




Toward a Gender-Transformative Agenda for Climate and Environmental Action

A FRAMEWORK FOR POLICY OUTCOMES AT CSW66





In March 2022, the 66th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) will address the interlinkages between gender equality and climate change, through substantive discussions and a negotiated outcome on the priority theme: *Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes*. As feminists worldwide prepare to participate in this process, we outline the following necessary policy outcomes required to build an equitable and gender-transformative agenda for climate and environmental action.

Global feminists hereby put forward an agenda for CSW66 that takes the opportunity to fulfill some of the broken promises of last year’s UN climate change conference (COP26), emphasizing the fundamental systems change and global transformations of governance and economic structures required to shield our planet and its peoples from collective climate-induced disaster.

These demands build from our engagement at COP26 and through the [Women and Gender Constituency of the UNFCCC](#), and have been outlined in collaboration with the Women’s Rights Caucus, a global coalition working to advance women’s human rights in their communities and together at the United Nations.

Due to the structural inequalities they face, women—especially across the Global South—are hugely impacted by the climate crisis and environmental destruction. As systemic discrimination tends to be amplified in times of disaster, women and LGBTQIA+ communities are also often further marginalized by disaster and disaster response, so specific efforts are necessary to ensure that climate and environmental action reaches and is driven by these groups. Advancing gender equality at local, national, and global levels, including through women’s participation and decision-making, is fundamental to climate action and to environment and disaster risk reduction policy and response.

Demands for the Agreed Conclusions of CSW66

1 Recognize and redress **loss and damage**—the immediate and unequal climate-related destruction that has is occurring beyond any attempts at adaptation—centering the most marginalized people and communities.

- ➔ Create a specific financing facility to address loss and damage; publish a Loss and Damage Gap Report with a strong gender focus; and operationalize a clear governance structure including through the Santiago Network.
- ➔ Improve gender- and sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis around loss and damage, including by prioritizing collective efforts to map the disproportionate impacts and related needs of the climate crisis.

2

Commit to **ending the sovereign debt crisis** to ensure fiscal space for climate action and gender equality.

- Endorse a mechanism for multilateral debt workouts under the auspices of the United Nations to support states in restructuring or canceling their debts in an equitable manner with all creditors.
- Recognize the historical and colonial nature of chronic debt crises and fulfill the longstanding call for climate reparations from developed countries.

3

Dismantle **false solutions to climate change, particularly the emphasis on net zero and nature-based solutions** in the climate and biodiversity arenas.

- Call for the immediate end of support to unproven and high-risk technologies such as geo-engineering, carbon capture and storage, nuclear, large hydro and geothermal, waste-to-energy and other false solutions, and commit to genuine emission cuts through gender-just, human rights-based climate action.
- Promote the protection of healthy ecosystems and center the leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to manage land in sustainable ways, through ecosystem-based approaches and guarantees of free, prior and informed consent.

4

Advance a **just and equitable energy transition**, shifting from a fossil-fuel based economy to a low-carbon and renewable energy system that upholds women's human rights and advances social and environmental justice.

- Reverse fossil fuel subsidies and redirect public money from military and carceral systems toward a just and equitable transition, including by funding women's rights organizations.
- Ensure that all climate programs and projects are informed by ex-ante and ex-post women's human rights impact assessments, to ensure effective and inclusive decision-making and accountability.

5

Fulfill historical obligations to provide **gender-just climate finance** that is predictable, adequate, transparent, accountable, and in the form of grants rather than loans.

- Provide at least \$100 billion in climate finance per year in grants, with at least 50% allocated to adaptation, and pledge new and additional funding to fully support the multilateral climate funds serving the Paris Agreement.
- Encourage full implementation of the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan through provision of robust resources to achieve and monitor its activities, and set mandatory reporting mechanisms on gender considerations in climate finance to track its progress.

- Promote new gender-responsive delivery mechanisms to support direct access to finance for grassroots women's organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

6 Espouse a human rights-based approach to climate action that **includes the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)**.

- Commit to robust and feminist financing at the intersections of climate and SRHR, including for climate-resilient health systems and investments that address underlying systemic causes of vulnerabilities to the climate crisis, including for women and girls and Indigenous Peoples.
- Avoid and decry approaches that position contraception as a climate change mitigation strategy, and abandon the patriarchal, eugenicist and racist framing of population control.

7 Guarantee equitable participation of women and girls in all their diversity in climate change policy process and programming, including at the country level.

- Commit to full implementation of the Gender Action Plan under the UNFCCC, recognizing the “full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women.”
- Appoint national gender climate change focal points (NGCCFPs) and support them by providing capacity development, tools and sufficient resources. This includes ensuring adequate time and finances to fulfill their respective responsibilities, including contributing to the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan; mainstreaming gender in all negotiation topics and UNFCCC bodies; formulating, monitoring, implementing and evaluating national climate change policies, plans, strategies and actions, including nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and national communications.

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CSW66 provides an opportunity for governments to indicate their support for meaningful engagement and movement building around the intersections of gender, climate, and environment. As highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, comprehensive, whole-of-society approaches promoted by intersectional feminist and people's

movements are required to ignite transformative pathways to combat climate change. The pandemic, the climate crisis, and the biodiversity crisis emerge from the same root causes. Only holistic, radical and transformative actions that address these root causes will meet the magnitude of these crises.