

Submission on the Draft General Recommendation No. 35 on the Gender-related dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction in a Changing Climate

About IWDA

(IWDA) is the leading Australian agency entirely focussed on women's rights and gender equality in the Asia Pacific region. IWDA works in partnership with women's rights organisations and advocates to create empowering and transformative change for women. Our vision is for a just, equitable and sustainable world where women enjoy the full range of human rights, where women and men interact with dignity and respect, and where women have an effective voice in economic, cultural, civil and political systems and processes.

Comments

1. Intersectionality
The Draft General Recommendation, in our view, appropriately continues the CEDAW Committee's recognition of the impact of intersectional discrimination against certain groups of women.¹ We commend this approach.
2. Extra-territoriality
The Draft General Recommendation contains useful articulations of extra-territorial obligations. We note in particular, the important precedent set by the Committee in their recent Concluding Recommendations to Sweden "that the State party uphold its due diligence obligations to ensure that companies under the its jurisdiction or control respect, protect and fulfil women's human rights when operating abroad."²
3. Title of the General Recommendation
We note the 2009 Statement of the CEDAW Committee on Gender and Climate Change, which clearly framed the Committee's concern than its examination of State Parties reports demonstrated that "climate change does not affect women and men in the same way and has a gender-differentiated impact."³

As a means of ensuring effective communications for the General Recommendation, aligning the title with popular debate, we commend the terminology of the 2009 Statement for the title of the General Recommendation.

¹ See, for example, paragraph 18 of the General Recommendation No 28 on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women and paragraph 12 of General recommendation No. 25: Article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention (temporary special measures).

² Paragraph 35, Concluding observations on the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Sweden, CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/8-9, March 2016.

³ Statement of the CEDAW Committee on Gender and Climate Change, CEDAW, 44th session New York, 20 July – 7 August 2009.