YOUTH CHARTER
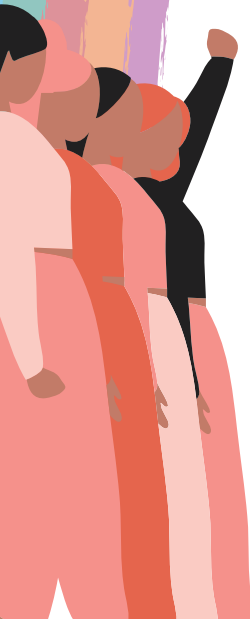## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO BUILD RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS

On the **15th of February 2023**, the Youth Leaders and Young Professionals Network (YLYP) and UN Women co-organized an online event on **"The role of access to digital technology in building women's, young women's and girls' resilience to disasters"** through UN Women's signature intervention, the Women's Resilience to Disasters Programme. Through this forum, youth leaders and young activists from all around the world put forward the following conclusions and demands, crucial for their role in using digital technology to build women's, young women's, and girls' resilience to disasters.

Challenges in access to and use of digital technology to build women's resilience to disasters:

- Local governing bodies and policymakers lack knowledge of existing frameworks for the protection of women's rights and the promotion of women's resilience to disasters, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- young women and girls are also excluded from policy- and decision-making, particularly related to the use of technologies in disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation;

- obstacles such as lack of resources, unsafe environments, increase in poverty, gender stereotypes, social restrictions, and conflict combine to prevent access to technology, undermining the resilience of disadvantaged young women and girls to disasters and increasing their risk; and
- "gatekeeping" can hinder young women's and girls' efforts to build digital literacy, which hurdles the use of tools such as early warning systems.

Urgent demands for strengthening youth engagement and technology access to increase the effective use of digital humanitarianism tools for building women's resilience to disasters:

- Promote intersectional and inclusive policies to combat inequalities within inequalities of the impact of disasters on women, young women, and girls by using digital technology to leave no one behind, including LGBTIQ+ or people with diverse SOGIESC, children, older women, rural women and girls, women and girls living with disabilities, women and girls living in extreme poverty, migrant and displaced women and girls, and indigenous women and girls;
- include youth voices in policy-making, decision making and other governing mechanisms, including international, national, and local levels, to mobilize the needs and demands of young people;
- use methods such as digital media campaigns to increase education and proactive engagement of youth and young women to build women's resilience to disasters;

- combat social restrictions that some women and girls face in accessing digital technology such as social media or other digital public spaces;
- make technology accessible to rural women and girls and promote digital literacy so they can access early warning systems and other digital tools for disaster resilience;
- call on state actors to initiate and lead social initiatives to raise awareness and sensitization for women's and girls' resilience to disasters by engaging youth networks, and rural, indigenous, and other marginalized communities in using technology;
- develop and mobilize user-friendly and equally accessible digital applications to collect disaggregated data on the needs, standards, and impact of disasters on women, young women and girls;
- tackle barriers preventing the safe and secure use of digital media platforms for disseminating information and raising awareness of the impact of disasters on women and girls, including gender-based violence, especially in fragile and conflict-affected situations;
- promote and use digital tools such as the WRD Knowledge Hub to provide knowledge and build capacity for policymakers and implementing agencies for gender-responsive disaster risk management and reduction.