**Call for Input Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls**

1. What are the general levels of poverty in your country/region and those specifically of women and girls?

*Ans.*

*a) Generally, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) show that inflation figures have climbed to a 17-year high of 20.52%. The figure rose from 19.64% in July 2022 to 20.52% in August 2022. The worst hit of inflation is food inflation that rose to 23.12% in August in the NBS report. With farmers increasingly finding it difficult to access their farms owing to banditry, kidnapping and general insecurity despite government’s effort to tackling the ravaging insecurity in the country, there is no doubt that living conditions in Nigeria will worsen as a one in three of Nigeria’s whole population lives below the poverty line, among children this proportion surges to 75 per cent.*

*b) Nigeria’s 40 million women of childbearing age (between 15 and 49 years of age) suffers disproportional socio-economic and political inequality. In 2022, an estimated population of 88.4 million people in Nigeria lived in extreme poverty. The number of men living on less than 1.90 U.S. dollars a day in the country reached around 44.7 million, while the count was at 43.7 million for women. Overall, 12.9 percent of the global population in extreme poverty were found in Nigeria as of 2022.*

2. Which are the levels of economic inequality in your country/region? Could you present disaggregated data concerning women and girls? *Data can be sourced from NBS*

3. Also, please present if available, disaggregated data on the specific conditions of such women in poverty (e.g., whether they belong to an ethnic or religious minority, are indigenous, migrants, asylum-seekers, stateless or refugees). Risks and structural barriers. *Data can be sourced from NBS*

4. In which way are girls and women living in poverty or experiencing a situation of economic and social marginalization/disadvantage exposed to threats or risks in your country/region? In particular, in terms of:

* having difficulty with accessing social security, health care, housing, water, food, education, employment;

 being in a situation of homelessness or experiencing social exclusion and economic

‘unfreedom’;

 lacking access to justice and reparations for violations of their rights;

 facing undue/disproportionate or excessive criminalization for different causes.

5. What is the legal and policy framework in your country/region to address such risks and prevent human rights violations affecting women and girls in poverty?

*Ans.*

*There are numerous legal and policy framework addressing socio-economic and political inequality, violence, discriminatory practices that may lead to poverty among women and girls in Nigeria. They include:*

*The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended (the Nigerian Constitution)*

*Child’s Rights Act (2003)*

*Violence against Persons (Prohibitions) Act (2015) (VAPP Act)*

*Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act (TIPPEA)*

*National Disability Act (2019)*

*National Human Rights Commission Act 2010 as amended*

*Nigeria Police (Gender specialized unit)*

*Legal Aid Council*

*Universal Basic Education Act of 2004 (the UBE Act),*

*National Child Policy (2007)*

*National Policy on Gender in Basic Education (2007)*

*National Policy on Education (2013)*

*National Policy on Children with Special Needs (2015)*

*National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-Free Schools with its Implementing Guidelines (2021)*

6. Are there any particular groups of women and girls most at risk or conditions that especially determine barriers for women and girls to access such rights and why (such as by living in poverty, working in the informal labor market, unpaid care work or domestic work, migrant, asylum-seeker, refugee or stateless status, race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender identity, sexual orientation).

 Ans. *NA*

7. Are there laws and/or practices in your country/region which differentiate between persons on the basis of sex or gender, i.e., between girls and boys to access education, ability for men and women, both inside and outside marriage, to enter into contracts, own/administer property, purchase land and/or housing, own/administer business, and gain access to credit? If so, what are they?

Ans: *NA*

8. How would you say that structural obstacles, and ongoing phenomena or threats in your country/region (such as the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, ongoing conflict, etc.) impact on risks for women and girls, particularly in the way women and girls access economic and social rights?

 *Ans: The phenomena must have increased their vulnerabilities.*

9. Are there any specificactors, such as business corporations, or macroeconomic norms or policies in your country/region -such as trade agreements, taxation, debt and redistribution measures- that create particular or disproportionate risks or concrete human rights violations for women and girls? Ans*. NA*

10. Is there any legal framework or policy, program or part of your work that focuses on the role of men in preventing economic risks or vulnerabilities of women and girls and/or ensuring the human rights of women in the context of poverty and inequality? Is there any that makes visible or emphasizes the benefits for the whole of society of a gender-equal and inclusive economy?

 *Ans. Yes*

11. What are the concrete ways in which the State at the executive, legislative or judicial branch addresses the situation of women and girls’ structural disadvantage in relation to economic and social rights? Are there any particular issues and platforms in which the State protects them from the systemic threats they face due to poverty and inequality?

 *Ans*: *The legislatures often review and enact laws that address women and girls’ structural disadvantage issues on economic and social rights.*

12. How does your institution/Government/organisation contribute to ensuring girls’ and women’s access to their basic economic and social rights in your national context?

*Ans.*

1. *The Human Rights Education Department is task with the sensitization and promotion mandate of the Commission as contained in its ( 2010 amendment Act)*
2. *The Commission primarily receive complaints for treatment on daily basis in addressing basic economic and social rights issues through a dedicated department, Economic Socio Cultural Rights Department.*
3. *The National Human Rights Commission as an institution has a mandate to give advisories to the government and have been doing so to ensuring that girls and women access basic economic and social rights.*

b) Are there particular issues, platforms or levels in which the State/your institution encourage their participation, inclusion and engagement and what role does it play?

 i) *The National Human Rights Commission primarily has mandates to promote, protect and enforce the rights of all citizens and foreigners living in Nigeria. In doing this, the Commission has a coverage platform and presence in all the states in Nigeria.*

*ii) The Commission partnered with other stakeholders with similar mandates to alleviate the suffering of women and girls through empowerment programmes.*

*iii) There is an existing platform called ‘Silent Prejudice’ where women and girls are sensitized on discriminatory practices and how to make a report to the Commission and other stakeholders with mandates to promote rights.*

13. Could you refer to legal norms and policies for eliminating poverty, as well as for reducing economic inequality, such as taxation, debt and redistribution measures, or specific economic or social policies, and could you specify if they adopt a gendered perspective and/or if there are any specifically directed to women and girls?

***Ans.***

**i) Eradicating poverty among Nigerian women through** a community-based initiative, **cash grant,** social inclusion and poverty alleviation agendaby the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development in 2020 all through 2022 in all 774 local government areas of the 36 states and the FCT.

14. Could you refer to any good practice or innovative measure or initiative that has helped advance women’s and girls’ socioeconomic human security?

*Ans.*

 *Yes, the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development*

15. How can women and girls participate in decision-making in this area?

*i) They can participate through their inclusion*

**Recommendations/ the way forward**

16. What concrete measures should States adopt and implement to eradicate poverty and tackle in particular the situation of women and girls living in poverty and the disproportionate impact poverty has on them?

17. What concrete measures should States adopt to address systemic gender-based/age based/socioeconomic-based discrimination and challenges affecting women and girls living in situation of poverty?

The government in all levels to jointly define and undertake initiatives to strengthen institutional capacity, technical capacity (including gender inclusion) and coordination capacity with the following objectives:
a.   Strengthen effectiveness and efficiency of organizational operations in the provision of safety- net for women and girls.

b. Strengthen ability to deliver high quality interventions to cut across health, education economy and political participation.

c. Strengthen ability, access and influence within coordination mechanisms for women and girls.

18. What would be your main recommendation to advance women’s and girls’ socioeconomic human security?

https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/03/21/afw-deep-structural-reforms-guided-by-evidence-are-urgently-needed-to-lift-millions-of-nigerians-out-of-poverty

https://www.statista.com/statistics/1287827/number-of-people-living-in-extreme-poverty-in-nigeria-by-gender/