

# WOMEN AND GIRLS: CATALYSING ACTION TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

## HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

Core Responsibilities Two and Three of the Agenda for Humanity

**“Women and girls’ full and equal participation [...] at all levels must become the standard.”**

Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit

## CORE COMMITMENTS

Disasters kill more women than men, and hit women’s livelihoods hardest. 60 per cent of all maternal deaths take place in humanitarian settings and all forms of gender based violence against women and girls spike during disasters and conflict. While women, girls, men, and boys all suffer in a crisis, women and girls face greater obstacles to reaching their full potential and leading safe, healthy, and dignified lives due to structural gender inequalities. The capacity, knowledge, and impact that women and local women’s groups consistently display in a crisis is also rarely supported due to these structural inequalities.

Funding also fails to support women and girls. In 2014, only 12% of UN crisis response funding was allocated to programmes that considered that women and girls had different needs to men and boys. Also in 2014, only 1% of all funding in fragile states went to women’s groups or ministries of women. Further, a 2015 review of the IASC’s 2008 Gender Equality Policy found that the IASC was inconsistent in ensuring that gender equality and women’s empowerment issues are addressed in humanitarian action. The use of basic tools such as sex and age disaggregated data and gender analysis was also lacking, undermining monitoring, reporting and accountability. This situation exists despite evidence showing that when women are meaningfully engaged, and their needs are directly addressed, humanitarian action is more efficient and effective, the transition to recovery accelerated, and community wide resilience is enhanced.

In 2015, the international community consolidated its commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment through the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals, and Security Council Resolution 2242 [2015] on Women, Peace and Security. In his 2015 Report on the 15th anniversary of SCR 1325, the Secretary General stated: “the humanitarian community must do more to embrace gender equality as a central, organizing principle of its work”.

The roundtable will enable all stakeholders to jointly pledge to defined, coordinated strategic initiatives to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment in humanitarian action. Outcomes must be aligned with normative and policy commitments, in particular SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls.



**#1**  
PREVENT AND  
END CONFLICT



**#2**  
RESPECT RULES  
OF WAR



**#3**  
LEAVE NO ONE  
BEHIND



**#4**  
WORKING DIFFERENTLY  
TO END NEED



**#5**  
INVEST IN  
HUMANITY



The five proposed core commitments for this roundtable are aligned to all Core Responsibilities outlined in the Secretary General's Agenda for Humanity.

- **Commitment 1:** Empower Women and Girls as change agents and leaders, including by increasing support for local women's groups to participate meaningfully in humanitarian action.
- **Commitment 2:** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed 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 for all women and adolescent girls in crisis settings.
- **Commitment 3:** Implement a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis contexts, including through the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.
- **Commitment 4:** Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive.
- **Commitment 5:** Fully comply with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights.



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## WOMEN AND GIRLS: CATALYSING ACTION TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

### HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

#### Sample Commitments

**Commitment 1: Empower Women and Girls as change agents and leaders, including by increasing support for local women's groups to participate meaningfully in humanitarian action.**

- [Name of Member State] commits to increasing current levels of funding to women's groups, including organizations of women with disabilities and adolescent girl networks and women's machineries, from current levels of approximately 1% to 4% by 2020 to enable them to engage meaningfully in humanitarian action.
- [Name of Organization] commit to provide increased numbers of women's groups with capacity building and mentoring support to double the current absorption capacity of women groups by 2018.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commit to ensuring meaningful participation of women and adolescent girls in all formal and informal decision-making from refugee camp committees to peace processes, reaching parity with men and adolescent boys by 2030.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commit to ensuring that women access equally cash assistance programmes, sustainable and dignified livelihoods, vocational and skills training opportunities throughout humanitarian programme cycle by 2020.
- [Name of humanitarian actors who make grants or contracts with local implementing partners] commit that 25% of implementing partners are women's organizations by 2020, and are 30% by 2030.
- [Name of Member State] commits to not supporting any peace processes, including mediations and negotiations, with less than 30% women in formal leadership roles, including in UN support teams, where they can meaningfully participate.
- [Name of Organization] partner with local and national women's groups to provide women's groups with capacity building and mentoring to increase their ability to deliver in humanitarian settings, as well as to receive mentoring from women's groups on how to ensure their programming both meets the needs of women and girls as well as meaningfully involves them in program design, delivery, and monitoring.

- [Name of Organization] ensures that all adolescent girls are linked to essential services and stand-alone programming that addresses their specific protection risks and empowers them to become involved in all community decision making that affects their lives.

**Commitment 2: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed 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 for all women and adolescent girls in crisis settings.**

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commit to joining the Secretary General’s Every Woman Every Child Everywhere [EWECE] initiative and corresponding roadmap, by 2017, to work to end all preventable deaths of women and adolescent girls in crisis settings.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commit to continue and tailor to crisis settings their support to the implementation of the targets for the 2030 Agenda on maternal, newborn and adolescent health to ensure safe delivery, emergency obstetric, ante natal and post-natal services in crisis settings, improved access to information on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, emergency contraceptive services, voluntary family planning, and basic items for safe delivery and sanitary supplies, necessary medical and psychological services for SGBV survivors as well as improved capacity of health systems and workers with immediate effect.
- [Name of Organization] commit to rolling out the Minimum Initial Services Package [MISP] within 48 hours of an emergency, by 2017.
- [Name of Organization] commit to implementing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services as soon as possible after an emergency, by 2017
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] Commit to upholding sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights – guided by inter alia CESCR General Comment 22- including access to essential medicines and services as defined by the World Health Organisation.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commit to applying a human rights-based approach in line with the Technical Guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity (A/HRC/21/22) in crisis recovery situations.

### **Commitment 3: Implement a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis contexts, including through the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.**

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] that has not yet signed on to the Call to Action and its Roadmap, including those from crisis-affected countries] commit to do so by 2017 and make commitments commensurate with their mandates, capacities, and resources.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commit to developing and implementing strategies for the engagement of men and boys as part of the solution to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis settings by 2018.
- [Name of Current Call to Action partners] commit to providing capacity building and/or other support to ten civil society and/or Member State partners who wish to sign on to accelerate their ability to do so and turn the Call to Action into a truly global, shared initiative by 2017.
- [Name of Member State/ Organization] commit to undertaking GBV prevention and mitigation interventions throughout all stages of humanitarian action within and across 100% of their areas of operation by 2018.
- [Name of Organization] commit to fully implementing the IASC GBV Guidelines by 2018.
- [Name of Member State party to PSVI] implements commitments made in the United Kingdom led PSVI “Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict” and ensure that investigations of SGBV crimes suffice the standards set in the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, by 2018.
- [Name of Cluster lead agency] commits to ensuring the local/national memberships is composed of at 25% women’s groups with immediate effect and by 50% by 2020.

### **Commitment 4: Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive.**

- [Name of Member State/ Organization] that provides funding support, including through cash grants, subcontracts and other partnership agreements]:
  - Commit that funding, including pooled funds, is allocated only to funding actions that explicitly include a gender analysis with sex and age disaggregated data by 2018.
  - Commit to apply the IASC, ECHO or other gender and age markers to 100% of their humanitarian funding allocations by 2018.
  - Commit to reach a 15% target for gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment programming in humanitarian settings, in line with the peace and security commitment.

- Commit to ensuring that all humanitarian response plans and programmes include gender responsive financial monitoring tools that can be applied throughout humanitarian programme cycle.
- Commit to increase their support to collective financing mechanisms that enable women’s empowerment in humanitarian action by 2018. This could be done through the Global Acceleration Instrument on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action [GAI] and international, regional, and national women’s funds.
- Withdraw financial support from any programs designed for the entire population that cannot demonstrate how they meet women and girls’ needs, equally with men and boys, by 2020.
- [Name of Organization] establishes quotas to ensure at least 40% of leadership positions in humanitarian contexts are held by women by 2020.
- [Name of Organization] establishes quotas to ensure that at least 30% of staff at all levels are women by 2020, and 40% of staff at all levels are women by 2025.

**Commitment 5: Fully comply with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women’s empowerment, and women’s rights.**

- [Name of Organization] commits to comply with existing gender equality norms enshrined in international legal frameworks governing conflicts, including the Geneva Conventions, its Additional Protocols, customary international law as well as international refugee law with immediate effect.
- [Name of Member State] commits to comply with and submit to monitoring to ensure women and girls are equally protected under international humanitarian law [IHL] and receive medical care without adverse distinction as the “wounded or sick”, by 2018.
- [Name of Member State] commits to ensure national accountability mechanisms to monitor the extent to which gender equality and women’s empowerment is implemented in crisis settings.
- [Name of Member State that has not yet done so] commits to ratifying the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court and to ensuring that national legislation on sexual and gender-based crimes is in line with international standards.
- [Name of Member State who has not yet done so] commits to ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [CEDAW] and the Optional Protocol and implement General Recommendation 30 of the CEDAW Committee on Women in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations.
- [Name of UN entity] commits to include gender analysis and sex and age disaggregated data into all reports to the Security Council on humanitarian action and

in all General Assembly and ECOSOC Secretary General's Reports, including annual reports on Strengthening the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance and International Cooperation on Humanitarian Assistance in the Field of natural disasters, from relief to development. Reporting on humanitarian action is included as standard in the annual Secretary General's Report on Women, Peace and Security, from 2017.

- [Name of IASC entity] commits to implementing the findings and recommendations of the IASC Gender Policy Review and ensure the IASC abides by its commitments to gender equality by 2017.
- [Name of IASC entity [ies] commit to creating by 2017, and implementing by 2019, an accountability framework for gender equality as well as women's and girls' equal access to information, protection, services and participation in humanitarian settings.
- [Name of IASC entity [ies] commit to ensuring that the humanitarian leadership [HC's, HCT's, Cluster/sector coordinators, Cluster lead agencies] have defined roles, responsibilities and monitoring frameworks for gender equality programming including actions to prevent and respond to GBV by 2018.
- [Name of Security Council member] commits to request the Secretary General to mandate that all Secretary General Reports and any briefings to the Council from a UN or non-governmental agency include sex and age disaggregated data and take into account findings and recommendations on women's rights and gender equality by human rights bodies and mechanisms.