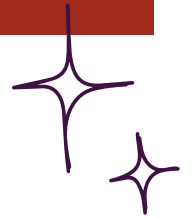


Transforming Narratives and Driving Climate Action:

MENA Women's & Girls' Demands for COP28 and Beyond



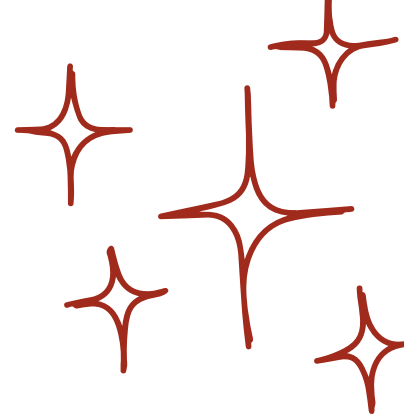
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document presents the set of demands put forth by the MENA Feminist Taskforce for driving climate action and gender equality in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and beyond. These demands have been developed collaboratively and endorsed by 180 feminists and organizations at the gender and climate nexus from the region. They reflect the challenges, priorities, and needs of women and girls at this intersection. Capitalizing on the momentum in the region after COP27 in Egypt and with COP28 in Dubai, UAE this year, MENA feminists, gender and climate advocates are using this pivotal movement moment to amplify local and regional voices and drive meaningful climate action.

Climate change is an undeniable reality that will affect everywhere and everyone in the world. The MENA region, despite being among the lowest recipients of climate finance and historical greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters, is highly affected and vulnerable to climate change. Rising temperatures, water scarcity, desertification, and extreme weather events are exacerbating existing challenges such as high water stress, food insecurity, energy poverty, and forced displacement. Furthermore, many countries in the region are already struggling with existing conflicts, violence, and occupation. Climate change poses an aggravating factor that may not only escalate existing tensions, but also lead to climate-induced conflicts.

Climate change exacerbates existing inequalities, including the challenges women and girls around the globe face. Women are exposed to more risks resulting from having to carry heavier burdens from the intersecting impacts of climate change, as well as existing structural inequalities and patriarchy. To effectively address these inequalities and enable marginalized populations to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts, long-term transformations and investment in climate justice are crucial. Gender equality and social justice must be central to climate policy, as women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change and play a vital role in leading gender-responsive climate solutions. Their

unique experiences and vulnerabilities must be at the forefront of climate policy, and their meaningful inclusion and participation across all social, economic, and political spheres at all levels remains a critical pillar in achieving climate and gender justice.



The MENA Women's and Girls' demands for COP28 and beyond outline **six priority areas** for climate action in the region, encompassing **28 specific demands**. They emphasize the need for gender parity, equity, and mainstreaming of gender considerations in all climate policies, programs and budgets. They also call for reassessing climate finance goals, addressing root causes of gender based violence in climate-induced disasters and conflict, protecting natural habitats and traditional knowledge and indigenous systems, investing in climate research and education, and transitioning to renewable energy while supporting vulnerable groups, communities and populations.

Therefore, we call for:

1 Inclusive Climate Engagement and Ambition: Meaningful inclusion and engagement of women, youth, and marginalized communities in national and UNFCCC negotiation, decision-making, and policy processes. This can be accomplished by ensuring gender parity and equity, mainstreaming gender and the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, and addressing intersecting vulnerabilities in NDCs, NAPs, and all national development and climate action plans, policies, programs, and budgets across all levels. MENA Feminists demand investment in and prioritization of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), collaboration and coherence with international treaties and governance systems, and investment in capacity-strengthening initiatives to enable women's and girls' participation.

2 Climate Finance: Just, rights-based, gender-responsive, flexible, affordable, and localized climate finance. MENA feminists demand reassessment of the current New Quantified Goal (NQG) and urge developed countries to fulfill the annual \$100bn commitment. This must be accompanied by a reformation of multilateral development and financial institutions, debt cancellation for nations in MENA and the Global South, increased capacity and investment in gender-transformative budgeting and financing, and a significant scaling up of funds for adaptation, loss and damage, and disaster risk reduction and preparedness (DRRP).



3

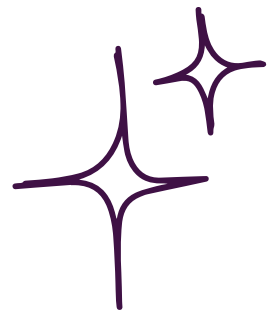
Conflict-Affected Countries, Militarization, and Peacebuilding:

Conflict-sensitive and gender-transformative approach to climate action, including considering the impacts on refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons. This needs to be integrated with feminist climate justice and the Women, Peace, and Security as well as the Youth, Peace, and Security frameworks. MENA feminists demand gender-transformative, intentional, and long-term policies that address the root causes of gender-based violence in climate-induced disasters and conflicts. Transparency in reporting military-induced GHG emissions, and demilitarization in active conflicts are also called for, with reinvestment directed towards peace efforts and climate action.

4

Climate Adaptation, Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness (DRRP):

Strong investment in and prioritization of gender-transformative and localized approaches to climate adaptation, resilience, and DRRP. These approaches should prioritize the protection and preservation of natural habitats, oceans, and coastal ecosystems. Additionally, they should uphold communities' rights to full control over their local and Indigenous seed and food systems; safeguard rural women, women farmers and food producers, smallholder farmers and fisheries, and Indigenous Peoples from losses and damages; and protect water sources and the right to water. MENA feminists demand increased access to, ownership of, and control over land, and its productive resources for women. We call for climate policies that respect, engage, and integrate traditional, local, and Indigenous methods and knowledge, and rely first on nature-based solutions (NBS) and second on just and accessible technological solutions.





5

Climate Education, Capacity-Strengthening, and Knowledge Transfer:

Investment in accessible, high quality education systems that are gender-transformative and integrate climate change and environment.

We emphasize the importance of capacity strengthening initiatives and climate research, ensuring equitable access to information, technology, training, and other resources. Protecting the right to quality education, particularly during times of crisis is paramount. MENA feminists demand investment in gender-sensitive climate research and its widespread dissemination and ease of access in the region.

6

Green Economy, Just Energy Transition, and Fossil Fuels Phase-Out:

Just, equitable, and inclusive transition to renewable energy with commitment to fossil fuel phase-out and investment in the development of a circular, green economy based on socio-economic rights and justice.

This transition must actively engage women and youth, ensuring their equitable access to resources and leadership positions within the renewable energy sector. It is crucial to provide multidimensional support to the most vulnerable, impoverished, and fossil-fuel-dependent economies and livelihoods in the Global South and MENA region. Additionally, effective and sustainable waste management systems should be established. MENA feminists demand that developed countries stop all new investments in fossil fuels and nuclear energy, with a clear and urgent shift to renewable energy.