



UN WOMEN CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY



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Economic Empowerment Section

UN Women

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1

INTRODUCTION



1. INTRODUCTION

The world is in a climate and environmental emergency while in parallel experiencing a rollback of women's and girls' rights and a pushback against gender equality. In the current context, building on its long-standing work to address climate change and environmental degradation across its triple mandate, UN Women is articulating an integrated and strategic approach to the gender, climate and environment nexus. Feminist climate and environmental justice envisions a world where women, girls and gender-diverse people can flourish and fully enjoy their human rights on a peaceful, healthy and sustainable planet for present and future generations.¹

This strategy is anchored in the UN Women's Strategic Plan (2026–2029), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda), the Rio Conventions, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It draws upon the [Corporate Formative Evaluation of UN Women's Work in the area of Climate Change](#) (Formative Evaluation) and builds on UN Women's relevant Global Programming Frameworks, such as on Gender-Responsive Climate Action and Green/Blue Economies, as well as the global [Women's Economic Empowerment Strategy](#) and [Humanitarian Strategy \(2022–2025\)](#).

The strategy is informed by evidence-based analysis and:

1. Internal and external consultations.
2. UN Women's Formative Evaluation in the area of climate change.
3. UN Women's institutional capabilities and comparative advantage.
4. The strategic position of UN Women vis-a-vis its triple mandate and financial and human resources.
5. UN Women's Women Count statistics and data briefs on gender and environment.
6. A global context that requires a renewed sense of urgency to reach shared goals and commitments on climate change, the environment and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Formative Evaluation found that “UN Women's climate change work is interlinked with a broader range of environmental issues, including biodiversity and land degradation, and DRR”.² As such, the strategy goes beyond a singular focus on climate change and encompasses the many interconnected dimensions of climate, environment and gender equality for UN Women to continue, renew and strengthen its trajectory in this arena.

The Strategy sets forth an institutional agenda covering key priority areas and a set of entry points and pathways guiding engagement and influence in the context of climate change and environmental action across its triple mandate. The strategy provides a roadmap for UN Women's work globally and in regional and country offices, recognizing the need for flexibility, localization and contextualization.

Implementation of this strategy is expected to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as progress on international, regional and national commitments on climate and environment such as the Paris Agreement and the realization of a range of women's human rights, including the right to a safe, clean and healthy environment.

1.1 BACKGROUND: ASSESSING THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE OF GENDER, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

1.1.1 Global and regional trends

Climate change and environmental crises such as biodiversity loss and land degradation have compounded and multiplied into a polycrisis.³ Rising greenhouse gas emissions are projected to exceed the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and make it harder to limit warming to below 2°C by 2030, resulting in increased frequency and intensity of floods, droughts and other climate-related hazards.⁴ Human pressures are pushing one million species to extinction in the coming years, with the catastrophic risk of losing 30 per cent to 50 per cent of all species by 2050.⁵ Globally, an estimated 1.5 billion women and girls live in countries facing high or very high exposure to droughts.⁶ This is undergirded by historic patterns of unsustainable production and consumption, exemplified by the exploitation of land, water and resources; destructive dependency on fossil fuels; and wealth accumulation, principally by industrialized countries. This affects the entire planet and all peoples, although not in the same way or to the same degree, while gender inequality denies full human rights to half the population. Extractive industries, responsible for over 55 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, are also responsible for 90 per cent of biodiversity loss.⁷

Those least responsible for climate change and environmental degradation are often the most adversely affected.⁸ Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, among the most vulnerable to climate change, contribute only 3.3 per cent and less than 1 per cent, respectively, of global greenhouse gas emissions.⁹ Human influence has unequivocally heated the atmosphere, oceans and land, while climate change exacerbates poverty and inequalities, especially those of gender, race, class, caste, age, indigenous status, migration status and disability, putting at risk all human and non-human life on earth.¹⁰

Globally, Indigenous peoples, local communities, the urban poor, and women and girls disproportionately suffer the effects of biodiversity loss.¹¹ Slightly more than a quarter of employed women worldwide work in agriculture, forestry and fishing,¹² demonstrating their dependency on healthy ecosystems. Globally, women comprise 38 per cent of all workers in these areas, and they are especially important sources of livelihood for women, compared to men, in sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia.¹³ Nearly three quarters of Indigenous women and men are dependent on agrifood systems for their livelihoods, while contributing significantly to biodiversity conservation.¹⁴

1.1.2 Persistent and deepening gender inequalities

Discriminatory norms, laws, policies and practices persist in impeding women's full and equal participation in and receiving benefits from the economy, environmental management, peacebuilding and food systems. In 190 economies assessed in 2023, women have less than two thirds of the legal rights of men.¹⁵ For example, women's land and resource rights are critical for livelihoods and resilience yet fewer women than men have ownership and/or secure tenure rights in 40 of 46 countries, and the level of legal protection for women's land rights is low or absent in 60 per cent of 71 countries.¹⁶

Climate and environment emergencies are escalating and simultaneously increasing gender disparities. Disasters related to natural hazards lower the life expectancy and increase the mortality of women more than that of men.¹⁷ Heat stress widens the income gap between women-headed and men-headed households by US\$37 billion a year, and floods increase the gender gap by US\$16 billion a year.¹⁸ By 2050 under a worst-case climate scenario, an estimated 158 million more women and girls will be pushed into poverty, and 236 million more into food insecurity.¹⁹

Women's physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, are often sacrificed in the context of crises, especially when public services are unavailable or insufficient to meet needs. Moreover, conditions such as worsening droughts, expanding aridity and the increasing unpredictability of rain correlate with higher child marriage and adolescent pregnancy rates, and worsening access to clean drinking water and clean cooking fuels.²⁰

1.1.3 Women's voice, agency, leadership and participation

Women and girls are taking climate action at all levels, and their participation and leadership make climate action more effective. However, women's voice, agency and participation are under-supported, under-resourced, under-valued and under-recognized in climate action. Gender equality considerations and women's full, meaningful and equal engagement are being left out of critical discussions and decisions on climate resilience, climate finance, just transitions, loss and damage, land degradation, sustainable natural resource management and implementation of the global biodiversity framework.

1.1.4 Women's and girls' unpaid care work

Climate change, environmental degradation and disasters have heightened women's and girls' already disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care work: care for children, the sick, the elderly and the environment; the management of community resources; and the provisioning of food, water and energy.²¹ Water, sanitation and energy services, infrastructure and supply—all critical for women's livelihoods, well-being and resilience—are at risk in a dramatically changing climate and environment, although with wide variation between developing and developed countries.²²

1.1.5 Evolution of normative and policy frameworks

In 1995, the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), the blueprint for gender equality and women's rights, was adopted. It emphasizes that environmental degradation affects all, but particularly

women's and girls' poverty, health and livelihoods, and those of rural and Indigenous women most of all.

In the 30 years since Beijing, normative efforts at the global, regional and national levels to integrate gender equality and women's rights in climate and environment action have advanced. The Rio Conventions—the treaties designed to protect life on earth: the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)—were adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, or the Earth Summit, in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 to address global environmental challenges and provide solutions. To varying degrees, they have integrated gender equality and women's rights into their policies, processes and outcomes. For example, the [Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan](#) of the UNFCCC includes capacity-building, knowledge management and communication; gender balance, participation and women's leadership; coherence; gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation; and monitoring and reporting.

The landmark Human Rights Council resolution²³ of 2021 recognizes the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, including respect for gender equality and the rights of environmental human rights defenders. Subsequently, the 2022 General Assembly of the United Nations resolution²⁴ on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment affirms the importance of gender equality; gender-responsive climate and environmental action; women's and girls' full, equal and meaningful participation, leadership and decision making; as well as women as managers, agents of change and defenders of natural resources and the environment. General recommendation No. 39 (2022)²⁵ on the rights of Indigenous women and girls of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women asserts Indigenous women's and girls' right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; their free, prior and informed consent before authorizing extractive and climate mitigation and adaptation projects on their lands and territories; and their meaningful and effective participation in environment and climate decision making.

The sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) in 2022 was devoted to the priority theme of “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.”²⁶ The Agreed Conclusions of the sixty-fifth, sixty-sixth and sixty-eighth sessions of the Commission all called for gender-responsive strategies, policies and programmes to address environmental and climate challenges and to build the resilience of women and girls and their communities, including through the provision of sustainable energy and water, land and resource security, and gender-responsive just transitions.²⁷

The 2015 UN Security Council resolution 2242 recognized the impacts of climate change in the changing global peace and security landscape. Prioritizing gender-responsive action is crucial for achieving sustainable outcomes that address the diverse dimensions of climate change and its ramifications for peace and security. The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda has emerged as a valuable tool for comprehending and advancing the climate security agenda, and the references to climate change in WPS National Action Plans (NAPs) are on the rise. A total of 43 out of the recently analysed 105 NAPs (41 per cent) and 6 out of 13 (46 per cent) Regional Action Plans and Strategies include references to climate change.²⁸

The [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#) aims to integrate gender perspectives, as well as those relating to age, disability and culture, into policies, plans and decision-making processes as a priority for the prevention of new risk, the reduction of existing risk, and the management of residual risk. The Sendai Framework recognized the participation of women as critical for disaster risk reduction (DRR), effectively managing systemic risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive DRR policies, plans and programmes.

Converging with the advances in environmental human rights with gender equality, the movement for the rights of nature has gained momentum over the past two decades. Nation states, tribal nations, communities and courts have enshrined the rights

of nature in constitutions, law and jurisprudence to secure and protect the rights of ecosystems, forests and species,²⁹ culminating in international recognition of the rights of nature and the rights of Mother Earth, along with protection of environmental human rights defenders, in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022.³⁰

1.1.6 UN Women’s engagement in climate and environmental action to date

UN Women’s trajectory in this area of work is firmly rooted in its triple mandate and comparative advantage, building on its expertise on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, deploying its convening power and wide networks, and working with partners in the UN system and governments and civil society that can support joint initiatives with the requisite technical and scientific knowledge and experience. In this way, UN Women has sought to secure the co-benefits of gender equality and climate and environmental justice for sustainable development with women’s and girls’ rights, resilience, leadership, livelihoods and well-being at the centre.

As underscored by the Formative Evaluation, UN Women’s climate change work has cut across UN Women’s triple mandate. At the normative level, “UN Women has contributed to tangible results to enhance gender equality and women’s empowerment in some key climate change and environment frameworks.” Further, the evaluation highlights that “UN Women’s UN system coordination mandate and its broader convening role to pursue gender equality objectives with a wider range of stakeholders was widely recognized.”

At the operational level, the Formative Evaluation notes that: “UN Women’s climate change work has mainly been concentrated in work related to women’s economic empowerment and peace and security, humanitarian action and DRR, with some focus on women’s leadership and linkages with ending violence against women. This existing work provides a foundation for operational opportunities within each of UN Women’s thematic areas.”

Building strong partnerships has been a key approach for UN Women and will be a key aspect of a more strategic and intentional approach to its climate change work. UN Women is considered a valuable partner for mainstreaming gender equality into climate change and the environment. The Formative

Evaluation highlights that through its communications and advocacy, UN Women has a critical role to play in changing the narrative to make intersectionality and gender central to the mainstream discourse on climate change and the environment.



1.1.7 Entry points to date

UN Women has identified and leveraged various entry points across its triple mandate into work on climate change and environment. These entry points have been leveraged by various thematic, regional and country teams and have focused primarily on the following:

- Promoting gender equality and women's voice, agency, leadership and participation in climate and environmental action, including across intergovernmental negotiations in the context of climate, environment and the Rio Convention processes.
- Strengthening the technical capacity of national gender machineries and women's organizations to effectively lead, participate in and influence the development, implementation and monitoring of gender-responsive climate, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and frameworks.
- Increasing funding and support for women's climate and environmental action, particularly to women's civil society, grassroots and indigenous organizations, and including in fragile and conflict-affected settings.
- Increasing women's participation and leadership in developing and implementing gender-responsive climate, environment, energy and DRR policies, systems and tools by harnessing their unique expertise, including Indigenous and traditional knowledge.
- Investing in gender-responsive programming (including access to technology, finance and knowledge) to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on women and girls and enhance their capacity to secure climate, environmental and disaster-resilient livelihoods through climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable energy, and disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, and more.
- Expanding the evidence base on the connections between climate change and gender inequality, including by implementing surveys and utilizing non-traditional data sources.
- Advocating for gender-responsive just transitions and supporting the development of policies and programmes to improve women's access to decent green jobs.
- Promoting integrated policy frameworks and programming for women's agency in climate security and environmental peacebuilding to address interlinked climate change impacts, security risks and gender inequality.
- Developing and implementing targeted strategies to address the distinct vulnerabilities, concerns and priorities of women environmental human rights defenders, ensuring their effective protection.

1.2 RATIONALE: UN WOMEN'S ROLE IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

With the development of the Strategic Plan (2026–2029) and the momentum generated by the CSW66 Agreed Conclusions on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, as well as by the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition convened by UN Women, UN Women

wishes to better articulate and reinforce its role and leadership in the nexus of gender, climate change and the environment as well as to selectively focus and integrate its main lines of action. The entry points described above that have served UN Women to date need to be reassessed and redesigned to take advantage of UN Women's comparative advantage in view of the global landscape and emerging priorities.

1.3 GAPS: WHERE WORK IS NEEDED IN GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL EFFORTS

Despite global commitments to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, significant gaps persist in efforts to advance women's rights, resilience, livelihoods and leadership in the context

of climate and environmental action at all levels. These gaps have been identified by robust research and analysis and recognized in normative inter-governmental resolutions and documents.

- 1. Monitoring, evaluation and accountability of gender-responsive global and national normative and policy frameworks.** Climate change policies and reporting around the world are increasingly gender responsive. For example, the gender dimensions of the second round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) prepared by Parties to the UNFCCC to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change under the Paris Agreement have shown improvement. As of April 2024, out of 110 NDCs analysed, 106 have integrated gender equality considerations, up from 53 in the initial round, and 70 per cent refer to women or gender in specific sectors, compared with 15 per cent previously.³¹ However, significant gaps remain for monitoring and evaluation and scaling up of institutional mechanisms for coordination and collaboration to strengthen evidence and implementation of such policies.
- 2. Gender-responsive climate and environmental finance.** The current climate and environmental financial flows fall significantly short of meeting the needs and priorities of women and other marginalized groups. In 2022, just 2 per cent of Mitigation Official Development Assistance (ODA) and 4 per cent of Adaptation ODA had a principal gender objective.³² Moreover, only US\$20 billion of US\$600 billion dollars invested in climate-related projects aimed to combat gender inequalities and promote women-led solutions.³³
- 3. Adaptation, mitigation and resilience initiatives by and for the benefit of all women and girls in all their diversity.** Even if funding is available, complicated administrative processes and requirements make it challenging for women-led grassroots organizations to access climate and environment funds. Few projects are designed with climate and environmental resilience and the needs and priorities of women and girls first and foremost.
- 4. Gender-responsive sustainable food systems, including the triple nexus of gender, climate and nutrition.** Climate change is altering food production levels, influencing the types of food grown, and affecting the nutritional composition of foods and diets. Given the complex relationship between food systems and climate change, it is a further challenge to understand the gender–climate–nutrition nexus and to develop gender-responsive indicators that capture interconnected outcomes.
- 5. Recognition of and action on the climate–care nexus.** Climate change and the degradation of the environment lead to an increase in women's and girls' unpaid care work.³⁴ The UNFCCC COP30 in 2025 marked a turning point in global climate policy by recognizing care systems as integral to adaptation and a just transition. The new Gender Action Plan of the UNFCCC for the first time recognized care work as an emerging issue essential for gender equality and climate action.
- 6. Climate security and environmental peacebuilding from a gender perspective.** In various parts of the world, climate change is intensifying conditions that threaten peace and security. However, the gender dynamics of climate-related security risks are still poorly understood at the international level and are rarely integrated into climate security policymaking and practice.³⁵ At the same time, although progress has been made, less than half of the existing WPS National Action Plans contain references to climate change.

- 7. Climate change and violence against women and girls.** Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is the most widespread and pervasive human rights violation worldwide, affecting more than an estimated 1 in 3 women throughout their lifetimes.³⁶ A failure to eliminate violence against women and girls poses a serious risk to mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building efforts to combat the climate crisis.³⁷ At the same time, as climate change worsens the incidence of violence against women and girls, the failure to address gender-based violence (GBV) risks and challenges in climate action can compound risks for women's and girls' safety and right to a life free from violence.⁶ While data are still limited, emerging evidence suggests that climate change and environmental degradation may be increasing the incidence of violence against women and girls both in contexts of acute climate-related disasters as well as during slow-onset climate events.³⁸
- 8. Gender data and statistics in the gender–climate–environment nexus.** The systematic lack of comprehensive gender data and statistics hinders understanding and design of effective policy and praxis. Among the more than 90 Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to the environment, only 10 incorporate a gender perspective, and data are available for just two of them. Likewise, gender-related data within global monitoring frameworks—such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Global Set of Climate Change Indicators, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Monitoring Framework—remain largely unavailable in most countries.
- 9. The divide between scientific and technical expertise and knowledge and Indigenous and local knowledge and practice.** Gendered Indigenous and local knowledge and practice related to climate and weather, biodiversity and sustainable land and natural resource management are invaluable but often unrecognized and unused sources for effective policies and practice.
- 10. Protection of women environmental human rights defenders.** Women environmental human rights defenders, including many Indigenous women and individuals of African descent, encounter unique gender-related challenges and violence. They are targeted not only for advocating for rights, land and natural resources but also for challenging societal gender norms. These threats often take the form of gender-based violence, physical attacks, intimidation, threats against their families, online and offline harassment, and defamation campaigns—all aimed at silencing their voices and hindering their efforts.³⁹



1.4 OPPORTUNITIES: UN WOMEN'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE IN ACCELERATING PROGRESS

UN Women has distinctive areas of comparative advantage, based on its triple mandate, experience and institutional capabilities, that position UN Women to promote gender-responsive climate and environmental justice and action. Resource constraints,

however, make judicious prioritization necessary in the determination of which areas to lead and which areas to play a more supporting role. Opportunities for which UN Women is strategically positioned to accelerate progress include the following:

- **Shaping normative frameworks and policies:** UN Women can enhance work with State Parties and civil society in the Rio Convention COP processes, with technical support for negotiations and capacity development for negotiators. UN Women can strengthen our support for gender-responsive climate and environmental policy formulation and change at the regional and national levels.
- **Thought leadership through knowledge, evidence and tools:** UN Women can help to bridge divides in understanding and addressing climate change and environmental challenges through knowledge production, such as the *Progress of the World's Women* reports and policy briefs, as well as help to break down silos within UN Women to be more coherent, cohesive and effective across thematic and issue areas.
- **Gender and environment data:** UN Women can strengthen and amplify its gender and environment data and statistics work to influence policy and programming with cutting-edge Data, Evidence and Knowledge (DEK) approaches. The key opportunity here is to build strategic alliances with institutions (including National Statistics Offices, National Geographical Institutes and related institutions) and civil society organizations to underpin intersectional data collection and programming in support of gender-just climate and environmental solutions.
- **Approaches for leaving no one behind and intersectionality:** UN Women can work at all levels —global, regional, national and local—to channel policy advice, technical support and funding for gender-responsive adaptation, mitigation and resilience initiatives led by women and girls, applying leave no one behind principles.
- **Gender-responsive climate and environment finance:** UN Women can influence both climate and environmental financing to be more gender responsive, and to reach women's organizations and grassroots initiatives, including in conflict and fragile-affected settings.
- **Food systems:** UN Women can support food systems' transformation to become sustainable and work for women and girls while ensuring food security and nutrition for all.
- **Climate–care nexus:** UN Women can amplify and ground our emerging work in the climate–care nexus, intending to cover both climate and environmental challenges and contexts.
- **Ending violence against women and girls:** UN Women can examine the intersection between gender-based violence and climate and environmental crises and propose approaches that simultaneously address both.
- **Climate security and environmental peacebuilding:** UN Women can influence climate security and environmental peacebuilding discussions and narrative with its gender equality knowledge and expertise on women, peace and security.



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2

THE STRATEGY



2. THE STRATEGY:

ARTICULATING A VISION AND FOCUS FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

2.1 VISION, MISSION AND PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

2.1.1 Vision

By leveraging the co-benefits of gender equality and climate and environmental action, UN Women seeks to advance gender-responsive climate and environmental justice and irreversible sustainable development that places women's and girls' rights, resilience, livelihoods and leadership at the centre.

This means supporting the transition to caring societies and low-emission economies with decent work and social protection. This also means restoring our relationship with nature, to make peace with nature through recognizing our interdependencies, and build peaceful and prosperous countries for all.

2.1.2 Mission

UN Women will do this through serving those furthest behind and most marginalized first. Anchored firmly in a human rights-based approach, UN Women will prioritize those who have contributed least to climate change and environmental degradation but continue to be the most affected, such as women, girls and gender-diverse people in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). UN Women will join partners and allies to amplify the voice of the voiceless, pull up chairs for those who have not yet had a seat at the table, support those displaced by climate change and environmental degradation, and advocate for duty bearers

to fulfil their promises and commitments to protect all people and the planet for generations to come. UN Women will continue to leverage its unique triple mandate and experience, expertise and convening power to ensure that climate and environmental policies and initiatives integrate gender equality and women's and girls' rights and, at the same time, that gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment encompass climate and environmental concerns. UN Women will strive to protect the women and girls who protect the planet while also doing its part to limit its own impacts on the environment.

2.1.3 Purpose

The purpose of the strategy is to set an institutional agenda covering key priority areas and a set of entry points and pathways guiding the shape of UN Women's engagement and influence in the context of climate change and environmental action. The strategy provides a road map for integrated organizational approaches for UN Women's work

globally, and in regional and country offices, recognizing the need for flexibility as regions and countries will need to contextualize and localize the strategy. With this strategy, UN Women aims to continue, renew and strengthen its work in the gender-climate-environment nexus.

2.2 PRIORITY AREAS AND PATHWAYS TO ACCELERATE GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

2.2.1 Priority areas

- 1. Normative leadership and support to advance gender-responsive climate and environmental normative and policy frameworks, including national and local policy advocacy and support,** across key areas including:
 - a. Synergies across the Rio Conventions
 - b. Just transitions
 - c. Climate security, environmental peacebuilding, humanitarian and climate displacement and migration
 - d. Disaster risk reduction
 - e. Women's economic empowerment
 - f. Women environmental human rights defenders.
- 2. Gender-responsive climate and environmental programming** through the Global Programming Framework on Gender-Responsive Climate Action and Green/Blue Economies, including supporting adaptation through climate-resilient agriculture, women's work in the care economy (paid and unpaid), and women in sustainable food systems and food systems transformation.
- 3. Gender-responsive climate and environmental finance.** UN Women will seek to both increase access to climate and environment funding for women and their organizations and to advocate for sustainable finance mechanisms that are gender responsive.

2.2.2 Pathways for action in the gender–climate–environment nexus

UN Women will amplify its impact across priority and cross-cutting areas by concentrating its efforts through five pathways for action, based on UN Women's institutional strengths, strategic position within the UN system and current resources: (i) Thought leadership and advocacy to shape the discourse and normative frameworks; (ii) Leveraging UN Women's convening power; (iii) Amplifying the influence of feminist and women's organizations and movements; (iv) Scaling gender-responsive policy change and programming; and (v) Catalysing the generation and use of gender and environment data and statistics.

These five pathways align with the three systemic outcomes in UN Women's current Strategic Plan 2026–2029: to work at the normative and policy levels (Outcome 1), hold institutions accountable to all women and girls with financing, data and practices that support gender equality (Outcome 2) and more women and girls exercise their agency and have equitable access to quality services, resources and assets (Outcome 3), and ultimately contributing to the four distinct impact areas: women's leadership and decision making (Impact Area 1), women's economic empowerment in resilient economies (Impact Area 2), women and girls free from violence (Impact Area 3), and women, peace and security and humanitarian action (Impact Area 4).

PATHWAY 1: Elevating UN Women's thought leadership and advocacy.

UN Women is well placed to shape the discourse and normative frameworks on gender equality, climate change and the environment at global, regional, national and local levels by catalysing, applying and communicating evidence and knowledge, and providing technical support to inter-governmental environmental processes.

UN Women is strongly positioned to effectively harness its thought leadership and convening power in service of mainstreaming gender in climate and environmental policy discourse and normative frameworks. UN Women fosters substantive dialogue between actors less frequently in conversation, such as international finance institutions (IFIs) and the private sector with civil society organizations and grassroots women's movements.

PATHWAY 2: Leveraging UN Women's convening power to cultivate and strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and coalitions.

UN Women is well positioned to play a convening role for all stakeholders, bringing together governments, civil society, activists, academics and others for collective action. As a convener, UN Women provides space for diverse actors to coordinate agendas and initiatives for greater reach and impact. Robust mechanisms are already in place for UN Women to facilitate collaboration, notably through the multi-stakeholder Action Coalitions for Feminist Action for Climate Justice and Economic Justice and Rights. Launched during the Generation Equality Forum in 2021, the purpose of the Action Coalitions is to catalyse commitments, action and accountability from an array of partners for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment. The priority focus areas of the Action Coalitions are complementary with this Strategy and can therefore be leveraged for its implementation. Action Coalition partners and allies make commitments that UN Women helps monitor and influence, leading to action throughout the world. As part of this strategy, UN Women will continue to support and strengthen the Action Coalitions and other convening mechanisms, such as the Beijing+30 Action Agenda for Climate Justice, as avenues to bolster pathways to action, galvanizing partners who are engaged and willing to contribute to the collective project of climate and environmental justice across the world.

PATHWAY 3: Amplifying the leadership, voices and influence of feminist and women's organizations, movements and women environmental human rights defenders.

Civil society is one of UN Women's most important constituencies, and UN Women has strong relationships with grassroots, feminist and women's organizations and movements around the world to support their priorities, initiatives and networks, thereby grounding the institution's work in the everyday issues of women and girls. Amplifying the voices and agendas of women's rights and climate and environment activists and organizations on issues that enable gender equality, based on the principle of Leave No One Behind, is central to the entity's mandate. UN Women will support the participation of women in COP national delegations and in climate and environment policy and decision making. UN Women will expand partnerships with grassroots, Indigenous, feminist and women's organizations to support their capacity and promote their influence with governments, the private sector and financial institutions, including to hold them accountable for commitments and human rights obligations. UN Women will also enhance partnerships with universities and research centres to facilitate evidence-based policy and programming and support the technical training of national gender and climate and biodiversity focal points as well as negotiators.

PATHWAY 4: Supporting national and local governments to scale gender-responsive policy change and programming.

UN Women provides policy guidance, technical advice and capacity strengthening to national and local governments and other stakeholders across regions on gender equality, women's and girls' rights, climate change and the environment. Additionally, UN Women supports the national women machineries to connect with other government ministries and mechanisms responsible for climate, environment and natural resources. UN Women brings together governments and other relevant actors, such as the private sector, civil society and women's organizations, to find key points of entry in gender-responsive policy change and programming. All priority areas and relevant Global Programming Frameworks will be leveraged to promote feminist climate and environment justice. UN Women will continue to advocate for adequate resource allocations for implementing gender-responsive climate and environmental policies and programmes, including through mobilizing climate and environment funding to which grassroots, feminist and women's organizations and cooperatives can access directly.

PATHWAY 5: Catalysing the generation and use of gender and environment data and statistics

As part of its Women Count programme, UN Women has and will continue to work with partners in the United Nations and governments to develop survey tools, methodologies and indicators. UN Women has developed gender and environment surveys to gather data on the interactions between women, men and the environment. Utilizing the [Model Questionnaire: Measuring the nexus between gender and environment](#), National Statistics Offices are increasingly gathering data on these interactions. UN Women has developed a list of 100 indicators, put together to provide a menu of options for countries wishing to measure environmental issues from a gender perspective. The list includes, among others, SDG indicators, Sendai Framework indicators, and indicators from the Asia-Pacific set of [Gender and environment indicators](#).

As well as catalysing the generation and use of gender and environment data and statistics, UN Women together with partners is advocating for robust gender-specific indicators across the monitoring frameworks of the Rio Conventions and their Gender Action Plans. As part of its larger advocacy for the collection, use and dissemination of more gender and environment data, UN Women and partners convene conferences on the sidelines of Rio Convention COPs,⁴⁰ which provide spaces for sharing expertise and experiences on collecting, analysing and using data on the gender–climate–environment nexus to catalyse innovation and replication, scale-up data collection, and ultimately improve decision-making and accountability for feminist climate and environmental action.

Illustration of these priority areas and pathways for action with examples of regional approaches across UN Women regions and cross-cutting implementation across various thematic areas can be found in [Annex A](#) and [Annex B](#).



2.3 IMPLEMENTATION: INTEGRATING CLEAR AND EFFECTIVE LINES OF ACTION

While UN Women's triple mandate is deeply interconnected and mutually reinforcing, this strategy outlines the entry points and road map according to the normative, coordination or operational mandates. Much of this is existing and ongoing work, which provides a foundation for opportunities within each of UN Women's thematic areas.

■ **Build on UN system and inter-agency coordination and joint programming**

- UN Women will renew its long-standing engagement with the **UN System-Wide Environmental Management Group** including through convening an Issues Management Group on Gender and Environment, the Climate Promise initiative, and producing thematic series to build the capacity and raise awareness among sister agencies.
- UN Women could integrate climate change within both the **UN SWAP** (System-Wide Action Plan) and the **UN Country Team (UNCT) UN-SWAP Scorecard**, which have had a strong track record of uptake in reporting by UN entities.
- UN Women is a member of both **UN Water** and **UN Energy**, which provide potentially robust platforms for mainstreaming gender equality within sustainable energy initiatives.
- At the country level, it can deepen engagement in **UNCT** thematic groups on climate and environment and promote the mainstreaming of gender in **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)** processes related to climate and environment by using its broader coordination and convening capabilities to support the nexus.
- To be consistent with its values and goals, UN Women, aligned with the **UN-wide Greening the Blue initiative**, has made progress towards climate neutrality and environmental sustainability since 2011 and will continue to do so as it has been collecting greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory data since 2010. Moreover, UN Women's new environmental safeguards policy and framework in the context of programmatic work will be mainstreamed across programmes to measure adaptation and mitigation strategies adopted across the organization and avoid the impacts of UN Women's programmes on the planet.

■ **Leverage convening power to support feminist climate action** through the multi-stakeholder Generation Equality Action Coalitions on Feminist Action for Climate Justice and Economic Justice and Rights, which include UN agencies, as well as through the Beijing+30 Action Agenda for Climate Justice.

■ **Strengthen cross-thematic and cross-regional collaboration** both internally within UN Women and through other coordination platforms such as the Action Coalitions and UN system-wide coordination.

- **Enhance internal coordination.** Consolidate **UN Women's community of practice on climate and environment** to coordinate work across UN Women and share knowledge, good practices and lessons learned. UN Women will explore a more formalized network that connects personnel working on climate change and the environment across the organization. For example, an interdisciplinary task force or working group could be established to coordinate and share work on climate change and environment, and to act as an advisory and reference group on all relevant matters composed of focal points from across headquarters divisions and units, including those engaged in environmental sustainability management.
- **Enhance knowledge management, communications and advocacy.** UN Women is well positioned to raise awareness on the interlinkages between gender equality, women's and girls' rights, and climate change and environmental degradation. With an impressive following across all its platforms, UN Women can amplify the voices of climate and environmental actors including women environmental human rights defenders. Through enhanced communications and knowledge management, UN Women can become a recognized thought leader and expert that can bridge the typical divide between the women's rights and environment communities on social media platforms.
- **Accelerate resource mobilization**
 - Prioritize strategic engagement with climate and environment funds, such as the Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund and others, to increase gender-responsive financing.
 - Facilitate the increase in direct funding and channel resources to feminist and women's organizations and national gender equality mechanisms which have been historically underresourced.
- **Build long-term strategic partnerships**
 - **National governments:** Strengthen linkages between national gender equality mechanisms and ministries engaged in climate change, environmental and disaster management work. Identify specific opportunities, such as partnerships with ministries of environment, fisheries and industry to support the green/blue economy and just transitions initiatives, and engage national statistical offices, geographical institutes and natural disaster management organizations to build the capacity to collect, analyse and use data on gender equality, climate change and the environment. Support national governments to integrate climate risks into National Action Plans for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

- **Civil society:** Continue to bring civil society organizations, grassroots and women's voices into climate change discussions at the national, regional and global levels, including discussions on conservation, land use and climate security. Raise awareness among the broader women's movement of the importance of climate change and greater connection with environmental organizations, networks, coalitions and youth groups. UN Women can leverage civil society to reach a diverse range of stakeholders. Particularly relevant is to ensure Indigenous communities are part of the discussion given their prominent role in climate change mitigation, adaptation and conservation.
- **Climate finance institutions:** Strengthen the gender-responsiveness of climate funding within the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund and others. This could be achieved, for example, by increasing gender-responsive programming with a focus on monitoring and achieving gender equality results at the outcome level, and by improving access to climate finance by women's organizations.
- **UN agencies:** Opportunities exist to deepen and formalize these partnerships, particularly at the organizational and headquarters level. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are relevant partners for work on many areas, from just transitions and green jobs to green industry, including sustainable climate-resilient agriculture. UNDP is a key partner, particularly for collaboration on integrating gender equality considerations into Nationally Determined Contributions. Partnerships with the Rio Convention Secretariats are being strengthened to support the implementation of their action plans on gender equality and advance gender-responsive synergies across the Rio Conventions.
- **Research institutions:** Partnerships with research institutions, for example the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), on gender-responsive just transitions and the climate-care nexus, enhances the robustness and reach of UN Women's research and knowledge products, elevating UN Women's role as a thought leader within the nexus.
- **Regional organizations:** Mainstream gender equality into ASEAN climate change frameworks and support the implementation of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework 2021–2025; integrate gender into national DRR plans in the Caribbean with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); work with the European Union to support the gender-responsive implementation of the Green New Deal; and partner with the League of Arab States on a regional initiative to empower women in green and blue economies and climate-resilient agriculture, as well as other areas of UN Women's environment work, such as climate security.

2.4 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

UN Women has the opportunity to establish more robust corporate reporting to increase the visibility of UN Women's work on the gender–climate–environment nexus across its triple mandate. Until now, as highlighted by the Formative Evaluation, climate change monitoring and reporting has not been systematically conducted. However, relevant indicators exist, mainly at the programme and project level. These data at the programme and project level reach the level of corporate reporting, though not in a systematic way and the focus tends to be on outputs rather than outcomes. This makes it difficult to grasp the potential impact of the results achieved and to ensure robust corporate results reporting. Through the implementation of this strategy, UN Women aims to address this challenge as follows:

- **Monitor and report through the Integrated Results and Resources Framework of UN Women's Strategic Plan and Performance and Results Integrated System for Management (PRISM).** Under its Strategic Plan (2026–2029), UN Women will track climate and environment-related indicators, namely through indicators aligned with the Global Programming Framework (previously the Gender Equality Accelerator) on gender-responsive climate action and green/blue economies. This includes integrating climate and environment results against indicators with both core and recommended indicators across the three systemic outcome areas:

SP Result Area	PRISM Indicator reference	SP Indicator Statement	Climate Action & Green/Blue Economies (CLIMATE)
Outcome 1	0.1.4_CLIMATE	Number of laws that were adopted, revised or repealed to advance gender-responsive climate action and green/blue economies	Core
Outcome 1	0.1.5_CLIMATE	Number of national and/or local multi-sectoral or sectoral strategies, policies and/or action plans that are adopted with a focus on gender-responsive climate action and green/blue economies	Core
Outcome 1	0.1.a_CLIMATE	Number of institutions that have increased their capacity to promote, design and implement legislation, strategies and policies that advance gender-responsive climate action and/or green/blue economies	Core
Outcome 1	SP_D_0.1.b	0.1.b Number of multi-stakeholder dialogue processes to promote the engagement of governments, civil society and other partners to advance norms and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment	Core
Outcome 1	SP_D_0.1.c	0.1.c Number of research, data and knowledge products made available by UN Women to strengthen the development of gender-responsive normative frameworks	Recommended
Outcome 2	SP_D_0.2.3	0.2.3 Number of policies, plans and/or programmes that have been informed by UN-supported gender data and research	Recommended
Outcome 2	SP_D_0.2.4	0.2.4 Number of institutions that increase financing for gender equality	Recommended
Outcome 2	SP_D_0.2.5a	0.2.5 (a) Number of public sector and civil society institutions taking action to address gender-based discrimination and/or counter gender stereotypes within their organizational culture and practice	Recommended

Outcome 2	SP_D_0.2.5b	0.2.5 (b) Number of private sector entities changing policies, practices and behaviours in line with the Women's Empowerment Principles	Recommended
Outcome 2	SP_D_0.2.6	0.2.6 Number of countries where multi-sectoral systems, strategies or programmes are implemented to advance women's equal access to and use of services, resources and assets, including social protection	Core
Outcome 2	SP_D_0.2.d	0.2.d Number of mechanisms introduced that support sustainable financing and accountability for gender equality	Recommended
Outcome 2	0.2.e_CLIMATE	Number of institutions with strengthened capacities to improve the provision and/or accessibility of essential services, goods and/or resources in the context of advancing gender-responsive climate action and/or green/blue economies	Core
Outcome 2	SP_D_0.2.f	COORDINATION: 0.2.f Number of UN system coordination mechanisms, including thematic coordination mechanisms, chaired or co-chaired by UN Women and/or with UN Women's active engagement, that drive progress on gender mainstreaming mandates and commitments	Recommended
Outcome 3	SP_D_0.3.1	SDG indicator 5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex	Recommended
Outcome 3	0.3.5_CLIMATE	Number of women accessing services, resources and/or assets through UN Women-supported platforms and programmes on gender-responsive climate action and green/blue economies	Core
Outcome 3	0.3.c_CLIMATE	Number of initiatives developed and implemented to prevent, monitor and mitigate discrimination and/or violence against women, including women environmental human rights defenders, in public and/or private spaces, in the context of climate and environmental action and/or jobs in green/blue economies	Core
Outcome 3	SP_D_0.3.d	0.3.d Number of economic opportunities created for women, including value chain opportunities and loans	Core
Outcome 3	SP_D_0.3.f	0.3.f Number of mechanisms and/or platforms, including multi-stakeholder based, created and sustained that enable meaningful and safe participation and engagement by gender equality advocates and civil society organizations in decision-making	Recommended
Outcome 3	SP_D_0.3.g	COORDINATION: 0.3.g Percentage of UN joint programmes with a focus on gender equality in which UN Women is a participating United Nations Organization (derived from the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCP), pending a new monitoring framework)	Recommended

Possible activities to report against include:

- **Monitor and assess the gender-responsiveness of national climate and environment policies.** This includes tracking the number of countries supported by UN Women that have gender-responsive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the UNFCCC, National Action Plans (NAPs) under the UNCCD and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the UNCBD.
- **Track gender-responsive climate and environment finance**, including finance that goes to women and women's organizations. This can include monitoring the number of countries that have dedicated budgets to implement climate and environment gender action plans and policies.

- **Track progress of Rio Convention Gender Action Plans.** Together with partners, including the Women's and Gender Constituencies and Caucuses of the Rio Conventions, UN Women will help track the development and implementation of Gender Action Plans.
- **Monitor commitments and actions by Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions on Feminist Action for Climate Justice and Economic Justice and Rights.** Through its yearly accountability report, the GEF Action Coalitions are tracking the implementation of commitments by both Leaders and Commitment Makers. UN Women plays an important role in not only developing the report but also convening all stakeholders for public accountability as a tool for greater cross-learning and acceleration of progress.
- **Track climate and environmental finance based on reports from the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and others.** As part of its work on promoting gender-responsive climate and environmental finance, UN Women will track spending that has been historically low to reach women and their organizations.
- **Gender and Climate Policy Scorecard.** The [Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard](#) is an innovative monitoring tool that assesses how effectively national climate policies address gender inequalities. It tracks how effectively countries are responding to the gendered impacts of climate change while promoting women's participation and leadership in climate action. It assesses the latest round of Nationally Determined Contributions for their gender responsiveness and features an online repository of NDC gender commitments to action, showcasing promising and innovative policy examples to inspire learning, replication and scaling up across countries and regions. To track progress on gender-responsive climate action, the Scorecard is composed of 50 indicators across 6 gender dimensions: economic security, unpaid care work, gender-based violence, health, participation and leadership, and gender mainstreaming.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

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ANNEXES



ANNEX A

UN WOMEN'S CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT WORK ACROSS REGIONS

Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office

The Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office (ACRO) has designed a Regional Strategy on gender, environment and climate change towards climate justice fully aligned with UN Women's Strategic Plan to identify and address the root causes of gender inequalities as well as the differentiated impacts of climate crises and to contribute to efforts to accelerate gender mainstreaming through the SDGs and the ultimate goal of gender equality and women's empowerment.

To ensure that climate change and environment-related policies in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) incorporate a gender perspective in their design and implementation, the LAC region has begun the implementation of a new regional and multi-country programme called "Scaling up Climate Change and Environmental Policies and Programmes and their Effectiveness by Integrating Gender Perspectives". The three main outcomes of the programme focus on:

1. Enabling better decision-making at the national, subregional and regional level through data improvement on gender and environment and gender and climate change.
2. Improving capacities to mainstream gender in climate change and environmental projects for a more effective and equitable project design and implementation.
3. Improving selected communities' livelihoods and resilience to climate and environmental change due to increased women' participation.

ACRO is supporting national climate change and gender focal points to improve and raise ambition on their submissions for the Belém Gender Action Plan (GAP III) in the framework of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender. Moreover, to strengthen the capacities of national focal points, in 2024 ACRO convened a strategic workshop in Guatemala to bring together UNFCCC gender focal points and negotiators from across the region to enhance regional capacities and coordination across the region, providing a critical space for exchanging experiences, identifying key priorities, and reinforcing the capacities to advance the gender-climate agenda. Equally important is the national implementation of international frameworks to align climate justice, sustainability and the right to development. To do so, the Bolivia Country Office supported the Plurinational Authority of the Mother Earth (equivalent to the Ministry of Environment) to develop the national Gender Action Plan on Climate Change (GAPcc) articulating that grassroots organizations and women in the territories include their perspectives in an intersectional manner.

Asia and the Pacific Regional Office

In the Asia and the Pacific region, UN Women's efforts to move the needle on gender-responsive climate action sits firmly within UN Women's triple mandate. On the normative side, UN Women Asia-Pacific regional and country offices support key government actors to develop and monitor gender-responsive climate policies and programmes aligning with global normative frameworks, including NDCs, NAPs and national policies on climate change, renewable energy and disaster risk reduction. This work includes leveraging the production and use of gender statistics in partnership with Women Count.

Moreover, the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (APRO) promotes gender-responsive and inclusive climate finance, including through the establishment of a regional financing facility with UNEP to unlock finance for women enterprises utilizing renewable energy. In terms of coordination, APRO takes an active role in the UN Issue-based Coalition on Climate Change and Resilience (IBC-CCR), chaired by UNESCAP and UNEP, to drive gender-responsive climate action for women and other marginalized groups, including youth, in the Asia and the Pacific region. This includes joint UN climate publications and engagement in key annual events such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the Asia-Pacific Climate Week. This is mirrored in key programme countries where UN Women personnel coordinate and implement the Global Programming Framework on climate resilience as well as other key climate initiatives. Operationally, the Asia-Pacific offices implement a number of initiatives advancing climate-resilient livelihoods for women and other marginalized groups, including increasing women's access to technology and skills where renewable energy is used as an adaptation tool for women's economic empowerment.

Climate change and gender-based violence, as well as climate security, are emerging areas which are folded into existing and planned programming. Biodiversity, from both the normative and operational angle, is another area APRO is moving into in the next two years.

The Asia and the Pacific region's gender equality accelerator and flagship programme on gender equality and climate change is EmPower: Women for Climate-Resilient Societies, implemented jointly with the UN Environment Programme, which is currently in its second phase (2023–2027) and is implemented in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, as well as outputs delivered at the regional level.

East and Southern Africa Regional Office

The work of UN Women's East and Southern African Regional Office (ESARO) builds on UN Women's triple mandate. On the normative side, UN Women is working at the continental, regional and subnational levels on policy frameworks to be gender responsive with a particular focus on climate and environment, agriculture, and disaster risk reduction policies (including climate-resilient agriculture). This work includes supporting government actors to develop and implement policies and programmes including those that align to global and regional normative commitments including NDCs, NAPs and others.

At the operational level, UN Women is working on supporting adaptation activities, such as ensuring women's capacity to maintain and increase their agriculture productivity, including to expand their opportunities in emerging green jobs. In this regard, UN Women is working on both blue and green economic opportunities. There is also an emerging area of work on the care-climate nexus, for example, with a focus on supporting investment in rural infrastructure. UN Women is also working on mitigation activities such as reducing dependence on biomass as a cooking and lighting fuel through various interventions including access to innovative financing mechanisms to support transition to other fuel sources. At the coordination level, UN Women at the regional and country levels works closely with other partners in the UN system including UNEP, FAO, WFP and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa in several areas of programming with rural women's economic empowerment as an example.

ESARO will advance gender-responsive approaches in the green economy through multi-stakeholder engagement, capacity-building and policy support. ESARO will establish a Community of Practice to bring together policymakers, civil society, research institutions and women's networks to drive gender-inclusive climate action. Furthermore, ESARO and the West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO) will also develop guidelines and tools to integrate gender into NDCs, focusing on climate finance, green jobs, food security and the care-climate nexus. To strengthen institutional capacity, the regional office will train UNFCCC National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points on gender-responsive climate policymaking. Additionally, ESARO plans to host regional virtual dialogues to help policymakers leverage NDC reviews to enhance women's participation in the green economy. At the national level, the regional office will facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues and provide technical assistance to two countries to strengthen climate and green economy policies, ensuring greater access to green jobs, finance and entrepreneurship for women.

West and Central Africa Regional Office

In West and Central Africa, UN Women's West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO) leverages its normative, coordinating and operational mandate to support a gender-responsive transition to the green economy. As countries develop low emissions growth and development paths in the region, UN Women works with women, governments, the private sector and regional institutions to ensure that women access the opportunities emerging from the transition in the form of decent green jobs. Following the 2021 publication of [Green Jobs for Women in Africa](#), co-produced by UN Women and the African Development Bank, UN Women has supported governments and regional institutions in integrating gender in green transition policies and regional frameworks, through research, technical assistance, [tool](#) development, advocacy and the convening of multi-stakeholder regional policy dialogues on key priorities for a just transition. Across the region, UN Women invests in the development of business models adapted to women's needs, for example, to support women-led business and cooperatives' access to opportunities [in climate-resilient agriculture](#), sustainable energy and other areas of the local green economy. A strong focus on advocacy, policy reform and the development of innovative mechanisms to facilitate women-led businesses, women's cooperatives and other women's organizations' access to green finance will mark UN Women's work in the second half of the current Strategic Plan, in the context of the Global Programming Framework on Gender-Responsive Climate Action and Green/Blue Economies.

Europe and Central Asia Regional Office

In Europe and Central Asia, UN Women's Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO) works on four key interlinked priorities to ensure a just transition that does not leave women behind and makes use of their skills and knowledge:

1. Raising awareness of gender inequalities regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation.
2. Guaranteeing the capacity of stakeholders to integrate gender equality considerations into climate change action.
3. Ensuring women's access to economic opportunities presented by the transition to green and climate-neutral economies.
4. Empowering women to be leaders on climate action at all levels.

UN Women ECARO is seeking to build its efforts on both the Regional Climate & Gender Programme, co-developed with UNEP, and on the successful UN Women Serbia and Kyrgyzstan climate and gender initiatives, to explore further potential for deepening its footprint and expertise in climate action. Further, UN Women's work in Serbia on ensuring a gender-responsive energy transition and addressing gender aspects of energy poverty provides a good example for future activities. This could be complemented by a corporate agreement with the IFIs involved in climate investment (the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) to support their activities through gender mainstreaming and gender advisory support to climate projects, support to the Climate and Gender Investment Hub in Serbia supported by the World Bank, as well as cooperation with other UN agencies active and established in climate action on the country level such as UNDP.

UN Women ECARO wants to explore potential for collaboration on climate action especially with Switzerland, UNEP, WFP, FAO and UNFCCC. It will also continue engaging with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and National Designated Authorities at the country level on the possibility of becoming a GCF readiness partner, building on successful collaboration in Latin America, where UN Women has already developed a multi-country proposal to serve as a delivery partner.

ANNEX B

UN WOMEN'S THEMATIC AREAS

Economic Empowerment and Gender-Responsive Climate Action and Green/Blue Economies Global Programming Framework

UN Women will strengthen global norms and standards on climate, environment and green/blue economies; build the capacities of partners, women and girls to equitably access climate finance, technologies and knowledge, and access and control natural resources for management and protection, including through securing land rights; and strengthen women's climate action and participation in decent work in green/blue economies and climate-resilient agriculture through promoting climate action and the participation of women and girls. UN Women will also focus on amplifying the voices of rural, grassroots and Indigenous communities, including front-line and women environmental human rights defenders.

Gender-responsive just transitions put gender equality and care at the centre of policies and programmes to shape economies that advance sustainable development while upholding human rights and the principle of leaving no one behind. An estimated 80 per cent of new jobs created by dismantling fossil fuel dependency are expected to be in sectors dominated by men; it will be critical to eliminate occupational segregation and gender-based discrimination in labour markets. Women must be able to participate in, lead and benefit from gender-responsive just transitions, including through the creation of decent work in care services, energy, transport, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, waste and water management.

Under this priority area, UN Women will deepen partnerships with UNEP, ILO, IFIs and the Rio Convention Secretariats on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). UN Women will also convene and support the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition on a just transition to a green economy.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Disasters, including those induced by climate change, are not felt uniformly by everyone in society. Gender, income, geography, age and other socioeconomic factors determine how such events impact people. Across the board, from life expectancy to education, health, violence, livelihoods and nutrition, women are negatively and disproportionately impacted by disasters, climate change and other threats including pandemics, as the COVID-19 crisis has clearly demonstrated.

The direct and indirect impacts of disasters, and the disruptions and displacement caused by climate change, reinforce the patterns of inequality already present. In the aftermath of a disaster, women and girls experience disproportionate socioeconomic impacts, including loss of housing and livelihoods, and disrupted access to health and sanitation services and the disproportionate time spent on unpaid care work. On average, more than 20 million people are newly displaced every year by sudden-onset hazards. Women and children are more vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, and sexual and gender-based violence, including trafficking.

To reduce disaster risk, it is important that all disaster-related strategies, policies and plans are informed by an intersectional gender analysis. Women's leadership brings essential knowledge, skills, resources and expertise to support recovery and resilience building. When included and empowered, women can play a critical role in early warnings and preparedness, they can help design and implement more inclusive, better targeted, and thus more effective disaster risk reduction processes and policies, and their local knowledge and leadership in sustainable resource management and resilience practices can be critical to building household and community resilience.

Operationally, UN Women successfully managed the Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) programme from 2021 to 2025, which was the organization's DRR gender equality accelerator. The WRD brought together all of UN Women's DRR normative, coordination and programmatic work under one cohesive strategy on disaster risk reduction. This flexible approach allowed for locally tailored action, knowledge and resource sharing across the regions, and excellent cost-effectiveness and economies of scale.

Gender, Migration and Climate Change: Advancing Rights and Resilience

Climate change is a growing driver of human mobility, with both sudden-onset and slow-onset events forcing millions to leave their homes in search of safety, livelihoods and dignity. For women and girls, particularly those already facing systemic inequalities, climate-induced migration and displacement are marked by heightened vulnerability and risk: from reduced access to essential services and economic opportunities to increased exposure to gender-based violence and trafficking. Yet safe and regular migration pathways remain limited, often leaving women and girls with few viable options and increasing their reliance on unsafe or irregular routes. Despite these challenges, migrant women play critical roles in sustaining households, supporting adaptation and driving social change in both origin and destination communities. Their leadership and lived experience are essential in shaping effective, inclusive climate and migration responses.

Taking a gender-responsive approach to migration in the context of climate change means recognizing migration as both a form of vulnerability and a potential tool for adaptation. Ensuring safe and regular migration requires the development and expansion of gender-responsive migration pathways—including temporary, seasonal and permanent options—that are accessible to women in all their diversity, alongside strengthened protection mechanisms, improved access to essential services, and the systematic collection and use of sex-disaggregated data to inform policy and programming. It is critical to centre the rights, needs and agency of women and girls in all their diversity in climate-related migration governance, while promoting inclusive and sustainable solutions that address root causes and reduce forced displacement.

For more information, see UN Women's [policy brief](#) on ensuring safe and regular migration for women and girls in the context of climate change.

Gender, Climate, Peace and Security

To inform global, regional and country decision-making and enhance capacity on the gender–climate–security nexus, UN Women has developed flagship reports, conducted pilot studies and advanced key analysis. A forthcoming study on gender-responsive climate finance highlights the glaring disparity of global climate finance commitments where only 0.035% directly addresses the intersecting issues of gender, peace and security.

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is a comprehensive framework to address the interconnected challenges, laying out crucial initiatives across regions like the Sahel, Central Asia and Southeast Asia. Through regional exchanges, such as the Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies in Asia and the Pacific Conference, best practices on integrating climate change into WPS National Action Plans (NAPs) were shared among 100 representatives from governments, civil society and academia.

To strengthen grassroots women's organizations and design targeted interventions, UN Women is currently supporting the localization of gender-responsive climate security risk assessments in the Central African Republic and the Sahel Region, building on the successful implementation of innovative programming approaches under the Joint Programme for Women, Natural Resources, Climate, and Peace in Colombia and Sudan (2016–2020) by UN Women, in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP and the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA). Following successful testing and validation, similar processes were replicated and expanded in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Sudan with support from the Peacebuilding Fund. In partnership with the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, UN Women further helped shape the 2023 Gender Promotion Initiative, emphasizing gender, climate and security with programming spanning across Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Sudan.

Together with the Environmental Peacebuilding Association, UNEP, UNDP and the UNDP/PA Peace Building and Peace Support Office (PBSO), UN Women further established a Knowledge Platform on Gender, Natural Resources, Climate and Peace, documenting local perspectives and policy influences in Chad, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone and Sudan, and in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole, and amplifying young women's leadership. Capacity-building efforts also include an Online Course on Climate Change, Peace and Security, collaboration with global entities such as the Climate Security Mechanism and the United Nations System Staff College, and participation in UN-wide initiatives like the Climate and Security Practitioners Dialogue and the DPPA and Department of Peace Operations (DPO)–led Interagency Task Force.

Through these strategic partnerships, regional dialogues and evidence-based policymaking, UN Women and its collaborators continue to advance climate-resilient, sustainable and inclusive solutions in conflict-affected and fragile contexts worldwide and amplify the leadership and protection of women peacebuilders and environmental human rights defenders at the front lines of climate action and peace.

Ending Violence Against Women

UN Women's triple mandate of normative, coordination and programmatic functions uniquely positions it to lead global, regional and national efforts in addressing violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the context of climate crises. By integrating gender equality and women's empowerment into global sustainability efforts, UN Women ensures that gender-specific mandates are embedded within key environmental agreements, including those related to climate change, desertification and biodiversity.

To address violence against women and girls within climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience strategies, UN Women fosters cross-sectoral collaboration, leveraging its expertise across thematic areas such as economic empowerment, leadership, governance and humanitarian action. The UN Women Strategic Plan 2026–2029 prioritizes integrated approaches, driving systemic change to tackle global challenges, including the environmental impacts on violence against women and girls.

UN Women promotes comprehensive solutions to end violence against women and girls, encompassing legal reforms, survivor support, prevention strategies, data collection and civil society engagement. As co-lead of the Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence and a key member of the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Coalition, UN Women bridges commitments and actions across initiatives, ensuring an interconnected approach to gender equality.

Innovative programming efforts include integrating VAWG prevention in disaster risk reduction, such as in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, and partnering with UN agencies, governments and civil society to embed VAWG considerations in climate action. By demonstrating the impact of integrated strategies, UN Women drives progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Through research, advocacy and partnerships, UN Women continues to lead efforts to address the intersection of VAWG, gender, climate, security and peacebuilding, fostering inclusive and sustainable solutions for women and girls worldwide.

Sustainable Finance

Through its Sustainable Finance Portfolio, UN Women collaborates with stakeholders across the global financial ecosystem to scale sustainable, inclusive and responsible finance that delivers meaningful impact for women and girls. This work focuses on advancing standards, generating knowledge and building capacity, with a strong emphasis on gender-responsive green finance. UN Women partners with standard-setting organizations such as the Climate Bonds Initiative to integrate gender considerations within the tools, standards and resources guiding the green finance market. Notably, UN Women participated in the Advisory Group that supported the development of the Climate Bonds Resilience Taxonomy (CBRT), which defines and identifies climate adaptation and resilience investments, helping to strengthen gender considerations within the CBRT.

UN Women also supports the integration of gender equality considerations in sustainable finance regulation, such as the development of Mexico's and Senegal's sustainable and green taxonomies, respectively. For further impact, UN Women provides tools, resources and knowledge products to help financial institutions integrate gender equality considerations in their products and services, including green products and services, such as [Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Target-Setting Guidance for Banks](#), developed with the UNEP Finance Initiative (FI).

Capacity-building is a key pillar of this work on sustainable finance, with UN Women providing technical support to member states and market participants on gender-responsive green finance, including by providing training on gender and green finance to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member states at a Regional Technical Workshop on Gender-Responsive Climate Action and the Green Transition in West Africa.

Climate change and violence against women and girls

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) and climate change are two of the most pressing global emergencies of our time.

Globally, VAWG affects

1 in 3 women
in their lifetimes.



Climate change and slow environmental degradation exacerbate the risks of violence against women and girls due to displacement, resource scarcity, food insecurity and disruption to service provision to survivors.

In Puerto Rico, following Hurricane Maria in 2017, there was a 62 per cent increase in requests for survivor-related services.



In Ethiopia, there was an increase in girls **sold into early marriage** in exchange for livestock to help families cope with the impacts of prolonged droughts.



Following Hurricane Katrina, the rate of **rape** among women displaced to trailer parks **rose 53.6 times from** the baseline rate in Mississippi for that year.



Nepal witnessed an **increase in trafficking** from an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 persons annually in 1990 to 12,000 to 20,000 per year after the earthquake.



Women environmental human rights defenders (WEHRDs) experience threats and violence as they strive to defend natural resources and their territories. Indigenous women are at greater risk because of the intersection of sexism, discrimination and racism.

Between 2016 and 2019:

1,698 acts of violence

were recorded in Mexico and Central America against women environmental human rights defenders.



Violence against women and girls limits women's participation, leadership and agency which **is critical for effective climate change mitigation, adaption and resilience-building** efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Create an enabling policy environment for the elimination of VAWG in the context of climate change.



Promote strategic cross-sectoral partnerships across climate change and ending violence against women sectors.



Generate data to understand the impact of climate change on VAWG and risk factors.



Increase investment in flexible and adaptive approaches to VAWG prevention and response, prioritizing funding for women's rights and civil society organizations.



Prevent violence against women environmental human rights defenders and ensure perpetrators are held to account.



Intergovernmental Support and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

UN Women's engagement on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and their processes continue to build on the [Agreed Conclusions of the sixty-sixth Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW66\)](#), for all stakeholders to integrate gender equality perspectives into the design, funding, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes addressing environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change, the effects of which disproportionately impact women and girls. As a leader in discussions on the nexus between gender and environmental issues, UN Women is uniquely positioned to play a key role in all of the three Rio Conventions. Traditionally, UN Women has maintained a high level of engagement with the UNCBD and UNFCCC, recently intensifying its level of engagement with the UNCCD. Decision [ICCD/COP\(15\)/24](#) played a catalytic role in this, resulting in UN Women signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UNCCD in 2023. The MoU aims to guide UN Women's collaboration with the Convention's Secretariat in intergovernmental processes and to ensure the gender-responsive implementation of programmes under the Land Degradation Neutrality process of the Convention's Global Mechanism.

UN Women engages at all three COPs through a uniform and coherent three-pillar approach that entails:

1. Active participation at official session and outcomes
2. Support to negotiations
3. Engagement with stakeholders through high-level official and side events, and the Generation Equality Forum.

Research and Data

UN Women is building on its growing reputation as a valued partner on gender research and data by generating a body of robust, policy-relevant knowledge to support gender-responsive policymaking and climate negotiations with the upcoming [Progress of the world's women](#) report on gender equality and climate change as a centrepiece; and ensuring that knowledge on gender equality and climate change is accessible by policy actors and advocates at all levels, who have increased capacity to use it to inform gender-responsive policymaking, climate negotiations, advocacy efforts and accountability.

This evidence-focused area of work will strengthen UN Women's presence in global climate negotiations and regional and national policy processes, creating spaces for shared knowledge and exchanges on policy responses and the intersections of gender equality and climate. The research and data analysis that will be undertaken for the knowledge products—the global [Progress of the world's women](#) report, the [Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard](#) and policy briefs—will align with key policy priorities emerging at the global, regional and national levels. This approach aims to maximize their practical usefulness for policymakers and advocates.

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UN WOMEN EXISTS TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS.

As the lead United Nations entity on gender equality and secretariat of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, we shift laws, institutions, social norms and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. Our partnerships with governments, women's movements and the private sector, coupled with our coordination of the broader United Nations, deliver lasting changes. We make strides in four areas: leadership, economic empowerment, freedom from violence, and peace, security and humanitarian action.

UN Women keeps the rights of women and girls at the centre of global progress – always, everywhere. Because gender equality is not just what we do. It is who we are.



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