



UNCCD
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UN
WOMEN



FOR ALL
WOMEN
AND GIRLS

IN BRIEF

UN Women at the UN Convention to Combat Desertification

17th Conference of the Parties (COP17)

Recognizing the interlinkages between land degradation, drought, gender equality and women's rights, UN Women calls upon Parties to the UNCCD and Conference of Parties to:

- 1. Guarantee women's land rights and tenure security** and ensure equal ownership of, access to, control over, and benefits from land and water resources for women and gender-diverse persons. Realizing women's land rights is essential for attaining gender equality and an adequate standard of living, among other human rights.
- 2. Ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in land governance, especially grass-roots women, Indigenous women and women in local communities.** And promote gender parity across the Convention and increase women's leadership and participation at all levels of UNCCD decision-making and implementation processes.
- 3. Address the consequences of desertification, drought and land degradation for women and girls** and their communities, including increased conflict, forced displacement, gender-based violence, unpaid care and domestic work, and violations of their human rights.
- 4. Ensure that food systems transformation benefits women and girls and their communities** by promoting gender-responsive policies and programmes for sustainable land and water management, land restoration, soil health, agroecology and building climate and drought resilience.
- 5. Promote gender-responsive and human-rights based reforms of land laws, policies and administration and ensure access to justice.** Responsibilities of business enterprises, as articulated in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, should also be taken into consideration.
- 6. Respect, protect and fulfil the rights of women environmental human rights defenders** who are at the forefront of protecting land from exploitation and degradation.
- 7. Invest in robust gender and environment data and statistics** and build the capacity to collect, analyze and use gender statistics on the access to, use of, and control over land and natural resources to inform policies and programming.
- 8. The 2026 International Year of the Woman Farmer and the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists** celebrates the essential roles of women farmers and pastoralist women and girls in collectively stewarding and regenerating the land essential for food security and nutrition, building climate resilience and conserving biodiversity.
- 9. Integrate measurable and meaningful gender targets into national Land Degradation Neutrality target setting** and integrate SDG indicators on land rights (i.e., 1.4.2, 5.a.1, and 5.a.2), and ensure their gender-responsive application at national and local levels.
- 10. Significantly increase financial, technical and capacity support for gender-responsive initiatives** at all levels and scale up investments for implementation of the UNCCD Gender Action Plan. Increase support to the UNCCD Secretariat for timely delivery of the Gender Action Plan Roadmap.

RESTORING LAND
RESTORING HOPE

Advancing Gender-Responsive Synergies Across the UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD

Recognizing the interlinkages and synergies across the three Rio Conventions – on biodiversity (UNCBD), climate change (UNFCCC) and desertification (UNCCD) - and the promotion of gender equality and women's human rights, and their long-standing efforts to coordinate and collaborate, UN Women calls upon Parties to the Rio Conventions and the Conferences of their Parties to:

- 1. Address the disproportionate impacts on the rights, resources and resilience of women and girls in all their diversity** caused by the interlinked crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- 2. Take coordinated, holistic measures** to address the acceleration and intensification of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, which are exacerbating poverty and inequalities, including gender inequalities, putting at risk all human and non-human life on earth.
- 3. Take a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach** in decisions and their implementation across the Rio Conventions, including advancing and applying relevant Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly recommendations on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- 4. Guarantee the human rights and security of women environmental human rights defenders** whose actions cut across the impacts of and solutions to climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- 5. Realize women's land and resource rights and tenure security** as fundamental for achieving the goals and targets established by the Rio Conventions.
- 6. Collaborate across the Rio Conventions** to ensure women's and girls' full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at decision-making tables to determine and implement decisions. Grassroots women, Indigenous women, women from local communities and youth are central to climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation challenges and solutions.
- 7. Protect Indigenous women's human rights** in biodiversity and climate action, promote their full and effective participation in policy development, project design, and natural resource management, guarantee the tenure and governance of their territories, and support their practices to conserve, protect and restore biodiversity and build climate resilience.
- 8. Promote gender-responsive just transitions** away from economies based on the exploitation and extraction of fossil fuels and natural resources to mitigate climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- 9. Increase gender-responsive finance** for the comprehensive and durable implementation of goals and targets and agreed plans and strategies to address climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- 10. Strengthen coordination** amongst Secretariats, Parties and stakeholders of the Rio Conventions to harmonize relevant guidance and recommendations, including in negotiations processes, for gender-responsive implementation.

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, we shift laws, institutions, social norms and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. We keep 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.

