

**"COVID-19 & Climate Change :  
Women at The Centre of Planning & Response"**  
14 November 2022 | 15:00-16:00 Cairo Time | Room P-14

### **Context and issue**

The Corona-Virus (COVID19) pandemic and climate change are risk multipliers to women. COVID-19 hit the world in the shadow of climate change and has exacerbated the existing inequalities facing women. Globally, women are among the most affected by the fallout of the pandemic and are already impacted differently by the climate change implications. Due to the pandemic, more women faced elevated risks of infection, accelerated job losses and steep decline in income, and has disproportionately affected women's health and well-being. It also revealed the indispensable role of the care economy in our lives.

However, learnings from COVID-19 pandemic also revealed the gaps in countries' readiness to counter climate change implications and highlighted the significance of resilient planning and response strategies to recurrent emergencies that the world is facing, especially for women. Measuring and understanding the magnitude of the loss and damage accompanying the climate change's implications, gender equality and women's empowerment must be an essential pillar within the planning and response mechanisms. It is imperative for women to be at the centre of planning and response to ensure high-impact policies are formulated and women are more resilient to the externalities of climate shock and global health crisis.

### **Description and objectives of the session:**

This session will be delivered in a panel format with disaster management and gender equality and women's empowerment experts from different entities. It will focus on the effects of both the COVID-19 crisis and climate change on women and the interconnections between both, and priority implications that policymakers and other stakeholders need to address. It will also serve as a platform for sharing actionable approaches to improve women's participation.

The session will demonstrate and emphasise the impact of COVID-19 on women and its interconnection with the adverse impact of climate change on women.

It will be a platform for discussion of different planning policies to address responses to emergencies and tackle means of responding to women's needs within climate change and environmental degradation (e.g., women's health and reproductive services). This session will include showcasing planning methods that concentrate on improved access to services for women at times of crisis (including health services, reproductive, psychological and mental health services). It also aims to discuss means of enhancing readiness and resilient plans to protect women and promote their climate resilience and adaptive capacities (e.g., social protection programs).

The session will witness the launch of UNDP, UNWOMEN, OECD "**Global Gender Response Tracker with a Green Lens**". This Tracker integrates a green lens to UNWomen & UNDP's COVID-19 Global Gender response Tracker.

### Targeted outcomes of the session:

- Better understanding of the way in which climate change intersects with COVID-19 implications, and how they differently affect women, to further promote the implementation of policies to protect and support women.
- Renewed commitments to proposed and adopted policies to mainstream women's needs within the planning, response, and crisis management mechanisms (including COVID-19 pandemic on climate change policies).