



A Brief for the Stockholm+50 High Level Meeting 2-3 June 2022

Co-drafted by the Women's Major Group, Women & Gender Constituency and Women's Major Group @ UNEA

The Basics

Dates: June 2-3 2022

Website: [[Stockholm+50](#)] [[Program of Events](#)] [[Ways to Participate](#)]

What is Stockholm+50?

The United Nations General Assembly has convened an international meeting in Stockholm on 2 and 3 June 2022 in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1972 Stockholm United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. The event will look at the past 50 years of global environmental action, under the theme: “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity.” The gathering will serve as an opportunity for nations and stakeholders to **collaborate, share expertise and address complex nexus issues for urgent actions and long-term system change**. This includes identifying crosscutting solutions and actions to drive implementation through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, leaving no one behind. The meeting and its preparatory phase are framed around three organizing principles of engagement: **intergenerational responsibility, inclusive participation and interconnections**, and **implementation opportunities**. The meeting will be chaired by two co-presidents (Sweden and Kenya) supported by eight vice presidents selected from all the regional blocks (two each).

Is this part of any existing multilateral process?

No. That being said, **an action-oriented outcome** is envisioned. The outcome document will chart the way forward by highlighting key actions governments and other stakeholders can take to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and beyond, and mobilize the global community behind strengthened cooperation and accelerated innovative action on the Sustainable Development Goals. The outcomes of the various global and regional processes, such as UN conferences and forums, can be brought into the fold through five interconnected pathways (**5 Rs**) that provide a framing for Stockholm+50 and beyond and enable us to measure progress towards a healthy planet: **reimagining** the future; **regeneration** of ecosystems, of community and social resilience;

addressing a green **recovery** and inclusive COVID recovery; **rebalancing** resource use and development for greater equity; and supporting a **reinvigorated/renewed** multilateralism.¹

How will it work?

Stockholm+50 is envisioned as a forum for bold action that will reinforce the 1972 principles and generate urgent actions for a healthy planet for the prosperity of all. The international meeting will include an opening segment, four plenary meetings, three leadership dialogues, and a closing segment. A preparatory meeting was held on 28 March 2022 in New York. The ongoing leadership dialogues are:

- ✓ Leadership Dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all
- ✓ Leadership Dialogue 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
- ✓ Leadership Dialogue 3: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context of the Decade of Action

Summaries of these Leadership Dialogues will be included in the final meeting report.

Logistics

The international meeting will be held from **2-3 June 2022** in Stockholm, Sweden, and is being hosted by both Sweden and Kenya. While the registration process has been closed, it will be possible to watch the meeting via livestream. Please find [further details on registration here](#).

You can find further logistics, accommodations, visa, venue and travel information on [the Stockholm+50 page](#).

Why is this important?

The 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment paved the way for governments to finally address human health and the global dimensions of pollution. For civil society, it provided a historic opportunity to engage in a parallel forum for the first time. The environmental, peace and human rights movements truly found each other here. At the next United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, not only did more governments than ever before participate in a UN conference, but civil society was also represented in large numbers. The 'Global Forum' was held as a huge beach tent camp in Flamengo Park with thousands of non-governmental participants including our feminist members, such as from [WEDO](#) and [WECE](#). The pressure of the 'Global Forum' contributed to the UN Rio Conference in 1992, producing tangible results: the Rio Declaration with its 27 principles, including Principle

¹ The concept of 5R's comes from the UNEP Concept Note for Stockholm+50, available at <https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/36939>

20 on the full participation of women; Agenda 21; and the creation of the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity. For the first time in the history of the United Nations, civil society in all its diversity was recognised as a Major Group for the achievement of sustainable development. 'Planeta Femina' had strongly advocated for women in all their diversity to have their own seat at the table, which led to the recognition of the Women's Major Group as well as eight other civil society groups. Our ecofeminist movement has been active in implementing the outcomes of the Rio Conference in 1992. In 2006, we ensured that the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) was officially recognised in the climate negotiation process. Since then, the WGC has been a strong civil society advocacy group, highlighting what should actually be at the heart of climate programmes and financing: gender-just climate solutions involving feminist leadership and a shift away from practices that harm the climate and the environment.

Why is this so important now, on the anniversary of Stockholm+50?

Because we now have all the necessary scientific, social, and economic solutions for a just transition to avoid total climate and environmental collapse on our planet. But although we have this knowledge, governments and corporations lack the political will and we see strong resistance to environmental policies as well as to the gender-just and equitable principles of this transition. That is why the ecofeminist movement needs to be strongly represented in Stockholm in June 2022.

Are there any “gender-specific” moments in this high level event?

There are three different Leadership Dialogues within Stockholm+50. The Leadership Dialogue #1 includes a thematic area of inclusion and justice, that refers to gender equality; however, the background paper is very weak on the rights of women in all their diversity, women's human rights and the rights of environmental defenders. Our WMG participants are advocating for stronger language in the Stockholm+50 declaration, as well as joining some events to share their feminist perspectives.

What can a feminist approach to Stockholm+50 bring?

As feminists, we approach this event like all global policy convenings; we know it to be a space that risks upholding the status quo if it does not heed the voices of activists and civil society that have been calling for urgent action on environmental degradation for decades. While high-level events such as this often have specific thematic areas of focus, and a resistance to discussing or taking action around intersecting issues, a feminist approach challenges this kind of orientation. A feminist approach recognizes that this high-level event—while stated to address environmental action—must inevitably address intersecting issues such as trade, debt, economic justice, human rights protections, and beyond, using a gender-lens in looking at these intersections.

What are we learning from the pandemic, the climate and biodiversity crises and increasing conflicts throughout the world?

As the world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, war and conflict, and widespread climate and environmental crises—all which have disproportionate impacts on women, girls, and gender-diverse people—a shift to a new paradigm and new systems that will take us away from the current dominant systems of oppression, extraction and exploitation are urgently required.

As explained by the Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice, the vision for a feminist and decolonial global green new deal encapsulates a broad economic justice agenda aimed at creating an equitable, peaceful and healthy planet for all. Neoliberalism, patriarchy, white supremacy, extractivism, militarism and colonialism are structures and systemic drivers of women's oppression, reinforcing and strengthening each other to the detriment of equality and justice. Patriarchal, fossil-fuel capitalism fueled by extraction has also directly created the climate crisis, exploiting and abusing both nature and the labor of women, girls and gender-diverse people while continuing to thwart attempts to advance equity and justice in international and national contexts. A systemic and structural transformation of our global economic systems and governance is therefore required, to bring about a new paradigm grounded in a feminist and decolonial global green new deal.² The Stockholm+50 High Level Event meeting is at this important crossroads, where the sustainable development agenda and the environmental agenda can come together to ensure a more holistic transformation of our current systems towards care, equity and regeneration, for the benefit of all, especially women, girls and gender-diverse people from the most affected parts of the world.

Recommendations

The Stockholm Leadership Dialogue 2, focuses on recovery from the pandemic. However, the background document fails to stress the underlying and historic reasons for inequality, militarism, patriarchy, extractivism and environmental destruction. Our feminist recommendations demand priorities for the care economy and strong social protection, and a divestment from destructive sectors including fossil fuels, nuclear energy and industrial agriculture, and enforce existing rights through the UN conventions and treaties (climate, chemicals & waste, biodiversity, Aarhus, Escazú) and:

- Implement the HCR resolution on the Human Right to a healthy, safe and clean environment
- Strengthen initiatives to recognize ecocide as a crime
- Adopt the global treaties under negotiation, on ending plastic pollution, and on business and human rights

² These points are derived from the "[Concept and Key Demands](#)" of the Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice.

- Advance a vision for a feminist and decolonial green new deal, to shift towards regenerative economies that center care for people and planet and ensure women's human rights and a peaceful and healthy planet for all.
- Build a broad advocacy agenda for feminist economic and climate justice, centering the leadership of global South women, girls, and gender-diverse people to influence key global policy spaces towards economic, environmental and climate justice, including through official representation on delegations, and to forge connections across movements and regions
- Confront exploitative and unsustainable production and consumption patterns, shifting from the privatization and commodification of nature to a degrowth mindset grounded in sustainable, equitable production and resource use
- Divest from fossil fuel, military and carceral systems, regulate the financial sector, and redirect budgets to invest in care and in equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Enact reparations for both institutionalized racism and climate damage, to advance racial, environmental, climate, and economic justice through commitments to non-repetition, restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, and satisfaction of claims
- Align debt restructuring and cancellation to address the need for environmental and climate reparations for historical carbon emissions and loss and damage, and climate finance owed by developed countries according to their fair shares
- Recall the duty and obligation of the UN to promote human rights and fundamental freedom for all. Other goals such as economic growth cannot outweigh and outrank the pursuits for human rights, economic and climate justice
- Limit corporate power within global economic governance and require corporations to meet their extraterritorial obligations, including by strengthening the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights and enacting a legally binding international treaty regulating transnational corporations for human rights and accountability
- Implement new gender-responsive delivery mechanisms to support direct access to environmental and climate finance for grassroots women's organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, along with equitable and transparent monitoring of funding streams, to support adaptive capacity and resilience of communities through the realization of rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights

For more recommendations:

Concepts & Key Demands - Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice:

https://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/ActionNexus_KeyDemands_EN.pdf

What is NOT a feminist approach?

- Investing in false and temporal (non-sustainable) solutions to environmental degradation and injustice, such as carbon capture and storage and market-based solutions like carbon trading credits

- Not linking discussions and outcomes of this process to connected global policy processes such as UNFCCC, CSW, HLPF and CBD and DRR
- Not linking discussions and policy proposals with systemic and structural oppression, and exploitation of people and planet
- Not holding governments, both governments of the Global North & Global South, in accordance with their Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, accountable to the outcomes of this process
- Exclusion of most affected communities and women and girls in all their diversities as well as gender-diverse people in national and policy processes

References/See Also

- Women Major Group and references to women and gender equality in Rio1992 outcome Agenda21
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>
- Update on regional civil society consultations for Stockholm+50
<https://www.wecf.org/stockholm50-preparatory/>
- Concept and Key Demands - Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice
https://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/ActionNexus_KeyDemands_EN.pdf
- Women's Major Group 2021 HLPF Position Paper
<https://www.womensmajorgroup.org/wmg-position-paper-for-hlpf-2021/>
- Women and Gender Constituency - Key Demands from COP26
https://womensgenderclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/WGC_KeyDemandsCOP26_EN-1.pdf

Feminist Civil Society Contacts at Stockholm+50

Sascha Gabizon - sascha.gabizon@wecf.org

Carmen Capriles - carmen_capriles@yahoo.com

Frezer Yeheyis - frezeryeheyis@yahoo.com

Cecile Ndjebet - cecilendjebet28@gmail.com