# 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women: Agreed Conclusions on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

**Date**: 2024-03-25

**Location**: New York, USA

## Executive Summary

The 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held from March 11-22, 2024, focused on accelerating gender equality and empowering women and girls by addressing poverty and enhancing institutional financing. The Commission reaffirmed commitments from the Beijing Declaration and emphasized the need for comprehensive implementation of gender-responsive policies. Key conclusions highlighted the importance of addressing systemic barriers, including poverty, discrimination, and violence against women. The session called for increased investments in education, health, and social protection, particularly for marginalized groups, and recognized the critical role of women in sustainable development. It urged member states to adopt gender-sensitive budgeting and enhance international cooperation to support women’s empowerment. The Commission also stressed the need for robust data collection to inform policies and ensure accountability in achieving gender equality and addressing poverty.

## Characteristics

* The 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women focuses on accelerating gender equality and women’s empowerment, particularly addressing poverty and strengthening institutions with a gender perspective.
* It reaffirms commitments from the Beijing Declaration and emphasizes the importance of implementing gender-responsive policies to achieve sustainable development.
* The session highlights the need for comprehensive strategies to combat the feminization of poverty and recognizes the unique challenges faced by women and girls in various contexts.
* It calls for increased investment in education, health, and social protection systems to support women’s economic empowerment and participation in decision-making.
* The Commission stresses the importance of disaggregated data to inform policies and track progress towards gender equality and poverty eradication.
* It advocates for the engagement of men and boys as allies in promoting gender equality and addressing systemic barriers to women’s empowerment.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | United Nations; United Nations Officials |
| Civil Society Actors | Civil Society Organisations |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Gender Equality in Tech; Digital Inclusion |
| Data & Governance | Digital Rights |

## Practical Applications

* The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, emphasizing the need for their implementation to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
* The Commission recognizes the importance of integrating a gender perspective into financing for development commitments and calls for actions to implement existing commitments related to gender equality.
* The Commission emphasizes the need for comprehensive poverty eradication strategies that address social, structural, and macroeconomic issues to ensure an adequate standard of living for all women and girls.
* The Commission calls for the establishment of effective partnerships to support developing countries in eradicating poverty and achieving gender equality, including improving tax systems and promoting financial inclusion.
* The Commission urges the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting and tracking across all sectors of public expenditure to address gaps in resourcing for gender equality.
* The Commission recognizes the importance of civil society organizations in promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls and calls for increased public and private financing for these organizations.
* The Commission emphasizes the need for measures to combat trafficking and raise public awareness about the risks of trafficking in women and girls.
* The Commission calls for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes at all levels, particularly in economic policy and poverty eradication strategies.
* The Commission recognizes the critical role of women in agriculture and calls for policies that support women’s access to resources and decision-making in agricultural production.
* The Commission emphasizes the importance of improving public services and sustainable infrastructure to enhance the safety and well-being of women and girls.
* The Commission calls for the strengthening of national mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to support gender-responsive approaches in public agencies.
* The Commission recognizes the need for comprehensive social protection systems that integrate a gender perspective to ensure full access for all women and girls, particularly those living in poverty.

## Commitments

* By 2030, an estimated 8% of women worldwide (342 million) will be subsisting on less than $2.15 a day if current trends continue.
* The Commission calls for developed countries to fully implement their official development assistance commitments, including the target of 0.7% of their gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and the target of 0.15 to 0.20% of their gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries.
* The Commission recognizes the urgency of providing predictable, sustainable, and sufficient development finance to developing countries to significantly increase resources for ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme and multidimensional poverty affecting women and girls.
* The Commission emphasizes the need for bold and ambitious reforms in the international financial architecture to address the financing needs of developing countries and the needs of all women and girls living in poverty.