1. **How are the climate, pollution, and biodiversity crises adversely impacting women and girls? What are the principal barriers facing these rightsholders’ realization of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, a right that includes: clean air; a safe climate; access to safe water and adequate sanitation; healthy and sustainably produced food; non-toxic environments in which to live, work, study and play; healthy biodiversity and ecosystems; access to environmental and climate information; participation in environmental and climate decision-making processes; access to justice and an affective remedy when the aforementioned rights are violated.**

The following documents have references to the differentiated impacts of CC, droughts, and land degradation in women and girls:

Study on the differentiated impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought on women and men (in press, attached).

Report of the expert group prior to CSW66 (attached).

* Gender and Climate Change <https://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Roots-for-the-future-final-1.pdf>.

A suggestion is to frame the principal barriers facing these rightsholders’ based on the structural nodes of gender inequality:[[1]](#footnote-1) socio-economic inequality and the persistence of poverty; inequitable control of and access to natural resources (including land); lack of or limited access to markets, capital, training, technical assistance, financial services and technologies; patriarchal, discriminatory and violent cultural patterns; the sexual division of labor and the unfair social organization of care; and the concentration of power and hierarchical relations prevailing in the public domain, where institutional decision-making structures in the field of sustainable development demonstrate women’s limited access to the exercise of power and decision-making processes.

1. **What are the specific obligations of States and responsibilities of businesses in terms of adopting a gender-responsive approach to protecting (for States) and respecting (for businesses) women’s and girls’ rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment? Please provide specific examples of constitutional provisions, legislation, institutions, regulations, standards, jurisprudence, policies and programs that apply a gender-responsive approach to ensuring the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.**

This document provides inputs for the obligations of the States and examples of actions they can carry out <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47358-gender-equality-midst-climate-change-what-can-regions-machineries-advancement>.This paper was produced for the LAC region; however it can be applied to countries worldwide.

Specific examples of constitutional provisions, legislation, institutions, regulations, standards, jurisprudence, policies and programs that apply a gender-responsive approach to ensuring the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in the Latin American and the Caribbean are:

In reference to the normative framework at the regional level, and in particular in the Regional Gender Agenda, the issue of climate change is incorporated in the Brasilia Consensus, adopted at the Eleventh Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2010, recognizes that “climate change and disasters can negatively affect productive development, the use of time by women, particularly in rural areas, and their access to employment” (ECLAC, 2017a).[[2]](#footnote-2) On the other hand, the [Montevideo Strategy for the Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030](https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/41011-estrategia-montevideo-la-implementacion-la-agenda-regional-genero-marco)[[3]](#footnote-3)recognizes that the integration of women’s rights and autonomy in climate change adaptation and mitigation is not only essential and complements global commitments to women’s human rights and gender equality, but also maximizes the effectiveness of climate policies, programs and resources. The Strategy also calls for “harmonizing regulations at the regional level, taking into account the human rights of women, and assessing the extraterritorial effects of the legislation and policies adopted, in order to respond to transnational phenomena such as (...), climate change, (...) and the rights of indigenous, Afro-descendant, ethnically diverse and native women.”[[4]](#footnote-4) In turn, the implementation axes (section C) related to financing, participation, capacity building, communication and technology constitute a tool to create synergies with the climate change issue.

Reinforcing this approach, the [*Santiago Commitment*](https://conferenciamujer.cepal.org/14/sites/crm14/files/20-00089_crm.14_compromiso_de_santiago.pdf)*,* a product of the Fourteenth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (2020), achieved three agreements (32, 33 and 34) on gender equality and climate change:

*Advance in building a gender, intersectional, intercultural and rights perspective into national policies and budgeted programmes on sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, especially in the most vulnerable territories, strengthening women’s participation and the inclusion of gender equality in needs assessments and response plans, as well as in the planning and execution of public investment for reconstruction;*

*Integrate the gender perspective into national policies on climate change adaptation and mitigation, recognizing its differentiated effects on women, adolescents and girls, as well as on other groups in vulnerable situations, promote climate action respecting, promoting and considering the respective obligations with regard to gender equality, through strengthened coordination between machineries for the advancement of women and the governing entities of policies on environment, climate change, planning, energy and human rights, among others;*

*Actively support the participation of women’s organizations and movements, including those of indigenous, Afrodescendent, grassroots and rural women, in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies on climate change mitigation and response and disaster risk management, and promote the protection of the traditional and ancestral knowledge of the indigenous and Afrodescendent women of Latin America and the Caribbean.* (ECLAC, 2020).[[5]](#footnote-5)

***The Escazú Agreement: its importance and implications from a gender perspective***

Furthermore, the Escazú Agreement, which entered into force on April 22, 2021, promotes environmental democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Agreement is a pioneering and visionary instrument, considered one of the most important environmental and human rights agreements of the last 20 years. The Agreement embodies, in a binding treaty, the three rights of access or procedural rights enshrined in [Principle 10 *of the Rio Declaration*](https://www.cepal.org/es/infografias/principio-10-la-declaracion-rio-medio-ambiente-desarrollo) *on Environment and Development.* Its objective, therefore, is to “*guarantee the full and effective implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making processes, and access to justice in environmental matters”*.

Principle 10 and Principle 20 of the Rio Declaration, as well as the Escazú Agreement, are based on a fundamental premise: to ensure environmental protection, the fulfillment of human rights, the strengthening of democracy and the consolidation of a sustainable development model, States have the duty to ensure access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters.

These three pillars, rights *per se* and interdependent, constitute the irrevocable way to ensure the fulfillment of other human rights, be it the right to free association, to participate in the government of each country, but also the right to a healthy environment, to water, to health, to food and the right to live in peace and dignity.

It should be emphasized that all the substantive articles of this agreement, from articles 1 to 12, translate into obligations that are the principles of environmental law and human rights relating to: a) procedures, such as impact assessments, access rights, and the empowerment of people and communities; b) legal and institutional frameworks that protect and have the capacity to address environmental damage that interferes with the enjoyment of human rights; and c) with respect to people who are part of vulnerable groups. On this last point, the Escazú Agreement is also a precursor in that it is the first in the world to include a definition of persons or groups in vulnerable situations in Article 2.

Furthermore, Escazú is the first treaty in the world that seeks to guarantee in a particular way a safe and enabling environment for individuals, groups and organizations that promote and defend human rights in environmental matters, without threats, restrictions, and insecurity.

This is particularly relevant in Latin America and the Caribbean, as it is the region where environmental and human rights defenders are most at risk. According to Global Witness (2021),[[6]](#footnote-6) in 2020, 227 land and environmental defenders were killed. Of the 227, 226 murders took place in countries in the Global South, and more than 70% of the murders took place in Latin America.

The report also states that:

* It is possible that the records underestimate the real situation in the countries of the Global South, mainly because of restrictions on press freedom and the absence of independent records of attacks perpetrated. Moreover, the killings occur in the context of a much wider range of repeated threats that are underreported, such as intimidation, surveillance, sexual violence, and criminalization of environmental defenders.
* Information barriers also become relevant when analyzing the murders according to the economic sector with which they are associated. 49.3% of the killings could not be definitively linked to a specific economic motive, such as logging or agro-industry, reflecting the difficulty of investigating and reporting on these types of events, especially in remote areas, and even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic.
* In 2020, more than a third of all attacks targeted indigenous peoples, despite the fact that they represent only 5% of the world’s population. Moreover, 5 of the 7 mass murders recorded in 2020 were perpetrated against indigenous peoples.
* Of the total number of cases classifiable by economic sector, most are linked to the resource exploitation sector (forestry, mining, and large-scale agro-industry), hydroelectric dams and the construction of other types of infrastructure with high environmental impact. In particular, in Latin America, logging was associated in 2020 with 20 murders that took place mainly in Brazil, Nicaragua and Peru. In contrast, fishing is positioned as the sector with the lowest number of victims associated with the defense of land and the environment.

Just as the effects of violence against environmental defenders are unequal across the world, with the Global South being the most affected area (Forst, 2016)[[7]](#footnote-7), its impact is also unequal between men and women. This inequality is complex, because while in 2020 it was recorded that almost 9 out of 10 people killed were men (Global Witness, 2021)[[8]](#footnote-8), women often face gender-specific forms of violence, such as sexual violence, physical assault, physical violence during pregnancy (OHCHR, 2018a)[[9]](#footnote-9), and even slander, finger-pointing and smear campaigns (IM-Defensoras, 2017).[[10]](#footnote-10)

Women human rights defenders in general are more exposed to gender-based violence because they challenge patriarchal culture and gender stereotypes, which are deeply rooted in the role of women in society (OHCHR, 2016)[[11]](#footnote-11). In that sense, for women, the risks of being environmental defenders are enhanced by misogyny, and the attacks committed against them are underestimated in formal records, especially in those remote areas and rural sectors (Global Witness, 2021)[[12]](#footnote-12). For example, between 2015 and 2016 in Mesoamerica, there were 2,197 documented attacks against women human rights defenders, 37% of which had a gender-specific component.[[13]](#footnote-13)

Moreover, for women there is a double struggle, in the public and private spheres. Just as they speak out publicly to protect their land, water and environment, they must also defend in their own communities and families their right to speak out and be considered in discussions about the use and care of natural resources (Forst, 2016)[[14]](#footnote-14). Many women defenders are isolated from their own communities and close environment (IM-Defensoras, 2017)[[15]](#footnote-15), who slander them as “bad women”, or “bad mothers” (OHCHR, 2018a).[[16]](#footnote-16)

On the other hand, indigenous and Afro-descendant women are particularly vulnerable to violence, and in fact, in 2017 almost half of all women activists were killed for defending their communities and environmental rights (UNDP, 2018).[[17]](#footnote-17)

Faced with this reality, and based on the recommendations, mandates and observations of international law, the Agreement seeks on the one hand, to grant legal, fair, and deserved recognition to individuals, groups and organizations that defend human rights in environmental matters; and on the other, to consolidate a robust agreement that guarantees their rights of access and those of all persons. Paragraph 3 of Article 9 establishes that “each Party shall also take appropriate, effective and timely measures to prevent, investigate and punish attacks, threats or intimidations that human rights defenders in environmental matters may suffer while exercising the rights set out in the present Agreement.”

In March 2021, a workshop on [“The Escazú Agreement and the feminist environmental agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean” was held with the intention](https://fes-transformacion.fes.de/fileadmin/user_upload/atr_documentos/Actividades/PROYEC_1.PDF) of building, from the feminist movement, an agenda that guarantees the rights of access to information, decision making and access to justice on environmental issues. Among the challenges identified are:

* *Women’s right of access to information.* The permanence of gender roles and stereotypes that produce inequality and discrimination, as well as illiteracy, digital illiteracy, the technical language of environmental information, poor access to calls and/or public policies related to agricultural, fishing, forestry and environmental activities, lack of access to electricity, internet and computers prevent women from fully exercising their right to access information on environmental issues. This situation is compounded by the limited time available to women due to their reproductive and care workload, geographic barriers, and mobility difficulties.
* *Women’s decision-making in environmental issues.* Women are not considered in decision- making spheres. The percentage of women participating as decision-makers is very low. There *is also an absence of institutional mechanisms to ensure women’s effective participation.*
* *Environmental defense and access to justice for women* faces barriers such as the lack of legal production from a gender perspective, the implementation of sentences and gaps in environmental terms within the environmental legal framework; the lack of access and costs associated with information and communication technologies (ICT), the lack of mechanisms for the anonymity of women who denounce, and the difficulty for indigenous communities to access information due to lack of internet connectivity. In addition to this, there is discrimination, finger-pointing, and violence against women in environmental conflicts. The overload of care work in the home and inequity in land tenure prevent women from fully exercising their right to defend their environment.
* *The protection of women defenders of territory and natural resources* is undermined by the lack of recognition and appreciation of the work of women defenders, as well as little or no protection by the State toward them, including the lack of protection mechanisms. Added to this is the gender-based violence that results in threats, aggressions, forced displacement and femicides, which is aggravated by the growing militarization of the territories in the region. Finally, the lack of land ownership and tenure makes it difficult for them to defend their territory.[[18]](#footnote-18)

It is important to highlight that it is essential that gender equality be seen as one of the guiding principles of the Agreement. Without promoting a gender-responsive implementation of the Agreement, it is difficult to imagine that the commitments of the Escazú Agreement can be implemented.

***Gender mainstreaming in other regional and subregional environmental agreements***

The Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), within the framework of the Central American Integration System, developed the Regional Strategy on Climate Change (RSCC)[[19]](#footnote-19) with its respective Action Plan 2018-2022. Among the six principles of the RSCC, two address gender:

* Transversality, intersectorality and interculturality; one of the most important transversal axes is gender equity and equality.
* Coherence of governance and solidarity policies, equity, gender equality, and social justice.

In addition, section five recognizes that “gender inequalities intersect with the risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change. Women’s historical disadvantages, their limited access to resources, restrictions on their rights and their limited participation in decision-making spaces are determining factors that make them highly vulnerable and are likely to increase existing patterns of inequality.”

The RSCC also proposes the need to incorporate a gender perspective to guarantee the recognition of the existence of conditions of inequity and, therefore, inequality of different kinds faced by women in the face of the undesired effects of climate change, which aggravate their conditions in the face of the different elements generated by it. Hence, the importance of reducing the risks posed by the effects of climate change on this population sector in particular, in order to prevent the aggravation of pre-existing gender inequalities.

For its implementation, the RSCC is committed to integrate all those general and specific measures that allow women to actively participate in equal opportunities and conditions in the processes and actions defined in the different dimensions, areas, and levels of the RSCC.

Likewise, under the SICA under the Council of Energy Ministers, the Sustainable Energy Strategy of the SICA countries to 2030 was approved. This Strategy served as the basis for the development of regional energy sector goals (for mitigation and adaptation) and a regional energy pact. The strategy recognizes that “substantive gender equality is a strategic and high-priority issue that must be incorporated into national and regional development policies and plans and given the centrality it deserves.”[[20]](#footnote-20)

The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013) contains a chapter on gender equality (Chapter E). Likewise, the countries agreed in Chapter A on full integration of the population and its dynamics in sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights, “Guarantee sustainable production and consumption patterns and avoid exacerbating the undesirable climate change phenomena brought about by human activity.”

In addition, Chapter G on territorial inequality, spatial mobility and vulnerability takes into account the relationship between climate change and population mobility, calling for “Plan and manage territorial and urban development, from a human rights and gender perspective, by formulating mobility, population settlement and activity location policies that contemplate, among their objectives, avoiding the use of vulnerable and protected areas and preventing and mitigating the impact of socioenvironmental disasters and combating the environmental vulnerability of those living in poverty and ethnic and racial groups who are subject to discrimination, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation.” (ECLAC, 2013)[[21]](#footnote-21)

At [the Third Session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean](https://crds.cepal.org/3/en/event-information) (2019), the countries approved the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development, which includes a series of axes and lines of action to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With regard to disasters, they emphasize in strengthening “comprehensive and universal social protection systems that, in their design and operation, and in the design and operation of their policies and intervention models, mainstream the rights-based, gender, ethnic and racial, life-cycle, territorial and disability approaches”, as well as “contribute to increasing the response capacity of public institutions and the resilience of populations affected by humanitarian crises and disasters, especially those living in poverty, also taking into account the heightened vulnerability and limited response capacity of children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities to adverse effects during and after crises.”

Likewise, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) recognizes the uniqueness of these States, considering the adverse effects of climate change that exacerbate existing problems and place an additional burden on their national budgets, hampering their efforts to achieve the SDGs with equality. Indeed, the SAMOA Pathway reaffirms the importance of gender equality and the effective participation of women, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities for effective action on all aspects of climate change (United Nations, 2014)[[22]](#footnote-22) that characterize the current situation in the world and in the region.

The XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (2021) called for the integration of the environmental dimension at the center of recovery plans from the COVID-19 pandemic and the promotion of a reactivation based on social inclusion, resilient and low-carbon economies, and conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. In one of the eight decisions in the framework of the [*Bridgetown Declaration*](https://www.dropbox.com/s/kftnmm3fbm70l9v/Declaracion%20de%20Bridgetown_Español.pdf?dl=0) (UNEP, 2021), [[23]](#footnote-23)the ministers committed to promote gender equality by urging “all countries of the region to develop affirmative actions within the framework of environmental public policies that recognize women’s contributions to sustainable development, as well as the existing gaps in access to natural resources and the negative impacts on women and girls derived from their unsustainable exploitation” listing a series of requirements to achieve the SDGs “generating information disaggregated by sex; integrating gender-sensitive approaches in public policies; achieving a gender balance in participation and decision-making mechanisms; and designing policies that support the elimination of any legal or social barrier to women’s rights.”[[24]](#footnote-24)

***Climate change and gender equality in national-level instruments***

At the national level, the countries of the region have been developing a series of actions at a regulatory level. Examples of this include gender equality plans, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national or sectoral gender action plans (GAPs) related to climate change. Countries have also been making efforts to mainstream gender in their environmental regulations. In 2020, UNDP documented the mandates and/or gender considerations that eight countries (Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago) have incorporated in their national policies, plans, strategies, and communications related to the climate agenda (Quesada-Aguilar, 2021).[[25]](#footnote-25)

As for gender equality plans, they are instruments used by most of the countries in the region, and promoted by the MAWs, which allow guiding the actions of the State and planning and carrying out a process of joint work between the different sectors, enhancing the institutionalization and mainstreaming of gender (ECLAC, 2019)[[26]](#footnote-26). Of a total of 37 gender equality plans of the countries of the region compiled by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (OIG) from 1997 to 2021, 20 include the term “climate change”, which corresponds to 54% of the total. Of the 20 gender equality plans that contain mention of climate change, eight of them (i.e., 21.6% of the total) mention it as part of an axis or strategic objective in their programs (Aguilar & Aguilar, 2021)[[27]](#footnote-27). Box 2 describes how the topic is addressed in these eight gender equality plans:

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| --- |
| **Box 2**  **Addressing climate change in eight gender equality plans**   1. **Dominican Republic.** The National Gender Equality and Equity Plan (Plan Nacional de Igualdad y Equidad de Género, PLANEG III) of the Dominican Republic includes the topic “Environment, Risk Management and Climate Change.” This topic establishes component 5.3. “Ensure a gender equality approach in the implementation of the national sanitation strategy throughout the national territory” and the specific objective linked to this component establishes the following: “women’s rights are taken into account in all stages of planning programs and projects related to the environment, land management, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.” 2. **Grenada.** The Government of Grenada’s Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan (GEPAP) establishes an axis in both the policy and action plan entitled “Gender, Climate Change, Natural Disasters and Natural Resource Management.” It states that the Government will recognize and integrate the distinctive and complementary roles of men and women in policies and programs related to disaster management, climate change and natural resource development to build a “green economy.” In addition, under the political commitments (Art. 280-iii) it is stated that the Government will guarantee the equitable participation of men and women in the development of strategies and mechanisms for adaptation to climate change. 3. **Panama (2012).** Panama’s Public Policy on Equal Opportunities for Women establishes two strategic objectives (1.7 and 1.8) of the thematic axis on the environment. These objectives aim to “promote strategies and incentives for women in environmental management, through the creation of microenterprises and markets for environmental services, development and promotion in the following sectors: fishing, maritime, ecotourism, and agroforestry; taking into consideration the phenomenon of climate change, conservation of biodiversity, and natural resources” and “incorporate the gender and human rights approach in programs and projects related to the civil protection system, humanitarian aid and prevention and care related to climate change, natural and technological disasters” respectively. 4. **Panama (2016-2019).** The subsequent Equal Opportunities for Women Action Plan takes up strategic objective 1.8 of the 2012 gender equality plan and establishes again as strategic objective (1.2) “Incorporate the gender and human rights approach in programs and projects related to the civil protection system, humanitarian aid and prevention and care related to climate change, natural and technological disasters.” 5. **Uruguay.** Uruguay’s National Strategy for Gender Equality establishes four strategic lines, corresponding to guideline XI. 3, where climate change is considered. Thus, it mentions “promoting measures for adaptation to climate change (...)”; “identifying adaptation capacities and promoting women’s resilience to climate change (...)”; “generating information systems with indicators for adaptation and mitigation to climate change with a gender perspective”; and “generating knowledge on climate change and resilient and low-carbon development.” 6. **El Salvador.** El Salvador’s National Equality Plan establishes two outcome indicators oriented to the management, use and control of natural resources and the environment, which indicate: “guaranteed the principle of equality and non-discrimination in policies, plans and projects on climate change and risk reduction” and “promoted the participation of women in decision-making in the development and implementation of policies, plans and projects on climate change and environmental risk reduction.” 7. **Honduras.** The II Gender Equality and Equity Plan of Honduras establishes two strategic objectives where climate change is mentioned. In the first case, the objective is to “promote the creation of mechanisms for monitoring and social auditing of the international commitments subscribed by the Honduran State in the areas of environmental conservation, natural resources, climate change and disaster prevention, ensuring the participation of women’s organizations.” Strategic objective 1.6, in turn, indicates “incorporating the approaches of equality, gender equity and interculturality in policies, programs and projects for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, ensuring the participation of women in all decision-making spaces at the municipal, regional/departmental, national, regional and global levels.” In the same document, it is stated that “The State guarantees the incorporation of the gender perspective in policies, plans, programs and projects for comprehensive disaster risk management, in coordination with strategies, mitigation and adaptation actions for climate change.” 8. **Mexico.** Finally, Mexico’s National Program for Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination against Women establishes line 1.1.8, which states the need to “promote the harmonization of women’s rights with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.” The same document points out the need to “promote the participation of women and their role in the access, use, control and management of natural resources, and place them as protagonists in decision-making to improve their position with respect to the conservation, care and use of natural resources, environmental management and climate change”. |

In summary, the eight gender equality plans can be divided into two groups: those that indicate the need to incorporate the gender and human rights approach in programs and policies on climate change and those that indicate that there is a governmental commitment to guarantee the participation of women in decision-making spaces on climate change adaptation.

Although the first mention of climate change was identified in 2008, it was not until 2010 with the II Gender Equality and Equity Plan of Honduras that it was given a significant place as a strategic axis or objective in one of the gender equality plans. Along the same lines, by 2016, two gender equality plans were approved (Panama and El Salvador) that consider climate change as part of an axis or strategic objective. Additionally, in 2018, four gender equality plans make at least one mention of climate change.

This analysis of gender equality plans shows that, although the first considerations on climate change were made at the end of the first decade of the 21st century, it is only a little less than a decade ago (in 2016) that the incorporation of this issue in gender equality plans as part of a strategic objective or guideline became frequent.

On the other hand, when delving deeper into the ways in which climate change is mentioned and considered in the gender equality plans under the responsibility of the MAWs, it becomes clear that political participation, mainstreaming of the gender equality approach and recognition of women and some age groups as the most vulnerable population in the face of climate change make up the spectrum of priorities of the region’s governments.

Undoubtedly, this group of gender equality plans is a promising step forward for the region. However, it is necessary as national equality plans are renewed to reflect and implement international, regional, and national mandates and agreements on gender equality and climate change. In addition, it is necessary to harmonize national regulatory frameworks related to climate change with the gender mandates adopted under the UNFCCC and other regional instruments such as the Montevideo Strategy, the Regional Gender Agenda, and the Escazú Agreement.

As for the NDCs, they are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its long-term goals. NDCs embody each country’s efforts to reduce national emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each country to prepare, communicate and maintain the successive nationally determined contributions it intends to achieve.

As of 2020, countries have started to submit their new NDCs. In Latin America and the Caribbean, according to preliminary analysis, by October 2021, 22 countries have submitted their NDCs, 100% of which incorporate gender.

Other efforts include the development of Gender and Climate Change Action Plans (GCCAPs or ccGAPs). Six national ccGAPs have been developed in the region—Costa Rica, Cuba, Haiti, Panama, Peru, and the Dominican Republic—and at the subnational and local level, Mexico has developed two ccGAPs for a natural protected area in the State of Sonora and another for the Yucatan Peninsula.

The methodology is based on a participatory, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder process that brings together government and civil society to identify gender and climate change issues in the local context and develop innovative activities to improve the national climate change strategy or plan. One of the values of the cGCCPs is that they are an articulating instrument that guides coherence between different international and national instruments and regulations.

It is instrumental to mention that other countries have also developed national planning instruments (i.e., gender and climate change plans, strategies, roadmaps) that have used other methodologies. Such is the case of Uruguay, which developed a Gender and Climate Change Strategy (2020-2025) and Paraguay, which has a National Gender Strategy on Climate Change (2017). In the case of the Caribbean, Dominica, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia developed gender and climate change roadmaps. Trinidad and Tobago developed the Gender Action Plan with support from UNDP’s NDC Support Programme.

In the last decade, several countries in the region have been developing strategic documents that seek to guide the actions of an entire sector in relation to the promotion of gender equality and women’s autonomy. These include Mexico and Costa Rica, which have developed GAPs related to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; Nicaragua, with GAPs on gender-equitable rights and rights of access to forests, forest resources, and their benefits; and the initiatives “Disaster recovery with a gender perspective, climate and environmental resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDer),” which are being implemented in eight Caribbean countries.

1. **If your State is one of the 156 UN Member States that recognizes the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment in law, has this right been recognized and/or interpreted in a way that clarifies the state’s obligations or businesses’ responsibilities with respect to the realization of rights with no discrimination based on sex and gender and other grounds?**

NA

1. **What steps has your State, business, and/or organization taken to employ a gender-responsive, rights-based approach to addressing the impacts of the climate, biodiversity and pollution crises and to accelerate gender equality related to environmental decision-making processes, benefit-sharing processes, and outcomes? Please identify specific challenges that your Government, business, or organization has faced in these endeavors.**

These are examples of climate change gender action plans developed by countries, regions or communities worldwide.

In this link you can have access to at least 26 ccGAPs worldwide: <https://genderandenvironment.org/agent/agent-tech-support/ccgaps/>

<https://genderandenvironment.org/the-art-of-implementation-gender-strategies-transforming-national-and-regional-climate-change-decision-making/>

1. **Please identify specific ways in which the rights of particularly marginalized or vulnerable women and/or LGBTI persons are (or should be) recognized and protected to enable the realization of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment without discrimination based on sex or gender. "Marginalized women" include girls; women and girls in Indigenous local community, Afro-descendant and peasant communities, older women; differently abled women and girls, LGBTI women and girls, migrant, displaced, and refuge women and girls, unmarried, informally married and widowed women and women and girls living in protracted armed conflict. How can these populations be empowered to increase their impact as agents of positive environmental transformation?**

I am attaching two links. The first link is a reference document in preparation for CSW66 in LAC region and the second is the ministerial declaration

<https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/47715-womens-autonomy-and-gender-equality-centre-climate-action-latin-america-and>

<https://lac.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/02/declaracion-adoptada-por-las-ministras-y-altas-autoridades-de-los-mecanismos-nacionales-para-el-adelanto-de-las-mujeres-de-america-latina#:~:text=Declaration%20Adopted%20by%20Ministers%20And%20High-level%20Authorities%20of,environmental%20and%20disaster%20risk%20reduction%20policies%20and%20programmes>”

1. **What kinds of socioeconomic, cultural, legal, and/or institutional transformations would be required within your States’ national context to achieve gender parity that most directly impact environmental decision-making processes, benefit-sharing processes, and outcomes?**

NA

1. **To what extent do the environmental ministries, nationally determined contributions, and national biodiversity strategies and action plans of your State include gender action plans, gender-responsive budgets or budgets specifically devoted to gender equality? At the global level, what changes to climate and biodiversity finance mechanisms are needed to ensure that these are gender-responsive and equitably inclusive of female beneficiaries?**

Concerning this question, it is also important to include the way that gender has been incorporated into the national drought and desertification plans under the UNCCD. The study attached, chapter IV includes an analysis of the various national reports associated with the UNCCD. This chapter also includes an analysis of how CEDAW has addressed some of the topics related to the environment.

Your analysis should also look at how the women/ gender ministries or offices have been addressing environmental issues. An example of this type of analysis conducted in Latina America and the Caribbean can be found at: Aguilar, Lorena y Aguilar, Mayling (2021), Planes de igualdad de género y su vínculo con el cambio climático en América Latina y el Caribe. Hojas Informativas, Costa Rica, Secretaria General Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), [en línea], <https://www.flacso.org/secretaria-general/planes-igualdad-g-nero-y-su-v-nculo-con-cambio-clim-tico-am-rica-latina-y-0>.

In relation to the financing mechanisms, it is important to point out that most public multilateral climate finance mechanisms did not have a mandate for gender equality and women’s empowerment when they were established, nor did they understand the importance of incorporating gender considerations. However, in recent years, most of them have made substantial efforts and achieved considerable progress in mainstreaming gender in their policies, programmes or allocation practices. Gender considerations were included partly thanks to the advocacy strategies pursued by women in the environment sector and by women’s organizations and donors. It also reflects the funds’ internal recognition that “gender-blind” projects and programmes are not inclusive and often perform less well than their gender-responsive counterparts.

Today, for the first time, all major climate change financing mechanisms have mandates in the form of gender policies or action plans. This represents considerable progress and sends a signal for the rest of the global climate finance architecture to follow suit. The incorporation of gender equality principles underscores the importance of allocating inclusive and equitable resources, engaging women and increasing their access to resources, as these factors are key to effective and efficient implementation at all levels. However, one of the major challenges is to make sure the gender policies of international financial instruments are fulfilled and implemented, both nationally and regionwide.

Despite the foregoing, the climate finance architecture has not been designed to involve small grassroots organizations. Funds generally channel resources through “implementing agencies,” which are mostly large international environmental organizations or United Nations agencies. These then distribute the funding to other entities; and women’s organizations are often at the end of this line.

Under the auspices of Feminist Action for Climate Justice, the Generation Equality Forum is discussing the possibility of creating a fund devoted to climate solutions with a gender equality perspective. The usual practice has been to incorporate gender into initiatives or projects that others are developing. While this is a necessary procedure, it is crucial to increase the number of projects developed by and for women.

Suggestions to ensure mechanisms for the advancement of women and other national and local women’s groups have access to climate change-related funding sources include the following:

* In-depth knowledge of the gender policies and action plans of the main public financing mechanisms associated with climate change:.
* To understand the financial intricacies of climate change at the national level.
* Establish contact with the gender focal points of international funds to identify opportunities and areas of collaboration at the national level.
* Identify the national liaisons and the implementing entities of the different funds in the country, to learn in detail how they are fulfilling the gender policies of the various financial mechanisms, and to design measures to support their implementation.
* Design procedures that make it possible to fulfil the mandates of the funds for the formulation of national gender-responsive projects or initiatives.
* Ensure that the mechanisms for the advancement of women and representatives of women’s organizations participate in decision-making on the prioritization and development of initiatives and projects (for example, National Climate Change Committee, Ministry of Planning, among others).
* Design and formally set up a system that enables the mechanisms for the advancement of women to review or approve the various projects that are developed, to ensure compliance with the gender equality guidelines and requirements of the different financing mechanisms.
* Allocate funds in the project budget to monitor and evaluate the implementation of gender considerations.
* Provide technical assistance to the NIEs of the various funds in the country. To support the implementation of their gender policy, several of the financial mechanisms offer specific grants to NIEs with a view strengthening their institutional capacity to address gender considerations in projects and programmes. The mechanisms for the advancement of women and women’s organizations can communicate directly with NIEs to identify technical assistance grants.
* Guarantee direct access to financial resources.
* Consider recognizing the mechanisms for the advancement of women as implementing entities, to enable them to access funds directly.
* Develop outreach campaigns to enable women’s organizations, and grassroots and rural organizations led by women, to learn about mechanisms for accessing national and international climate funds.
* Organize exchange arrangements for women’s organizations and financial mechanisms to share knowledge, strategies and skills, to enable women and their national and subnational organizations to obtain funding. An example would be local financial fairs where women can learn about the various sources of climate change financing and their requirements.
* Lobby for gender equality and the Paris Agreement principles to be included in COVID-19 pandemic recovery plans and economic stimulus packages. This can be done by prioritizing investment in the care economy —recognizing it as a growth-inducing sector that can provide multiplier effects on well-being, redistribution of time and income, labour market participation, growth with sustainability, and tax revenue. It also implies identifying and removing obstacles for women to obtain decent jobs in sectors that promote a just transition, such as the clean energy sector. This also means recognizing as a structural barrier the excess burden of unpaid work that falls on women, actively encouraging women’s participation in these sectors, and promoting their training in areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) that are related to efforts to respond to climate change.

1. How can businesses best contribute to the realization of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, based on sex and gender? What policies or practices are already in place to ensure that business activities identify, assess, prevent, cease, mitigate, and effectively remedy adverse impacts to women’s and girls’ rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as articulated in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

NA

1. Please share any good practices.
2. What are the potential benefits of respecting, protecting and fulfilling women’s and girl’s rights to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment? Examples that treat girls distinctly from adult women would be particularly appreciated.

Some promising practices can be found at the following links:

**Wetlands and gender**

<https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/mainstreaming_gender_e.pdf>

**Promising practices Latin America and the Caribbean.**

La igualdad de género ante el cambio climático: ¿qué pueden hacer los mecanismos para el adelanto de las mujeres de América Latina y el Caribe? Serie Asuntos de Género, Nº 159.Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL). Chile. <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/46996-la-igualdad-genero-cambio-climatico-que-pueden-hacer-mecanismos-adelanto-mujeres>.

**Gender and Climate Change** (chapter7) <https://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Roots-for-the-future-final-1.pdf>

**UNFCCC Momentum for change- Women for results**

<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/un-global-climate-action-awards/women-for-results>

Study on the differentiated impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought on women and men (in press, attached). Both chapters on land degradation and droughts includes promising practices.

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