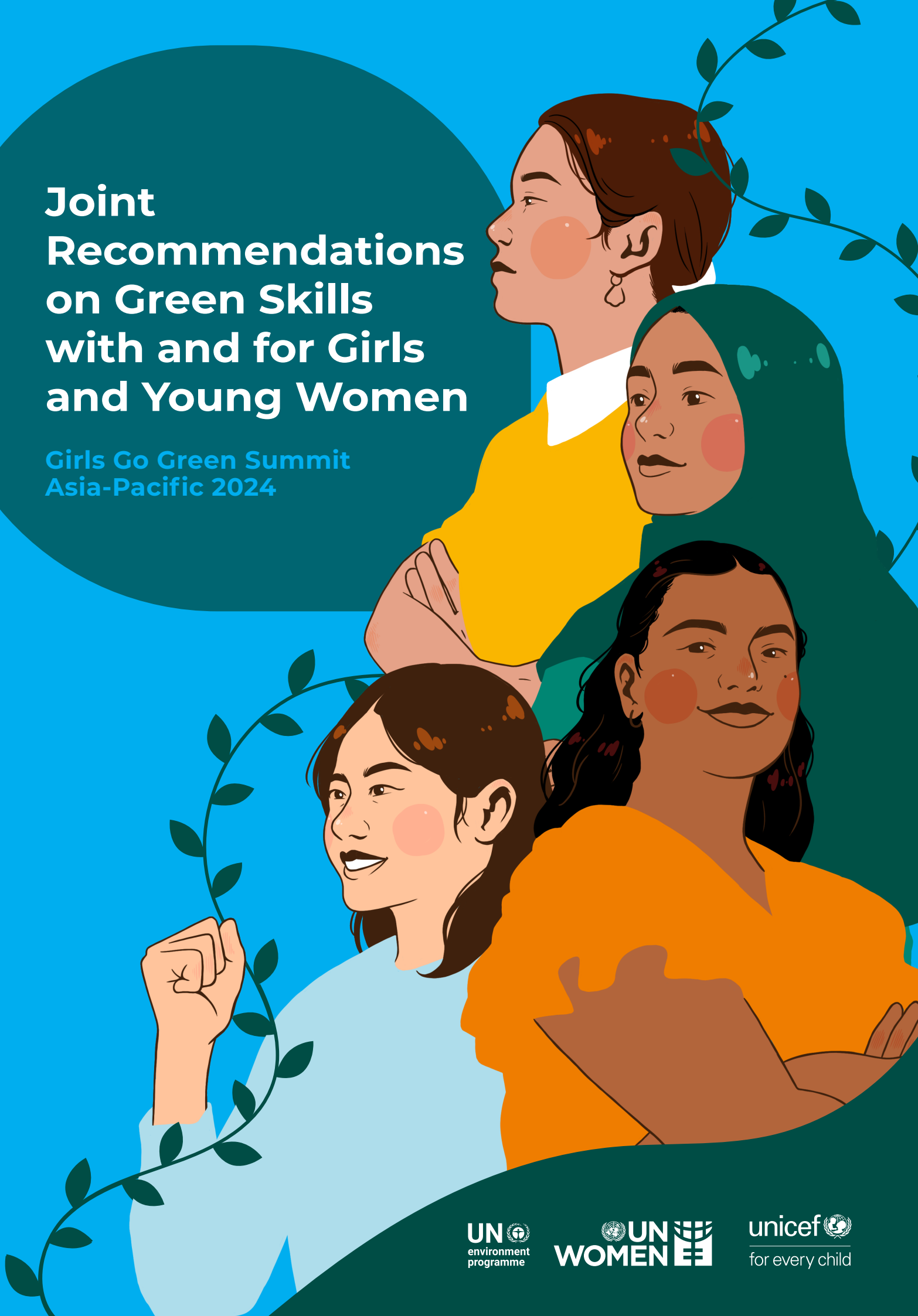


Joint Recommendations on Green Skills with and for Girls and Young Women

Girls Go Green Summit
Asia-Pacific 2024



The Girls Go Green Asia-Pacific Summit was an opportunity to understand and address the unique challenges faced by girls and young women in accessing green skills and green jobs in the region. The Summit convened in Bangkok from 23 – 25 October 2024, organized by UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, Regional Office for South Asia, UN Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The Summit brought together thirty-two adolescent girls and young women champions from twenty Asia-Pacific countries, emphasizing the needs and necessity of creating gender-transformative and inclusive pathways for their meaningful participation in the green economy.

As lead authors of the Joint Recommendations, the girl and young women champions outlined a roadmap to promote inclusive green skills opportunities and advocate for policies that support a girl- and women-centered green transition, gender-transformative green skills building programmes, and allyship with men and boys for gender equality. The primary objective of these recommendations is to identify clear actions to address the gender-related barriers faced by girls and promote gender equity, empowering them to become proactive agents of change in the global transition towards a sustainable and climate-resilient future.





Girls at the Forefront of Greening the 21st Century

Adolescent girls and young women are central to 21st-century green skills-building initiatives, offering unique perspectives, innovation, and leadership potential crucial for addressing climate challenges. Investing in their education and skills—such as sustainable resource management, green technology, and climate adaptation strategies—not only empowers them economically but also fosters inclusive and resilient communities. As primary caregivers and community mobilizers in many societies, they play a vital role in promoting sustainable practices and educating others. Prioritizing the most vulnerable among them in these efforts is essential to accelerating equitable climate action and building a diverse, sustainability-focused workforce.

To place girls and young women at the forefront of green skills-building initiatives, stakeholders—including governments, the private sector, local leaders, communities, young people, and civil society organizations—should support and invest in impactful actions. This could include implementing paid parental leave policies to support families and encourage women's workforce participation, providing micro-grants to foster entrepreneurship, and promoting girl- and young women-led businesses through private sector investment. The adoption of AI technologies can also play a role in educating girls and young women on topics such as life skills, green skills, and environmental awareness. Additionally, workplace policies that ensure equitable treatment can create an environment where women thrive professionally, further empowering them to contribute to the green economy.

Key recommendations	Responsible stakeholders	Timeline for action
Co-design green skills building curriculum with girls: Collaborate with girls and young women in the development of curriculum for skilling and training, in both formal and non-formal settings.	Government, Private Sector	Within two years
Enhance career opportunities through tailored green skills investments: Invest in green skills for green jobs for girls and young women by providing paid internships, and tailored career guidance.	Government, Private Sector, NGOs	Within two years


 Area
2

Girls Building Greener Futures: Green and Sustainable Jobs Including STEM

Empowering girls and young women to pursue green and sustainable jobs is essential for building greener futures and advancing climate resilience. By equipping girls and young women with skills in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and environmental engineering, they are enabled to lead in key areas of the green economy. Access to these job opportunities not only offers pathways to economic empowerment but also enhances gender equity in sectors critical to climate action. As agents of change, girls and young women can drive sustainable practices in their communities, contribute to reducing carbon footprints, and lead innovation in green technologies, laying the groundwork for a more sustainable and inclusive global economy.

To achieve this, it is essential to reshape educational and learning systems, formal and non-formal, shift parental perceptions, and reform governmental policies to create an environment where girls and young women, especially the most vulnerable, are encouraged to explore and excel in environmentally sustainable careers. To foster an environment that nurtures these ambitions, a strong emphasis is placed on developing gender-focused STEM programmes and initiating campaigns to engage men in supporting women's advancement in the green sector. This strategic focus is designed to empower girls and young women to not only participate in but lead and innovate within their communities, bringing about transformative changes that resonate both locally and globally. The commitment to these initiatives should reflect a broader goal of reshaping societal norms around gender roles in the green economy, ensuring that girls and young women have the support, recognition, and opportunities to lead in the fight against climate change.

Key recommendations	Responsible stakeholders	Timeline for action
Update curricula related to green skills and jobs regularly: Incorporate the latest data and trends in green and sustainable jobs into the curriculum in consultation with girls, young women and employers.	Government	Within two years
Bridge educational gaps in remote areas: Ensure that all girls and young women, especially in remote areas, have equitable access to opportunities and resources.	Government, Community members, including families	Over a two-year period
Challenge gender stereotypes in green jobs: Implement public awareness campaigns to challenge societal norms and gender stereotypes in the green jobs sector.	Government, Media, NGOs, Private Sector	Over a two-year period

Area 3

Girls in Green Ecopreneurship and Innovation

Green ecopreneurship* and innovation provide girls and young women, especially the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, with powerful pathways to address environmental challenges while achieving economic empowerment. Ecopreneurship not only promotes green economic growth but also allows girls and young women to develop innovative solutions that meet the specific needs of their communities, driving local climate resilience and sustainable development.

Supporting girls and young women in these areas through access to mentorship, financing, and capacity-building programs is crucial for advancing gender equity and creating a diverse generation of green innovators and entrepreneurs. Girls and young women should be at the center of green entrepreneurship and innovation initiatives organized by international organizations, government entities, and the private sector. Organizing career guidance sessions that involve entire families and teachers/educators can promote a holistic understanding of potential career pathways, while portraying positive role models in the media serves to inspire girls and young women and challenge existing stereotypes. Additionally, educating parents on gender socialization emphasizes the importance of raising girls and boys equally, helping to combat stereotypes from an early age. Government programmes aimed at enhancing the mental health and psychosocial well-being of young parents can also play a crucial role in breaking the cycle of generational stereotypes.

* In this document, green ecopreneurship refers to entrepreneurship focused on creating and promoting environmentally sustainable businesses. It involves developing products or services that minimize environmental impact and contribute to sustainable development.

Key recommendations	Responsible stakeholders	Timeline for action
Promote gender equality in the private sector: Promote equal pay for equal work, and encourage the recruitment of qualified women in areas where they are underrepresented.	Government, Private sector, International organizations	Six months to one year
Expand outreach to include marginalized girls in green skills building opportunities: Strengthen outreach to remote regions and include girls and young women from diverse backgrounds in skills-building opportunities.	Government, Private sector, International organizations	Six months to one year
Fostering Gender Equality through Family Engagement and Allyship Promote girls' empowerment by involving families in initiatives that challenge traditional gender norms and emphasize the importance of men and boys as active allies in advancing gender equality.	Government, Media, NGOs, Private Sector	Over a two-year period
Foster green innovation through targeted programmes: Develop and implement programmes that support girls and young women in developing and scaling green innovations.	NGOs, Private Sector, Educational Institutions, International Organizations	Over a two-year period

Area

4

Girl-Powered Climate Solutions

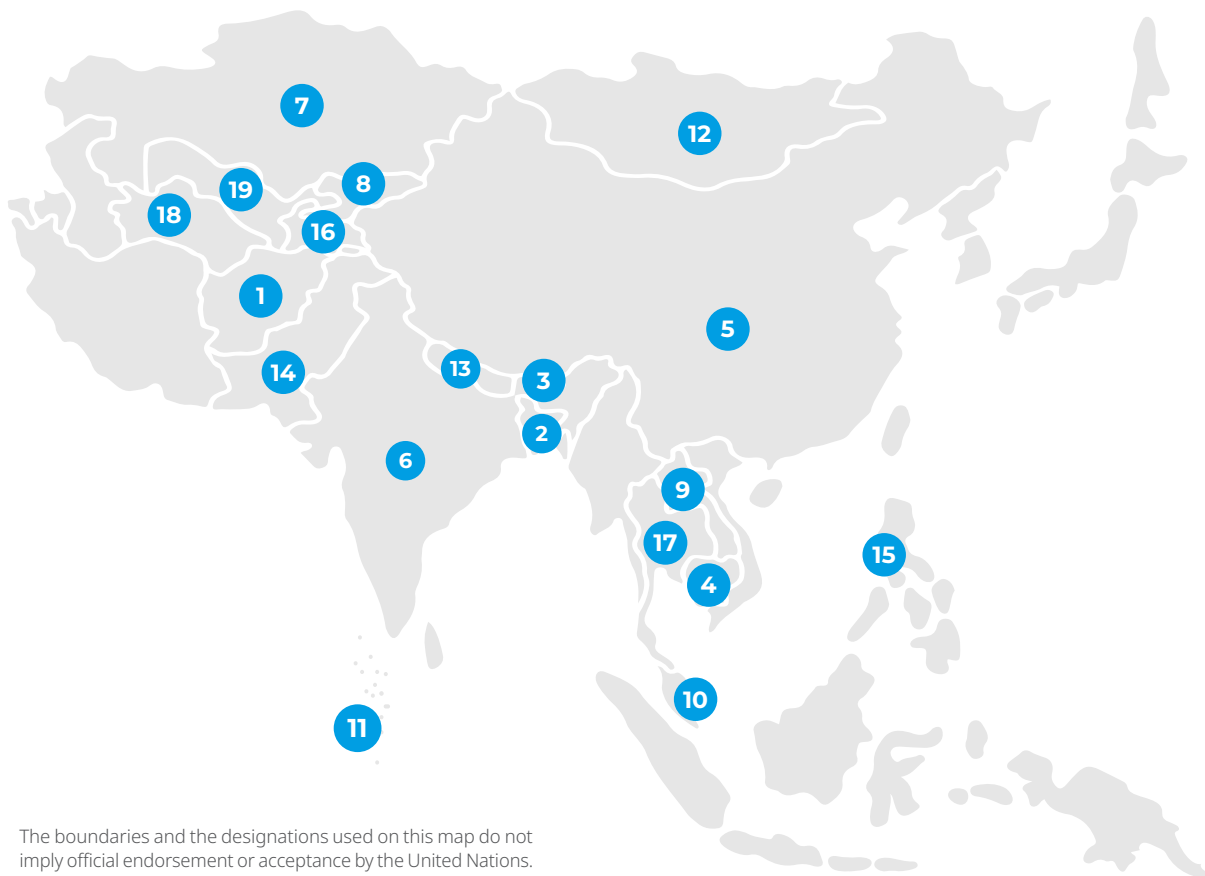
Girl-powered climate solutions harness the insights, resilience, and creativity of girls to drive impactful environmental change. By equipping girls and young women, especially the most vulnerable, with skills in areas like climate science, climate financing, green advocacy, and sustainable resource management, we enable them to create and scale solutions tailored to their communities' unique climate challenges. From leading reforestation projects to promoting clean energy and sustainable agriculture practices, girls and young women play a critical role in advancing climate resilience. Investing in these efforts not only empowers girls and young women as leaders but also ensures that climate action strategies are inclusive and community-centered, strengthening the collective response to global environmental challenges.

To ensure they are not only participants but empowered and informed decision makers, it is imperative to establish safe spaces, support networks and learning and skilling programmes centered on girl- and young women-focused climate action. These efforts aim to empower girls and young women, enabling them to innovate and apply sustainable solutions to environmental challenges. The strategic involvement of girls and young women in these roles positions them to significantly impact the development, or even co-design, of policies and practices essential for a resilient future. This commitment to empowering girls and young women underscores the necessity of their active and informed participation in the ongoing fight against climate change.

Key recommendations	Responsible stakeholders	Timeline for action
Establish and implement quotas for girls in climate forums: Ensure girls and young women have dedicated spaces to meaningfully contribute to climate decision-making forums, in both formal and informal settings.	Government, International organizations, Girls and women	Five years
Create safe networks of girls and young women for collaboration in climate action: Develop networks and support groups that are safe and participatory to foster collaboration among girls and young women.	Government, International organizations, Girls and women	Three years
Connect girls and young women with mentors in green sectors: Develop programmes connecting girls and young women with female professionals to offer guidance, inspiration, and mentorship support.	Government, International organizations, Girls and women	Three years

Annex

List of Countries of Girl and Young Women Participants Who Contributed to the Joint Recommendations



20

Alphabetical order:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Afghanistan | 11. Maldives |
| 2. Bangladesh | 12. Mongolia |
| 3. Bhutan | 13. Nepal |
| 4. Cambodia | 14. Pakistan |
| 5. China | 15. Philippines |
| 6. India | 16. Tajikistan |
| 7. Kazakhstan | 17. Thailand |
| 8. Kyrgyz Republic | 18. Turkmenistan |
| 9. Lao People's Democratic Republic | 19. Uzbekistan |
| 10. Malaysia | 20. Vanuatu |



This is a joint initiative of:

- UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
- UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office
- UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia
- UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- UN Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

