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Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Statement submitted by UN Women National Committee Germany, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

UN Women National Committee Germany welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the 71st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW71).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015 by all UN Member States as a shared commitment to leave no one behind and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Yet progress remains far too slow while women's rights are facing growing political, economic and social backlash in many parts of the world. According to the latest UN Gender Snapshot 2026 report, gender equality will take another 171 years if we keep moving at the current pace. 54 countries have seen women's representation in parliament decline since 2020. Nearly 1 in 3 women (around 840 million globally) have experienced intimate-partner or sexual violence in their lifetime, a level that has barely changed since 2000. In 2025, more than twice as many cases of conflict-related sexual violence were confirmed as in 2024. Funding for women's rights organizations has dropped by 28 percent.

At present the world is shaken by multiple and growing crisis and conflicts. Implementing the 2030 Agenda, including gender equality, is not a matter of capacity and ability, but of political will. The establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1946 just one year after the end of the Second World War was based on the lessons learnt and conviction that women's rights and gender equality are essential for a future-proof, sustainable and just world.

Considering growing backlashes, conflicts, and crises, decisionmakers must use the time remaining until 2030 with determination and clarity to not only protect gender equality and the rights of all women and girls in all their diversity but stand up and boldly defend and advance them. It is an obligation for UN member states to implement policy measures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to provide adequate funding. Considering the growing global challenges, these measures must include and serve those who suffer the most: women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination, including those in conflict zones and humanitarian crises, migrant women, racialized women and girls, women with disabilities, older women, and LGBTQIA+ persons.

While the CSW71 should highlight best practices to build on it also needs to emphasize the goals and targets we have so far grossly failed to achieve and strongly call for corresponding measures and funding to live up to them. CSW71 must also contribute to shaping an ambitious, rights-based and gender-transformative post-2030 framework.

2030 should not be a deadline for sustainability and gender equality. It must be a milestone on the path towards a peaceful, just and equal future. 2030 must be the starting point for a renewed global commitment to women's rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Gender equality must remain at the core of a post-2030 framework, not as an isolated policy objective, but as a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable development, peace, human rights and resilient societies. The SDG successor framework must build on, strengthen and implement existing commitments under CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the SDGs, as well as under UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and successor Resolutions. Deliberations must not allow political resistance or the current global backlash against women's rights to weaken these commitments. CSW71 must therefore ensure that existing commitments, norms, agreed language, and mandates are not re-opened for discussion.

The post-2030 agenda must be global in its ownership and inclusive in its design. Women and girls across the world experience inequality differently, shaped by history, economic structures, conflict, climate change, colonial legacies, cultural and social contexts, and intersecting forms of discrimination and legal provisions. A truly universal agenda must therefore reflect diverse perspectives and knowledge, with particular attention being paid to women and girls from the Global South, Indigenous communities and marginalized groups. Their meaningful participation must be secured and not be symbolic, but integral to defining priorities, indicators and solutions.

The post-2030 agenda must uphold women's rights as universal human rights. Cultural diversity must never be used to justify violations of women's and girls' human rights or question gender equality.

The post-2030 framework must also be informed and learn from the implementation gaps of the current Agenda 2030. Political commitments must be accompanied and supported by adequate resources, measurable targets, as well as full and transparent accountability. Gender-transformative budgeting, gender-disaggregated data, effective monitoring mechanisms and predictable, long-term financing for gender equality are essential. Women's rights organizations and feminist civil society must be recognized as indispensable actors and adequately and sustainably funded. Their expertise and leadership are particularly vital at a time when shrinking civic space and declining resources threaten decades of progress.

Gender equality must be treated as essential and non-negotiable. It must be integrated across the future global agenda: into climate action and climate finance, economic policy and the care economy, digital transformation and artificial intelligence, health, education, peace and security, humanitarian action, and the prevention of gender-based violence. Crises and conflicts must not sideline or hinder efforts to promote, secure and advance gender equality; quite the contrary: Gender equality related aspects must inform and shape responses to global crises. Women and girls are not only disproportionately affected by crises, but they are also agents of change, leaders and essential actors in building resilient and sustainable societies. There can be no sustainable development nor future without the full and equal participation, rights and empowerment of women and girls.

UN Women National Committee Germany calls on UN Member States to promote, sufficiently fund and prioritize gender equality in the next years and beyond 2030. They must stand fast in ensuring that gender equality remains a non-negotiable cornerstone of our joint vision for and commitments now and in the post-2030 agenda—shaped by diverse voices, grounded in universal human rights, adequately financed and backed by meaningful and full accountability.