

# 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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