

Declaration on Climate Change and Gender Equality

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL)

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The following recommendations in the area of climate change and gender equality were developed on the occasion of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Climate Change Event and the CWWL-WEDO-hbf High-Level Roundtable "How a Changing Climate Impacts Women"

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- The UN Secretary General and governments should send a message to this year's UNFCCC COP-13 in Bali that gender equality and women's participation is a priority issue.
- Since climate change disproportionately affects poor women, governments should analyze and identify gender-specific impacts and protection measures related to floods, droughts, and other disasters; the global community should prioritize reducing the high levels of female mortality rates resulting from climate-induced disasters.
- Women should enjoy equal participation in decision-making related to climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Given that women's knowledge and participation in disaster situations has been critical to the survival of entire communities, governments should take advantage of women's particular skills in various aspects of their household livelihood and natural resource management strategies that lend themselves to mitigation and adaptation.
- Governments should work to enhance women's access to and control over natural resources, in order to reduce poverty, protect environmental resources, and ensure that women and poor communities can better cope with climate change.
- Governments and institutions should enhance opportunities for women's participation, education, and training; capacity building and technology transfer measures should draw on priorities put forward by women and poor communities.
- Practical tools should be developed that allow governments and institutions to incorporate gender equality and women's participation in climate change initiatives.

- Governments should draw on the innumerable global agreements that relate directly or indirectly to gender equality and climate change¹, as well as gender expertise within the UN system and at the national level.
- The UNFCCC should develop gender-sensitive indicators and criteria for governments to use in national reports to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- Market-based approaches to curbing climate change, such as the CDM, should reflect the needs of all potential market actors, particularly women, indigenous peoples, and landless farmers who do not have equal access to natural resources such as water and energy, land titles, credit, or information.
- The Clean Development Mechanism should be made accessible to both women and men and ensure equitable benefits, considering that women and men have different access to the necessary land and technology; in particular, the CDM should fund projects that make renewable energy technologies more available to women.
- Since the UNFCCC emerged from UNCED, which outlines nine major groups that are essential to sustainable development, women and all major groups should be included as official focal points in the UNFCCC.

¹ Chapter 24 of Agenda 21 (UNCED 1992); Johannesburg Plan of Action (WSSD 2002); Paragraph K of the Beijing Platform for Action (4th World Conference on Women 1995); World Conference on Human Rights (1993); International Conference on Population and Development (1994); World Summit for Social Development (1995); Millennium Declaration (2000); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979); Convention on Biodiversity (1992); Convention to Combat Desertification (1994); Ministerial Declaration of the 3rd World Water Forum (2003); Children's World Summit (1990); Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (1996); World Summit on Food (1996); Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction 2005)