



COP27: Demands for a Gender and Climate Just World

Collective Demands from the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) to the UNFCCC

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—members of the Women and Gender Constituency have outlined below our key demands for the outcomes of COP27. As always, we uphold that there can be no climate justice without gender justice and the fulfillment of human rights. We stand with frontline communities and environmental defenders everywhere, whose voices and actions showcase the real leadership needed to confront the climate crises.

First and foremost, COP27 is a critical moment for African leadership, and specifically African feminist leadership, in shaping and demanding calls for climate justice. As such, the WGC lifts up and heeds the key demands outlined in the recently launched brief by our siblings in the African Feminist Taskforce, a collective of members within and beyond the Constituency who have come together to bring power and presence in the space of COP27. [Standing in our Power: African Women's and Girls' Demands for COP27](#) outlines 27 specific demands across six priority areas that we as the Women and Gender Constituency stand in solidarity with. They include 1) Inclusion of women and young people in national and UNFCCC decision-making processes; 2) a just and equitable transition from fossil fuels

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for all; 3) the provision of adequate, accessible, affordable, flexible and human rights centered finance as a matter of justice and equity; 4) agriculture and land rights; 5) sustainable, community owned and women-led technological solutions; and 6) intersectionality and coherence with broader frameworks for sustainable development.

As the WGC, we bolster these regional demands and with a global perspective, building on several years of collective advocacy,¹ call on the following to drive outcomes at COP27:

1

Ensure the full and inclusive participation of women—in all their diversity—across all climate action and advance implementation of the gender action plan via its mid-term review. Outcomes at COP27 under the gender agenda item must acknowledge the current realities the world faces in terms of both urgent climate crisis and gender inequalities and update activities to best respond to areas where progress is lacking. This includes:

- a. Taking into consideration lessons from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the ways in which it has exacerbated gender inequalities and highlighted the nexus of social protection and resilient communities;
- b. Responding to recommendations in the [technical report by the International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#) on ensuring a gender-responsive just transition to a low carbon economy;
- c. Recognizing the current impacts being faced by frontline communities, including women and girls, in the face of increasing loss and damage due to climate change;
- d. Responding to the essential role that women and girls, in all their diversity, play in the field of agriculture, particularly in promoting agroecological models, and the challenges faced in terms of access to and rights over land;
- e. Acknowledging the lack of climate finance reaching grassroots and indigenous women and communities, as well as for work broadly on gender-responsive climate implementation at national and regional levels; and,
- f. Ensuring coherence to broader global efforts to advance work at the intersection of gender and climate change.

In addition, the WGC calls on all Parties to **appoint national gender climate change focal points² (NGCCFPs) and support them by providing capacity development, tools and sufficient resources.**

1 Previously elaborated key demand documents can be found on the WGC website at womengenderclimate.org.

2 As of October 2022, 98 countries under the UNFCCC have appointed NGCCFPs.

2

Recognize, redress and compensate for loss and damage—the immediate and unequal climate-related destruction that is occurring beyond any attempts at adaptation—by recognizing historical responsibilities and ecological debt of rich and industrialized countries and centering the most marginalized people and communities.

- a. Establish a standalone finance facility to address loss and damage;
- b. Publish a Loss and Damage Gap Report, similar to the Adaptation Gap or the Emissions Gap Report—with a strong gender focus;
- c. 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.

3

Deliver on climate finance as a matter of climate, social and gender justice. This includes achieving, 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; and providing new, additional funds for loss and damage.

- a. Provide 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;
- b. Promote new gender-responsive delivery mechanisms to support direct access to finance for grassroots women's organizations, national women and gender institutions, Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
- c. Ensure discussions under the workstreams on a New Collective Quantified Goal for climate finance (NCQG) provide quality and quantity of finance that can reach people and communities and be delivered in lights of principles of climate justice;
- d. Provide Ministerial leadership on calling for the establishment of a sovereign debt workout mechanism under the auspices of the United Nations that 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.

4

Dismantle false solutions to climate change—particularly the emphasis on net zero, carbon trading and offsets, and Nature-based Solutions (NbS)—in the climate and biodiversity arenas.

- a. Call for the immediate end of support to unproven and high-risk technologies such as geo-engineering, carbon capture and storage (CSS), bioenergy and carbon capture and storage (BECCS), nuclear, large hydro and geothermal, waste-to-energy and other false solutions, and commit to genuine emission cuts through gender-just and transformative, human rights-based and community-governed initiatives for climate action;
- b. Promote the protection of healthy ecosystems and center the leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and women in all their diversity to manage land in sustainable ways, through ecosystem-based approaches and free, prior and informed consent.

5

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.

- a. 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;
- b. 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, and transparency.

6

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

- a. Commit to financial and political investments in both direct support for women’s and girls’ education and access to education, especially STEM, as well as sharing learnings on the development of climate-focused and gender-transformative educational curricula that can support all people;
- b. 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 prioritizing civic engagement, rights, green life skills, policy processes and activism, and ensuring that girls and young women are meaningfully engaged in the development of these strategies.

7

Apply a social-justice framework and a human rights based approach to climate action that includes the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

- a. Provide universal health coverage and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) health services for women and girls and advance this into the UNFCCC framework for national climate change strategies, NDCs, adaptation plans, programs and budgeting;
- b. Commit to robust and feminist financing at the intersections of climate and women's health, including SRHR, to strengthen climate-resilient health systems and investments in social protection that address underlying systemic causes of vulnerabilities to the climate crisis, including for women, girls and Indigenous Peoples.

8

Fulfill commitments to gender equality and ecosystem integrity via the full implementation and realization of sustainable development and biodiversity goals.

- a. Ensure rights to water and sanitation in all climate action, specifically that 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;
- b. Protect the ocean, cryosphere, coastal ecosystems and local communities;
- c. 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.

To discuss these priority areas with members of the Women and Gender Constituency, please contact Zukiswa White, zukiswa@womensgenderclimate.org.

Key Resources

Please see below the WGC previous demand documents and Issue Briefs that outline these above demands in more detail.

- [WGC COP26 Key Demands](#) (comprehensive overview of above demands)
- [Issue Brief: Loss and Damage](#)
- [Issue Brief: False Solutions](#)
- [Issue Brief: Ocean](#)
- [Issue Brief: Climate Induced Migration](#)
- [Issue Brief: Climate Justice and SRHR](#)