



GWL Voices' Statement for #FfD4

Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development



Seville, 2025

Investing in women and girls is crucial for sustainable development and building peaceful and prosperous societies. Guaranteeing the rights and wellbeing of women and girls is also a global commitment enshrined in international frameworks like the Beijing Declaration, CEDAW, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Yet, adequate and sufficient funding remains elusive. There is no shortage of resources, it is a political choice.

Current global financial systems perpetuate inequalities through austerity, debt burdens, and gender-blind policies, leaving little for essential sectors like health and education.

In conflict-affected areas, underinvestment in women and girls fuels instability, demanding conflict-sensitive, gender-responsive financing.

Women's leadership in economic governance is both a moral and a smart investment, yielding stronger economies, better development outcomes, and climate resilience.

The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville, is a pivotal moment to boost investment, strengthen development cooperation and reform global finance to prioritize those left behind.


With five years left to meet the SDGs, we must act now to fund development in a way that responds to today's most pressing needs. We need a rights-based, people-centered economy with women and girls at its core, backed by bold governance reforms, greater investment, and accountability.


Failing to act now means failing the SDGs, agreed-upon climate goals, and the future of generations to come.



Today's Financing for Development Landscape





Amid growing geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty and financial instability, today's financing landscape is transforming in critical ways. Key challenges include:

 A sharp decline, especially since 2024, in Official Development Assistance (ODA) particularly for countries most in need.

 Escalating debt crises and shrinking fiscal space for funding essential services including healthcare and education, gender equality and climate action.



Today's Financing for Development Landscape

-  Rising inequality, both within and between countries, which limits domestic investment and further undermines sustainable development.
-  Chronic underfunding of grassroots women's organizations and movements, which have been proven to be key drivers of progress, but often lack access to resources.
-  The intensifying impacts of climate change, which disproportionately affect women and girls and deepen existing inequalities.
-  Lack of inclusive decision-making, with women, vulnerable and marginalized communities often left out of finance and policy decisions and spaces.

Against this backdrop, GWL Voices calls for:

1. A bold transformation of global economic and financial architecture that places women and girls and environmental sustainability at the center:

-  **Alleviate Debt Burdens.** Expand fiscal space for countries by reducing the cost of capital, implementing debt relief, addressing tax avoidance and curbing illicit financial flows. These reforms enable gender-responsive investment in essential social services such as healthcare, education, water and sanitation.
-  **Value and Fund the Care Economy.** Globally, women spend 2.5 times more than men on unpaid domestic and care work. Care should be acknowledged as an essential building block for sustainable development, it should be professionalized, de-feminized and remunerated.
-  **Include a Gender Lens in Tax and Fiscal Policy.** Commit to gender-responsive budgeting and tax systems that reduce gender inequalities and that avoid overburdening low-income women.
-  **Guarantee Women's Full and Equitable Access to Financial Services.** Enhance women's financial and digital literacy. Financing for digital public infrastructure should integrate safeguards to close the digital gender gap and ensure accessibility for all. Special attention must be given to financing programs that empower adolescent girls, including through education, health, and digital access initiatives. Digitalisation must not leave anyone behind.
-  **Support Women in the Labour Market.** Expand support for women led enterprises - formal and informal, close the gender pay gap, and ensure decent work.





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2. Integrating the climate-gender nexus into a gendered Financing for Development:


Women and girls, particularly in climate-vulnerable communities, face disproportionate risks from climate shocks. As a result, the climate crisis can exacerbate existing gender inequalities. Financing for development must reflect this reality and ensure meaningful integration of a gender perspective in climate finance.


 **Align Development and Climate Finance Goals.** The first draft of the Outcome Document omits references to the \$300 billion and \$1.3 trillion climate finance goals set at COP29. These omissions may threaten climate action and risk sidelining the inextricable goal of gender equality.

 **Scale Up Concessional Climate Finance.** Prioritize grants and low-cost loans for low-income, climate-vulnerable countries, particularly those in or at risk of debt distress.

 **Ensure Climate Finance is New and Additional.** Climate funding must not displace other development commitments, especially those for health, education, and gender equality.

 **Commit to Gender-Responsive Climate Finance.** According to the latest figures, only 3% of climate finance explicitly targets gender equality. This must change through dedicated funds, benchmarks, and accountability mechanisms across both climate adaptation and mitigation.

 **Make Climate Finance Accessible to Women and Girls.** Improve direct access to climate finance by women, especially women in poverty in urban and rural areas. Require gender audits of climate financial flows.

 **Ensure a Gender-Responsive Just Transition:** The transition to green economies has the potential to create millions of new jobs and boost development. However, current gender inequalities mean an inequitable distribution of quality, decent, low-carbon jobs between men and women. Women's participation in the energy transition can be ensured by investing in education, capacity-building and training programs, setting targets for women's participation in green sectors (e.g., 50% quota for women in renewable energy and climate-smart agriculture), and reducing gender pay gaps to level the playing field for women.





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3. A more equitable, inclusive and effective global economic governance system:

In the Pact for the Future, approved by consensus at the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024, countries committed to more equitable, inclusive and effective global governance. International financial institutions must be part of this transformation.



Reform the Global Financial Architecture.

Support bold reforms of current institutions, establish new mechanisms where needed, and dismantle outdated structures. All institutions must embed gender equality and women's rights in mandates, operations, and financing.



Expand Women's Participation and Leadership.

Apply affirmative measures to ensure women's full and equal participation at all levels of financial and economic governance.



Ensure Implementation and Accountability:

- Develop and improve gender-disaggregated data across all finance flows.
- Set financial targets for gender-responsive financing in climate and development budgets.
- Mandate binding gender-responsive budgeting in national policies.
- Track outcomes through frameworks like a Gender and Climate Accountability Mechanism.

Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity

FfD4 must deliver more than words - it must deliver resources, reforms, and results for gender equality. This is a once-in-a-generation chance to redesign financial systems that truly serve people and planet, and where women and girls can achieve their full potential.

