

General guidance note ahead of the 67th session of the Committee on the Status of
Women

6 – 17 March 2023, New York

In advance of the 67th session of the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) we* wish to highlight the critical juncture that the world is facing in terms of the global rollbacks of women and girls' human rights, and the ever-increasing threats against them which seek to jeopardize the progress that has been made over the last few decades.

Of particular concern is the systematic regression of women's rights in Afghanistan, since the Taliban takeover in August 2021, as well as the situation of women and girls in the Islamic Republic of Iran, where decades of systematic gender-based discrimination and repression culminated in the violent crackdown by the Government on protesters following the death of Mahsa Amini in custody in September 2022.

The situation in Iran and Afghanistan are dramatic examples of the global pushbacks against women's and girls' human rights over the last two years where violations are justified on the pretext of religious dogma. In view of the severe gravity of the situation, we call on the CSW to give sufficient and dedicated attention to address these setbacks at its forthcoming session in March 2023, and to ensure that the situation in these two countries is adequately discussed during its Ministerial meeting and general segment in 2023. Doing so would convey the important and much needed message that the grave situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and Iran is of major concern to the international community and requires attention from the Commission as the principal international intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality, women's human rights and well-being.

We reiterate our willingness to share our technical expertise and support States in their efforts to strengthen their legislative institutional and policy framework with regard to gender equality and the enjoyment by women and girls of all their human rights.

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