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Gender, Climate and Biodiversity.



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SUMMARY OF KEY MESSAGES

1

Funding dedicated to combating climate change and protecting biodiversity must incorporate a transformative, inclusive, or at least gender-sensitive. They must be directed towards the actors on the ground, who hold the solutions and are the drivers of the necessary transformations.

2

The full, equal and meaningful participation of women, girls and LGBTQIA+ communities in all their diversity in climate and biodiversity negotiation and decision-making bodies is a necessary condition to respond effectively to the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss. This necessarily involves integrating communities from the Global South, both local and indigenous, into the discussions, in order to take into account the differentiated impact and real consequences experienced by those who are exposed to them every day.

3

Commitments made within all decision-making bodies must be accompanied by control, traceability and accountability mechanisms to measure their influence and ensure their proper implementation.

01

A G7 WITHOUT GENDER ?

This year, the G7 summit is taking place in France from June 15 to 17 in Evian. Despite the multitude of ministerial meetings planned, notably the one on the environment on April 23 or the one on development on April 29 and 30, gender is not the subject of a dedicated inter-ministerial track within the summit, limiting the cross-cutting consideration of these issues in climate commitments.

The G7 is a forum whose legitimacy and impact are limited, primarily because it brings together the “most powerful” nations without properly integrating the voices of the Global South. Furthermore, in the current context, the G7 includes several countries that are openly committed to opposing gender equality. Invisibility is a major cause of global imbalance, and calling into question principles, commitments and language that were adopted at the multilateral level many years ago.

Furthermore, this repression is disseminated publicly and across the board through the use of fake news, casting doubt on social and scientific progress.¹ Thus, masculinism and backlash often oppose adaptation to climate change, or even deny its existence, because the transformations necessary for equality and environmental protection challenge patriarchal norms and established economic interests.

This note highlights the need to address these issues jointly, in order to contribute to fairer, more inclusive and effective G7 climate commitments, consistent with existing international frameworks and the principles of gender equality and intersectionality by influencing the G7 position.

¹ Pease, B., (2021). Masculinisme, changement climatique et catastrophes produites par les hommes. Vers une réponse environnementale proféministe. <https://doi.org/10.3917/inqf.402.0052>.

02

WHY CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY CRISES EXACERBATE GENDER INEQUALITIES: 8 STATISTICS THAT PROVE IT

Climate change and biodiversity loss disproportionately affect women, girls, and gender-diverse people due to pre-existing structural inequalities and patriarchal norms that limit their access to resources, rights, decision-making, and economic opportunities. This marginalization persists even as women play a vital role in protecting forests and biodiversity, food production, the circular economy, and community resilience—all crucial dimensions for climate mitigation and adaptation.² The following data are not mere statistics. They document a system of structural inequalities that climate change and the current reactionary offensive are amplifying.



Increased risk of extreme poverty: Under an unchecked climate change scenario, up to 158.3 million more women and girls could be living in extreme poverty by 2050 (the threshold of \$2.15/day), 16 million more than men and boys, with nearly half of them in sub-Saharan Africa. This estimate is available in the Gender Snapshot 2025 (UN Women) published in 2024-2025. [UN Women Knowledge hub](#)



Food and health inequalities: Today, approximately 47.8 million more women than men face food insecurity, hunger, and health risks, particularly for mothers and newborns, largely exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Data published by the WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and HRP highlights that a temperature increase of just 1°C during late pregnancy can raise the risk of stillbirth by up to 10%. Meanwhile, 10% of pregnant women and 13% of new mothers already suffer from mental health disorders worldwide. Beyond the exacerbated inequalities, failing to take into account the fact that the vast majority of people affected by the health effects, in charge of food production and processing, are women and girls, and failing to support the action and resilience of these people through targeted policies, risks severely undermining the ability of local communities to adapt or act. [UN Women Knowledge hub](#)

² WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform et al. : https://www.wo-men.nl/bestanden/WO-MEN_Fair_Sustainable_and_Effective_Paper.pdf



Correlation between environmental degradation and intimate partner violence :

The scarcity of vital resources (water, wood, food), caused by environmental degradation and climate change, exacerbates tensions within households and communities. This environmental stress leads to a rise in domestic violence rates, as evidenced by the 62% surge in requests for support services in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria, as force is sometimes used as a power tool to establish control over increasingly scarce natural resources. By the end of the century, one in ten cases of domestic violence will be directly linked to climate change, with each 1°C increase in average temperature already associated with a 4.7% rise in violence and a 28% increase in the risk of femicide during heat waves. [Spotlight Initiative - UN](#)



Disparities in income losses: In rural settings, female-headed households experience 8% higher income losses during heat waves and 3% higher losses during floods, hindering their ability to adapt. In the agricultural sector, which has been particularly hard hit by the climate crisis, women earn on average 18.4% less than men in salaried jobs. They earn 82 cents for every dollar earned by men. [UNICEF & FAO](#)



Correlation between land degradation and child marriage: Biodiversity loss and increasing soil aridity are pushing families towards desperate coping mechanisms. In sub-Saharan Africa, 52% of women living in arid zones were married before the age of 18, compared to 36% in humid zones; this illustrates how environmental insecurity exacerbates the social vulnerability of girls, according to recent data published by the Gender and Biodiversity Data Brief in 2024. [UN Women & Women Count](#)



Representation in decision-making spaces: At the international level, despite some progress, women's representation in climate decision-making bodies remains limited. In 2025, the average female representation in the constituted bodies of the UNFCCC was approximately 40%, with a similar rate among national delegations at formal conferences. [UNFCCC+1](#)



Inequalities in sectors on the front line of the climate and environmental crisis: It is more difficult for women to adapt due to a lack of access to and control over agricultural land. The percentage of men who hold ownership or guaranteed land rights to agricultural land is twice that of women in more than 40% of the countries that reported data on women's land ownership (SDG 5.a.1). These inequalities also exist in the fisheries sector.³ While 21% of the fishing or aquaculture population are women, and nearly 50% of all workers across the entire aquatic value chain are women. [FAO](#)

These figures share a common denominator: pre-existing inequalities (access to land, income, and decision-making; the unfair burden of unpaid care work) that make women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ communities the primary victims of climate change, while simultaneously limiting their capacity to adapt. Until these inequalities are addressed, no climate policy can be fully effective. This is why it is crucial that the G7 build bridges between gender equality and climate justice.

03

KEY MESSAGES CONVEYED BY THE GENDER AND CLIMATE WORKING GROUP

Faced with this situation, the W7 formulates three priority requests to the Heads of State gathered in Evian: the strengthening of appropriate, flexible and sustainable climate finance for feminist organizations; the effective and equal participation of women and girls in all their diversity - from gender diversity, local or indigenous communities, migrants, racialized people, people with disabilities - in climate decision-making spaces; and the accountability of G7 States regarding the integration of the gender dimension into their past and future climate and biodiversity commitments (Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Copenhagen and Glasgow commitments).

CLIMATE FINANCE THAT TRULY REACHES THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

Local feminist organizations and grassroots activists are the most effective at designing and implementing inclusive climate solutions. They possess in-depth knowledge of local realities, strong community ties, and proven solutions. Yet, they remain largely excluded from international climate finance channels: overly cumbersome procedures, overly restrictive criteria, and mechanisms designed for large-scale institutional actors.

G7 actors must guarantee gender-sensitive, accessible, flexible, and sustainable climate finance. This means, in concrete terms:

- Prioritize grants and donations, rather than debt-generating loans – especially for local organizations in the Global South.
- Simplify eligibility and reporting procedures by reducing the administrative burden that disproportionately affects small structures, without compromising accountability and control requirements.

- Direct funding towards grassroots feminist organizations through fair and transparent mechanisms.
- Integrate a gender analysis into all policies and projects related to climate and biodiversity.

AZUKO and Nirapod Bangladesh Songhsto supported the creation of over 20 women-led micro-savings groups in rural communities in the Saidpur region of Bangladesh. These groups have empowered women financially and help them cope with climate disasters and health crises, or cover school fees through solidarity when needed.

The women members of the savings groups collect small amounts weekly into a solidarity fund. Together, they decide how to respond to loan requests from members, as well as the timing and terms of repayment. Some savings groups have accumulated enough money over time to rebuild roofs after storms, construct toilets, or consider leasing land for their own agricultural projects.

Thanks to these savings groups, all villagers are significantly improving their resilience to climate crises. Such a financial system should be integrated into the Loss and Damage Response Fund (LDRF) mechanism, as it allows communities to establish a form of local, community-led, and women-driven solidarity insurance.

The LDRF mechanism could provide advance financing to mitigate the financial consequences of climate disasters.



Apu Roy, director of NBS (Nirapod Bangladesh Songstha) at COP28, and Jo Ashbridge (right), founder and CEO of AzuKo, receive the Gender and Climate Solutions Award from Jochen Flasbarth, German State Secretary for Climate Action - COP28 Event

ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

Representing women in climate negotiations is not a matter of quotas or formal symmetry. It is a condition for effectiveness. Decisions made without the voices of those most exposed to the consequences of climate change produce inadequate, or even counterproductive, policies. Furthermore, Women and girls in all their diversity, as well as LGBTQIA+ communities, must not be considered a homogeneous group; this is why an intersectional approach is essential. Decisions that do not include this diversity cannot fully address the fight against climate change. In particular, the participation of women from local and Indigenous communities, and from countries of the Global South, must be facilitated.⁴

Inclusion is not simply about having a seat at the negotiating table. It is defined by the ability to truly influence decisions, access strategic information, and overcome invisible barriers (discriminatory social norms, excessive domestic workload, devaluation of women's knowledge). To achieve this, it is necessary to:

- Recruit and promote women and girls in all their diversity, as well as LGBTQIA+ communities, within national delegations and climate administrations.
- Recognize women as agents of change in national strategies and plans for climate and biodiversity, and not solely as beneficiaries or vulnerable groups.
- Consult citizens, women's organizations and LGBTQIA+ communities through diverse formats (citizens' assemblies, territorial consultations, awareness-raising events) at all levels.
- Supporting grassroots organizations in the collection, management and long-term storage of data on gender, biodiversity and climate change, so that grassroots knowledge informs national and international policies.

COMMITMENTS ACCOMPANIED BY CONTROL MECHANISMS

There is no shortage of commitments on gender and climate. What is lacking are the tools and accountability mechanisms to verify their implementation. G7 countries must establish transparent monitoring mechanisms, with precise indicators, to assess the effective integration of gender into their climate policies and financing. For European states, this means, for example, that 85% of official development assistance must contribute to gender equality according to OECD DAC Markers 1 and 2, in line with the EU's Gender Action Plan (GAP III) (2020-2025).

⁴ Women and Gender Constituency : <https://womensgenderclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/WGC-Reflection-Note-on-AFT.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/trois%20me%20plan%20d'action-sur-%20l%20egalit%C3%A9-des-sexes-vers-un-monde-o%C3%B9-les-hommes-et-les-femmes-sont-fr>

Here are the concrete actions recommended by the W7:

- To task national human rights commissions with monitoring the implementation of commitments made by participating countries regarding gender equality in their national climate plans and national biodiversity strategies, in accordance with their commitments under the UNFCCC and CBD "gender plans".
- An accountability framework attached to each strategy with specific indicators will agree on an annual meeting with civil society actors to present the results at the national and international level.
- Establish with statistical institutes a program to collect sex-specific data and cross-reference it with different political and social priorities (fight against climate change, fight against poverty, fight against racial violence and discrimination, etc.).

04

THE FRENCH G7 PRESIDENCY: MOVING TOWARDS COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A JUST AND INCLUSIVE TRANSITION

As host of the G7 and a champion of gender equality in several international forums, France must lead by example. Last year, the Ministry of Foreign affairs published its international [strategy for a feminist foreign policy 2025-2030](#) and by hosting the G7 in Évian, it has a prime opportunity to translate these commitments into concrete actions. It can and must lead other states in this direction, following the example of the Fourth Conference of Feminist Diplomats, which resulted in the signing of the political declaration by 31 states.⁶

The challenge is no longer simply to commit, but to change our approach. The effective integration of gender justice and equality is essential to ensuring climate responses that are both equitable and effective.⁷ For example, their inclusion in forestry projects is associated with a 28% higher probability of forest regeneration. It involves recognizing existing structural inequalities, valuing the knowledge and capacities of the communities concerned, and strengthening the coherence between political commitments and realities on the ground.

⁶ <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/diplomatie-feministe/4eme-conference-ministerielle-des-diplomaties-feministes-22-23-octobre-2025/article/a-paris-31-etats-adoptent-une-declaration-politique-pour-defendre-les-droits>

⁷ WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform et al. : https://www.wo-men.nl/bestanden/WO-MEN_Fair_Sustainable_and_Effective_Paper.pdf

Beyond declarations, member states are expected to demonstrate their ability to ensure coherence between their international commitments, national policies, and implementation mechanisms. The G7's credibility will depend on its capacity to translate its priorities into measurable results, while simultaneously strengthening trust with stakeholders on the ground and international partners.

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⁸ Utilisation du mot "soin" en français pour désigner le concept de anglophone de "care"

⁹ Indicateur de l'ODD 5.4.1

