

SB62
REFLECTIONS & IMPACT

WOMEN ENGAGE for a Common Future
wecf



WHAT WERE WE UP TO IN BONN

Core to our impact is our dual action/advocacy approach: supporting local solutions and bringing these success stories to the global stage. We were honoured to be able to support the attendance of dear partners Bhavya George (Keystone Foundation), Hira Amjad (DASTAK Foundation) and Anisa Abibuloeva (Little Earth) for the first week of SB62.

We expanded on our COP29 priority areas, by including a particular focus on a gender-just transition towards COP30. In this report, you will find a selection of key activities we undertook with these priority areas in focus.

OUR FOCUS DURING SB62

- GENDER-JUST TRANSITION
- INCREASE SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE RIO CONVENTIONS
- COP30 = GENDER COP
- FUND FEMINIST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

We believe in the power of community and collaboration, and to that end, are active members of constituencies and networks such as the Women & Gender Constituency (WGC), Climate Action Network (CAN) and the International Climate Coalition (IKC) in The Netherlands - which shapes our advocacy towards our common objectives.



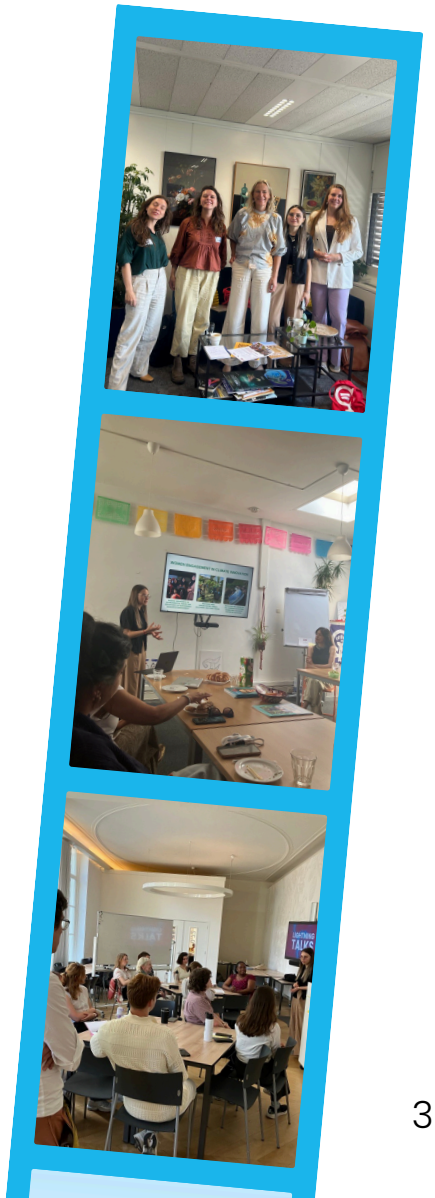
Annabelle Avril / WECF - at COP29

ANISA VISITS NL

We were honoured to have 2024 Gender Just Climate Solutions Winner, Anisa Abibuloeva from the Little Earth, join us in The Netherlands prior to attending the Bonn Climate Change Conference. During several events and meetings, she highlighted the organisation's work in Tajikistan in remote mountainous areas with local communities. Amongst their key activities, Little Earth supports rural women in gaining access to clean energy, establishing sustainable sources of income, and participating in environmental decision-making.

Anisa's visit included three highlights:

- We kicked off the day with a conversation together with WO=MEN, the Dutch Gender Platform & Wytske Postma of the political party NSC on the importance of gender-just energy solutions.
- Then, we attended a delicious and informative lunch lecture, called "Moving Mountains", at the WO=MEN office.
- Lastly, together with Utrecht University, we discussed the topic of a just transition in preparation for SB62 in an interactive event.



A special thanks to WO=MEN for the collaboration, and Utrecht University “Pathways to Sustainability” for making this visit possible!

Watch the recap video on our instagram for the full picture by clicking the symbol on the left.



10 YEARS OF GJCS

The first day of the SBs also marked the first celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Gender Just Climate Solutions (GJCS)—a decade of feminist, grassroots leadership in climate action!

Over the past ten years, the GJCS program has spotlighted transformative, gender-just, community-driven climate solutions from around the world. This event was both a celebration of everything achieved, and a joyful commitment to what lies ahead.

The intimate reception brought together those who have built, supported, and amplified GJCS. Through a warm, feminist, and vibrant atmosphere, we honoured our collective legacy and energized our vision for the next decade of climate justice.

The celebration continued inside the venue that same week, with a press conference, moderated by WECFs Valeria Peláez Cardona, featuring Bhavya George, Hira Amjad, Anisa Abibuloeva and Andrea Monzón Juárez.









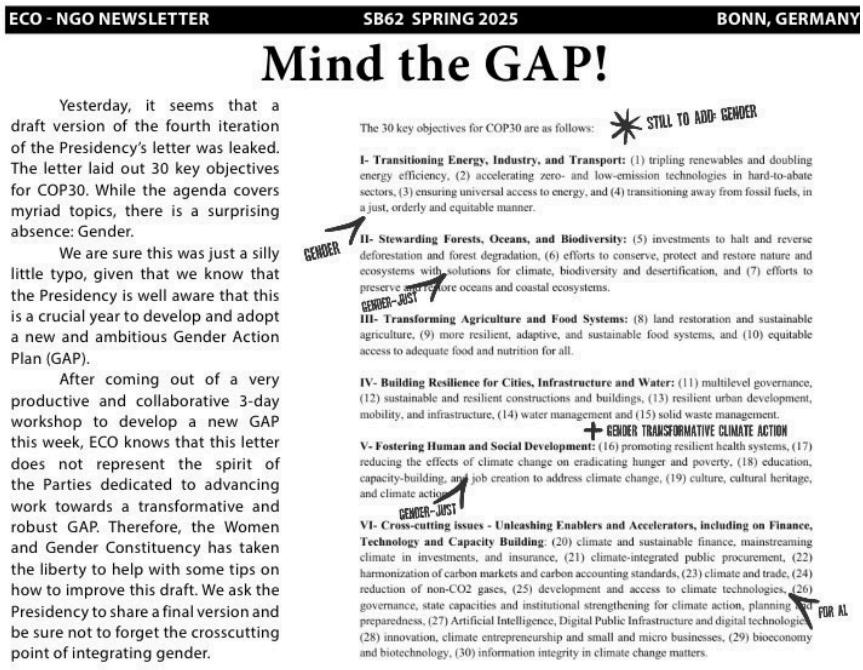
GENDER ON THE AGENDA

2025 marks a milestone year for gender, as a new Gender Action Plan (GAP) will need to be developed and adopted at COP30. On behalf of the WGC, WECFs Rebecca Heuvelmans was one of the nominated participants honoured to partake in the GAP three-day workshop taking place during SB62. Also selected to participate in the workshops was our dear partner Hira, who delivered a powerful statement during the workshops on the second day, which you can read about on page 6.

We were pleased with the progress made during the workshop, and the spirit in which Parties and observers worked throughout the SBs towards creating a robust new GAP.







ECO - NGO NEWSLETTER SB62 SPRING 2025 BONN, GERMANY

Mind the GAP!

Yesterday, it seems that a draft version of the fourth iteration of the Presidency's letter was leaked. The letter laid out 30 key objectives for COP30. While the agenda covers myriad topics, there is a surprising absence: Gender.

We are sure this was just a silly little typo, given that we know that the Presidency is well aware that this is a crucial year to develop and adopt a new and ambitious Gender Action Plan (GAP).

After coming out of a very productive and collaborative 3-day workshop to develop a new GAP this week, ECO knows that this letter does not represent the spirit of the Parties dedicated to advancing work towards a transformative and robust GAP. Therefore, the Women and Gender Constituency has taken the liberty to help with some tips on how to improve this draft. We ask the Presidency to share a final version and be sure not to forget the crosscutting point of integrating gender.

The 30 key objectives for COP30 are as follows:

STILL TO ADD: GENDER

I- Transitioning Energy, Industry, and Transport: (1) tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency, (2) accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies in hard-to-abate sectors, (3) ensuring universal access to energy, and (4) transitioning away from fossil fuels, in a just, orderly and equitable manner.

GENDER

II- Stewarding Forests, Oceans, and Biodiversity: (5) investments to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, (6) efforts to conserve, protect and restore nature and ecosystems with solutions for climate, biodiversity and desertification, and (7) efforts to preserve and restore oceans and coastal ecosystems.

GENDER-JUST

III- Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems: (8) land restoration and sustainable agriculture, (9) more resilient, adaptive, and sustainable food systems, and (10) equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all.

IV- Building Resilience for Cities, Infrastructure and Water: (11) multilevel governance, (12) sustainable and resilient constructions and buildings, (13) resilient urban development, mobility, and infrastructure, (14) water management and (15) solid waste management.

+ GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE ACTION

V- Fostering Human and Social Development: (16) promoting resilient health systems, (17) reducing the effects of climate change on eradicating hunger and poverty, (18) education, capacity-building, and job creation to address climate change, (19) culture, cultural heritage, and climate action

GENDER-JUST

VI- Cross-cutting issues - Unleashing Enablers and Accelerators, including on Finance, Technology and Capacity Building: (20) climate and sustainable finance, mainstreaming climate in investments, and insurance, (21) climate-integrated public procurement, (22) harmonization of carbon markets and carbon accounting standards, (23) climate and trade, (24) reduction of non-CO2 gases, (25) development and access to climate technologies, (26) governance, state capacities and institutional strengthening for climate action, planning and preparedness, (27) Artificial Intelligence, Digital Public Infrastructure and digital technologies, (28) innovation, climate entrepreneurship and small and micro businesses, (29) bioeconomy and biotechnology, (30) information integrity in climate change matters.

FOR AL

That same week, we were both surprised and concerned to read the fourth iteration of the Presidency's letter, stating 30 key objectives for COP30 - omitting gender. You can read the formal WGC's response via the link on the left, or have a look at the ECO article published the day after.

It is crucial that gender is not siloed, but fully streamlined in all negotiation streams. We are grateful that Bhavya, Hira and Anisa had the opportunity to highlight this in a meeting with the Dutch Delegation hosted by WO=MEN. The awardees shared how negotiators can centre lived realities within different tracks, what gender-just climate solutions look like in practice, and what type of feminist funding is needed to bring these solutions to scale.





HIRA'S GAP WORKSHOP LIGHTNING TALK

Hira Amjad, Founder and Executive Director of DASTAK Foundation from Pakistan, and 2023 GJCS Awardee, was one of three lightning talk speakers honoured to address the Gender Action Plan workshop participants. Find below a snippet of her impactful remarks on the crucial intersection of climate, sexual health and reproductive rights:

"This shaping of a new Gender Action Plan with an intersectional lens is so utterly critical. [...] This is an opportunity for us to pause, reflect and step into reimagining a better world. A world where climate action is understood as more than just reducing emissions. It is finding solutions for long distances travelled to access clean water for menstrual health, ensuring safety from sexual harassment in climate refugee camps, it is ensuring that no pregnant person has to give birth in unsafe circumstances during natural disasters, it is rebuilding the bridge that was washed away so that young girls no longer have to get up at 5:00 AM to reach the school at 09:00 AM, and the list goes on.

I request you to centre these stories and solutions in your mind and heart while curating new activities for the Gender Action Plan. We have the opportunity to build a robust gender-transformative climate action framework that centres justice, inspires empathy, and builds a truly equitable and resilient future for all. [...]

Let's build some bridges, Let's reimagine a better world!"


photo credit: Dylan Kava

JUST TRANSITION

We welcome the draft text on the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) that Parties agreed to forward to COP30. This draft upholds the need for a gender-responsive approach to just transition, and includes language on care work and informal workers. Although imperfect, this is a promising foundation; the real progress depends on how Parties will use the time between SB62 and COP30 to engage constructively to strengthen this text that represents an important opportunity to shape a people-centred response to the climate crisis. We need strong feminist leadership and solidarity to ensure these principles are protected and fully implemented.

We are also pleased to see that the proposal suggested by civil society, trade unions, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and environmental movements to create a global just transition mechanism was defended by some Parties. This new institutional arrangement proposal could finally operationalise the JTWP on the ground, offering support to communities and Parties to navigate the shift away from fossil fuels, ensuring that climate action is equitable and inclusive.

The outcome of these intercessional negotiations offers real potential to deliver a just transition that reaches frontline communities, and affirms the power of inclusive multilateralism. But we know this momentum must be matched with political will. As feminists and civil society, we are committed to ensuring that this opportunity is not lost. The road to Belém must lead to the delivery of a Global Just Transition Mechanism, meaningful implementation, and the realisation of a feminist just transition, one that is rooted in care, equity, and justice.



BHAVYA ON A GENDER-JUST TRANSITION

There can be no just transition without gender justice. Together with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (lead), Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, CEUS Chile and Community Links, WECF co-organised the event “Gender-transformative approaches to Just Transition in the NDCs, the GAP, and beyond”. The side event looked at different aspects such as NDCs, the GAP, the just transition work programme, climate finance, and biodiversity conservation efforts. Beyond the COP work program, the event also addressed the need to include gender justice and just transition in global partnerships from a broader perspective.

Alongside WECFs Valeria (moderator) and Rebecca (speaker), Bhavya addressed the particular intersection of biodiversity conservation and a gender-just transition. She painted a powerful picture for us to reshape how to understand a just transition from the perspective of local communities. In her words:

"What does Just Transition mean at the grassroots? In our work case, what does it mean to Adivasi communities who live in the Protected Areas with bare minimum facilities. [...] Will this provide opportunities to Adivasis in their changing context, with respect to livelihoods due to climate change, and other connected reasons to better their life. Or will it push them towards more marginalization with increased inequity?"





INCLUSION

Observers play a crucial role in developing effective and just climate policies. However, the struggle for inclusion in environmental decision-making remains. Several global majority civil society organisations, and even country representatives, had a difficult time obtaining a visa on time to participate in the negotiations. Furthermore, inside the venue, we have seen a worrying development of exclusion, for example within the Global Stocktake track. Observers had not seen any new versions of the draft text, and informal consultations turned into closed meetings - meaning we were left out of the room.

Anne Barre from WECF highlighted the importance of meaningful and systematic participation for ambitious and socially just climate action, in a statement delivered during the GST negotiations on behalf of the WGC;

"The Global Stocktake is a critical process, and we believe that (grassroots) frontline voices and civil society organizations must not only be heard but also structurally included in shaping climate policy, as they are already leading on solutions. [...]

This is not just about participation; it's about ensuring that we keep the inclusive process from the GST-1 and extend this inclusivity to the political process. It's about ensuring that women and girls in all their diversity, including environmental defenders, Indigenous peoples, youth, persons with disabilities, workers, peasants, caregivers, people of African descent, migrants, and other marginalized groups have real influence in climate decisions — not just symbolic inclusion."



LAUNCH: LAC WGC CHAPTER

From the Caribbean to the Andes, from the Amazon to Patagonia, the launch of the Latin America and Caribbean chapter of the Women and Gender Constituency at SB62 was a powerful moment of movement-building and feminist solidarity.

Moderated by Valeria from WECF, the event brought together voices from across the region in Spanish, Portuguese, and English, demonstrating the multiplicity of realities held within Abya Yala.

The conversation emphasized the urgency of centring historically excluded voices in climate policy, from often overlooked Caribbean communities, Afro-descendant and Indigenous women whose leadership must be recognised.

Speakers from Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Guatemala, and Brazil did not shy away from naming the intersecting systems of violence that women and gender-diverse people confront daily in the region, nor from celebrating the resilience and care that sustain territories and communities.

ON TO COP30



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Utrecht University

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