

**Russian comments on the Draft General Recommendation № 35
on the Gender-related dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction
in a Changing Climate
(Ref. CEDAW/DRRCC/2016/2)**

Having examined the document we would like to make the following comments.

- In paragraphs 1 and 48 the words “water security” and “water insecurity” should be replaced with the words “access to water”.

- In paragraphs 7 and 9 it should be more precisely outlined that these climate-related issues are more relevant in some countries than the others.

- In paragraph 19 (b) after the words “diverse groups of women”, in paragraph 25 (b) after the words “effective participatory mechanism” and in paragraph 71 (b) after the words “the participation of women” add the words “as appropriate”. Taking into account that in these paragraphs different levels of government and various policy stages are mentioned, the participation of women should be determined based on the context.

- In paragraph 22 delete the words “sexual orientation and gender identity” and in paragraph 25 (a) delete the words “LBTI women”. We consider it unacceptable for the treaty body to use in its recommendations controversial terms and concepts that are not supported by the majority of countries.

- In paragraph 25 (e) replace the words “sexual and reproductive rights” with the internationally agreed terminology “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”.

- In paragraph 30 (a) after the words “targeted temporary measures” add the words “when deemed necessary”. It is for State parties to decide whether they need such measures or not.

- More clarity is needed on the mentioning of the term “sub-national” in paragraphs 35, 36 (c) and (d).

- In paragraph 40 (c) replace the word “ensure” with the word “facilitate”. State parties cannot impose on business actors actions mentioned here.

- In paragraphs 47 (c) and (f) add before the word “services” the word “health”. Therefore, the accepted terminology “health-care services” should be used.

- The first sentence of paragraph 65 should be substituted for the words of preamble of Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015 70/204 “International Strategy for Disaster Reduction”: “recognizing the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to disaster - induced human mobility”.

- Paragraphs 70 (b) and (c) on page 20 should be generalized. Micromanagement should be avoided: reporting on gender-based violence as well as investigations in this regard should be carried out not only in the context of disaster. Moreover, not all countries will have the ability to design such specialized instruments.

The same comment about the necessity to avoid micromanagement is relevant to paragraph 71 (a) regarding data collection.

- Multiple references to various general comments by the Committee and recommendations for their implementation, as contained in paragraphs 25, 32, 41, 45, 54, 64, 66, 70 (page 20) and 68 (page 21), are inappropriate. In our view, general comments adopted by human rights treaty bodies are solely the opinion of experts and may not impose on States any obligations additional to those undertaken by them when ratifying or acceding to an international treaty, unless otherwise declared by States on a voluntary basis. Therefore these references should be deleted and replaced with relevant articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

For the same reason the second sentence in paragraph 9 should be redrafted. In the reporting to the Committee, States parties can upon their decision but not mandatory address relevant general obligations.

In paragraph 10 it is stated that “the General Recommendation does not cover the gender-related dimensions of climate change adaptation and migration in general. It focuses on the obligations of State parties and other stakeholders ...” We should once again remind that these recommendations are not obligatory, so they can not impose any obligations upon relevant stakeholders. This paragraph should be also redrafted.