

Gender and Climate Workshop at SB62

Recommendations for updating key activities and indicators on engaging men and boys and transforming patriarchal masculinities in the Gender Action Plan III

MenEngage Alliance Submission

About this document

The integration of engaging men and boys within concrete activities of the updated Gender Action Plan has been agreed upon by the United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change. This document outlines concrete proposals for transformative activities that can be considered by Parties to the Convention to be included in the recommendations arising from the Gender and Climate Workshop at the 62nd Session of the Subsidiary Bodies at Bonn, Germany from June 16 - 26, 2025.

About MenEngage Alliance

MenEngage Alliance is a global social change network of over 1100 organizations dedicated to transforming patriarchal masculinities and promoting gender, climate and social justice. The alliance engages men and boys in advancing women's rights, LGBTQI rights, gender, climate and social justice for all. Our mission focuses on challenging harmful gender norms and stereotypes, addressing individual, institutional, and structural power imbalances, and working towards a future where all people are equal and free from discrimination and violence and where care for the environment and climate are values held by all.

Background

The **call for engaging men and boys to be active allies and agents of change to tackle the climate crisis** has been highlighted within the current policy negotiations and frameworks aiming to advance climate justice, including in the **UNFCCC Synthesis Report: [Progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the gender action plan, and future work to be undertaken on gender and climate change \(SBI/2024/11\)](#) and in its integration into the Gender Action Plan Activities A.4 and D.5**. There is a clear need to ensure that these efforts continue to be advanced **in accountable ways** within the broader scope of robust policy agreements and commitments for gender-just and transformative actions to address the climate crisis by Parties of the Convention. Recently, engaging men and boys was

incorporated in the **decision document of COP29, paragraph 25**, encouraging all Governments to include work with men and boys:

25. Encourages Parties, the secretariat and relevant organizations, in implementing the enhanced Lima work programme on gender, to fully engage men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change; ([FCCC/CP/2024/L.12](#))

Governments should integrate gender-transformative strategies that tackle the root causes of gender injustice, including patriarchal structures and masculinity norms that promote dominance and exploitation of people and nature. Addressing these patriarchal structures and gender norms is essential to mitigating the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals. Additionally, policies should identify ways to **engage men and boys as active agents of change and accountable participants in climate solutions** alongside other stakeholders. Accountability in work to engage men and boys entails ensuring that the voices, needs, rights and leadership of women, girls and LGBTQ peoples are centered.

As well, in a nuanced policy approach it is crucial to understand the **differentiated impacts of climate change on all genders**, including how men and boys both influence and are affected by the crisis. Recent analysis highlights the growing recognition of their role as allies and agents of change, reinforcing the need for inclusive and intersectional climate strategies.

We acknowledge the immense efforts and leadership of the [Women and Gender Constituency](#) as an active stakeholder and leading feminist coalition in UNFCCC processes, in calling out patriarchal culture in the climate change spaces, including at CoP. The involvement of **men in positions of power and leadership within UNFCCC has been problematic to date**, including by creating conditions where the gendered impacts of the crisis have always been marginalized as a “women's issue” within climate policy, and they have often acted to serve corporate interests within climate negotiations. This must also urgently be addressed. Lastly, when articulating the need to engage men and boys in gender transformative climate action, **we are not asking for more men to be involved in positions of leadership**, since these spaces have always been predominantly occupied by men. We explicitly call for the need the centering of feminist leadership, women’s increased participation in climate negotiations and prioritisation of gender just solutions to the climate crisis, including by engaging men and boys, especially men in positions of power, in supporting these aims.

Recommendation for Activities & Indicators for GAP 3

This submission was created with the support of and input from **Women Engage for a Common Future**.

| Priority Area A | Capacity-building, knowledge and communication | |
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| Activity A.1 | <p>Training with UNFCCC Gender Focal Points and climate negotiators on the links between men, masculinities and climate</p> <p>UNFCCC Gender secretariat, together with the expert civil society organisations actively working on the issue, host a training for UNFCCC Gender Focal Points/Climate negotiators on the links between patriarchal masculinities, harmful social norms and the climate crisis, including how to engage boys and men in accountable ways in climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation measures and in advancing ecological masculinities including through advancing positive narratives, gender equality and climate justice.</p> | <p>Indicators</p> <p>100 Gender Focal Points/negotiators completed the training session</p> <p>80% of the participants reporting increased understanding on the links between men, masculinities and climate</p> <p><i>(Method of Verification (MoV): pre-post tests)</i></p> |
| Activity A.2 | <p>Hold a high-level segment during the intersessionals, COP, or a thematic day in the UNFCCC capacity building hub, where Member States share on how they are engaging men & boys as agents for change in climate justice: The segment must include discussions around accountability with men and boys and on their roles and</p> | <p>1 high-level segment/thematic day,</p> <p>100 delegates,</p> <p>25 civil society</p> <p>5 academia</p> |

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| | responsibilities to address root causes of gender inequality, as well as representation from civil society with this expertise. | 5 trade union representatives <i>(MoV: gender disaggregated data of the participants)</i> |
| Priority area B | Gender balance, participation and women's leadership | |
| Activity B.1 | <p>Promote capacity-building with Member State officials and delegations on transforming patriarchal masculinities and working with men in positions of power to act as allies in enhancing participation of women in all their diversity in the UNFCCC process:</p> <p>Increasing women's leadership in climate negotiations and processes can be hindered by institutional masculinity norms, which must be tackled to make way for processes and standards that ensure women's and gender-diverse people's equitable opportunity to leadership positions.</p> | <p>100 countries who have lead capacity building sessions</p> <p>100 of countries including diverse women in leadership roles in climate negotiation spaces</p> |
| Priority area D | Gender-responsive implementation & means of implementation | |
| Activity D.1 | <p>Tackle climate-induced Gender Based Violence (GBV) by addressing the roles and responsibilities of men and boys to resist and eliminate patriarchal masculinities, gender stereotypes, sexism and harmful social norms; and promote alternative ways of being based on gender equality, human rights, treating all people with dignity and respect and promoting a culture of peace, of care for others and for the environment, non-violent behaviour and respectful relationships: A gender-transformative approach, that address gendered</p> | 100 Member States implementing gender transformative work with men and boys to end GBV |

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| | power-imbalances is key in work with men and boys to prevent GBV in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. | |
| Activity D.2 | Member States at National Level should directly fund feminist, indigenous and youth-led climate organizations and groups, including organizations working with men and boys in feminist informed and accountable ways in climate adaptation, mitigation, sustainability and just, green transition initiatives | # number of member states supporting locally-lead gender climate justice organizations |
| Priority area E | Monitoring and reporting | |
| Activity E.1 | IPCC monitors and produces an official report or includes within relevant reports, analysis and recommendations for Member States on how to advance gender-transformative work with men and boy, including the including links between gender backlash, far-right movements and climate denialism: Integrate recommendations on how to ensure information integrity, and methodologies to engage boys and men in combating narratives within the manosphere which link anti-rights, anti-gender and climate denialism, as messaging primarily targeted towards men and boys across platforms. | 1 report of the IPCC provides recommendations on work with men and boys and monitors gender backlash and its links to men, masculinities (including use of new technologies and disinformation) |
| Activity E.2 | Strengthen the evidence-base through research on what creates the conditions for transformative allyship of men and boy as agents of change in climate and gender justice, including through understanding the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and girls in all their diversity, and LGBTIQ people, compared with men and boys: This includes looking at intersectional identities and demographic factors, and the multiple roles and | 1 research report and 2 communications materials produced provide analysis and |

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| | <p>impacts that all can play as agents of change in accelerating a just and green climate transition. Produce briefs, communication materials and documents to raise awareness on the ways to invite more men and boys to join this movement to address the climate crisis.</p> | <p>recommendations on strategies and evidence to transform men and boys and agents of change in climate and gender justice</p> |
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How to engage men and boys

Analysis: Working with men and boys for transforming masculinities for climate justice

- Patriarchal masculinities are harmful to our climate. Experts have highlighted the need to better understand how harmful ideals of masculinities that include the need to have power over others – ‘others’ being understood as women, other men, gender-diverse people, children and nature¹– perpetuate socio-economic injustices and environmental degradation and give low or no priority to the care for humans and nature.
- By changing the patriarchal masculinity norms, this important root cause of the climate crisis can be addressed and care for humans and nature can be given high priority. In this way, gender equality addresses important root causes of the climate crisis and is an important part of the solution.

¹ Parikh, Jyoti (2007) Gender and Climate Change Framework for Analysis, Policy and Action, IRADe and UNDP India, https://www.gdnonline.org/resources/UNDP_Gender_and_Climate_Change.pdf

- Compared to other genders, men and boys are often less likely to engage in environmentally conscious behaviours (such as decreasing food-consumption produced with a heavy carbon footprint, taking public transport or reducing water and energy consumption patterns), and less likely to feel responsible for environmental imbalances between and among women, men and people of diverse gender identities.
- Socio-cultural and economic norms continue to associate “being a man” with characteristics of dominance, power-over, control, and self-interested competition. These norms have implications at the institutional and systemic level. They normalise and promote cultures of masculine command over nature and others not just at the individual level, but also within systems. We also witness a growing trend of facism in the world, which rests upon narratives of anti-gender, anti-rights and anti-climate and democracy agendas.
- For example, patriarchal masculinities play a role in maintaining male-dominated power structures, which continue to impede equitable representation and voice of women and gender diverse individuals in climate negotiations and decision making. Working to address these norms at a systemic level is essential to assuring the climate crisis is addressed from the individual to the systemic level.
- Working with men and and boys, alongside women, girls and gender diverse individuals on gender transformative approaches to responding to climate change is argued to be a non-negotiable strategy to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Furthermore, an understanding of boys’ and men’s multiple roles in the climate crisis and all the possible solutions to address the root causes of this existential threat needs to be recognised.
- Research on boys and men has mostly been analysed as a monolithic group responsible for the negative effects of climate change due to their patterns of consumption and the association between modern industrialisation and key aspects of patriarchal masculinities. It has become urgent that men’s diversity – according to social class, ethnic group, sexuality and other factors – also affects not only the way that they live their lives, but the way that they drive or respond to climate change as well as the transformative and sustainable solutions to address the crisis.

- Intersectional feminist and queer ecology approaches to transform patriarchal masculinities can be an important contribution, in addition to supporting work with women, girls and gender diverse people in responding to the climate crisis, and can serve as a valuable opportunity to synchronise different voices towards the shared concern of addressing harmful climate change. Work with men and boys should never be seen as a silver bullet, rather it is one critical piece to shift action on climate change and gender justice.
- However, men and boys must contribute to the creation of gender-equitable and ecologically sustainable societies, and their voices remain far too quiet or actively resistant on these issues currently.
- For more analysis on the intersections of men, masculinities and the climate crisis, see: [A discussion paper exploring the links between men, masculinities, and the climate crisis](#), MenEngage Alliance.

Policy Recommendations

- In order to address the root causes of the climate crisis and shift the dominating world order away from patriarchal modes of domination and exploitation to instead focus on care, center intersectional feminist approaches to gender justice within climate justice NDCs and NAPs, including integrating strategies to work with men and boys to care for fellow humans and nature, alongside women and girls and gender diverse individuals.
- Establish a rationale for understanding boys' and men's multiple roles in climate change by conducting an analysis of patriarchal masculinities and how they play a contributing role in perpetuating the climate crisis. The purpose of such an analysis should be to identify opportunities to work with men and boys as agents of change, alongside women, girls, and gender nonconforming people and further strengthen the call for gender-transformative climate action for all.
- Promote the inclusion of women, in all their diversity, in decision-making processes around climate change related negotiations and decision making processes.
- Global leaders in climate negotiations, especially as men in positions of power - must listen to, learn from, and center the voices, the leadership and the political agendas of feminist, indigenous and youth climate justice activists and human-and-environmental rights defenders and movements, everywhere, and take bold and transformative actions for climate, gender and social justice. The people at the forefront of the climate crisis are needed at the forefront of the negotiation tables.
- UNFCCC must develop for Member States, key messages and recommendations on how changing patriarchal structures, gender norms and masculinities - which currently

reward domination and exploitation of humans and nature - through engaging men and boys as allies for gender justice and climate justice can address important root causes of the climate crisis and strategize how to unite this approach with existing work with men and boys as allies for gender justice.

- Support policies that recognize the multiple roles men and boys play in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptations and, most importantly, how they can be seen as part of the solution.
- Support the meaningful and accountable involvement of children and youth in the climate negotiations and decision-making - as the generation that will be facing the brunt of the crisis which current generations are responsible for.
- Support accountability mechanisms that hold all of those in positions of power and leadership to account for environmental impact, destruction and ecocide.
- Establish mechanisms to stop the fossil fuel industry from influencing all UNFCCC processes, including all IPCC work, COPs, and other vital processes of the Convention on Climate Change.