

Remarks by UN Women Executive Director Ms. Sima Bahous

For the Session on “TIME TO ACT TOGETHER: COORDINATING POLICY  
RESPONSES TO THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CRISIS”

High-Level Political Forum Event Organized by the President of the  
General Assembly and the Committee on World Food Security

- UN Women is honored to support this critical high-level event on the global food crisis.
- We are deeply concerned that **the war in Ukraine** is jeopardizing women’s and girls’ food security and nutrition, and intensifying impediments to realizing women’s right to food.
- Based on UN Women and Care International’s most recent [Rapid Gender Analysis of Ukraine](#), the **impacts are severe** for women who are already facing multiple forms of discrimination including older and indigenous women, women heads of households, gender-diverse persons, persons with disabilities and those living in rural and remote areas worldwide.
- The just-released report on the state of food security and nutrition in the world shows that the **gender food insecurity gap widened** from less than two per cent in 2019 to more than four per cent in 2021, with 32 per cent of women moderately or severely food insecure compared to 28 percent of men.
- And since women’s and girls’ responsibilities for caring for and feeding their families mean they tend **to eat last and least**, they are more likely to be malnourished, with severe consequences for their health and that of the babies they may be carrying or breastfeeding.
- **The impact on women and girls in drought-stricken Africa is extremely alarming.** We know that desperate families often resort to desperate

measures, such as pulling their daughters out of school and marrying them off for dowry income.

- The number of children at risk of dropping out of school has increased from 1.1. million to an estimated 3.3 million children in just three months, and **child marriage rates have more than doubled** in the last year in parts of drought-stricken Ethiopia.
- We must ensure that crisis response **leaves no women or girl behind** *and* integrates an intersectional gender perspective in our decisions, investments, and initiatives to attain food security and nutrition for all.
- UN Women stands ready to work with all stakeholders in this vital endeavor.