



## CALL TO ACTION TO ACCELERATE GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE ACTIONS

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

This Call to Action, led by the [OECD netFWD](#) on the occasion of the [COP28 Business and Philanthropy & Climate Forum](#), invites Philanthropies to accelerate climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, systematically addressing the specific demands, needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls across the Global South, while empowering them as agents of change.

At the [New Global Financing Pact Summit](#) (Paris Pact for People & the Planet) in June 2023, 19 philanthropies signed a [communiqué](#) that outlines how philanthropic actors can leverage their expertise towards supporting and scaling climate and development efforts. The communiqué specifically calls for an increase in philanthropy's financial contributions to address climate and biodiversity needs, while *maintaining support to human development priorities*. Key amongst these priorities is a commitment to identifying projects that reduce the gender gap (New Global Financing Pact , 2023).

This **Call to Action** capitalises on the momentum created by the Paris Pact for People and the Planet to emphasise the critical need for philanthropic organisations, as key partners of COP28, to accelerate and amplify gender-responsive climate actions. Philanthropic funders have a key role to play in strengthening climate financing that upholds gender equality commitments. Their experience and commitment can benefit to all stakeholders committed to climate justice and to supporting Agenda 2030.

### The pursuit of gender equality and climate goals are mutually reinforcing:

- **Climate change is not gender neutral.** To the contrary, evidence indicates women and girls are disproportionately affected. Overall, women represent 80% of the population displaced by climate change, which heightens their vulnerability to gender-based violence, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (ActionAid; Both ENDS; WECF en WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform, 2021 ) (UNHCR, 2022). In climate disasters, women and children are 14 times more likely to die than men (OECD , 2023 ) (UNCHR, 2022). Additionally, women, as primary users of traditional energy sources, face heightened health risks (OECD, 2023). The repercussions extend to their sexual and reproductive health, with climate-related disasters disrupting access to essential services, including family planning, menstrual hygiene products, safe abortion, and maternal and new-born health assistance. The context of chronic hunger for women and girls is further exacerbated by climate change, leading to increased health vulnerabilities (Smith & Myers, 2018).
- Despite these challenges, **women are and further become agents of change in climate mitigation and adaptation.** Their knowledge, especially in sustainable agriculture, builds resilient global food systems. Empowering women and girls become a force for local climate solutions, including resilient agriculture for enhanced food security (OECD, 2023). Women's expertise in biodiversity, agriculture and sustainable practices contribute significantly in sectors like the circular economy (One Young World , 2022). Women-led advocacy groups, exemplified by initiatives like restoring the Ecuadorian Andes' páramo ecosystem (UN Women , 2022)) , actively drive change on these agendas in climate programmes and international policy dialogues. Women's knowledge, experiences, and voices are critical in shaping climate change programmes and influencing funding.

**Funding development needs to go hand in hand with gender and climate considerations.** Data from 2021 indicates that both official donors and large philanthropic foundations targeted financing to climate change and gender equality at the same time (OECD, 2023):

- Official Donors provided over USD 867 million that simultaneously tackled climate change, through mitigation or adaptation, and reduced gender inequalities as their main objective. This represents less than 1% of ODA that year.
- Meanwhile, available data for private philanthropy indicates that both climate and gender objectives rarely coincide. Only USD 20 million in grants tackle climate change and gender equality, significantly less than 1%.

### **CALL TO ACTION: ACCELERATING GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE ACTIONS**

1. **We recognise the urgent need to break siloes between gender and climate finance** to fully reap the benefits of actions in these two areas. Recent integration of gender considerations into key multilateral climate finance mechanisms, including the Green Climate Fund, are steps in the right direction. But more need to be done.
2. **We acknowledge the need more transparency on how philanthropic funding is contributing to gender-responsive climate actions.** We need reliable and comparable data to make sure our commitments are effectively implemented and can achieve impact at scale.
3. **We commit to:**
  - More systematically include gender and climate considerations into our programmes, advocacy and investments and ensuring greater accountability towards the communities we serve.
  - Further leverage philanthropy's power as a catalyst for change — piloting and scaling transformative, intersectional approaches at the intersection of climate, development and nature.
  - Enhance our collaboration with other stakeholders, including business, civil society and governments to place climate and gender considerations at the heart of our efforts and to further break siloes.

## References

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