

Beijing+30 Action 6: Climate Justice



Prioritize women and girls' rights, including from rural and indigenous communities, in the transition to environmental and biodiversity sustainability, by centering them in climate action, ensuring they can develop new skills to gain green jobs and guaranteeing their access to productive assets and land rights.

I. Introduction

The Paris Agreement target to limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels is increasingly in jeopardy.¹ The need to transition economies and societies to environmental sustainability and protect biodiversity is thus urgent. Since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 30 years ago, environmental and climate crises have multiplied and intensified, disproportionately affecting women and girls. Climate change, environmental degradation and related disasters are magnifying existing gender inequalities and posing unique and urgent threats to their rights, livelihoods, health and well-being. Climate change, biodiversity loss, climate-related conflicts and disasters are putting jobs and decent work at risk, particularly for women given their overrepresentation in informal, low-wage, precarious work, including in sectors highly prone to climate change impacts, such as agriculture.² These threats to women's lives and livelihoods are compounded by their persistently unequal access to land and natural resources, finance, technology, knowledge, mobility and other assets, which constrains their ability to respond and build resilience to climate and environmental crises and disasters.

Women and girls, particularly from Indigenous communities, are leading environmental and climate action, often risking their lives and livelihoods as environmental human rights defenders, with little protection, support, resources and funding. While women and girls' participation and leadership make for stronger and more effective environmental and climate policymaking and governance, they continue to be underrepresented at all levels.

Those least responsible for climate change and environmental degradation are often the most adversely affected,³ hence the vision for feminist climate justice is for everyone to enjoy the full range of human rights, free from discrimination, and flourish on a planet that is healthy and sustainable.⁴ Just transitions to sustainable, low-carbon economies and achieving gender equality are interconnected and mutually reinforcing.⁵ A gender-responsive just transition is an essential pathway to achieve gender equality in the world of work towards creating low-carbon, sustainable economies for present and future generations.⁶ Increasing investments in the green/blue economy, prioritizing green jobs for women, including in renewable energy, climate-resilient food systems and the care economy, among others, can accelerate progress towards both sustainability and gender equality.

1. L. Turquet, C. Tabbush, S. Staab, L. Williams and B. Howell, "Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action", Conceptual framework prepared for Progress of the World's Women series (New York, UN Women, 2023), <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Feminist-climate-justice-A-framework-for-action-en.pdf>.
2. International Labour Organization, "Gender equality, labour and a just transition for all", Just Transition Policy Brief (Geneva, ILO, 2022), https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/documents/publication/wcms_860569.pdf.
3. IPCC, "Summary for Policymakers", in Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty, V. Masson-Delmotte et al., eds. (Cambridge and New York, Cambridge University Press, 2018), pp. 3–24, <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>.
4. Turquet, "Feminist Climate Justice".

II. Actions

This Action advances the Beijing vision by aligning gender equality, climate justice and women's rights, resilience, leadership and livelihoods to protect people and the planet for present and future generations. It seeks to secure the co-benefits of gender equality and climate and environmental action for achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and beyond.

- **Centre** women and girls—particularly those from rural and Indigenous communities—in all climate and environmental action, ensuring the full realization of their rights and leadership.
- **Ensure** women's access to decent work in the green, blue and care economies, including through targeted investments in skills development, enterprise support and employment pathways.
- **Guarantee** equitable access to productive assets, land rights and natural resources for women and girls, and strengthen their role in sustainable environmental governance.
- **Expand** access to climate-resilient technologies and knowledge systems, including for women smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, and frontline communities.
- **Increase** gender-responsive climate finance to meet the needs and priorities of women, girls and their communities, including through direct funding for women-led and grassroots organizations.
- **Promote** and amplify the voices of grassroots and Indigenous communities, including women environmental human rights defenders, in climate policy and implementation processes.
- **Leverage** long-standing partnerships and alliances with women's rights and environmental justice movements to drive delivery and accountability.
- **Centre** adolescent girls and youth at the heart of all efforts, including through climate education and youth-led climate action.



Photo: UN Women/Johis Alarcón

III. Normative Roots

Climate justice is rooted in a robust normative framework and addresses the systemic roots of inequalities while promoting more sustainable economies for people and planet. This includes the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action Critical area of concern K. Women and the environment**, and the **SDGs**, particularly Goals 1 on ending poverty, 2 on ending hunger, 5 on gender equality, 7 on sustainable energy, 8 on decent work, 12 on responsible consumption and production, and 13, 14 and 15 on climate and the environment.

The three **Rio Conventions—the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**—which were adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, or Earth Summit, in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, aim to address global environmental challenges and provide solutions.⁷ The UNFCCC **Paris Agreement** and the UNFCCC Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan notes that gender-responsive climate policy and action can enable

5. UN Women, "A gender-responsive just transition for people and planet", Policy Brief (UN Women Headquarters Office, 2023), <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/11/policy-brief-a-gender-responsive-just-transition-for-people-and-planet>.

6. International Labour Organization, "Gender equality, labour and a just transition for all".

7. UN Women, Advancing gender-responsive synergies across the Rio Conventions (New York, UN Women, 2024), <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/11/advancing-gender-responsive-synergies-across-the-rio-conventions>.

Parties to raise their ambition towards a just transition, as well as enhance gender equality.⁸ The Agreed Conclusions of the **Commission on the Status of Women** (E/CN.6/2021/L.3, E/CN.6/2022/L.7 and E/CN.6/2024/L.3) called for gender-responsive strategies, policies and programmes to address environmental and climate challenges and to build the resilience of women and girls and their communities, including through the provision of sustainable energy and water, land and resource security, and gender-responsive just transitions.⁹ And the landmark 2021 Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/48/L.23/Rev.1 recognizes the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, including respect for gender equality and the rights of environmental human rights defenders.¹⁰ Subsequently, the 2022 United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/76/300 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment affirms the importance of gender equality, gender-responsive climate and environmental action, women's and girls' full, equal and meaningful participation, leadership and decision-making, and women as managers, agents of change and defenders of natural resources and the environment.¹¹

IV. Impact at scale and proof of concept

Feminist climate justice and the transition to green and blue economies will be major pathways to sustainability worldwide over the next decades. This Action is grounded in UN Women's trajectory of work on gender and climate and environment action at global, regional and country levels. For example, EmPower: Women for Climate Resilient Societies in the Asia-Pacific region (**Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam**), implemented by UN Women and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), mobilizes investment for gender-responsive renewable energy entrepreneurship and climate-resilient livelihoods for women and marginalized groups while promoting their

leadership in gender-responsive climate action.¹² Gender and the Green Transition in West and Central Africa, implemented by UN Women's Regional Office for West and Central Africa, in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Development Bank, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and women's organizations and networks across the region, works to promote policies to improve women's access to green jobs, green entrepreneurship opportunities and green finance under the regional policy programme.¹³



Photo: UN Women/Faria Salman

8. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (Geneva, United Nations, 2025), <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/workstreams/the-enhanced-lima-work-programme-on-gender#:~:text=In%202014%20the%20COP%20established%20the%20first%20Lima,to%20achieve%20gender%20responsive%20climate%20policy%20and%20action.>
9. Commission on the Status of Women, Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, E/CN.6/2021/L.3 (New York, CSW, 2021), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n21/079/07/pdf/n2107907.pdf>; Commission on the Status of Women, Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, E/CN.6/2022/L.7 (New York, CSW, 2022), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltid/n22/303/59/pdf/n2230359.pdf>; Commission on the Status of Women, Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective, E/CN.6/2024/L.3 (New York, CSW, 2024), <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltid/n24/081/40/pdf/n2408140.pdf>.
10. United Nations Human Rights Council, The human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, A/HRC/48/L.23/Rev.1 (Geneva, UNHRC, 2021), <https://undocs.org/a/hrc/48/l.23/rev.1>.
11. United Nations General Assembly, The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment: resolution adopted by the General Assembly (New York, United Nations, 2022), <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3983329?ln=en&v=pdf>.
12. See <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/focus-areas/humanitarian-action-and-disaster-risk-reduction/gender-and-climate-change>.
13. See <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/women-in-the-green-economy>.

V. Existing platforms and alliances to connect to and leverage

There are several global platforms and alliances this Action can leverage. They include: the Generation Equality Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition,¹⁴ the Generation Equality Economic Justice and Rights Action Coalition,¹⁵ trade unions such as the International Trade Union Confederation,¹⁶ UN-Energy,¹⁷ the Gender and Energy Compact,¹⁸ and Women's Resilience to Disasters Knowledge Hub,¹⁹ among others.

VI. Impact: What can we achieve by 2030?

- Governments adopt normative/legislative reforms to accelerate women's participation in climate justice worldwide, including by securing women's equal rights to land, resources and tenure security.
- Twelve million jobs are created for women in green and blue economies, supporting women's skills and capacity to engage in and lead just transitions.
- At least 20 per cent of climate finance is directed to grass-roots, feminist women's organizations.
- Gender and environment indicators are included in the post-2030 sustainable development framework (e.g. gender and energy indicators).



Photo: UN Women/Janarbek Amankulov

THE BEIJING+30 ACTION AGENDA

This Action is part of the [Beijing+30 Action Agenda](#): a voluntary, action-oriented platform to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda. Grounded in stronger financing for gender equality and better gender data, and centering adolescent girls and young women, the Action Agenda invites Member States to identify one or two national priority actions and announce these at the High-Level Meeting on Beijing+30 on 22 September 2025.

14. See https://forum.generationequality.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/FACJ_AC.pdf.

15. See <https://forum.generationequality.org/action-coalitions>.

16. See <https://www.ituc-csi.org/who-we-are>.

17. See <https://www.undp.org/energy/change-network/un-energy>.

18. See <https://www.un.org/en/energy-compact/page/energy-compact-gender-equality-and-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-sustainable-energy#>.

19. See <https://wrd.unwomen.org/>.