

INTERVENTION AT THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION (CSW66) – INTERACTIVE EXPERT PANEL ON BUILDING RESILIENT FUTURES

BY: RENATO REDENTOR CONSTANTINO, ICSC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Remarks as delivered by ICSC executive director Red Constantino during the 66th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW66) Interactive Expert Panel on Building Resilient Futures on March 22, 2022, 3:00PM EDT (March 23, 2022, 3:00AM PHT)

We need to integrate gender equality and development as basic elements in climate action. Resilience MUST become the anchor of gender-responsive adaptation even as we pursue low-carbon pathways as priority climate action. It's time to recognize underlying gender inequalities that worsen the vulnerabilities of women and girls across different backgrounds, ethnolinguistic groups and communities. These include sustained investments that ensure access to basic public health, sexual and reproductive health services, food, water, livelihood and productive assets, shelter, energy, mobility and social support services, while we proactively work on key issues including violence on women and children, and the burden of unpaid care work.

Adaptation finance must flow with urgency. Resources must become accessible to the most vulnerable communities in order to truly address vulnerabilities that impact women and girls most. With particular emphasis, tracking fund commitments for climate adaptation should go hand-in-hand with gender-tagging public finance expenditures.

The latest IPCC AR6 report demonstrates very high confidence regarding the most feasible adaptation options that support infrastructure resilience and reliable power systems. Clearly, a gender-responsive sustainable energy transition must address barriers to accessing flexible, distributed, and decentralized energy, recognizing specifically gendered energy consumption patterns.

Our experience in working with women in post-disaster communities shows that Investing in the technology-transfer process, not just mere delivery of renewable technology solutions, provided not just economic opportunities but strengthened women's agencies that enable them to lead their communities to plan better, and also pay-it-forward to other disaster-stricken communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the oil price surge highlights how gender-responsive sustainable energy transitions must accelerate in the transportation sector, especially in cities. Working women and frontliners who have no means to get to work have chosen cycling and walking as resilient transport options. Yet, cities have yet to make streets and roads safer and accessible for women.



Bridging physical science and social sciences must include the humanities to communicate to a broader society the urgency of the climate crisis with more women and girls' voices and narratives to challenge business-as-usual thinking. We invite everyone to join the When is Now campaign (www.whenisnow.org), a global creative collaboration mobilized by the 55-government strong Climate Vulnerable Forum that was launched during COP26 in Glasgow.

Thank you.