

GWL Voices' Statement for the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2025

62nd sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies



2024 was the first year in which the temperature of our planet exceeded 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, the limit set by the landmark Paris Agreement in 2015. As we experienced the warmest year on record, droughts, wildfires, hurricanes and other related disasters intensified across the planet. **Six out of nine planetary boundaries, the thresholds for a habitable life on earth, have now been breached.**

It has been long standing knowledge that women and girls are disproportionately affected by environmental and climate shocks. Due to systemic gender-based inequalities which limit their access to income, secure land tenure, education, technology and healthcare, **women and girls are more likely to be impacted to a changing climate and more likely to be affected by its impacts.**

In contexts of highest gender inequality, **women and girls are up to 14 times more likely to die in disasters and during their aftermath.** Gender norms that place the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women and girls - intensified in periods of climate stress when natural resources, such as water, become scarce - also play a role.

Importantly, women and girls are not only uniquely affected by climate change, but **the impacts of climate change can also deepen and exacerbate inequalities.** This undermines women and girls' rights and their resilience to a changing climate.

At the same time, while **women are important agents of change, they remain critically underrepresented in climate decision-making at all levels,** from local to multilateral.

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Progress so far:

The Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan

There has been steady progress in acknowledging and responding to the fact that the climate crisis is not gender neutral. The Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG), adopted in 2014, laid the basis for advancing gender balance in decision-making, empowering women in climate policy implementation, and integrating gender considerations into the work of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In 2017, the first Gender Action Plan (GAP) was adopted. This was followed by the adoption of an Enhanced LWPG and its corresponding GAP in 2019.

As the five-year mandate of the Enhanced LWPG draws to a close, countries decided at COP29 to extend the programme for another ten years. A new Gender Action Plan, a critical framework for progress on women and climate, will also be developed with the aim of reaching adoption at COP30 in November 2025. **The negotiations for the new Gender Action Plan will be one of the key discussions at SB62.**

Challenges remain:

Gender equality faces increasing challenges in climate negotiations as well as on the ground.

These challenges include:



- **Global pushback against women's rights:** Misogyny, violence against women environmental and human rights defenders, and the rollback of gender-sensitive policies threaten hard-won gains.

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- Slow Compliance with Paris-mandated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Processes:** A third round of NDCs, which represent countries' national climate action plans under the Paris Agreement, were due for February 2025. However, only 13 of the 195 parties to the Paris Agreement met the deadline to communicate their new 2035 climate plans. Leaving these crucial commitments unfulfilled is a worrying development that can threaten direly-needed climate action and ambition, directly affecting the lives of those most vulnerable, such as women and girls.



- Economic Inequality and Unpaid Labor:** Women remain disproportionately overrepresented in informal, low-paid work and carry the burden of unpaid care work, which limits their economic opportunities and decreases their resilience to climate change.



- Increased Risk of Gender-based Violence:** A changing climate results in intensifying and more frequent climate-related disasters. During and after such disasters, women and girls face an increased risk of gender-based violence and other forms of exploitation such as human trafficking. Globally, almost one in three women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their life.



- Underrepresentation of Women in Climate Decision-making:** Women remain underrepresented in climate and environment-related decision making, especially at higher levels. Women represented only 28% of the world's environment ministers in 2024, and only 8 of the 78 heads of state and government present at COP 29 were women.

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Against this backdrop, GWL Voices calls for:

1 An action-oriented, rights-based Gender Action Plan draft that builds upon previously agreed-upon commitments. The current GAP identifies the following five priority areas:

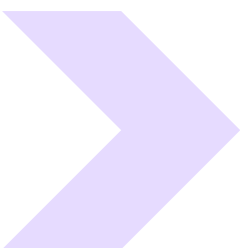
Capacity-building, knowledge management and communication

Gender balance, participation and women's leadership

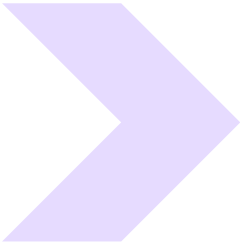
Coherence

Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation


Monitoring and reporting



The draft of the new Gender Action Plan must build upon the five previously agreed-upon priority areas of the current GAP, adding ambition by revising and adding to the list of activities and outputs for a robust outcome that responds to current challenges.



The draft of the new GAP must strongly recommit to human rights and gender equality, and redouble efforts to safeguard the language that has already been agreed upon.



The draft of the new GAP must include clear progress indicators to track implementation, allowing for transparency and accountability on the efforts made towards gender-responsive climate action.

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2 Action-oriented gender-mainstreaming in other key climate areas, including:

- **Integration of Women Into Countries' 3rd Round of NDCs:** Among the NDCs that are yet to be delivered to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC for the period of 2025-2035, countries must acknowledge and address the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls. Gender-responsive commitments must be meaningfully integrated in the revised NDCs, backed by clear implementation and monitoring plans.
- **A gender-responsive Baku to Belem Roadmap to 1.3T:** Climate financing must be drastically scaled up. To bridge the gap between the \$300 billion agreed upon at COP29, and the \$1.3 trillion needed by developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as Parties negotiate the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T. This roadmap must ensure that all climate finance flows take women into account. A failure to do so, would deepen existing inequalities, further marginalizing those already most affected by climate-related impacts.
- **Improved Access to Climate Finance and Tracking of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG):** Ensure that finance under the NCQG reaches those who need it most, and meaningfully addresses their needs. Direct access for women, especially for adaptation and loss and damage, must be ensured. Currently, it is estimated that only 3% of climate-related development finance identified gender equality as its principal objective, although flawed accounting systems hamper a clear and comprehensive picture. Therefore, climate finance under the NCQG must be accompanied by standardized and transparent tracking systems and robust accountability mechanisms.

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- **Equitable Phase Out of Fossil Fuels:** Accelerate an equitable phase-out of fossil fuels to achieve net zero by 2050 or sooner. The transition to renewable energies must leave no one behind, especially traditionally marginalized groups, including women and girls. Equal access to education, training and decent employment opportunities must be ensured for women's full participation in the green transition.
- **An Inclusive Just Transition Work Programme:** Renew efforts towards building consensus at SB62 on the Just Transition Work Programme. The transition to green economies has the potential to create millions of new jobs and ensure sustainable development. However, current gender inequalities may translate into the inequitable distribution of quality, decent, low-carbon jobs between men and women. Women's participation in the energy transition could be ensured by investing in education, capacity-building and training programs, establishing quotas, and reducing gender pay gaps to level the playing field for women. Despite failing to reach agreement on the Just Transition Programme at COP29, it remains a crucial opportunity for paving the way for an inclusive, rights-based and just transition.
- **Gender-responsive Global Goal on Adaptation:** The Global Goal on Adaptation was introduced under the Paris Agreement to strengthen action and finance for climate adaptation. A general framework was agreed upon at COP29 (2023) to operationalize the GGA. However, indicators are currently being developed for tracking progress on the targets of this framework, through the UAE – Belém work programme. These indicators must allow greater ambition for gender-responsive adaptation action, including through gender-sensitive assessments of climate hazards, climate change impacts and exposure to risks and vulnerabilities to visualize the differentiated adaptation needs of women and girls, and the meaningful inclusion of gender considerations into countries' National Adaptation Plans.

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- **Women's Increased Leadership and Participation in Decision-Making:** Encourage parties to ensure women's full and equal participation in all levels of climate governance and decision-making, from local to national governments. Secure gender parity and support women's leadership at COP and other UNFCCC processes, including SB62, to ensure the incorporation of women's historically underrepresented perspectives, priorities and voices.
- **Strengthen Gender-disaggregated Data:** Address the gap on gender-disaggregated data for evidence-based climate decision-making. This is crucial for continuing to expand knowledge on the gendered impacts of climate change. Closing the gender-data gap also allows for improved transparency through effective monitoring of climate interventions and climate finance. This provides much-needed clarity on whether finance flows are reaching those who need it most.
- **Inclusion of the voices and perspectives of indigenous and local communities, science and civil society actors:** The voices of all stakeholders must play a central role in climate governance. In line with the "global Mutirão", called for by the COP 30 Presidency, this ensures fair, innovative, and inclusive processes and outcomes.

As the SB62 Climate Conference in June 2025 paves the way for COP30 in November, GWL Voices calls for gender-responsive climate decision-making and policy.

Any steps toward a climate-proof future must go hand in hand with action for gender equality. Failing to address the gendered nature of the climate crisis means falling short of a truly just and sustainable future for all.