



## KEY DEMANDS

## WOMEN DEMAND A GENDER-JUST TRANSITION

- 1 Adopt a robust gender action plan
- 2 Deliver on finance
- 3 Plan for real ambition via the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue
- 4 Effectively address loss and damage
- 5 Implement rights-based national policies
- 6 Create a rights-based platform for indigenous peoples and local communities
- 7 Develop rules for community consultation and consent
- 8 Break free from fossil fuels
- 9 Move the money
- 10 Place communities over markets
- 11 Listen to people, not profit
- 12 Ensure climate 'solutions' are gender-just
- 13 Promote energy democracy
- 14 Protect ecological food systems
- 15 Be led by ecosystem-based approaches
- 16 Preserve the ocean
- 17 Make fisheries and aquaculture sustainable
- 18 Know that water is life
- 19 Promote health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights

## 1. Adopt a robust gender action plan

The Women and Gender Constituency views a comprehensive, targeted and resourced two-year gender action plan (GAP) as a critical outcome for COP23, to urgently advance gender-responsive and human rights-based climate policy and action. The WGC has outlined clearly that the GAP must be an instrument that effectively supports the overall goal of an urgent transition from a deeply unjust fossil-fuel based economy to a more sustainable, just and equitable model of development that ensures women's human rights and gender equality. In reviewing the activities that Parties and Observers have outlined so far in discussions on the GAP, the WGC stresses the following four key result areas that activities should aim to achieve:

--> **Step-change in capacity for/ implementation of gender-responsive climate policy** development, delivery and reporting at national level, particularly via gender budgeting in climate programming.

--> **Increased availability of sex and gender disaggregated data and analysis** at all levels, looking at both the impacts of climate change as well as the impacts of climate change policies and actions. Analysis should include data based on local and traditional knowledge, including women's traditional knowledge.

--> **Meeting the goal of gender balance** in all aspects of climate change policy-making, on delegations, boards and bodies of the UNFCCC as well as at regional and national level, and ensuring the full and effective participation of local, grassroots and indigenous women in these spaces.

--> A goal of **100% gender-responsive climate finance** and other means of implementation, including ensuring environmentally and socially sound technology transfer and development.

--> **Financing the gender action plan:** The WGC stresses that developed country Governments must urgently commit resources to the specific activities indicated under the GAP, both ensuring necessary resources for the UNFCCC gender focal points and prioritizing gender-related climate activities in major funding initiatives and plans.

# #MINDtheGAP



# KEY DEMANDS

## 2. Deliver on finance

Climate finance has a key role to play to enhance trust and confidence between Parties; therefore, it is critical for finance to remain high on the political agenda. Developed countries MUST raise ambition and meet, not leverage via the private sector, but MEET their public financial commitments to developing countries. COP23 should:

- > Identify concrete options and timelines for developed countries to demonstrate progress towards fulfilling the climate finance promise of ramping support to US\$100 billion a year by 2020;
- > Urgently increase assistance for adaptation initiatives and financing needs for loss and damage;
- > Improve the transparency and accountability of finance mobilized, as well as provided;
- > Set up a process for negotiations which should be completed by no later than 2024, on a post-2025 finance target;
- > And, in review and guidance to the finance mechanism, the COP should request gender financial audits of how much of the resources is programmed and implemented in a gender-responsive way.

Further, climate finance must serve public interests instead of corporate profits, which means that public-private partnerships and other forms of blended finance that trigger conflicts of interests should be avoided or at a minimum tightly regulated to ensure benefits and concessionality are not captured by the private sector but fully passed on to the local communities and women.

## 3. Plan for real ambition via the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue

COP 23 must lay the groundwork, and encourage enhanced ambition and collaboration between Parties, for successful outcomes from the Facilitative Dialogue. The Dialogue must urgently address the implementation gap in keeping warming below 1.5 degrees. As the NDCs contain conditional components for most developing countries, the Dialogue needs to focus on the the means of implementation (MOI) required to unlock the additional ambition under the conditional component of the NDCs. It should include information on how gender equality and human rights have been addressed in the implementation of national climate actions via current reporting and information under the UNFCCC as well as the finance and technology mechanisms, and independent expert evaluations. Finally, the design of the Dialogue must ensure that relevant inputs from non-Party stakeholders will also be adequately considered.



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## 4. Effectively address loss and damage

Action to address loss and damage from climate change is an independent pillar of the Paris Agreement (article 8). Roughly a quarter of NDCs include loss and damage, and 44% of small island developing states refer to loss and damage in their NDC. COP23 must accelerate and enhance the work on loss and damage, taking into account the needs of the most affected, including climate migrants. L&D finance needs to be scaled up according to common but differentiated responsibilities, historical responsibilities and respective capabilities and be channeled to the communities most affected, including women. Disaster risk insurance has a role to play in loss and damage and can offer benefits for dealing with extreme events, but it is limited due to the prevailing assumption that SIDS, LDCs and other climate frontline states will pay the premiums. The world cannot expect poor people and poor countries to pay insurance premiums for a problem they did not create. Insurance is also of limited value when it comes to slow onset impacts, and when disasters become so frequent that they are uninsurable. Instead Governments must go beyond the NDCs and work together to introduce innovative sources of finance to build a fund to specifically address loss and damage (e.g.: fossil fuel extraction levy, bunkers levy, financial transaction tax, aviation levy) that can generate significant finance independent of government budgets.

## 5. Implement rights-based national policies

Only 64 of the 190 nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to date include a reference to women or gender. All 64 countries are non-Annex I countries. Implementation and reporting on nationally determined contributions must be undertaken in a holistic and coherent manner, taking into account international law and longstanding global commitments to gender equality and human rights, all principles in the Preamble of the Paris Agreement as well as targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda. Parties must ensure the active participation of women's right organizations and gender experts while implementing and reporting on NDCs.

## 6. Create a robust and rights-based platform for indigenous peoples and local communities

We call for a strong outcome at COP23 in the establishment of a formal platform for indigenous peoples and local communities. The WGC fully supports the proposals by the International Indigenous Forum on Climate Change on the objectives of the platform and demands respect and implementation of indigenous peoples right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in every intervention, document, and policy, in their territories and lands as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The platform should serve to protect the human rights of Indigenous environmental and climate defenders, as so many are locked in major conflicts with mining, logging and agricultural companies and private security firms in hundreds of places. The platform must recognize and learn from the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and urban poor, rural and remote communities in all responses, taking into account their gendered needs and responsibilities, and ensuring a fair and just share of conservation benefits.



## 7. Develop rules for community consultation and consent

Parties should agree on clear rules on ensuring public participation, access to information, consultation and consent on the implementation of NDCs under the Paris Agreement. This includes rules on integrating gender-dimensions and consultation with gender experts and women's civil society groups in the design of domestic strategies and plans. We call for a better institutionalization of civil society engagement, including specific space for women's CSOs, through engagement mechanisms that can be similar to the Constituencies of the UNFCCC.

## 8. Break free from fossil fuels

To ensure the realization of the commitments of the Paris agreement, COP23 should be the COP where developed countries commit to immediately halt all new investments in fossil fuels, with a clear and urgent phase out/ shift from a fossil fuel based economy to an economy based on energy efficiency and genuine sustainable and gender-responsive use of renewable energies, alongside phase out strategies and plans from developing countries based on their developmental needs. This must include national commitments to halt development of any new coalmines, as the single biggest source of carbon dioxide emissions from human activity.

## 9. Move the money

While Parties have committed just over 10 billion USD to the Green Climate Fund (of which USD 2 billion from an initial USD 3 billion US pledge will not be forthcoming following the announced withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement), in 2015 alone, global military spending was calculated at \$1.6 trillion (SIPRI). To meet climate finance gaps and fully implement the Paris Agreement and SDGs, countries should reallocate funds away from militarization to invest in gender equality, environment, social, economic and climate justice policies and programs.

## 10. Place communities over markets

Previous market-based mechanisms developed under the UNFCCC have failed to reduce GHG emissions and have often caused human and women's human rights violations as well as other environmental harms. The Sustainable Development Mechanism (SDM) under Article 6 must adopt a transformative approach that moves away from the offsetting logic and be designed in a way that truly ensures GHG reduction and includes binding obligations to respect human rights, gender equality, the rights of indigenous peoples, local community led strategies, and environmental integrity.



## 11. Listen to people, not profit

UN processes and agencies must maintain both a coherent understanding and enforcement of the concepts of duty bearers and rights holders. There is a trend in multilateral processes, to concentrate efforts towards private sector 'solutions', through attendance and presence within UN negotiations that are responsible for addressing and regulating, inter alia, global problems created by private interests. States are the primary duty bearers and have a duty to regulate corporations and other actors that cause human rights violations, deplete our natural resources or contribute to climate change. In the climate arena, various corporations have irreconcilable contradicting interests: the UNFCCC aims to stabilize GHG concentrations, whereas fossil fuel companies have strong interest in retaining fossil fuel infrastructure in which they have invested and yield large profits. The UNFCCC requires robust policy and procedures to deal with conflict of interest.

## 12. Ensure climate 'solutions' are gender-just

Climate 'solutions' must strive to be gender-just and should promote the following: a) ensure equal access to benefits/equal benefits to women in all areas of the energy value chain; b) are designed to alleviate rather than add to women's paid and unpaid workload; c) empower women via enhanced accessibility to basic services, livelihood security, food sovereignty, health including sexual and reproductive health and rights ending all forms of violence against women and girls; d) enhance safety and human security including for women human rights defenders and women climate and environmental defenders; e) ensure involvement of women and men from local communities, groups and cooperatives in all levels of decision-making; and f) enhance and promote women's human rights.

## 13. Promote energy democracy

Climate actions must also promote energy democracy and move us away from top-down, market-based approaches for energy distribution and control over natural resources. Communities, including women, should have control over their own energy systems as well as over other natural resources. End-of-pipe technologies such as carbon capture and storage, nuclear energy and other unsafe energy proposals should be rejected as they still pose high risk and uncertainties over biodiversity, food security and livelihoods.

## 14. Protect ecological food systems

Promote a shift away from our industrial food system, including industrial livestock farming, to promoting localised and indigenous crop-based food systems. Traditional crops and heritage variety help deliver resilience to climate change and food sovereignty for small holders and women. At the same time, such practices would allow for multiple benefits, including increased agricultural diversity promoting ecological diversity with indigenous varieties and improved resilience of communities. We equally demand women's access to productive resources and secure tenure rights to land, including within communities, which is critical to their livelihoods, food security and survival in a changing climate pattern.



### **15. Be led by ecosystem-based approaches**

Gender-responsive, ecosystem-based, community-driven and holistic approaches to climate change adaptation and resilience are essential for women's livelihoods and for the planet. Governments should provide appropriate forms of legal, policy and financial support for such approaches. Large-scale tree monocultures and other forms of large-scale bio sequestration for mitigation form a significant threat to the lives and livelihoods of women and men on the ground, and to biodiversity, also because they are far more prone to droughts, wildfires, landslides and other climate change-related extremes. All forms of public support to monoculture tree plantations should be immediately withdrawn and governments should actively convert existing tree plantations into more biologically diverse ecosystems.

### **16. Preserve the ocean**

Develop effective adaptation and mitigation measures to address sea level rise, ocean warming, ocean acidification and address harmful impacts of climate change and environmental pollution on oceans and coastal ecosystems such as river deltas, estuaries, sand dunes, mangroves and coral reefs, which are in grave danger. This includes action to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris, nutrient pollution, wastewater, solid waste discharges, plastics and microplastics into the oceans.

### **17. Make fisheries and aquaculture sustainable**

Recognize the importance of small-scale fisheries and associated coastal communities in integrated management and securing food security, and protect access rights for women-led, small-scale and artisanal fisheries in a climate-changing world. End IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices, addressing their root causes and holding actors accountable to remove the benefits of such activities, and effectively implement flag State and port State obligations, as part of global measures to address loss and damage impacts to climate frontline communities, and for effective climate adaptation.

### **18. Know that water is life**

Ensure water security for women and girls, and protecting the human right to water. This is an urgent issue in climate frontline States, where severe lack of potable water access due to climate change is an issue of right to life, water, food, health, education - with severe consequences for women and girls and their communities. In implementation, countries should undertake extensive environmental impact assessment and social assessment with a gender lens before approving any transboundary / inter-country water management projects, including hydropower projects.



### 19. Promote health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights

In fulfilling the right to health articulated in the Paris Agreement, gender norms, roles and relations should be considered as an essential marker in determining the climate change risks and vulnerability indices because these differences reflect a combined effect of physiological, behavioral and socially constructed influences including on health. All policies, strategies, and plans that focus on issues of climate change and health need to be integrated and coherent with, but not limited to, the Sustainable Development Goals. These must include responses to safeguard and provide for the people's health, including, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), as well as strategies to end child/ early and/or forced marriage. On this point, we urge COP23 to recognize sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as a crucial means to gender equality and as a climate change adaptation strategy. Parties should incorporate SRHR, including safeguard to end child, early/forced marriage, into the UNFCCC framework for national adaptation plans, programs and budgeting. When women and girls experience bodily autonomy and lead lives free from marginalization, stigma, violence and coercion - including sexual and gender based violence and early/forced marriage- and have the ability to decide if, when and how often they have children, as well as access to implementation of their decision, including availability of SRHR information and services, they and their families and communities become empowered and more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

