

# WOMEN & GENDER CONSTITUENCY

**RE: UNFCCC Constituencies and over 180 civil society organizations demand gender justice be centered in COP29 leadership and outcomes.**

**H.E. Mukhtar Babayev**

COP29 President Designate

## **COP29 Organising Committee**

Your Excellencies,

We are writing today on behalf of the [Women and Gender Constituency](#) - one of 9 official observer constituencies representing civil society under the UNFCCC, particularly at the nexus of gender, climate, and environment. **We are joined in this letter by our fellow Observer constituencies**, as well as [over 180 civil-society organizations](#) in our just demand for gender equality to be centered in the COP29 Presidency and outcomes. We are deeply concerned that efforts around composition of the COP29 Organising Committee indicate how gender equality in climate decision-making remains an afterthought, and furthermore, how gender equality is underappreciated as a key consideration within climate policy. The lack of intentionality with regard to women's participation and leadership in long-term processes, and then reactive corrections without clear substantive shifts in approach, dismisses a critical ingredient for effective climate action and undermines years of professed commitment to comprehensively addressing the role of gender across climate change policymaking.

The global framework for action on climate change, including but not limited to the Paris Agreement, has firmly recognized that to be effective and truly transformative, respect for and promotion of gender equality and women's rights must be central to climate action. Additionally, we need to ensure an intersectional approach to climate action that incorporates the needs and priorities of women in all their diversity- especially from marginalized groups, and Indigenous Peoples - coupled with a strong human rights centered approach overall.

[Data](#) shows that women are not participating equally in climate change negotiations - In 2008, they accounted for only 31% of Party delegates (with only 15% Heads of Delegations) rising to just 35% in 2022 at COP27 and 34% at COP28, despite the evidence that climate change exacerbates existing gender discriminations. We find it both unacceptable - and equally frustrating - that in 2024, such important decision-making structures in the global climate policy ecosystem continue to undermine efforts towards gender equality.

The gender imbalance of the Committee also ignores decades of efforts from advocates of the WGC from UN bodies and some progressive governments, as well as the over 130 mandates under the UNFCCC that reference women and/or gender, with 54 specifically promoting and upholding gender balance in decision-making processes at all levels.

To challenge the economic models and power structures that drive the climate crisis as much as gender and social injustice, equal and meaningful representation is a necessary step forward. Effective leadership of the COP process requires deep consideration towards outcomes that ensure a gender-responsive, equitable, just and healthy future on this planet.

We are writing for action. We request you, as COP29 President, respond to this letter and share the steps you will take to ensure gender equality is a key cross-cutting issue across all decisions - and to advance women's leadership and gender balance in all aspects of climate change decision-making.

We, the undersigned organizations and advocates, will continue to mobilize towards gender justice in all aspects of climate action, and we demand your leadership in ensuring gender equality is centered in all aspects of COP29 decision-making.

**Regards,**

*Women & Gender Constituency (WGC)*

**Co-signed by** [Children and Youth Constituency \(YOUNGO\)](#), Environmental NGOs - [Climate Action Network \(CAN\)](#) and [Demand Climate Justice \(DCJ\)](#), Trade Unions (TUNGO), [Research and Independent NGOs \(RINGO\)](#) and the focal points of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) and Business and Industry NGOs (BINGO).

As stated earlier, in addition to the above Constituencies, this letter is endorsed by over 180 networks across the world - fighting for land, life, and the integrity of the planet:

**Global**

350.org  
Amnesty International  
ARAYARA Foundation  
ART connects  
Care About Climate  
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)  
Corporate Accountability  
FACE Intergenerational Justice  
Forced to Flee  
Fridays for Future MAPA  
Global Sustainable Futures Network (GSFN)  
International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP AP)  
Ipas  
International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs  
La Verità Onlus - International Diplomacy (V.O.I.D)

Life of Pachamama  
Minority Rights Group  
Office against Discrimination, Racism and Intolerance (ODRI)  
Oil Change International  
Plan International  
She Changes Climate  
Society of Gender Professionals  
Solar Cookers International  
Soroptimist International  
Soroptimist International Great Britain & Ireland (SIGBI)  
The Climate Reality Project  
The Hunger Project  
Women Connectors  
Women Deliver  
Women Engage for A Common Future (WECF)  
Women in Global Health  
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)  
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)  
Women's Major Group (WMG)  
WOMENVAI  
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGS)

### **Asia**

Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (AVAS), Bangladesh  
Beranda Perempuan , Indonesia  
CCN Climate Catalyst Network, Sri Lanka  
Centre for Sustainability, Philippines  
Climate Action Network Southeast Asia  
Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN)  
Forum for Dignity Initiatives  
Fundamental Human Rights Rural Development Associations (FHRRDA), Pakistan  
Girl Up Savera, India  
Keystone Foundation , India  
Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization, Sri Lanka  
National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN)  
Naireeta Services, India  
Participatory Development Action Program  
Psychological Responsiveness NGO, Mongolia  
Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre (SMRC), India  
The Next Generation Leaders, Pakistan  
Udaan Youth Club Tyodhi, India  
We Are Tomorrow Global Partnership (WAT GP), India  
Women and Media Collective, South Asia  
Women Working Group (WWG), South East Asia

### **Central America**

Todos Juntos por la Resiliencia Comunitaria , Guatemala  
La Ruta del Clima, Costa Rica

## **Europe**

cambiaMO | changing MObility, Spain  
CliMates, France  
CNCD-11.11.11, Belgium  
Danish Family Planning Association, Denmark  
Finnish Development NGOs (FINGO)  
France Nature Environnement  
Generation Climate Europe  
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)  
Italian Climate Network  
Jeunes Ambassadeurs pour le Climat (JAC), Franc  
LIFE Education Sustainability Equality e.V.  
Réseau Action Climat France  
Young Friends of the earth Germany (BUNDjugend), Germany

## **Latin America & the Caribbean**

Enda Colombia  
FirecircleTT To End ALL forms of Abuse, Trinidad & Tobago  
Fundacion Barranquilla+20 and Women for Climate Justice Network  
Latín American Youth Climate Scholarship  
Organización de mujeres indígenas (ONAMIAP), Peru  
Red Ecofeminista LatinoAmericano Y Del Caribe (LAC Ecofeminist Network)

## **Middle East & North Africa**

Apeddub Association, Tunisia  
Climate Action Network Arab World  
Darya Developing Woman and Community, Iraq  
Human Environmental Association for Development (HEAD), Lebanon  
L'union de L Action Féministe /Arab CSOs Women's Network  
Arab Youth Green Voices Network  
Greenish, Egypt  
Young Arab Feminists Coalition

## **North America**

Climate Action for Lifelong Learners (CALL), Canada  
EnGen Collaborative, US  
Grandmothers Advocacy Network, Canada  
Heinrich Boell Foundation Washington, US  
MN Interfaith Power & Light- Environmental Justice Movement, US  
SustainUS- YOUNGO/ANGRY, US  
The Resiliency Initiative, US  
U.S. Climate Action Network, US  
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE), US  
WISE Planet At the University of Calgary, Canada

## **Oceania**

BIMBA, Kiribati  
Carterets Islands, Bougainville, Papua New Guinea  
Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)  
Fiji Youth SRHR Alliance

## **South America**

Asociación Ciudadana Por Los Derechos Humanos, Argentina  
Associação de Jovens Engajamundo, Brazil  
ARAYARA International Institute  
Climate Reality Project Brazil  
COESUS - No Fracking Brazil Coalition  
Fundação SOS Mata Atlântica, Brazil  
Imaflora, Brazil  
Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza - ISPN, Brazil  
Instituto 5 Elementos - Educação para a Sustentabilidade  
International Institute of Education Brazil  
Mineral Coal Observatory (OCM), Brazil  
Observatório do Clima, Brazil  
Oil and Gas Observatory (OPG), Brazil  
Pro Forest Management Institute, Brazil  
Red de Defensoras Del Ambiente Y El Buen Vivir, Argentina  
Rede Jandyras, Brazil  
Servicio Desarrollo Rural y Agrícola (SEDRA), Chile  
Uma Gota No Oceano, Brazil  
Youth Group at the National Climate Commission, Peru  
Wings for Amazon, Ecuador

## **Sub-Saharan Africa**

Abantu for Development  
AbibiNsroma Foundation, Ghana  
Action des Femmes pour la Promotion de la Sante, l'Éducation et le Développement, DRC  
Action Group for the Development of Women and Girls (GAEF), Benin  
Africa Women Leaders Network, Ghana  
Africa Women & Gender Constituency  
AJAMALEBU Self Help (AJESH)  
Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMWA), East Africa  
Amis des Etrangers au Togo, Togo  
Association Against Child Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Nigeria  
Association des Femmes Vulnérables du Burundi, Burundi  
Association pour la Conservation et la Protection des Écosystèmes des Lacs et l'Agriculture Durable  
Awake Youth Relief Agency, Uganda  
Basic Rights Watch (BRW), Nigeria  
Cadire Cameroon Association  
Cameron Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW)  
Centre for Climatology and Applied Research  
Centre for Healthworks, Development and Research Initiative (CHEDRES), Nigeria  
Climate Action Network Zambia

Climate Action Network Zimbabwe  
Climate Clock DRC, Democratic Republic of Congo  
CNETZERO DRC, Democratic Republic of Congo  
Community Action for Health & Development , Kenya  
Development Impact Pathfinders Initiative, Nigeria  
Disability People's Forum, Uganda  
Emmaus International  
F4FAO  
Fridays for Future Sierra leone  
Grupo para o Desenvolvimento da Mulher e Rapariga (Group for the Development of Women and Girls - GDMR), Mozambique  
Global Health Awareness Research Foundation (GHARF), Nigeria  
Global Learning for Sustainability, Uganda  
Global River Protection Coalition  
Green Canopy Enviro-Care, Zimbabwe  
Green Environment and Climate Change Initiative (GECCI), Nigeria  
Green Legacy Initiative Network (GLIN), Kenya  
Green Thinkers Integrated Community Development Organization, Ethiopia  
Groupe d'Etudes Multisectorielles pour le Développement Intégré, GEMUDI e sigle, Democratic Republic of Congo  
IFESIDDI, Democratic Republic of Congo  
Kalkal Human Rights Development Organization, Somalia  
Kikandwa Environmental Association (KEA), Uganda  
Legal Resources Foundation Trust, Kenya  
Okogun Odigie Safewomb International Foundation  
ONG Plus de Sida dans les Familles, Gabon  
Réseau des Femmes pour le Développement Durable en Afrique  
Solidarité des Femmes Pour Le Bien Être Social et le Progrès Au Burundi  
Southern Africa Climate Change Coalition  
Strategic Youth Network for Development Ghana  
The African Women's Network for Community management of Forests - REFACOF  
Uasin Gishu County Peace Club of Kenya  
Village Farmers Initiative (VFI), Nigeria  
Women And Children's Empowerment Network in Africa, Uganda  
Woman in Renewable Energy Association Nigeria, Nigeria  
Women Environmental Programme (WEP)  
Wote Youth Development Projects CBO  
Young Professionals in Policy and Development (YouPaD), Nigeria  
Youth and Women for Change in Eswatini  
Youth Climate Action Coalition Mozambique,  
Zimbabwe Climate Change Coalition, Zimbabwe