



## Oral Statement

### CSW66 General Discussion

3 min

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The co-sponsoring organizations the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR), the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defence (AIDA), the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP) and Public Services International (PSI) thanks the opportunity to address member States at the General Debate of the CSW66 at this critical time of interlocking environmental and inequalities crises.

Across the globe, efforts are being harnessed to shift away from fossil-fuel energy sources towards renewable energies, ushering in a cleaner model of powering societies. These efforts are very much welcome. However, this process is not necessarily gender and rights compliant in accordance with international human rights law and ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Many green energy projects are reproducing the harms associated to the fossil fuel energy model that for the past 200 years has been gender blind and traditionally neglected women's energy needs and skills.

Now there is a unique opportunity for the fast-growing green energy sector to overcome prevailing gender-blind approaches to energy governance, generation, and provision. We thus call on States to rethink the energy transition not as a technical shift from one source of energy to another, but as a transformative opportunity to address the economic, social and environmental gaps in the present energy model and to promote gender equality.

In this light, to inform the General Debate, we would like to put forward the following key recommendations to foster an alternative gender-equal energy model:

1. Implement tailored programmes to ensure the inclusion of women in the workforce of the renewable energy sector.
2. Adopt robust measures to protect women human rights defenders that protect their land and territory from the impacts of large-scale energy infrastructure projects.
3. Prioritise the energy needs of women and their communities who have been historically marginalized.
4. Give higher priority to community-managed and women-led renewable energy solutions such as mini-grids and energy cooperatives that give opportunities for the diversification of energy ownership, management and production with more democratic and equitable outcomes.
5. Address intersecting crises derived from the pandemic, climate breakdown and growing and entrenched inequalities, guided by the right to a healthy environment as proclaimed by the UN Human Rights Council, ensuring that the production, transmission, distribution, and control of energy is publicly owned.
6. Finally, ensure compliance with international human rights law. The human rights framework provides a wide range of binding obligations that need to be respected, but that

can also offer guidance to States as to how we can ensure women can actively shape the energy policies that affect their lives.

The CSW is a critical space to develop standards that can, in turn, embed principles of gender equality and human rights in the design of new energy systems. Please harness this opportunity to drive a greatly needed gender-just energy transition.

### **Contact details**

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