. The UN-Women-convened Generation Equality initiative continued to advance its multi-stakeholder partnerships model to accelerate action and accountability on gender equality, with the number of commitments across the six action coalitions more than doubling, from 1,000 to 2,500, since the Generation Equality Forum was held in Paris, in June and July 2021. Important steps were taken regarding transparency and accountability for the pledges. An accountability framework was developed through an extensive and collaborative process leveraging 13 stakeholder consultations, a multi-stakeholder working group and a public online consultation in which 273 inputs were gathered from all sectors. A commitments dashboard² was launched at the sixty-sixth session of the Commission, making all commitments visible and searchable. The first accountability report, along with an online accountability platform, was launched at the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, illustrating progress towards accountability framework targets. The report, informed by a survey on commitment implementation, revealed that nearly 80 per cent of the commitment makers reporting were already implementing their pledges. The report also indicated that Generation Equality was catalysing multi-stakeholder partnerships: 22 per cent of commitments were joint, and 51 per cent resulted in new Generation Equality-driven partnerships. They included the Global Alliance for Care, under the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights, and the Alliance for Feminist Movements, under the Action Coalition of Feminist Movements and Leadership. The Multi-Stakeholder Leadership Group was launched to advise UN-Women on the Generation Equality agenda and to ensure that multi-stakeholder leadership remains at the core of the initiative. The Generation Equality midpoint – scheduled for fall 2023, at the midpoint of both Generation Equality and the 2030 Agenda – will provide an opportunity to further enhance accountability, expand traction and partnerships across sectors and announce transformative new commitments where they are most needed.

III. Sustainable development

A. Follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

19. UN-Women continued its extensive support for the global follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda. The Entity contributed to the high-level political forum on sustainable development and assisted Governments in the preparation of voluntary national reviews by supporting the integration of a gender perspective. UN-Women also participated in the regional forums on sustainable development, where it placed gender equality issues at the centre of discussions.

² See <https://dashboard.commitments.generationequality.org/>.

20. Another key area of focus for the Entity was its contribution to the substantive preparations for the forum and to discussions during the session. UN-Women provided policy expertise, evidence and technical inputs for the consultations organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in preparation for the thematic reviews. The Entity, in cooperation with the Department and the United Nations Population Fund, convened an expert group meeting³ on progress towards Goal 5, which produced a set of recommendations on mainstreaming a gender perspective into the following areas: the care economy, social protection and health systems; technology and infrastructure development; domestic and international financing and trade; climate change and biodiversity; and violence against women and girls.

21. UN-Women organized and contributed to side events and voluntary national review laboratories on country-led evaluations, as well as on human rights in voluntary national reviews. In addition, the Entity organized a Sustainable Development Goals learning session on achieving gender equality and measuring progress.

22. During negotiations on the ministerial declaration (E/HLS/2022/1), UN-Women provided substantive inputs on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as a cross-cutting issue across the Goals under review.

23. UN-Women analysed the voluntary national reviews with regard to their reflection of a gender perspective. A voluntary national review was considered to include a gender perspective if policies and strategies aimed at addressing gender inequalities were mentioned in more than 30 per cent of the sections of the total number of Goals covered in the respective report. In most cases, they included substantive references to the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls, elements of gender-responsive social protection systems, measures to address unpaid care and domestic work, and efforts to implement gender-responsive budgeting and to strengthen gender statistics. Comparative analysis showed that 62 per cent of the voluntary national reviews submitted to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2022 had integrated a strong gender perspective, compared with 49 per cent in 2021. In addition, 90 per cent of the reports included a section on Goal 5, compared with 78 per cent in 2021.

24. UN-Women presented a report,⁴ prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, during an event that also included the International Labour Organization and civil society partners. In the report, which drew on a unique global data set of nearly 5,000 measures adopted by 226 countries and territories in response to COVID-19, it was found that overall, in government responses, insufficient attention was paid to gender dynamics. For example, of the more than 3,000 COVID-19 measures relating to social protection and jobs, only 12 per cent targeted the economic security of women and only 7 per cent supported unpaid care. Similarly, as violence against women and girls intensified in the context of quarantines and lockdowns, 163 countries took at least one measure to adapt the provision of services in their response, but only 55 mainstreamed efforts to address violence against women and girls into their broader COVID-19 response plans. Furthermore, most COVID-19 government task forces missed the opportunity to meaningfully include women, with only 7 per cent reaching gender parity. Despite these challenges, the report provided an analysis of instances of innovation and learning that hold important lessons for

³ See <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/HLPF%20EGM%20SDG%205%20Summary%2018.5.22.pdf>.

⁴ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Government Responses to COVID-19: Lessons on Gender Equality for a World in Turmoil* (2022).

gender-responsive policymaking in times of crisis. For example, feminist movements and women’s rights organizations provided an early warning system regarding the gender impacts of the pandemic, in particular with regard to violence against women and girls, underlining the need for greater funding and support. Also underscored in the report was the need to strengthen gender-responsive social protection systems to increase resilience to future shocks.

25. UN-Women contributed to the production of new data to improve global monitoring of the Goals from a gender perspective. The Women Count programme has supported 73 countries to improve the production and use of gender data to monitor the Goals and inform policy interventions that lead to better lives for women and girls. New data on the economic empowerment of women have been used to inform the design of care policies and plans to address the unpaid care work of women in Bangladesh, Colombia and Kenya, while improved data on violence against women have catalysed advocacy and legal change in Albania, Georgia, Morocco and Uganda. Catalytic partnerships with United Nations agencies and partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the World Bank, have also fuelled action to reprocess large-scale surveys and fill gender data gaps in key areas, including poverty, the gender and environment nexus, and asset ownership.⁵

26. As in previous years, the Entity contributed to the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2022/55), coordinating efforts across agencies to compile information relating to Goal 5 and contributing the relevant data and statistics for indicators for which UN-Women is the lead or co-lead agency. As a result of the Entity’s data-collection efforts, more data are now available to monitor Goal 5, and more than two thirds of the countries supported by the UN-Women Women Count programme⁶ have reached at least the 50 per cent gender data availability needed to monitor the Goals.

27. UN-Women, in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, released the annual report entitled “Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: the gender snapshot 2022”.⁷ The report provides the most recent evidence on gender equality across all 17 Goals, pointing to the long road ahead to achieve gender equality. For the first time, the report includes projections that show that, at the current rate of progress, it may take another 286 years to remove discriminatory laws and close prevailing gaps in legal protections for women, 140 years for women to be represented equally in positions of power and leadership in the workplace and at least 40 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments. To eradicate child marriage by 2030, progress must be 17 times faster than progress made in the past decade. The Goal 5 tracker also indicates that only 47 per cent of data required to track progress towards Goal 5 is currently available, rendering women and girls effectively invisible and delaying evidence-based policymaking.

28. The Entity’s experience supported the fact that using new methodologies to collect gender data is critical for new areas of work and in cases of crisis and conflict. In the context of COVID-19, the Entity’s innovative data response to conduct rapid gender assessments in more than 70 countries across all regions, in collaboration with national statistical offices, government entities and international partners, resulted in new data that shed critical light on the pandemic’s impact on women and girls. Rapid

⁵ See https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/AR2021/Annual%20Report_2022_Final.pdf.

⁶ See <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/final-annual-report-making-ever-woman-and-girl-count>.

⁷ See https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/GenderSnapshot_2022.pdf.

gender assessments have been used to inform national policy and programme responses to build back better,⁸ shape gender-responsive humanitarian efforts following an earthquake in Haiti,⁹ coordinate response to the movement of Ukrainian refugees in Eastern Europe,¹⁰ extend a COVID-19 income support allowance programme to informal workers in the Maldives¹¹ and inform a resilience-building programme for households and vulnerable groups in Senegal.¹²

B. Economic and social empowerment

29. UN-Women continued to support the General Assembly in its consideration of gender-specific agenda items and to strengthen the integration of a gender perspective into a range of resolutions. It also assisted in other processes and provided inputs to reports and policy papers covering a broad range of topics related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

30. UN-Women supported the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the organization of the fifteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires in November 2022. The session resulted in the adoption of the Buenos Aires Commitment, in which participating Member States established a road map to create and strengthen gender-responsive care systems and policies that would contribute to recognizing, redistributing and reducing the disproportionate burden of care that falls on women and girls.

31. For the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, UN-Women prepared multiple reports of the Secretary-General. In the report on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (A/77/302), the urgency of addressing the problem in digital contexts was highlighted. At-risk groups, gaps and challenges were identified in the report, and recommendations for future action were offered. In the report on trafficking in women and girls: crises as a risk multiplier (A/77/292), it was recognized that the rise of digitalization and the economic impact of COVID-19 have placed women and girls at a greater risk of being recruited and exploited by human traffickers. In the report on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation (A/77/312), it is noted that the decline in the prevalence of female genital mutilation is not fast enough to keep pace with the increase in population growth in countries where the practice occurs, especially in humanitarian and other emergency contexts, where the vulnerabilities of women and girls are amplified. The report on women in development (A/77/243) provides a review of global evidence and trends, measures taken by Governments and support provided by United Nations entities regarding gender-responsive poverty eradication; social protection and labour market policies; women's labour and human rights and ending gender-based discrimination; women's entrepreneurship; women's and girls' unpaid care and domestic work and women's paid care work; gender-based violence and sexual harassment; universal access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health; and the right to education throughout the life cycle. It highlights

⁸ See https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/AR2021/Annual%20Report_2022_Final.pdf.

⁹ See <https://data.unwomen.org/features/rapid-gender-analysis-haiti-reveals-earthquake-related-impacts-women-and-girls>.

¹⁰ See <https://data.unwomen.org/features/collecting-data-and-analysis-how-war-ukraine-impacting-women-and-girls>.

¹¹ See <https://data.unwomen.org/features/maldives-survey-findings-influence-covid-19-response>.

¹² See <https://data.unwomen.org/features/senegal-rga-results-spur-new-programme-support-vulnerable-women-while-increasing-knowledge>.

the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economic empowerment of women and includes a series of policy recommendations.

32. UN-Women supported the Office of the President of the General Assembly in launching the Assembly's Platform of Women Leaders under the theme "Transformative solutions by women leaders to today's interlinked challenges".

33. UN-Women contributed to the Joint evaluation of the work of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.¹³ In the evaluation, it is noted with concern that inadequate attention has been paid to gender-transformative approaches to addressing the twin pandemics of violence against women and HIV/AIDS. UN-Women led the development of a forward-looking management response to the key recommendations in the evaluation on behalf of the Joint United Nations Programme.

C. Environmental protection and disaster risk reduction

34. At the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN-Women raised the profile of gender equality and leadership by women and girls in the context of climate action and response, including through technical support provided to Parties during the negotiations on the draft decision on gender and climate change and the intermediate review of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan and through its engagement in a number of high-level and other events. As a result, the revised gender action plan includes a proposal for a new activity, with the support of UN-Women, to enable dialogue between national gender and climate change focal points and other relevant stakeholders on how their work contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the plan. The Entity participated in the opening and closing sessions of Gender Day, during a high-level event organized by the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to launch the African Women's Climate Adaptive Priorities initiative. UN-Women intervened in sessions throughout the thematic day on finance with regard to facilitating a gender-responsive green transition. The Entity also participated in events throughout the two weeks, addressing the linkages between gender equality, the empowerment of women and climate action from the perspective of the Arab region.

35. UN-Women engaged in ongoing work to finalize the post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity, participating in the third, fourth and fifth meetings of the open-ended working group on the framework, held in Geneva and Nairobi, respectively. The Entity provided technical support to parties throughout negotiations to support the development of a gender plan of action and a stand-alone target for gender equality and the empowerment of women and collaborated with partners on the development of gender-sensitive indicators and data disaggregated by sex to feed into the monitoring and accountability of the framework.

36. In the area of disaster risk reduction, the Entity, through the Women's Resilience to Disasters programme,¹⁴ supported important advances in gender equality and women's leadership in normative disaster risk reduction and climate resilience processes and mechanisms. They included the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women; regional platforms,¹⁵ such as the Asia-Pacific Ministerial

¹³ See www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/PCB49_Evaluation_CRP1.pdf.

¹⁴ See <https://wrđ.unwomen.org/womens-resilience-disasters-wrd-programme>.

¹⁵ See <https://wrđ.unwomen.org/explore/library/regional-platforms-disaster-risk-reduction-2021-gender-related-outcomes>.

Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction,¹⁶ and the seventh Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.¹⁷ In addition, the Women's Resilience to Disasters Policy Tracker¹⁸ now identifies 106 policy frameworks on disaster risk reduction and resilience that include at least one high-risk group of people. They include 90 national frameworks in 78 countries and 16 regional frameworks in five regions.

D. Financing for sustainable development

37. The Entity has consistently supported the integration of a gender perspective into the outcomes of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up since its inception, in 2016. As a result, in all the forum outcome documents from 2017 to 2022, including the most recent one (E/FFDF/2022/3), gender equality has been addressed and its centrality to sustainable development has been recognized. The outcomes have explicitly identified policy options to advance gender equality, including by assessing the gender impact of policy and financing decisions, implementing gender-responsive budgeting and addressing women's underrepresentation in decision-making. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Member States recognized the increase in gender-based violence and the growing demand for unpaid care and domestic work. They explicitly called for increased investment in social infrastructure and the care economy and for the need to reduce, redistribute and recognize unpaid care and domestic work.

38. UN-Women, with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, has chaired the gender working group of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development since 2017. Through its coordination function, the Entity supported the growth of the working group from 16 agencies in 2017 to 24 agencies in 2022. The working group's collective contributions have served as a basis for intergovernmental negotiations and have effectively strengthened gender mainstreaming into the annual report of the Task Force and global policy recommendations. Quantitatively, references to gender equality increased nearly fourfold, from 48 in 2017 to 175 in 2022. Substantively, this has resulted in detailed gender analysis in areas including trade, fiscal policy, official development assistance, digital and financial inclusion, and data and statistics. In the 2022 report, it was explicitly recommended that countries use their fiscal systems to support the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, with a focus on introducing gender-responsive tax and expenditure policies, and recommendations were put forward that included expanding the direct provision of care services and tax allowances for childcare, as well as public sector policies such as family leave to promote the equal sharing of care work.

IV. Human rights

39. The Entity supported the work of the Human Rights Council during its regular sessions and in relation to the universal periodic review to strengthen the integration of a gender perspective. UN-Women assisted Member States in preparing country briefs on gender equality and the empowerment of women for the universal periodic review; provided evidence-based inputs to several special procedures reports, panels, dialogues and side events; and supported the participation of women's organizations and women human right defenders in events organized in the context of Council's sessions and other relevant proceedings linked to special procedures.

¹⁶ See <https://wrds.unwomen.org/explore/library/asia-pacific-ministerial-conference-drr-2022-gender-progress-report>.

¹⁷ See <https://wrds.unwomen.org/explore/library/2022-global-platform-drr-gender-progress-report>.

¹⁸ See <https://wrds.unwomen.org/policy-tracker>.

40. UN-Women continued to systematically analyse the integration of a gender perspective into Human Rights Council resolutions and to provide technical support to strengthen the integration of a gender perspective into resolutions across a range of issues, including a resolution on participation of persons with disabilities in sport, and statistics and data collection (Council resolution [49/12](#)). The Entity tracked the integration of a gender perspective into resolutions, which indicated that, on average, the percentage of resolutions integrating a gender perspective increased, from 71 per cent in 2019 to 81 per cent in 2022.

41. UN-Women, in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), supported the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in all regions, including support for States parties in reporting under the Convention and in preparing for the constructive dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its eighty-first, eighty-second and eighty-third sessions, held in February, June and October 2022, respectively. UN-Women supported all United Nations country teams in the preparation of reports to the Committee, including by coordinating and leading the process of preparing the reports. The Entity supported legal reforms and new policies in accordance with the Convention and offered support in connection with the preparation of the shadow reports of civil society organizations. UN-Women assisted the Committee in preparing a new general recommendation on the rights of Indigenous women and girls,¹⁹ including by convening a regional consultation in Mexico with Indigenous women from 21 countries.

42. The Entity continued to address the intersection of gender and migration in the work of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. The Entity contributed to the thematic reports of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants ([A/77/189](#)) and on trafficking in persons, especially women and children ([A/77/170](#)), which addressed the gender dimensions of trafficking in persons in the context of climate change, displacement and disaster risk reduction. UN-Women co-organized an expert group meeting on the protection of women human rights defenders at risk in migration contexts with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants. The Entity highlighted the importance of addressing the intersection of gender and disability, including through an interactive dialogue on artificial intelligence with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and an interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities with regard to statistics and data collection under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Entity also supported three expert consultations to provide inputs to the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences with regard to such violence in the context of the climate crisis, including environmental degradation and related disaster risk mitigation and response ([A/77/136](#)).

43. To address persistent legal discrimination against women, the Entity continued to work with partners to implement the multi-stakeholder strategy for accelerated action, entitled “Equality in law for women and girls by 2030”. Through the strategy, 232 legislative reform initiatives were supported, of which 50 per cent addressed discrimination in law, and 60 per cent of the laws that had been tabled in Parliament were adopted. In addition, 46,708 women received legal aid, and 68,481 formal and informal justice actors were supported in improving their capacity to deliver gender-responsive justice in their communities.

¹⁹ See www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-recommendation-no39-2022-rights-indigeneous.

44. The Entity continued its partnership with OHCHR and Justice Rapid Response to deploy gender experts to investigations mandated by the Human Rights Council, including investigations in Afghanistan, Belarus, Ethiopia, Libya, Nicaragua and Ukraine in 2022. In 2022, UN-Women deployed 16 experts to nine investigations to ensure that expertise in gender equality and child rights was always present on investigation teams.

V. Peace and security and humanitarian action

A. Women and peace and security

45. In 2022, UN-Women briefed the Security Council four times, which reflected efforts to increase the proportion of women briefers in deliberations and to strengthen language on women and peace and security in decisions. As the secretariat of the Council's Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, the Entity continued to provide substantive support to Council members and United Nations entities. Since the inception of the Group, in 2016, the percentage of Council decisions that include specific language on women and peace and security has increased, from 51 per cent to 69 per cent, while the number of women from civil society invited to speak at formal meetings of the Council increased, from 25 in the period from 2000 to 2015 compared with 62 in 2021 alone. As a result, Council decisions now routinely and unequivocally advocate quotas for women and the implementation of national action plans on women and peace and security. In addition, Council decisions have begun to address reprisals against women peacebuilders and human rights defenders. In some cases, the Council has opted to request a specific activity to address the exclusion of women in its implementation bodies, such as a conference of the parties in the peace process in Mali or an action plan to tackle the underrepresentation of women in the peace negotiations in Cyprus. Through the Informal Expert Group and other avenues, UN-Women contributed to strengthening the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

46. UN-Women coordinated the report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security (S/2022/740), which raised alarm about going backwards with regard to the goals of the Secretary-General for the decade (see S/2020/946). The report included recommendations on how to advance those goals, with special attention paid to the issue of better protecting women human rights defenders and peacebuilders. The Secretary-General has tasked UN-Women and OHCHR with following up on the recommendations, in partnership with Member States.

47. UN-Women continued to play a crucial role in the development and implementation of impact-driven national action plans on women and peace and security and supported more than 40 Member States in realizing new and existing commitments in that regard. As from October 2022, 104 countries and territories had adopted dedicated action plans on women and peace and security, and 12 regional organizations had regional strategies or plans in place. The Entity continued to serve as the secretariat of the global Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network.²⁰ In its leadership and coordination role, it facilitated technical learning sessions between the 92 Member States and regional organizations of the Network, United Nations focal points and civil society representatives, aimed at promoting innovative practices to implement the women and peace and security agenda.

48. In line with Security Council resolutions 2242 (2015) and 2467 (2019) and the Strategic Plan 2022–2025, UN-Women continued its partnership with the Office of

²⁰ See <https://wpsfocalpointsnetwork.org/>.

Counter-Terrorism and members of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact to strengthen gender-responsive approaches. In 2022, UN-Women led the coordination and briefings on gender at the various working groups of the Compact and contributed to discussions on institutional effectiveness in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In November 2022, UN-Women, as Chair of the Working Group on Adopting a Gender-Sensitive Approach to Preventing and Countering Terrorism and in collaboration with partners, organized a two-day advocacy workshop in support of gender-responsive approaches to rehabilitation and reintegration in Tashkent. As a result, national guidance on gender-responsive approaches in the context of Uzbekistan will be developed and implemented through a One United Nations approach in the next two years.

49. UN-Women continued to play a leading role in promoting gender-responsive peacebuilding and supporting conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives led by women and young people. The Entity maintained its strong partnership with the Peacebuilding Support Office of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and supported the Peacebuilding Commission's implementation of its gender strategy. In 2022, Member States urged the Peacebuilding Commission to utilize its advisory and convening roles to consider the impact of climate change on peacebuilding. Subsequently, in March 2022, an ambassadorial-level meeting was held in support of the 10 countries included in the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. The meeting was focused on ways to address climate degradation issues from peacebuilding and development perspectives, with special consideration given to efforts to target women and young people. In May, another ambassadorial-level meeting was held, on the impact of climate change on peacebuilding in the Pacific Islands, at which the need for an inclusive approach and engagement with women and young people was reiterated.

50. The Entity continued its work with the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law of the United Nations, including through a jointly published guidance note on women and peace and security.²¹ The note highlighted the existing and potential value of the Global Focal Point as a coordination mechanism for gender-responsive rule of law support, through which the United Nations can promote the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda more effectively.

51. UN-Women supported the integration of the women and peace and security agenda as a cross-cutting theme in the seven priorities identified in the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping Plus implementation strategy, which is an extension of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative for 2021 to 2023.²² The Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations,²³ of which UN-Women serves as the secretariat, continued to support troop- and police-contributing countries in their efforts to increase the number of uniformed women deployed to United Nations peace operations. To date, the Fund has conducted two programming rounds and has provided funding support to 20 security institutions in 14 troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as in one United Nations peace operation in Lebanon. Key results from such support include high-level commitments by 14 security institutions in nine countries to undertake a detailed assessment of barriers to the participation of women in United Nations peace operations, as well as commitments to further gender equality through policy development activities at four security institutions. Furthermore, the Entity has delivered the female military officers' course in English and French to more than 900 military women from across the globe who

²¹ See www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/Women-peace-and-security-and-the-UN-Global-Focal-Point-for-the-Rule-of-Law-en.pdf.

²² See www.un.org/en/A4P/.

²³ See <https://elsiefund.org/>.

had been nominated by their governments in preparation for deployment to a peacekeeping mission.

52. UN-Women continued to monitor and report on global trends in financing the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. In 2022, the Entity, in collaboration with the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action and civil society partners, contributed to the high-level meeting on financing for peacebuilding through a series of round tables that were focused on identifying avenues to meaningfully support women-led peacebuilding work and on developing feminist strategies for high-quality financing for peacebuilding. General Assembly resolution [76/305](#) on financing for peacebuilding, adopted in September 2022, built on the high-level meeting. In the resolution, the gap in the meaningful inclusion of women in decision-making was recognized, and the Assembly urged efforts to fund initiatives that integrated women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the planning, implementation and reporting of peacebuilding and sustaining peace at all levels. UN-Women also undertook an assessment on the implementation of a minimum 15 per cent financial target for gender equality within the United Nations, including country teams, which informed decisions of the Executive Committee established by the Secretary-General. The UN-Women partnership with the Peacebuilding Fund has contributed to significant dividends. In 2021, the Fund allocated 47 per cent (\$92.3 million) of its total allocation to support gender equality, exceeding both its 15 per cent and 30 per cent financing targets for gender equality, and all three Peacebuilding Fund country eligibility packages integrated gender-responsive conflict analysis, compared with four out of five in 2020. For the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative, the Fund approved 38 projects, totalling \$51.5 million, in 23 countries – a record for the Initiative – of which \$4.6 million was allocated to 6 UN-Women co-led projects. In addition, through its regular portfolio, the Fund approved \$14.1 million for UN-Women in 13 countries.

53. UN-Women continued to serve as the secretariat of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund,²⁴ which provided a good model for direct, dedicated and flexible financing of women's civil society organizations. Since its launch, in 2016, the Fund has mobilized more than \$118 million and supported more than 850 local women's civil society organizations in conflict-affected and humanitarian settings, nearly half of which have received funding through the United Nations for the first time. The Fund has supported 24 funding allocations in 32 countries and has proven its agility in responding to new and emerging crises. Uniquely, the Fund has provided critical institutional funding to 95 local women's civil society organizations to help them to safeguard their existence, strengthen their capacities and adapt to evolving challenges. The Fund's rapid response window with regard to the participation of women in the peace process and the implementation of peace agreements has provided targeted and flexible support to more than 50 civil society organizations in 16 countries, including Afghanistan, Colombia, Libya and Yemen. In 2022, the Fund opened a dedicated funding window for women human rights defenders to support their participation in crisis and conflict settings and to guarantee their protection.

54. The Entity continued to host the secretariat of the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action.²⁵ As from October 2022, 186 signatories, including Member States, regional organizations, United Nations entities, the private sector, civil society and academia, had invested in more than 1,000 actions to realize commitments relating to women and peace and security and gender equality in humanitarian action. As part of establishing a voluntary multi-stakeholder monitoring and accountability process, the Compact unveiled a comprehensive set of monitoring

²⁴ See <https://wphfund.org/>.

²⁵ See <https://wpshcompact.org/about-the-compact/>.

indicators in October 2022 to track progress on Compact actions over the following five years. The indicators were developed by signatories to the Compact through a participatory, consultative process that was aimed at strengthening the collection of data and the sharing of information on women and peace and security and humanitarian action and to avoid duplication with existing monitoring mechanisms.

B. Humanitarian action

55. During the humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council, UN-Women co-hosted a high-level event on the importance of representation by women in humanitarian planning and implementation and how it leads to better humanitarian outcomes.

56. UN-Women was granted full membership on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, with an emphasis on its role in helping the humanitarian system to hold itself accountable to its commitments to gender in humanitarian action. In addition, the Entity became the United Nations chair of the Gender Reference Group of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and led the development of the annual gender accountability framework report, which serves as the primary tool in the global humanitarian system to monitor adherence to the Committee's gender policy across all official humanitarian settings. The 2021 report provided evidence of mixed progress at the global level, accompanied by mixed results at the field level. Although similar to in 2020, in 2021, 80 per cent of outputs from the Committee's principals' group reflected standards and commitments of the gender policy, a significant improvement was seen at the field level, where 86 per cent of humanitarian needs overviews demonstrated the use of data disaggregated by sex and age and gender analysis. However, also noted in the report was a decrease in consultations with local women's groups, from 68 per cent in 2020 to 65 per cent in 2021. UN-Women, as a member of the Committee, is aimed at assisting in addressing such gaps in compliance going forward.

57. UN-Women coordinated gender in humanitarian action working groups at the regional and country levels and worked directly with women-led and other civil society organizations to ensure their effective participation in humanitarian responses. In the Asia and Pacific region, for example, UN-Women utilized online platforms to conduct training on key humanitarian topics during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the humanitarian response in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, became more inclusive for participants from women-led organizations who did not speak English. In Afghanistan, UN-Women helped to establish an independent Afghan women's advisory group to the humanitarian country team and to ensure that the voices of Afghan women and girls were considered at the highest level of humanitarian decision-making in the country.

VI. Support for implementation of policy guidance

58. The translation of global norms, policies and standards into operational activities relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is central to the work of UN-Women. The Entity supports Member States, upon their request, in developing national capacities, including through policy advice and programmatic support. That includes support in preparations for and follow-up to the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. Consistent with the 2020 quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (General Assembly resolution [75/233](#)), UN-Women has pledged in its Strategic Plan 2022–2025 the incorporation of digital technologies and

innovations as tools to accelerate results across thematic areas. The operational activities of UN-Women are strongly informed by the commitments to gender-responsive innovation and technological change made in previous agreed conclusions.

59. UN-Women supported Governments in their integration of a gender perspective into national policies and plans on implementation of gender-responsive strategies related to innovation and technological change. The Entity provided substantial support to Governments and other partners in their efforts to strengthen capacities to implement national priorities. The main areas of focus included preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls, strengthening the work of national agencies and institutions, and advancing capacity-building and empowerment.

60. With regard to preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls, UN-Women worked with national authorities and civil society organizations in Bolivia, supporting the Ministry of the Presidency and the Ministry of Justice, to develop a national strategy to combat digital violence against women and girls. The Entity also developed a mobile application to assist women at risk of violence in 32 municipalities. In India, UN-Women developed the artificial intelligence chatbot Sambal to enhance access to essential services, resources and tools, as well as reporting mechanisms for women and girls affected by sexual and gender-based violence. In Timor-Leste, the Entity supported civil society in efforts to reduce stigma experienced by survivors through outreach and training that provides access to self-care skills and peer support, including help-seeking through a mobile application. In the Philippines, UN-Women used innovative information dissemination channels to prevent violence and trafficking in women migrant workers, while in Bangladesh, it worked to strengthen female students' media and digital literacy skills to counter hate speech and misinformation. In Kenya, UN-Women, in partnership with Healthcare Assistance Kenya, adopted technology that provided survivors of gender-based violence with immediate access to services. In addition, UN-Women developed or activated mobile applications to help women to gain access to support services in Albania, Georgia, Montenegro and Serbia.

61. With regard to strengthening the work of national agencies and institutions, in Brazil, UN-Women developed an online platform that included training courses aimed at enhancing an approach to violence against women and care work targeted at officials of the Ministry of Citizenship. In Moldova, UN-Women piloted the use of augmented and virtual reality as a tool with which to train police officers and others on protocols to address violence against women. In Colombia, the Entity provided 12 family police stations with digital equipment to strengthen a comprehensive approach to violence against women. In Ecuador, UN-Women supported the Judiciary Council through updated statistics on the violent deaths of women through the digital platform FemicidiosEC. In India, the Entity, in partnership with the Government, produced an electronic governance tool to serve as an information portal for gender-responsive budgeting, which also serves as a self-learning tool. Similarly, in Kenya, UN-Women assisted the Controller in the development of a budget management information system to allow the disaggregation of expenditure data by gender and to subsequently inform programmes and policies on gender-responsive budgeting.

62. With regard to capacity-building and empowerment, UN-Women worked with Caribbean countries to develop digital toolkits on policies related to the empowerment of women. In addition, it is working to establish digital help desk facilities to increase awareness of available support and incentives for women farmers and entrepreneurs in the region. In Chile and Mexico, UN-Women implemented an online modality of the Second Chance Education programme, which enables women to re-enter formal education and gain access to vocational training. In Senegal, UN-Women developed low-tech and voice-based capacity-building training tailored to the needs of rural women, which were delivered entirely through mobile phones. The Entity promoted the economic autonomy of women in Costa Rica and Mali by

supporting the e-commerce platform Buy from Women, which allows women entrepreneurs to sell their products directly to consumers. In the Philippines, UN-Women, in partnership with Connected Women, launched the pilot training programme Elevate AIDA (Artificial Intelligence Data Annotation), which works with women entrepreneurs to enhance their encoding and data labelling skills and helps them with the transition of their physical business to online. In Ethiopia, the Entity supported the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and other partners in efforts to equip young innovators and programmers with technological solutions through the African Girls Can Code Initiative.²⁶ In Georgia, UN-Women partnered with universities, the Google Women Techmakers programme and the digital training centre FabLab to run a training programme, followed by internships, aimed at upskilling young women with regard to coding, web development and social media marketing. In Papua New Guinea, UN-Women provided seven women's organizations that run safe shelters for survivors of gender-based violence with capacity-building in information technology and computer literacy. In Fiji, the Entity partnered with the Australian National University to develop a training module on cybersecurity for market vendors. In Central Asia and Europe, UN-Women launched the campaign *Awake Not Sleeping: Reimagining Fairy Tales for a New Generation*,²⁷ which represented a regional collection of 28 fairy tales that are aimed at inspiring children to succeed in non-traditional roles. In the Asia and Pacific region, UN-Women, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, developed a digital learning platform on climate-resilient livelihoods using renewable energy for women entrepreneurs and women-led small and medium enterprises as part of the EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies initiative.²⁸

VII. Conclusion

63. In the context of a slowing rate of progress towards gender equality, coupled with multiple and interlinked crises that disproportionately affect women and girls, UN-Women continued to provide effective normative support to intergovernmental processes and bodies. In addition, by gaining full membership on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, UN-Women reinforced its ability to hold the humanitarian system accountable to its gender commitments. The Entity strengthened its engagements and partnerships and built on its commitments in crucial thematic areas. It continued to fill data gaps and to support evidence-informed policies, programmes and initiatives at both the regional and national levels and to contribute to the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

64. The sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women presents a significant opportunity to assess progress and address gaps and challenges in integrating a gender perspective into innovation, technological change and education in the digital age, as well as in ensuring the full, effective and meaningful participation of women in all decision-making. UN-Women will support the work of the Commission as it strengthens the global normative framework with ambitious commitments to achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and the fulfilment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of intertwined global crises.

²⁶ See www.ungei.org/blog-post/closing-gender-gap-ict#:~:text=The%20African%20Girls%20Can%20Code,careers%20in%20the%20ICT%20sector.

²⁷ See <https://interactive.unwomen.org/eca/fairytales/en/index.html>.

²⁸ See www.empowerforclimate.org/en/about-us.