





ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN NATIONAL CLIMATE PLANS: PROGRESS AND HIGHER AMBITIONS

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THE CLIMATE-GENDER EQUALITY NEXUS



Massive economic and social benefits can come from climate action. Some of the most important benefits entail advances towards gender equality and women's empowerment and leadership. Both climate mitigation and adaptation measures can be crafted to accelerate social inclusion and gender equality and from there, progress across the Sustainable Development Goals.

In broad strokes, climate change affects everyone. But it is far from gender neutral. Structural inequalities linked to gender perpetuate and intensify the negative impacts of climate change. The UN Secretary-General recently noted: "Gender inequality coupled with climate and environment crises is the greatest sustainable development challenge of the present time."

Women who are poor and marginalized in low-paying jobs, for instance, have fewer resources to cope with drought, flooding and other consequences of climate shifts.² Women are more vulnerable to food insecurity, with the global gender gap growing from 6-10 percent from 2019-2020. Energy

¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council. 2022. 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: Report of the Secretary-General. E/CN.6/2022/3. Commission on the Status of Women, Sixty-sixth session, 14-25 March.

² Ibid.

poverty forces people to turn to polluting fuels for cooking and heating, which in turn kills 3.8 million people a year through indoor air pollution, mostly women and girls.³

Women also play many critical roles in solutions to climate change. They are at the vanguard of global climate advocacy and lead local <u>adaptation</u> and <u>mitigation</u> efforts. They determine much of household energy use and, often, demand for renewable energy in homes and communities. As almost half the agricultural workforce and two thirds of small livestock managers, they can steer efforts to improve agricultural productivity while mitigating climate and environmental impacts from food production.

Solving the climate crisis, a just transition, achieving the SDGs – none of these are possible without gender equality. Gender discrimination still means women still cannot express their full potential as leaders and changemakers, however. They head only 15 percent of environmental ministries and make up less than a quarter of parliamentarians, although recent global climate talks have approached gender parity among members of national delegations.⁴ In general, women have been ignored in mainstream climate policy or viewed mainly through a lens of vulnerability. Ensuring that women and other marginalized groups participate in decision-making not only upholds a fundamental human right but can frame more responsive and effective climate policies. It recognizes that women are powerful agents of change and sources of solutions.



³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid

The 2015 **Paris Agreement** on climate change formally endorsed gender equality as integral to the economic and social transformation required to meet the climate challenge.

In 2019, the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of Parties under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25) called for more ambition in linking gender and climate aims. It adopted the enhanced five-year Lima work programme on gender and an accompanying Gender Action Plan.

Priority areas include:

- · Capacity-building;
- Gender balance:
- Coherence with other international agreements including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- · Gender-responsive implementation, and
- Monitoring and reporting.

Implementing the plan requires many steps, such as making climate finance work for gender equality, tapping the valuable knowledge of indigenous women, and better engaging women's groups and gender advocates.

Through UNDP's Climate Promise, many countries are now ramping up efforts to accelerate progress on these issues.



KEEPING A PROMISE



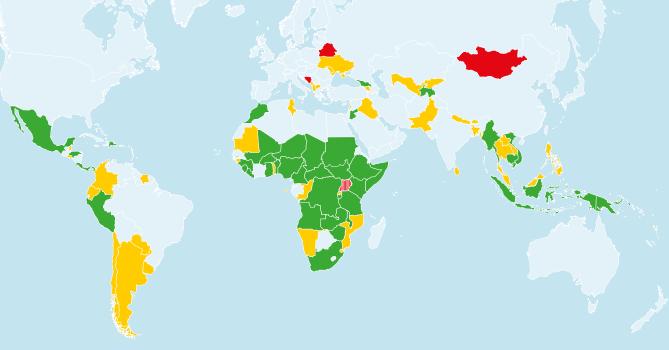
All Parties to the Convention must prepare national climate action plans known as <u>Nationally Determined Contributions</u> or NDCs. These cut across mitigation and adaptation efforts, involve multiple actors and sectors of the economy, and in general offer unique opportunities to integrate gender in climate action at scale. UNDP's <u>Climate Promise</u> is the world's largest offer of support for countries to raise their climate ambitions through the NDCs. The initiative supports 120 countries to be bolder in reducing emissions, increasing climate resilience with no one left behind and protecting nature.

Every five years, NDCs are revised – a chance for countries to understand where they are and what they need to do next, ideally at a higher level of ambition. Only 45 countries integrated gender dimensions in the initial round of NDCs from 2015, while in a 2019 UNDP survey, featured in "The Heat is On" report, 68 countries said they intended to incorporate gender as part of the NDC revision process. Ultimately, of the 94 Climate Promise countries that submitted enhanced NDCs in 2020-21, 90 integrated gender dimensions. Furthermore, 39 percent of the NDC revisions involved multistakeholder consultations that included gender perspectives, compared to only 2 percent in 2015.

Plans demonstrate both greater attention to gender equality and higher aspirations for action, with strong potential to contribute both to national goals and the Lima programme and Gender Action Plan.

⁵ United Nations Development Programme. 2021. NDC Global Outlook Report 2021: The State of Climate Ambition. https://climate-promise.undp.org/state-of-climate-ambition

GENDER INCLUSION IN ENHANCED NDCS SUBMITTED BY COUNTRIES



Gender inclusion (1st and 2nd NDC)
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Albania
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Armenia Bangladesh Belarus Belize Benin Bhutan Bosnia and Herzegovina Burkina Faso Burundi Cabo Verde Cambodia Cameroon Central African Republic Chile Colombia Comoros Congo (Democratic Republic) Costa Rica Dominican Republic Ecuador El Salvador Eswatini (Swaziland)
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cabo Verde
Cambodia
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
Colombia
Comoros
Congo (Democratic Republic)
Congo (Republic)
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Eswatini (Swaziland)
Ethiopia
Georgia
Ghana
Grenada

Gender inclusion (2nd NDC)

Guinea	
Guinea-Bissau	
Honduras	
Indonesia	
Iraq	
Jordan	
Kenya	i
Kyrgyz Republic	
Lao PDR	
Lebanon	
Liberia	
Malawi	
Malaysia	
Maldives	
Mali	
Mauritania	
Mauritius	i
Mexico	
Moldova (Rep. of)	_
Mongolia	
Montenegro	_
Morocco	-
Mozambique	_
Myanmar	
Namibia	
Nauru	
Nepal	
Niger	
Nigeria	
North Macedonia (Rep. of)	
Pakistan	

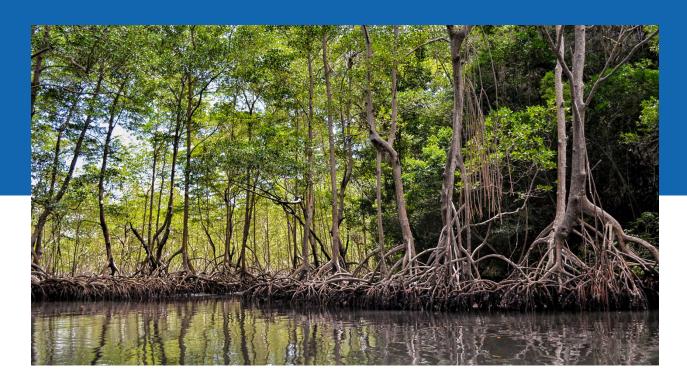
No gender mentioned

Papua New Guinea	
Paraguay	
Peru	
Philippines	
Rwanda	
Samoa	
Sao Tome and Principe	
Seychelles	
Sierra Leone	
Somalia	
South Africa	
South Sudan	
Sri Lanka	
Sudan	
Suriname	
Tajikistan	
Tanzania (United Rep. of)	
Thailand	
The Gambia	
Togo	
Tonga	
Tunisia	
Uganda*	
Ukraine	
Uruguay	
Uzbekistan	
Vanuatu	
Vietnam	
Zambia	
Zimbabwe	

Panama

^{*} Interim updated submission

MAKING PLANS THAT ACCELERATE CHANGE



In the first round of NDCs, starting in 2015, countries faced challenges in integrating gender. Common gaps included the lack of gender-disaggregated information and data, which limited understanding of how climate impacts vary between women and men. Environ-

mental ministries and national climate change units rarely engaged with gender institutions, and women's and civil society organizations had little presence in climate change policy processes.



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