



# Key Demands

for COP26

## WOMEN & GENDER CONSTITUENCY

As feminists, gender equality and women's rights advocates from around the world—led by and accountable to the demands of frontlines, Indigenous and grassroots leaders—the Women and Gender Constituency have outlined below our key demands for the outcomes of COP26.

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 between and within countries and to further exacerbate inequalities and drive millions into greater poverty and instability, especially in the Global South.

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 meet the promises of Paris—nor are we close to the US\$100 billion per year in climate finance promised from Copenhagen. At the same time, in 2020 and 2021 a record number of environmental human rights defenders working to protect the environment and marginalized people's rights were murdered—losing their lives while trying to preserve the planet, other species and ourselves.





We call on COP26 to:

- 1** Fulfill commitment to human rights in the Paris Agreement & keep 1.5 alive
- 2** Deliver on finance and prioritise loss & damage
- 3** Ensure human rights & ecosystem integrity in Article 6
- 4** Advance the Gender Action Plan
- 5** Reject false solutions & invest in gender-just climate action
- 6** Facilitate gender-just transitions to a regenerative economy
- 7** Invest in resilient, gender-transformative, climate justice education
- 8** Promote health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights
- 9** Ensure rights to water and sanitation in all climate action
- 10** Protect the ocean, cryosphere, coastal ecosystems and local communities
- 11** Ensure collective women's land rights

# 1

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

We 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 the rights to effective participation in all aspects of climate change policy-making at national and sub-national levels, Parties will not be able to create nor implement ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

- ➔ 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 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 safeguarding ecosystem integrity.
- ➔ Upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially their rights to self-determination, including respecting and implementing the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is key to the achievement of the Paris Agreement as they conserve **more than 30% of the world’s land**, and protect 80% of the world’s biodiversity and declare new forms of protected areas.<sup>12</sup>

- ➔ 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.

Finally, Governments must define the global goal on adaptation and prepare indicators and metrics for measurement, follow up and review, which do not add burdens to developing countries.

## 2 Deliver on finance and prioritise loss & damage

Parties must raise the quantity and quality of climate finance overall to achieve, at minimum, the US\$100 billion per year goal, ensuring finance is gender-responsive, and that the proportion of grants-based funding for adaptation is significantly increased, with new, additional funds for loss and damage, as a matter of climate, social and gender justice. In light of the debt crisis in developing countries (SIDS and LDCs) worst affected by climate change, this includes:

- ➔ Honouring the existing pledge by developed countries to provide climate finance to developing countries in the amount of 100B\$ per year from 2020 onwards. This means delivery of 100B\$ for 2020 and another 100B\$ for 2021 and preferably from COP26 a delivery plan for 500B\$ over five years (2020 to 2024);
- ➔ Providing financing for loss and damage that is needs-based, new and additional to still unfulfilled climate finance commitments made by developed countries, including the US\$100 billion per year goal and the balanced allocation between mitigation and adaptation, as well as the full operationalization of the Santiago Network for Loss & Damage;
- ➔ Guidance to the finance mechanisms of the COP and Paris Agreement to ensure enhanced direct access to finance 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—as well as a decision at COP26 to start the process for setting up a loss and damage financing facility.

### 3

## Ensure human rights & ecosystem integrity in Article 6

Previous market-based mechanisms developed under the UNFCCC have failed to reduce GHG emissions and have often caused human, Indigenous Peoples' and women and girls' human rights violations, land/water grabbing, biodiversity loss, as well as environmental crises. 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, economic, environmental, social and gender safeguards that will be applied to all Article 6 activities.

In addition, the WGC calls for:

- ➔ Appropriate consultation and stakeholder engagement processes prior and throughout action with right holders and relevant stakeholders, including in particular local communities and Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized and underrepresented groups must be ensured;
- ➔ An independent grievance and redress mechanism must be established 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 in the work program including ensuring that members have relevant socio-economic expertise;
- ➔ Emission reductions achieved from the 2020 onwards in the Kyoto Protocol Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) must not be used to achieve mitigation targets of the Paris Agreement;
- ➔ CDM activities transition to Article 6.4 Sustainable Development Mechanism (SDM) must not be automatically considered. They must prove their environmental integrity, compatibility with human rights obligations, robust environmental, social and gender safeguards. They must address the issues of leakage to avoid the mistakes of CDM;
- ➔ Sustainable development must be the leading principle of the SDM under Article 6.4 over quantified emission reduction cuts that can lead to unsustainable or false solutions such as large hydro-dams or energy efficiency measures in energy intensive industries;

Non-market approaches (Art. 6.8) are still neglected compared to Articles 6.2 and 6.4. Parties need to speed up efforts to fully develop the concept, scope and activities, including the work programme and framework, which should explicitly mention free, prior and informed consent, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, gender justice, and environmental integrity. Also, the work programme should incorporate ecosystem-based approaches.



## 4

# 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 and local communities 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 fulfill 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 and capacity building could be provided in a variety of forms;
- ➔ Setting out a structure and guidance 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 and further work to be undertaken;
- ➔ 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. This includes a call for setting mandatory reporting mechanisms on gender considerations in climate finance to track progress of the Gender Action Plan.



Photo by Lindsay Hughes, Survival Media Agency

## 5

## Reject false solutions & invest in gender-just climate action

Many of the “solutions” being centered in the lead up to COP26 are framed around untested and risky technologies, carbon offsetting schemes and corporate “greenwashing<sup>39</sup>” initiatives and commitments—all aimed to give the appearance of action towards mitigating climate change, while persisting in deeply unsustainable production and consumption patterns that fail to propel a true just and inclusive transition to safer, cleaner and regenerative renewable societies. Instead, we should be investing in gender-just community-led and governed climate solutions. Gender-responsive, ecosystem-based, community-driven and holistic approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation and resilience are essential for women’s, girl’s and gender-diverse people’s livelihoods and for the planet—and should be central to all climate action.

This investment includes gender-just solutions to agricultural practices and food systems. We know that GHG emissions from agriculture are significant, between 20-30% of total GHG emissions I believe. Also we know that there has been a feminisation of agriculture over recent decades, with women providing the majority of agricultural labour on smallholder farms particularly. At the same time as increasing food insecurity (including due to the climate crisis) there is massive waste (in some countries post-harvest waste is as high as 50% output). Meanwhile government subsidies in Europe and the US lead distort the economics of agriculture with highly skilled, knowledgeable and productive smallholders undercut by massive agricultural conglomerates that are destroying soil health and polluting waterways. Food systems are fundamental to human and planetary health, and must be central to our climate action.

Furthermore, the WGC promotes a shift away from industrial food systems and agribusiness, including industrial livestock farming, to promote localised and indigenous crop-based food systems and agroecology. Traditional crops, seed sharing and heritage variety help deliver resilience to climate change and food sovereignty for smallholders and women. At the same time, such practices would allow for multiple benefits, including increased agricultural diversity promoting ecological diversity with indigenous varieties and improved resilience of communities. We equally demand women’s access to productive resources and secure tenure rights to land, including within communities, which is critical to their livelihoods, food security and survival in a changing climate pattern.



Photo by Annabelle Avril, WECF

The WGC reiterates the following:

➔ **Net Zero is Not Zero<sup>4</sup>**

- COP26 is fully framed around the concept of “net zero” or the concept of carbon neutrality, often achieved via offsetting. Simply put, these targets will not put us on the path to achieving the promises of Paris—nor the sustainable future demanded in Agenda 2030. Key critiques include:
  - » ***Permanent, or even extremely long-term carbon storage is extremely difficult to achieve.*** For example, tree farms and monoculture tree plantations, an often-used strategy to offset carbon, eventually, through decay or burning, most of the carbon being stored will be released back into the atmosphere.
  - » ***Many researchers warn that carbon-offset programs overestimate carbon reductions actually achieved.*** For example, in the case of forests being protected from timber harvesting, much of this protection can be countered by increased harvesting elsewhere.
  - » ***Net-zero pledges are increasing carbon green neocolonialism.*** Net-zero pledges are being implemented largely in the global south, oftentimes driving land and resource grabs with grave human rights violations including displacing people, particularly Indigenous Peoples, off of their native land.<sup>5</sup>
  - » ***Net-zero has become a synonym for ‘business as usual’ approaches.*** Private companies (eg. plantations, fast moving consumer goods) continue to do activities that do not support the Paris Agreement or SDG targets.
  - » ***Most Net Zero commitments are centred on a 2050 timeline, which is far too many years ahead for credible plans to ensure global temperature is kept below 1.5.*** In addition, most net zero strategies lack a clear roadmap, targets and actions for how they will be achieved in the shorter term.
  - » ***Net Zero strategies are overconfident on technological solutions to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.*** Yet many of these techno fixes do not exist except in theory, are not fully developed and might never be, are risky with no guarantee for scale. E.g., solar radiation management, which is a form of geoengineering.
  - » ***Net Zero strategies also assume in most cases that all tonnes or units of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted can be treated equally and that they are interchangeable.***
- It is essential that industrialised countries take responsibility for the emissions their companies generate abroad and take actions to drastically reduce them<sup>6</sup>. Such countries should adopt extraterritorial obligations to oblige their companies operating abroad to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their operations and to stop land clearing, deforestation and environmental pollution.



### ➔ “Nature-Based” Solutions Remain Ill-Defined and Can Lead to Harm<sup>7</sup>

- Relatedly, there is also a strong focus on “nature-based” solutions (NbS) at the upcoming COP26. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defines nature-based solutions as “actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural and modified ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits.” While this sounds promising, in practice, there is no clear definition for what counts as NbS, and the concept is ambiguous and thus, widely open to corporate capture and greenwashing, with large multinational corporations and countries already defining a multitude of activities as NbS—such as techofixes, carbon offsets, bioenergy, afforestation/reforestation with monoculture tree plantations<sup>8</sup>—in order to achieve offsetting / “net zero” goals, often without any regard for true climate mitigation or ecosystem integrity.
- Instead, the WGC supports a focus on “ecosystem-based approaches,” as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2009 “the conservation, sustainable management, and restoration of ecosystems to help people adapt to the impacts of climate change.” Examples of EbA approaches are coastal habitat restoration, agroforestry, integrated water resource management, livelihood diversification, and community-led and governed sustainable forest management interventions. We welcome the Green Climate Fund’s (financial entity of the COP and Paris Agreement) official stand that the Fund will be focusing on EbA and not NbS.



Photo by Christine Irvine, Survival Media Agency

## ➔ **Geoengineering, BECCs, Nuclear Energy are “No-Go” Solutions**

- We reject the use of and reliance on untested, unreliable and unsafe technological fixes to the climate crisis. Geoengineering, or large-scale manipulation of the Earth’s system using a wide range of technologies, could be disastrous, globally and intergenerationally unjust, and potentially irreversible. Other UN Conventions, like the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have shown concern about the global negative impacts that geoengineering could have by reaffirming a moratorium. Any real solution effectively begins with parties banning all types of geoengineering methods.
- Additionally, BECCS (Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage), would require vast amounts of land, likely leading to the displacement of communities and conflicts, jeopardizing human and women’s rights.
- Finally we reject the use of nuclear energy, biofuels, fracking and other unsafe energy proposals e.g. big biomass facilities. Transformation requires that investment towards a low-carbon society must be put towards scaling available renewable technologies, mass dissemination and research, enhanced efficiency and storage, as well as upgraded infrastructure and fit-for-purpose regulation.
- Advancing nuclear power is dangerous everywhere, and creates huge risks for accidents and nuclear contaminations due to lack of capacity and risks of corruption, as well as additional security threats.
- Risks of nuclear accidents increase with climate change, as nuclear power plants are particularly prone to climate impacts as they need enormous amounts of water for cooling, and are therefore often built close to rivers and seas, making them particularly at risk for floods as well as droughts.<sup>9</sup>
- The cost of building a power plant, and the time of building them have increased exponentially, which means that building a nuclear power indebts a country for 30 years, and makes the country dependent both economically and politically to the country, where the loan, building company and the maintenance comes from. It becomes a burden for the next generations. Moreover, when the nuclear power is built, countries end up subsidizing the cost of the power by taking away resources from other infrastructures, as energy is a security question.
- Nuclear energy is not renewable, it depends on uranium mining, often on Indigenous Peoples territories. Uranium reserves are found in highly biodiversity rich areas. Destroying that biodiversity and contaminating these lands and its peoples for hundreds and thousands of years, is unsustainable and unethical. The devastating effects of uranium mining and the unsolved waste issues are of most serious concerns of the nuclear industry, which despite more than 70 years of government subsidies, still has no viable solution. Without a solution for nuclear waste, and without the inclusion of the future costs of nuclear waste and decommissioning of nuclear power plants, a global moratorium on new nuclear plants is needed. We oppose all efforts of the nuclear industry to (via taxonomy or otherwise) obtain climate funds as new subsidies.





## 6 Facilitate gender-just transitions to a regenerative economy

Climate actions committed at COP26 must facilitate a just transition to a regenerative energy economy based on 100% safe and renewable sources by 2035, in alignment with ensuring decentralized and democratized ownership of energy resources. Just transition planning implies a shift from jobs, investment and subsidies in carbon polluting industries and those dependent on them to jobs, investment and where necessary subsidies in sustainable, clean and renewable industries. This transition should challenge the gendered/racialized-division of labour, which places people in low waged, insecure and informal subsistence and service industries. It should re-interrogate the very notion of labour so that unpaid care and domestic work, mostly assumed by women and girls of color, is valued, recognized, reduced and redistributed. Additionally:

- ➔ A just transition should promote **gender-responsive energy democracy** and move us away from top-down, market-based approaches for energy production, distribution and control over natural resources towards an economy of care. Communities, including women in all their diversity, should have control over their own energy systems as well as over other natural resources. The primary goal within energy and resource democracy is where communities are empowered to make decisions over the use of local resources and the best way to fulfill their needs.
- ➔ Finally, to meet climate finance gaps and fully implement the Paris Agreement and SDGs, countries and all stakeholders should **divest from extractive, carceral and military systems and reinvest in social and public goods and the promotion of peace and justice**. While countries come to COP26, failing to meet the goal of US\$100 billion per year in climate finance, in 2020, global military spending rose to US\$2 trillion<sup>10</sup>, a 2.6% increase, and direct and indirect global fossil fuel subsidies amounted to US\$5.9 trillion, or US\$11 million per minute.<sup>11</sup>



## 7

## Invest in resilient, gender-transformative, climate justice education

As stated in a report by our partners from the Malala Fund<sup>12</sup>, “in 2021 climate-related events will prevent at least four million girls in low- and lower-middle-income countries from completing their education. If current trends continue, by 2025 climate change will be a contributing factor in preventing at least 12.5 million girls from completing their education each year.” And yet, we know that investment in women and girls education is also critical to enhancing a country’s ability to effectively adapt to climate change. This must include content on human rights, comprehensive sexuality education, the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and ending gender based violence. The Doha Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) is being reviewed at COP26 and offers an opportunity to be more progressive, gender transformative and responsive to recommendations from girls and young women<sup>13</sup>, and aligned with other key UNFCCC processes.

- ➔ Leaders at COP26 must commit to financial and political investments in both direct support for women and girls’ education, and access to education, especially STEM, as well as to share learnings on the development of climate-focused and gender-transformative educational curricula that can support all people. In particular, Leaders should implement feminist youth-led recommendations for gender transformative climate justice education developed by [Transform Education](#);
- ➔ Reach an agreement for an enhanced Doha Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) that is gender transformative and aligned to the Lima Work Programme on gender and SDG4.7;
- ➔ Strengthen education systems to be more resilient and gender transformative as part of adaptation strategies in NDCs and NAPs, including via the development of national climate learning strategies that are gender transformative and recognise the importance of youth leadership by prioritising civic engagement, rights, green life skills, policy processes and activism, and ensure that girls and young women are meaningfully engaged in the development of these strategies;
- ➔ Recognise and embed these climate learning strategies in climate financing, policies, and agreements, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs);
- ➔ Align with and enhance coordination between ACE and other workstreams (including Lima Work Programme on Gender, Local Communities and Indigenous People’s Platform, Nairobi Work Programme on Adaptation)

## 8 Promote health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights

In fulfilling the right to health articulated in the Paris Agreement, gender norms, roles and relations should be considered as essential markers in determining the climate change risks and vulnerability indices, because these differences reflect a combined effect of physiological, behavioral and socially constructed influences including on women's health. All policies, strategies, and plans that focus on issues of climate change, gender, and health need to be integrated and coherent with, but not limited to, the Sustainable Development Goals. We urge Parties to provide universal access to health services for women and girls and advance the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) into the UNFCCC framework for national climate change strategies, NDCs, adaptation plans, programs and budgeting. In addition, during climate emergencies, there must be safeguards to end child/early/forced marriage, and provision of sanitary pads and menstrual hygiene kits as part of the Minimal Initial Service Package (MISP). When women and girls, in all their intersecting identities, including LGBTQIA+ persons and people living with disabilities, experience bodily autonomy and lead lives free from marginalization, stigma, violence and coercion—including sexual and gender-based violence, dropping out of school and child/early/forced marriage—and have the ability to decide if, when and how often they have children, as well as have access to SRHR information and services, they and their families become empowered and more resilient to the impacts of climate change. To this end, the WGC calls on Parties to:

- ➔ Apply a social-justice framework and a human rights based approach to climate action that includes the full range of SRHR;
- ➔ Commit robust and feminist financing for the climate and SRHR intersection;
- ➔ Ensure SRHR is integrated into specific Gender Action Plan activities under the UNFCCC.

## 9 Ensure rights to water and sanitation in all climate action

The WGC considers the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation as human rights essential for the full enjoyment of life. We believe that safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, management of water resources, waste water management and water quality are all indispensable elements for poverty eradication, sustainability and security of the world—and critical to all climate action. The WGC reminds Parties that:

- ➔ Extreme weather events and increased incidence of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, combined with unequal care burdens, can cause a disproportionate pressure on women to support their families. Water scarcity increases the burden on women, who often have primary responsibility for its collection. Exclusion from decision-making can further exacerbate the stress of dealing with climate change;
- ➔ The scarcity of clean water in several countries such as Africa, South America and other countries around the world has far-reaching consequences for health, including sexual and reproductive health.

The WGC calls on leaders to ensure by 2030, we achieve universal access to basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for households, schools and health facilities, and, at minimum, halve the proportion of the population without access at home to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services. This includes, improving and support education for women at the high level management in the water & sanitation sector to build infrastructures anticipating climate change.

## 10 **Protect the ocean, cryosphere, coastal ecosystems and local communities**

The ocean is a part of the global life support system. It produces half of the annual oxygen, has absorbed more than 90% of the energy produced from global warming and every year absorbs around 30% of carbon dioxide (IPCC-SROCC), regulates the global climate, provides food and many other goods and services which are vital to all life on Earth and important to people and societies all over the world.

A healthy ocean, coastal ecosystems and local communities dependent on them—are key to achieving international environment and development goals. The WGC reiterates:

- ➔ Recognize the specific risks, knowledge, commitment and human rights of women, indigenous people, small-scale fishers and associated poor communities from coastal areas, especially in tropical and Arctic regions at the frontline of the ocean climate-biodiversity emergency, and institutionalize the special consideration and meaningful participation of coastal communities, fisherwomen and fishermen side by side with farmers and agriculture under the UNFCCC framework;
- ➔ Ocean-based Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR), other “mitigation interventions” and ideology oriented towards an economic emphasis on ocean value such as the ‘Blue economy’, are of increasing concern as they entail incalculable risks and potentially disastrous damage to marine and coastal life and biodiversity and ocean’s climate functions and services. We call for an end to fossil fuel subsidies in maritime



transport and unsustainable fisheries that contribute to overfishing, IUU fishing, to end all types of destructive fishing \*including bottom trawling and other activities disturbing carbon and methane stored in the seafloor, to ensure no energy and traffic turn in the north at the expense of marine biodiversity and food security in the south: and to stop seabed mining. All this in a human rights based approach framework that respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and prioritizes small scale fishing for its importance for food security and poverty eradication;

- ➔ Seabed mining is not consistent with UNFCCC Article 4.1 (d) and (e) and Paris Agreement Article 5.1 and other international obligations such as UNCLOS Article 145 as it results in incalculable and irreversible damage of fragile, poorly understood, slow growing deep sea species and ecosystems, accelerates marine biodiversity loss and threatens ocean's climate functions and services;
- ➔ Develop effective adaptation and mitigation measures to address sea level rise, ocean warming, ocean acidification and address harmful impacts of climate change and environmental pollution on oceans and coastal ecosystems such as river deltas, estuaries, sand dunes, mangroves and coral reefs, which are in grave danger. This includes action to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris, nutrient pollution, wastewater, solid waste discharges, plastics and microplastics into waterways and the oceans. This should and must include the consideration of traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and traditional and effective practices oriented to adaptation in coastal, island and marine ecosystems;
- ➔ Recognize the importance of small-scale fisheries and associated coastal communities in integrated management and securing food sovereignty, and protect access rights for all, especially for women-led, small-scale and artisanal fisheries and their participation in the fishing value chains, in a climate-changing world. 90% of reefs around the world are under threat and fisheries remain the most urgent priority for food sovereignty in SIDs. End illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices, addressing their root causes and holding actors accountable to remove the benefits of such activities, and effectively implement flag State and port State obligations, as part of global measures to address loss and damage impacts to climate frontline communities, and for effective climate adaptation. This shift must reckon with the over-consumption of fish in developed countries. Respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, especially small scale fisherworkers and promote shared governance and community governance in the framework of marine conservation efforts;
- ➔ Urgently cut domestic shipping emissions by accurately accounting for domestic shipping emissions in updated NDCs and domestic development and climate change plans, and develop decarbonisation plans for the sector that reduce domestic emissions by at least 50% below 2010 levels by 2030, and full decarbonisation of the sector by 2050;
- ➔ Finally, the [30 x 30 initiative](#) should and must respect the rights and sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to their territories and waters.



## 11 Ensure collective women's land rights

In all actions on climate, countries must work to secure land, housing, property (HLP), biodiversity and natural resource tenure rights and participatory land governance for all rural, urban, grassroots, indigenous women and youth in all their diversity. We call on Governments to:

- ➔ Regularly generate, report, and use sex-disaggregated land statistics for gender responsive policy decisions and tracking progress on women's HLP and natural resources rights for accountability at all levels.
- ➔ Facilitate and secure equal representation of women and youth leadership in land governance, management, restoration and administration structures and programs at all levels, especially for women and youth in rural and Indigenous Peoples.
- ➔ Provide legal recognition for legitimate tenure rights, including customary and indigenous tenure regimes; with efforts to address gender inequalities in access, control and ownership of land and natural resources; and where appropriate through individual, and joint spousal land titling programs; and investments in equitable and affordable housing.

# Endnotes

- 1 Protected areas and other conservation efforts must recognize and respect the title, tenure, access, and management rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities in their collective lands and territories. See here, for example: [news.trust.org/item/20210603135601-wshfn](https://news.trust.org/item/20210603135601-wshfn)
- 2 [IPCC community land rights](#)
- 3 [Corporate greenwashing](#)
- 4 [Not Zero: How 'net zero' targets disguise climate inaction](#)
- 5 [Roll up, roll up! The Net Zero Circus is coming to a forest near you](#)
- 6 [Confront neoliberalism with feminist justice approaches](#)
- 7 [Nature-based solutions or nature-based seductions? Unpacking the dangerous myth that nature-based solutions can sufficiently mitigate climate change.](#)
- 8 [The impacts of tree plantations on women & women-led resistance to monocultures](#)
- 9 The Power Reactor Information System (PRIS) database of global nuclear operation show that “there is strong evidence that extreme weather conditions worldwide are forcing more frequent shutdowns or partial throttling of nuclear reactors across all geographies and climatic zones, the cumulative number of reported weather related power outages was four times higher in 2010-2019 compared to the period 1990-1999.”
- 10 [World military spending rises to almost \\$2 trillion in 2020](#)
- 11 [Still Not Getting Energy Prices Right: A Global and Country Update of Fossil Fuel Subsidies](#) and [Fossil fuel industry gets subsidies of \\$11m a minute, IMF finds](#)
- 12 [A greener, fairer future: Why leaders need to invest in climate and girls' education](#)
- 13 For example: [Our call for gender transformative education to advance climate justice](#)

Designed by Acacia Betancourt, [Brevity & Wit.](#)