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Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-fifth session

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Agenda item 3 (c)

**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”: gender mainstreaming,
situations and programmatic matters**

Mainstreaming gender equality and promoting empowerment of women in climate change policies and strategies

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the commitments in the Beijing Platform for Action¹ under the critical area “Women and the environment”,

Reaffirming also principle 20 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,² which recognizes that women have a vital role in environmental management and development, and in this regard recalling the objectives of Agenda 21³ relating to women, particularly with regard to women’s participation in national ecosystem management,

Stressing the need to ensure women’s full enjoyment of all human rights and their effective participation in environmental decision-making at all levels and the need to integrate their concerns and gender equality perspectives in sustainable development policies and programmes,

Recalling the agreed conclusions on women and the environment adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session and on

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

³ *Ibid.*, annex II.

environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters adopted by the Commission at its forty-sixth session,

Recalling also the priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,⁴ particularly the need to promote the integration of risk reduction associated with existing climate variability and climate change into strategies for the reduction of disaster risk and adaptation to climate change, and the need to integrate a gender perspective into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management and education training,

Recalling further the UNFCCC Conference of Parties Decision 36/CP.7 on improving the participation of women in the representation of Parties in bodies established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 10/4 of 25 March 2009, which recognizes that while climate-change related impacts have a range of implications, the effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, gender, age, indigenous or minority status and disability,

Deeply concerned that the adverse impacts of climate change on women and girls, especially those living in poverty, can be exacerbated by gender inequality and discrimination,

Mindful that women who live in conditions of poverty and social exclusion have limited opportunities to participate in training and capacity-building and have less access to information related to all aspects of climate change, including on climate forecasts and related warnings,

Recognizing that women are powerful agents of change and are key actors in contributing effective responses to the challenges posed by climate change, including by disasters,

Underscoring that gender equality and the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change, and welcoming in this regard the attention given to such mainstreaming and participation in the outcome of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Cancun, Mexico,

1. *Recognizes* that gender equality, the integration of a gender perspective and the effective participation of women at global, regional, national and local levels, are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change, as contained, inter alia, in the Bali Action Plan;

2. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate a gender perspective in environmental and climate change policies, and to strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources to ensure women's full and equal participation in

⁴ A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies related to the impact of climate change on the lives of women and girls;

3. *Also call upon* Governments to ensure that sustainable resource management mechanisms, production techniques and infrastructure development in rural and urban areas, are in the context of climate change policies and strategies, gender sensitive;

4. *Encourages* Governments, and, as appropriate, international organizations, civil society, private sector, and all relevant actors to facilitate and increase the participation of women, including indigenous women, particularly at grass roots levels, as decision-makers, entrepreneurs, planners, evaluators, managers, scientists, technical advisers at all levels and as beneficiaries in the design, development, implementation and monitoring of all aspects of climate change policies;

5. *Urges* Governments and all other relevant actors, in their efforts in dealing with climate change, to promote women's equal access to education, media and information, communications and technology and to encourage women's equal participation in training and capacity-building;

6. *Calls upon* Governments, in their efforts in dealing with climate change, to support and empower rural women, who are engaged in agricultural production and play a vital role in providing food security threatened by climate change, including land tenure and other property rights, by enhancing their access to and control of resources;

7. *Calls upon* Governments, United Nations programmes, funds and agencies and other relevant bodies involved in implementing climate change policies to take the measures necessary to enable women to participate fully in all levels of decision making relevant to climate change, and to facilitate and provide training on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women and girls and to promote gender balance and gender sensitivity among their representatives and staff;

8. *Encourages* Governments and international financial facilities and institutions, private sector and civil society as appropriate, to promote the participation of women and ensure that a gender perspective is incorporated into the design, approval, execution and monitoring of their climate change-related projects;

9. Also encourages governments to strengthen international cooperation in the areas of inter alia, training, capacity building and technology transfer in order to address the challenges faced by women and girls in the context of climate change;

10. *Invites* social, economic, political and scientific institutions to take into account the impact of environmental degradation and climate change on women, and, in this regard, to develop database tools, databases and statistics, containing reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by sex and age, as well as gender sensitive methodologies and policy analyses;

11. *Encourages* Governments to integrate a gender component into their periodic reporting as States parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

12. *Calls upon* Governments, including States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to continue to incorporate a gender perspective and make efforts to ensure the effective participation of women in the ongoing climate change talks leading to the 17th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban, South Africa in 2011.
