

WOMEN GENDER CONSTITUENCY

PreCOP26 Briefing

September 2021

As Ministers gather for the Pre-COP in Milan, held from September 30 - October 2, 2021, the Women and Gender Constituency have outlined some key areas below where progress must be made to ensure substantive progress at COP26 in November.

We share these views in the reality of a world of ever increasing climate impacts and disasters, where a global pandemic has worked to deepen gross inequities among countries and to further exacerbate inequalities and drive millions into greater poverty and instability.

While the science is clear on the devastating impacts of failing to keep warming below 1.5 degrees, countries current emissions reductions targets are woefully inadequate to meeting the promises of Paris - nor are we close to the 100 billion per year in climate finance promised from Copenhagen. At the same time, in 2020 a record number of activists working to protect the environment and land rights were murdered - losing their lives while trying to preserve our planet.

At the PreCOP in Milan, we call on Ministers to:

Fulfill the strong commitment to human rights in the Paris Agreement & keep 1.5 alive

We take this moment to remind Parties of one of the most fundamental promises of Paris - one that is key to keeping 1.5 alive. *"Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity."*

Without the full recognition of human rights, including full and inclusive voice and decision-making in all aspects of climate change policy-making at national level, Parties will not be able to create nor implement ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions.

- This commitment must be reaffirmed in all aspects of decisions taken at COP26, including around strong human rights safeguards in Article 6, as well as through key decisions under the Local Communities and Indigenous People's Platform and the Gender Action Plan.
- Parties - particularly developed country Parties - should submit new or updated NDCs with 2030 targets ahead of COP26, or re-submit inadequate NDCs with enhanced ambition. While updating and implementing their National Determined Contributions (NDCs), states should ensure that gender experts, including women and gender-related groups and national gender machineries, are being included as well as effectively engaged in that process. Gender equality should be considered as a cross-cutting element of the NDC planning process, for example, by collecting sex and gender disaggregated data in relation to specific sectors in order to inform NDC priority actions. The enhanced Transparency Framework's common reporting tables must provide guidance to report on gender responsive adaptation, as well as information on finance, technology and capacity-building (FTC) provided and mobilized, as well as, needed and received.
- Decisions at COP must reflect and address the current emissions gap to keep warming under 1.5 degrees and set out a clear pathway for enhanced ambition, centered on fulfilling human rights and ecosystem integrity.
- Key to this, as conservers of [more than 30% of the world's land](#), is upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and respect and implement the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- In addition, Governments should align NDCs with responses to COVID and ensure that economic policy measures for post-COVID response are just, climate-compatible and prioritize support for the well-being of all people, and especially the most marginalized and at risk over corporate bailouts, including through the protection and expansion of social support systems.

Deliver on Finance and Address Loss & Damage

Parties must raise the quantity and quality of climate finance overall to achieve, at minimum, the US\$100 billion goal, ensuring finance is gender-responsive, and that the proportion of grant funding for adaptation is increased, as a matter of climate and social justice and in light of the debt crisis in developing countries (SIDS and LDCs) worst affected by climate change, this includes:

- Providing financing for loss and damage that is new and additional to still unfulfilled climate finance commitments made by developed countries, including the US\$100 billion goal;
- Guidance to the finance mechanisms of the COP & Paris Agreement to ensure enhanced direct access to adequate financing for community, youth, feminist and women's rights organizations and movements who adequately respond to the needs of their communities, and not only governments and UN agencies;

- A Ministerial declaration from COP26 towards the establishment of a sovereign debt workout mechanism under the auspices of the United Nations which can support states in restructuring or canceling their debts in an equitable manner with all creditors, recognized as a vital pillar of delivering on climate justice.

In addition, the WGC supports calls to create a permanent agenda item on loss and damage under the COP and calls for the publication of a loss and damage Gap Report - similar to the Adaptation Gap or the Emissions Gap Report.

Ensure Human Rights & Ecosystem Integrity in Article 6

Parties must provide for a strong framework that prohibits the inherent faults of market instruments which were observed in the past, via the inclusion of strong rights-based, environmental and social and gender safeguards that will be applied to all Article 6 activities. In addition, the WGC calls for:

- Appropriate consultation processes prior and throughout action with relevant stakeholders and rights holders, including in particular marginalized groups have to be ensured;
- The creation of an independent grievance and redress mechanism for the SDM;
- The establishment of a Supervisory Body governing market and non-market mechanisms established under Article 6, providing clear guidelines and monitoring rules further defined in the work program such as calling for members having relevant socio-economic expertise;
- Emission reductions achieved by mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol must not be used to achieve mitigation targets of the Paris Agreement regime from 2020 onwards;
- Projects in the pipeline of the Kyoto mechanisms must not be automatically considered in the regime of the Paris Agreement but should prove their environmental integrity, compatibility with human rights obligations and robust environmental and social safeguards;
- Sustainable development must be the leading principle over quantified emission reduction cuts that can lead to unsustainable solutions such as large hydrodams or energy efficiency measures in energy intensive industries;
- Non-market approaches (Art. 6.8) cannot be left behind. Currently, there is a very uneven progress among different parts Art.6 and Art 6.8 has received insufficient attention from Parties. Parties must put more efforts to fully develop the concept, scope and activities under 6.8, including an explicit mention to the rights of indigenous people and local communities, gender justice and ecological and environmental integrity.

Advance the Gender Action Plan

A key area of progress at COP25 was the adoption of the updated 5-year Gender Action Plan (GAP). Crucially, the updated GAP takes into account human rights, ensuring a just transition, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples via a set of new activities aimed to meaningfully shift towards capacity building and enhanced implementation of gender-responsive climate action at all levels, including for example, the promotion of gender-responsive technology solutions and preserving local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors.

However, two years on, without the opportunities of in-person moments to raise ambition and having been left off the agenda for the virtual dialogues held in June 2021, COP26 must deliver a strong decision or set of conclusions on pushing forward progress under the Gender Action Plan - to fulfil the ambition set out in Madrid. This includes:

- Finalizing the in-session workshop on the role of National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFPs) and calling for a guidance note to be prepared outlining a set of recommendations for the role that NGCCFPs choose from/ be informed by, ideally including examples of where support & capacity building could be provided in a variety of forms;
- Setting out a structure for the review of the GAP in 2022, including a) a call for submissions on progress and challenges in implementing the GAP; b) a Synthesis report of submissions and c) an in-session workshop at COP27 to assess progress;
- A set of guidance from Parties to advance key recommendations outlined in recent reports by the UNFCCC Secretariat: [Progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes](#) and the [Gender Composition report](#);
- A review of progress on the inclusion of gender considerations in new and updated NDCs and a set of recommendations on raising ambition;
- A recognition of the UNFCCC Secretariat's engagement with the Generation Equality Forum.

In addition, work under the Gender Action Plan should be linked across all other areas of decision-making at COP26, particularly in addressing gender-responsive means of implementation - including new delivery mechanisms to support direct access to finance.

For more information:

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