

A photograph of a forest fire. In the foreground, there are several tall, green pine trees. In the background, a fire is burning, with bright orange and yellow flames visible through the trees. Thick, dark grey smoke is rising from the fire, filling the upper half of the image. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is dramatic and highlights the impact of climate change on natural ecosystems.

THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Thematic paper for
the 2025 Women's 7

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This background paper was commissioned by the W7 to support the development of bold W7 recommendations to G7 leaders.

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Women and Gender
Equality Canada

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A vision for feminist climate justice is of a world in which everyone can enjoy the full range of human rights, free from discrimination, and flourish on a planet that is healthy and sustainable (Turquet et al. 2023).

This involves

- Recognition of a) women's rights, knowledge and labour, b) gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities and how they can inform action as countries transition to low-emission economies that are resilient to a changing climate.
- Representation in climate related decision-making processes.
- Redistribution of the benefits and the burden of climate change so that such transitions are just and equitable and women and gender-diverse people can benefit from future opportunities.
- Reparation for the climate injustices of the past.

The global context for achieving feminist climate justice is extremely challenging.

The climate crisis is accelerating faster and is more severe than previously anticipated. Current mitigation and adaptation efforts are insufficient. Women, girls and gender-diverse people experience the impacts of climate change disproportionately and face some of the highest risks. At the same time the roll-back in the rights of women, 2SLGBTQ+ communities, migrants and refugees is gaining momentum. The current economic system has delivered the intersecting crises of climate, ecological breakdown and inequality by pursuing economic growth and profit at the expense of the earth, nature and people. The world's wealthiest countries and highest income-earners continue to make huge profits from fossil fuels and are diluting previous commitments to net zero targets. Extreme weather events are already exacerbating serious energy security risks as well as the political, social, and economic conditions that may lead to conflict and violence.

Previous G7 summits have, to some extent, included commitments and language that supports aspects of feminist climate justice (see Section 3).

Communiqués have recognised that people and communities on the frontlines of the climate crises - including women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples - are disproportionately affected. They acknowledge the rise of authoritarianism and the backlash against gender equality and human rights. General statements on women's leadership, agency and participation are made, however, these are rarely attached to specific climate policies, decisions and actions. The language in communiqués relating to gender equality and a just energy transition is vague, though could still provide entry points for more concrete language that specifies exactly how a gender-just energy transition could be inclusive, just and equitable, and leave no-one behind. G7 nations have avoided committing to a Loss and Damage Fund but have committed to scaling up climate and disaster risk insurance. Most of the G7 statements on climate finance relate to encouraging action from other institutions, rather than specific commitments from G7 nations. There is limited reference to gender equality in climate finance commitments, though there is a commitment to collectively increasing G7 ODA for gender equality, exploring ways to do this at the nexus of climate change and gender.

In this deeply challenging context, proposed asks for the 2025 G7 build on the evidence, the demands of feminist, Indigenous women's and youth organisations, and language agreed in previous G7 meetings.

RECOGNITION

- **Defend existing gains and commitments to women's rights and gender equality.** This could involve reiterating the G7 commitment to women's rights and gender equality using the language in previous communiqués; a new G7 commitment to defending existing gains and promote further action on women's rights and gender equality in pre-COP30 negotiations; and/or developing accountability mechanisms to hold corporations responsible for environmental degradation and attacks on women human rights and environmental defenders.
- **Include indicators on climate change in the G7 Dashboard on Gender Gaps.** Options exist, where data is already being collected and methodology has been tested, that could be adapted.

REPRESENTATION

- **Ensure 50-50 parity between women and men in G7 national climate decision-making processes and institutions, and in delegations to international decision-making fora.** This could involve, for example, commitments to facilitating diverse women leaders engagement in national and international climate decision-making fora; a new initiative to address the barriers to women's leadership in national and international climate decision-making fora and the transition; upholding Indigenous women's leadership rights.

REDISTRIBUTION

- **Advance a gender-just energy transition that shifts from an extractive to a regenerative economy and respects the rights of Indigenous communities and countries in the Global South.** This could involve e.g. committing to a new initiative to address barriers to dignified work for women in all their diversity; signing on to the Global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; committing to protecting Indigenous women's voices, perspectives, and leadership as defenders of Mother Earth; and/or integrating gender equality in the Menu of Policy Options for a Just Transition towards Net Zero.

REPARATIONS

- **Ensure climate finance goes directly to communities and people most affected by the climate crisis, including women and gender-diverse people, indigenous women and women with disabilities.** This could include, for example, commitments to: increase overall levels of gender-sensitive climate finance; significantly expand the share of these funds that go directly to women's organisations, youth organisations Indigenous women's organisations, disabled people's organisations and communities on the front line of the climate crisis; establishing a Loss and Damage Fund; the integration of gender issues into the High-Level Framework for Public-Private Insurance Programmes against Natural Hazards.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
G7	Group of Seven
ICA	Indigenous Climate Action
IFI	International Finance Institution
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEAC	Gender Equality Advisory Council
2SLGBTQ+	Two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning. The '+' represents people who are part of the community, but for whom 2SLGBTQ does not accurately capture or reflect their identity
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NCQG	New Collective Quantified Goal
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
ONWA	Ontario Native Women's Association
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
W7	Women Seven
WBG	Women's Budget Group
WEDO	Women's Environment and Development Organisation
WGC	Women and Gender Constituency
YCC	Youth Climate Coalition

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Canada will chair the G7 in 2025. The Women's 7, or W7, is one of many 'engagement groups' that provides recommendations to G7 countries and holds governments accountable for commitments made. The W7 communique will provide calls to action and include the aspirational visions of feminists from around the world.

The 2025 W7 organizing committee is commissioning five evidence papers that correspond to the emerging Canadian priorities for the 2025 G7: AI/emerging technologies; Economic resilience; Democracy; Climate crisis; and Care. These papers will provide analytical inputs, background evidence, context, inspiration for discussions between the 2025 W7 working groups and G7 officials, and concrete recommendations for G7 policy outcomes. This thematic paper provides analysis of the climate crisis.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

This thematic background paper was informed by desk-based research undertaken in December 2024 and semi-structured interviews with organisations working on gender equality, women's rights and climate action: [Indigenous Climate Action \(ICA\)](#), [Ontario Native Women's Association \(ONWA\)](#), [Women's Budget Group \(WBG\)](#), and the Rwandan youth environmental organisation [The Green Protector](#). Desk review sources include existing feminist analysis, UN, INGO and CSO reports, and statements on gender equality and the climate crisis from international and local organisations working at the nexus of gender equality and climate action. Sources from the Global South and local and Indigenous organisations were prioritised. This is a rapid review of existing work in this area, and not an academic paper, and thus does not take a comprehensive or systematic review standard. The timeline was short for completing the report, as a result only a few interviews were possible.

The analysis is framed around the four domains of UN Women's Feminist Climate Justice framework: recognition, representation, redistribution and reparations ([Turquet et al. 2023](#)). It is guided by the framework's principles of interdependence between humans and ecosystems, between countries and generations and intersectionality as a basis for solidarity and political action. It focuses on structural issues and foregrounds women's agency and their roles as key actors in addressing the climate crisis.

The report is structured in 4 sections: Section 1 introduces the background to and methodology of the paper, the global context and a definition of feminist climate justice; section 2 provides evidence and analysis of key feminist climate justice issues; section 3 provides an analysis of previous G7 commitments on gender equality and the climate crisis in G7 communiqués. The final section suggests promising areas/asks for the W7 organising committee to consider as they develop policy advocacy. Annex 1 provides definitions of key terms. Annex 2 describes key international frameworks and policies that

relate to the climate crisis and gender equality; Annex 2 describes links to other G7 themes and identifies any other relevant issues. The primary audience for the report is the W7 organizing committee, working groups and G7 officials.

The scope of this report does not cover analysis of the emerging global political context shaping potential priorities and challenges for the G7 in 2025. This is likely to have a significant impact on what is possible to achieve in terms of commitments relating to gender equality and the climate crisis. The findings of this report should be considered alongside analysis of the political context.

1.3 THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

The rollback in the rights of women, 2SLGBTQ+ communities, migrants and refugees is gaining momentum at international, national and community levels. Conservative forces and religious fundamentalists have forged alliances to drive 'norm-spoiling'¹ (ODI 2024). They oppose gender equality and women's rights and have become increasingly well organised in international fora (Birchall 2020, Edstrom et al. 2024). Governments can address this rollback by supporting women's rights organisations and movements directly (Gender and Development Network 2023). Feminist movements and women's rights organisations can counter the backlash by: continuing to operate at the same time as centring care; moving offline or into smaller private online groups to avoid backlash actors; creating coalitions with allies based on shared agendas; reclaiming and reframing the narrative about women's rights; and building capacity to better counter and resist backlash (Baek et al. 2024, Faith et al. 2024).

The current economic system has delivered the intersecting crises of climate, ecological breakdown and inequality by pursuing economic growth and profit at the expense of the earth, nature and people (Women's Budget Group 2022). The five largest oil and gas companies made record high payouts to shareholders in 2023, and in the Global North, five countries alone are responsible for 51 percent of new oil and gas field expansion planned before 2050. At the same time, militarism—which is reaching historic levels of expansion, illustrated by record highs in defence budgets—is fuelling the climate emergency and diverting funds away from climate action (Feminist Action Nexus 2024). Power holders in the Global North—multinational corporations and rich countries that hold Global South sovereign debt—have a vested interest in the status quo, which is demonstrated by continued extraction, violence and austerity (Feminist Action Nexus 2024).

“ Rich Global North countries—who have contributed to 92% of the overshoot of the safe fair share of emissions—are disproportionately responsible for driving the climate crisis, but continue to advance fairytales of “green growth” rather than taking responsibility for radical mitigation and reparations for climate action in the Global South.”

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1 'Norm-spoiling' "refers to an agenda that seeks to undermine the legitimacy of gender equality and women's rights norms. Such activities are sustained by an increasingly professionalised network of actors disseminating anti-rights narratives within UN systems and working to change human rights discourse" (ODI 2024).

The world's wealthiest countries and highest income-earners continue to make huge profits from fossil fuels. They are reducing their net zero targets, and failing to provide development finance to allow countries of the Global South to achieve sustainable development and climate justice ([Feminist Action Nexus 2024](#), [The Guardian 2024](#)). Fossil fuel subsidies remain at an all-time high and funding for fossil fuel-prolonging projects quadrupled between 2021 and 2022 ([Climate Action Tracker 2024](#)). High fuel and electricity prices, alongside the impact of floods and heatwaves, affected voter demands in 2024 elections and limited governments' ambition on transitioning from fossil fuels ([IEA 2024](#), [BBC 2024](#)).

Extreme weather events, intensified by decades of high emissions, are already exacerbating serious energy security risks ([IEA 2024](#)). These impacts can disrupt energy networks, damage infrastructure, and pose safety risks to people and communities, disproportionately affecting those made vulnerable by inequalities and structural power dynamics ([Paul 2024](#)). Globally, energy security risks are likely to continue given ongoing conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine ([IEA 2024](#)). On the plus side, clean energy transitions have been accelerating and energy investments in clean energy are now double those for fossil fuels ([Climate Action Tracker 2024](#)).

Climate change exacerbates political, social, and economic conditions that may lead to conflict and violence ([Smith et al. 2021](#)). Since 1973, 25-50% of interstate wars have been linked to oil ([Geyer 2024](#)). Militaries are exempt from reporting national greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement, lacking transparency and accountability for their significant climate impacts. Fossil fuel extraction has gendered impacts and gender-based violence (GBV) is an important predictor of overall inequality, insecurity and violence ([Clugston et al. 2024](#), [Geyer 2024](#)). Women environmental defenders face high rates of violence for mobilizing against extractive and polluting projects which harm Indigenous, minority, poor, and rural communities ([Tran and Hanaček 2023](#)). Women are often excluded from processes and platforms surrounding natural resource management and conflict mediation, despite being on the frontlines of these challenges ([Smith et al. 2021](#)).

1.4 WHAT IS FEMINIST CLIMATE JUSTICE?

A vision for feminist climate justice is of a world in which everyone can enjoy the full range of human rights, free from discrimination, and flourish on a planet that is healthy and sustainable ([Turquet et al. 2023](#)). A feminist climate justice framework, proposed by UN Women ([Turquet et al. 2023](#)), includes four interlinked domains and a set of principles. The domains of feminist climate justice are:

- **Recognition** of a) women's rights, knowledge and labour, b) gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities and how they can inform action as countries transition to low-emission economies that are resilient to a changing climate.
- **Representation** in public deliberations and decision-making processes. Recognising the leadership and agency of women and gender-diverse people.
- **Redistribution** of the benefits and the burden of climate change so that such transitions are just and equitable and women and gender-diverse people can benefit from future opportunities.
- **Reparation** for the climate injustices of the past.

The framework is guided by the principles of:

- **Interdependence** – between humans and ecosystems, between countries and generations.
- **Intersectionality** as a basis for solidarity and political action.

The principles distinguish feminist climate justice from other approaches based on binary oppositions, for example between humans and nature, dependence and autonomy, and individual action and collective solidarity ([Turquet et al. 2023](#)). The framework also proposes a shifting of power dynamics and the renewal of democratic practices at all levels in order to hold climate decision-makers accountable to women and girls in all their diversity ([Turquet et al. 2023](#)).

FEMINIST CLIMATE JUSTICE: EVIDENCE AND ANALYSIS

2.1 RECOGNITION: THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND GENDER EQUALITY

The climate crisis is accelerating faster, is more severe than previously anticipated and current mitigation and adaptation efforts are insufficient (IPCC 2018, IPCC 2023). Current climate policies and plans and climate finance flows are not enough and these are setting the world on a path toward 2.7°C of warming with the most vulnerable experiencing the worst impacts (Climate Action Tracker 2024, IPCC 2023).

Women's rights and gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities are increasingly being recognised in climate research and interventions. Women, girls and gender-diverse people experience the impacts of climate change disproportionately. Those who experience marginalisation due to poverty, ethnicity, disability or sexuality face some of the highest risks (IPCC 2018, UNFCCC, 2019, see Box 1). Women, girls and gender-diverse people are not inherently more vulnerable. Intersections between gender, power dynamics, socio-economic structures, and societal norms and expectations result in climate impacts being experienced very differently (Andrijevic et al. 2020).

Despite this evidence, the global backlash against gender equality and human rights is evident in the outcomes of recent climate fora. This will likely have a major impact on feminist climate justice efforts that recognise and centre the gendered impacts of climate change. For example, in discussions on further extending the Lima Work Programme on Gender and the Gender Action Plan (see Annex 2), some conservative countries, including the Vatican, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, successfully lobbied to remove human rights-related language from the decision text on issues including gender equality, diversity, intersectionality and human rights (Climate Home News 2024). Deliberations at the 2024 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Summit

BOX 1: KEY STATISTICS

Women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die during a climate-related disaster due to gendered differences in capacity to cope and insufficient access to early warning information (UNDP).

Land ownership is linked to greater resilience and security yet **globally women own less than 20% of land** (WE Forum).

Persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by climate change and women with disabilities are at greater risk of death, injury and additional impairments as they are generally excluded from disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes, and emergency-related information and warnings are often not accessible to persons with disabilities (OHCHR 2020).

Indigenous people live in geographical regions and ecosystems that are most vulnerable to climate change – they are **5% of the world's population yet protect 80% of the planet's remaining biodiversity**. Indigenous women are particularly vulnerable to climate change (ILO 2017)

of the Future saw increasing resistance to language like “gender-responsive” and “gender-mainstreaming” (Equal Measures 2030).

Gender data is important to help understand progress and identify actions to achieve gender-transformative climate action. The Paris Agreement established the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) which aims to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change. The [UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience](#), the latest framework to achieve the GGA, is being supported by a two-year [UAE–Belém work programme](#) on developing indicators for measuring progress achieved towards the targets. The current guidance is that no additional reporting burden is placed on Parties as a result of technical, legal and financial challenges ([UNFCCC 2023](#)). While there is an increasing recognition that gender considerations must be integrated into adaptation monitoring and evaluation, there is a risk that efforts to monitor progress may exclude gender data. Existing sources of data, with tested methodologies, could be drawn upon (see Box 2).

2.2 REPRESENTATION: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, AGENCY AND PARTICIPATION

There is increasing evidence on the importance of women's leadership and representation to climate action. Evidence shows that companies with boards with a higher share of female members have lower emissions ([Kreuzer and Priberny 2022](#)). Banks with more gender-diverse boards provide more credit to greener companies and lend less to firms with high pollution intensity ([Gambacorta et al. 2022](#)). Countries with more women parliamentarians are more likely to adopt policies on climate change and land conservation and ratify environmental treaties ([Mavisakalyan and Tarverdi 2019](#)).

Indigenous women's organisations have long called for action on climate justice that recognises and responds to the impacts of climate change on women, centres women's leadership and unique knowledge, and restores balance with Mother Earth (interviews with Indigenous Climate Action and Ontario Native Women's Association, see Box 3). An Indigenous environmental justice lens also challenges the narrative of Indigenous peoples as ‘victims’ and foregrounds Indigenous experiences and knowledge as solutions to the climate crisis. While Indigenous women are vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis,

BOX 2: Sources of existing indicator metadata and methodologies that relate to gender equality and the climate crisis include:

The Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2030 Targets and Guidance Notes

The Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDG Indicators Metadata repository

The Sendai Framework Indicators and the Sendai Framework Monitor

UNESCO's Culture 2030 Indicators

A 2022 report by the UN Statistics Division on Climate Change Statistics

Indigenous women's organisations have long called for action on climate justice that recognises and responds to the impacts of climate change on women, centres women's leadership and unique knowledge, and restores balance with Mother Earth.

their survival of historical and on-going imperialism, capitalism, and colonialism have equipped them with knowledge of how to survive catastrophic environmental change (MacGregor et al. 2020).

Women, in all their diversity are increasingly recognised as having significant roles in climate leadership and climate action. Indigenous women are increasingly recognised as key change agents as they have a long history of adapting to social and ecological conditions, while prioritising the environment and ecosystems (IPCC 2019). Youth movements, from the young people opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock to the school strike action led by Greta Thunberg to Wanjiru Wathuti's [Green Generation Initiative](#) in Kenya, are increasingly influential and are driving a focus on climate justice that has successfully changed the public discourse and brought attention to global inertia on the climate crisis (Neas et al. 2022, [Global Centre on Adaptation 2024](#)). The participation of persons with disabilities can change attitudes in communities and institutions to recognise the leadership of persons with disabilities and strengthens disability-inclusive action (Lee et al. 2020).

Despite this evidence, women are still not present in key climate change decision-making fora nationally, or internationally (MacGregor et al. 2020, [UN Women 2024](#)). Actions that could foster more inclusive and diverse representation, for example in UNFCCC negotiations, include: enhancing policy and institutional support for women's participation; instituting targeted funding mechanisms; developing selection criteria for UNFCCC delegations; delivering targeted trainings on gender equality and climate change negotiations; refining UNFCCC session logistics and the visa process; providing childcare support services at UNFCCC negotiations; sensitizing UNFCCC national focal points on gender mandates; and increasing funding for organisations supporting training and capacity building for women and youth negotiators ([Kajumba et al. 2025](#)).

2.3 REDISTRIBUTION: A JUST TRANSITION

Definitions of just transition (see Box 4) refer to inclusiveness, equity and leaving no-one behind. ILO, for example, describes a just transition as promoting environmentally sustainable economies in a way that is inclusive and gender-responsive, by creating decent work, by reducing inequalities and by leaving no one behind (ILO 2024).

BOX 3: Indigenous Women and Mother Earth

“For Indigenous communities, beyond just being necessary for survival, Mother Earth is a sacred living spirit and holds spiritual and cultural significance. The health, wellness, and safety of Mother Earth is inextricably linked to the health, wellness, and safety of Indigenous women (e.g., climate change impacts Indigenous women's ability to collect and access traditional medicines and land-based healing).

Indigenous women are disproportionately impacted by climate change and environmental racism. The climate crisis is impacting the health, safety, security, and ways of life of Indigenous communities, while also deepening existing conditions of inequality for Indigenous women, their families, and communities.

Reclaiming Indigenous women's traditional roles and restoring their leadership is central to Indigenous women's healing and the protection and sustainment of the environment. The colonial, patriarchal, and racist systems that continue to perpetuate violence against Indigenous women and Mother Earth must be dismantled”. Ontario Native Women's Association

However, evidence shows that many just transition programmes perpetuate gender inequalities and adverse human rights impacts. This is evident particularly in the extractive sector, especially for vulnerable groups, such as women and Indigenous Peoples ([UNGA Working Group 2023](#)). Just transition programmes were found to perpetuate pre-existing patterns of inequality and discrimination in the fossil fuel sector. The just transition plans did not solve the structural barriers.

Even in a scenario where renewable energy replaces fossil fuels there are risks, especially for women and Indigenous communities. Without policy interventions, the energy transition will likely create more employment opportunities for men than for women. Women are more likely to be in poorly paid, insecure employment with limited social protection ([ILO 2019](#)). By 2050, the demand for key transition minerals, e.g. for clean energy and electric vehicles, could increase by around 500 percent ([World Bank 2020](#)). In resource rich countries like Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile, lithium expansion will likely drive the dispossession of local populations and increase conflict as over 80 percent of lithium projects are located on Indigenous territories ([Feminist Action Nexus 2024](#)).

A feminist just transition aims to address systemic barriers to a just and equitable transition. It involves shifting power and redistributing resources to communities and countries particularly in the Global South ([WEDO 2023](#)) and to Indigenous communities ([Indigenous Environmental Network](#)). This involves:

- Ensuring dignified jobs in the transition to renewable energy with workplace safety, fair pay and labour laws that provide for flexible work, pregnancy and parental leave, and childcare.
- Freedom from gendered barriers to work, through gender-transformative education, skill-building and reskilling programs to equip women and youth to engage in low-carbon economies.
- Recognising, reducing and redistributing unpaid care and rewarding and representing paid care. Recognising the care sector as a low carbon sector.
- A transition from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy.
- Driving racial justice and social equity.
- Retaining and restoring local customs and traditions ([Clugston et al. 2023](#), [WEDO 2023](#), [Climate Justice Alliance](#)).

BOX 4: Just Transition

The UAE Just Transition Work Programme states that a just and equitable transition includes progress towards sustainable development and poverty eradication, enhancing adaptation and climate resilience, just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, and inclusive and participatory approaches to just transitions that leave no one behind.

A feminist just transition aims to address systemic barriers to a just and equitable transition. It involves shifting power and redistributing resources to communities and countries particularly in the Global South and to Indigenous communities.

Currently, plans and policies in support of a just transition also perpetuate the economic system that brought about the climate crisis. Inclusive green growth is being promoted however it too remains rooted in capitalism and extractivism (MacGregor et al. 2020). Feminist, Indigenous and environmental organisations have proposed alternatives to economic growth. For example:

- **Reorienting to a global green and caring economy:** This approach puts wellbeing above profit, moving away from energy-intensive and polluting industries and towards activities that care for people and planet, and transforming existing distributions of care work, and ending GDP growth as the main economic objective. It involves efforts to reorient the global economy around climate justice through debt relief, gender-sensitive climate finance, reforming international financial institutions, clamping down on tax havens and ending exploitative treaties. (MacGregor et al. 2023, United Nations 2024, Women's Budget Group 2022).
- **Economies rooted in Indigenous values and practices:** For example, regenerative economic development rejects the extractive nature of the capitalist colonial economy by placing value on the well-being of Mother Earth, humanity and non-human relatives above the value of profit. A regenerative economy is locally-led and puts decision making power back into the hands of communities (Indigenous Climate Action 2024).
- **Buen vivir and the Rights of Nature:** Alternative pathways for a socio-environmental future have also emerged from the Global South such as the concept of buen vivir, the Suma Qamaña concept of Bolivia's Aymara people, Küme Mogñen of the Mapuche people, and the Sumak Kawsay, articulated in Ecuador's constitution (Oxfam 2024). These emphasize living well through a harmonious relationship between human communities and the natural world. Both Ecuador and Bolivia have enshrined buen vivir and the Rights of Nature into their constitutions (Feminist Action Nexus 2024).
- **Feminist and decolonial alternatives to GDP:** GDP, as the dominant global metric, is deeply entrenched in international and national frameworks and policies. Alternatives prioritise well-being, social justice, include the care of family members, thriving communities, an absence of extreme inequalities, and a healthy environment over economic growth (Oxfam 2024). Economic models need to be decolonized and diverse, considering the cultural differences and requirements of the Global South (Parvez Butt et al. 2023, Oxfam 2024). Economic measures that take account of the harms caused by economic activities, for example, environmental deterioration, and expenditure on militarization, conflict and the systematic oppression of people, should not be counted as having a positive impact on GDP (Oxfam 2024).
- **Degrowth:** a transition towards a just, participatory, and ecologically sustainable society. Ecological economists define degrowth as an equitable downscaling of production and consumption that will reduce societies' throughput of energy and raw materials. It proposes radical redistribution, reduction in the material size of the global economy, and a shift in common values towards care, solidarity and autonomy. Links to feminist and decolonial theories are emerging (Reyes 2024).

All of these alternatives point to the need for institutional and structural change in order to achieve feminist and decolonised ways of thinking about the economy.

Achieving this change would involve systemic change to reorient the global economy around climate justice through debt relief, gender-sensitive climate finance, reforming international financial institutions, tax justice, and alternatives to austerity (Muchhala 2021, Women's Budget Group 2022).

2.4 REPARATIONS: LOSS AND DAMAGE

Loss and Damage refers to the destructive impacts of climate change that cannot be or have not been avoided by mitigation or adaptation (Chatham House). The economies of the V20² – a coalition of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries – have lost an estimated \$525 billion in the last 20 years due to the impacts of climate change (Chatham House). Responses to loss and damage are currently inadequate, especially for women, Indigenous communities, and communities at the front line of the climate crisis (ActionAid 2022, Tewari et al. 2023).

Many countries have started integrating loss and damage into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to highlight the need for increased finance.

Identifying climate-related loss and damage can help countries identify vulnerable sectors and segments of the population that are impacted and most at risk. Research shows that women play a central part in responding to the climate crisis and yet are often invisible in loss and damage policy discussions and solutions. Southern-led feminist research in Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zambia showed that, in addition to financial loss and material damage, women are experiencing a wide range of non-economic losses and damages, such as loss of life, loss of safety and security, damage to health and wellbeing, and heightened risk of gender-based violence (ActionAid 2022).

Many developing countries also have unsustainable debt burdens on top of bearing the brunt of loss and damage. High debt burdens mean climate-vulnerable countries do not have the resources to spend on mitigation and adaptation as the Global North continues to extract wealth and resources from the Global South (Feminist Action Nexus 2024). Debt pushes governments to support environmentally destructive industries like fossil fuels, mining, and industrial agriculture to raise revenue to service their debts which only serves to magnify the climate crisis and limit nations' ability to address loss and damage (Feminist Action Nexus 2024).

Feminist organisations are driving and joining calls for reparations, degrowth, and debt cancellation

(Feminist Action Nexus 2024). Civil society activists and Global South countries have led calls for a [UN Framework Convention on Tax](#) which is currently being drafted.

While calls for debt-cancellation have not been heeded, [Climate-Resilient Debt Clauses](#), agreements to postpone debt repayments in the instance of climate disasters are being included in future lending by MDBs. The [G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative](#) allows low-income countries to restructure debt.

93% of countries most vulnerable to the climate crisis are at or nearing significant debt distress.

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² The V20 was originally a group of 20 of the most vulnerable countries. It now represents 70 countries – see [Membership - CVFV20.Org](#)

2.5 FEMINIST CLIMATE FINANCE: FINANCING THE FOUR RS

Climate finance generally refers to finance for activities aiming to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change, and increasingly to loss and damage. The source of climate finance can be public, private or mixed, and come from national governments, subnational governments, development banks, corporations, financial institutions, multilateral funds or another type of institution. Climate finance is associated with financial resources provided by developed countries to developing countries to meet the costs of mitigating and adapting to climate change. This obligation to provide financial support is enshrined in Article 9 of the Paris Agreement.

Climate finance is delivered through a number of multilateral climate funds. For example, the [Global Environment Facility](#) supports developing countries' work to address biodiversity loss, chemicals and waste, climate change, international waters, and land degradation. The [Green Climate Fund](#) supports developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions (see Annex 1). Many climate funds started out gender-blind and while, some advances have been made, more needs to be done for the funds to be fully gender-responsive ([Climate Funds Update](#)). Only 2.9 percent of climate-related development finance projects in 2020 identified gender equality as a principal objective ([Feminist Action Nexus 2024](#)).

Donors and companies are mobilising around gender-lens investing and gender-smart climate finance. [2X Challenge](#), for example, was launched at the G7 Summit in 2018 as a commitment of development and multilateral finance institutions to invest in the world's women. It has a global network that advances gender-lens investment agendas, including a [Community of Practice on Gender and Climate](#). The [2024 Apulia G7 Leaders' Communiqué](#) drew attention to the 2X Challenge and the commitment from development and multilateral finance institutions, who are investing at least US\$20 billion from 2024-2027, including at the nexus of gender and climate.

The [New Collective Quantified Goal \(NCQG\) on Climate Finance](#) (see Annex 2) outlines the latest commitments to climate finance. Agreed at COP29, it falls drastically short of the \$1.3 trillion per year in climate finance needed to be able to respond to the climate crisis. It excludes loss and damage and it is proposed to be delivered through loans, increasing countries' debt burdens. Feminists and civil society leaders at COP29 were united in their condemnation of the decision ([MENAFEMME 2024](#)).

It remains extremely challenging for grass roots feminist, Indigenous, youth and disability groups to access climate finance. For example, the colonial history and legacy of international development narratives and practices around risk and compliance create barriers to funding grass roots women's and Indigenous organisations ([Equality Fund and Mama Cash 2023](#)).

“The outcomes of COP 29 are an insult to poor and marginalised people in developing countries who are at the frontline of climate change but have done little to contribute to it”.

MENAFEMME

Feminist organisations propose changes to the ways climate finance works and who benefits from the funding (Turquet et al. 2023, WEDO 2024). These include, for example, finance that:

- Recognises and addresses gender-differentiated needs and delivers transformative climate action. Gender-Transformative finance that addresses the root causes of climate change and supports gender-transformative approaches to climate finance projects.
- Redistributes resources directly to grassroots groups, community-led organizations and Indigenous Peoples working at the intersection of gender and climate justice.
- Provides reparations for climate injustices through gender-transformative Loss and Damage funding.
- Structural changes to tax systems, sovereign debt and the institutions that provide climate finance.

EXISTING G7 COMMITMENTS ON CLIMATE AND GENDER EQUALITY

This section describes how previous G7 commitments to gender equality and the climate crisis relate to the domains of climate justice - recognition, representation, redistribution, reparations - and feminist climate finance. It identifies blind spots in previous commitments and opportunities to push further which are outline in Section 4.

3.1 THE GENDERED IMPACTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS

There is recognition that people and communities on the frontlines of the climate, environmental and biodiversity crises - including women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples - are disproportionately affected. The [Elmau Leaders' Communiqué](#) describes, for example, how “the effects of climate change disproportionately affect the marginalised and most vulnerable in society, exacerbating poverty and economic, gender and other social inequalities”. The [Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#) recognises the critical role of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples as leaders and agents of change. The [Biarritz Chair's Summary on Climate, Biodiversity and Oceans](#) acknowledges that climate change, biodiversity loss, and ocean and land degradation are interconnected global challenges that threaten peace, security, development, health and economic stability, especially in the most vulnerable countries.

General commitments on gender equality are also relevant to recognising and addressing the intersectional gendered impact of the climate crisis. For example, the G7 committed to applying a gender transformative, multi-sector approach to foreign policy, humanitarian aid, and development cooperation, including on climate resilience ([Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#)). Leaders also committed to developing gender-responsive approaches to climate and nature financing, investment and policies ([Carbis Bay Communiqué](#)).

Leaders reaffirmed their “full commitment to a sustained focus on realising equality between women and men as well as transgender and non-binary people, and to ensuring that everyone – independent of their gender identity or expression or sexual orientation – has the same opportunities and is protected against discrimination and violence. To this end, we commit to redoubling our efforts to overcome longstanding structural barriers and to addressing harmful gender norms, stereotypes, roles, and practices”

(ELMAU LEADERS' COMMUNIQUÉ)

The rise of authoritarianism and the backlash against gender equality and human rights are acknowledged in G7 communiqués. These will impact on how women and girls experience the impacts of the climate crisis and how climate action is designed and delivered. Leaders expressed “strong concern about the rollback of women’s and girls’ rights” and “strongly condemn all violations and abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms for women and girls and LGBTQIA+ people around the world” ([Elmau Leaders’ Communiqué](#), [Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué](#), [Apulia G7 Leaders’ Communiqué](#)). However, the backlash against the rights of women and girls in all their diversity is escalating. Despite previous commitments, it is likely to become increasingly challenging to retain or strengthen women’s rights and gender equality language in G7 Summit Communiqués.

Monitoring gender equality is one way of sustaining the recognition of the gendered impacts of the climate crisis and monitoring progress towards achieving gender equality. The [G7 Dashboard on Gender Gaps](#), a mechanism to continuously monitor G7 commitments and progress towards achieving gender equality covers key indicators across a range of policy areas³. These policy areas do not currently include the climate crisis.

3.2 WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP, AGENCY AND PARTICIPATION

General statements on women’s leadership, agency and participation are made, however these are rarely attached to specific climate policies, decisions and actions. For example, the [Apulia Leaders’ Communiqué](#) emphasised the importance of meaningful participation of the people and communities on the frontlines of the triple crisis, including women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, and recognised their critical role as leaders and agents of change. The [Carbis Bay Communiqué](#) welcomed the active role and participation of vulnerable communities, underrepresented groups and that G7 nations will work towards achieving gender equality in the climate and environment sector. There are some specific commitments on women’s participation. For example, G7 leaders commit to gender-responsive approaches so that women and girls can participate fully in the future green economy ([Carbis Bay Communiqué](#)).

General gender equality commitments could be an entry point for developing more specific climate related commitments on women’s leadership, agency and participation in future. For example, specific climate commitments could build on the existing commitments to achieving gender equality and the full empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity, through full, equal, and meaningful participation in all spheres of society, in decision-making at all levels, including in leadership positions ([Charlevoix Summit](#), [Carbis Bay Communiqué](#), [Elmau Leaders’ Communiqué](#), [Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué](#), [Apulia Leaders’ Communiqué](#)).

³ The indicators included are education, employment and social security, entrepreneurship, leadership, intimate partner violence, health and well-being, funds for development cooperation,

3.3 JUST TRANSITION

G7 Communiqués emphasise the importance of accelerating the transition to low-carbon economies and enhancing resilience to climate impacts. The focus of the commitments has varied slightly over the years. These include:

- A strong commitment to implement the Paris Agreement, through ambitious climate action by reducing emissions while stimulating innovation ([Charlevoix Leaders' Communiqué](#)).
- The [Carbis Bay Leaders' Communiqué](#) committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and emphasized the importance of halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 and leading a technology-driven transition to Net Zero.
- At the ([Elmau Summit](#)), leaders committed to supporting developing countries in their transition to net-zero pathways through just energy-transition partnerships, providing financing, access to green technologies, and technical assistance. Leaders committed to decarbonising the road sector and international aviation. They agreed to reducing emissions of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) and reaffirmed commitment to the Global Methane Pledge ([Elmau Summit](#)).
- At the [Hiroshima Summit](#), the G7 committed to achieving a decarbonized power sector by 2035 and endorsed the [G7 Clean Energy Economy Action Plan](#). The G7 reaffirmed their commitment to the [Global Methane Pledge](#) and support for the creation of [Just Energy Transition Partnerships](#).

The language in communiqués relating to gender equality and a just energy transition often draws on language agreed in other international commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (see Annex 2). For example, the [Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#) states G7 nations will transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a “just” and “equitable manner”. It reaffirms commitment to the transition to a net-zero economy by 2050 being “inclusive” and that it should “leave no one behind”. The [Carbis Bay Leaders' Communiqué](#) refers to policies and support for a “just transition for affected workers, and sectors so that no person, group or geographic region is left behind” ([UK 2021](#)). While this language is vague, it does provide an entry point for more concrete language that specifies exactly how a gender-just energy transition could be inclusive, just and equitable, and leave no-one behind.

Commitments to standards, plans and investments relating to a just transition also contain limited references to gender equality. For example, the Menu of Policy Options for a Just Transition towards Net Zero ([G7 Finance Track](#)) is currently gender blind. It focuses on five key aspects where gender equality is relevant: (i) the impact of climate policies and green investment on growth, productivity and innovation; (ii) exploring carbon pricing potential; (iii) the distributional impact of climate policies, (iv) ways to foster the legitimacy and political acceptability of climate action, and (v) fostering international cooperation.

3.4 REPARATIONS FOR CLIMATE INJUSTICES

Concrete G7 commitments to loss and damage have been minimal. There was a recognition of the need to scale up action and support to avert, minimise, and address loss and damage particularly in vulnerable developing countries ([Elmau Leaders' Communiqué](#)). The [Glasgow Climate Pact](#), agreed at COP26, mentioned establishing a Loss and Damage fund for the first time. However, while expressing alarm, the G7 only committed to start a dialogue about funding a new organisation and provide technical assistance ([Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué](#)).

G7 nations have avoided committing to a Loss and Damage Fund, but have committed to scaling up climate and disaster risk insurance, for example through the [Global Shield against Climate Risks](#), and the [High-Level Framework for Public-Private Insurance Programmes against Natural Hazards](#). Gender equality is not mentioned in texts relating to climate risk insurance.

3.5 CLIMATE FINANCE

Many of the G7 statements on climate finance are supportive or relate to encouraging action from other institutions, rather than committing funds. For example, leaders' communiqués emphasize that G7 countries “intend to be leading contributors to” the New Collective Quantified Goal (see Annex 2). ([Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#)). They “reiterate the urgency” of addressing debt vulnerabilities and “support the G20's effort to improve” debt restructuring ([Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué](#)). They “recognise the links and the importance of enhancing synergies” between finance for climate and biodiversity and are “working intensively towards” increasing the quantity of finance to nature and nature-based solutions ([Carbis Bay Communiqué](#)). Rather than commit to financing, G7 nations commit to “continue to accelerate efforts to respond to” the Glasgow Climate Pact that urges developed countries to at least double climate finance for adaptation ([Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué](#)).

G7 nations have, however, made some commitments on climate finance, for example:

- Jointly mobilizing \$100 billion annually in climate finance⁴ ([Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué](#), [Carbis Bay Communiqué](#)).
- Accelerating efforts to making financial flows consistent with a pathway toward low GHG emissions and climate resilient development ([Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué](#)).
- Establishing an [Adaptation Accelerator Hub](#) to accelerate the implementation of and investment into climate change adaptation action ([Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#)).
- Aligning financial and fiscal flows with the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), developing innovative financial solutions for conserving, protecting, and restoring forests, and taking steps to prevent, manage, and address the negative impacts of extreme wildfires ([Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#)).

Few G7 climate finance commitments explicitly refer to gender equality. The general Gender Equality text in the [Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#) commits to “collectively increasing G7 ODA for gender equality, *exploring ways to do this at the nexus of climate change and gender*, particularly in Africa” ([Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#)).

⁴ This commitment was before the NCCG was agreed at COP 29

PROMISING AREAS/ASKS

In this deeply challenging context, the following proposed asks for the G7 build on the evidence and the demands of feminist, Indigenous women's and youth organisations, and language agreed in previous G7 meetings. The following provides the rationale for each recommendation, sets out broad recommendations and provides options for more specific asks.

COUNTERING THE ROLLBACK IN RIGHTS AND PROTECTING WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS (RECOGNITION)

RATIONALE: Evidence shows that the roll-back in the rights of women, LGBTQI+ communities, migrants and refugees is gaining momentum at international, national and community levels. Indigenous women and women environmental defenders continue to be at risk of violence and death. Authoritarian and conservative forces and religious fundamentalists have forged alliances to drive 'norm-spoiling' and oppose gender equality and women's rights. They have become increasingly well organised in international fora, including at COP29. They have been successful at removing the words and phrases "gender equality", "diversity", "intersectionality", "gender-responsive", "gender-mainstreaming" and "human rights" from key climate texts. Previous G7 communiqués have recognised and condemned the rise of authoritarianism and the backlash against gender equality and human rights.

RECOMMENDATION:

Defend existing gains and promote further action on women's rights and gender equality in climate policy and action, ensure the safety of environmental defenders, and hold those responsible for violence accountable. Options include:

- **Reiterating the G7 commitment to women's rights and gender equality using the language in previous G7 communiqués:** "strong concern about the rollback of women's and girls' rights" and "strongly condemn all violations and abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms for women and girls and LGBTQIA+ people around the world" ([Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué](#), [Apulia G7 Leaders' Communiqué](#)).
- **A new G7 commitment to defending existing gains and promote further action on women's rights and gender equality in pre-COP30 negotiations** on Loss and Damage, the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Just Transition Work Programme and the Lima Work Programme on Gender and forthcoming Gender Action Plan.
- **A commitment to developing and implementing accountability mechanisms** to hold corporations hosted in G7 states responsible for environmental degradation and attacks on women human rights and environmental defenders.

MEASURING GENDER EQUALITY IN CLIMATE ACTION (RECOGNITION)

RATIONALE: Evidence shows that it remains a challenge to include quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure progress towards gender-just climate action that respects indigenous rights. The G7 Dashboard on Gender Gaps does not currently include indicators relating to the climate crisis. Recent negotiations at COP29 revealed challenges in including gender indicators in the UAE-Belém Work Programme on indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Include indicators to measure gender equality in climate action in the G7 Dashboard on Gender Gaps.** Include measures that relate to intersectionality to ensure effective responses to the varying experiences and needs of women in all their diversity. There are existing options, where data is already being collected and the methodology has been tested, that could be adapted. For example (see also section 2.1 for sources of other existing indicators):
 - Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework indicator 22.b “Number of countries promoting the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation and recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities with respect to their traditional territories, cultures and practices as well as the rights of environmental human rights defenders, women, youth, and persons with disabilities ensuring representation and participation in decision-making and access to justice and information in relation with biodiversity and ensuring the legal rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including respecting their rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge, women and girls, children and youth and persons with disabilities, and ensuring the full protection of human rights of environmental defenders” ([Kunming-Montreal GBF metadata](#)).
- **Commit to the inclusion of quantitative and qualitative indicators in frameworks to measure progress on climate action** e.g. in the ongoing UAE-Belém Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation and for the Loss and Damage fund.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE ACTION (REPRESENTATION)

RATIONALE: Evidence shows that women's leadership in politics and the economy reduces carbon emissions and increases climate action. Indigenous women's leadership and unique knowledge can help safeguard ecosystems, ensure environmental justice and equity, and mitigate against the catastrophic impacts of climate change. The leadership of women with disabilities can strengthen inclusive governance, change attitudes and ensure effective and inclusive climate action. Young people, especially young women, are at the forefront of climate justice efforts. The [Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#) recognized “women, youth and Indigenous women's critical role as leaders and agents of change”.

RECOMMENDATION:

Ensure 50-50 parity between women and men in G7 national climate decision-making processes and institutions, and in delegations to international decision-making fora such as UNFCCC and CBD COPs, ensuring intersectionality and the inclusion of women in all their diversity. This is in line with CEDAW GR40 and the [Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#) which recognised the importance of meaningful participation of the people and communities on the frontlines of the triple crisis, including women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, and recognised their critical role as leaders and agents of change.

This could involve:

- **Commit to facilitating diverse women leaders engagement in national and international climate decision-making fora.** This could involve e.g. targeted funding mechanisms so that women can attend meetings; delivering targeted trainings on gender equality and climate change negotiations; providing childcare at meetings; and increasing funding for organisations supporting training and capacity building for women and youth leaders.
- **Commit to a new initiative to address the barriers to women's leadership in national and international climate decision-making fora and the transition.** This could involve addressing patriarchal norms, recognising and redistributing care responsibilities, addressing discriminatory practices, gender-based violence, and revaluing and prioritizing gender issues in climate fora. For Indigenous women in Canada, this would also mean going beyond a Nation to Nation approach and involving urban women. This would also be in line with a gender-transformative approach committed to in the [Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#) and could build on the commitment to "redoubling our efforts to overcome longstanding structural barriers and to addressing harmful gender norms, stereotypes, roles, and practices" in the [Elmau Leaders' Communiqué](#).
- **Commit to upholding Indigenous women's leadership rights**, affirmed under the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, including the guidance provided through General Recommendation 39.

A GENDER-JUST TRANSITION (REDISTRIBUTION)

RATIONALE: Evidence shows that the world's wealthiest countries and highest income-earners continue to make huge profits from fossil fuels, are diluting previous commitments to net zero targets, and failing to provide development finance to countries of the Global South. The energy transition will likely create more employment opportunities for men than for women and women are more likely to be in poorly paid, insecure employment with limited social protection. The demand for key transition minerals will likely drive the dispossession of local populations and increase resource conflicts. G7 communiqués affirm the importance of achieving equality, including gender equality, as part of a just transition.

RECOMMENDATION: Advance a gender-just energy transition that shifts from an extractive to a regenerative economy and respects the rights of Indigenous communities and countries in the Global South. Specific options include:

- **Commit to a new initiative to address barriers to dignified work for women in all their diversity** through gender-transformative education, skill-building and reskilling programs for engagement in low-carbon economies; workplace safety; recognising, reducing and redistributing unpaid care and rewarding and representing paid care; labour laws that support flexible working and parental leave; and the right of women workers to organise.
- **Sign on to the Global Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.** This complements the Paris Agreement and provides a global roadmap to halt the expansion of fossil fuel, manage an equitable phase-out of coal, oil and gas, and lay the foundations for a just energy transition in which no worker, community or country is left behind.

- **Commit to protecting (and not criminalizing) Indigenous women's voices, perspectives, and leadership as defenders of Mother Earth.**
- **Commit to introducing effective mechanisms to ensure extractive industries operating abroad and domestically are held accountable** for human rights violations, investigate complaints from Indigenous women human rights and land defenders, facilitate access to justice for Indigenous women, and ensure Indigenous women and their organizations are involved in, consulted on, and consent to decisions which impact their human rights.
- **Promote the integration of gender equality into the Menu of Policy Options for a Just Transition towards Net Zero** ([G7 Finance Track](#)) including in (i) the impact of climate policies and green investment on growth, productivity and innovation; (ii) carbon pricing; (iii) the distributional impact of climate policies, (iv) ways to foster the legitimacy and political acceptability of climate action, and (v) fostering international cooperation.

FEMINIST CLIMATE FINANCE

RATIONALE: Evidence shows that climate finance continues to fall drastically short of what is needed to be able to respond to the climate crisis. The New Collective Quantified Goal (see Annex 2) on Climate Finance is not enough, excludes Loss and Damage and is proposed to be delivered through loans, increasing countries' debt burdens. Feminist climate finance would involve calls to cancel debt, The [Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#) commits to unlocking funds for women's empowerment through increased ODA for gender equality and through gender-smart investment programmes, rather than reorienting to an approach that commits enough funds and directs those funds to e.g. women and gender-diverse people, indigenous women and women with disabilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Ensure climate finance goes directly to communities and people most affected by the climate crisis, including women and gender-diverse people, indigenous women and women with disabilities. Options include:

- **Commit to increase overall levels of gender-sensitive climate finance**, building on the [Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#) commitment to collectively increase G7 ODA for gender equality.
- **Commit to significantly expand the share of these funds that go directly to women's organisations, youth organisations Indigenous women's organisations, disabled people's organisations and communities on the front line of the climate crisis.**
- **Commit to establishing a Loss and Damage Fund** (ref. the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#), agreed at COP26). This could build on the current G7 commitments to start a dialogue about funding a new loss and damage organisation and provide technical assistance ([Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué](#)) and to scale up action and support to avert, minimise, and address loss and damage particularly in vulnerable developing countries ([Elmau Leaders' Communiqué](#)).
- **Promote the integration of gender issues into the High-Level Framework for Public-Private Insurance Programmes against Natural Hazards** that allows low-income countries to restructure debt. This could include integrating gender into each step of the framework: assessing protection gaps, exploring the range of possible actions to address Protection gaps, including Public-Private Insurance Programmes. This would build on G7's welcoming of the framework as a viable measure ([Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#)).

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ANNEX 1: DEFINITIONS

Adaptation: adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities to do with climate change (UNFCCC 2021)

Climate change: a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability (United Nations 1992).

Climate finance: local, national or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change (UNFCCC).

Climate variability: Refers to variations of the climate on all spatial and temporal scales beyond individual weather events and can be due to natural or human activity (IPCC 2018)

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent: a principle protected by international human rights standards that states, 'all peoples have the right to self-determination' and 'all peoples have the right to freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development'. FPIC allows Indigenous Peoples' to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated.

Gender equality: This refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a women's issue but should concern and fully engage men as well as women. Equality between women and men is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centred development (UN Women)

Gender mainstreaming: is the approach toward realizing progress on women's and girl's rights. It is a strategy for implementing greater equality for women and girls in relation to men and boys. Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in all areas and at all levels. It is a way to make women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality (UN Women).

Gender-responsive: intentionally employing gender considerations to affect the design, implementation and results of programmes and policies to reflect girls' and women's realities and needs, valuing their perspectives, respecting their experiences, and ultimately empowering girls and women (UNICEF 2017).

Gender-sensitive: the design and implementation of development projects, programs and policies that attempt to redress existing gender inequalities ([UN Women](#)).

Gender transformative: the design and implementation of development projects, programs and policies that attempt to re-define women and men's gender roles and relations ([UN Women](#)).

Intersectionality: recognises that people's lives are shaped by their identities, relationships and social factors. These combine to create intersecting forms of privilege and oppression depending on a person's context and existing power structures such as patriarchy, ableism, colonialism, imperialism, homophobia and racism ([UN Women](#)).

Just transitions: promote sustainable development and eradication of poverty, and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, including making financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, including through deployment and transfer of technology, and provision of support to developing country Parties ([UNFCCC](#)).

Mitigation: efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance sinks ([UNFCCC 2021](#)).

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): These are country level plans which aim to: reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience; and help integrate climate change adaptation into new and existing policies, programmes and activities. Countries can use the NAP process and its outcomes to update and improve the adaptation elements of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), a central part of the Paris Agreement.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve. Together, these climate actions determine whether the world achieves the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as soon as possible and to then undertake rapid reductions of emissions.

Net zero: Net zero CO₂ emissions occur when anthropogenic CO₂ emissions are balanced globally by anthropogenic CO₂ removals over a specified period ([IPCC 2018](#)).

Resilience: the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management ([UNDRR 2021](#)).

Women's economic empowerment: A transformative, collective process through which economic systems become just, equitable and prosperous, and all women enjoy their economic and social rights, exercise agency and power in ways that challenge inequalities and level the playing field, and gain equal rights and access to, ownership of and control over resources, assets, income, time and their own lives ([UN Women 2024a](#)).

ANNEX 2: EXISTING INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS ON GENDER EQUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

This section provides a brief description of international frameworks, institutions and financing mechanisms that relate to climate justice to set the scene for the analysis in subsequent sections.

The Paris Agreement: This legally binding text states that “Parties should when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity”.

The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan emphasises that a just transition to sustainable development can only be achieved if women are actively involved in developing and implementing all aspects of climate change mitigation and adaptation. The GAP encourages:

1. Enhanced understanding of the differentiated impact of climate change on men and women, and the role women play as agents of change.
2. Gender balance, participation, and women's leadership.
3. Coherence in integration of gender considerations.
4. Gender-responsive implementation in mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and development.
5. Monitoring and reporting to improve tracking of implementation and reporting.

The Glasgow Climate Pact at COP26 established the Glasgow-Sharm-el-Sheikh work programme to work towards defining a global goal on adaptation; set a goal for developed countries to double the funding provided to developing countries for adaptation action by 2025; recognised nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation as a critical way of restoring nature and ecosystems; agreed to start dialogue on loss and damage; set down rules of a global carbon market; and was the first global agreement to explicitly include parties pledging to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

UAE Just Transition Work Programme: This states that just and equitable transition includes: pathways that include energy, socioeconomic, workforce and other dimensions; addressing opportunities, challenges and barriers relating to sustainable development and poverty eradication as part of transitions globally to low emissions and climate resilience; approaches to enhancing adaptation and climate resilience at the national and international level; just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work

and quality jobs; inclusive and participatory approaches to just transitions that leave no one behind. The [Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership](#), an outcome of COP 28, commits signatories to just and inclusive transitions that advance gender equality and the goals of the enhanced Lima Work Program on Gender and its Gender Action Plan. The proposed text to advance the UAE [Just Transition Work Programme](#) was not adopted at COP29, due to a lack of consensus by negotiating parties.

New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG): In 2021, Parties agreed that the aim of the NCQG is to contribute to keeping the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. The NCQG recognizes that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change; increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emission development in a manner that does not threaten food production; and making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development (UNFCCC).

The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience: This framework was agreed to guide the implementation of the [Global Goal on Adaptation](#). It encourages Parties to:

- consider, where possible, country-driven, gender responsive, participatory and fully transparent approaches, as well as human rights approaches; and
- ensure intergenerational equity and social justice, taking into consideration vulnerable ecosystems, groups and communities and including children, youth and persons with disabilities (UNFCCC 2023).

The [UAE-Belém Work Programme](#) is a two-year work programme on indicators for measuring progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation framework targets.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and the development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. Goal 5 is achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls; and Goal 13 is on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: The Sendai Framework outlines targets and priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks. It focuses on:

1. Understanding disaster risk
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
3. Investing in disaster reduction for resilience and
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

It emphasises the importance of gender equality and social inclusion and of sex-disaggregated data to help understand and measure the impact of disaster risk, how to strengthen disaster risk, reduction and resilience in ways that take gender equality and social inclusion into account.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP): UNDRIP states that Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired and the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands

or territories and resources. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP): The LCIPP was established in the Paris Agreement and operationalized at COP 23 to support exchanging experience, knowledge sharing, and accelerating the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities within the UNFCCC. Its facilitative working group is composed of representatives of local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and parties. The Baku Workplan, adopted at COP 29, focuses on: promoting knowledge exchange, building capacity for engagement, and incorporating diverse values and knowledge systems into climate policies and actions.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Article 11 on Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies states that States Parties shall “take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters”.

UN Commission on the Status of Women sixty-sixth session 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* called for:

- creating space for youth, especially young women and girls, to participate in shaping the decisions on climate change, environmental degradation and disasters that will affect their future.
- access to gender-responsive, safe, available, affordable, accessible, quality and inclusive health-care services and universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services.
- Governments to strengthen normative, legal and regulatory frameworks; integrate gender perspectives into climate change, environmental and disaster-risk-reduction policies and programmes; expand gender-responsive finance; enhance gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex; and foster a gender-responsive, just transition.

CEDAW General recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems includes recommendations on representation in climate change and environmental disaster risk reduction, parliament, and in business. It highlights the importance of women’s traditional and Indigenous knowledge and the role of young women, who are leading climate and environmental activism. It calls for 50-50 parity between women and men in decision-making systems as a starting point and universal norm; intersectionality and the inclusion of women in all their diversity in decision-making systems; equal power and influence exercised by women in decision-making systems; structural transformation for the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems; and civil society representation in decision-making systems.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. It states that successful implementation of the Framework will depend on ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and on reducing inequalities .

ANNEX 3: LINKS TO OTHER G7 THEMES

Artificial intelligence/emerging technologies: Artificial intelligence (AI) may offer promising solutions to address climate change impacts. However, women and girls remain largely excluded in AI jobs due to systemic discrimination, social norms, and embedded stereotypes. Women constitute only 22% of AI professionals (Young et al. 2021) and underrepresentation of women in this sector contributes to gender stereotypes in AI systems. Tech companies are rapidly expanding new computing and energy infrastructure for AI with major environmental risks and huge emissions. Recently, debates are taking place, challenging whether these data centres are even needed (The New Republic 2024). UNESCO recommendations on the ethics of AI include recommendations on gender equality and on environmental impact (UNESCO 2021).

Economic resilience: Climate change affects the ability of countries, regions or communities to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from economic disruptions, shocks and changing conditions. This also impacts on households' economic vulnerability, depending on their pre-shock income and ability to smooth shocks over time with savings, borrowing, insurance, or access to social protection. The climate crisis and energy security risks due to ongoing conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine will likely continue to have an impact on countries' and communities' economic resilience. Inclusive economic frameworks that address resilience in the face of the climate crisis will also need to address the constraints to women's economic empowerment including: placing unpaid care and domestic work at the centre (Clugston et al. 2023); a more inclusive tax system (Ghosh 2021); green financing directly to women, youth, disability and Indigenous organisations (Equality Fund and Mama Cash 2023); a debt restructuring agenda that incorporates gender concerns and supports climate and nature investments (Ghosh 2021); carbon markets that meet robust environmental and social standards (Phillips and Jenkins 2022); reforms that help women to contribute to the economy as employees and entrepreneurs, with dignified jobs (WEDO 2023); and include social protection in international and national climate financing (ILO 2023).

Democracy: Evidence is mixed on whether democracy is as essential factor in successful climate action. Some researchers argue that more and stronger democracies are needed to produce conscious, cooperative, and binding global commitments, others argue democracies need to become more deliberative and inclusive, and others argue that the democratic system may be unfit to tackle the impending climate crisis, either because democratic governments accept the public's unwillingness to adopt climate friendly behaviour or because pro-environmental action is overruled by corporate interests in democratic capitalist systems (Selseng et al. 2022). Women's political representation leads countries to adopt more stringent climate change policies and the representation of women in parliament results in lower carbon dioxide emissions. However, evidence does show that democracies are better at ensuring gender equality, sustaining economic growth, and achieving most environmental goals and targets (Selseng et al. 2022).

Care: A feminist green transition would involve redesigning economic systems, including the creation of quality jobs in green sectors, around care (Clugston et al. 2023, see also Section 2.3 and 4.4). The Women's Budget Group in the UK presents a Call to Action which

suggests developing a new economy: “an economy which has the wellbeing of individuals, communities and the planet at its centre; an economy which values care, both paid and unpaid, as the activities that nurture us all; an economy which ensures that no-one faces discrimination, violence, or poverty, and in which no-one is left behind, or pushed behind”.

Other relevant themes that could usefully be explored in relation to gender equality and the climate crisis are included in the table below. Some are touched upon in the report, such as gender-based violence, decolonisation and the importance of data and evidence, however they could be explored more deeply. Others, such as the relationship between the climate crisis, gender equality and food systems, health, migration and urbanisation have not been covered in this report.

Theme	Examples of sources of information
Gender-based violence	Gender Based Violence: Addressing the overlooked barrier to effective climate action and GBV impacts of transition to a low carbon economy by the What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls: Impact at Scale Programme
Food systems	FAO (2023) The status of women in agrifood systems UNDP (2016) Gender, climate change and food security
Decolonising climate action	Gay-Antaki, M. (2022) Border crossers: Feminist decolonial geography and climate change , <i>Progress in Environmental Geography</i> , 1(1-4) Farhana, S. (2024) Confronting Climate Coloniality: Decolonizing Pathways for Climate Justice Routledge: London and New York.
Urbanisation	Urban Movements and Climate Change: Loss, Damage and Radical Adaptation Women4Climate report on Gender Inclusive Climate Action In Cities – How Women’s Leadership and Expertise can Shape Sustainable and Inclusive Cities
Data and evidence	Data Feminism: A new way of thinking about data science and data ethics that is informed by the ideas of intersectional feminism. WEDO Policy Brief: Gender Data Must Be the Bedrock of Climate Justice WEDO
Land rights	Advancing gender-responsive synergies across the Rio conventions: Gender equality at the intersection of climate action, biodiversity protection and sustainable land management Publications UN Women – Headquarters
Health	WHO report on Gender, Climate Change and Health
Institutional change	The 2024 edition of the Feminist Action Nexus Critical Trends Report, Towards Economic and Climate Justice: A Feminist Analysis of Critical Trends on Bretton Woods Institutions
Nature based solutions	Getting the message right on nature-based solutions to climate change (wiley.com)