

Written Statement by the Swedish Women's Lobby for the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

All areas of life, every inch of the world and every woman, girl, man and boy will be affected and are already affected by climate change. Girls and women are standing on the frontline of the impact of climate change, hence they are to a greater extent leading the ecological and sustainability movement. As in other areas of society the patriarchal system favors men and male behavior and at the expense of women's lives, rights, and bodies. This is no exception.

Women bear a larger burden of the effect of pandemics, spread of diseases, armed conflict and natural disasters caused by or related to climate change. Natural disasters have affected women's economic independence to a larger extent as women in general are poorer. Women and children bear much of the brunt, being 14 times more likely than men to die during a disaster. Women are far more vulnerable as climate refugees and are more likely to be sexually exploited in refugee camps and commodified in trafficking. Women's role in the reproduction puts women in a vulnerable in post natural disaster situations, migration and spread of devices.

Women face social, economic, and political barriers that limits their coping capacity. Women and men in rural areas in developing countries are especially vulnerable when they are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood. Those charged with the responsibility to secure water, food and fuel for cooking and heating face the greatest challenges. Secondly, when coupled with unequal access to resources and to decision-making processes, limited mobility places women in rural areas in a position where they are disproportionately affected by climate change.

Women are systematically underrepresented in decision making positions in the world. Only 15% of all ministers responsible for climate issues are women even though women and girls are actors of change to a larger extent. Studies show that women tend to take climate change more seriously than men while for example, men's spending on goods causes 16% more climate-heating emissions than women's on the same spending amount. Research in sex and climate change is also underdeveloped and needs strengthening. The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) states that "there is a lack of awareness of [...] the gender aspects of mechanisms to mitigate climate change" as well as "a lack of research to inform debates on these issues" (EIGE, 2012).

Despite the subordinate conditions and the harm that women and girls are exposed to, in relation to and due to climate change, women and girls are to a larger extent agent of change. Women's footprint, care and activism has shown that there is a way forward.

The global industrial sector stands for one third of the emissions, 15% of the emission comes from the transportation systems and 80% of the energy we use are non-renewal. A global stagnated economical system that amplifies the climate change are led by and basted on a male norm. A new system needs to be set in place. With a new norm that is built by both women and men and stands on the grounds of human rights, equality between the sexes and designed upon the idea of climate equity. UN members should see the opportunity to close the climate foot-print-gap collaterally with closing the economic gap between women and men by strengthening women's economic, social, and power situation and enforce a systemic change. In the last couple of years, shadowed by the pandemic, we have seen a substantial propensity towards change in many societies. We can use that human propensity and turn it to power a systemic change of sustainable development, equality between the sexes, human rights, and climate equity.

We urge the UN member states to take strong, systemic measures towards a societal system where gender equality, human rights, sustainability and climate equity is the core. We demand measurable objectives in all policy areas for all states to be held accountable. Already in 1995, when signing the

BPfA, most countries undertook three strategic objectives on the theme, none of them yet achieved. They are now more important than ever and need to be prioritized:

- + *Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels*
- + *Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development.*
- + *Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women*

More specifically, we urge the UN member states to:

- + Reform and take measures to achieve sustainable development and climate equity which shall be gender mainstreamed and the perceived outcome of any measures taken should contribute to gender equality
- + Ensure sex disaggregated data collection in relation to political reforms and research in relation to climate change. Include age, disability, economic resilience, and ethnicity when necessary
- + Take all necessary actions needed to ensure women's meaningful and equal participation in the design and implementation of migration and disaster risk reduction plans and in leading positions of climate negotiations
- + Overlook and adapt taxation systems and guarantee a redistribution of capital income into green investments and to close the gaps between women and men
- + Implement and reinforce gender budgeting in all areas of society with a clear objective to achieve social, financial, and ecological sustainability.
- + Economically strengthen the women's movement to work with advocacy work for sustainable and ecological development
- + In collaboration with UN agencies Set up a global green sustainability and gender equality fund for research
- + All temporary camps, housing or living solutions post disaster, conflict or pandemics should have safe and separatist spaces for women and girls, reproductive health care and sex-separated and adequate sanitary solutions
- + Implement or enforce social security systems that provides basic needs for women and girls and closes gender gaps, with emphasis on strengthening the situation for women of ethnic minorities, women with disabilities, undocumented migrant women and women in prostitution and victims of harmful practices
- + Undertake effective measures, such as **sex-separatist areas in post-disaster-camps, criminalize sex purchase, set up funds for women and children affected by climate change disasters etc.** to end sexual and sex-based violence and sexual exploitation of women and girls in the context of climate change
- + Ensure that climate funds benefit the most affected countries and people and systematically integrate women's human rights and gender equality into their governance structures, project approval, implementation processes, and public participation mechanisms.

- + Take measures under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to, inter alia: Ensure gender-responsive mitigation and adaptation; Integrate gender equality into nationally determined contributions; Ensure gender balance in the composition of constituted bodies and national delegations; Support capacity-building for women of diverse backgrounds to engage in climate decision-making. Empower women as economic and climate actors, both as workers and employers, to help shape the transition to a low-carbon economy through, promotion of equal rights and opportunities for women in agriculture; strengthening women's land rights; ensuring women's access to finance and technology; improving working conditions.