

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the academic simulation of the UNCSW at Blue Bells MUN 2022. We hope this experience enriches your public speaking skills and that you learn about a pressing world issue that complicates the lives of many people in our country as well as abroad. Before coming for the conference, it is very important to break the larger agenda into smaller subtopics and ask questions to yourself about the agenda. We would be using the UNA-USA rules of procedure to facilitate this simulation. You may consult

<http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/rul> if you have any queries regarding the same.

Our agenda is “[Bridging the gap between the physical science and social science communities to advance gender equality in the context of climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction](#)” and this background guide is not exhaustive in scope. This guide aims at providing you with the foundational knowledge and gives concrete real world examples.

To clear any contentions, the delegates need not let thoughts about our expectations be a hurdle in their research or give way to any fear regarding fulfillment of their objectives. The only thing the Executive Board will put a strong emphasis on would be helping you understand the traits of diplomacy, logical analysis, and argumentative debating. These resources, although very comprehensive and factual, provide a basic idea of the agenda and arguments in view of the United Nations and may vary from those of the respective country policies. In no way is this guide to confine research. The delegates must make it a point **not** to confine their research to these resources. We expect these resources to serve as enough research for the agenda and you to revert back to us for any help with understanding or proceeding with the research, in case you have any doubts or contentions till the end of the conference.

We shall, to the best of our abilities, ensure that a fair simulation is conducted and there is ample scope for fruitful and meaningful discussion which paves the way for a nuanced learning experience.

Sincerely,

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## About the Committee

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, also known as UN Women, is a United Nations entity working for gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women advocates for the rights of women and girls, and focuses on a wide array of issues, including violence against women and violence against LGBTIQ+ people.

UN Women was established by the merger of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, established in 1976) and other entities, and became operational in January 2011.[2] Former President of Chile Michelle Bachelet was the inaugural executive director, and Sima Sami Bahous is the current executive director.[3] As with UNIFEM previously, UN Women is a member of the United Nations Development Group.[4]

## Mandate

The mandate and functions of UN Women consist of the consolidated mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. In addition, the entity must lead, coordinate, and promote the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and women's empowerment. The goal of UN Women is to "enhance, not replace, efforts by other parts of the UN system (such as [UNICEF](#), [UNDP](#), and [UNFPA](#)), which will continue to have a responsibility to work for gender equality and women's empowerment in their areas of expertise."<sup>[2]</sup>

In accordance with the provisions of resolution 64/289, UN Women will work within the framework of the [UN Charter](#) and the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), including its twelve critical areas of concern and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as well as other applicable UN instruments, standards and resolutions that address gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women.<sup>[12]</sup>

UN Women's main thematic areas of work include:

- Leadership and [political participation](#)<sup>[14]</sup>
- Economic empowerment<sup>[15]</sup>
- Ending [violence against women](#)<sup>[16]</sup>
- Humanitarian action<sup>[17]</sup>
- Peace and security<sup>[18]</sup>
- Governance and national planning<sup>[19]</sup>
- The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)<sup>[20]</sup>
- [HIV and AIDS](#)<sup>[21]</sup>

In late 2013, a series of ads, developed as a creative idea for UN Women by [Ogilvy & Mather](#), used genuine Google searches to reveal the widespread prevalence of [sexism](#) and discrimination against women<sup>[22]</sup> The ads featured the faces of four women and where their mouths should be were Google auto-complete suggestions. The suggestions were all sexist or misogynist.<sup>[23]</sup> A similar campaign was also run to raise awareness for [gay rights](#).<sup>[24]</sup>

UN Women promotes the rights of [LGBTIQ](#) people.<sup>[25]</sup>

UN Women advocates an [intersectional feminism](#).<sup>[26]</sup>

Also in late 2013, UN Women launched a constitutional database that examines [constitutions](#) through a gender lens. The first of its kind, this database maps the principles and rules that guarantee, deny, or protect the [rights of women](#) and girls around the world. This tool for gender equality and human rights activists is annually updated and searchable, and provides a comprehensive overview of the current status of provisions relevant to women's rights and gender equality across various countries throughout the world. Users can search through the database by keyword, and legal provisions are grouped into 16 categories that were carefully defined by reviewing the constitutions from a human rights perspective.<sup>[27]</sup>

UN Women is one of the lead agencies in coordinating [International Women's Day](#) events<sup>[28]</sup> as well as the Commission on the Status of Women.<sup>[29]</sup>

The year 2015 has marked a number of significant milestones, such as the 20th anniversary of the [Fourth World Conference on Women](#) and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,<sup>[30]</sup> which was the focus of the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59) from 9–20 March 2015,<sup>[31]</sup> where global leaders took stock of progress and remaining challenges for implementing this landmark agreement for gender equality and women's rights. UN Women played an active role in major intergovernmental negotiations and processes including the Financing for Development Conference in [Addis Ababa](#) in July 2015, the outcome of which was strong on the need to adequately fund gender equality and incorporate it in development planning,<sup>[32]</sup> as well as the negotiations and successful adoption of the new [post-2015 development agenda](#) on 25 September 2015.<sup>[33]</sup> The new global development roadmap includes a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment (Sustainable Development Goal 5),<sup>[34]</sup> and [mainstreams](#) these priorities throughout all 17 goals.<sup>[35]</sup>

## **Evidence/Proof Accepted in this Committee**

Evidence or proof is acceptable from sources:

### **1. News Sources:**

- a. REUTERS – Any Reuters article which clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in council. (<http://www.reuters.com/> )
- b. State operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are,
  - i. RIA Novosti (Russia) <http://en.rian.ru/>
  - ii. IRNA (Iran) <http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm>
  - iii. BBC (United Kingdom) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>
  - iv. Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China) <http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/>

**2. Government Reports:** These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country.

- a. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America (<http://www.state.gov/index.htm>) or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation (<http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm>)
- b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>), People's Republic of China (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>), France(<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>), Russian Federation([http://www.mid.ru/brp\\_4.nsf/main\\_eng](http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/main_eng) )
- c. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports <http://www.un.org/en/members/> (Click on any country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative)
- d. Multilateral Organizations like the NATO (<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>), ASEAN (<http://www.aseansec.org/>), OPEC ([http://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/en/](http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/)), etc.

**3. UN Reports:** All UN Reports are considered credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of the Security Council.

- a. UN Bodies: Like the SC (<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>), GA (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/>), HRC (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx> ) etc.
- b. UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www.iaea.org/>), World Bank (<http://www.worldbank.org/>), International Monetary Fund (<http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>), International Committee Of the Red Cross (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>), etc.
- c. Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System (<http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm>), the International Criminal Court (<http://www.iccpi.int/Menus/ICC>)

## GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. **Motion:** an action initiated by delegates to direct debate in a particular direction. format
2. **Speaker's List:** a list that contains the order of speakers in the committee. The Speaker's List is the default format of the debate. The committee will proceed with speeches until a delegate raises a motion to switch.
3. **Yield:** this is when a speaker decides to give up the remaining time of their speech. Typically, the three types of yields are:
  - 1) **Yield to the Chair**, which means that you are giving up the rest of your time,
  - 2) **Yield to another delegate** which means that you are giving up the rest of your time to another delegate,
  - 3) **Yield to questions (Points of Information)** enables other delegates to ask you questions related to your speech.

## POINTS

4. **Point of Inquiry** is used by a delegate when they have a question about the ongoings of the committee.

5. **Point of Personal Privilege;** used when a delegate experiences personal discomfort that hinders their ability to participate in the committee.

6. **Point of Order** is used by a delegate when they believe that a mistake was made regarding the rules of procedure.

## CAUCUS

7. **Moderated Caucus:** A debate format that allows delegates to make short comments on a specific sub-issue. To move into a moderated caucus, the motion must include the overall speaking time, the time per speaker, and the sub-agenda to be discussed.

8. **Unmoderated Caucus:** a debate format in which delegates can talk to others freely and informally. To move into an unmoderated caucus, the motion must include the overall caucus time.

## RESOLUTIONS

9. **Working paper:** Working papers are just a list of ideas formed by the delegates.

10. **Draft Resolution:** A document written in resolution format, approved by the chairs, and introduced to committee but not yet voted upon is called a draft resolution.

11. **Sponsors:** delegates who authored the draft resolution or actively contributed ideas.

12. **Signatories:** delegates who wish to see the draft resolution debated but may or may not agree with all of the ideas.

13. **Preambulatory clauses:** statements in the first section of the draft resolution that describe the problems that the committee wants to solve as well as previous measures taken to combat the problem. Preambulatory clauses are usually italicized.

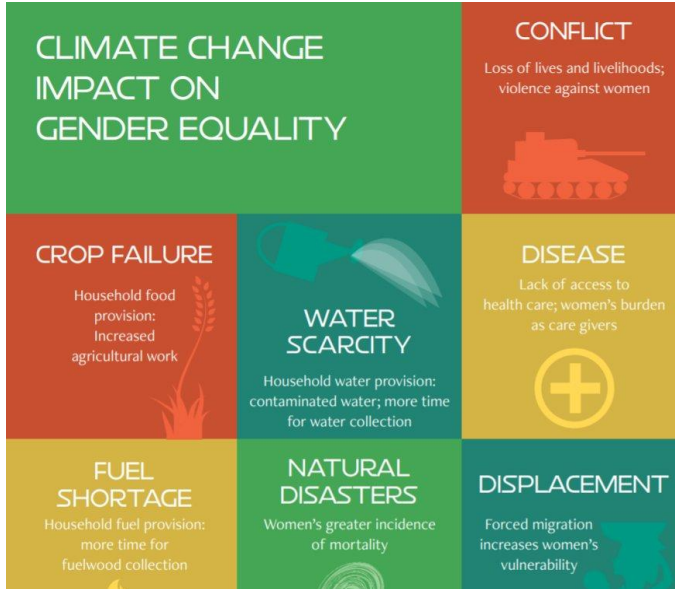
14. **Operative clauses:** statements in the second section of the draft resolution that outlines the specific solutions the sponsors wish to implement. Operative clauses are usually numbered and underlined.

15. **Amendment:** a change made to an operative clause of a draft resolution. Amendments can add, delete, or change an operative clause in a draft resolution.

A **Friendly Amendment** is an amendment approved by all the sponsors. It automatically gets added to the Draft Resolution.

An **Unfriendly Amendment** is an amendment not approved by all the sponsors. It must be voted upon before added to the Draft Resolution.

## Introduction to the Agenda



Detrimental effects of climate change can be felt through natural calamities and the general gradual decline of the environment.

In many of these contexts, women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men—primarily as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change

Women's vulnerability to climate change stems from a number of factors -- social, economic and cultural.

Seventy per cent of the 1.3 billion people living in conditions of poverty are women.

In urban areas, 40 percent of the poorest households are headed by women. Women predominate in the world's food production (50-80 per cent), but they own less than 10 per cent of the land.

Women represent a high percentage of poor communities that are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood, particularly in rural areas where they shoulder the major responsibility for household water supply and energy for cooking and heating, as well as for food security. In the Near East, women contribute up to 50 per cent of the agricultural workforce. They are mainly responsible for the more time-consuming and labour-intensive tasks that are carried out manually or with the use of simple tools. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the rural population has been decreasing in recent decades. Women are mainly engaged in subsistence farming, particularly horticulture, poultry and raising small livestock for home consumption.

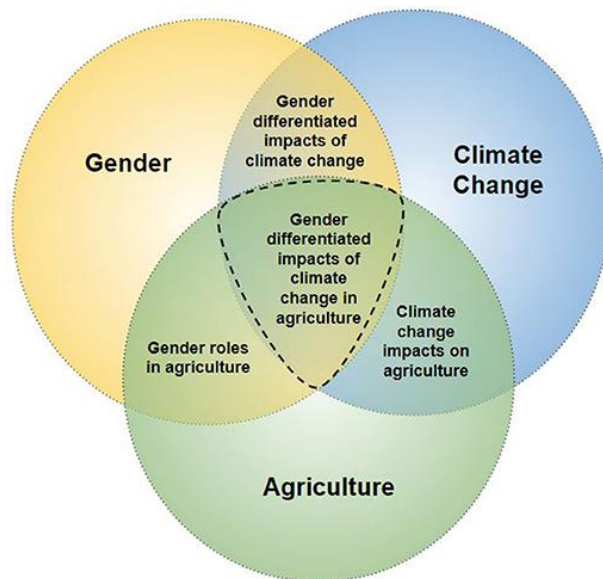
Women have limited access to and control of environmental goods and services; they have negligible participation in decision-making, and are not involved in the distribution of environmental management benefits. Consequently, women are less able to confront climate change.

During extreme weather such as droughts and floods, women tend to work more to secure household livelihoods. This will leave less time for women to access training and education, develop skills or earn income. In Africa, female illiteracy rates were over 55 per cent in 2000, compared to 41 per cent for men.

When coupled with inaccessibility to resources and decision-making processes, limited mobility places women where they are disproportionately affected by climate change.

In many societies, socio-cultural norms and childcare responsibilities prevent women from migrating or seeking refuge in other places or working when a disaster hits.

Such a situation is likely to put more burden on women, such as traveling longer to get drinking water and wood for fuel. Women, in many developing countries suffer gender inequalities with respect to human rights, political and economic status, land ownership, housing conditions, exposure to violence, education and health. Climate change will be an added stressor that will aggravate women's vulnerability. It is widely known that during conflict, women face heightened domestic violence, sexual intimidation, human trafficking and rape.



## IMPACT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY

Climate change has serious ramifications in four dimensions of food security: food availability, food accessibility, food utilization and food systems stability.

In the context of climate change, traditional food sources become more unpredictable and scarce. Women face loss of income as well as harvests—often their sole sources of food and income especially in the developing countries.

Related increases in food prices make it more inaccessible to the people of meager income, in particular to women and girls whose health has been found to decline more than male health in times of food shortages.

Furthermore, women are often excluded from decision-making on access to and the use of land and resources critical to their livelihoods.

For these reasons, it is important that the rights of rural women are ensured in regards to food security, non-discriminatory access to resources, and equitable participation in decision-making processes.

### UN publications:

- Rural Households and Sustainability: Integrating environmental and gender concerns into home economics curricula <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/V5406e/V5406e00.htm>
- Environment and Natural Resource Management: IFAD's Growing Commitment <http://www.ifad.org/pub/enviorn/EnvironENG.pdf>

Other resources on UN websites:

- Gender and Food Security – Environment  
<http://www.fao.org/gender/en/env-e.htm>
- FAO FOCUS: Women and Food Security  
<http://www.fao.org/FOCUS/E/Women/Sustin-e.htm>
- Climate Change, a Further Challenge for Gender Equity: How men and women farmers are differently affected  
<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000809/index.html>
- Climate Change: Focusing on how the vulnerable can cope – Newsroom: FAO pilots emerging strategies to alleviate weather-related consequences  
<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2007/1000724/index.html>
- [https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate\\_change/downloads/Women\\_and\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Factsheet.pdf](https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf)

## **IMPACT IN CONTEXT OF WATER RESOURCES**

Climate change has significant impacts on freshwater sources, affecting the availability of water used for domestic and productive tasks. The consequences of the increased frequency in floods and droughts are far reaching, particularly for vulnerable groups.

All over the developing world, women and girls bear the burden of fetching water for their families and spend significant amounts of time daily hauling water from distant sources. The water from distant sources is rarely enough to meet the needs of the household and is often contaminated, such that women and girls also pay the heaviest price for poor sanitation.

UN publications:

- Gender and Water – Securing Water for Improved Rural Livelihoods: The multiple- uses system approach

[http://www.ifad.org/gender/thematic/water/gender\\_water.pdf](http://www.ifad.org/gender/thematic/water/gender_water.pdf)

- 2008. Climate change, water and food security. High Level Conference on World Food Security - Background Paper HLC/08/BAK/2. FAO. <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/013/ai783e.pdf>

Other resources on UN websites:

- Towards Sustainable Food Security: Women and Water Resources  
<http://www.fao.org/sd/fsdirect/fbdirect/FSP003.htm>



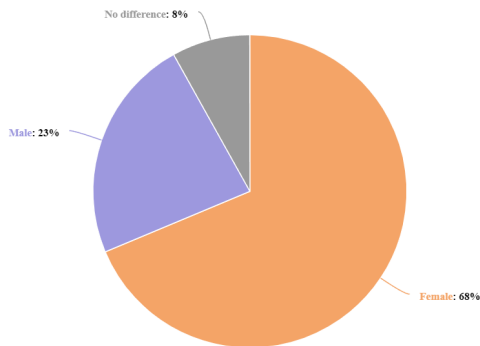
- Women and Water

[http://www.unifem.org/attachments/stories/at\\_a\\_glance\\_water\\_rights.pdf](http://www.unifem.org/attachments/stories/at_a_glance_water_rights.pdf)

- Gender, Water and Sanitation

<http://www.unwater.org/downloads/unwpolbrief230606.pdf>

## IMPACT IN CONTEXT OF HEALTHCARE



Pie chart displaying the findings of 130 studies on climate change and health: 89 studies found women were more affected than men, 30 found men were more affected than women and 11 found no difference in how men and women were affected. Rounding errors mean the proportions may not add up to exactly 100%. Data source: [Global Gender and Climate Alliance \(2016\)](#). Additional analysis by Carbon Brief.



In terms of health, some potential climate change scenarios include: increased morbidity and mortality due to heat waves, floods, storms, fires and droughts. What's more, the risk of contracting serious illnesses is aggravated by environmental hazards caused by climate change.

Evidence links the evolution and distribution of infectious diseases to climate and weather. This entails a greater incidence of infectious diseases such as cholera, malaria, and

dengue fever.

Whilst climate defines the geographical distribution of infectious diseases, weather influences the timing and severity of epidemics. Diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, for example, are particularly sensitive to variations in climate.

Furthermore, floods—increasing consistently with climate change—may also increase the prevalence of water-related diseases, especially water and vector-borne diseases, which affect millions of poor people each year.

Women, who are already at a relative health disadvantage including but not limited to the symptom tabulation being in respect and in consistence with how they play out in male anatomy, lack of health-related awareness and the not taking seriously of women's health, further aggravates their position and makes them more vulnerable to diseases brought about by climate changes.

UN publications:

[http://www.unep.org/ourplanet/imgversn/152/images/Our\\_Planet\\_15.2.pdf](http://www.unep.org/ourplanet/imgversn/152/images/Our_Planet_15.2.pdf)

## IMPACT IN CONTEXT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The impacts of climate change realizes itself in the form of a big business for human traffickers

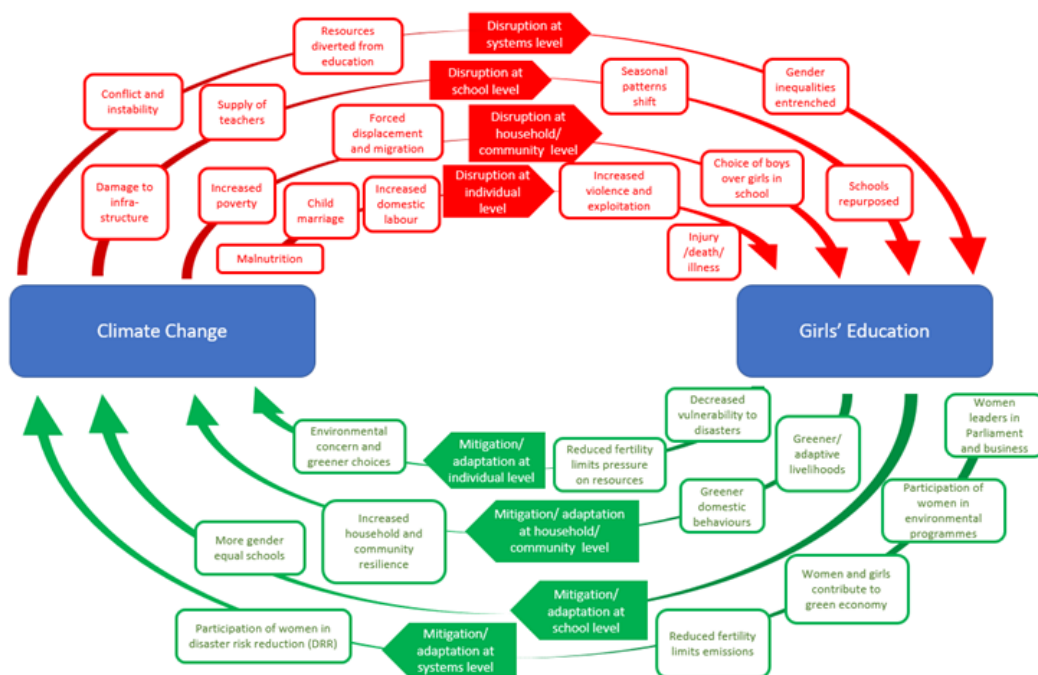
The rise in forced labor, sexual exploitation and other types of trafficking would be driven by many of the effects of climate change that are already well known and widely documented.

Collectively, climate impacts create a domino effect and create an increase in human migration, making people more vulnerable to trafficking

Among these people who move, those are the most poor and vulnerable, especially women and children could fall victim to human trafficking and become subject to sexual exploitation or forced labor.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/07/1043391>

## IMPACT IN CONTEXT OF EDUCATION



Climate change has a direct impact on education. The primary impacts of climate change on education arise from the effects of extreme weather events, such as heavy rains accompanied by flash floods, strong winds and hail storms with short and long- term consequences. Drought and increasing temperatures lead to poor harvests and food scarcity which have negative impacts upon educational attainment.

Extreme weather events reduce the availability of safe drinking water, compromise sanitation and increase the incidence of climate related diseases such as malaria and diarrhea, leading to absenteeism and possible withdrawal of children from school. Beside the primary impacts, climate change also has secondary impacts on education, arising from the ways in which households respond to, or choose to cope with and adapt to climate change as evidenced by income supplementing activities of household members, migration and child marriages.

Added to this, the gender parity of education provision, women and girls suffer more when it comes to seeking education as a consequence of climate changes.

[https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/zw/UNDP\\_ZW\\_2017ZHDR\\_Briefs---Climate-Change-and-Education.pdf](https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/zw/UNDP_ZW_2017ZHDR_Briefs---Climate-Change-and-Education.pdf)

Link for further understanding of the agenda: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v\\_\\_X5xzI2M0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v__X5xzI2M0)

## **Recent developments/ Case Studies**

### **1. More gender-based violence-**

Women and girls, who bear primary responsibility for collecting water and firewood for fuel, have to walk further in their search for scarce resources. When populations are displaced due to climate change (think drought in Somalia and Angola), women and girls face increased risk of gender-based violence at refugee or internally displaced persons camps. Again, in looking for resources to run households, they walk unfamiliar territory, increasing their vulnerability.

UNFPA found sex trafficking spiked after cyclones and typhoons in the Asia-Pacific region and intimate partner violence rose during drought in East Africa, tropical storms in Latin America and similar extreme weather events in the Arab States region.

According to UNDP, rates of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and female genital mutilation grew during extended periods of drought in Uganda. Violence against women increased in Pakistan after floods and in Bangladesh after cyclones. Developed countries are not immune.

And a University of Cambridge study published in *The Lancet Planetary Health*, which examined previous studies, found that gender-based violence against women, girls, and sexual and gender minorities could increase “during or after extreme events, often related to economic instability, food insecurity, mental stress, disrupted infrastructure, increased exposure to men, tradition and exacerbated gender inequality.” The violence took on many forms, including sexual, physical and emotional violence.

### **2. A rise in child marriages**

Weather extremes destroy livelihoods and exacerbate poverty. This can incentivize families to marry off young daughters so there’s one less mouth to feed, in exchange for a bride price or because they believe they are improving a girl’s chances at a future. Whatever the motivation, upticks in early marriage have been seen in such countries affected by climate disaster as Malawi, India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and Mozambique, among others.

### **3. Stillbirth**

Research indicates that “a 1 degree Celsius increase during the week preceding delivery was associated with 6 per cent increase in risk during the warm season (May–September) that translates to about four

additional stillbirths per 10,000 births.” Greater investigation is warranted, but evidence points to a [connection](#) between extreme heat and negative birth outcomes.



Forceful winds and heavy rains of 2020's Cyclone Amphan destroyed homes and buildings, road and power networks and fresh water sources in Bangladesh. Most of the 10 million people affected lived in coastal districts including Patuakhali District (above). © UNFPA Bangladesh/Tajbit Ahammad Barat

#### **4. Worsen other maternal and neonatal outcomes**

For example, [vector-borne illnesses](#) such as malaria and dengue fever have been linked to miscarriage, premature birth and anaemia. Rising temperatures are lengthening the seasons when mosquitoes, which spread these illnesses, are active, and wet environments encourage their breeding. Climate change can also increase the spread of vector-borne diseases like [Zika](#) virus, which in pregnant women can cause severe birth defects like microcephaly (small head due to a brain abnormality).

#### **5. Disruption in sexual and reproductive health and limited access to contraception**

As COVID-19 has shown, emergencies divert health-care resources toward fighting the latest threat and away from services deemed less essential. Emergencies due to climate change will become more frequent, meaning sexual and reproductive health and rights services may be among the first to be [curtailed](#).

But even if sexual and reproductive health and rights services continue, displaced women and girls often [lose access](#) to them, which can result in more unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. They can also lose access in other ways, as when Cyclone Idai struck Malawi in 2019. “Many parts of Mangochi district were submerged in water,” said Treazer Masauli, senior health surveillance assistant at Mangochi district hospital. “We had to use a helicopter to reach areas that were not accessible by road to provide sexual and reproductive health services, such as condoms, as a family planning method and for prevention of HIV and STIs, as well as peer education and HIV-related services.”

More than 20,000 women of reproductive age in [Mozambique](#) risked unwanted pregnancy when they went without access to contraception in the wake of Cyclone Eloise in January. And after Hurricanes Eta

and Iota hit [Honduras](#) in 2020, an estimated 180,000 women of reproductive age could not access family planning.

Failed crops due to climate change can also affect sexual and reproductive health. A [study](#) found that after shocks like food insecurity, Tanzanian women who worked in agriculture turned to transactional sex to survive, which contributed to higher rates of HIV/AIDS infection.

The world must recognize that sexual and reproductive health and rights are a climate issue, and that women need to be part of climate policymaking. When they are, the planet is [better off](#) in such areas as lower carbon footprints and greater protected lands. And when the planet is better off, everyone is better off.

### **Best practices that are being recommended across the world**

1. Building consensus and alliances amongst feminist development and environmental groups to hold States and corporations accountable to existing binding agreements that ensure the right to development, the right to decent work and livelihoods and the right to a healthy environment
2. Analyzing and incorporating considerations of women's and girls' time poverty, mental and physical exhaustion and poor health outcomes and the unequal distribution of unpaid care, domestic and communal work in the household and community when developing, implementing and evaluating climate, environment and disaster risk reduction policies and actions, to ensure these burdens are reduced and redistributed, not exacerbated
3. Taking urgent action to eliminate violence against and protect the rights and lives of women environmental human rights defenders, including indigenous women, protecting ancestral lands, territories and knowledge
4. Ensuring that services, commodities and equipment for sexual and reproductive health delivery remain accessible even when infrastructure may be lost or damaged, including through humanitarian action and in remote locations to ensure equal access for marginalized and underserved populations
5. Ensuring that services, commodities and equipment for sexual and reproductive health delivery remain accessible even when infrastructure may be lost or damaged, including through humanitarian action and in remote locations to ensure equal access for marginalized and underserved populations

6. Where gender equality is not already a fundamental principle, include gender equality, human rights and non-discrimination as principal objectives in global normative frameworks on climate, environmental and disaster risk reduction and national laws, policies, and programmes
7. Investing in capacity-building of women, indigenous people, LGBTIQ+ and other marginalized groups and their organizations to increase their leadership and negotiation skills to ensure more meaningful participation in decision-making spaces and institutions on climate change, environment and disaster risk governance
8. Prioritizing investment in women-owned or women-led MSMEs, particularly in sectors that promote agroecology, decentralized sustainable energy, or other sustainability enterprises
9. Taking into account inequalities between and within countries to ensure that just transition strategies reduce rather than increase economic, social, environmental and gender inequalities
10. Enhancing women's and girls' access to STEM education and training so that they equally benefit from the just transition to fully sustainable economies

Important link to the Expert Group Meeting of the UN Women-

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw66-2022/preparations/expert-group-meeting>

**Note-** The pointers in the background are only a few key areas that the Executive Board would want you to focus on, it is in no way an exhaustive set of pointers. The delegates are expected to build on these pointers and delve deeper into relevant newer dimensions that would give the debate and the discussions in the committee the right direction.

Read More:

- [Women's rights](#)
- [UN Women Goodwill Ambassador](#)
- United Nations:
  - [Special measures for gender equality in the United Nations \(UN\)](#)
  - [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#)
  - [Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](#)
  - [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)
  - [Women's Empowerment Principles \(WEPs\)](#)
  - [EGM: prevention of violence against women and girls](#)
  - [Global Implementation Plan to End Violence against Women and Girls](#)
  - [HeForShe](#)

- NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY)
  - United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
  - United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)
  - United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325)
- Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)
- Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR)