

**PROMOTING WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP IN
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND FINANCING**

**SIDE EVENT ORGANISED BY ARC AND FAO AT THE 66TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Date and Time: Monday 14 March 2022 Time: 13:00 – 14:00 GMT

Concept note

1. Background

The effects of climate change and disaster risks do not affect all individuals and groups in the same way but are shaped by intersecting vulnerabilities and social differences in socio-economic status, sex, gender identity, age, ethnicity and dis(ability), among others. Vulnerable and marginalized people with limited access to and control over assets and essential resources as well as to social security, services and credit will find it harder to mitigate, adapt to and recover from climate shocks (FAO & ARC, 2021)

Climate shocks are not only responsible for increasing humanitarian crises but are also a leading factor in augmenting poverty, food insecurity and destitution. There is a need for systems that can respond predictably and effectively to protect vulnerable communities amidst the evolving risks.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters: Evidence has shown that women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters, often facing increased risk of death, injury, and loss of livelihoods.

On the African continent, considering the multifaceted disasters that the continent is subjected to, it is important that African policy makers and leaders build more resilient and equitable economies by investing in inclusive and gender-responsive climate change and DRR programming, plans and policies.

Policies must strengthen national and local institutions, foster coherence between financing and public investments related to climate change and DRR and promote gender equality and women's leadership (FAO & ARC, 2021).

In 2022, the CSW 66 will focus on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

It is in this context that the African Risk Capacity and the FAO are co-hosting a side-event in the aegis of the CSW66 in order to make recommendations for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and for the promotion of women's and girls' participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction and financing.

2. Objectives of the event

The objectives of the event are:

- 1) To promote women's leadership in DRR

- 2) To show the linkages between women leadership in DRR and social protection
- 3) To push for policy actions for gender-responsive climate action and DRR

3. Actions at policy level

Some paths that have been identified for action at policy level, which will be the focus of recommendations to be made:

- 1) To Increase women's leadership and decision-making in climate change and disaster risk reduction Support a transformative feminist agenda that addresses the root causes of gender and social inequalities and power asymmetries in climate change and DRR by advocating for changes in attitudes and practices that (re)produce discrimination and marginalization.
- 2) To Support and promote women's participation in decision-making processes in DRR and climate action, and in climate change COPs negotiations, including climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk mapping and solutions.
- 3) Promote and nurture the leadership of diverse women (across generation, sociocultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds) and women's rights organizations and movements through creation of mentorship and capacity development/education programmes

4. Description of the event

The roundtable will bring together policy makers who will discuss the linkages between and benefits of promoting gender equality and women's leadership in climate action, disaster risk reduction and financing. African policy makers and leaders need to build more resilient and equitable economies by investing in inclusive and gender-responsive climate change and DRR programming, plans and policies, including shock- and gender-responsive social protection. These policies need to take into account the experience and needs of those who are most affected by the impacts of climate change and disasters, particularly rural women and girls. Promoting women's leadership and meaningful participation is key to ensuring inclusive and participatory policies and programmes that take into account the lived experience of those most affected.

For this reason, the event aims to share lessons and best practices so to influence African leaders, policy makers, development partners and key stakeholders on the importance of promoting women's leadership for gender responsive climate action and Disaster Risk Reduction policy, programming and financing.

5. Date and Time: Monday 14 March 2022 Time: 8:00 – 9:00 GMT-5 / 13:00 – 14:00 GMT

Registration link: https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-bOiY0j_QxS0W8P9ECHv5A