

Input by noon Thursday 29 January 2026 by the National Regional, Rural, Remote and Very Remote Community Legal Network

<https://clcs.org.au/4rs-network/>

70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Agreed Conclusions - Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers

Zero Draft

Key principles for providing instructions

- The Zero Draft is the best opportunity to propose substantive changes, identify gaps and suggest new language. As subsequent drafts and the final stages of negotiations become more granular, we will strategise when we start to show our willingness to compromise language where necessary.
- Please provide instructions using the table below.
- **In Column 1:** Propose edits using track changes to the text and **highlight in green** any language that is particularly a priority to retain/protect.
- **In Column 2:** Provide a rationale to explain the requested change. Where possible, suggest precedent for including language. If required, provide alternatively suitable language.
- **In Column 3:** Provide the priority of change using the following categories:
 - **Redline:** Text Australia absolutely cannot accept.
 - **High priority:** We advocate strongly for high priority language. We liaise with likemindeds for collective advocacy and support in negotiations.
 - **Medium priority:** We make our best efforts to progress suggested, or similar, amendments.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Draft text and Australia’s proposed changes (in track changes)	Rationale/Talking Points to support Australia’s request	Priority of change
<p>EXAMPLE: Gender equality is a fundamental human right.</p>	<p>Retain: Preference is to use gender equality, rather than ‘women’s rights’.</p> <p>Deletion 1: It is an subjective statement and not aligned with Australia’s position on giving equal regard to all human rights.</p>	<p>Redline – Australia cannot accept such a statement.</p>
<p>1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its subsequent reviews and commits to further strengthening their implementation.</p>	<p>This submission by the National Regional, Rural, Remote and Very Remote Community Legal Network (4Rs Network) in relation to the Zero Draft calls for the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the human rights of women and girls to be advanced in ways which ensure achievement for all women and girls wherever located including in urban, regional, rural, remote and very remote areas.</p>	<p>The Redlines that need to be applied relate to missing content and there must be properly detailed and reflective treatment of access to justice for women and girls by the Agreed Conclusions.</p> <p>It should not be acceptable to Australia that the Agreed Conclusions (in the Zero draft) do not explicitly refer to the diversity of women reflecting the leadership of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Act and subsequent outcome documents, reviews and contemporary inclusive and particularising practices.</p> <p>For example the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPA) and https://docs.un.org/en/A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1 (1995 document) sections</p>



quoted below - have yellow highlight to indicate examples of what is not in the Zero draft

BDPA: “46. The Platform for Action recognizes that women face barriers to full equality and advancement because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion or disability, because they are indigenous women or because of other status. Many women encounter specific obstacles related to their family status, particularly as single parents; and to their socio-economic status, including their living conditions in rural, isolated or impoverished areas. Additional barriers also exist for refugee women, other displaced women, including internally displaced women as well as for immigrant women and migrant women, including women migrant workers. Many women are also particularly affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases and various forms of violence against women.”

		<p>The BDPA referred to ‘class’ but to a limited extent; the Zero draft doesn’t refer to class.</p> <p>Also to note, climate change and disasters raise justice and access to justice issues for a diversity of women and girls, but this is not reflected in the Zero draft either and neither are other aspects of policy crisis including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased challenges to the rule of law - Increased challenges to international law including human rights - domestic and international conflict - militarisation - International, regional and domestic population flows especially displacement, international population movements and urbanisation <p>All of these should be reflected in the CSW70 Agreed Conclusions as well as a holistic approach to access to justice for women and girls which recognises that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dynamics and forces which adversely affect the status of women and girls reduce and
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		<p>impede women and girls' access to justice and what dominant normative systems present and offer as 'justice'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Every aspect of women and girl's human rights intersects with access to justice and can be advanced or diminished by the actualities of 'access to justice', day-by-day in the lives of women and girls especially for women and girls facing intersectional discrimination, disadvantage and subordination. <p>Solidarity among women and girls to address discrimination, ensure human rights, status and inclusion of women and girls should also be reflected in the CSW70 Agreed Conclusions. This includes solidarity with all women and girls including women and girls in rural and remote areas.</p> <p>As reflected in the input below, an approach to drafting which makes women and girls in rural and remote areas invisible or which lacks depth would reflect non-engagement with the external dynamics and external power relations impeding the human rights of women and girls in rural</p>
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		<p>and remote areas. Invisibilization of women and girls in rural and remote areas, homogenization with ‘all women’ and superficial or tokenistic visibility, are <i>urbanist</i>. This leaves the door wide open for all kinds of discrimination against the diversity of women and girls in rural and remote areas (including racism, ableism and health, housing, education, economic and other dimensions of human rights, inclusion and wellbeing). Subordination and discrimination carried out geographically against rural and remote areas impacts women and girls’ intersectionality. Disadvantage in rural and remote areas is mythically and pervasively ‘normalised’ as <i>geographically determined</i>, not determined by <i>responses</i> to rural and remote locations. The responses must be brought strongly into focus.</p>
<p>2. The Commission reiterates that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human rights conventions, treaties and declarations, including 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 the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews, provide an</p>	<p>Delete ‘a comprehensive set of’ because the elaboration of human rights, conventions, declarations etc is ongoing and critically important e.g. the proposed Convention on the Rights of Older People and achievement of a Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>A further example, which is particularly important in this submission by the 4Rs</p>	

<p>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 their human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout their life course.</p>	<p>Network, is that as yet, there is no human rights treaty to specifically protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of women and girls - and the full diversity of people and groups facing discrimination and disadvantage - in rural and remote areas against a backdrop of major shortfalls in the implementation of human rights and non-discrimination and equality in response to systemic issues impacting a wide diversity of lived experience in rural and remote areas. Currently, there is little reflection of, or visible and clear engagement with, rural and remote location in domestic human rights and anti-discrimination legislation among States around the world, including Australia which is the 6th largest country by landmass in the world and one of the most urbanised.</p> <p>Among the core human rights treaties, only CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability refer to ‘rural’ neither noting that the term ‘rural’ as international vernacular is insufficient, in that while it is used in these treaties to mean all non-urban, it suggests that all non-urban is functionally ‘rural’, that all peoples and people in non-urban areas identify ‘as rural’ and that experiences of ‘introduced rurality’, such as through settler colonialism is politically benign, despite disparate histories and contexts in and within States around the world including Australia. Consequently,</p>	
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only referring to ‘rural’ areas and not reflecting remote areas and all non-urban areas, is insufficient.

While the [Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas](#) reflects progress, it also serves to highlight what is not yet articulated or addressed by human rights treaties regarding the breadth, depth, contributors and dimensions of human rights shortfalls caused to and experienced in rural and remote areas. In this respect human rights are often geographically silent, failing to confront geographic determinism (outlined further below).

Human rights are yet to be visibly reflective and fully responsive to geographic patterns of poverty whereby over 80% of people around the world experiencing multi-dimensional poverty are in rural or remote areas ([GMDI Index 2025](#)) and [‘globally despite progress, poverty remains predominantly rural’](#).

Poverty, and associated demographic and justice systems patterns, have wide ranging effects for unmet individual, collective and systemic legal needs, and overcoming barriers to access to justice.

Further, while the CEDAW Committee has confirmed that all aspects of CEDAW apply

	<p>to rural women meaning all women in non-urban areas (General Recommendation 34 on the Rights of rural women (2016) CEDAW C GC 34) This also serves to highlight widespread gaps in the visibility, expression, theorisation and strategies to engage with systemic, upstream and intersectional dimensions of patterns of disadvantage and human rights shortfalls in rural and remote areas.</p> <p>General recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls (2022) CEDAW/C/GC/39 specifically highlights geographical coverage within member States in para 1, stating ‘Discrimination and violence are recurrent phenomena in the lives of many Indigenous women and girls living in rural, remote and urban areas. The present general recommendation applies to Indigenous women and girls both inside and outside Indigenous territories.’</p> <p>A key largely unaddressed issue regarding the human rights of women and girls in rural and remote areas is how the myth of geographic determinism (geography is destiny, or rural and remote location is destiny) operate. The myth of geographic determinism masks a wide range of external social, economic and political and other determinants. Additionally, regardless of the</p>	
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	<p>causes - it obscures requirements effective safety-nets.</p> <p>An example of Australia <i>not accepting the myth of geographic determinism</i> relates to the right to education and how safety-nets often bridge geography in Australia. Australia's approach broadly accepts responsibility for ensuring education access regardless of geographic location. This results in many strategies, approaches, supports and innovations plus major challenges to be overcome - outlined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HREOC in the Bush Talks Inquiry completed in 2000, (over 25 years ago) which called for redoubling efforts to address geographic and other education disparities (see Morris, 2024), and • recently by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, conceptualising 'geographic based discrimination (urban v remote') in the landmark, and massive, lived experience of First Nations women, Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) Report (2020) p. 74 <p><i>Access to justice and women in rural and remote areas</i> General Recommendation 34 noted in part that</p>	
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	<p>5. Globally, and with few exceptions, on every gender and development indicator for which data are available, rural women fare worse than rural men and urban women and men, and rural women disproportionately experience poverty and exclusion. They face systemic discrimination in access to land and natural resources. They carry most of the unpaid work burden owing to stereotyped gender roles, inequality within the household and the lack of infrastructure and services, including with respect to food production and care work. Even when formally employed, they are more often engaged in work that is insecure, hazardous, poorly paid and not covered by social protection. They are less likely to be educated and are at higher risk of being trafficked and forced into labour, as well as into child and/or forced marriage and other harmful practices (see CEDAW/C/GC/31CRC/C/GC/18). They are more likely to become ill, suffer from malnutrition or die from preventable causes, and are particularly disadvantaged with respect to access to health care.</p>	
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6. Rural women are also more likely to be excluded from leadership and decision-making positions at all levels. They are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence and lack access to justice and effective legal remedies. Clearly, the importance of rural women's empowerment, self-determination and position in decision-making and governance must not be ignored. When it is, States jeopardize their own progress.

Full geographic human rights inclusion

Approaches which fully include rural and remote location and make rural and remote locations visible - should apply to all human rights, to reflect that women and girls human rights (and the human rights of all people and peoples) are not geographically conditional to where people are located within nation States, including when located in rural and remote areas.

Barriers attributed to 'geography', especially barriers attributed to rural and/or remote location, should be fully examined and critiqued because these 'barriers' are often determined by external responses not by geography per se. The lived experience of the diversity of women and girls in rural

	<p>and remote areas must be valued for critique, perspectives and directions.</p> <p>Additionally, safety nets must be adequate for all women and girls, inclusive of women and girls in rural and remote areas.</p> <p>Access to justice by women and girls in rural and remote areas, which is the CSW 70 priority theme should be fully and effectively reflected in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparations for CSW 70 ● Deliberations at CSW 70 ● Agreed Conclusions of CSW 70, and ● Positive impacts of CSW 70. 	
<p>3. The Commission reaffirms the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences and that their follow-up processes will make a crucial contribution to a gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p>		
<p><u>#. The Commission affirms that access to justice by women and girls is essential to the realization of all the rights protected under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and protected under all human rights obligations. It is fundamental to the rule of law and good governance, and to the independence, impartiality, integrity and credibility of the judiciary, and equal participation of women</u></p>	<p>Insert two paras before existing draft para 4 and renumber accordingly. The new para 4 as drafted is an adaptation of para 1 of the General Recommendation 33 on Women's Access to Justice (2015) CEDAW_C_GC_33 which reads:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The right to access to justice for women is essential to the realization of all the rights protected under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against 	

in the judiciary and other law implementation mechanisms. The right to access to justice is multidisciplinary. It encompasses justiciability, availability, accessibility, good quality, the provision of effective remedies, and the accountability of justice systems.

The Commission affirms that effective access to the law and to justice optimizes the emancipatory and transformative potential of the law to overcome all forms of adverse discrimination against women.

4. The Commission expresses deep concern that women and girls globally continue to face barriers to justice, resulting in persistent disadvantage in accessing remedies and protection. The Commission affirms that these obstacles occur in a structural context of discrimination and inequality owing to factors such as gender stereotyping, discriminatory laws, intersecting or compounded discrimination, procedural and evidentiary requirements and practices, and a failure to systematically ensure that judicial mechanisms are physically, locationally, geographically, economically, socially and culturally accessible to all women and that all these obstacles constitute persistent violations of women’s human rights. It notes that access to justice challenges persist where justice systems do not fully reflect the lived realities of women and girls, including discriminatory laws, implementation gaps and other structural barriers affecting the

Women. It is a fundamental element of the rule of law and good governance, together with the independence, impartiality, integrity and credibility of the judiciary, the fight against impunity and corruption, and the equal participation of women in the judiciary and other law implementation mechanisms. The right to access to justice is multidimensional. It encompasses justiciability, availability, accessibility, good quality, the provision of remedies for victims and the accountability of justice systems. For the purposes of the present general recommendation, all references to “women” should be understood to include women and girls, unless otherwise specifically noted.

The new para directly after the new para 4 is adapted from para 2 of General Recommendation 33, which reads:

2. In the present general recommendation, the Committee examines the obligations of States parties to ensure that women have access to justice. These obligations encompass the protection of women’s rights against all forms of

realization of rights in law and in practice. The Commission acknowledges that ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls across the life cycle, is fundamental for the achievement of 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.

#. The Commission affirms that discrimination against women and girls based on gender stereotypes, stigma, harmful and patriarchal cultural norms and gender-based violence, which affects women and girls in particular, has an adverse impact on the ability of women and girls to gain access to justice on an equal basis with men. In addition, discrimination against women and girls is compounded by intersecting factors that affect some women and girls to degrees or in ways that differ from those affecting men or other women and girls. Grounds for intersecting or compounded discrimination may include ethnicity/race, indigenous or minority status, colour, socioeconomic status and/or caste, language, religion or belief, political opinion, national origin, marital and/or maternal status, age, urban/rural location, health status, disability, property ownership and identity as a lesbian, bisexual or transgender woman or intersex person. These intersecting factors make it more difficult for women and girls from those groups to gain access to justice include illiteracy, trafficking, armed conflict, status

discrimination with a view to empowering them as individuals and as rights holders. Effective access to justice optimizes the emancipatory and transformative potential of the law.

The next new para is adapted from para 3 of General Recommendation 33, which reads:

3. In practice, the Committee has observed a number of obstacles and restrictions that impede women from realizing their right to access to justice on a basis of equality, including a lack of effective jurisdictional protection offered by States parties in relation to all dimensions of access to justice. These obstacles occur in a structural context of discrimination and inequality owing to factors such as gender stereotyping, discriminatory laws, intersecting or compounded discrimination, procedural and evidentiary requirements and practices, and a failure to systematically ensure that judicial mechanisms are physically, economically, socially and culturally accessible to all women. All these obstacles constitute persistent violations of women's human rights.

<p><u>as an asylum seeker, internal displacement, statelessness, migration, being a female head of household, widowhood, living with HIV, deprivation of liberty, criminalization of prostitution, geographical remoteness and stigmatization of women fighting for their rights. That human rights defenders and organizations are frequently targeted because of their work must be emphasized and their own right to access to justice protected.</u></p> <p><u># The Commission affirms that the negative impact of intersecting forms of discrimination on access to justice, including ineffective remedies, for specific groups of women and girls can impede women and girls reporting violations of their rights to the authorities for fear that this will not be productive, including that they will be humiliated, stigmatized, punished, harmed and further violated.</u></p> <p><u># The Commission affirms that women and girls have the right to access to education and information, which is effective for them, about their rights and remedies and how to gain access to them, and access to justice, including dispute resolution systems, and effectively and timely remedies.</u></p>	<p>The drafting added the words ‘locationally, geographically’ after ‘physically’ to amplify and clarify ‘physically’.</p> <p>The next is the insertion into the existing para 4 (structural context etc) is based on further content in para 3 of General Recommendation 33</p> <p>The next insertion which would be a new para before the existing para 5 in the Zero draft is based on paras 8 and 9 of General Recommendation 33, which read:</p> <p>‘8. Discrimination against women, based on gender stereotypes, stigma, harmful and patriarchal cultural norms and gender-based violence, which affects women in particular, has an adverse impact on the ability of women to gain access to justice on an equal basis with men. In addition, discrimination against women is compounded by intersecting factors that affect some women to degrees or in ways that differ from those affecting men or other women. Grounds for intersecting or compounded discrimination may include ethnicity/race, indigenous or minority status, colour, socioeconomic status and/or caste,</p>	
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	<p>language, religion or belief, political opinion, national origin, marital and/or maternal status, age, urban/rural location, health status, disability, property ownership and identity as a lesbian, bisexual or transgender woman or intersex person. These intersecting factors make it more difficult for women from those groups to gain access to justice.²</p> <p>9. Other factors that make it more difficult for women to gain access to justice include illiteracy, trafficking, armed conflict, status as an asylum seeker, internal displacement, statelessness, migration, being a female head of household, widowhood, living with HIV, deprivation of liberty, criminalization of prostitution, geographical remoteness and stigmatization of women fighting for their rights. That human rights defenders and organizations are frequently targeted because of their work must be emphasized and their own right to access to justice protected.</p> <p>The next para is based on General Recommendation 33 para 10 which reads</p>	
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10. The Committee has documented many examples of the negative impact of intersecting forms of discrimination on access to justice, including ineffective remedies, for specific groups of women. Women belonging to such groups often do not report violations of their rights to the authorities for fear that they will be humiliated, stigmatized, arrested, deported, tortured or have other forms of violence inflicted upon them, including by law enforcement officials. The Committee has also noted that, when women from those groups lodge complaints, the authorities frequently fail to act with due diligence to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators and/or provide remedies.

The next paragraph is based on para 11 of General Comment 33 which reads:

11. In addition to articles 2 (c), 3, 5 (a) and 15 of the Convention, States parties have further treaty-based obligations to ensure that all women have access to education and information about their rights and the remedies that are available and how to gain access to them, and

	<p>access to competent, gender-sensitive dispute resolution systems, as well as equal access to effective and timely remedies</p> <p>Also ensure that there is clear reference early in the Agreed Conclusion to economic justice, housing justice, energy justice, reproductive justice</p> <p>Institutions that need to be strengthened</p> <p>Decolonisation - genuine inclusion</p>	
<p>5. 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, <u>indigenous groups</u>, faith-based organizations, <u>migrant and refugee groups</u>, <u>groups reflecting rural and remote intersectionality</u>, the private sector and national human rights institutions, where they exist to take the following urgent actions to strengthen access to justice for all women and girls by 2030:</p>	<p>These adjustments make indigenous groups, migrant and refugee groups and groups reflecting rural and remote intersectionality visible.</p>	
<p>Transformative law and systems reform:</p>	<p>Add ‘and systems’ to broaden and elevate</p>	
<p>a) Ratify or accede to, as soon as possible, all international human rights instruments and their optional protocols, in particular, CEDAW and review all reservations to those treaties with a</p>	<p>Words added aim to make the drafting of (a) more visibly connected with access to justice of women and law.</p>	

<p>view to withdrawing them or narrowing their scope <u>linking these actions to advancing human rights of women and girls and strengthening action to ensure access to justice for women and girls;</u></p>		
<p>b) Accelerate compliance with Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.1.1 as well as SDG Targets 16.3 and 16.b by strengthening legal frameworks to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination of <u>women and girls and access to justice</u>, including by eliminating and replacing discriminatory nationality laws, and addressing gaps in legislation regarding (i) gender-based violence, (ii) <u>the human rights and legal rights of women and girls in all their diversity</u>, (iii) <u>the human rights and legal rights of indigenous women and girls</u>, and (iv), <u>the human rights and legal rights of women and girls in rural and remote areas;</u></p>	<p>Words added aim to make the drafting of (b) more visibly connected with non-discrimination against women and girls and access to justice.</p> <p>The adjustment and additional words regarding addressing gaps in legislation reflect increased treatment and visibility.</p>	
<p>c) Undertake comprehensive legislative reviews of national legal frameworks to identify and repeal gender discriminatory provisions inconsistent with international legal norms and standards <u>regarding the human rights of women and girls, access to justice and effective remedies</u> ;</p>	<p>Words added aim to make the drafting of (c) more visibly connected with the human rights of women and girls, access to justice and effective remedy.</p>	
<p>d) Strengthen the capacity of relevant government entities, including legislative bodies, to systematically integrate a gender equality approach <u>which advances the human rights and</u></p>	<p>Words added aim to make the drafting more connected to the human rights and access to justice of women and girls and reflect all women and girls wherever located within jurisdictions due to rights and access to</p>	

<p><u>legal rights of women and girls, including effective access to justice for the diversity of women and girls where ever located within jurisdictions,</u> across all stages of the legislative process;</p>	<p>justice often reflecting inadequate safety nets for some geographic locations within jurisdictions.</p>	
<p>e) Institutionalize gender-impact assessments, <u>access to justice assessments and fully intersectional geographic assessments</u> and post-enactment evaluations for all new laws and regulations <u>to promote the status of women and girls and address discrimination;</u></p>	<p>Words added aim to make the drafting more connected to the human rights and access to justice of women and girls.</p>	
<p>f) Ensure that all new laws related to the achievement <u>or improvement</u> of gender equality are costed and that sufficient resources are allocated to ensure their effective implementation <u>throughout jurisdictions, including ensuring full, effective inclusion of women and girls in rural and remote areas;</u></p>	<p>Ditto</p>	
<p>g) Ensure that legislative processes are participatory and inclusive by <u>effectively</u> engaging with civil society, including <u>the diversity of feminist groups, and women's rights organizations, indigenous women's organizations and geographically diversity;</u></p>	<p>Words added emphasise effectiveness of engagement and breadth, including geographic diversity.</p>	
<p>h) Adopt laws and other time-bound targeted policies in order to achieve gender parity <u>for women and effective access to justice for women, including the diversity of women and women from multiply subordinated groups,</u> in decision-making positions at all levels of public</p>	<p>Words added increase focus of the drafting on women, diversity and access to justice</p>	

<p>administration and the judiciary, including through temporary special measures, where appropriate;</p>		
<p>i) Ensure the meaningful and balanced participation of gender, <u>diversity and geographical equity and inclusion</u> experts <u>advancing the human rights of women and girls and access to justice for women and girls</u>, in national delegations to UN intergovernmental processes, including in the negotiations for a convention on crimes against humanity;</p>	<p>Words added increase focus on women and diversity of women, including geographical location - and the objective of advancing human rights and access to justice for women and girls.</p>	
<p><u>Strategies and Coordination:</u></p>	<p>Words added reflect the contents which includes strategies per se and coordination as a strategy</p>	
<p>j) Adopt accountable, whole-of-government justice strategies that integrate and coordinate all relevant ministries and entities involved in the administration of justice for women and girls, <u>the human rights of the diversity of women and girls and access to justice for the diversity of women and girls</u>;</p>	<p>Words added increase focus on human rights and access to justice of the diversity of women and girls.</p>	
<p>k) Establish effective pathways to link the police, courts, prosecution services, legal aid, child protection services, health and social service providers so as to enable timely and beneficial responses <u>which effectively promote the human rights and access to justice of the diversity of women and girls wherever they are located including in rural and remote areas</u> ;</p>	<p>Ditto and on wherever located including in remote and rural areas</p>	

<p>l) Integrate <u>reflective</u> justice and gender indicators into economic, peace and development frameworks at the global, regional and national levels in order to promote policy coherence and accountability <u>to effectively advance the human rights of the diversity of women and girls and access to justice of the diversity of women and girls wherever they are located, including in rural and remote areas;</u></p>	<p>Ditto</p>	
<p>m) Enhance coordination with and strengthen regional and international human rights mechanisms, gender commissions and special procedure mandate holders <u>to effectively advance the human rights of the diversity of women and girls and access to justice of the diversity of women and girls wherever they are located, including in rural and remote areas;</u></p>	<p>Ditto</p>	
<p><u>Integrated and Purposeful Prevention:</u></p>	<p>Additional words to enliven</p>	
<p>n) Ensure that all justice systems are guided by the lived realities, needs and rights of the diversity of women and girls, focusing on institutions that are accessible, timely, affordable <u>where women and girls live, and are solution and justice oriented;</u></p>	<p>Words added clarify the operation, including geographic equity. migration bias, Under feminist movements and civil society section ii insert: in all their diversity</p>	
<p>o) Reaffirm Member State obligations in accordance with international law to exercise due diligence to prevent acts of violence against all women and girls, <u>and to effectively</u> investigate such acts, prosecute perpetrators, punish those</p>	<p>Word ‘effectively’ adds more rigor, as does ‘principled and responsive’ in relation to reparations</p>	

<p>responsible, and to ensure victims' access to <u>principled and responsive</u> reparations;</p>		
<p>p) Ensure the accessibility of justice mechanisms to prevent and remedy violations of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights <u>against the full diversity of women and girls wherever they are located including in rural and remote areas;</u></p>	<p>Words added make diversity visible plus geographic location</p>	
<p><u># Ensure administrative decision making relating to government functions and programs and by government authorised entities and actors which may affect the human rights or legal rights of women and girls as individuals or groups are fair, transparent and human rights compliant, with effective rights of review and remedy and access to advocacy and legal assistance, for individual, group and systemic representation.</u></p> <p>q) Ensure that administrative mechanisms and mediation services for justice delivery are gender-responsive, and human rights-compliant <u>and are locationally, geographically and fully accessible for the diversity of women and girls;</u></p>	<p>Para suggested before current Zero draft (q) to engage with administrative decision making.</p> <p>Words adjusted in (q) bring in more rigour including locationally accessible</p>	
<p>r) Reaffirm the role of national machineries for gender equality and national human rights institutions, where they exist, for addressing discrimination and preventing further violations <u>in relation to the human rights of women and</u></p>	<p>Words added relate the drafting to human rights of women and girls and access to justice of women and girls.</p>	

<u>girls and promoting access to justice by women and girls;</u>		
s) Ensure the provision of continuous professional development for justice system actors in order to close substantive knowledge gaps and mitigate gender bias, <u>and intersectional biases in relation to the diversity of women and girls, including cultural biases, racial biases, ableist biases, ageist biases, migration and refugee bias, geographic biases and including on credibility or worthiness assessments;</u>	Added words bring in more dimensions	
t) Conduct continuous training and put in place oversight systems to ensure that officers and staff in the justice sector uphold gender-equality, <u>human rights and access to justice standards in relation to the diversity of women and girls,</u> and foster a culture of accountability;	Ditto and ground to human rights and access to justice	
u) Integrate public legal education into national curricula and community learning programs to promote awareness of human rights, gender equality and non-discrimination standards <u>to promote the human rights and access to justice of the diversity of women and girls wherever located, including in rural and remote areas;</u>	Words added bring in why and give more coverage and substance.	
<u>Funding for Human Rights and Access to Justice:</u>	Additional words to enliven and be reflective	
v) Increase domestic allocations for a gender-responsive justice sector, <u>which strives to ensure the human rights of the full diversity of women and girls and women and girls access to justice</u>		

<p><u>wherever located</u>, and track funding, per SDG Indicator 5.c.1;</p>		
<p>w) Resource traditional justice mechanisms that are compliant with international human rights obligations and standards <u>promoting pluralism, responsiveness, self-determination, empowerment and localism in advancing women and girls human rights and access to justice</u>;</p>	<p>Words added give a more articulate treatment which is pointed to women and girl's human rights and access to justice</p>	
<p>x) Provide resources to institutions <u>and entities</u> that provide <u>culturally safe</u>, trauma-informed and survivor-centred justice, <u>legal aid</u>, and social services, including shelters <u>and needs</u> for victim-survivors of violence <u>accessible to women and girls wherever they are located</u>.</p>	<p>Words add more detail and coverage and highlight accessibility</p>	
<p>y) Establish <u>and maintain</u> funding mechanisms such as a dedicated reparations fund <u>for women and girls who are</u> victim-survivors of violence, including targeted support for marginalized populations <u>including populations in rural and remote areas</u>;</p>	<p>Words make the drafting referable to women and girls and include geographic access</p>	
<p>z) Ensure funding for institutional justice facilities and services for <u>indigenous women and girls, women and girls facing class biases, women and girls with disabilities, young women, older women, and the full diversity of women and girls and their legal needs</u>, such as culturally, locational accessibility and universally accessible physical infrastructure and removal of language barriers;</p>	<p>Words make the drafting more descriptive</p>	

<p>aa) Integrate dedicated funding for women’s and girls’ access to justice through gender-responsive <u>domestic and</u> foreign policy frameworks;</p>	<p>Words added to include domestic</p>	
<p>Justice mechanisms:</p>		
<p>bb) Ensure accountability of <u>perpetrators and violators</u> for the most serious crimes under international law, especially those that disproportionately affect women and girls, including through international justice mechanisms.</p>	<p>Words added refer to who is accountable</p>	
<p>cc) Ensure that transitional and international justice mechanisms are gender-responsive, <u>human rights compliant, are responsive to the diversity of women and girls and promote access to justice for women and girls</u> in their design and implementation, including through the provision of adequate resources to comprehensively address gender-based violations and crimes <u>against women and girls</u>, including sexual and reproductive violence, in a survivor-centred manner;</p>	<p>Words added give more rigor and coverage, and the addition of ‘against women and girls’ reflects the focus of CSW, CEDAW, the priority for CSW70 and the draft Agreed Conclusions</p>	
<p>dd) Undertake gender-responsive, <u>human rights compliant, culturally and locationally accessible</u> administrative reparations programmes to address the volume of need, without prejudicing avenues for judicial remedy;</p>	<p>Words added give more clarity and coverage</p>	
<p>ee) Guarantee the meaningful participation of <u>the diversity of women and girls</u>, including women’s organizations, <u>and</u> organizations of victim-survivors, <u>and organizations reflecting the</u></p>	<p>Words added reflect diversity inclusion and intersectionalities</p>	

<p><u>intersectionalities of the lived experience of women and girls</u> in all stages of justice processes, including in leadership positions;</p>		
<p>ff) Ensure that traditional justice mechanisms are gender-responsive, <u>human rights compliant, and accessible where women and girls are located</u>, in their design and implementation;</p>	<p>Words added make human rights compliance and practical accessibility</p>	
<p>Autonomous feminist movements and civil society:</p>		
<p>gg) Recognize and engage with broad-based, <u>intersectional</u> and intergenerational feminist groups, women’s rights organizations and civil society organizations <u>in all their diversity</u> as essential partners in advancing access to justice as part of a whole-of-society, <u>whole-population and whole-geographic-coverage</u> approach tackling structural barriers;</p>	<p>Added words to reflect intersectionality, diversity and whole population and whole geographic coverage for greater clarity and strategic direction and inclusion</p>	
<p>hh) Ensure an enabling environment for the work of <u>the diversity of</u> women’s rights organizations, <u>and organizations advancing particular intersectional dimensions of women’s rights</u>, including the protection of civic space, <u>civil society</u> and women human rights defenders;</p>	<p>Added words to reflect diversity, intersectionality and civil society</p>	
<p>ii) Sustain core, predictable, flexible and multi-year funding for feminist groups, women’s rights organizations and civil society organizations engaged in access to justice initiatives for women and girls <u>ensuring special reflective funding measures as required including to achieve and ensure access to justice by women</u></p>	<p>Added words to reflect increased funding for certain needs as required including access to justice wherever women and girls are located including in rural and remote areas</p>	

<p><u>and girls wherever located including in rural and remote areas;</u></p>		
<p>Legal aid and legal empowerment:</p>		
<p>jj) Ensure that effective legal aid services <u>having regard to the lived experience, needs and empowerment of the diversity of women and girls</u> are accessible for all women and girls, including the availability of specialized lawyers and staff with expertise in responding to violence against women, as well as legal aid provision for marginalized groups, such as <u>women and girls (#) in custody, detention or in prison; (#) whose human rights or legal rights to food, water, housing, fuel (energy), health, income, social security, safety, self-determination, civil and political rights and all other rights are jeopardised (#) facing disadvantage due to discriminatory laws or discriminatory application and implementation of laws (#) who face discrimination due to how they identify or are identified, including ethnicity, class, gender, culture, disability, age, sexuality, migration status geographic location, place of residence and multiple and intersecting identities.</u></p>	<p>Added words add accountability to women and girls (lived experience, needs and empowerment) and concrete / specific visibility and more clarity</p>	
<p>kk) Waive fees, <u>and ensure accessibility according to the lived experience of the diversity of women and girls, full geographic inclusion and the empowerment of women and girls, to facilitate women's women and girls effective access to the formal justice system, as well as</u></p>	<p>Adjustments to increase rigor, coverage and effectiveness of para kk</p>	

<p><u>reforming and simplifying</u> legal procedures where possible;</p>		
<p>ll) Formally recognize, within national frameworks, non-lawyer community justice workers, or paralegals, <u>caseworkers and advocated</u> and ensure that they are subject to professional <u>and other relevant</u> oversight and safeguards, <u>including cultural safety and safety for the diversity of women and girls</u>, in order to reach, assist <u>and empower</u> women and girls seeking to (#) <u>prevent, resolve or respond to justice problems, (#) use or develop the law for greater justice and equality for women and girls (#) reimagine law and justice approaches for the greater equality and empowerment of women and girls and their contributions to advance human rights generally, for the benefit of others and the common good</u>;</p>	<p>Adjustments to reflect more nuance including about the objectives ('in order to...')</p>	
<p>Technology and digital innovations:</p>		
<p>mm) Harness technology to scale-up access to justice for women and girls, <u>while ensuring responsiveness to the technology needs, preferences, human rights and empowerment of the diversity of women and girls</u> maintaining <u>and ensuring accessible and effective offline alternatives with no woman and girl excluded, left behind or placed under duress or disadvantage by systems, processes and their implementation</u>;</p>	<p>Additions to elaborate and strengthen</p>	

<p>nn) Address the <u>gender and intersectional</u> digital divides <u>adversely affecting the diversity of women and girls</u> for online justice services and information <u>and access to justice</u>, by investing in connectivity, digital literacy and access to devices <u>for all women and girls facing barriers and ensure full and effective safety-nets for effective non-digital access, equity and empowerment for women and girls whose human rights, dignity and empowerment require this including cases of inadequate connectivity and the inability of available digital options to address the actual accessibility needs of women and girls;</u></p>	<p>Additions to reinforce inclusion and safety-nets</p>	
<p>oo) Develop and enforce human-rights-based frameworks for digital justice, <u>including digital aspects of systems, processes and determinations</u>, including data protection, transparency and algorithmic accountability, <u>complaints mechanisms, review and appeal rights, and access to effective, timely and responsive legal assistance, advocacy and access to justice;</u></p>	<p>Ditto</p>	
<p>pp) Encourage collaboration between Governments, technology providers and <u>the diversity of civil society reflecting the lived, intersectional experiences and diversity of women and children</u>, to promote responsible innovation in the justice field and intentional design that enhances fairness and inclusion and</p>	<p>Ditto</p>	

that includes diverse teams to develop justice-related artificial intelligence tools, <u>effective protections and all necessary safety-nets</u> ;		
Research, data and evidence:		
qq) Invest in national statistical systems and justice-sector data collection, ensuring that data are gender and <u>age</u> disaggregated as well as by other characteristics, <u>including geographic location such as urban, rural and remote</u> , relevant in national contexts for comprehensive metrics;	Words added - ‘age’ reflects the focus of the draft Agreed Conclusions on women and girls and geography reflects this being a major gap in statistical collection, and hence monitoring, accountability and planning.	
rr) Establish partnerships among governments, national human rights institutions, where they exist, academia and civil society <u>reflecting the full diversity of the lived experience of women and girls</u> , to identify gaps and challenges and generate research for gender-responsive justice systems <u>which advance the human rights of women and girls</u> , by <i>inter-alia</i> to co-creating research agendas, <u>co-leadership and dissemination of research</u> ;	Adjustments to reflect diversity, human rights and co-leadership.	
ss) Institutionalize evidence use in policy formulation and invest in data systems as a bulwark against misinformation and to track rights protection, including on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights;		
tt) Expand global and regional repositories of gender-justice data, including <u># access to justice, legal empowerment and equality indicators for women and girls, # overcoming geographic</u>	Added words for more specifics, strategies and accountabilities.	

<p><u>disparities within Member States, regionally and globally, # relationships between access to justice and the wellbeing and inclusion of women and girls, including poverty reduction, health # focus on gendered and intersectional violence against women and girls including femicide, accessible to duty bearers, policymakers, researchers, and advocates and rights-holders for comparative analysis and accountability.</u></p>		
<p>6. The Commission reaffirms its primary role in the follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and underscores the need to integrate gender equality, <u>human rights</u> and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout national, regional, and global reviews of the 2030 Agenda, and ensuring strong synergies between both frameworks.</p>	<p>Add heading before para 6 ‘Call to the United Nations and the international community</p> <p>Added words to make human rights visible</p>	
<p>7. The Commission calls upon <u># the General Assembly and Member States to establish an International Decade for Access to Justice and Legal Empowerment of All Women and Girls including in Rural and Remote areas, reflecting global challenges and opportunities for progress, including progress through collaborative efforts across regions and by every Member State.</u> <u># United Nations system entities, within their respective mandates, to support Member States, upon request, in ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including women and girls in remote and rural areas and including through</u></p>	<p>Added for increased strategic inclusions - including calling for an International Decade and specifically referring to rural and remote areas</p>	

<p>the promotion of inclusive and equitable legal systems, the elimination of discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and the addressing of structural barriers, and # further calls upon UN Women to continue to play a central role, and <u>increase and expand momentum</u>, in this effort by promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls through support to Governments and national gender equality mechanisms, coordination of the United Nations system, and mobilization of relevant stakeholders, including civil society, legal aid providers, public administration, and the judiciary 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.</p>		
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