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Panel on “Adverse Effects of Climate Change (CC) on Human Rights of People in Vulnerable Situations”.

<https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/50/Pages/Statements.aspx?SessionId=59&Meeting-Date=28/06/2022%2000:00:00>

Delivered by Carolyn Handschin, President NGO CSW Geneva; IVP, WFWPI

I am delivering this on behalf of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Geneva. Congratulations Mr. Fry, on your new mandate.

Women as the majority of the world's poor are increasingly more vulnerable than men to the impact of climate change and are more dependent on threatened natural resources. Women play a central role in natural resource management, food production, nutrition, caregiving and the well-being of families and communities.

Environmental degradation and frequent, intense weather-related disasters result in the loss of homes and livelihoods, water and food insecurity, destruction of (infrastructure) schools, health facilities and transportation systems, and the displacement of families and communities. Consequently, women and girls face separation from support networks, homelessness, increased risk of all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence. They suffer reduced access to employment, education, and essential health-care services and psychosocial support.

Therefore, we are calling for:

First, mainstreaming a gender perspective in development planning, funding, and disaster risk management, considering the perspectives of all women and girls including those with disabilities.

Second, the inclusive and equal participation of women in the policy and decision-making process is vital to any action plan. Women must be recognized as leaders and agents of change in safeguarding the environment.

Third, we ask the Special Rapporteur to address the gender dimension of climate change in all reports and actions.