



CONCEPT NOTE

Title: A world we women and girls want: Lifestyle for the environment (LIFE)

Date: Monday 21 March 2021

**Time: 0830 hours (EDT) to 0945 hours (EDT)
1800 hours (IST) to 1915 hours (IST)**

Side Event Background: The sixty-sixth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 66) is being held virtually from 14 to 25 March 2022. In partnership with the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in New York, the All India Women's Education Fund Association (AIWEFA) is holding a virtual side event 'A world we women and girls want: Lifestyle for the environment (LIFE)'.

Last year, in 2021 at the CSW65, over 600 participants from all over the world attended the side event 'A World We Women Want: Gender-Just and Violence-Free', held in partnership with the Permanent Mission of India to the UN. The Keynote Address was delivered by the Executive Director, UNICEF. Eminent Panelists and Speakers were the Deputy Executive Director UN Women, Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Permanent Representatives to the UN of Mexico and Ireland in their capacity as co-chair of UN Security Council Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security. The event included a five-minute film on policy measures and strategies to combat violence against women and girls.

CSW 66 Side Event:

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi at the COP26 said "*This One-Word (LIFE), in the context of climate, can become the basic foundation of One World*" and "*These (mindful) choices exercised by billions of people daily around the world, will take the fight against climate change, billions of steps forward every day*".

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women, Sima Bahous, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women stated that "*The human rights of women — including the right to security, dignity, equality and justice — are core principles of international law. And we know that the leadership and safety of women, in all their diversity, plays a vital role in economic progress, community welfare, children's health and education, and more.*"

The event, A world we women and girls want: Lifestyle for the environment (LIFE) takes forward the thoughts expressed by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women, Sima Bahous, in accordance with the CSW66 priority theme: *Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes* .

All India Women's Education Fund Association

The event consists of a Panel Discussion with eminent representatives of UN bodies, Member States and the Government of India on policies and programmes that are gender-responsive, environmentally-safe and promote mindful lifestyles, while safe-guarding and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each Member would address the virtual gathering for 10-12 minutes.

A 5-minute film, with support from the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, highlights examples of women led movements that have embraced such lifestyles. These choices, when exercised by billions of people daily around the world, will take the fight against climate change, billions of steps forward every day to revolutionize many sectors in diverse areas towards building a Pro People Planet.

Addressing the Concerns:

By UN Bodies:

- Sharing of urgent measures and indicators to ensure gender equity and advancement of all women and girls in policies and programmes
- Measures taken by the UN in accordance with SDG 17- Partnerships for the Goals, to include gender integration and to promote partnerships with NGOs and civil society, while sharing new solutions to 'Build Back Better' in a post pandemic world
- Fulfilling the promises of climate finance and low-cost technology transfer from the developed to developing nations as combating climate change is a shared global challenge
- Placing people at the centre of human development, both as beneficiaries and as drivers of change, as individuals and in groups and empowering them with tools and knowledge to build resilient communities, states and nations.

By Member States:

- Examples of gender equality through meaningful representation, ending discriminatory laws, ending violence, investing in women's education, economic empowerment, ending pay gaps, ending the digital divide
- Financial investment and sensitization to address women's right to live with dignity by valuing their work, recognizing unpaid care work, removing barriers toward their right to paid work, knowledge management and training in jobs that focus on improving the eco system
- Indicators for authentic data collection on migrants
- Linking local community best practices in mindful living to global compacts so that they can be scaled up, replicated and draw committed financial support

By Government of India:

- How '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas*' (Inclusive development with everyone's support, trust and efforts) resonates with the core UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of leaving no one behind.
- National level gender-responsive actions that are transformative, and promote environmentally-safe lifestyles, are mindful, use technology and provide economic empowerment.
- Initiatives and actions taken for the advancement of women in different sectors/ locations in the P3 (Pro-Planet People) movement that underlines India's climate change commitments.