

Call to Action for Gender-Just Climate Finance

November 2021

This call to action provides concrete recommendations to policy makers and government officials from UNFCCC Annex I Parties, to enhance and ensure gender-just climate finance.

For climate finance to support climate action in a just and effective way it needs to be gender-just.

Gender-just climate finance means that

- 1 Women in all their diversity, especially those from marginalised groups (Indigenous, youth) who are disproportionately impacted by climate change while being at the forefront of climate action, have access to climate finance, and
- 2 They have decision-making power in the allocation of climate finance.
- 3 Climate finance supported projects do not lead to women's human rights violations or environmental destruction, and actively challenge and address gender inequalities.

There are many successful and inspiring [gender-just climate solutions](#), but they are grossly underfunded, and climate finance decision-making continues to be exclusive. Relevant and recent data are hard to come by, but the available data below clearly indicate climate finance is currently far from being gender-just.



Climate finance reaching the local level	Climate finance focusing on gender equality and reaching women's groups	Inclusion in climate finance decision-making
The most recent estimate, from 2017 , concluded that less than 10% of climate finance between 2003 and 2016 was flowing to the local level.	31% of bilateral ODA earmarked for climate in 2014 also supported the achievement of gender equality. Of this, only 3% had gender equality as a principal objective, and 28% integrated gender equality as a secondary objective.	Only 33% of decision-making positions at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement are occupied by women.
Within the Green Climate Fund (GCF), 81% of financing is currently distributed via international institutions, and only 19% via national institutions. 45% of GCF funding is consolidated into four international actors (UNDP, EBRD, ADB, and the World Bank) that tend to focus on large-scale projects, and are considered by civil society to have a poor track record in reaching the local level.	Of these percentages (28% and 3%) it is unclear how much of the project support was directly allocated to women's rights organisations. Other data by OECD shows only 1% of "gender equality" funding is flowing to women's organizations.	A recent review by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) presents vast challenges in the engagement of non-state, notably civil society, actors in national GCF decision-making processes. Meaningful stakeholder engagement is the responsibility of the National Designated Authorities (NDAs). Only 4.3% of the respondents indicated that NDAs have enough resources and capacity to meet GCF stakeholder requirements.

Recommendations for governments from UNFCCC Annex I Parties

- **Publicly commit to your fair share of climate finance.** This starts with the delivery of the UNFCCC Copenhagen and Paris agreement to provide ‘\$100bn of climate finance per year by 2020’, using grant-based finance with at least 50% allocated to adaptation. Contribute to an ambitious post-2025 goal-setting process that significantly increases the amount of grant-based climate finance provided per year, based on the needs of developing countries.
- **Join the Generation Equality Forum Commitment Campaign** (see box 1) with actors such as Global Greengrants Fund (GGF) and the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), by making a new, multi-year financial commitment to support feminist action for climate justice, prioritizing the full diversity of women and girl-led local movements in the Global South. This funding will support grassroots, Indigenous, and women and youth-driven groups and movements. This campaign is an entry point and opportunity to advocate for gender-just climate financing within your governments, and multilateral climate funds.
- **Stop all public funds, subsidies and insurances to oil, gas and coal (related) projects.** These projects not only fuel the climate crisis, but also have disproportional, negative impacts on women around the world, and exacerbate pre-existing inequalities that exclude and ignore women’s climate leadership. Join the [COP Presidency initiative](#) to form a leading group of countries and financial institutions that phase out international investments in fossil fuels.
- **Set specific and mandatory performance targets** in climate finance programmes and funds you implement or influence. Move beyond gender policies and ambitions on paper and ensure a significant part of the funding is flowing to diverse women’s rights groups and organisations. Subsequently monitor, evaluate and transparently report on whether these targets are met.
- **Conduct gender analyses and gather sex-disaggregated data.** Ensure funds and programmes monitor and evaluate how climate funding has actually improved the lives and socio-economic position of women in the countries which benefited from climate finance. This type of analysis is rarely conducted, and yet it is crucial both in terms of accountability and for learning purposes. This qualitative research should assess any negative impacts, and show whether and how gender inequalities have been successfully addressed, as perceived by the women themselves.
- **Support meaningful engagement and movement building.** Provide financial and programme support to the crucial work of women’s rights groups and civil society at large to (build their capacities and) engage in national dialogue and monitoring processes to advocate towards their own governments to ensure gender-just climate finance (see box 2).

The Generation Equality Forum Commitment Campaign

GAGGA and Global Greengrants Fund (GGF) have launched a campaign to mobilize more and equitable funding (USD100M over 5 years) to feminist action for climate justice, prioritizing the full diversity of women and girl-led, grassroots organizations in the Global South leading environmental and climate action. As part of the [UN Women’s Generation Equality Forum’s Action Coalition for Feminist Action for Climate Justice](#), our campaign is in direct alignment with one of the action coalition’s stated goals- to increase global climate finance flows, public and private, directed towards and invested in gender-just climate solutions in particular at grassroots and rural levels over the next five years.



Actions under the Financial Mechanism, notably the Green Climate Fund

To ensure countries promote gender-just climate finance in their Guidance to the Operating Entities of the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism, especially the Green Climate Fund, they should include the following:

- **Increase capacity and resources to implement gender policies.** Many public climate funds – including the Green Climate Fund show ambitions in relation to gender and inclusive decision-making. Moving from paper to effective implementation is key. The GCF currently has only one Gender Specialist with one assistant and a small budget. The Independent Technical Advisory Panel also lacks capacity to assess funding proposals from a gender perspective. At country levels, gender expertise is often absent. The Gender team of the GCF must grow and receive sufficient budget, and receiving countries need capacity-building support in engaging with women's organisations and gender experts.
- **Ensure inclusive, transparent and evidence-based monitoring of Gender Action Plans** of supported projects, and set specific gender related performance targets for the GCF.
- **Promote the accreditation of national and regional grants funds** to enhance access to climate finance for grassroots organisations engaged in gender-just climate action. There exist specialised women's rights and environmental justice funds which are in direct contact with, and successfully provide flexible small scale funding support to grassroots organisations. The funds can act as perfect intermediaries between large international funds and the grassroots level.
- **Provide real 'fit-for-purpose' accreditation and differentiate accreditation categories**, by providing flexibility and direct support to smaller entities in the accreditation process. Smaller entities like subnational and non-state actors, including women's rights organizations, have less capacity than large international institutions to engage in the complex and time-consuming accreditation process of the GCF.
- **Prioritize accreditation of national Direct Access Entities (DAEs)** to tackle the enormous funding gap between these and International Access Entities. The 'jump the queue' principle should apply for national DAEs such as grants funds. The accreditation pipeline of the GCF is over 200 applicants, of which only 15-20 new entities are approved each year.
- **Ensure the GCF's accreditation process promotes alignment with Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement** ('Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development'). Expect and demand accredited entities reduce emissions and invest in low-emission, climate-resilient development pathways across their portfolios.
- **Provide mandatory guidelines and direct support for National Designated Authorities (NDAs) of the GCF to facilitate institutionalised stakeholder engagement**, with specific attention to the inclusion of women and girls. Civil society at large currently experience huge challenges in engaging with their NDA. Over 71% respondents in the recent GCF review on country ownership indicated that NDAs do not have a stakeholder engagement policy and recommended GCF to provide one.
- **Ensure funding supports meaningful stakeholder engagement.** Financially support the time and expenses of Southern GCF Active Civil Society Observers, as is common practice for other international funds. Directly support women's rights and environmental justice groups and NGOs to build their capacity and engage in national dialogue and monitoring processes towards their own governments in order to ensure gender-just climate finance (see box 2).
- **Ensure grievance and accountability systems offers low threshold access to affected local stakeholders at all levels** to ensure redress is available to women and girls in particular.



Ensuring gender-just climate finance at national levels

GAGGA is supporting various women-led community-based organizations and NGOs working on gender, environmental and climate justice, to influence their national governments to ensure inclusive and gender-just climate financing. For example, in Nepal, environmental justice NGO Prakriti Resources Centre and women's fund Tewa have joined forces to build the capacity of local women's groups to successfully advocate towards their municipalities to provide local budget support to their gender-just climate actions. In Indonesia, Aksi for gender, social and ecological justice, has established contact with their GCF National Designated Authority and provided a concrete proposal to a formal CSO engagement policy, which is currently not in place. In Mongolia, women's fund MONES, has been mapping all climate projects in their country and will assess their gender action plans and advise the NDA and Implementing Agencies based on this assessment. In Tanzania, women's group WATED has initiated the set up of a national Gender and Climate Coalition in which government officials, women's groups and NGOs discuss climate finance and ways to ensure this is spent in a gender-just way. Meanwhile, Climate Watch Thailand in Asia and Women Environment Programme and C21st Century in Africa, have acted as so-called 'regional gender monitors' to provide a bridge between regional women's needs and perspectives and the international GCF policy level. Similarly, the Global South-led [GCF-Watch](#) – including AIDA in Latin-America and APMD in Asia - operates as an online platform to connect Global South CSO engagement and monitoring of the GCF.

All these examples show the enormous commitment and efforts of women's rights groups and civil society at large in the Global South to make sure climate finance is accessible, inclusive and gender-just. Their engagement and role in proposing and monitoring effective climate action is in the direct interest of receiving country governments, donors and climate funds. Still, recognition and sufficient resources and capacity to support their contributions are generally lacking.

@November 2021, Global Alliance For Green and Gender Action (GAGGA)

Launched in 2016, the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) rallies the collective power of women's rights, environmental and climate justice movements around the world. GAGGA's vision is a world where women's rights to water, food security, and a clean, healthy and safe environment are recognised and respected.

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