



# The UN & You

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## CSW66: A Guide for Your Participation

The [66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) will be held in a hybrid format from March 14–25, 2022. This format provides the global community an opportunity to participate in the meetings that happen inside the UN, all the side events and parallel events. Side events and parallel events are best practices that both Member States and NGOs host during the commission for all participants learn and replicate. Do take time to engage and learn how you and your networks can join the movement to put gender equality at the center of solutions for Climate Change and COVID-19 recovery.

The [Commission on the Status of Women](#) was established in 1946 as the principal intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. In 1996, its mandate was expanded to review the progress and problems in the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action](#) and for mainstreaming gender perspective in UN activities. Priority themes for the annual Commission are based on the Beijing Declaration and

its linkages to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

The theme for CSW66 is: “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs.”



Justice  
Coalition of  
Religious

For your participation in CSW66, the **Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR)** has prepared a guide which can be accessed in the link below. You will find web sites and links to registration for side/parallel events as well as tips for social media. [View/download JCoR Guide to CSW66](#) (PDF)

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Excerpts/highlights from [CSW66 Agreed Conclusions \(zero draft\)](#):

“The Commission recognizes that gender inequality coupled with climate and environmental crises and disasters are the greatest sustainable development challenges of our time, affecting the entire planet, all

peoples, with disproportionate impacts on women and girls, especially those in vulnerable and marginalized situations and conflict settings.”

Some of the concerns are: “that climate, environmental crises and disasters threaten the full realization of human rights, especially the rights to life and dignity, development, a life free from violence and discrimination, an adequate standard of living, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, water and sanitation, a healthy environment and others, with acute impacts on women and girls, especially in rural, indigenous and migrant contexts. The economic and social fallout of the coronavirus pandemic has compounded the impacts of the climate and environment crises and pushed people further behind and into extreme poverty and women and girls disproportionately so.”

CSW66 is emphasizing the need for “legal and policy frameworks on climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction should provide a cohesive basis for gender-responsive governance that fulfills the rights and needs of women and girls. Their capacity to build a resilient future depends on removing structural barriers and gender gaps and strengthening women’s and especially indigenous women’s access to and control over land and natural resources; their participation and leadership for making climate, environmental and disaster risk action more effective.”

Although, women and girls are taking climate and environmental action at all levels and making significant contributions, their participation and leadership fall short of influencing decisions and policies; for they as well as civil society face many barriers to participation and leadership because of the shrinking democratic space and diminishing funding.

Here are some of the actions that CSW66 is urging governments at all levels and all stakeholders to take:

## **“Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs.”**

### *CSW66 theme*

- Fulfill existing commitments and obligations under the Rio conventions and the Sendai Framework (Disaster Risk Reduction) related to climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction in a holistic and integrated manner;
- Promote and protect the right of women and girls

to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and adopt policies for the enjoyment of this right;

- Recognize the impacts of climate and environmental crises and disasters on women and girls in conflict and crisis affected settings and integrate genders perspectives into climate and security mechanisms and programing;
- Ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women at all levels of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction governance...
- Leverage the participation and influence of women in managing the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources...
- Increase investment in gender-responsive climate change and in environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs...
- Promote lifelong learning, training and education, including in science and technology, engineering and mathematics for women and girls...
- Prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in contexts of climate and environmental crises and disaster...
- Promote and protect the rights of women environmental and human rights defenders and ensure that violations and abuses against them are investigated and that those responsible are held accountable...
- Invest in gender responsive public services, universal social protection, health and care systems and sustainable transport and infrastructure to reduce unpaid care and domestic work of women and girls, increase paid decent work for women...
- Promote the equal access of women to decent work in green and blue economic sectors, such as sustainable energy, fisheries, forestry and agro-ecology...

[View/download the CSW zero draft resolution](#) (PDF)