

# **Commission on the Status of Women**

## **Background Guide**

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# Background Guide for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

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## Committee Overview and Mandate

### *Introduction*

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the main global intergovernmental body tasked with the promotion of gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women.<sup>1</sup> Established in 1946, CSW is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which means that it collects and analyzes data on issues concerning gender equality to inform ECOSOC's work.<sup>2</sup> As the principal policymaking body responsible for women's rights internationally, CSW plays an important role in fostering dialogue, setting standards, and providing policy recommendations aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, Gender Equality, and addressing the variety of challenges faced by women and girls worldwide.<sup>3</sup> To pursue these goals, the Commission collaborates closely with governmental bodies, civil society organizations (CSOs), research institutions, and other stakeholders.<sup>4</sup>

While both are closely connected, CSW should be distinguished from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), another vital UN organ seeking to promote the rights of women and girls. CSW is a functional, policy-making body, and UN Women is a program-development body that promotes gender equality through initiatives and services guided by recommendations and policies designed by CSW, Member States, and other UN organizations.<sup>5</sup> UN Women functions as the permanent secretariat for CSW, and it supports the strive toward gender equality through its programs as well as policy documentation and official reports concerning global progress to inform the Commission's work.

### *Governance, Mandate, Membership and Structure*

CSW consists of 45 Member States elected every four years by ECOSOC on the basis of equitable geographical distribution.<sup>6</sup> This means that every election cycle, each region receives a set number of slots that can be filled with Member States from the region. For instance, there are always 13 African countries represented on the Commission.

The work of CSW is guided by the 1979 *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*, the 1995 *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (BPfA), and the outcome document of the 23rd special session of the United Nations General Assembly, an update to the

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<sup>1</sup> UN Women, "68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women," UN Women – Headquarters, 2024, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women>.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, "Functional Commissions," UN Web TV, June 5, 2026, <https://webtv.un.org/en/search/categories/meetings-events/economic-and-social-council/subsidiary-bodies/functional-commissions>.

<sup>3</sup> UN Women, "68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women."

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> UN Women, "Member States | Commission on the Status of Women," UN Women, n.d., <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/member-states>.

BPfA titled “Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century.”<sup>7</sup> Currently, CSW is spearheading the efforts to achieve SDG 5 under the umbrella of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), although issues concerning gender equality are interspersed within the other 16 SDGs as well.<sup>8</sup> CSW’s budget is provided by UN Women through the United Nations regular budget.<sup>9</sup>

While the following list is non-exhaustive, CSW’s mandate can be understood as:

CSW **will generally**: draft international norms and standards and issue policy recommendations concerning gender equality; adopt agreed conclusions, resolutions, and declarations on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; provide advice to intergovernmental bodies and Member States on conducting gender-sensitive actions; and hold discussions on and monitor the progress of the BPfA.<sup>10</sup>

CSW **will not generally**: implement or manage programs, initiatives, and projects on gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment; support Member States, governments, and CSOs in implementing programs, initiatives, and projects on gender equality.

Every year, CSW Member States come together during a two-week session in the UN Headquarters in New York to discuss progress, identify challenges, and set global standards and policies on gender equality.<sup>11</sup> During these meetings, there is a priority theme and a review theme. The review theme typically aims to assess the progress on agreed upon conclusions from previous CSW meetings. The outcome documents of CSW sessions center on the priority theme and are titled *Agreed Conclusions*.<sup>12</sup> The most recent CSW session took place in March 2026 and produced the agreed conclusion titled “Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls.”<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> UN Women, “68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.”

<sup>8</sup> United Nations, “Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls,” United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations, 2025), <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, “UN General Assembly - Fifth Committee - Administrative and Budgetary Questions,” Un.org, 2026, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/fifth/80/ppb2026.shtml>.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations, “Everything You Need to Know about CSW | United Nations,” United Nations, 2025, <https://www.un.org/en/delegate/everything-you-need-know-about-csw>.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations, “CSW70 (2026),” UN Women – Headquarters, 2024, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw70-2026>.

<sup>12</sup> UN Women, “Outcomes,” UN Women – Headquarters, n.d., <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/outcomes>.

<sup>13</sup> UN Women, “CSW70 Session Outcomes,” UN Women – Headquarters, 2025, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw70-2026/session-outcomes>.

## Tackling the Burden of Unpaid Care and Domestic Work on Women and Girls

### Background

Unpaid care work describes the daily labor required to keep households, families, and communities running. Domestic work, in turn, is defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) as any “work performed in or for a household or households.”<sup>14</sup> Unpaid care and domestic work can include raising children, caring for older or sick relatives, as well as any household chore, such as cleaning, cooking, washing, and collecting water or fuel.<sup>15</sup> While such tasks are crucial for enabling the smooth functioning of households and communities, they are primarily taken on by women and girls. According to UN Women, women and girls do 16 billion hours of unpaid care every day – 2.5 times more than men.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, estimates suggest that if women and girls’ unpaid work were given a monetary value, it would exceed 40% of GDP in many countries, which is more than entire other sectors like manufacturing or transport.<sup>17</sup> This highlights the momentous role women and girls play in many communities around the world, bearing the “mental load” and upholding households and families.<sup>18</sup> Despite this, female contributions are often dismissed or ignored and unappreciated.

The disproportionately allocated burden of unpaid care and domestic work prevents many women and girls from fully realizing their potentials, rights, and opportunities.<sup>19</sup> In particular, the most marginalized women – including those living in poverty, migrants, women in informal work, and women belonging to minority groups – bear the largest brunt of unpaid care work. During the 2016 UN Secretary General’s High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment, Member States and international partners published the *How to Recognize, Reduce and Redistribute Unpaid Work and Care* toolkit, which introduced the 3R framework as a top priority recommendation aimed at national governments.<sup>20</sup> Six years later, UN Women expanded on the original 3R framework – Recognize, Reduce, and Redistribute – by adding “Reward” and “Representation” in its *A Toolkit on Paid and Unpaid Care Work: From 3Rs to 5Rs*.<sup>21</sup> The 5R framework proposes key steps in promoting the rights of women and girls:

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<sup>14</sup> International Labour Organization, “Defining Domestic Work | International Labour Organization,” www.ilo.org, December 3, 2015, <https://www.ilo.org/resource/81-defining-domestic-work>.

<sup>15</sup> UN Women, “What Is Unpaid Care Work and How Does It Power the Economy? | UN Women – Headquarters,” UN Women – Headquarters, October 23, 2025, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/faqs/faqs-what-is-unpaid-care-work-and-how-does-it-power-the-economy>.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> UN Women, “Care: A Critical Investment for Gender Equality and the Rights of Women and Girls | UN Women – Headquarters,” UN Women – Headquarters, October 29, 2024, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/statement/2024/10/care-a-critical-investment-for-gender-equality-and-the-rights-of-women-and-girls>.

<sup>20</sup> UN Women, “How to Recognize, Reduce and Redistribute Unpaid Work and Care,” 2016, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/hlp-wee-toolkit-driver-3-en.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> UN Women, “A Toolkit on Paid and Unpaid Care Work: From 3Rs to 5Rs,” 2022, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/A-toolkit-on-paid-and-unpaid-care-work-en.pdf>.

recognizing the unpaid care and domestic work conducted by women and girls; reducing its burden; redistributing it across the community and local institutions; rewarding the women who fulfill it; and representing them on local and national governmental levels.<sup>22</sup> The challenge confronting Member States is figuring out what concrete initiatives and policies should be integrated into national, regional, and international action plans to advance the rights of women and girls and minimize the burden placed on them by unpaid care and domestic work.

### *Subtopic 1: Impact of Care on Employment and Education*

When the burden of unpaid care and domestic work is placed primarily on women and girls, many of their opportunities are severely limited or entirely eradicated. The ILO found that 708 million women are unable to participate in the labor market due to care and domestic responsibilities, and UN Women estimates that every hour of unpaid care work diminishes a woman's chance for paid work by 38% and higher education by 35%.<sup>23</sup> Frequently, girls' time for learning is severely reduced or completely eradicated. Women and girls are already disadvantaged in many of the developmental goals the United Nations has been attempting to achieve, and the vast majority of these disadvantages are closely connected to employment and education. When access to education is obstructed, chances at future employment are lowered, which negatively impacts financial independence, exacerbates poverty, heightens gender disparities, and increases the risk of gender-based violence (GBV).<sup>24</sup> To achieve sustainable development, it is absolutely critical that the challenges women and girls face in attaining employment and education, which include unpaid care and domestic work, are addressed and mitigated.

Several quintessential UN treaties, resolutions, and agreements affirm the right to education and employment. The *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966) (ICESCR) is a legally binding treaty dictating that everyone has the right to free and unobstructed access to education.<sup>25</sup> The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979) (CEDAW) acknowledges the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women in its Article 16 and stresses that both parents have the same

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<sup>22</sup> UN Women, "A Toolkit on Paid and Unpaid Care Work: From 3Rs to 5Rs."

<sup>23</sup> International Labour Organization, "Unpaid Care Work Prevents 708 Million Women from Participating in the Labour Market," International Labour Organization, October 29, 2024, <https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/unpaid-care-work-prevents-708-million-women-participating-labour-market>; UN Women, "What Is Unpaid Care Work and How Does It Power the Economy? | UN Women – Headquarters."

<sup>24</sup> UNESCO, "Key Data on Girls and Women's Right to Education," Unesco.org (UNESCO, January 13, 2023), <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/key-data-girls-and-womens-right-education>.

<sup>25</sup> United Nations, "International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights," OHCHR (United Nations, December 16, 1966), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights>.

responsibilities toward their children.<sup>26</sup> Since then, the United Nations system has affirmed its dedication to pursuing gender equality in several forums. UNESCO's *Strategy for Gender Equality in and Through Education 2019-2025* recommends Member States institute legal protections against girls being kept out of school due to care and domestic responsibilities.<sup>27</sup> Human Rights Council resolutions 49/11 and 50/18, both adopted during two distinct special sessions in 2022, emphasize the barrier to labor force participation posed by unpaid care and domestic work, and highlight that crises – such as armed conflict, natural disasters, or disease outbreaks – further obstruct women's access to fair and equitable employment.<sup>28</sup>

Many Member States, often in collaboration with UN bodies and other partners, have undertaken efforts to address this issue. In 2015, Uruguay passed its *Care Act* (Law 19.353), which mandates that all children, persons with disabilities, and elderly persons have the right to receive care.<sup>29</sup> Most crucially, the law provides training and regulations to guarantee quality and relieve the burden typically placed on women. UN Women, together with the Indian health program Dharma Life, launched the Better Skills Better Care (BSBC) initiative, which established Dharma Life Community Centres to provide women with affordable childcare, skill development, job placement and entrepreneurial support, all while targeting low-income populations in rural areas.<sup>30</sup> The issue can be further addressed in a variety of ways: through flexible work arrangement and inclusive leave policies that allow parents to remain in the workforce despite care responsibilities; by investing in public infrastructure and state-supported childcare and eldercare facilities; and through providing alternative learning models and re-skilling programs.<sup>31</sup>

### *Subtopic 2: Creating Financial Linkages for Economic Stability and Empowerment*

Financial linkages refer to connections between different people, banks, businesses, or countries that facilitate the flow of money and loans between them.<sup>32</sup> Developing these linkages is important, as they allow for financial services to be accessed by disadvantaged and vulnerable

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<sup>26</sup> United Nations, "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women New York, 18 December 1979," OHCHR (United Nations, December 18, 1979), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women>.

<sup>27</sup> UNESCO, "From Access to Empowerment: UNESCO Strategy for Gender Equality in and through Education 2019-2025," Unesco.org, 2019, <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000369000>.

<sup>28</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council, "43rd Session of the Human Rights Council: Resolutions, Decisions and President's Statements," OHCHR, 2020, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions/session43/res-dec-stat>.

<sup>29</sup> UN Women, "In Uruguay, Care Law Catalyzes Change, Ushering Services and Breaking Stereotypes," UN Women, February 28, 2017, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/2/feature-uruguay-care-law>.

<sup>30</sup> UN Women Asia and the Pacific, "Better Skills Better Care," UN Women – Asia-Pacific, 2026, <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2026/02/better-skills-better-care#view>.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Sri Lanka, "Addressing the Gender Gap in Unpaid Care Work | United Nations in Sri Lanka," srilanka.un.org, October 29, 2023, <https://srilanka.un.org/en/251066-addressing-gender-gap-unpaid-care-work>; United Nations, "Education - United Nations Sustainable Development," United Nations Sustainable Development (United Nations, 2023), <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education>.

<sup>32</sup> Investopedia, "Linkage," Investopedia, 2019, <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/l/linkage.asp>.

individuals, especially those who frequently reside in underdeveloped or remote areas. In the context of unpaid care and domestic work, any financial process and mechanism that allows for women to be relieved from their burden or properly compensated for it constitutes a financial linkage. These can be as simple as providing women with safe access to bank accounts and loans or building resilient social protection nets. According to the World Bank, 700 million women worldwide do not have a bank account or access to any formal financial system.<sup>33</sup> The gender gap in access to financial institutions is shrinking, but it is still particularly pronounced in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) where the prevalence of unpaid care and domestic work is also the highest.<sup>34</sup>

Women are also overrepresented in the informal economy. Almost 60% of female employment worldwide is in the informal sector, with this number rising to over 90% in low-income countries.<sup>35</sup> Individuals working in the informal sector are significantly less likely to have access to any form of social protection, which negatively impacts their health, well-being, and independence. UN Women estimates that globally, 63% of women give birth without access to any maternity benefits.<sup>36</sup> In sub-Saharan Africa, one of the world's most vulnerable regions, this figure stands at 94%.<sup>37</sup> When women are not provided with maternity benefits after giving birth, they are less likely to remain employed or in schooling due to childcare responsibilities. Ensuring financial independence and reliable social protection is absolutely crucial to achieving gender equality. SDG target 5.4 calls for “recogniz[ing] and valu[ing] unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.”<sup>38</sup> Many United Nations initiatives have been pursuing these goals, but more action is still necessary to ensure equitable growth and financial inclusion. For instance, the UNEP Finance Initiative, in collaboration with UN Women, published the report *Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Target Setting Guidance for Banks* in 2024.<sup>39</sup> The report

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<sup>33</sup> World Bank, “Women’s Financial Inclusion Is Rising, but Equal Access and Use Still Lag,” World Bank Blogs, 2025,

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/more-women-have-financial-accounts--yet-equal-access-and-use-rem>.

<sup>34</sup> Leora Klapper, Dorothe Singer, and Saniya Ansar, “Women and Financial Inclusion the Global Findex Database 2021,” 2021,

<https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/45619be5de8592403df8558559627234-0050062022/original/Findex-GenderBrief.pdf>.

<sup>35</sup> UN Women, “Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment,” UN Women, February 2024,

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures>.

<sup>36</sup> UN Women, “Two Billion Women and Girls Worldwide Lack Access to Any Form of Social Protection, UN Women Report Shows | UN Women – Headquarters,” UN Women – Headquarters, October 15, 2024,

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2024/10/two-billion-women-and-girls-worldwide-lack-access-to-any-form-of-social-protection-un-women-report-shows>.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> The Global Goals, “Goal 5: Gender Equality,” The Global Goals, 2025,

<https://globalgoals.org/goals/5-gender-equality/>.

<sup>39</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, “Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Target Setting Guidance for Banks,” 2021, <https://www.unepfi.org/industries/banking/gender-equality-guidance/>.

provides guidance to support banks in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment by promoting financial health and inclusion.<sup>40</sup>

UN Women also found that mobile phone programs could potentially benefit women, as in regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa, women are 12 percentage points less likely to have a bank account while being equally likely to own the only mobile phone in the household.<sup>41</sup> The United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) has partnered with Thunes, a cross-border payments network, to enable UNFCU members to transfer money to mobile wallets in select countries in local currencies.<sup>42</sup> Mobile banking programs can be the gateway to ensuring financial inclusion for women, but they often require bolstering digital connectivity and policy reforms that provide payment for unpaid care and domestic work in the first place. However, even without such reforms, mobile banking can ensure easier access to the labor force and therefore empower women. An example of beneficial social security reforms can be found in Iraq, where UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health, launched the country’s first Child Benefit initiative to assist over 7,000 vulnerable children and expectant mothers and inform social safety net reforms led by the government.<sup>43</sup>

### *Subtopic 3: Addressing the Gendered Impacts of Climate Change*

There is a multitude of evidence showing that climate change has a more severe impact on women than on men. For instance, women are 14 times more likely to die in a climate-related disaster.<sup>44</sup> As temperatures rise and extreme weather events intensify, many of the challenges women and girls already face are exacerbated. In some countries, men are increasingly migrating from rural to urban areas to find employment upon suffering financial stress caused by climate disasters, leaving women behind in charge of the household.<sup>45</sup> Additionally, many of the household tasks typically placed upon women and girls, such as collecting firewood and water, are negatively impacted by climate change. Firewood can be limited following wildfires, and water may be scarce during droughts. When such issues occur, women and girls might be forced

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<sup>40</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, “Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Target Setting Guidance for Banks.”

<sup>41</sup> World Bank, “Women’s Financial Inclusion Is Rising, but Equal Access and Use Still Lag.”

<sup>42</sup> Thunes, “United Nations Federal Credit Union Partners with Thunes Thunes.com,” Thunes.com, July 16, 2020, <https://www.thunes.com/news/united-nations-federal-credit-union-partners-with-thunes/>.

<sup>43</sup> United Nations Iraq, “The First-Ever Integrated Child Benefit Initiative for Children and Pregnant Women Launched in Muthanna Governorate,” Iraq, 2025, <https://iraq.un.org/en/287240-first-ever-integrated-child-benefit-initiative-children-and-pregnant-women-launched-muthanna>.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, “Women Are 14 Times More Likely to Die in a Climate Disaster than Men. It’s Just One Way Climate Change Is Gendered,” Preventionweb.net, May 30, 2024, <https://www.preventionweb.net/news/women-are-14-times-more-likely-die-climate-disaster-men-its-just-one-way-climate-change>.

<sup>45</sup> United Nations Climate Change, “New Report: Why Climate Change Impacts Women Differently than Men,” Unfccc.int, 2022, <https://unfccc.int/news/new-report-why-climate-change-impacts-women-differently-than-men>.

out of employment and education to dedicate more time and effort to keeping their households and communities running.<sup>46</sup>

In 2023, UN Women published the working paper *The Climate-Care Nexus*, which examines the connection between unpaid care and domestic work and climate change. The paper stresses that while women and girls are crucial to sustainable growth, many climate action plans, even those specifically focusing on female empowerment, do not address the component of unpaid care and domestic work.<sup>47</sup> Many of the negative effects of extreme weather events – such as their impact on food security, access to clean water, and health – increase the time and effort women put into caring for their households. Additionally, the paper acknowledges that many pre-existing vulnerabilities are worsened by climate change-related events: women are increasingly more likely to suffer from food insecurity due to cultural gender norms; they are more likely to be forced into short-term agricultural employment, often with poor wages and no room for growth; and they are more at risk of poverty and GBV when men leave because of local norms, laws, and policies.<sup>48</sup>

Many United Nations documents recognize the gendered impacts of climate change on unpaid care and domestic work. UN General Assembly resolution 80/152 titled “Contribution of the care economy to sustainable development” recommends integrating the care economy into national environmental, social, and economic policies.<sup>49</sup> Similarly, ILO’s *Resolution concerning decent work and the care economy* (2024) calls for monitoring the impacts of climate change on unpaid care work and considering care issues in relation to emerging labor market governance issues and climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and actions.<sup>50</sup> The disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls undoubtedly poses many challenges, but it also highlights future paths for opportunity. Care and domestic work strengthens community resilience, supports vulnerable populations, and contributes to sustainable practices that benefit ecosystems.<sup>51</sup> The question, then, is how to empower women and girls and protect their rights while transforming care and domestic work to the benefit of the community. UN Women’s *Beyond COVID-19: A Feminist Plan for Sustainability and Social Justice* (2021) outlines some approaches to address

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<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> UN Women, “The Climate-Care Nexus: Addressing the Linkages between Climate Change and Women’s and Girls’ Unpaid Care, Domestic and Communal Work,” November 2023, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/working-paper-the-climate-care-nexus-en.pdf>.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> UN General Assembly, Res. 80/152, “Contribution of the care economy to sustainable development,” December 18, 2025. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/80/152>.

<sup>50</sup> International Labour Organization, ILC. 112/Res. V, “Resolution concerning decent work and the care economy,” June 14, 2024. [https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/ILC112-Resolution%20V-%7BRELMEETINGS-240620-001%7D-W eb-EN\\_0.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/ILC112-Resolution%20V-%7BRELMEETINGS-240620-001%7D-W eb-EN_0.pdf)

<sup>51</sup> The Asia Foundation, “Climate Change and Care Work: Integrated Solutions for Intersecting Crises,” 2025, [https://www.wocan.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/WEP\\_Climate-Change-and-Care-Policy-Brief\\_EN.pdf](https://www.wocan.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/WEP_Climate-Change-and-Care-Policy-Brief_EN.pdf).

this issue, all while acknowledging women and girls' heightened vulnerability to crises.<sup>52</sup> One of the most important actions that any Member States can undertake to ensure long-term change is policy reform. To assist in this goal, UN Women also introduced the *Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard*, a tool policymakers can use to assess to what extent their climate policies are gender-sensitive and -responsive.<sup>53</sup> Consideration for the multifaceted impacts of climate change, and their frequently disproportionately larger strain on women and girls, needs to be regarded when creating resilient mitigation and adaptation strategies.

### *Conclusion*

Unpaid care and domestic work is crucial to the smooth and efficient functioning of households and communities, yet it also posits a significant hurdle to women and girls' empowerment. It obstructs access to education and employment, worsens future prospects, and leaves women trapped in a cycle of exclusive norms and practices. Additionally, unpaid care and domestic work often compounds the already gendered effects of climate change, presenting women and girls with additional difficulties in fulfilling their rights. CSW has addressed this issue in its sessions, and many UN entities, frequently with UN Women at the forefront, have collaborated with each other and Member States to develop solutions and guidance. Still, more progress is necessary to effectively lighten the burden placed on women by changing national policies and practices.

### **Questions to Consider**

As delegates conduct further research and consider how to address the topic, they should consider: What initiatives can Member States implement to lighten the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women and girls? How can CSW and other relevant UN bodies promote the recognition of unpaid care and domestic work? What recommendations can CSW make to address the growing burden of unpaid care work resulting from climate-related events? What policy changes can Member States implement to protect and support women and girls in participating in the workforce and education? How can Member States foster the financial inclusion of women and build better and more resilient social protection nets?

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<sup>52</sup> UN Women, "A Feminist Plan for Sustainability and Social Justice," 2021, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2021/Feminist-plan-for-sustainability-and-social-justice-en.pdf>.

<sup>53</sup> UN Women, "The Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard Methodological Note," June 2026, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-11/gender-equality-and-climate-policy-scorecard-methodological-note-en.pdf>.

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