



Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

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Chapeau

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality, human rights, the empowerment of women and girls and gender diverse people, and the Leave No One Behind agenda should be fully integrated into the Summit of the Future. This can be achieved by ensuring policy coherence with International **Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)** Programme of Action (PoA), Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the outcomes of their review conferences as well as the human rights framework and ensuring full use of the human rights mechanisms.

There is a strong concern over the trend of closing civic space and the undermining of human rights, the Pact of the Future must commit to the creation and protection of a safe and enabling environment for civil society to ensure full participation and respect for human rights. The **contributions made by civil society**, including women's and community-based organizations, feminist groups, women human rights defenders, girls' and youth-led organizations should be recognized by the Summit of the Future, along with their integral importance to multi-lateral processes.

At the local, national, regional and global levels, civil society engaged in the advancement and promotion of gender equality and bodily autonomy, and the empowerment of women and girls and gender diverse people; ensuring the rights and needs of the most marginalized, including women and girls, migrant and mobile persons, forcibly displaced including climate displaced persons, sex workers, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex or queer (LGBTIQ), young people, people living with HIV, amongst others.

We call for the following:

- Ensure that human rights are embedded across the Summit of the Future and the zero draft, and that the human rights pillar is strengthened.
- Reaffirmation and acceleration of implementation of ICPD PoA and BPfA and the outcomes of their review conferences.
- Strengthen the important role of the regional level processes, regional organizations and regional civil society (CS).
- Address deeply rooted structural inequalities that are the root causes of social, environmental and economic disparities. Recognize and address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, including gender-based discrimination.

- Ensure an enabling environment for civil society, institutionalize their participation, and commit dedicated resources to support and enable engagement. Representation, active and inclusive participation requires core, flexible, and sustained funding, including for CS networks.
- Strengthen accountability mechanisms and national level commitments, with the full participation and engagement of civil society in accountability processes.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and the fulfillment of bodily autonomy are integral to the achievement of just and sustainable development for all. Improvements in SRHR contribute to economic growth, poverty eradication, gains in education, reduced inequalities, and environmental sustainability.

At the same time, an average of 24 million people are displaced each year due to disasters and the adverse effects of climate change¹, and those disproportionately displaced are most often women, children, the elderly, migrants and refugees, stateless people, sexual and gender minority groups, and people with disabilities or serious health conditions².

- Recognize that the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA) is essential to achieving the Pact of the Future, as is reinforcing the links between ICPD and 2030 Agenda, including human rights and development, women and development, the climate crisis, women, peace and security and zero tolerance for gender-based violence.
- Commit to ensuring that SRHR is incorporated into strong, accessible, and climate-resilient health systems, including through Universal Health Coverage (UHC), in order to serve the full range of SRHR needs of all women and girls and gender-diverse people, including, access to a range of contraceptive methods; care related to sexual function; services for sexual and gender-based violence; antenatal, childbirth, and postnatal care; safe abortion and post abortion care; and the prevention and treatment of infertility, STIs, including HIV, and reproductive cancers.

Chapter II. International peace and security

Conflicts and crises disproportionately impact women and girls. Conflict and post-conflict countries tend to show the highest sexual violence rates worldwide, with rape and other forms of gender-based violence being used as weapons of war³. At the same time, women also play an essential role in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

- Reaffirm that respect for human rights is paramount to the prevention of conflict, and that respect for international humanitarian law is obligatory for ALL state and non-state parties in armed conflict.

¹ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Disaster Displacement: A Global Review , 2008-2018 6 (2019)*, available at [https:// www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/201905-disaster-displacement-global-review-2008-2018.pdf](https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/201905-disaster-displacement-global-review-2008-2018.pdf).

² International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, *Responding to Disasters and Displacement (2020)*, supra note 28.

³ UNODC, "Global Study on Homicide," United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2019, from: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/global-study-on-homicide.html>

- Address all forms of gender-based violence in conflict, including early and forced marriage, ‘honor’ killings, and sex trafficking, as well as attacks on women in public life, lack of access to health services and education.
- Institutionalize the participation of civil society in all humanitarian aid, recovery and peacebuilding and development efforts by providing opportunities for official representation in relevant national, regional and international platforms.
- Ensure that women are included in the design and execution of humanitarian aid, recovery, peacebuilding and development efforts by: developing standardized trainings and resources for gender-responsive humanitarian action; prioritizing gender-sensitive budgets, including gender analysis in all humanitarian appeals, and significantly increasing funding to local women’s rights and women-led organizations⁴.
- Develop legislation that expands the definition of gender-based violence as well as speaks to the linkages between the root causes of violence against women and girls that occurs in times of peace and that occurs during conflict.
- Ensure that women and girls are at the center of the design, implementation and evaluation of gender-based violence prevention and response efforts.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Digital transformation of services and information, especially the digital transformation of health remains a challenge in the context of gender digital divide. Disparities in access to digital technology are not only gendered, but also defined by rural and urban divides. For example, 40 per cent of the population in the Asia Pacific remained unconnected in 2021, with non-users disproportionately concentrated in rural and remote communities and within the female population. Digital transformation presents enormous potential for public health service delivery, including SRHR telemedicine, and online digital sexuality education, while upholding protection of personal data and right to privacy.⁵

- Digitalization must be pursued with human rights at the center, with ongoing consideration of the impact of rapidly-evolving technologies that can perpetuate existing patterns of inequality.
- Develop legislation to include new forms of gender-based violence with regard to online harassment, misinformation, and harmful stereotyping, as well as the recognition of other forms of gender-based violence including psychological forms of violence.
- Ensure that cyber laws do not infringe upon adolescents, young people, women, LGBTIQ peoples’ human rights, in particular SRHR.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Commitment to meaningful youth engagement and intergenerational solidarity requires young individuals, activists, collectives and youth-led organizations to be recognized and compensated for their time, effort and expertise.

⁴ WPS-HA Framework. Pp. 4-7.

⁵ Civil Society Statement, 7th Asian and Pacific Population Conference, 15-17 November 2023. Available at: <https://www.asiapacificalliance.org/our-publications/cso-and-youth-forum-call-action>

- Realize the sexual and reproductive rights for young people, including recognition of the challenges young people, adolescents and girls face, and ensure universal access to youth-friendly SRHR information, education and services.
- Ensure the meaningfulness and inclusiveness of youth participation through capacity strengthening and dialogues, and flexible funding.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

The future of multilateralism can be radically changed to establish a new social contract, but these must be based on a more equalized and balanced alignment between different power levels from grassroots to international levels.⁶

- Ensure that gender equity is integrated into foreign policy, development and security assistance, and backed by resources.
- Establish a fund to ensure that civil society, particularly women’s organizations, have access to resources to participate in global and regional policy convenings, build networks and share expertise.⁷
- Ensure women’s equal representation and leadership at the local level as one of the keys to securing a gender equal multilateral space.
- Respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of women human rights defenders. Investigate and prosecute all acts of intimidation, attacks and reprisals against women human rights defenders including those working on gender, sexuality and SRHR. Establish a robust, fair, and just reporting, documentation, and monitoring mechanism to this end.

⁶ FEMINIST FRAMEWORK FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL’S REPORT: Our Common Agenda (2023) Maria Fernandes Espinosa, Soon-Young Yoon and Nudhara Yusuf in *GWL Voices*. Available at: <https://www.stimson.org/2023/feminist-framework-for-the-secretary-generals-report-our-common-agenda/>

⁷ WPS-HA Framework. Pg. 6.