



July 12th, 2026  
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17th Session

Agenda Item: **Empowering Women's Potential as Key Actors in Humanitarian Response and Recovery**

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women  
Integrating Women in Political Decision-Making and Peace-Building Processes

The United Nations Women Executive Board,

*Affirming* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), requires the meaningful inclusion of women at every level of decision-making,

*Recognizing* unequal access and opportunities in terms of preparation that women and girls face during humanitarian crises and recovery in order to prevent disproportionately impacted marginalized populations, creating significant disparities in survival, aid distribution, and recovery,

*Taking Note* that women's economic empowerment through access to financial resources, entrepreneurship, and inclusive financial services is essential for sustainable post-crisis recovery and long-term community resilience,

*Deeply concerned* that despite the global recognition of women's high potential in humanitarian crisis reduction, women's actual participation rates remain globally low, constituting only 9.6% of negotiators, 13.7% of mediators, and 26.6% of signatories in over 50 peace processes analyzed in 2023,

*Recognizing* that education programs are insufficient for women and girls who are affected during crises in order to promote more leadership positions and nurture future generations, which will help develop the skills needed to guide and inspire,

*Emphasizing* the concerns regarding unequal access and opportunities that women and girls are faced with during humanitarian crises and recovery, which prevent women's participation, such as high rates of gender based violence, unpaid care work, forced labor, forced marriage, and other forms of discrimination,

*Reaffirming* the importance of listening to the voices of women and girls, who are negatively affected by humanitarian crises, for future inclusive policies and reduction of their challenges and the high risk of women in fragile settings,

*Noting* with appreciation the efforts of UN Women under the UN Women Humanitarian Strategy 2022–2025 in delivering financial assistance, technical support and capacity-building programmes to strengthen the operational capacity of global women-led organizations (WLOs),

*Fulfilling* the vital role of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) in supporting women-led humanitarian action, peacebuilding initiatives, and post-conflict recovery through targeted financial assistance to women's organizations,

*Deeply concerned* by the 2025 UN Women global survey indications that nearly 90% of WLOs around the world suffer severe financial strain, 47% face closure risks, and 72% anticipate staff reduction due to failing to gain humanitarian funding or gaining only short-term funding, and therefore, it is necessary to reduce the excessive administrative and bureaucratic requirements,

*Deeply concerned* that women and girls who have suffered gender-based violence often lack access to adequately funded protection services and timely legal aid, and that insufficient funding, high legal costs and weak survivor-centered legal mechanisms continue to hinder many survivors' access to protection, justice and rehabilitation support,

*Deeply concerned* by the increasing threats to the safety and privacy of women and girls facing forced displacement along dangerous transit routes as well as those affected by severe natural disasters,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to implement national strategies that advance Sustainable Development Goals 5, 11, and 16 by:
  - a. Recommending the adoption of transparent and inclusive selection processes that promote the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in political institutions, peace negotiations, and post-conflict governance;
  - b. Investing in leadership development, civic education, and mentorship programs for women and girls, particularly in conflict-affected and underserved communities, cooperating with international or regional organizations;
  - c. Advocating the allocation of national and international funding through gender-responsive budgeting to support women's meaningful participation in humanitarian response by financing childcare, healthcare access, safe transportation, digital connectivity, and leadership training for women serving in recovery and peacebuilding roles;
  - d. Supporting community-based organizations that empower women to contribute to peacebuilding, disaster resilience, and sustainable urban development;

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- e. Offering monitoring and reporting mechanisms using sex-disaggregated data to measure progress toward gender equality and inclusive governance;
  2. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with NGOs, local communities and organizations, to collaborate with UNHCR and UN Women, in order to organize and deliver humanitarian recovery training programs, supporting women and girls in humanitarian crises to increase the number of women who participate in responding to conflict-driven emergencies (such as wars causing mass displacement), natural disasters, epidemics and public health crises by:
    - a. Providing training in humanitarian coordination, emergency response, crisis communication and decision-making in anticipation of, during, and beyond crises;
    - b. Funding with the help of NGOs, local communities and UNHCR and making programs and facilities to train women affected by humanitarian crises to earn money by themselves consistently;
    - c. Incorporating monitoring, evaluation and learning systems into humanitarian response by utilizing Sex-and Age-Disaggregated Data (SADD);
  3. *Requests* UN Women to expand financial assistance and access to microfinance programs for women entrepreneurs rebuilding communities after humanitarian emergencies by:
    - a. Establishing low-interest microloan and grant programs for women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises, with priority given to widows, single mothers, displaced women, refugees, and survivors of conflict or natural disasters;
    - b. Partnering with local financial institutions, development banks, and international organizations to provide accessible credit for women who lack collateral or formal banking histories;
    - c. Encouraging collaboration with organizations such as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to provide entrepreneurship training, financial literacy programs, and business mentorship
    - d. Supporting the creation of women-led cooperatives and community enterprises in sectors such as sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, textile production, and local food systems to generate employment and strengthen local economies;
    - e. Recommending periodic evaluations of microfinance initiatives using indicators such as business survival rates, household income growth, and women's participation in local economic decision-making to ensure accountability and program effectiveness;
  4. *Recommends* that Member States strengthen national institutional mechanisms, including ministries, commissions, or dedicated governmental departments for women's affairs, to:

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- a. Advise governments on the development, implementation, and monitoring of gender-responsive policies, legislation, and humanitarian action plans that address the specific needs of women and girls before, during, and after humanitarian crises and post-conflict reconstruction;
    - b. Establish regular consultation mechanisms with women-led civil society organizations, grassroots organizations, indigenous women, youth representatives, and other marginalized groups to identify barriers to participation, incorporate diverse perspectives into policymaking, and develop inclusive solutions that strengthen humanitarian resilience;
    - c. Monitor and publish periodic reports on progress toward women's participation in humanitarian governance and recovery processes, using measurable indicators to evaluate representation, leadership opportunities, and policy outcomes;
  5. *Encourages* collaborations with non-profit organizations to give and expand access to educational systems and leadership training with cooperation from UN Women and Member States to evaluate and improve women and girls' actions and knowledge of humanitarian issues, by:
    - a. Encouraging Member States' governments to expand access to primary and secondary education to raise awareness of women's leadership during humanitarian issues in displaced and vulnerable areas that affect women and girls;
    - b. Creating opportunities such as internships for everyone who is eager to learn and gain experience for further knowledge, specifically women and girls who are in humanitarian crises and have no access to education by cooperating with United Nations Volunteers;
    - c. Providing government-funded merit and equity-based scholarships for academically outstanding students who are eager to contribute to giving assistance in helping women and girls' education, regardless of gender;
  6. *Encourages* UN Women, in collaboration within the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) system and humanitarian partners, to expand opportunities for women and girls to safely communicate their needs as well as participate in humanitarian responses by:
    - a. Establishing safe and accessible consultation spaces, including women-only forums, community dialogues, and reporting mechanisms that help women and girls' identity protection concerns and prioritize needs without the fear of discrimination or retaliation;
    - b. Deploying trained female humanitarian personnel to conduct confidential household visits and community outreach in crisis-affected areas, particularly

where cultural or security barriers limit women's access to public consultation mechanisms;

- c. Supporting partnerships with local-led women's organizations to facilitate outreach, build trust within affected communities, and strengthen women's long-term participation in disaster preparedness and recovery planning;

7. *Recommends* that UN Women support strengthening the long-term financial sustainability and operational resilience of WLOs through a two-tiered approach, which are:

- a. Establishing a support task force to deliver services such as financial guidance to help with budget management, and administrative assistance through formalized reporting procedures;
- b. Developing context-adaptive financing guidelines in full consultation with local WLOs based on their self-identified institutional development priorities, by:
  - i. Delivering tailored financial capacity-building programmes such as staff training;
  - ii. Facilitating sustainable institutional partnerships between grassroots WLOs and professional financial management institutions;
  - iii. Implementing Sustainable Development Goal 11 to provide access to shelters and women-led communities who strive to ensure the safety of women for those in poverty;

8. *Encourages* Member States, international financial institutions, and donor organizations to increase voluntary contributions to the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) to strengthen women's leadership in humanitarian response and recovery by:

- a. Providing emergency grants and financial assistance to women living in extreme poverty according to the UN definition of extreme poverty, which refers to less than 3 dollars a day, particularly female-headed households and women with dependent children;
- b. Supporting women-led organizations delivering humanitarian relief, recovery, and community resilience programs in conflict-affected and disaster-stricken areas;
- c. Expanding access to livelihood recovery initiatives, including vocational training, entrepreneurship support, and income-generating opportunities for women during post-crisis reconstruction;
- d. Promoting women's meaningful participation in local recovery planning and peacebuilding efforts through sustainable financial and institutional support;

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9. *Encourages* all Member States to simplify administrative procedures in order to enable a more timely and effective humanitarian response during disasters, conflicts, and other humanitarian crises by:
- Sharing appropriate templates which can meet each Member State's needs and adopting translation devices between different countries so as to overcome language barriers;
  - Establishing expedited visa and border clearance procedures for international humanitarian personnel without compromising national security, such as through the utilization of pre-registration systems;
  - All project plans written by organizations involved in the crisis should be assessed based on their outcomes and monitored without bias or discrimination, so that all Member States can deliver aid, thereby removing gender biases in project selection and empowering women-led initiatives to be approved and implemented;
10. *Encourages* all Member States to strengthen cooperation with UN Women, Women-led Organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and relevant international partners, in order to strengthen existing women-protection institutions and government-led support systems for women's safety in crisis situations such as conflicts, disasters, and domestic violence through financial and legal support, including:
- Ensuring long-term funding to provide women and girls with continuous and stable physical and mental support services, including shelter, medical care, and psychological counseling;
  - Offering immediate and free legal support for women and girls, especially survivors of gender-based violence, such as free legal consultations through legal aid organizations, and supervised legal internship programmes;
  - Mentoring mechanisms such as hotline, online reporting platforms, and mobile applications that enable survivors to safely report incidents, including information on the nature of the violence, the perpetrator where appropriate, and the time and location of the incident;
11. *Recommends* UN Women and Member States prioritize the safety and privacy of women and girls in humanitarian crises, aligned with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2242, by:
- Increasing the number of local female staff members and security personnel to ensure the immediate privacy and safety of female survivors;
  - Designating and funding secure, women-only areas and safe spaces within existing emergency shelters to guarantee strict visual and physical privacy for female survivors;

- c. Providing safe, private, and separate facilities for men and women, including well-lit toilets and showers, secure rooms that can be locked, and hygiene kits that meet the specific health needs of women and girls.