



Ad-hoc Gender Working Group

A coalition of youth and civil society organizations, networks, movements and collectives.

Ishaan Shah, Co-Convener, ishaan.shah@unmgcy.org

Chapeau

- *Recognizing* that the world has yet to witness a gender-equal society and that existing unbalanced gender power dynamics have a deleterious effect on all facets of human existence, commit to the recalibration of essential human relationships, to realize the full potential of all human beings, especially women and girls, in all their diversity, thereby transforming and strengthening all efforts ranging from sustainable development to peace and security and international governance.
- *Reaffirm* and stress the need to further strengthen the implementation of the:
 - UN Charter
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - 2030 Agenda
 - SDG Summit Political Declaration
 - Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
 - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
 - Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
 - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
 - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
 - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
 - International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
 - Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
 - Agreed Conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women
 - Generation Equality Forum’s Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality
 - The Yogyakarta Principles +10
 - Copenhagen Declaration

including the outcome documents of review processes, and the outcomes of relevant major United Nations conferences and summits and the follow-up to those conferences and summits.

- *Commit* to ensuring that already agreed language on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is not rolled back on. This includes language on “in all their diversity”, “multiple

and intersecting forms of discrimination”, “sexual and reproductive health and rights”, and “comprehensive education, including sexuality education”, among others.

- *Welcome* the Secretary General’s Policy Briefs, as well as the Report of the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

- Every person has the desire and capacity to take charge of their own path of development. Humanity’s survival is dependent upon the just and gender-transformative use and distribution of material resources. Undue focus on the accumulation of wealth, national GDP-based competition, feminization of poverty, and undervaluing of social protection systems has eroded the right to development for both women and girls. We call on Member States to foster financial systems that value human rights, labor rights, and environmental obligations over material prosperity, production, and consumption.
- *Recognize* the impact of unpaid and paid care work on the global economy, and start transformation towards care economies, ensuring all workers, especially women, young women, and as appropriate, girls, are provided with conditions of decent work, respect of labor rights, and that such measures along with or exceed guidance from the International Labour Organization.
- *Institute* a Global Debt Workout Mechanism, under the auspices of the United Nations, to change the nature of the foreign debt burden against human rights, women’s and girls’ rights and sustainable development, as well as ensure the cancellation of existing debts recognizing that economic structural adjustments, growing public debts, fiscal constraints, and, in particular, austerity measures increase inequalities in the world, especially for women and girls, in all their diversity, and in particular, those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, whether in developing or developed countries.
- *Calls upon* Global North countries to deliver new and additional, non-debt creating funds for climate financing beyond the existing unfulfilled 100 billion dollars pledge, considering real needs and prioritizing mitigation and adaptation, with direct access for the most vulnerable groups, including women, girls, and gender-diverse people.
- *Commit* to the gender-transformative reform of the international financial architecture, ensuring equal representation for all Member States, and commit to the full, effective, and accelerated implementation of the UNGA Resolution on the Global Tax Convention.
- *Reaffirm* the significance of substantially increasing investments to bridge resource gaps for achieving gender equality, including mobilizing financial resources from diverse sources, implementing official development assistance commitments, combating illicit financial flows, and strengthening international cooperation, encompassing North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation, with the understanding that South-South cooperation is a complement, not a substitute, for North-South cooperation.

Chapter II. International peace and security

- *Calls upon* Member States to commit to the elimination of all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based, in periods of peace as well as during periods of war, conflicts, and instability, recognizing that the realization of peace creates conditions for humanity to realize its full potential. Further asks Member States to commit to building trust between each other and in multilateral institutions, revitalizing the principles of solidarity and universality in international law as a guardrail for justice. Adopt a broader feminist understanding of security, including human security, that can move us beyond the militarized understanding of security and center gender equality in local, national, regional, and international prevention strategies and interventions.

- *Implement* all recommendations from all Women, Peace, and Security and Youth, Peace, and Security resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council by committing to their central pillars of Participation, Protection, Prevention, Relief and Recovery, Partnerships, and Disengagement and Re-integration.
- *Ensure* equitable, timely, and continuous access to justice, remedy, and accountability measures, as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights services and healthcare, during conflict and humanitarian emergencies.
- *Ensure* sustained, predictable and flexible financing for gender equality, and in this regard allocate 15 percent of official development assistance (ODA) to gender equality, and provide a minimum of 1 percent of ODA in direct assistance to women and girl-led organizations, networks, collectives and movements, especially grass-roots groups mobilizing for peace.
- *Protect* women and girl human rights defenders, and peacebuilders, in all their diversity, from all forms of violence, inter alia, harassment, abuse and violence, wrongful prosecution, persecution, disinformation, propaganda, and censorship.
- *Strengthen* Early Warning Systems, especially in conflict zones and areas affected by environmental and natural disasters and ensure a gender-responsive lens to enhance the security of women and girls, in all their diversity.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

- *Create* incentives that encourage the increased participation of women and girls, in all their diversity, in the development, design, testing, monitoring, and evaluation of scientific and technological tools to ensure that those same tools benefit from the full range of human skills and insights and that they are being used as tools contribute to the elimination of the gender-digital divide to fulfill the wellbeing and rights of all rather than as drivers of materialistic gains.
- *Ensure* safe and reliable access to digital tools, as well as lifelong digital literacy, through the increase of regional and global alliances, fora, and groups that provide support, networking and participation opportunities for women and girls, in all their diversity, in science and technology.
- *Reaffirm* that while digital spaces can provide innovative opportunities for dialogue, accountability, and transparency in decision-making, in conflict-affected contexts, and in situations of insecurity and instability, the use of technology to encourage engagement in building peace exacerbates vulnerabilities to exploitation both online and offline and in this regard, take effective measures to address the lack of safe spaces for all women, girls, and gender diverse youth, in all their diversity and intersectional identities, to respond to the safety and security concerns that can directly affect their agency, protection, and ability to engage in decision-making processes in peacebuilding and conflict and post-conflict contexts.
- *Calls upon* Member States to continue to engage with the creation of the Global Digital Compact to address gaps in cyber-security and protection from cyber crimes in digital solutions and platforms, including disinformation, misinformation, protection from surveillance, online abuse, harassment, and sexual and gender-based violence amplified or perpetrated through the use of technologies, for all women and girls; and encourages Member States to support the elaboration of the UN Treaty on Cybercrime, ensuring that its negotiation and implementation integrate gender-transformative language and considerations.
- *Digitize* healthcare services to expand universal health coverage, including universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, information and education, and to improve the quality of care within a publicly managed system, building on the Declaration on Universal Healthcare adopted under the auspices of the 78th General Assembly High-Level Week.

- *Ensure* the equitable and meaningful participation of women, young women, and as appropriate girls, in matters concerning outer space, inter alia, science, innovation, technology, development of regulation, and decision-making.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

- In processes focused on the future, as much as in any other at the UN, youth perspectives are integral to the process beyond diversity and proximity to future generations, but because of their inherent, meaningful contribution. Recognizing that the future possibilities open to any nation depend on how its young people view the role of their generation in society and what purpose shapes their individual and collective actions Member States should commit to providing adequate, flexible, and sustainable human and material resources for youth, youth delegates, representatives, and networks, especially young women and girls, to fully contribute to the UN system, including in deliberative, decision-making, and intergovernmental processes.
- *Prevent* the conflation of ‘youth’, ‘children’, and ‘future generations’, call for the protection of the wellbeing of each demographic and in this regard, amend the title of Chapter IV to read “Children, Youth, and Future Generations”.
- *Respond* to structural adjustments to foster safe and meaningful youth engagement through the practical shifting of power dynamics and increased financing and prevent tokenism and ‘youth-washing’ by recognizing, centering, and resourcing the substantive co-leadership and partnership of women, young women, girls, and gender-diverse youth, in all their diversity and intersectional identities, to improve the social, economic, and political status of all in their communities and societies.
- *Invest* in feminist accompaniment programs to support and empower young women and girls, in all their diversity, as a means to foster youth leadership.
- *Ensure* access to continuous, safe, secure, quality, and lifelong education for all women and girls, including quality education on sexual and reproductive health and rights and bodily autonomy, through age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

- Call for the global governance structures to reflect principles of trust, cooperation, decolonialism, transparency, accountability, interdependence and power distribution to fundamentally transform the global order. This means eliminating structural issues that perpetuate inequalities, inequities, and illegitimate hierarchies, especially gender inequalities, gender stereotypes, and harmful social norms. Centralize intersectionality across all UN policymaking and programming.
- *Calls for* the institutional and personal prevention of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse, and in this regard call on all Member State employees and interns to complete the UN online learning courses on gender equality (“I know Gender”) and the prevention of sexual harassment (“United to Respect: Preventing sexual harassment and other prohibited conduct”).
- *Calls for* the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and Security Council, and their relevant subsidiary bodies, to review their working methods to significantly strengthen the engagement of women and girls in all their diversity, across all of their mandates and work.