



**GENERATION  
EQUALITY**

# Call to Action

17-18 October 2024

**TWO-DAY REGIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE  
ON GENDER EQUALITY AND CLIMATE ACTION IN ASIA PACIFIC**

## **GENDER AND CLIMATE ACTION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

### **WHO ARE WE AND WHY THIS CALL TO ACTION?**

The Asia and the Pacific region are at the forefront of the climate crisis.<sup>1</sup> Between 2000 and 2019, six out of ten countries in the region were identified as the most severely impacted by climate change. According to the estimates by the UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Disaster Report in 2019, the Asia and Pacific region has an annual loss of \$675 billion due to climate-induced disasters.<sup>2</sup> These consequences extend beyond economic losses that threaten food security and trigger conflicts over key resources such as land, water, food, and energy.

Women and girls in particular face disproportionate impacts due to climate change that exacerbates their pre-existing vulnerabilities. UN Women reports that women are exposed to further risks of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV), early marriage, adolescent pregnancies, and reproductive health issues as well as mental health challenges and psychological abuse.<sup>3</sup> Evidence from various studies suggests extreme weather events such as floods compel families in countries like Bangladesh and Nepal to marry off their daughters at an early age as a means to cope with poverty and food insecurity. Consequently, higher child marriage rates are also linked with higher adolescent pregnancies, increased exposure to gender-based violence, loss of education, and other opportunities.<sup>4</sup>

Although women and girls face these heightened risks of sexual and reproductive health challenges, gender-based violence, and





other compounding vulnerabilities, there is a significant gap in data and research on these intersections. This further marginalizes the status of women and girls, often reversing hard-won development gains, and exacerbating the impacts of those who experience multiple layers of discrimination such as Indigenous women, and women with disabilities. Hence, adopting an intersectional approach to address these challenges is crucial to ensure effective and sustainable solutions to climate change.

On 17-18 October 2024, under the Action Coalitions of GBV, Bodily Autonomy & Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and Feminist Action for Climate Justice (FACJ) of the Generation Equality Forum; ARROW, UN Women, UNFPA, and UNEP jointly organized a Regional Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

on Gender Equality and Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific. The two-day dialogue with participation from a diverse group of stakeholders such as activists, advocates, climate experts, funders, intergovernmental representatives, and individuals across national governments, social movements, feminist, environment, and climate justice, and allied organizations represented collective voices reflecting the need to integrate an intersectional lens to climate action, ensuring no one is left behind. This call to action reflects our commitment to a sustainable and resilient future for the Asia and the Pacific region, highlighting that the theme of the 29th Session of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties, **“In Solidarity for a Green World”** cannot be realized without including diverse voices from the region’s most vulnerable to climate impacts.

### THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS WERE HIGHLIGHTED DURING THE MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE:

1

#### Accelerate the production and use of intersectional Gender and Environment Data to strengthen the implementation, monitoring, and accountability of climate actions

- > **Generate** data on the interlinkage of gender and environment to reflect the impacts of climate change on women and girls and their roles in climate action.
- > **Promote** the uptake and use of gender (including gender-disaggregated data) and environmental data to enhance informed decision-making, evidence-based program development, monitoring, and advocacy efforts.
- > **Ensure** the collection and use of gender-disaggregated and intersectional data to identify and respond to the differentiated impacts of climate change on diverse groups of women and girls, including women with disabilities and Indigenous women.
- > **Encourage** the generation of qualitative and quantitative data, to capture individual experiences and perspectives, going beyond household-level data.
- > **Establish** an accessible repository of statistics on gender and environment and promote their use and dissemination to stakeholders at all levels.
- > **Increase** international and domestic financing to support the collection, analysis, dissemination, and use of gender and environmental statistics.



<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Drive just and inclusive transition to advance gender equality and support women's meaningful engagement in climate action, ensuring they equitably participate, lead, and benefit from climate-resilient economies.</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Ensure</b> the integration of gender considerations across plans, policies, and programs related to just transition and include clear commitments and action plans that highlight and address the gender dimensions in a just transition.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Support</b> the implementation of gender-just plans and policies by leveraging national and international partnerships to secure funding, resources, and other capacity needs.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Promote</b> direct participation of women and girls in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of just transition plans, policies, and programs.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Identify and address</b> the structural inequalities such as harmful social norms, gender stereotypes, unequal power relations, discriminatory laws, and practices that impede the full engagement of women in gender-responsive and inclusive just transition.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Invest</b> in the care economy by ensuring investments in care infrastructures, policies, and services to alleviate women's unpaid labor and enhance their engagement in climate action.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Support</b> access of women and girls to capacity-building programs, training, and educational opportunities to equip them with skills necessary to secure employment in a just transition.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Increase</b> funding opportunities for women and girls to ensure they have the necessary resources to actively engage in and capitalize on the benefits of just transition opportunities.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Foster</b> skills, knowledge, and competencies of women and girls by integrating targeted education and training on climate action and the green transition into school curriculums.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Adopt a rights-based and gender-responsive approach to adaptation planning and action to ensure co-benefits of achieving both gender equality and sustainable climate solutions.</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Ensure</b> social protection measures such as cash and asset transfers, credit facilities, and insurance are accessible and tailored to meet the needs of climate-vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls, to enhance their resilience to climate impacts.</li> <li>&gt; <b>To foster</b> inclusive adaptation solutions, grassroots women's organizations, civil societies, and local women's groups should be included in and as leaders of climate decision-making processes. This will ensure that diverse voices are integrated.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Create</b> platforms to mobilise and facilitate knowledge sharing, skills, and capacity transfer of local, Indigenous women in climate adaptation.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Foster</b> collaborations across diverse stakeholders and encourage public-private partnerships that can accelerate gender-responsive adaptation projects.</li> </ul>



4	<p><b>Urgently scale up gender-responsive climate finance that is accessible, inclusive, and accountable. Ensure gender is central to decision-making and implementation, directing funding to the most marginalized and at-risk people, including women and girls, especially those living with disabilities and from indigenous and minority groups.</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Increase awareness</b> and understanding of relevant stakeholders on gender-responsive climate finance and its efficient delivery.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Ensure</b> that gender considerations are integrated throughout the lifecycle of any climate-relevant project or programme, from development, implementation, and monitoring to evaluation.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Ensure</b> consistent integration of gendered considerations into all climate finance processes, including mobilization, management, and funding disbursement.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Necessitate</b> the inclusion of gender criteria in climate financial mechanisms to ensure funding decisions address the needs of women in climate action.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Provide</b> targeted support, and resources to local women's groups, feminist organizations, and women entrepreneurs to increase their accessibility to sustainable climate funds.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Explore</b> and introduce innovative financing mechanisms to support active and sustained engagement of women and girls in climate action.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Address the critical interlinkages of climate change, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-based violence in climate plans, policies, and programs.</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Establish and strengthen</b> evidence on the interlinkage of climate change, SRHR, and GBV through collection, assessments and dissemination of both gender-disaggregated qualitative and quantitative data and statistics to ensure that no one is left behind.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Expand</b> access to family planning tools and GBV protection services, especially in climate-vulnerable areas, ensuring that women and girls in all diversity have access through outreach and awareness programs.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Introduce</b> community awareness and behavioral change initiatives that shift harmful social norms and educate on the connections between climate change, SRHR, and GBV, involving men and boys as changemakers.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Advocate</b> for national climate plans, policies, and programs to integrate and address issues related to SRHR and GBV.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Advocate</b> for inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration to ensure climate plans, policies, and programs mainstream prevention and response to GBV and advance SRHRs.</li> <li>&gt; <b>Integrate</b> the interlinkage of climate change, SRHR, and GBV into the school curriculum to empower young girls against climate impacts.</li> </ul>

#### ENDNOTES

1 <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>.

2 <https://www.unescap.org/news/growingdisaster-risks-exceeding-asia-pacific-s-capacity-respond>.

3 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36165632/>.

4 <https://data.unwomen.org/features/why-climate-change-matters-women>.