

**REPORT OF THE 62ND SESSION OF
THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS
OF WOMEN (CSW62)**

NEW YORK

12TH - 23RD MARCH, 2018

Preamble



The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is held annually at the UN Headquarters in New York. The CSW is the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. Representatives of UN member states meet to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In 2018, the 62nd Session of the CSW took place from 12th to 23rd March, 2018 in New York under the priority theme: *‘Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls’* and the review theme: *‘Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women’* of the 47th Session of the CSW (CSW47). The main outcome of the CSW is the agreed conclusions which were adopted by member states on Friday, 23rd March, 2018.

The Kenyan delegation was diverse representing different arms of government, at the at the National and County Government, constitutional commissions, private sector, grassroot women and civil society. This report gives an account of proceedings of the CSW side events, High level Ministerial meetings and interactive dialogues, bilateral engagements and other sessions in which the Kenyan delegates participated. The strategic outcome of Kenya’s participation is the joint Communiqué organized around priority areas identified on: Women’s participation in leadership and decision making; Economic empowerment and financial inclusion; Gender responsive budgeting; Gender Based Violence including political violence and harmful practices; Peace and Security; as well as Gender Data Gaps and Statistics.

Within this framework, some of the salient issues, best practices, lessons learnt and follow up actions are captured in the report and the responsibilities of different actors towards the implementation of the follow up actions are outlined.

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ACRONYMS

| | |
|--------|--|
| CEC | County Executive Committee |
| CHOGM | Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting |
| CPP | Country Position Paper |
| CSOs | Civil Society Organizations |
| CSW | Commission on the Status of Women |
| GBV | Gender Based Violence |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agriculture Development |
| MPSYGA | Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs |
| PWDs | Persons with Disabilities |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Fund |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| WAMM | Women Affairs Ministerial Meeting |
| WEF | Women Enterprise Fund |
| YEDF | Youth Enterprise Development Fund |

REPORT OF THE 62ND SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW62)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW is instrumental for promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. During the CSW, emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women are discussed. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic and social fields. This year the United Nations held its 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62), at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 – 23 March, 2018.

The 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality focused on the theme: '***Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls***' and the review theme: '***Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women***' of the 47th Session of the CSW (CSW47).

The Commission, being the single largest forum for UN Member States, civil society organizations and other international actors, focused on building consensus and commitment on policy actions on gender equality and empowerment of women. This year's Commission gathering brought together more than 4,300 representatives from over 600 civil society organizations and 170 Member States. The delegates included global government leaders, NGOs, private sector actors, United Nations partners and activists from around the world. The Commission reviewed the status of rights and empowerment of all women and girls living in rural areas.

1.2 Background

Every year, representatives of United Nations (UN) Member States gather at the UN Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide. The Government of Kenya recognizes the importance of gender equality and empowerment of women in achieving its national development goals. Hence the country has consistently participated in past CSWs, in

recognition of its importance to Member States' strategic and political position on matters of gender equality and women's empowerment.

1.3 Objectives of the CSW

1. To establish the status of rights and empowerment of all women and girls living in rural areas;
2. To share experiences and learn best practices in areas relating to the priority and review themes through participating in side events from participating countries;
3. To hold bilateral meetings to enhance and strengthen collaboration and partnerships with other organisations;
4. To establish linkages with existing partners and organisations; and,
5. To negotiate on a common position and adopt the CSW62 Agreed Conclusions.

1.4 Preparation for the CSW62

Kenya's participation at the CSW62 was guided by a Country Position Paper (CPP) which outlined the status of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls living in rural in the key areas of: governance; health; education; land; agriculture; ICT; water and sanitation. In preparation for the New York meeting, a national debriefing session of the Kenya's delegation was held on 6th March, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel, Nairobi. The meeting reviewed the Country Position Paper, the voluntary presentation and Kenya's side event, planned for the CSW62 side events and other key events that the country was expected to undertake. Kenya also participated in the Regional Pre-CSW62 Strategy Meeting of Women's Rights Organizations from 19th to 20th February 2018 held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. *Align with G-77 (stand with the G-77) (Mary Kabaru)*. Kenya also had the opportunity to make a presentation at the *G-77 High-Level Interactive Dialogue on the theme: "Innovative Practices for The Financial Inclusion and Economic Empowerment of Women Especially Rural Women: Lessons from The South"*, where highlights of the government's interventions and innovations in expanding financial access programs to women in rural areas were shared.

1.5 Participation to the CSW62

Kenya was represented by 56 government delegates headed by Prof. Margaret Kobia, (PhD) MGH, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs.

The government delegation comprised of government officials, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Members of Parliament, County Governors, County Executive Committee (CEC) Members responsible for gender and Members of County Assemblies (MCAs). In addition, the nation was represented by a spectrum of several other organizations representing women and girls living in rural areas.

1.6 Context of Women and Girls Living in Rural Areas

Women and girls living in rural areas constitute over a quarter of the world's population. Majority of these, (about 43 per cent) constitute the global agricultural labour force. Worldwide, less than 13 per cent of women own land, have poor access to agricultural inputs and financing, and lack technologies for climate resilience. While the global pay gap between men and women stands at 23 per cent, in some rural areas it can be as high as 40 per cent. They are also among the poorest, lack access to assets, education, health care and other essential services, and are hit hardest by the ravages of climate change. Yet, women in these rural settings are key in spurring the agricultural sector ensuring food security for their communities, building climate resilience and strengthening their countries' economies. Hence, without women and girls in the rural areas, rural communities and urban economies would not function on almost every measure of development.

Further, gender inequalities, elicited by discriminatory laws and social norms, combined with a fast changing economic, technological and environmental landscape coupled with lack of key enablers like infrastructure and services; decent work; and, social protection, and exposure to gender-based violence and harmful practices, restrict their full potential, leaving them far behind men and their urban counterparts. Despite their contribution to the development agenda, the rights, livelihoods and wellbeing of these women and girls have not been sufficiently addressed in laws, policies, budgets and investments.

Regardless of the choice of media, they also encounter stereotypes that perpetuate gender discrimination. Hence, participation, access to and representation of women in the media is also the review theme of the 62nd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

2.0 62ND CSW PROCEEDINGS

During the two-week meeting, the Kenyan delegation participated in a number of activities, including: The General Assembly meetings and the official opening of the

CSW62 sessions; ministerial proceedings, national voluntary reviews. Kenya led and co-sponsored side events, bilateral meetings among other key engagements.

Kenya's participation at the 62nd CSW was guided by a comprehensive Country Position Paper (CPP) in line with the priority theme of the session. The paper outlined the status of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls living in the rural areas with a focus on governance, health, education, land and agriculture, ICT, energy, water and sanitation.

2.1 Opening Session

The opening ceremony was held on 12th March 2018 and was officiated by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr António Guterres. In his opening address, Secretary-General highlighted that CSW 62 was pivotal movement advocating for the rights of women and girls. In this, he echoed that across the world women and girls were telling their stories and emphasized that the greater question is that of power, and power not being given, but to be taken stressing that, across nations, women are rallying against abusive behaviour and discriminatory attitudes. Noting that, the world is male dominated and hence the reason the UN objective is centred on empowering women as a girl born in poverty has a far higher chance of being disenfranchised due to early marriage, experience violence, and suffering from childbirth-related complications among other forms of abuse.

He affirmed that, building on equality grants women and girls the opportunity to fulfil their potential and ensure more stable societies. He further highlighted that women participation decision making is ever more meaningful, as it assures and ensures that peace agreements are stronger, ensures the building of economies that are more resilient and governments more proactive.

During the opening ceremony, Purity Soinato Oiyie, 22 years-old university students from Narok County in Kenya, narrated her experience and lessons learnt having been rescued from Female Genital Mutilations and early forced marriage when she was 11 years old. In her brief address to the Assembly, Purity was honoured with standing ovation and the following issues and recommendations were made:

1. Requested the UN Secretary-General to consider girls living in the rural areas;
2. The girls to be allowed to participate in decision making about their lives and their voices to be heard; and,
3. The girls to be appreciated for what there are and hence be protected from harmful practices.

2.2 Country Statement

Kenya's Country Statement was delivered on 13th March 2018 by Prof. Margaret Kobia, PhD, MGH. The statement was informed by the Country Position Paper and highlighted the progress made, lesson learnt and future priorities by the Government on achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls living in rural areas notably in addressing Food security and nutrition, Value addition and manufacturing; Universal health coverage; and Low-cost housing as amplified within the Big Four. These initiative and policies included; Policy and legal frameworks, the Free Primary Education and Free Education in Public Schools, Sanitary Towels initiative to curb absenteeism in schools, digital learning, Huduma centres in rural areas bring service closer to the people, Free Maternal Health Services pioneered by H.E. the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya , the 30% allocation of Public Procurement reserved for women, youth and Persons with Disabilities, Affirmative Action Funds such as UWEZO, Women Enterprise Fund, Youth Enterprise Fund, the Last Mile Project of rural electrification, Biashara Salama on Food Security, appointment of women in key government docket and the strengthening and expansion of women political space to ensure equity in participation.

1. General Assembly

The General Assembly and official ministerial engagements took place during the first week of CSW62 programme. Member States' Heads of Delegations delivered their Country Statements during the General Assembly, acknowledging the enormous progress that their countries had made in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls living in rural areas. Kenya's Country Statement was delivered on 13th March, 2018 by the Head of the Kenyan Delegation, Prof. Margaret Kobia, (Ph.D) MGH, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs. The statement that was informed by the Country Position Paper, highlighted progress made, lessons learnt and future priorities by the country in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls living in rural areas.

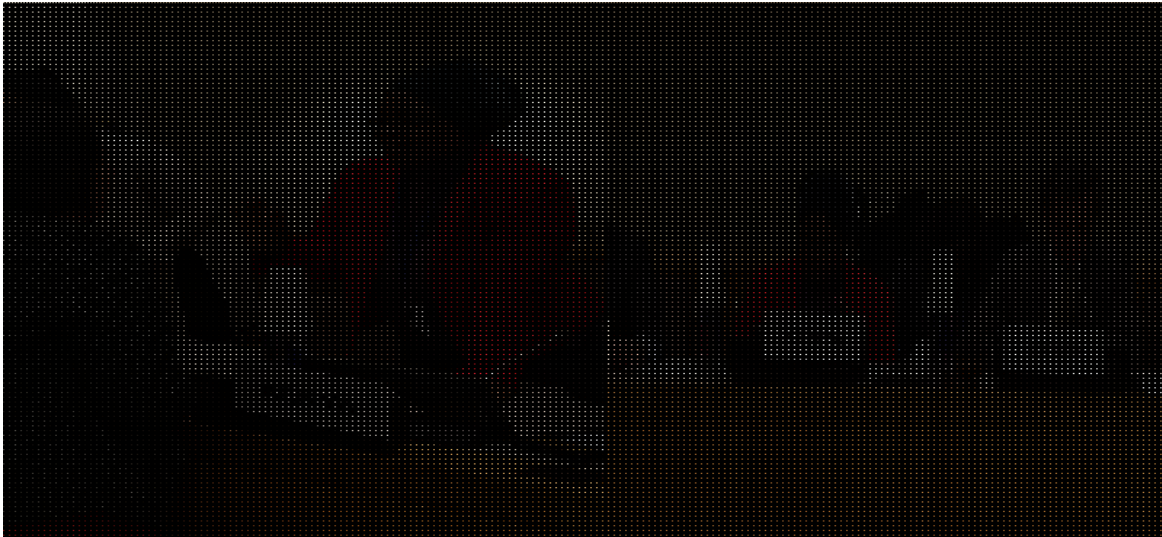
Some of the key initiatives outlined included: existing policy and legal frameworks; the free public primary and secondary school education; the sanitary towels programme aimed at curbing girls' absenteeism from schools; digital learning and Huduma Centres that have brought services closer to rural areas; free maternity health services; the 30% preference of public procurement reserved for women, youth and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs); affirmative funds i.e. Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), UWEZO Fund, National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF), and Youth

Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) that support socio-economic empowerment of women, youth and PWDs; rural electrification project; Biashara Salama on food security; appointment and nomination of women in key decision making positions as well as in the political arena; amongst other initiatives.



2.4 Ministerial Meetings

A series of high-level ministerial roundtables and interactive dialogues were held in form of plenary sessions to examine priority issues relating to the themes for discussion. The meetings gave Kenya an opportunity to demonstrate its commitments and share good practices. Innovations on women empowerment programmes were highlighted in the interactive sessions. The dialogue sessions aimed at strengthening partnerships with development partners and the private sector.



1. Voluntary Presentation

The Commission in its programmes avails opportunities for expansion and allows sharing of best models of implementing Agreed Conclusions of previous sessions. Kenya was among the 12 Member States and one of the 3 African countries that presented a national voluntary paper on the review theme of the 47th CSW: *'Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women'*. The paper highlighted progress of implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 47th session; utilization



of ICT to enhance the participation of women in various social, economic and political spheres as well as increase their access to government financial, health and agricultural services; and, monitoring, data collection, campaign and advocacy against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and other harmful practices.

2. Bilateral Meetings

During the CSW62, the following bilateral meetings with ministerial counterparts, heads of delegation and senior UN officials were held. The meetings aimed at enhancing inter-governmental relations on accelerating efforts to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Senior Kenya government officials held meetings with the following officials:

1. The UN Women Senior Programme Director, Ms. Maria Noel Vaasa;
2. The Under Secretary and Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka;
3. The Under Secretary and Executive Director of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Dr Natalia Kanem;
4. Vice President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Cornelia Richter;
5. A representative of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Mme Amelia Siamomua, with regard to support Kenya's hosting of the 12th Women Affairs Ministerial Meeting (WAMM) in 2019 and the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of States Meeting to be held in London in April, 2018; and,
6. Mr. Achim Steiner, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator.



During these bilateral meetings, Kenya's Head of Delegation reinforced Kenya's able leadership and political commitment, internationally and within the region, to advance gender equality and empowerment of women. The fora were also used to compare and contrast policy settings in other countries on issues critical to Kenya's national agenda on gender. These included: elimination of gender-based violence (GBV) particularly harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM); women's economic empowerment; and, participation of women in public and political decision making which are key priorities of the Government's gender agenda.

The discussions also focused on areas of mutual interest between the institutions and possible areas of support in advancing Kenya's 'Big Four' agenda with notable outcomes from these bilateral meetings as follows:

1. Commitment by UNFPA to support the GBV programmes;
2. Commitment by UNDP to support the generation of gender data and statistics to facilitate evidence-based planning;
3. Commitment by the UK to support Universal Health, economic empowerment of women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) programmes including the upcoming Conference on the PWDs Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) scheduled to take place in London in April, 2018;
4. Commitment by IFAD to support food security and value addition programmes; and,

5. The Commonwealth will co-support Kenya's hosting of the 12th Women Affairs Ministerial Meeting (WAMMM) in 2019.

1. **Side Events**

The Kenyan delegation participated in over one hundred side events hosted by Kenya and other countries and agencies. The aim was to learn and share best practices in areas relating to the priority theme.

1. **Kenya Side Events**

Kenya hosted and co-sponsored the following side events where Kenyan's participated as panellists:

1. ***'The Role of Women as Governance Actors: Lessons from Kenya'***

This side event was hosted by the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs in partnership with the Council of Governors (COGs) represented by Governor Anne Waiguru, Governor Joyce Laboso, Governor Paul Chepkwony, and Members of Parliament. The event was an opportunity for Kenya to showcase progress made in expanding and strengthening the voice and participation of women living in rural areas in governance issues, the achievement of greater gender equality and their participation in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);



2. ***‘Ending Violence against Women; Opportunities and challenges of ICT’.***

This side event was co-sponsored by Estonia, Mexico, Kenya, Argentina and Finland. The event highlighted new efforts, tools and technologies being used to address GBV and the mitigation efforts against the vice, including raising awareness through campaigns for women’s human rights through the use of varying online platforms and social networks;

3. ***‘The Voices of Rural Women: Speak out addressing social norms that perpetuate GBV in urban and rural areas with the key focus on harmful cultural practices’***

This side event was co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe, Ilitha Labantu and Groots Kenya;

4. ***‘Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking’.***

The event was hosted by Liechtenstein and the United Kingdom where Kenya shared her experience especially in dealing with human trafficking as a source, transit and destination country; and,

5. ***‘Accessing Resources to Advance Women’s Inclusion in Democratic Processes in Kenya’***

The event was hosted by Dr. Jennifer Riria, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kenya Women Holding. In her keynote address, Dr. Riria highlighted on the setting up of the Democracy Trust Fund (DTF) under the Kenya Women Holding (KWH), to support all processes that empower and build capacity for women running for elective office. The Trust seeks to increase the number of women in national leadership by providing early money and program support.



1. Other Events:

1. The Kenyan Delegation participated in events of interest to Kenya. Key areas of interest included; widows' events, harnessing citizen generated data, monitoring and reporting on SDG Goal 5, innovative women and girl's empowerment efforts, land rights and security of tenure, and economic empowerment of women and girls living in rural areas.

2. Book Launch

Hon. Phoebe Muga Asiyu launched her book on: *'It Is Possible: An African Woman Elder Speaks'*.

The event was attended by Kenyan



[Cite your source here.]



delegates and those from other countries. The memoir included the author discussion of one woman's life journey of leadership in Kenya and beyond.

3. Protests and marches

4. WOFAK

1. Other Engagements

The head of Kenya's delegation had an opportunity to engage with the following groups:

1. **Diaspora Engagement:** While hosting Kenyans living and working with the United Nations in New York, Kenya's Head of delegation reaffirmed the government's commitment to engaging constructively with Kenyans in the diaspora in contributing to nation building in various sectors aimed at all-inclusive development where no one is left

behind; and,

2. **Interactive Session with Kenyan Elected Leaders:** The Head of Kenya's delegation also hosted a dinner in honour of the Kenyan elected leaders who participated in the CSW62. This was an opportunity to forge and agree on a common ground on gender equality and women empowerment agenda between the leaders and the Ministry.

3.0 AGREED CONCLUSIONS OF THE 62ND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The outcome of the Commission's consideration of the priority theme during its 62nd Session, takes the form of Agreed Conclusions, negotiated by all Member States. The Agreed Conclusions include an analysis of the priority theme of concern and recommendations for governments, inter-governmental bodies and other institutions,

civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local levels. Kenya's negotiation in the Agreed Conclusions was informed by the Africa Group's common position that was adopted during the Africa Ministerial Meeting on the CSW held in Addis Ababa in February, 2018. The Agreed Conclusions of the 62nd Session of Commission on the Status of Women on ***“Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”*** were adopted by Member States on 23rd March 2018.

Some of the highlights include:

1. Promote and respect women's and girls' right to education at all levels, throughout the life cycle, including women and girls living in rural areas and those who have been left behind, by providing universal access to quality education, and free and compulsory primary and secondary education;
2. Take measures to facilitate the financial inclusion and literacy of women in rural areas and their equal access to formal financial services, including timely and affordable credit, loans, savings, insurance, and remittance transfer schemes, integrate a gender perspective in finance sector policy and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, and encourage financial institutions;
3. Address the digital divide, which disproportionately affects women and girls living in rural areas, by facilitating their access to ICT and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education to promote their empowerment and to develop skills, information and knowledge;
4. Strengthen measures, including resource generation, to improve women's health, including maternal health, by addressing the specific health, nutrition and basic needs of women living in rural areas and taking concrete measures to realize the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health for women of all ages in rural areas;
5. Take steps to measure the value of unpaid care and domestic work in order to determine its contribution to the national economy, through periodic time-use surveys, including such measurements in statistics as well as in the formulation of gender-responsive economic and social policies;

6. Strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse, disseminate, and disaggregate data by gender classification and statistics from a national context to support policy frameworks and actions to improve the situation of women and girls living in rural areas;
7. Enact legislation to promote all women's rights, including those living in rural areas, in land registration and land title certification regardless of their marital status, and address practices and stereotypes that undermine their land rights including in the context of customary and traditional inheritance systems;
8. Pursue macro-economic policies that support diverse economic activities, including smallholder agricultural production and the food security and nutrition of all women and girls living in rural areas; and,
9. Promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls living in rural areas by reaffirming the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors and reinvigorating the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, as envisaged in the SDGs.

The full text is attached (Annex IV).

1. CONCLUSIONS

1. During the CSW62, Kenya reinforced her positive image as a regional and global leader in women empowerment and in the gender agenda. Kenya is held in high regard and hence is shaping the dialogue in the global and regional gender agenda. Kenya was also recognized for its political commitment under the leadership of H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Republic of Kenya in expanding and strengthening the space of addressing the gender agenda. The country was lauded for the progressiveness of its Constitution that had made Kenya shine for the past 8 years;
2. Kenya is respected as a one of the consistent contributors to the UN hence Amb. Koki Muli Grignon, the Deputy Permanent Representative (DPR) of the Kenyan

Mission in New York was re-elected Vice Chair of the African States Group of the CSW Bureau; and,

3. The forum realized deepened and strengthened partnerships with UN agencies and Member States including Leinchensten, the UK, Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa, on the delivery of the 'Big Four' agenda. The 'Big Four' is a platform that is encouraging other partners e.g. UN Member States, the commonwealth Secretariat, the Embassies of Sweden and Canada.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Implementation of the six-pillar Joint Communique that forms Kenya's pledge by all delegates to the 62nd CSW, to be discussed, adopted and signed by representatives during the post-CSW meeting to be held in Nairobi on 27th April, 2018. The Communique, whose implementation would be coordinated by the Ministry, affirmed the zeal for partners' desire to work together. It would guide Kenya's actions on the following six (6) agreed priority areas of intervention:

1. Women's participation in leadership and decision making;
2. Economic empowerment and financial inclusion;
3. Gender responsive budgeting;
4. Gender Based Violence including political violence and harmful practices;
5. Peace and Security; and,
6. Gender data gaps and statistics.

The agreed priority areas of intervention are attached (Annex I).

7. Align all the efforts towards gender equality and women empowerment with this year's IWD theme, 'Press for Progress';
8. Harness synergies, strengthen and enhance collaboration between the National and County Governments to ensure the lives of women and girls living in rural counties are improved;

9. Strengthen the language of macro-economics and push for its adoption to avoid losing the gains Kenya has already made on AGPO and other initiatives;
10. Ensure the language of the UN remains progressive at all times and all the years including the Agreed Conclusions; and;
11. For the very first time, the Kenyan delegation was very organized having made prior preparations for participating in CSW62 events, kept tab of all delegates who attended the forum and demonstrated solidarity towards the Kenyan driven interventions. This is a practice that needs to be emulated in future CSW and other international meetings.

ANNEXE I: LESSONS LEARNT AND PRIORITY AREAS OF INTERVENTION

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>PRIORITY AREA OF INTERVENTION:</p> <p>1.1 Enhance Women’s Participation in Leadership and Decision Making</p> | | | |
| <p>1.1.1 Women in leadership</p> | <p>Actualizing the two-thirds gender principle;</p> <p>1. Analyse whether women in leadership positions are delivering and performing</p> <p>1. Strategize on how women can work together and support each other</p> | <p>2. The two thirds gender rule to be discussed as a constitutional matter and not a women’s bill;</p> <p>3. Women who already served their first term as women representatives to seek constituency positions;</p> <p>4. Identify counties with male governors currently serving their second and final terms, identify potential women leaders, the organizations that can support them and the strategies to be employed (not necessarily in monetary terms);</p> <p>5. Need to push for a narrative that will help to spend less from the wage bill on the two thirds gender rule;</p> <p>6. Work out models of cooperation with male Parliamentarians to change attitudes;</p> <p>7. MPSYGA to call a meeting of Parliamentarians and identify male champions to realise the two-thirds gender rule; and,</p> | <p>MPSYGA KEWOPA Parliament</p> |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
|-------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| | | 8. Strengthen KEWOPA to seriously engage with the labour committee to follow up on ministerial and other issues. | |
| | | 9. Need to focus on training and support for women in leadership positions due to competition and backlash when they are already in leadership hence transformative leadership is very important. | |
| | | 10. | |
| 1.1.2 Media & ICT | 11. Poor and negative media coverage of women in public and political leadership positions | 16. Enhance the use of ICT to access public services; | MPSYGA |
| | | | AMWIK |
| | 12. ICT can play a critical role in empowering women, facilitating training and education especially for those women who are not in a position to access face to face training | 17. Ensure adequate representation of women in the sector; | KEWOPA |
| | | 18. Use women in the media to bring out positive stories about women aspirants and leaders; | African Women & Child Features |
| | 13. Women and girls living in the rural areas and those living in difficult situation including those living with disabilities have less access to IT and therefore it is important to focus on breaking the barriers that hinder this category of women from accessing ICT. | 19. AMWIK to continue training women leaders. | |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
|---------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
|---------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|

14. It is also important to note that the use of ICT can also work against women and girls including discrimination and under estimating them. To address this, it is important to ensure proper collaboration and coordination of all stakeholders in the ICT sector in order to ensure that ICT is used to bring change in favor of women.

15.

PRORITY AREA OF INTERVENTION:

1.2 Empowerment of Women and Girls Living in Rural Areas through Economic Empowerment and Financial Inclusion

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|---|-----|---|-------------|
| Women’s Land Rights | 20. | Lack of data on women owning land | 28. | Provision of sex disaggregated data on land ownership in counties; | MOL |
| | 21. | Poor enforcement of legislation on land and property rights; | 29. | Use existing legal frameworks to secure women’s land rights and address inheritance issues; | COG CSOs |
| | 22. | Data is critical for women to be empowered because in most cases women are married due to poverty and for property acquisition; | 30. | Data on land should be authenticated with the support of the County Governments; | |
| | 23. | Women own less than 20% of land worldwide and are involved in small scale farming. Women have limited access to seeds, credits, climate-smart | 31. | Women and girls in rural areas make up a large proportion of the agricultural labour force in developing countries including as informal workers. They contribute | |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
|---|--|--|-------------------|
| | technologies, advice, fertilizers, mechanical equipment, school, innovation and health care, services. | significantly to agricultural production, food security and nutrition, land and natural resource management and building climate resilience. | |
| | 24. Rural women account for the production of half of the world's food. Need to bridge the gap between the women in cities and women in rural areas who are in food production. | 32. | |
| | 25. Awareness creation was identified as critical in advancing women land rights and ownership | | |
| | 26. Gender equality in land rights and ownership was highlighted as critical in the realization of the agenda 2030 for sustainable development | | |
| | 27. In order to address the land rights and ownership, it is important to support data collection on tenure security and rights. This kind of data is important for decision making. | | |
| Women's and Girls' Access to Justice | 33. Poor access to justice for women and girls | 36. | AG JSC |
| | 34. Women and girls in rural areas lack a voice in leadership and decision-making. They have less access to justice, | 37. | MPSYGA |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
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| | <p data-bbox="575 293 1060 396">infrastructure, services and opportunities than do women and girls in urban settings.</p> <p data-bbox="480 402 1075 646">35. Women and girls in rural areas face systemic barriers to realizing their rights. In many states, laws, national and local policies, budgets and development strategies ignore or insufficiently address the rights and needs of women and girls in rural areas.</p> | <p data-bbox="1075 293 1690 748">38. Parliaments should examine existing and recommend strategies and mechanism that would bring parliaments and rural communities closer and to connect parliaments in particular with women and girls in rural areas. Need for constituency outreach and engagement with women and girls in rural communities to facilitate at local level the participation of rural women in decision making and enable the establishment of rural women's organizations.</p> <p data-bbox="1075 755 1690 1291">39. Need for specialized parliamentary committees or women's caucuses as a parliament mechanism for channeling the needs and concerns of rural communities in a gender responsive manner. Parliamentarians should explore what they should do to garner and address the needs and interest of women and girls in rural areas and how the rural women can better influence policy formulation, implementation and monitoring at all levels and in all areas, that affect their lives through their engagement with parliamentarians.</p> | |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY | |
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| Financial inclusion | 40. | Domiciling of AGPO and challenges of implementation and monitoring | 45. | MPSYGA Disposal of Assets Act, 2015 to allow MPSYGA to rightfully domicile AGPO ^{NT} and enable the ministry to build capacities of women and monitor AGPO implementation; Train women on how to take advantage of AGPO; Train/ engage Procurement Officers on AGPO in order to facilitate access by the intended beneficiaries; HIVOS to partner with MPSYGA and KEWOPA to generate data on AGPO; Formalize the informal sector where majority of women belong; Data on procurement preferences (AGPO) focuses mainly on micro economics. There is need to shift to macro-economic data; Counties to legislate quotas and ensure implementation of affirmative action funds; and, Include the language of taxation in financing in the SDGs document; |
| | 41. | Missing language of taxation in SDGs | | |
| | 42. | Rural women are key agents in sustainable development and their empowerment is vital to achieving the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Access to basic services and natural resources, including water and sanitation are key elements in this process. | 46. | |
| | | | 47. | |
| | 43. | The empowerment of women and girls in rural areas, and the recognition and protection of their rights is essential to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The role of women living in rural areas, in agriculture, rural development, food and nutrition, and poverty reduction has been recognized at several UN Conferences. | 48. | |
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| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
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| Health including Sexual Reproductive Health Rights of Women and Girls | 53. Prioritize women and health issues during the decade of health | 55. Ensure that women and girls living in the rural areas access health | MOH |
| | 54. Lack of data and information on SRHR | 56. Need innovative approaches to combat invisible sexual violence such as vagina tightening. | COG |
| Widow's rights | 1. Lack of data on widows; | 6. Address the issues of widows and lobby national and county governments to support their activities; | AG |
| | 2. Inadequate legislation to address widows' issues; | | JSC |
| | 3. Harmful cultural and religious practices that oppress widows; | 7. Widows associations to act as brokers to follow up and enable widows access their unclaimed assets from the Unclaimed Assets Authority (UAA); | MPSYGA |
| | 4. Lack of financial and technical for widows' programmes; | 8. Data capture on widows to be incorporated in the census; | Widows association |
| | 5. Poor justice systems to support widows; | 9. Draft or amend legislation to allow only widows to get spouses death certificates; | |
| | | 10. Institute counselling and educational support for orphans; | |
| | | 11. Widows to be ring-fenced; | |
| | | 12. Establish courts to address widows' cases; | |
| | | 13. Develop a widow's charter; | |
| | | 14. Incorporate widow's in the government agenda as widows are affirmative groups; | |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Civic education to help the widows and their girls are reintegrated in their communities; 16. SDGA should be a one-stop shop and ensure they dedicate a desk to deal with widows' issues; 17. Widow and Widowers Bill- To be revisited; and, 18. Assess the plight and experiences of Muslim widows who are confined for 40 days – Iddah (3 Luna months and 10 days without wearing make-up). | |
| Male Empowerment | 1. Non-inclusion of men and male leaders in gender empowerment decision-making organs and programmes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Sensitize men on women issues and include them in civic education programmes to support gender equality and women empowerment initiatives as male champions; and, 3. Need to support more male Parliamentarians to attend CSW meetings and other women conferences; 4. Gender parity and equality is important to men. Women are 1/2 of the World population and are denied the opportunity to realize their potential and if men are the barriers and impediment then they must be part of the solution by finding common ground to solve the | <p>MPSYGA Parliament</p> |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
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problem. Men need to declare their commitment and support for women, listen and amplify women agenda in their sphere of life (home, workplace,

PRORITY AREA OF INTERVENTION:

1.3 Resourcing and Financing for Empowerment of Women and Girls Living in Rural Areas

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| Resource mobilization and budgeting | 5. | Interrogate national and county governments' budgets to determine the percentage supporting women's and girls' programmes; | 10. | Transformative budgeting – Development partners to align their resources with government development plans through continuous engagement; | Controller of Budgets MPSYGA |
| | 6. | Increase financial support to women and girls programmes and projects; | 11. | Build capacities on gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting, monitoring implementation and evaluation of projects and programmes; | NT |
| | 7. | Enhance compliance to the budgetary allocations at all levels | 12. | Implementation of the recommendations of the report of the high-level meeting on Illicit Financial Flows of 2015 of the African Union; | |
| | 8. | Empowerment of women and girls living in the rural areas requires renewed commitment, increased investments, innovative financing and strong collaboration among stakeholders (governments, private sector and civil society). | 13. | MPSYGA to engage National Treasury on the proposed amendments to the PFM Act; | |
| | 9. | Linking budget appropriation to compliance with gender and equity of all government bodies has played an instrumental role in gradual change in | 14. | MPSYGA to engage National Treasury on the provisions of the Standard Chart of Accounts currently being reviewed to include specific codes for allocation and tracking of GEWE initiatives. | |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
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| | the lives of women and girls living in the rural areas | | |
| Public participation in financial policy matters | 1. Lack of information on policy making and budgetary processes; | 3. Enhance women’s participation in policy making and budget preparation processes to ensure the issues of women and girls are included; | MPSYGA CSOs |
| | 2. Lack of data on women supported by group dynamics to engage in business | 4. Ensure women and girls access to information; | |
| | | 5. Assess the number of women in rural areas who access businesses through their groups and associations; | |
| | | 8. Assess and monitor utilization and expenditure of AU and other development partners funding; | |
| | | 9. The Government to work closely with the private sector in the promotion of women’s empowerment. | |
| Funding by development partners | 6. Poor coordination of donor funding and support for gender programmes | | UN bodies/UNDAF KEPSA |
| | 7. Private sector should complement Governments’ efforts in financing Women’s economic empowerment. | | |

PRORITY AREA OF INTERVENTION:

1.4 Women in Peace and Security

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| Peace and security | 1. Contextualize conflict to come with appropriate ways of tackling peace and security; | 4. Enhance efforts, create networks and empower women to address radicalization and terrorism towards the achievement of resolution 1325 and the action plan; | MPSYGA Ministry of Interior & Coordination of National Government |
| | 2. Further explore the role of women in peace interventions and processes; | Conflict in Kenya mostly happens at the border points and is mainly driven by terrorist activities; | |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
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| Trafficking of women and girls | 3. The need to define conflict within the Kenyan context e.g. cattle rustling and the ensuing response; | 4. The need to focus on the role of conflict in eroding all the gains that women have made; | |
| | | 5. Recognize the efforts of women leaders who have been elected due to their role as champions in peace keeping; | |
| | 6. Interrogate sex trade and its effect on women sexuality | 9. Criminalize sex trade since trafficking has usually hidden; | MPSYGA |
| | 7. Women are more prone to human trafficking as most of the human trafficking is for sex-trade | 10. Creation of a fund that assist victims of trafficking and to alleviate those prone to trafficking | |
| | 8. More collaborative work and partnerships is needed with and between state actors and non-state actors. | 11. Need to improve prosecutorial process for Human Trafficking cases | |

PRORITY AREA OF INTERVENTION:

l. 1.5 Gender Gaps, Disaggregated Data and tools for Monitoring and Evaluating Progress in Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

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| Gender mainstreaming | 1. Gender Mainstreaming is given focus in ensuring that all MDAs institutionalize gender in policy formulation, planning and budgeting. | 2. Put in place processes for recruiting and placing women for in key positions within institutions; | MPSYGA |
| | | 3. Put in tools for monitoring employees for human resource departments and focal points to be reporting annually; | |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
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| | | 4. Task every department to ensure women are employed and ask women to apply for jobs; | |
| | | 5. Maintain a database of qualified women who have applied for jobs and call them when vacancies arise; | |
| | | 6. The gender and equity compliance certificate to be a pre-condition for Parliament and county assemblies to appropriate budgetary resources to each government entity | |
| Research, Data and Statistics | 7. Data is critical for women to be empowered | 11. Enhance the capacity of the Gender Research and Documentation Centre. | MPSYGA KNBS |
| | 8. Reliable gender statistics is fundamental for evidence-based decision in national and global levels. Incorporating a gender perspective into statistics is very crucial in this regard and this can be done by making surveys to have gender relevant content and also supporting gender disaggregated data. | 12. Transform data approaches to measuring SDG targets; | COG |
| | | 13. Address data related gaps in key sectors of health, education, and governance | |
| | | 14. Invest in data production and management for policy and decision making and the public good; | |
| | 9. Strong advocacy on promoting and enjoining different agencies in providing and generating gender statistics. Support from government, | 15. Enhance data literacy for informed decision making. Harness citizens role of generating data; | |
| | | 16. Disaggregate national data; | |
| | | 17. Link data to policy reforms; | |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
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| | development partners and other agencies in products and surveys. | 18. The government to partner with other agencies that generate data; and, | |
| | 10. Data gaps on sex disaggregated statistics like average time spent doing household chores and unpaid domestic and care work by age, sex and location. | 19. Develop a score card for rating Kenya's performance. 20. Increasing use of gender statistics in conceptualizing development projects proposals on women such as the Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women) Project. This aims to promote and support a gender-responsive enabling environment for women's economic empowerment. | |
| structure | 21. Non-involvement of women in infrastructure development | 22. Focus on infrastructure enforces stereotypes hence the need to develop inclusive infrastructure that lasts and recognizes women, PWDs, etc.; 23. Women should not just be beneficiaries but active participants in infrastructure development; and, 24. Infrastructure designs, planning and M&E should include & involve women. | MPSYGA |

PRORITY AREA OF INTERVENTION:

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
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| 1.6 Address Current and Emerging Issues in the Elimination for Gender Based Violence and Harmful Cultural Practices | | | |
| GBV | 1. Lack of data and information on SRHR and GBV | 10. Enhanced UN support to prevention of GBV; | MPSYGA Ministry of Health |
| | 2. Poor reporting mechanisms of GBV cases | 11. Establish clear reporting mechanisms; | |
| | 3. Poor coordination of institutions dealing with GBV | 12. Member States reports to be reflective; | 13. Deal with violence as a whole; |
| | 4. Emerging trends in escalating GBV across borders | 14. Need for cross border cooperation and neighbouring countries to make declarations to address harmful practices across borders; | |
| | 5. The culture of silence around GBV issues | 16. There is need for innovate approaches that address issues of poverty that are strongly linked to GBV; | 17. Address sexual violence in UN labour; |
| | 6. Policy and decision-making processes must acknowledge people's aspirations and how these change with time | 18. CSOs with GBV data to share with the government to build on it and make informed decisions; | |
| | 7. Leading cause of death in girls between the ages 15-19 in the developing world is from complication from pregnancy and childbirth | | |
| | 8. Need to include everyone in the fight and include male champions | | |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
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| | | <p>approach in addressing harmful practices across the borders;</p> | |
| | | <p>20. The war against harmful practices can be won with the current crop of youth who are committed through advocacy and voicing their experiences;</p> | |
| | | <p>21. Community facilitators be more effective in capacity building and sensitization rather than outsiders;</p> | |
| | | <p>22. Public Participation in our Constitution must be made to achieve its purpose I. e. Ensure development in all aspects is responsive to people's needs</p> | |
| | | <p>23. Need to identify that the one important issue for the development of a country is to end child marriage</p> | |
| | | <p>24. Recruiting Male Champions and the President of Zambia acts as a Male Champion against Early Child marriage</p> | |

| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
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9. Women and girls in rural areas are particularly affected by the impacts of climate change that can exacerbate gender inequalities in rural communities and these challenges amount to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, injustices and violence

Climate change

PRORITY AREA OF INTERVENTION:

1.7 Strengthened institutional mechanisms, implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weakened gender institutions and networking | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revitalize, strengthen and cascade the MPSYGA Gender Sector Working Groups (GSWG); UNDP 2. Involve women and girls living in rural areas in planning to enhance participation, CSOs inclusion and justice; |
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| OUTCOME | SALIENT ISSUE | LESSONS LEARNT/TAKE HOME | RESPONSIBLE PARTY |
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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1064 287 1705 401">Link up with UNDP to develop a monitoring and evaluation tools for reporting on the 'Big Four'; | |
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AGREED CONCLUSIONS CSW 62ND SESSION

23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 1 Commission on the Status of Women Sixty-second session 12 – 23 March 2018 Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls

Agreed conclusions

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.
2. The Commission reiterates that 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 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 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 human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, including those living in rural areas, throughout their life cycle.
3. The Commission reaffirms that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews, and the outcomes of relevant major United Nations conferences and summits and the follow-up to those conferences and summits, have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those living in rural areas.
4. The Commission reaffirms 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 its reviews. It recognizes that the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the New Urban Agenda contribute, inter alia, to the improvement of the situation of rural women and girls. The Commission also recalls the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change. 5. The Commission also recalls the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. 6. The Commission recognizes the importance of relevant International Labour Organization standards related to the realization of women's right to work and rights at work that are critical for the economic empowerment of women, including those in rural areas, and recalls the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and notes the importance of their effective implementation, including in rural areas. 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 2 7. The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives in their respective regions and countries, and their follow-up mechanisms, in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those in rural areas. 8. The Commission emphasizes the mutually reinforcing relationship among achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those in rural areas, and the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It acknowledges that gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls and women's full and equal participation and leadership in the economy are essential for achieving sustainable development, promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, enhancing sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productivity, ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere and ensuring the well-being of all. 9. 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 women's economic empowerment and should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty and women's economic empowerment, and also reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the promotion, protection and full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. 10. The Commission recognizes that rural women's equal economic rights, economic empowerment and independence are essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It underlines the importance of undertaking legislative and other reforms to realize the equal rights of women and men, as well as girls and boys where applicable, to access economic and productive resources, including land and natural resources,

property and inheritance rights, appropriate new and existing technology, financial products and services, including but not limited to microfinance, and women's full and productive employment and decent work, and equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, in both agricultural and nonagricultural activities in rural areas. 11. The Commission reiterates that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development needs to be implemented in a comprehensive manner, reflecting its universal, integrated and indivisible nature, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting each country's policy space and leadership while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, including by developing cohesive sustainable development strategies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The Commission affirms that Governments have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels with regard to progress made. 12. The Commission recognizes that progress in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in particular in rural areas, and the realization of their human rights has been held back owing to the persistence of historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty, inequalities and disadvantages in access to, ownership and control over resources, growing gaps in equality of opportunity and limited access to universal healthcare services and secondary and postsecondary education, gender-based violence, discriminatory laws and policies, negative social norms and gender stereotypes, and unequal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work. It stresses the urgency of eliminating these structural barriers to realize gender equality and empower rural women and girls. 13. The Commission acknowledges that all rural women and girls often face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and marginalization. It respects and values the diversity of rural women's situations and 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 3 conditions and recognizes that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment. It also stresses that while all women and girls have the same human rights, rural women and girls in different contexts have particular needs and priorities, requiring appropriate responses. 14. The Commission expresses concern that 1.6 billion people still live in multidimensional poverty and that nearly 80 per cent of the extreme poor live in rural areas, and acknowledges that progress in the eradication of poverty has been uneven and that inequality has increased. It expresses concern that poverty is a serious impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those living in rural areas, and that the feminization of poverty persists. It emphasizes that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is an

indispensable requirement for sustainable development. It acknowledges the mutually reinforcing links between the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the eradication of poverty. It stresses the importance of support for countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions. 15. The Commission expresses concern that many rural women continue to be discriminated against, marginalized and economically and socially disadvantaged due to, inter alia, their limited or lack of access to economic resources and opportunities, decent work, social protection, quality education, public health, including health-care services, justice, sustainable and time- and labour-saving infrastructure and technology, land, water and sanitation and other resources, as well as to financial services, credit, extension services and agricultural inputs as well as their limited financial inclusion. 16. The Commission recognizes the important role and contribution of rural women as critical agents in poverty eradication, in enhancing sustainable agricultural and rural development as well as fisheries. It underlines that meaningful progress in these areas necessitates, inter alia, closing the gender gap, introducing appropriate gender-responsive policies, interventions and innovations, including in agriculture and fisheries, and women's equal access to agricultural and fisheries technologies, technical assistance, productive resources, land tenure security and access to, ownership of and control over land, forests, water and marine resources, and to participation in local, regional and international markets. 17. The Commission reaffirms the right to food and recognizes the crucial contributions of rural women to local and national economies and to food production and to achieve food security and improved nutrition, in particular in poor and vulnerable households as well as to the well-being of their families and communities, including through work on family farms and women-headed farm enterprises. It expresses deep concern that, while women contribute significantly to the food produced worldwide, women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger and food insecurity, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination. It recognizes women's critical role in both short- and long-term responses to food insecurity, malnutrition, excessive price volatility and food crises in developing countries. 18. The Commission stresses the importance of investing in gender-responsive and quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including in rural areas, inter alia, safe drinking water and sanitation, energy, transport, water for irrigation, and technology, including information and communications technology, and other physical infrastructure for accessible public services. 19. The Commission reiterates the importance of safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport and roads in facilitating transport linkages on domestic routes and promoting urban-rural connectivity to empower women and girls and to boost economic growth at the local and

regional levels, promote interconnections among cities and villages, peoples and resources and facilitate intraregional and interregional trade. 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 4 20. The Commission reaffirms the right to education and stresses that equal access to high quality and inclusive education contributes to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls including those in rural areas. It notes with concern the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in and completion of secondary and tertiary education and emphasizes the importance of technical and vocational training and lifelong learning opportunities. It recognizes that new technologies are, inter alia, changing the structure of labour markets and provide new and different employment opportunities that require skills ranging from basic digital fluency to advanced technical skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and in information and communications technology, and in this regard, emphasizes the importance of all rural women and girls having the opportunity to acquire them. 21. The Commission recognizes that, despite gains in providing access to education, rural girls are still more likely than rural boys, and urban girls and boys, to remain excluded from education, and recognizes also that among gender-specific barriers to girls' equal enjoyment of their right to education are the feminization of poverty, child labour that girls undertake, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, early and repeat pregnancies, all forms of gender-based violence in and outside of school, including sexual violence and harassment on the way to and from and at school, the lack of safe and adequate sanitation facilities, the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, and gender stereotypes and negative social norms that lead families and communities to place less value on the education of girls than boys. 22. The Commission reaffirms the right of every human being to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, without distinction of any kind, and recognizes that its full realization is vital for women's and girls' lives and well-being and for their ability to participate in public and private life, and is crucial for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, including in rural areas. It recognizes that targeting and eliminating the root causes of gender inequality, discrimination, stigma and violence in health care services, including the unequal and limited access to public health services, is important for all women and girls, including in rural areas, especially those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations. 23. The Commission emphasizes the need to accelerate progress towards the goal of universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to gender-responsive, quality health services and quality, essential, affordable and effective medicines for all, including for rural women and girls, and that it is

critical to promote physical and mental health and well-being, especially through primary health care, health services and social protection mechanisms, including through community outreach and private sector engagement, and with the support of the international community. It stresses the importance of strengthening health systems in terms of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality in order to better respond to the needs of all women and girls, including in rural areas, and enabling rural women's active participation in the design and implementation of health systems. 24. The Commission expresses deep concern that as a result of lack or limited access to essential healthcare services and information and limited agency over their own lives, rural women experience significant disparities in health, including reproductive health outcomes, such as higher rates of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, obstetric fistula and limited options for family planning, than women in urban areas. It expresses further concern that these disparities are exacerbated by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. 25. The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against all women and girls, which is rooted in historical and structural inequality and unequal power relations between men and women. It reiterates that violence against women and girls in all its forms and manifestations in public and private spheres, including sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence and harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, are pervasive, underrecognized and underreported, 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 5 particularly at the community level. It expresses deep concern that women and girls in rural and remote areas may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of multidimensional poverty, limited or lack of access to justice, effective legal remedies and services, including protection, rehabilitation, reintegration, and health care services. It reemphasizes that violence against women and girls is a major impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including those living in rural areas, and violates and impairs or nullifies their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. 26. The Commission recognizes that sexual harassment is a form of violence and a violation and abuse of human rights and impedes the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those living in rural areas. 27. The Commission recognizes the contribution of rural families to sustainable development and that the sharing of family responsibilities creates an enabling family environment for the empowerment of all women and girls, including those in rural areas and that women and men make a significant contribution to the welfare of their families and communities. 28. The Commission acknowledges the benefit of implementing family-oriented policies aimed at, inter alia, achieving gender

equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the full participation of women in society, work-family balance and the self-sufficiency of the family unit and recognizes the need to ensure that all social and economic development policies are responsive to the changing needs of and expectations on rural families in fulfilling their numerous functions and that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members must be respected. 29. The Commission recognizes that rural women and girls undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and that such uneven distribution of responsibilities is a significant constraint on women's and girls' completion of or progress in education and training, on women's entry and re-entry and advancement in the paid labour market and on their economic opportunities and entrepreneurial activities, and can result in gaps in social protection, pay and pensions. It also recognizes that addressing attitudes and social norms by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys at the household and community levels creates an enabling environment for the social and economic empowerment of all rural women and girls. The Commission stresses the need to recognize and adopt measures to reduce and redistribute the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household and by prioritizing, inter alia, infrastructure development, social protection policies and accessible, affordable and quality social services, including care services, child-care, maternity, paternity or parental leave. 30. The Commission expresses deep concern about the slow or stagnant economic growth and development, the rising inequalities within and among countries, volatile food and energy prices, continuing food and energy insecurity, remaining effects of the world financial and economic crises, water scarcity, epidemics, demographic changes, unplanned and rapid urbanization of populations, insufficient investment in development in rural areas, unsustainable fisheries practices and use of marine resources, natural hazards, natural disasters and environmental degradation, the increasing challenges caused by humanitarian emergencies, displacement, armed conflicts and the adverse impacts of climate change, all of which are exacerbating disadvantages, vulnerabilities and inequalities that rural women and men, girls and boys and their families face. 31. The Commission recognizes that globalization presents both challenges and opportunities for women's economic empowerment, including rural women. It also recognizes that there is a need to make broad and sustained efforts to ensure globalization is fully inclusive and equitable for all, including rural women and girls, and becomes an increasingly positive force for women's economic empowerment. 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 6 32. The Commission notes with great concern that millions of people, including

women and girls living in rural areas, are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, and noting that armed conflicts, drought, poverty and the volatility of commodity prices are among the factors causing or exacerbating famine and severe food insecurity and that additional efforts, including international support, are urgently needed to address this, including in response to urgent United Nations humanitarian appeals with emergency aid and urgent funding.

33. The Commission is deeply concerned that climate change poses challenges to poverty eradication and the achievement of sustainable development, and that owing to gender inequalities, rural women and girls, especially in developing countries, including SIDS, are often disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, extreme weather events and natural disasters and other environmental issues, including land degradation, desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms, persistent drought, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification. It recalls the Paris Agreement and that the Parties acknowledged that they should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider gender equality, the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity, and in this context, also recalls the adoption of the Gender Action Plan by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its 23rd session. It acknowledges the necessity for every person, including women and girls in rural areas, of present and future generations to have access to an environment adequate to their health, well-being and the critical importance of ensuring such an access for the empowerment of rural women and girls and the sustainable development and resilience of rural communities.

34. The Commission recognizes the impact of armed conflict on rural women and girls, and the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts and in peace-building and in this regard, stresses the importance of their full, effective and meaningful participation, including by increasing their role in peace processes as well as in decision-making in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and reiterates the important engagement by men and boys as partners in promoting this participation.

35. The Commission also stresses the importance of strengthening rural women's and girls' voice, agency, participation and leadership, and women's full, equal and effective participation at all levels of decisionmaking. It recognizes the critical role played by rural women's civil society organizations, trade unions, enterprises and cooperatives in gathering and uniting rural women and supporting them in all spheres.

36. The Commission recognizes that indigenous women and girls living in rural and remote areas, regardless of age, often face violence and higher rates of poverty, limited access to health care

services, information and communication technologies (ICT), infrastructure, financial services, education and employment, while also recognizing their cultural, social, economic, political and environmental contributions, including to climate change mitigation and adaptation. 37. The Commission expresses concern that women and girls with disabilities, particularly those living in rural and remote areas experience stigmatization and an increased risk of violence, exploitation and abuse, including sexual violence and abuse compared to those without disabilities, and that they face a lack of accessible and inclusive services in rural areas, limited access to justice and equal recognition before the law, as well as limited opportunities for productive employment and decent work, participation in political and public life, living independently and inclusion in their communities, and having the freedom to make their own choices. 38. The Commission recognizes the important contribution of rural women and girls of African descent to the development of societies and the promotion of mutual understanding and multiculturalism, bearing in mind the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). 39. The Commission recognizes that the positive contribution of rural women migrants has the potential to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, underlines the value and dignity of their labour, in all sectors, including in care and domestic work, and encourages efforts to improve public perceptions of migrants and migration and recalls the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of rural migrant women and girls, particularly those who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work. 40. The Commission recognizes the contributions of older rural women, including widowed women, to households and communities, especially in cases where they are left behind by migrating adults or as a result of other socio-economic factors to assume childcare, household and agricultural responsibilities. 41. The Commission acknowledges the important role of national mechanisms for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, the relevant contribution of national human rights institutions, where they exist, and the important role of civil society in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those living in rural areas, as well as in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 42. The Commission welcomes the major contributions made by civil society, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders, girls' and youth-led organizations and trade unions in placing the interests, needs and visions of women and girls, including those living in rural

areas, on local, national, regional and international agendas, including the 2030 Agenda. It also recognizes the importance of having an open, inclusive and transparent engagement with civil society in the implementation of measures to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. 43. The Commission reaffirms the importance of significantly increased investments to close resource gaps for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including rural women and girls, through, inter alia, the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, the full implementation of official development assistance commitments and combating illicit financial flows, so as to build on progress achieved and strengthen international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, NorthSouth cooperation. 44. The Commission recognizes the importance of a conducive external environment in support of national efforts towards the economic empowerment of women, through promoting the control, ownership, management and participation of rural women in all sectors and levels of the economy, which includes the mobilization of adequate financial resources, capacity-building and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, which in turn would enhance the use of enabling technologies to promote women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment. 45. The Commission recognizes the importance of fully engaging men and boys, as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those in rural areas. 46. 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, including 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 8 rural women's organizations, producer, agricultural and fisheries organizations, youth-led organizations, feminist groups, faith-based organizations, the private sector, national human rights institutions where they exist, and other relevant stakeholders, as applicable, to take the following actions: Strengthen normative, legal and policy frameworks a. Take action to fully implement existing commitments and obligations with respect to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the full and equal enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, so as to improve their lives, livelihoods and wellbeing; b. Consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of particular priority, 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, limit the extent of any reservations, formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Conventions, review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them, withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the relevant Convention and implement the Conventions fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation and policies; c. Design and implement national policies and legal frameworks that promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, including those living in rural areas, and create an environment that does not tolerate violations or abuses of their rights, including those involving domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence and discrimination; d. Enact legislation and undertake reforms to realize the equal rights of women and men, and where applicable girls and boys, to access natural resources and economic and productive resources, including access to, use of, ownership of and control over land, property and inheritance rights, including in diverse types of land tenure, appropriate new technology and financial services, including credit, banking and finance, including but not limited to microfinance, as well as equal access to justice and legal assistance in this regard, and ensure women's legal capacity and equal rights with men to conclude contracts; e. Enact legislation to promote women's, including rural women's, land registration and land title certification, regardless of their marital status, and address practices and stereotypes that undermine their land rights, including in the context of customary and traditional systems, which often govern land management, administration and transfer in rural areas; f. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against all women and girls, including in rural areas, and implement targeted measures to address, inter alia, the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and the marginalization they face, through the development, where needed, and adoption of laws and comprehensive policy measures, their effective and accelerated implementation and monitoring, and the removal, where they exist, of discriminatory provisions in legal frameworks, including punitive provisions, and setting up legal, policy, administrative and other comprehensive measures, including temporary special measures as appropriate, to ensure women's and girls' equal and effective access to justice and accountability for violations of the human rights of women and girls, and ensure that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations;

23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 9 g. Eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against rural women and girls in public and private spaces, through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against rural women and girls and end impunity, and to provide protection as well as equal access to appropriate remedies and redress, to comprehensive social, health and legal services for all victims and survivors to support their full recovery and reintegration into society, including by providing access to psychosocial support and rehabilitation, access to affordable housing and employment, and bearing in mind the importance of all women and girls living free from violence, such as sexual and gender based-violence, domestic violence, gender-related killings, including femicide, as well as elder abuse, as well as of addressing the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination, monitoring and evaluation, by, inter alia, encouraging awareness-raising activities, including through publicizing the societal and economic costs of violence, and work with local communities; h. Eliminate harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, which affect women and girls in rural areas disproportionately and may have long-term effects on girls' and women's lives, health and bodies, and which continue to persist in all regions of the world despite the increase in national, regional and international efforts, including by empowering all women and girls, working with local communities to combat negative social norms which condone such practices and empowering parents and communities to abandon them; i. Pursue, by effective means, programmes and strategies for preventing and eliminating sexual harassment against all women and girls, including harassment in the workplace and in schools, and cyber bullying and cyber stalking, including in rural areas, with an emphasis on effective legal, preventive and protective measures for victims of sexual harassment or those who are at risk of sexual harassment; j. Integrate a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies, plans and programmes, including budget policies, where lacking, ensuring coordination between line ministries, gender policymakers, gender machineries and other relevant government organizations and institutions with gender expertise, and appropriate collaboration with the private sector, non-governmental and civil society organizations and national human rights institutions, where they exist, and paying increased attention to the needs of rural women and girls to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced; k. Eliminate barriers and afford equal and effective access by all rural woman and girls to justice, legal remedies and

legal support by, inter alia, providing adequate law enforcement and public safety infrastructure, accessible and affordable services, increasing rural women's and girls' legal literacy, such as awareness of and information about their legal rights, including on the existence of multiple legal systems, where they exist, providing legal assistance, gender-responsive training for police and security forces, prosecutors, judges and lawyers as well as other relevant authorities and officials in rural areas, as appropriate, putting in place mechanisms to ensure accountability and judicial remedies, and mainstreaming a gender perspective into justice systems at all levels to ensure the equal protection of the law for rural women and girls, taking into consideration, inter alia, the UN rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules); l. Guarantee the universal registration of births, including in rural areas, and ensure the timely registration of all marriages for individuals living in rural areas including by removing physical, administrative, procedural and any other barriers that impede access to registration and by providing, 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 10 where lacking, mechanisms for the registration of customary and religious marriages, bearing in mind the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of their rights; m. Design, implement and pursue gender-responsive economic and social policies that aim to, inter alia, eradicate poverty, including in rural areas, and combat feminization of poverty, ensure the full and equal participation of rural women in the development, implementation and follow-up of development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, support increased rural employment and decent work, and promote the participation of women at all levels and sectors of the rural economy and in diverse on-farm and off-farm economic activities, including sustainable agricultural and fisheries production; n. Pursue macro-economic policies that support diverse economic activities, including smallholder agricultural production and the food security and nutrition of all rural women and girls and their communities by fostering the positive and mitigating the negative impact of international investment and trade rules; o. Emphasize the need for business enterprises, including transnational corporations and others, to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for human rights abuses by their operations, products or services on the wellbeing of women and girls in rural areas and provide for or cooperate in their remediation; p. Design and implement and pursue fiscal policies that, inter alia, promote gender equality and the empowerment of all rural women and girls, inter alia, by facilitating greater access to social protection and financial and business services, including credit, for women in rural areas, in particular women heads of

households; q. 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 that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries; r. Mainstream a gender perspective, and include sustainable agricultural and fisheries development issues, in national agricultural and rural development policies, strategies, plans and programmes, enabling rural women to act and be visible as stakeholders, decision makers and beneficiaries, taking into account the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication; s. Strengthen and support the critical role and contributions of rural women, including women farmers and fishers and farm workers, to enhancing sustainable agricultural and rural development, eradicating poverty, achieving food security and improved nutrition and the economic well-being of their families and communities; ensure their equal access to agricultural technologies that are affordable, durable, sustainable and accessible to women farmers and fishers, through investment, the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, and support research and development and integrated and multisectoral policies to improve their productive capacity and incomes, strengthen their resilience, and address the existing gaps in and barriers to trading their products in national, regional and international markets; t. Strengthen national, regional and international efforts, as appropriate, to enhance the capacity of developing countries to support rural women farmers, including smallholder farmers, and those in subsistence farming and fisheries, horticulture and livestock to achieve food security and improved nutrition, including through appropriate mechanization in agriculture, sustainable agricultural practices, 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 11 and education and training on vaccination and management techniques and public and private investment to close the gender gap in agriculture and facilitate rural women's access to extension and financial services, agricultural inputs, land, water and irrigation; u. Strengthen sustainable production and consumption patterns, including family farming, respecting and protecting traditional and ancestral knowledge and practices of rural women in particular the preservation, production, use and exchange of endemic and native seeds, and supporting alternatives to the heavy use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides harmful to the health of rural women and girls and their communities; v. Invest in and strengthen efforts to empower rural women as important actors in achieving food security and improved nutrition, ensuring that their right to food is met, including by supporting rural women's participation in all areas of

economic activity, including commercial and artisan fisheries and aquaculture, promoting decent working conditions and personal security, facilitating sustainable access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, land, water and natural resources, and local, regional and global markets, and valuing rural women's, including indigenous women's, traditional and ancestral knowledge and contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, for present and future generations; w. Ensure integrated food and nutritional support for rural women and girls, including those who are pregnant and breast-feeding, and their access at all times to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food requirements for an active and healthy life; x. Invest in provision of and access to quality, resilient and gender responsive infrastructure and time and labour-saving technologies, information and communication technologies (ICTs), safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems, affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, and safe drinking water and sanitation for all, including through technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, to improve the lives, livelihoods and wellbeing of all rural women and girls; y. Promote women's leadership and their full, effective and equal participation in decision-making on water and sanitation and household energy management and to ensure that a gender-based approach is adopted in relation to water and sanitation and energy programmes, through measures, inter alia, to reduce the time spent by women and girls in collecting household water and fuel, and to address the negative impact of inadequate water and sanitation and energy services on the access of girls to education as well as to protect women and girls from being physically threatened or assaulted and from sexual violence while collecting household water and fuel and when accessing sanitation facilities outside of their home or practising open defecation; z. Commit to encourage urban-rural interactions and connectivity and eliminate geographic and territorial disparities by strengthening gender-responsive sustainable and affordable transport and mobility, technology and communication networks and infrastructure, underpinned by planning instruments with a gender perspective, based on an integrated urban and territorial approach that maximizes the potential of these sectors for enhanced productivity, social, economic, and territorial cohesion, as well as safety and environmental sustainability; aa. Optimize fiscal expenditures to extend social protection coverage to all rural women and girls and establish nationally appropriate social protection floors to ensure access to social protection, without discrimination of any kind, and take measures to ensure sustainable, long-term financial support for social protection systems and make information on social protection measures and benefits widely available and accessible to all rural women and

girls bearing in mind that social protection policies play a critical role in reducing poverty and inequality and supporting inclusive growth and contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those living in rural areas; bb. Protect and promote the right to work and rights at work of all rural women in both agricultural and non-agricultural employment, taking into consideration international labour standards and national labour laws, including by setting wages that allow for an adequate standard of living, implementing policies and enforcing regulations that promote decent work and uphold the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and taking measures to address gender-based discrimination, occupational segregation, the gender pay gap and unsafe and unhealthy working conditions; cc. Promote the economic empowerment of rural women and the transition of rural women from the informal to the formal economy by improving their skills, productivity and employment opportunities including through technical, agricultural, fisheries and vocational training, including their financial and digital literacy and facilitate the entry and re-entry of all rural women, especially young women, into the labour force; dd. Encourage and facilitate rural women's entrepreneurship and expand opportunities for their enterprises, cooperatives and self-help groups, to diversify and increase their productivity by engaging in sustainable agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, including mariculture, cultural and creative industries and other areas of economic activity, and improving access to financing and investment, technology and infrastructure, training and diverse markets; ee. Increase trade and procurement from rural women's enterprises, cooperatives and women-owned businesses, by building the capacities and skills of rural women, especially young women, to benefit from public and private sector procurement processes, including public food programmes, and fostering their access to local, national and international value chains and markets; ff. Take measures to facilitate the financial inclusion and financial literacy of rural women and their equal access to formal financial services, including timely and affordable credit, loans, savings, insurance, and remittance transfer schemes, integrate a gender perspective in finance sector policy and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, encourage financial institutions, such as commercial banks, development banks, agricultural banks, micro-finance institutions, mobile network operators, agent networks, cooperatives, postal banks and saving banks, to provide access to financial products, services and information to rural women, and encourage the use of innovative tools and platforms, including online and mobile banking; gg. Recognize, reduce and redistribute rural women and girls disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, as well as contributions to on-farm and off-

farm production, by promoting policies and initiatives supporting the reconciliation of work and family life and the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, through flexibility in working arrangements without reductions in labour and social protections, and through the provision of infrastructure, technology and public services, such as water and sanitation, renewable energy, transport and information and communications technology, as well as accessible, affordable and quality childcare and care facilities and maternity, paternity or parental leave and by challenging gender stereotypes and negative social norms and facilitating men's increased participation in unpaid care and domestic work and family responsibilities, including as fathers and caregivers; **hh**. Take steps to measure the value of unpaid care and domestic work in order to determine its contribution to the national economy, for example through periodic time-use surveys, and include such 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 13 measurements in statistics as well as in the formulation of gender-responsive economic and social policies; **ii**. Invest in and strengthen family-oriented policies and programmes in rural areas that provide the necessary support and protection and are responsive to the diverse, specific and changing needs of rural women and girls and their family, as well as address the imbalances, risks and barriers that they face in enjoying their rights and protect all family members against any form of violence; as these policies and programmes are important tools for, inter alia, fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity; **jj**. Promote and respect women's and girls' right to education at all levels, throughout the life cycle, including women and girls living in rural areas and those who have been left furthest behind, by providing universal access to quality education, and free and compulsory primary and secondary education, ensuring inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory quality education, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, eliminating female illiteracy, and striving to ensure the completion of early childhood, primary, and secondary education and expanding vocational and technical education for rural women and girls; and foster, as appropriate, intercultural and multilingual education for all; **kk**. Eliminate gender disparities and commit to scale up financing and investments in public education systems to fulfill the right to education for women and girls in rural areas by addressing gender-based discrimination, negative social norms and gender stereotypes in education systems, including in curricula, textbooks and teaching methodologies; combat gender norms that devalue girls' education and prevent women and girls from accessing education; provide inclusive, safe, non-violent and accessible schools with gender- and disability-sensitive

infrastructure, including lighting, and safe, accessible and affordable transportation to school; maintain separate and adequate sanitation facilities; train, recruit and retain qualified teachers in rural areas, especially women teachers where they are underrepresented; support rural women and girls with disabilities at all levels of education and training; ensure that rural women and girls have equal access to career development, training, scholarships and fellowships, and promote an effective transition from education or unemployment to decent work and active participation in public life; ll. Take steps to promote educational and health practices in order to foster a culture in which menstruation is recognized as healthy and natural, and girls are not stigmatised on this basis, recognising that girls' attendance at school can be affected by negative perceptions of menstruation and lack of means to maintain safe personal hygiene, such as water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools that meet the needs of girls; mm. Ensure that pregnant adolescents and young mothers, as well as single mothers, can continue and complete their education, and in this regard, design, implement and, where applicable, revise educational policies to allow them to remain in and return to school, providing them with access to health-care and social services and support, including childcare and breastfeeding facilities and crèches, and to education programmes with accessible locations, flexible schedules and distance education, including e-learning, and bearing in mind the important role and responsibilities of, and challenges faced by, fathers, including young fathers, in this regard; nn. Intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate violence and sexual harassment against girls at, and on the way to, school, including, inter alia, by implementing effective violence prevention and response activities in schools and communities, engaging men and boys, educating children from a young age regarding the importance of treating all people with dignity and respect, designing educational programmes and teaching materials that support gender equality, respectful relationships and nonviolent behaviour; oo. Develop policies and programmes with the support, where appropriate, of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education programmes, including scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the best interests of the child as their basic concern, information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development and power in relationships

between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to, inter alia, enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and other risks; pp. Address the digital divide, which disproportionately affects rural women and girls, by facilitating their access to ICT and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education to promote their empowerment and to develop skills, information and knowledge that are needed to support their labour market entry, livelihoods, well-being and resilience and expand the scope of ICT-enabled mobile learning and literacy training while promoting a safe and secure cyberspace for women and girls; qq. Strengthen measures, including resource generation, to improve women's health, including maternal health, by addressing the specific health, nutrition and basic needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to realize the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health for women of all ages in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable, available and universally accessible primary health care and support services; rr. Increase financial investments in quality, affordable and accessible health-care systems and facilities and safe, effective, quality, essential, and affordable medicines and vaccines for all and health technologies, including through community outreach and private sector engagement, and with the support of the international community, towards achieving each country's path towards universal health coverage for all rural women and girls; ss. Increase investments in a more effective and socially accountable health workforce and address the shortage and inequitable distribution of doctors, surgeons, midwives, nurses and other healthcare workers in rural areas, by promoting decent work with adequate remuneration and incentives to secure the presence in rural and remote areas of qualified health-care professionals, enabling safe working environments and conditions, and expanding rural and community-based health education and training and strengthening education for health professionals; tt. Take measures to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, as well as neonatal, infant and child mortality and morbidity, in rural areas and increase access to quality health care before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth to all rural women and girls through interventions such as training and equipping community health workers, nurses, midwives, to provide basic pre- and post-natal care and emergency obstetric care, inter alia, by providing voluntary, informed family planning and empowering women and communities to identify risk factors and complications of pregnancy and childbirth and facilitate access to health facilities; Ensure universal access to 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, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, and recognizing that the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on all matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, as a contribution to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and the realization of their human rights; vv. Intensify national and international efforts to improve public health, strengthen health care systems, and increase the availability of motivated, well-trained and appropriately equipped health professionals and health workers, as well as access to health facilities, including access to diagnosis services, and for the prevention, treatment and care of non-communicable and communicable diseases, as well as neglected tropical diseases, by integrating gender-based approaches for the prevention and control of diseases based on data disaggregated by sex, age and other characteristics relevant in national contexts; ww. Strengthen efforts to achieve universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support for all women and girls, including those living in rural areas, living with, at risk of, or affected by HIV and AIDS, including co-infections and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and address their specific needs and concerns without stigma or discrimination, and promote the active and meaningful participation, contribution and leadership of women and girls living with HIV and AIDS in rural and remote areas in HIV and AIDS responses; xx. Devise, strengthen and implement comprehensive anti-trafficking strategies that integrate a human rights and sustainable development perspective, and enforce, as appropriate, legal frameworks, in a gender- and age-sensitive manner, to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons, raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls, take measures to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to modern slavery and sexual exploitation, provide access, as applicable, to protection and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking in persons and enhance international cooperation, inter alia, to counter, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour; yy. Strengthen and build the resilience and adaptive capacity of all rural women and girls to respond to and recover from economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters, humanitarian emergencies and adverse impacts of climate change, natural disasters and

extreme weather events by providing essential infrastructure, services, appropriate financing, technology, and social protection, humanitarian relief, forecast and early warning systems, and decent work for women; zz. Develop and adopt gender-responsive strategies on mitigation and adaptation to climate change to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change, through, inter alia, the promotion of their health and well-being, as well as access to sustainable livelihoods, and the provision of adequate resources to ensure women's full participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies and policies related to the adverse impacts of climate change, and ensuring the integration of their specific needs into humanitarian responses to natural disasters, into the planning, delivery and monitoring of disaster risk reduction policies and into sustainable natural resources management; aaa. Promote and protect the rights of indigenous women and girls living in rural and remote areas by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face, including violence, ensuring access to quality and inclusive education, health care, public services, economic 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 16 resources, including land and natural resources, and women's access to decent work, and promoting their meaningful participation in the economy and in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, while respecting and protecting their traditional and ancestral knowledge, and noting the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for indigenous women and girls; bbb. Promote and protect the rights of older women in rural areas by ensuring their equal access to social, legal, and financial services, infrastructure, health care, social protection, and economic resources and their full and equal participation in decision making; ccc. Promote and protect the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including by ensuring access on an equal basis with others, to economic and financial resources and disability-inclusive and accessible social infrastructure, transportation, justice mechanisms and services, in particular in relation to health and education and productive employment and decent work for women with disabilities, as well as by ensuring that the priorities and rights of women and girls with disabilities are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, and that they are closely consulted and actively involved in decision-making processes; ddd. Promote and protect the rights of Afro-descendant rural women and girls, including, where applicable the recognition of their lands and territories, and mainstream a gender perspective when designing and monitoring public policies, taking into account the specific needs and realities of rural women and girls of African descent; eee.

Strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and gender statistics, to support policies and actions to improve the situation of rural women and girls, and to monitor and track the implementation of such policies and actions, and enhance partnerships and the mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance to enable developing countries to systematically design, collect and ensure access to high-quality, reliable and timely disaggregated data and gender statistics; fff. Promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by reaffirming the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors and reinvigorating the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development; ggg. Take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation, including by enhancing revenue administration through modernized, progressive tax systems, improved tax policy, more efficient tax collection, and increased priority on gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance to build on progress achieved, and ensure that official development assistance is used effectively to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls; hhh. Urge developed countries to fully implement their respective official development assistance commitments, including the commitment made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 17 in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets and help them, inter alia, to achieve gender equality the empowerment of rural women and girls; iii. Strengthen international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and invite all States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation focusing on shared development priorities, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector, while noting that national ownership and

leadership in this regard are indispensable for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls; Strengthen the collective voice, leadership and decision-making jjj. Ensure that the perspectives of all rural women and girls are taken into account, and that women, and girls as appropriate, fully and equally participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities that affect their livelihoods, well-being and resilience, and that women and their organizations, and girl- and youth-led organizations, are fully, safely and actively able to participate in the decision-making, policies and institutions at all levels, including by promoting and protecting the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, the right to vote and to be elected as provided by law, as well as to participate in local and self-governing bodies such as community and village councils, and in political parties and other organizations; kkk. Mainstream a gender perspective in decision-making processes and the management of natural resources, inter alia, in land, forestry, fisheries, marine and water management bodies, as well as in planning relating to rural infrastructure and services, transportation and energy, leveraging the participation and influence of women in managing the sustainable use of natural resources; lll. Protect and promote the rights to freedom of association, peaceful assembly and collective bargaining so as to enable rural women workers and entrepreneurs to organize and join unions, cooperatives and business associations, while recognizing that those legal entities are created, modified and dissolved in accordance with national law and taking into account each State's international legal obligations; mmm. Ensure that the perspectives of rural women, and girls as appropriate, in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and in humanitarian emergencies are taken into account and that they effectively and meaningfully participate, on equal terms with men, in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to conflict prevention, peace mediation, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, as well as take into account the perspective of women and girls who are internally displaced and refugees; and ensure that the human rights of all rural women and girls are fully respected and protected in all response, recovery and reconstruction strategies and appropriate measures are taken to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against rural women and girls in this regard; nnn. Ensure that women affected by natural disasters, including those caused by the adverse impacts of climate change, are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate, on equal terms with men, in leadership and decision-making processes in this regard; ooo. Support the effective participation, decision-making and leadership of rural women in enterprises, farmer and fisher organizations, producer cooperatives, trade unions, civil society and other

relevant organizations ensuring a safe and enabling environment, and provide support for those organizations, 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 18 including by investing in programmes that provide opportunities for rural women and girls to exercise their voice, agency and leadership; ppp. Develop and implement policies and strategies that promote rural women's and girls' participation in and access to the media and information and communications technologies (ICTs), including by increasing their digital literacy and access to information; qqq. Recognize the important role the media can play in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls, including through non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive coverage and by eliminating gender stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements, and encourage training for those who work in the media and the development and strengthening of self-regulatory mechanisms to promote balanced and non-stereotypical portrayals of women and girls, which contribute to the empowerment of women and girls and the elimination of discrimination against and exploitation of women and girls; rrr. Support the important role of civil society actors in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms of rural women; take steps to protect them, including women human rights defenders, and to integrate a gender perspective into creating a safe and enabling environment for the defense of human rights and to prevent violations and abuses against them in rural areas, inter alia, threats, harassment and violence, in particular on issues relating to labour rights, environment, land and natural resources; and combat impunity by taking steps to ensure that violations or abuses are promptly and impartially investigated and that those responsible are held accountable; sss. Fully engage men and boys to take an active part in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those in rural areas, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls both in public and private spheres; design and implement national policies and programmes that address the role and responsibility of men and boys and aim to ensure equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in caregiving and domestic work; transform with the aim to eliminate those social norms that condone violence against women and girls, and attitudes and social norms by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys, including by understanding and addressing the root causes of gender inequality such as unequal power relations, social norms, practices and stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls; and engage them in efforts to promote and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls for the benefit of both women and men, girls and boys. 47. The Commission recognizes its primary role for the follow-up to the Beijing

Declaration and Platform for Action, in which its work is grounded, and stresses that it is critical to address and integrate gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls throughout national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to ensure synergies between the follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda. 48. The Commission calls upon Governments to strengthen, as appropriate, the authority and capacity of national mechanisms for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, at all levels, which should be placed at the highest possible level of government, with sufficient funding, and to mainstream a gender perspective across all relevant national and local institutions, including labour, economic and financial government agencies, in order to ensure that national planning, decision-making, policy formulation and implementation, budgeting processes and institutional structures contribute to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including in rural areas. 49. The Commission calls upon the United Nations system entities, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World 23 March 2018 ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION 19 Food Programme, within their respective mandates, and relevant international financial institutions and multi-stakeholder platforms to support Member States, upon their request, in their efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all rural women and girls. 50. The Commission encourages the international community to enhance international cooperation and to devote resources to developing rural areas and sustainable agriculture and fisheries and to supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, herders and fishers in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries. 51. The Commission recalls General Assembly resolution 72/181 and encourages the secretariat to continue its consideration of how to enhance the participation, including at the sixty-third session of the Commission, of national human rights institutions that are fully compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), where they exist, in compliance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council. 52. The Commission calls upon UN-Women to continue to play a central role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and in supporting Governments and national women's machineries, upon their request, in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector, employers' organizations and trade unions and other relevant stakeholders, 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, including towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.

ANNEX III: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| 62 ND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|--|---------------|
| BRIEFING SESSION | | | | |
| 12-Mar-18 | | | | |
| ATTENDANCE | | | | |
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| 29 | Hon. Jeremiah Kioni | MP - National Assembly | jnkioni@gmail.com | |

62ND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

BRIEFING SESSION

12-Mar-18

ATTENDANCE

| NO. | NAME | ORGANIZATION/ DESIGNATION | CONTACT INFORMATION (EMAIL/TELEPHONE) | CELL PHONE |
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| 55 | Prof. Margaret Kobia | CS, MPSYGA | Profmargaret.kobia@gmail.com | |

62ND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**BRIEFING SESSION****12-Mar-18****ATTENDANCE**

| NO. | NAME | ORGANIZATION/ DESIGNATION | CONTACT INFORMATION (EMAIL/TELEPHONE) | CELL PHONE |
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ACRONYMS

CSW: Common Status of Women

UN: United Nations

NGO: Non-Governmental Organizations

CSO: Civil Society Organization

ICT: Information and Communication Technology

SDG'S: Sustainable Development Goals

GBV: Gender Based Violence

UNFPA: The United Nations Population Fund

WAMM: Women Affairs Ministerial Meeting

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UK: United Kingdom

IFAP: International Fund for Agricultural Development

CHOGM: Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting

IWD: International Women's Day

AGPO: Access to Government Procurement

KEWOPA: Kenya Women Parliamentarians

AMWIK: Association of Media Women in Kenya.