

Submission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

on the Draft General Recommendation no 35 on the gender related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in a changing climate.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt presents its complements to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and has the honor to submit to the Committee’s written comments on the ‘Draft General Recommendation No. 35 on the Gender-related dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction in a Changing Climate.

22	Intersectional forms of discrimination based on other attributes such as age, economic status, disability, migration, sexual orientation and gender identity,...
comment	The 2030 agenda cited the specific categories of discrimination, among which there is no reference to the sexual orientation and gender identity. There is no international consensus on these controversial notions, neither are they recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights nor any internationally recognized instruments. In any case, there is no need to include an a selective list.
25	As outlined in General Recommendation no. 28, States parties have obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the principle of non-discrimination and to ensure women’s equal development and advancement in all fields. To ensure substantive equality for women in the context of climate change related disaster risk reduction, States parties should take concrete, targeted and measurable steps to; Identify and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in disaster risk reduction and climate change policies, programmes, plans, legislation and other activities. For example, States parties should take steps to ensure that all women, including those belonging to indigenous groups, ethnic and religious minorities, women living in poverty, girls, older women, women and girls with disabilities, LGBTI women, refugee and internally displaced women, are adequately protected from intersecting forms of discrimination.
comment	Egypt has a reservation on the term LGBTI.
25	As outlined in General Recommendation no. 28, States Parties have obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the principle of non-discrimination and to ensure women’s equal development and advancement in all fields. To ensure substantive equality for women in the context of climate change related disaster risk reduction, States parties should take concrete, targeted and measurable steps to...
comment	Egypt presumes that the data is available in order to build a baseline. This base will help to measure development and capacity building efforts to build a good infrastructure. This database will enable governments to enhance the measuring process.
29	(a) Articles 7 and 8 of the CEDAW Convention provide that women should have equality in political and public life at all levels from the local to the national and international, and Article 14 reiterates that women have the right to participate in development planning and agricultural reform activities. This guarantee of political equality covers women’s leadership, representation, and participation, which are essential in the development and implementation of effective risk reduction programs and policies that take

	<p>into account the different needs of the population. These articles support actions to promote women’s leadership and participation in planning and program design for gender equality in sectors that reduce risk (e.g., agriculture, urban planning, economics, government, health, education, and environmental resource management), disaster preparedness, training, relief coordination, recovery resources, and ensure equal access to disaster preparedness resources and opportunities.</p>
comment	<p>Article 14 does not only reiterate that women have the right to participate in development planning at all levels, but also to benefit from rural development on the basis of equality between men and women.</p>
30	<p>In order to ensure that women are provided with equal opportunities to participate in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience activities at all levels, the Committee recommends States parties,</p>
comment	<p>Preparing women leaders on climate change effects should be done by focusing on women groups, civil society and organizations that work on the field of environmental development.</p>
33	<p>The gender dimensions of disaster risk reduction and the impacts of climate change are not well understood. Limited technical capacity at the national and local level has resulted in a lack of sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) and this continues to impede the development of appropriate and targeted responses to disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change. Participatory gender impact assessments should be systematically carried out to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the types of risks faced by different women. This information should then be used as the basis for the development of appropriate strategies, policies and programmes.</p>
comment	<p>There is a need to include a call for contributions from donors to include in their capacity building programs training on how to gather disaggregated local data.</p>
34	<p>State parties should,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Establish national and local mechanisms for collecting, managing, analyzing and applying sex, age and regionally disaggregated data (SADD) to inform national and regional disaster risk reduction policies, programmes, legislation and budgets. <p>Develop disaggregated and gender-responsive indicators and monitoring mechanisms to enable State parties to establish baselines and measure progress in areas such as, disaster-related mortality amongst different age groups, gender related disaster risk reduction and women’s participation in climate resilience and disaster risk initiatives as well as in political, economic and social institutions. Integration and coordination with other existing frameworks such as the UNFCCC, the SDGs and the Sendai Framework is important to ensure a consistent and effective approach.</p>
comment	<p>The method for gathering data should measure the differences between women in poverty in order to allow for the determination of the most effective policies in these matters as success experiences.</p>
36	<p>State parties should,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Improve coordination between different sectors involved in disaster preparedness, climate change, gender equality, health care, education, social protection, agriculture, environmental protection, urban planning etc. (b) Undertake gender and human rights impact assessments during the design, implementation and monitoring phases of disaster risk

	<p>reduction plans and policies.</p> <p>(c) Promote and strengthen the vital role played by sub-national government in disaster preparedness, service provision and response.</p> <p>(d) Allocate adequate budgets and monitor implementation of policies and legislation at the sub-national level.</p> <p>(e) Engage in a comprehensive gender audit of policies and programmes across different sectorial areas including trade and investment, environment and planning, food, agriculture, social protection and employment in order to identify any areas of inconsistency with a view to reinforcing efforts aimed at disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.</p>
comment	<p>On (b): Economic security should include life safety, securing economic benefits and provision for the wellbeing of citizens through avoiding human-made catastrophes. Economic security also includes food and water security, available work opportunities and natural resources management.</p> <p>There is also a need to: include an additional point on minimizing the total waste in resources by setting appropriate limitations to well known agreed procedures and processes.</p>
41	<p>(b) States parties should regulate the activities of non-State actors within their jurisdiction, including when they operate extraterritorially. General recommendation No. 28 (2010) on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 reaffirms the requirement under article 2 (e) to eliminate discrimination by any public or private actor, which extends to acts of national corporations operating extraterritorially.</p>
comment	<p>This paragraph needs legal opinion, particularly that the Convention does not refer to extraterritorial obligations. Also, there must be more clarity as to the “the non-State actors” concerned.</p>
42	<p>In connection with extraterritorial obligations States parties should,</p> <p>(a) Take immediate steps to manage water and other shared natural resources and to limit the impact of carbon emissions and transboundary pollutionby, <i>inter alia</i>: adopting regulatory measures to prevent any actor under their jurisdiction, including individuals, companies and public entities, from infringing or abusing the rights of women and girls outside their territory;</p> <p>(b) Make appropriate and effective remedies available to affected women when a State party or non-State actor under its jurisdiction has violated its extraterritorial obligations.</p>
comment	<p>Extraterritorial obligations are not mentioned in the Convention, and there is a need to seek legal opinion on the reference to non-State actors, given that international agreements are ratified by State.</p> <p>Add a sub (c) about awareness that takes into account that individuals are key to decrease the climate change effects, through daily habits and practices and resources usage. Therefore, this perspective should be included into school curricula.</p>
E. 42	<p>States parties should:</p>

comment	Add a sub note (h):To develop and find alternatives to products that depend on natural resources which are affected by climate change and may have an impact on women economic status.
44	State parties should: Ensure that early warning information is provided using technologies that are timely, culturally appropriate, and take into account the needs of diverse groups of women. In particular, the extension of Internet and mobile telephone coverage and the accessibility of these services for all women, including those from indigenous and minority groups and women with disabilities, should be actively promoted within the context of disaster risk reduction programmes.
comment	The list is selective and does not include for example elder women. There should be no listing or categorization of women.
47	(d) Prioritize the provision of family planning and reproductive health care services including access to emergency contraception and safe abortion and reduce maternal mortality rates through safe motherhood services and prenatal assistance;
comment	Health care services should be replaced with healthcare.
66	(a) Take appropriate steps to ensure equality between men and women in all areas of family life including the ownership, control and inheritance of property and other resources
comment	Egypt complies with the content of the convention in regard to equality between men and women in all areas of family life, in accordance with the Islamic Sharia.
70	(c) Cooperative networks between civil society organizations working on gender equality, humanitarian assistance and climate change should be established and national human rights institutions, government agencies at various levels and international organizations should be included within these.
Comment	The paragraph needs to be revised taking into account that CEDAW addresses States Party. They are the ones who should include civil society organizations in the work done by government agencies, not the other way around. A proposed revision is as follows: Government agencies at various levels are encouraged to establish cooperative networks with national human rights institutions, international organizations and civil society organizations working on gender equality, humanitarian assistance and climate change.