

**Commission on the Status of Women
Seventieth session
9-19 March 2026**

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

1. (1)

The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents and **the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth, twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women** and commits to further strengthening their **full, effective and accelerated** implementation.

2. (2)

The Commission reiterates that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 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 other relevant conventions and treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families** provide an 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.

3. (3)

The Commission reaffirms **that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as** the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences, **including the International Conference on Population and Development and its Programme of Action, and the outcome documents of their reviews**, will make a crucial contribution to a gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, **including the pledge to leave no-one behind.**

4. (3.3. + 3.1. + 3.8.)

The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, are crucial for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in all their diversity in society, and should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aiming at 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.

5.split.1 (4)

The Commission expresses deep concern at **structural discrimination faced by women and girls globally which acts as a barrier to justice, including discriminatory laws and practices, gender stereotypes, negative social norms, stigma, power imbalances, and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination**, result in persistent disadvantage in accessing effective remedies, protection and full, equal and meaningful participation in public and political life and the prevalence of all forms of violence against all women and girls, rooted in historical and structural inequalities and unequal power relations between women and men, which constitutes a serious human rights violation and a

major impediment to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and to their effective access to justice and to the accountability for the violations and abuses of their rights.

5.split.2 (4)

The Commission also notes with concern the persistence of access to justice challenges where justice systems do not fully reflect or respond to the lived realities and needs of all women and girls, including implementation gaps affecting the realization of rights in law and in practice, encompassing socio-economic conditions, such as multidimensional and intergenerational poverty, as well as the feminization of poverty, lack of domestic resources and international financing, informality of employment, unequal access to education, rapid urbanization, in addition to adverse impacts of climate change, water scarcity, conflict and humanitarian pressures.

The Commission acknowledges that ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls across the life course is fundamental for the achievement of gender equality, their empowerment and the full and equal enjoyment of all **their** human rights and fundamental freedoms.

6. (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 **and** faith-based organizations, 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, **while recognizing the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities, migrant women and girls, women and girls of African Descent, Indigenous women and girls, women and girls in rural, remote and maritime areas, women and girls living in marginalized communities and in situations of vulnerability, adolescent girls, older women, women in detention and in imprisonment and women and girls belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.**

Transformative law reform:

a. (a)

Consider ratifying or acceding to, as soon as possible, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and all other relevant international human rights instruments and their optional protocols, ensure their full and effective implementation and review all reservations to those treaties with a view to withdrawing them or narrowing their scope;

b. (a.1.)

Take all measures necessary to implement commitments and obligations to respect, protect and promote women's and girls' rights and ensure that every woman and girl, irrespective of their status or situation, can seek and obtain, where applicable, an effective remedy from competent, independent and impartial justice institutions when their rights are violated without discrimination of any kind;

c. (b)

Promote, enforce and monitor gender equality and non-discrimination legal frameworks policies and practices in all relevant fields, including in traditional justice systems, among others, by addressing direct and indirect discrimination, as well as gaps in legislation, policies and practices, while promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice;

d.(c)

Undertake comprehensive legislative reviews **and evaluation** of national legal frameworks to identify and repeal **provisions that discriminate against women and girls and** inconsistent with international human rights law, including provisions that allow child, early and forced marriage and unions or in areas of family law, property rights, other civil law branches such as entering into a contract and accessing financial credit, criminal laws and policies, including on drug control that have led to the **disproportionate criminalization and incarceration of women;**

e.) merged with and f)

Strengthen the **institutional and technical** capacity of relevant government entities, including legislative bodies, to systematically **mainstream** a gender **perspective** throughout the **planning, drafting, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of laws, regulations, and policies**, including by institutionalizing gender **equality** impact assessments and post-enactment **reviews** for new **and existing** legislation;

h. (4.1 + 4.8 + i.1. + 4.13 + k.pre.1)

Take appropriate measures to create a safe, enabling and violence-free environment for all women and girls and adopt, fund and implement national action plans towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, in public and private spheres, online and offline, including sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence, rape, gender-related killings or femicide, trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation and abuse, harmful practices, sexual harassment and violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology, while establishing integrated information systems and interinstitutional coordination mechanisms to prevent, eliminate and respond to violence against women and girls, while improving the recognition, documentation and response to under-identified and emerging forms of gender-based violence;

i. (g)

Ensure that legislative processes **allow for meaningful, safe, and inclusive participation by** civil society, including feminist groups, women's **and girls' rights and youth-led** organizations, **women peacebuilders and women mediators, trade unions, and other relevant stakeholders;**

j. (h)

Adopt, **implement and monitor** laws and other time-bound targeted policies and, where appropriate, temporary special measures, **such as targets and quotas** in order to **eliminate all barriers that prevent or restrict the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women aiming at achieving gender balance** at all levels of public governance and justice-related functions;

k. (h.2. + h.1.+ h.3. + s.1. + n. + ll.2. +ll.5.)

Enact, strengthen and enforce laws and regulatory frameworks that fully respect, protect and fulfil women's right to work and rights at work, taking into account obligations under relevant International Labour Organization conventions, by enhancing women's full and equal access to the labour market and decent work, eliminating discrimination, including based on maternity, as well as violence and harassment in the world of work, promoting equal pay for work of equal value, enforcing labour rights, including the right to organize and bargain collectively, providing social protection, supporting the transition from informal to formal work, recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, and providing effective means of redress and access to justice in cases of non-compliance and accountability for violations and abuses of human rights in the world of work;

l. (i)

Take effective measures for the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women and gender equality experts in national delegations to UN intergovernmental processes, including in **normative negotiations, as well as across peace, security and transitional justice processes;**

Coordination:

m. (j)

Adopt **and implement** accountable, whole-of-government justice strategies, **in partnership with women's and girls' organizations, affected communities and individuals**, to integrate and coordinate all ministries and entities, **including national machineries for gender equality**, involved in **the policy development, administration and delivery of justice and protection services for all women and girls, including during emergencies, disasters, humanitarian settings and other crisis situations;**

n. (k)

Establish **safe, effective, accessible, affordable and victim and survivor-centered** pathways and referral mechanisms that link **law enforcement, courts, prosecution services, legal aid, corrections, probation, labour inspection, child protection, health and social services through coordinated and institutionalized approaches** to ensure timely, effective and beneficial responses **and safeguards;**

o. (l)

Encourage the integration of issues and indicators related to access to justice for all women and girls into economic, **social, labour, climate, development and peace and security** frameworks, **including in conflict and post-conflict contexts**, at the global, regional and national levels in order to promote policy coherence and accountability;

p. (m)

Enhance coordination with and strengthen **synergies among the Commission on the Status of Women, national, regional and international gender equality and human rights mechanisms, as appropriate, to support implementation and accountability of commitments on access to justice for all women and girls;**

Prevention:

q. (n)

Ensure that all justice systems **respond to** the lived realities, needs, **interests** and rights of women and girls **in all their diversity**, focusing on institutions that are accessible, timely, affordable and solution oriented;

r. (o)

Exercise due diligence to prevent, **investigate, prosecute, and punish all forms of violence** against women and girls, **in public and private spheres, online and offline, by holding perpetrators accountable and ending impunity**, and ensuring victims' and survivors' **timely and effective access to justice and to just and effective remedies, reparations, inter alia, by establishing and strengthening reporting and justice mechanisms for cases of violence, while ensuring that women and girls are informed of their rights in seeking redress through such mechanisms;**

s. (ff.1)

Address the specific needs and circumstances of all women, adolescents and girls subject to arrest, detention, prosecution, trial and sentencing, or serving as witnesses, taking into account the strong link between discriminatory laws, violence against women and girls and increased risk of incarceration, and take appropriate measures to ensure accountability for perpetrators of abuse of women and girls in detention or in prison settings;

t. (u.5 + x.1 + bb.2 + bb4 + ff.2)

Prevent, address and eliminate trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation and adopt legislative and other measures to deter, investigate and hold accountable those who exploit, facilitate or profit from trafficking of women and girls, while applying the non-punishment principle for victims and survivors of trafficking, and enhance international and regional and cross-border cooperation and information-sharing in this regard;

u. (p)

Ensure the **affordability, inclusivity and accessibility** of justice mechanisms to prevent and remedy violations of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, **in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;**

v. (q)

Ensure that **all administrative and justice mechanisms and dispute resolution services** for justice delivery are **independent, accountable, accessible, gender-responsive, age- and disability inclusive, people-centered** and human rights-compliant, **including by removing financial barriers, eliminating all laws and policies that discriminate against women and girls and ensuring that they are made aware of their rights and of the available legal remedies within such mechanisms and services;**

w. (r)

Strengthen the role and capacities of national machineries for gender equality **and the empowerment of women and girls** and national human rights institutions, where they exist, **to identify and address all forms of discrimination against women and girls, coordinate across different sectors and levels of government authorities, and support efforts to prevent and eliminate further violations;**

x. (s + t)

Ensure the provision of continuous **capacity-building for all justice system professionals** in order to close substantive knowledge gaps and mitigate, **address and eliminate racial gender bias, stereotypes, and negative social norms**, including on credibility assessments **and put in place oversight systems to ensure that those professionals uphold gender equality standards and are held accountable when violations occur;**

y. merged with ii)

Ensure and strengthen access to justice by investing in quality, equitable, affordable, accessible and inclusive education, lifelong learning, upskilling, and vocational training and studies for women and girls, and by integrating public legal education and literacy into national curricula and community learning programs for all and developing public information campaigns, to promote awareness and knowledge of gender equality and human rights;

z. (c3 + u.6. + u.4. + u.3. + n.pre.4 + u.3 + u.6)

Develop national strategies that combine legal reform and public education campaigns especially focused on men and boys both as strategic partners and allies and agents and beneficiaries of change and encourage their full participation and systematic engagement in ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls and achieve gender equality and their empowerment;

aa. (n.1.)

Strengthen women's access to justice and legal protection by eliminating discrimination against women and girls in all matters relating to marriage and family relations, while recognizing that women continue to make a significant contribution to the welfare of the family and the development of society, which remains insufficiently recognized in its full importance;

Funding:

bb. (v) merged with g.(f)

Ensure that sufficient resources are allocated **for a gender-responsive justice sector and the implementation of all laws related to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, inter alia, through gender-responsive budgeting, partnerships and international cooperation including official development assistance, and debt sustainability, particularly for developing countries, including small island developing states;**

dd. (x)

Provide **adequate and sustainable** resources to institutions **and organizations** that provide trauma-informed and **women and girls' victim and survivor-centred services, including access to justice, psychological counselling, education, legal aid support, health care-services, including sexual and reproductive health services, economic empowerment initiatives and social services, including shelters and other support centers that are safe, hygienic, secure, age and disability-inclusive, socially and culturally appropriate, respectful of privacy and dignity, and maintained during emergencies;**

ee. (y)

Establish **adequate and sustainable** funding mechanisms such as a dedicated reparations fund for victims **and survivors of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and targeted support for women and girls in vulnerable situations;**

ff. (z)

Ensure **adequate and sustainable** funding for **inclusive and accessible** justice facilities and services for **all** women and girls **through** universally accessible physical **and digital** infrastructure, **barrier-free information and communication services, reasonable accommodations and trained personnel to guarantee meaningful and effective access to justice, including for women and girls with disabilities;**

gg. (aa)

Integrate dedicated funding **within international development assistance to international, regional and domestic justice mechanisms that strengthen** women's and girls' access to justice;

hh. (aa.1. + aa.3.)

Refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations in order to prevent, minimize and redress their negative impact on access to justice as a means of protecting all other human rights affected by those measures;

Justice mechanisms:

jj. (aa.2)

Establish and expand mobile, community-based and decentralized justice and support services, as well as good practices and innovations such as specialised courts on violence against women and girls, mobile and e-courts, one-stop-centers for all women and girls, including in rural, remote, maritime and crisis-affected areas, to reduce geographic barriers that disproportionately affect women and girls;

kk. (bb)

Ensure accountability for **all violations of and crimes under international law that disproportionately affect women and girls, including by strengthening, as appropriate, domestic, regional and international justice mechanisms;**

ll. (o.1 + x.2 + cc.4)

Ensure women's and girls' full and equal access to justice and reparations in humanitarian, conflict and post-conflict settings, including by strengthening legislation and taking proactive steps to prevent, investigate and prosecute conflict-related sexual violence and other forms of violence against women and girls, with particular attention to women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discriminations with a view to deterring future violations;

mm.(cc)

Ensure that transitional and international justice mechanisms are gender-responsive in their design and implementation, **and** the provision of adequate resources to comprehensively address **all forms of**

violence against women and girls, including reproductive violence in a victim and survivor-centred and trauma-informed manner and to eliminate impunity and ensure non-recurrence;

nn. (dd)

Undertake **and implement inclusive** administrative reparations programmes to address the volume of need, without prejudicing avenues for judicial remedy, **while ensuring equal access for all women and girls, including those in marginalized communities and vulnerable situations;**

oo. (ee)

Strongly encourages the **full, equal and** meaningful participation of women, including victims **and** survivors and women's organizations in all stages of justice processes, **as well as** in leadership **and decision-making** positions **in the justice system;**

pp. (ff)

Ensure **that the human rights of women and girls, who are engaged with** traditional justice mechanisms, **are respected and that their participation in such systems does not undermine their access to formal justice systems;**

Autonomous feminist movements and civil society:

qq. (gg)

Engage with broad-based and intergenerational feminist groups, women's **and girls'** organizations, and civil society organizations as essential partners in advancing access to justice as part of a whole-of-society approach tackling **discrimination, harmful norms and other** structural barriers, **including those rooted in patriarchal norms, racism, colonial legacies and other forms of systemic discrimination;**

rr. (hh)

Promote an enabling **and safe** environment, **online and offline, for the civil society actors working on gender equality, rights and the empowerment of women and girls, including women human rights defenders,** by protecting civic space, **preventing and addressing all forms of intimidation, harassment, reprisals, including the misuse of laws, violence and discrimination, and ensuring their access to justice and protection from these violations;**

ss. (ii)

Sustain access, as appropriate, to core, predictable, flexible and multi-year funding for feminist groups, women's rights organizations, **youth-led organizations** and civil society organizations engaged in access to justice initiatives for **all** women and girls;

Legal aid and legal empowerment:

tt. (jj) merged with uu (jj.3)

Ensure **timely, accessible,** effective, **adequate, affordable or free** legal aid services for all women and girls, including **through bar associations, law schools, public interest law firms, and civil society organizations, as well as** the availability of specialized lawyers and **trained personnel** with expertise in responding to **all forms of** violence against women **and girls, so that women and girls, including low-income women and women in detention in accordance with the United Nations Bangkok Rules, can make informed decisions regarding legal proceedings;**

vv. (kk)

Remove barriers to facilitate women's **and girls'** access to the justice system, **including by waiving fees, providing affordable services to increase legal literacy, and simplifying administrative and legal procedures where possible, ensure effective legal assistance to enable informed decision-making regarding proceedings, and prevent and address discrimination and reprisals;**

ww. (ll)

Consider formally recognizing, within national **legal** frameworks, non-lawyer community justice

workers or paralegals, and ensure that they are subject to professional oversight and safeguards, in order to reach **all** women and girls seeking to resolve justice problems, **including community-based legal empowerment approaches that strengthen women’s and girls’ knowledge of their rights and available remedies, and support access to formal justice systems;**

xx. (ll.4 + 4.14 + 4.15 + n.2 + 4.7 + 4.9 + 4.21 + 4.22 + n.4)

Ensure the full and equal access of women and girls to legal remedies, dispute resolution and accountability mechanisms for climate- and environment-related harms by strengthening gender-sensitive environmental governance and decision-making processes, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices, and other environment-related structural barriers that inhibit women’s and girls’ access to justice, including in developing countries and small island developing States;

Technology and digital innovations:

yy. (mm) merged with zz (nn)

Harness the potential of technology and promote technological cooperation to close digital divides, including the gender digital divide, within and between countries, to ensure equal access to justice for all women and girls, including online justice services and information, while maintaining offline alternatives as well as expanding digital learning, literacy and capacity-building opportunities, and addressing the risks and challenges emerging from the use of technologies especially in rural, remote and maritime areas;

aaa. (oo)

Develop and enforce human-rights- and people-centered frameworks, laws and regulations for digitally enabled justice platforms, including data protection, transparency and algorithmic accountability with appropriate safeguards to prevent discrimination and inequality, and ensure that digital systems do not obstruct, undermine or discriminate against women’s and girls’ equal access to justice;

bbb. (oo.1 + pp.3)

Develop measures, safeguards and oversight to identify, address and eliminate gender-based violence that occurs through or is amplified by the use of technology and all forms of discrimination against all women and girls, including in the design, development and deployment of technology, by combating the misuse of digital tools, such as social media and online platforms, new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, and predictive algorithm, by ensuring due diligence in preventing and mitigating adverse impacts, guaranteeing access to justice, accountability for human rights violations, and effective remedies, and by making sure that new technological developments do not perpetuate existing patterns of inequality and discrimination;

ccc. (pp)

Encourage collaboration among justice system professionals, technology providers, the private sector and civil society to promote responsible innovation and evidence-based design that enhances gender equality, fairness, inclusion and user safety including through diverse teams developing justice-related artificial intelligence tools and ensure that there are robust data protection laws aligned with the right to privacy when digital technologies and artificial intelligence are employed in the administration of justice, in compliance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;

Research, data and evidence:

ddd. (qq)

Invest in national statistical systems and systematic justice-sector data collection and gender analysis, ensuring that data are disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, marital status, migration status, disability, geographical location, educational level as well as by other characteristics relevant in national contexts for comprehensive metrics;

eee. (rr)

Establish partnerships to identify gaps and challenges and generate research for gender **and age-sensitive** justice systems *inter alia* to co-create **and disseminate with relevant stakeholders inclusive** research agendas **on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;**

fff. (ss)

Develop evidence-based, data-driven policy formulation and invest in data systems **to combat** misinformation, **disinformation, hate speech and information manipulation** and to **monitor progress on achieving justice for all women and girls;**

ggg. (tt)

Consider to create and, where they already exist, expand global and regional repositories of gender **specific** justice data **with a focus on all forms of violence against women and girls,** including on femicide, **conflict-related sexual violence and exploitation, with indicators aligned to international law** , accessible to policymakers, researchers and advocates **to inform prevention and protection** for comparative analysis and accountability;

7. (7.1.)

The Commission emphasizes that international cooperation, including official development assistance, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, debt sustainability, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and capacity-building, remains essential to enable developing countries to strengthen access to justice for all women and girls, ensure effective implementation of laws and fulfill commitments under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda.

8.(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 and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout national, regional, and global reviews of the 2030 Agenda, **through a life course, age-responsive and disability inclusive approach** and ensure strong synergies between both frameworks.

9. (7)

The Commission calls upon United Nations system entities, within their respective mandates, to support Member States, upon **their** request, in ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including through the promotion of inclusive and equitable legal systems, the elimination of discriminatory laws, **norms, regulations, policies, and practices,** and the addressing **and eliminating of systematic and** structural barriers, and further calls upon UN Women to continue to **fulfill its mandate in** promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls **and in supporting** Governments and national gender equality mechanisms **upon their request,** coordinating the United Nations system, and mobilizing 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.