

Outline - May 2023

Expert Group Meeting: *Progress of the World's Women: Conceptualizing Feminist Climate Justice*

Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 July 2023

Progress of the World's Women: Gender Equality in a Changing Climate

Climate change is the most pressing issue of our times, one that is set to become *the* dominant global context and threat to continued progress on gender equality and human rights. Women's greater dependence on and unequal access to natural resources, public services and infrastructure mean that they are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and climate change.¹ Indeed, in combination with other crises, including protracted conflict, economic instability and political unrest, each of which are exacerbated by a heating planet, rapid reversals, in areas such as extreme poverty, access to decent work and economic resources, and gender-based violence among others, are likely. To prevent such reversals, efforts to support adaptation and increase the resilience of countries, communities and the most marginalized women and girls are urgent and overdue. At the same time, the need to transition economies away from fossil fuels towards greater environmental sustainability while also advancing social justice is equally pressing. What this looks like from a gender perspective, however, is so far largely undefined, meaning that opportunities to promote environmental sustainability alongside gender equality and social justice are often missed.

Against this context, women, including indigenous women and youth, are mobilizing to demand climate justice and for their voices to be heard and heeded in decision-making on climate policy.² The demand for action is clear, the science on the impacts of climate change is unequivocal, and yet global action is lagging. The landmark Paris Agreement commits 195 States parties to increasingly ambitious climate action, with the overall aim to limit global warming to under 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and preferably to 1.5°C. Seven years since it entered into force, the IPCC and the UN Secretary General have warned that limiting global heating to 1.5°C is becoming less and less feasible.³ This points to a clear disconnect between popular support for climate action⁴ and the scientific evidence, on the one hand, and government and corporate inaction to curb carbon emissions, on the other. What accounts for this disconnect, how do we make sense of this puzzle and what needs to be done to unleash change, innovation and hope for a better future?

¹ E/CN.6/2022/3.

² Dankelman, I. and K. Naidu (2020) Introduction: Gender, development, and the climate crisis, *Gender & Development*, 28:3; Dankelmann, I. 2010. "Women: Agents of Change for a Healthy Climate." <http://aaws07.org/english3/speech/5.2.IreneDankelman.pdf> (accessed 20 January 2023)

³ IPCC. 2022a. *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability: Summary for Policymakers*, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf (accessed 20 January 2023); UNEP 2022. *Emissions Gap Report*.

⁴ Inglehart, R. 1995. "Public Support for Environmental Protection: Objective Problems and Subjective Values in 43 Societies." *Political Science & Politics* 28 (1): 57-72; Papp, Z. (2022). "Environmental attitudes, environmental problems and party choice. A large-N comparative study. *Political Geography*."; Running, K. (2012). "Examining Environmental Concern in Developed, Transitioning and Developing Countries" *World Values Research* 5(1):1-25.

Against this backdrop, UN Women's Research and Data team proposes a new programme of work on gender and climate change structured around the next edition of its flagship report *Progress of the World's Women*. Through this programme, UN Women will build global knowledge to drive advocacy for tangible shifts in policy at global, regional and national levels to ensure that climate change policies on disaster risk reduction, adaptation and mitigation advance feminist climate justice.

The programme of work will include:

- (1) a conceptual framework on feminist climate justice;
- (2) innovative data analysis on the impacts of climate change on women's rights and gender equality;
- (3) a gender and climate policy scorecard to assess government commitments and progress on integrating gender into climate action across sectors;
- (4) actionable proposals for evidence-based policy approaches to advance towards gender equality, sustainability and social justice; and
- (5) sustained, evidence-based advocacy, with partners, at global, regional and national levels to change climate change policies in favour of women's rights and gender equality.

These components will feed into the final *Progress of the World's Women* report, to be launched in early 2025. Regional and/or country companion briefings/reports will be developed alongside the global report, to support policy dialogues and advocacy. Regional and/or country policy networks will be built through the development of the scorecard, and the validation of its data.

The work will proceed in stages, with the development of both the conceptual framework on feminist climate justice and the methodology for the scorecard being prioritized in 2023, with the aim of publishing a paper which outlines these two elements at COP 28 in November/December. To inform the conceptual framework piece, UN Women's Research and Data team has developed a draft concept note and will convene a virtual expert group meeting to discuss this initial proposal and to provide expert inputs to further develop and shape it.

Purpose and outline of the conceptual framework paper for COP28

The paper for COP 28 is a first instalment of *Progress of the World's Women* which will lay out the Feminist Climate Justice conceptual framework, which we will further develop in the full report. Our aim is for this paper to communicate our approach on the topic of climate change and gender, to invite feedback and inputs from stakeholders, and to build our networks and constituencies. By launching it at COP 28, we aim to open up space for gender equality advocates to discuss their visions for feminist climate justice.

In the paper, we will outline how operationalizing the vision of feminist climate justice requires a focus on four Rs: Recognition, Redistribution, Representation and Reparation; and then show how this framework can be applied to policy, by zooming in on one (large) sector: food systems and agriculture. The final part of the paper will outline an approach to accountability for achieving feminist climate justice, which will include a preview of our thinking on the gender and climate scorecard.

The paper will build on the concept note that we have developed, taking on board the feedback that we have already received, as well as the in-depth discussions and inputs from the virtual expert group meeting in July.

What is the purpose of the (virtual) Expert Group Meeting (EGM) and how will it work?

The expert group meeting is intended to bring together leading feminist researchers and experts to discuss the idea of feminist climate justice, as laid out in the concept note; to deepen the initial thinking that we have already done; and to explore its potential operationalization/application to gender-responsive climate action. As such, the EGM will directly inform the conceptual framework paper to be launched at COP 28, which in turn will be one key component of the final *Progress of the World's Women* report.

The virtual expert group meeting will bring together a small group of external experts, plus the UN Women team. It will be informed by up to six short written responses to the draft concept note.

We are proposing to spread the EGM over two days, to enable enough time for discussions while also managing time zone constraints. The first day would include two sessions over 3.5 hours; and the second would include one session over 2 hours. We are proposing seven guiding questions: 1-3 will be addressed in the first (framing) session; 4-5 in the second session on operationalizing for policy, with a focus on food systems/agriculture; question 6 will be the focus of the third and final session on accountability for feminist climate justice. Question 7 on issues of scale is cross-cutting and relevant to all the discussions:

1. How can the concept of feminist climate justice, to be advanced via public action that prioritizes redistribution, recognition, representation and reparation be strengthened?
2. How can the idea of interdependence - among humans and between generations, between humans and nature, and between countries enrich the concept of feminist climate justice? Is interdependence a good way to connect the concept of feminist climate justice to ideas around the ethics of care?
3. How can we best connect the feminist climate justice approach to the international human rights framework which guides the work of the United Nations, including UN Women?
4. How can the feminist climate justice framework be operationalized to highlight the transformations needed in specific sectors, specifically food systems and agriculture?
5. What are the key levers for implementing feminist climate justice? We have identified financing, data and politics - are these the right levers? What are we missing?
6. What kind of accountability approaches and tools have gender equality advocates used at different levels to influence the response to climate change? What has been successful and what are the challenges? What would an accountability framework on feminist climate justice look like?
7. Climate change is the definition of a 'macro' problem, yet many promising solutions are on a small scale and part of what makes them promising is that they are locally/ democratically owned and context specific. Given the urgency of required action at scale, how can such solutions be rapidly scaled up without losing these important features?

Draft agenda

All speakers/chairs are tbc at this point.

Time (EST)	Session	Key questions
DAY 1		
8.00 - 8.15	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Brief overview of <i>Progress</i> and introductions by participants</p>	
8.15 - 9.45 (1h30)	<p>1. Conceptualizing Feminist Climate Justice</p> <p>Presentation of draft concept note POWW team (15 mins)</p> <p>Three responses (10 mins each) by (tbc):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farhana Sultana, University of Syracuse • Fiona Williams, University of Leeds • Nahla Haidar, CEDAW Committee <p>Discussion (45 mins)</p> <p>Chair: Diane Elson, University of Essex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the concept of feminist climate justice, to be advanced via public action that prioritizes redistribution, recognition, representation and reparation, be strengthened? • How can the idea of interdependence - among humans and between generations, between humans and nature, and between countries enrich the concept of feminist climate justice? Is interdependence a good way to connect the concept of feminist climate justice to ideas around the ethics of care? • How can we best connect the feminist climate justice approach to the international human rights framework which guides the work of the United Nations, including UN Women?
9.30-9.45	BREAK	

<p>9.45 - 11.15 (1h30)</p>	<p>2. Operationalizing feminist climate justice for policy analysis</p> <p>Presentation (10 mins) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shalmali Guttal, Focus on the Global South • Susan Chomba, WRI <p>Three responses (10 mins each) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sophia Huyer, CGIAR • Clara Mi Young Park, FAO • Haroon Akram-Lodhi, Trent University <p>Discussion (40 mins)</p> <p>Chair: Jemimah Njuki</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the feminist climate justice framework (4Rs) be operationalized to highlight the transformations needed in food systems and agriculture? • What are the key levers for implementing feminist climate justice in this area? We have identified financing, data and politics - are these the right levers? What are we missing? • Climate change is the definition of a 'macro' problem, yet many promising solutions are on a small scale and part of what makes them promising is that they are locally/democratically owned and context specific. Given the urgency of required action, how can such solutions be rapidly scaled up without losing these important features?
<p>11.15-11.30</p>	<p>Closing of Day 1</p>	
<p>DAY 2</p>		
<p>8.00 - 8.15</p>	<p>Introduction to day 2: Welcome and recap</p>	

<p>8.15 - 9.45 (1h30)</p>	<p>3. Building accountability for feminist climate justice</p> <p>Presentations (10 mins) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magdalena Sepulveda, GI-ESCR • Maristella Svampa, CONICET <p>Three responses (10 mins each) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorena Aguilar, Binghampton University • Ubrei Joe Mariere, Africa Climate Justice Network • Arora Jonsson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences <p>Chair: Fleur Newman, UNFCCC</p> <p>Discussion (40 mins)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of accountability approaches and tools have gender equality advocates used at different levels to influence the response to climate change? What has been successful and what are the challenges? • What would an accountability framework on feminist climate justice look like?
<p>9.45 - 10.00</p>	<p>Final comments and wrap up</p>	