

WECF at COP27 -

Our priorities



The climate crisis is a global human rights threat. It is not about the impacts that may be felt in the near future. It is about the devastating fact that lives are being lost, at this very moment and with each passing conference where political ambition is not materialised with concrete actions that caters for or cares about people's wellbeing. We are living through this climate crisis not because it was an inevitable act of nature, but because those in power have been unwilling to commit to real action.

The latest IPCC report on Mitigation of Climate Change states with high confidence that "Public and private finance flows for fossil fuels are still greater than those for climate adaptation and mitigation". Continuing with current climate policies and commitments will mean a failure to achieve the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement. Giant glaciers, ocean currents, and permafrost regions may already have passed the point of irreversible change. Science also tells us that we are on the brink of even more disastrous tipping points. Points of no return lead to abrupt, irreversible, and dangerous impacts with serious losses and damages.

In parallel, the latest progress reports on the Sustainable Development Goals present an alarming picture. The COVID-19 pandemic and a large number of violent conflicts erased more than four years of progress in poverty eradication, resulting in a lack of progress to addressing the climate crisis. Women in all their diversity, youth, Indigenous Peoples continue to be at the forefront of these intersecting crises.

At the current rate of progress, it could take another 286 years to remove discriminatory laws and close prevailing gaps in legal protection for women and girls in all their diversity.

That is why COP27 cannot join one more conference where promises are blown away by the wind of indifference at the close of its session. We require political will and leadership at COP27 to make a transformative shift. This is the first African COP since 2016, thus, we especially need to centre African feminist civil society voices. Despite facing multiple challenges and structural marginalization, African women and girls in all their diversity are leading exceptional work protecting the natural environment and fighting climate change. For example, Action for Rural Women (ARUWE) Uganda, fosters a community-based and decentralized energy project that puts women at the forefront of energy-led cooperatives. In Ethiopia, the Union of Ethiopian Women and Children Associations (UEWCA) has set an example of empowering rural women through integrated, climate-resilient development.

In line with the African Women's and Girl's Demands for COP27, and the Women & Gender Constituency's Demands, WECF calls on all governments and negotiators at COP27 to:



Phase-out from fossil fuel and extractive industries rejecting corporate capture

Stop funding new investments in fossil fuel and nuclear industries, including stopping the corporate capture of big polluters in multilateral decision-making spaces. Colonialism has given extractive industries a free rein to appropriate and exploit human and natural resources - being identified in recent IPCC reports as one of the main drivers of climate change. Will countries continue to protect the interests of the polluters, rather than the rights of the people? We demand to centre climate action on people's experiences – not on private wallets.



Provide adequate, accessible, and human-rights-centred climate finance

Uphold the ‘polluter pays’ principle by responding to historical responsibilities of developed nations through debt cancellation and gender-transformative, locally driven, public, and grant-based funding. It is perverse that those colonised countries, subject to exploitation to sustain the status quo of high energy consuming developed nations, are trapped between the impacts of climate change -caused by exploitation- and cycles of debt for their survival with those countries that have contributed the most to the climate crisis.

So far, broken promises have been the result of past climate finance commitments; current global financial flows are insufficient and mainly provided in the form of loans. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance must deliver beyond the USD 100 billion mark while ensuring the need to keep warming below 1.5°C. A balance between climate finance for adaptation, mitigation, and addressing Loss and Damage is crucial.



Establish the Loss and Damage Finance Facility under the UNFCCC:

Recognize and respond to the ecological debt of rich nations and corporations by coordinating, mobilising, and channelling new, additional, adequate, and predictable financial resources through a Loss and Damage Finance Facility. This should be established under the UNFCCC to address Loss & Damage (L&D) for developing countries and affected communities and people. Not as loans, not as humanitarian and development aid, nor as insurances but as reparations. The economic cost of L&D in developing countries alone is projected to be between 290 billion and 580 billion USD by 2030. Trillions are already needed to be mobilized for those on the ground already affected. With every disaster, women's rights and progress toward gender equality are threatened.

The Finance Facility needs to address gender inequalities: funding specific needs of women and girls in all their diversity, for example, to provide shelters in the immediate response to disasters, attention to safety and menstrual health.



Boost ambition through real solutions – not dangerous technofixes:

Support politically, financially, and technically real and proven climate solutions that centre on a comprehensive and long-overdue transformation of our exploitative and destructive economic systems. Countries must integrate into their climate policies and actions community-based and decentralized gender-just climate solutions led by grassroots, BIPOC, feminist, and youth-led organizations.

Technologies which are unproven to be sustainable and risky, such as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), geo-engineering, nuclear energy, blue hydrogen, and large hydropower plants are still heavily debated and unproven. These technologies, often mentioned as part of “Net Zero” climate goals aimed to be accomplished by 2050, completely ignore the urgency of taking immediate action and further jeopardise human rights guarantees. Net Zero has licensed a “burn now, pay later” approach that pushes carbon emissions soaring by increasing carbon-colonialism in the Global South, disproportionately affecting frontline communities, women in all their diversity, and young people that must pay higher costs.

As the TEC and CTCN (Climate Technology Centre and Network) are embarking on a new joint Work Program for the next five years, we want to remind governments of the gender strategies and action plans they have adopted. Technology needs assessments, roadmaps and assistance should systematically integrate gender considerations and dedicated means of implementation. The CTCN and TEC should take into consideration existing gender gaps in access to digital technologies, gender biases, and decent employment opportunities.



Stop deforestation, shift to true implementation

Transparency and implementation strategies need to be made at COP, to ensure that we end the current era of false promises. At COP26, and in many previous COPs, governments promised to end deforestation, one of the main drivers of climate change. Pledges were made to provide Forest Finance, and to support the land tenure for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Implementation of these pledges remains unclear. That is why we want to see concrete targets on how these pledges will mainstream gender, and how women in all their diversity will be able to access and benefit from them. Structural barriers and norms define gendered differences in natural resources management coupled with, for example, unequal land tenure rights, and increased vulnerability to the effects of deforestation and biodiversity loss.



Global Stocktake

Ensure that the Global Stocktake (GST) becomes a strong accountability process to get on track with the 1.5° goal. It should make gender-disaggregated data and intersectional gender analyses mandatory. Additionally, the GST should be a bottom-up, participatory and rights-based process, ensuring the equal and meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups.



Gender equality as cross-cutting element

Governments when adopting the Paris Agreement, committed to Gender equality as a key element of all climate negotiation items and national climate planning processes. Without a focused budget, achieving written objectives towards gender equity is impossible. Gender is still largely seen as an isolated issue that is discussed in a room away from the main debates about mitigation, financing, and technology. Thus, it does not appear to be an issue integrated within the intersecting policies of different ministries. This reinforces the ignorant notion that women in all their diversity are neither key actors nor agents of change but merely victims of the climate crisis.

At COP27, the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan will be under review. Outcomes at COP27 under the gender agenda item must acknowledge the current realities the world faces in terms of both urgent climate crisis and gender inequalities and update activities to best respond to areas where progress is lacking.

Check contributions from the ground for effective implementation of the GAP [here](#). To understand better the Gender Action Plan, [check this background paper](#) of the Women & Gender Constituency.

COP27 needs to be a COP of implementation, of fulfilling long-overdue commitments made and taking the climate and environmental crises seriously.



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