



# Climate Justice Guide

Comprehensive Framework for Action and Advocacy



Published by  
Arab States Civil Society Organizations and Feminists Network

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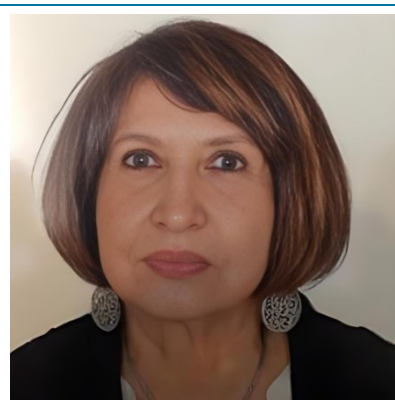
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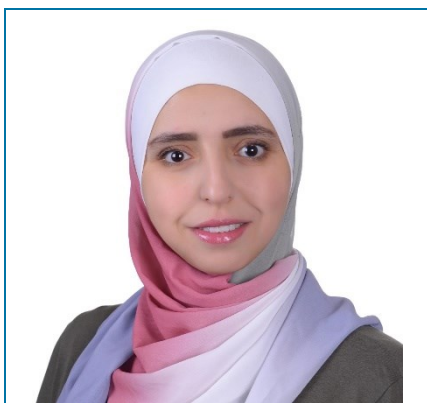
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## Introduction

**About the Arab States Civil Society Organizations and Feminists Network (AFCN):** The Arab States Society Organizations and Feminists Network is an alliance comprising 77 member organizations from 13 different Arab countries. This network is dedicated to promoting gender equality through advocacy and influencing policies and legislative measures. Its primary focus is addressing various forms of gender-based discrimination and advancing women's rights and empowerment across the Arab region. Through collaborative efforts and strategic initiatives, the network aims to create a more just society where women enjoy equal opportunities and are free from systemic barriers and injustice.

The Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) was formed by members of the AFCN, established by a gathering of Arab feminist and women's organizations during their meeting in September 2019 in Amman. They convened to discuss the Beijing +25 review report.

In collaboration with field experts, the Group began its activities by drafting a policy paper analyzing the gendered impact of climate change in the Arab region. This comprehensive document formed the foundation of our work, providing an in-depth understanding of the climate crisis from a gender justice perspective, encompassing social, political, and economic dimensions.

The paper recognized the prevalence of poverty in the Arab region, particularly among women. It highlighted the multiple vulnerabilities women face due to unequal access to resources, limited livelihood opportunities, and exclusion from decision-making processes.

Additionally, leading up to the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh in October 2022, we organized our first regional meeting in Amman, Jordan. This gathering brought together representatives from various Arab countries to explore ways to confront the challenges facing women in the region related to climate change and to enhance cooperation among participants. We invited prominent field experts and representatives of feminist groups. The meeting included awareness-raising panel discussions that highlighted the specific obstacles women face in each country, alongside a discussion of shared issues and concerns. We concluded the meeting by discussing potential avenues for cooperation and joint advocacy work. We also issued a joint statement reflecting the Group's commitment to addressing these challenges and paving the way for future collaboration.

The Climate Justice Working Group also organized a training session in March 2023 to equip its members with fundamental knowledge on climate change issues and enable them to advocate effectively for women's needs. The goal was to promote gender-responsive climate policies and demand greater gender equality in climate action.

Members of the Climate Justice Working Group conducted various activities in their respective countries to raise awareness about the risks of climate change and the situation of women. These activities included seminars, studies, conferences, public mobilization, and outreach to decision-makers.

Finally, given the expansion of our Group with the joining of more activists and representatives of feminist organizations in the region, we decided to publish this guide in Arabic. This will enable a larger and growing number of Arabic-speaking interested individuals to understand the issues related to climate change and its impact on women, and to participate in relevant activities. Through this heightened awareness, greater advocacy can be achieved to realize gender justice in climate action.

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## Why This Guide?

This guide aims to provide a comprehensive reference that members of the Arab States Civil Society Organizations and Feminists Network, policymakers, and civil society can rely upon to understand the general framework of climate change and track relevant international agreements. It also seeks to support efforts to promote climate justice by explaining theoretical frameworks, reviewing practical tools, and highlighting initiatives and practices.

### The Importance of Climate Justice

Climate justice is a global issue gaining increasing importance in the context of climate changes that unevenly affect the planet. It has become clear that the impacts of climate change are not equal across nations and communities.

Developing nations, which often bear the least responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions, find themselves most vulnerable to negative effects such as drought, floods, and sea-level rise. In contrast, developed nations, which contribute significantly to historical emissions, bear a greater responsibility to provide financial and technological support to those countries facing severe challenges in adapting to these impacts.



*This photo was taken in Dubai during COP 28 on Shireen Jurdi's phone*

This disparity has been addressed through three key climate agreements: the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement. These agreements aim to balance the different responsibilities and capabilities of states, focusing on achieving climate justice through mechanisms for support, finance, and adaptation. Climate justice is not merely a moral issue; it is a necessity to ensure that everyone, regardless of geographic location or development level, can contribute to mitigation and adaptation efforts.

**The vulnerability of rural women** to climate change stems from their reliance on natural resources for their livelihood and their essential role in agricultural work, gathering water, and fuel. This is compounded by the increasing unpredictability of yields due to climate variability and continuous desertification. In rural contexts, women account for about 43% of the agricultural labor force, yet they hold only 15% of agricultural land. They are denied ownership rights in half the countries worldwide, face obstacles in borrowing money to purchase fertilizers and tools, and have limited access to markets to sell their produce.

The UNFCCC acknowledges that the impacts of climate change can lead to an increased incidence of violence against women and girls, domestic violence, child marriage, and sexual assault. Consequently, responses to the climate crisis still do not fully reflect this "disproportionate gender impact."

Poor women in urban areas also bear the brunt of health problems resulting from the impacts of "Urban Heat Islands." This situation is exacerbated concerning vector-borne diseases (transmitted by insects) and water scarcity. Furthermore, the sexual and reproductive health of girls and women is also affected (United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA 2007).



## Chapter 1: The General Frameworks - The Paris Agreement – UNFCCC – Kyoto Protocol

### The Concept and History of Climate Change

The concept of Climate Change refers to a long-term shift in global or regional weather patterns, often caused by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial agriculture.

Concern over climate change began in the 1970s, with the emergence of scientific evidence linking rising concentrations of greenhouse gases to increasing global temperatures. The scientific and political debate then escalated in the 1980s and 1990s, leading to the establishment of an international framework such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992.

### The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC was established in 1988 by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The Panel provides periodic scientific assessments on the state of the climate and its future impacts. It offers comprehensive reports that support international political decision-making and was the main driving force behind the creation of agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

### International Agreements:

**(A) The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** was adopted at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It aims to establish a general framework for international cooperation to combat climate change by limiting greenhouse gas emissions. It is an agreement that does not impose specific obligations on countries in terms of emission reduction but paves the way for subsequent agreements like the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Most countries worldwide have acceded to it.

The issue of gender equality began to emerge in the thematic areas of the UNFCCC in 2010. The policy pursued by the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG), which extended over two years, was successful, as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) adopted a gender-sensitive approach. This was further completed by the development of the Gender Action Plan in 2014. Furthermore, gender language began to be used in the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) in 2015.

**(B) The Kyoto Protocol (1997)** is a legally binding international agreement, considered an annex to the UNFCCC. It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in industrialized countries by setting emission quotas. The Protocol entered into force in February 2005 and was criticized because it did not include binding obligations for developing countries, even though some, like China and India, contribute significantly to emissions.

**(C) The Paris Agreement (2015)** is an international treaty adopted in December 2015 during the 21st Conference of the Parties (**COP21**) in Paris, and it entered into force in November 2016.

The agreement aims to address climate change by limiting global warming, enhancing global efforts to adapt to its impacts, and holding global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels, while striving to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees. It is internationally binding, but each country determines its own commitments, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These NDCs are national climate action plans developed every five years by each country participating in the Paris Climate Agreement (2015). They detail what the country will do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.



There are challenges and gaps in these plans, as the sum of current contributions is insufficient to reach the 1.5°C goal. Furthermore, there is a discrepancy between the proposed plans and what is happening on the ground, as well as a funding gap where international financing is extremely low. Finally, there is the issue of the exclusion of women, youth, and many other groups from the planning process in many countries.

In the Arab countries, only Jordan and Tunisia can be mentioned for moderate participation of both women and youth. Other countries, such as Egypt and Lebanon, for example, do not mention the participation of youth and women in drafting these reports.

### Core Principles for Addressing Climate Change

To ensure an effective and comprehensive response to climate change, a number of core principles have been adopted to guide international policies and agreements. These principles focus on achieving climate justice and fairly distributing responsibilities among nations, commensurate with their circumstances and capacities:

- **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR):** Acknowledges that all states are responsible for tackling climate change, but to varying degrees based on their capabilities and historical responsibility for emissions.
- **Equity:** The necessity for policies to be fair, taking into account the needs of developing and vulnerable countries.
- **The Right to Sustainable Development:** Integrating climate change with sustainable development goals.
- **Historical Responsibility:** Industrialized countries are responsible for the largest share of historical emissions.

**(D) The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (1992)** aims to protect biological diversity, ensure the sustainable use of its components, and promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. It has been signed by 190 countries. The Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted in 2022, aiming to protect 30% of lands and oceans by 2030, reduce species loss and pollution, and enhance environmental financing.

**(E) The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (1996)** is the only legally binding convention that addresses the management of arid lands, combating desertification, and land degradation. It aims to combat desertification and support the livelihoods of affected populations, especially in developing and least developed countries. More than 195 parties have joined the convention, and it focuses particularly on Africa. The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Paris Agreement, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) all refer to gender-related issues.

### The Arab Regional Situation

The Arab region may witness a 4°C rise in average temperatures by the end of the 21st century. In July 2020, the temperature in Baghdad reached 125°F. Before that, the highest temperatures were globally recorded in Basra, Iraq, and Mitribah, Kuwait, reaching 129°F.

The long-term effects of climate change-induced land degradation affect forested areas in North Africa and the Levant, regions where traditional crops improve soil quality and stability, combat desertification, reduce water stress, enhance air quality, and provide habitats for local insects and animals. Wildfires, drought, electrical and sandstorms, windstorms, and flash floods claim lives, cause damage, and destroy thousands of homes and millions of hectares of land. **The views of women on how to update irrigation methods, how to design water management strategies, or even how to plan or implement them are not taken into account.**





Complicating the climate discussion is the fact that some Arab countries possess huge global crude oil reserves, and the failure to consider the realities or needs of other Arab countries.

In the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Israel controls 80 percent of the groundwater wells in the West Bank. In Gaza, people are deprived of access to 20 percent of arable land that falls within the "buffer zone" delineated by Israel. There is a link between mass migration and the disproportionate number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Middle East and severe environmental degradation and natural disasters. In 2017, 18.8 million people were internally displaced in the Middle East, North Africa, and Southeast Asia region, with over 11.8 million displaced due to conflicts. Rising sea levels and heat will displace even more people in Arab countries. Therefore, policies that have ignored marginalized refugee and migrant communities must be re-evaluated from a more gender-sensitive perspective.

## Chapter 2: Mitigation

### Definition and Importance of Mitigation

Given the direct relationship between average global temperatures and the concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere, the key to solving the climate change problem lies in reducing the amount of emissions released into the atmosphere and lowering the current concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by enhancing emission sinks (such as increasing forest area). Efforts made to reduce emissions and enhance sinks are referred to as "Mitigation."

Mitigation is defined as policies and actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions or enhancing their absorption capacity. This includes adopting clean energy sources, improving energy efficiency, and protecting carbon-absorbing ecosystems like forests and wetlands.

The importance of mitigation lies in preventing the catastrophic effects of climate change, limiting extreme weather events like floods and droughts, and reducing risks associated with sea-level rise and melting ice.

Mitigation can also achieve sustainable development by promoting investments in clean energy, creating new job opportunities, reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and enhancing energy independence. This fosters climate justice and protects vulnerable communities and developing nations from the severe impacts of climate change.

Across the globe, numerous measures are being taken to mitigate the effects of climate change by states seeking to fulfill their commitments under the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement. In accordance with the UNFCCC, Parties must consider the specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties arising from the impact of response measures, a similar call echoed in the Paris Agreement. The Kyoto Protocol obligates Parties to strive to minimize adverse economic, social, and environmental effects on other Parties, particularly those from developing countries.

### Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

Article 6 includes market mechanisms by emphasizing bilateral or multilateral cooperation (Article 6.2) and the exchange of "emission reduction units" between countries to achieve common goals.





The Sustainable Development Mechanism (Article 6.4) calls for the establishment of a global carbon market, allowing companies and states to purchase emission reduction units.

The Article also contains non-market frameworks, which relate to providing finance, technology transfer, and technical assistance to achieve mitigation without using market mechanisms.

### **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the core of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its long-term goals. These contributions embody each country's efforts to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Article 4, paragraph 2 of the Paris Agreement commits every Party to prepare, communicate, and maintain successive Nationally Determined Contributions that it intends to achieve. Parties pursue domestic mitigation measures with the aim of achieving the objectives of these contributions. Party states work to update their contributions every five years.

NDCs provide a framework for national planning with specific goals for each country based on its circumstances, enhance transparency and accountability, and facilitate regular reporting on progress while directing international finance to attract financial and technical support for developing countries.

### **The Sharm El-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme**

This is a work programme to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation during this critical decade, complementing the Global Stocktake process. The programme began after the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) and continues until 2026, with the potential for extension. It is overseen by the Climate Management Authority (CMA) and led by two co-chairs appointed every two years, holding at least two global dialogues and investment-focused events annually. Topics are identified by March 1st based on proposals received by February 1st. Parties, observers, and stakeholders can submit their views four weeks before each dialogue.

### **Mitigation and Climate Justice**

Achieving climate justice and mitigating the effects of climate change are crucial for long-term environmental, social, and economic well-being. A sustainable approach to climate action is not limited to emission reduction but also includes ensuring that the transition to a low-carbon economy is just and equitable. This involves meeting the needs of marginalized communities, promoting inclusive decision-making processes, and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure that benefits all members of society. Without climate justice, mitigation efforts risk entrenching existing inequalities and undermining the overall sustainability agenda.

The principles of climate justice and mitigation are applied across various sectors, including energy, transport, agriculture, and urban planning. In the energy sector, this includes transitioning to renewable energy sources while ensuring affordable electricity access for low-income households. Sustainable transport initiatives prioritize public and active transport, reducing emissions and improving air quality in urban areas. In the agricultural sector, climate-smart practices promote sustainable land management and enhance food security. Urban planning integrates climate resilience measures, such as green infrastructure and flood control systems, to protect vulnerable communities from climate hazards.



## Just Transitions

With the challenges posed by the transition to a low-carbon economy, the need arises for achieving social justice that ensures vulnerable communities are not marginalized. This chapter aims to explore the concept of "Just Transition" and ways to integrate social justice principles into climate transformation to ensure comprehensive and sustainable development.

### The Concept of Just Transition

The Just Transition, widely defined as ensuring that no one is left behind or pushed backward in the process of shifting to low-carbon, environmentally sustainable economies and societies, can enable more ambitious climate action and provide momentum toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through inclusive dialogue, countries must develop Just Transition approaches that reflect the needs, priorities, and realities of their communities, as well as their historical responsibilities for climate change and environmental degradation. While the concept of



*This photo was taken by Itaf Chehadeh during COP 28 in Dubai*

Just Transition arises from concerns about justice at the local and national levels, it cannot be separated from the broader issues of global climate justice and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). A global Just Transition requires countries to fulfill their climate commitments and ensure that, in doing so, they do not push poorer countries further behind by creating trade barriers or excluding them from opportunities associated with expanding new product markets. This also requires providing political space for developing countries to build their productive capacities, new frameworks for intellectual property and the co-development of clean technologies, expanding payment systems for ecosystem services, and scaling up international cooperation to ensure finance for infrastructure and resilience building.

### Objectives of the Just Transition

The Just Transition is considered the key solution because an unjust transition inevitably produces unjust outcomes. Targeted social policies must be adopted to mitigate and protect against the hardships of industrial and economic change. This includes measures such as low- and zero-emission public transport, as countries transition to renewable energy that enables communities to create new industries and decent employment opportunities. It also involves preparing policies that effectively address the human rights challenges facing workers (both male and female) and their families affected by climate change, fostering a sense of security in a rapidly changing world, and contributing to the eradication of poverty, not its exacerbation. Among the essential objectives of the Just Transition, we emphasize the following:

### Protecting Workers' Rights and Communities

To achieve the protection of workers' rights and communities, Just Transition policies must guarantee the provision of alternative, sustainable employment opportunities for workers (both male and female) affected by the closure of fossil fuel-related industries and support communities that are economically dependent on these industries.



### Promoting the Green Economy

To ensure a Just Transition within the framework of investment in renewable energy sectors and clean technology to create new jobs, it is necessary to enable workers (male and female) to undergo training and qualification for transitioning into green jobs.

### Enhancing Inclusivity

For comprehensive and integrated policies, it is essential to involve marginalized groups and affected communities in the decision-making process and consider the needs of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and rural communities.

## Chapter 3: Adaptation

### Definition of Adaptation

Adaptation refers to adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects. It denotes changes in processes, practices, and structures to mitigate potential damages or exploit opportunities associated with climate change. Simply put, states and local communities must develop adaptation solutions and implement actions to respond to current and future climate change impacts.

Adaptation actions can take multiple forms, depending on the unique context of each community, company, organization, country, or region. There is no one-size-fits-all solution; adaptation can range from building flood defenses and creating early warning systems for hurricanes to switching to drought-resistant crops, and redesigning communication systems, business operations, and government policies. Many countries and communities are already taking steps to build resilient societies and economies. However, more action and ambition will be needed to manage risks cost-effectively, both now and in the future.

The success of adaptation depends not only on governments but also on the effective and sustained engagement of stakeholders, including local communities, national, regional, multilateral, and international organizations, the public and private sectors, civil society, and other relevant actors, in addition to effective knowledge management. Parties to the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement recognize that adaptation is a global challenge faced by everyone, with local, sub-national, national, regional, and international dimensions. The UNFCCC established structured bodies and workstreams dedicated to developing adaptation responses and enhancing community and environmental resilience, including:

### National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) help countries plan and implement actions to reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change, enhance adaptive capacity, and boost crisis resilience. NAPs are linked to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other national and sectoral policies and programs.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) at its sixteenth session established the NAP process to enable Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to formulate and implement NAPs, aiming to identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs and develop and implement strategies and programs to address those needs.



## Objectives of NAPs

- Reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience.
- Facilitate the coherent integration of climate change adaptation into relevant new and existing policies, programs, and activities, especially development planning processes and strategies, within all relevant sectors and at different levels, as appropriate.

## The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) Work Programme

The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) was established in 2001 to provide technical guidance and support to LDCs on the process of formulating and implementing NAPs. The LEG is tasked with providing technical guidance and advice on accessing finance from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for NAP formulation and implementation, and it executes its work programme through various activities for sharing best practices and lessons learned.

The LEG executes its work programme through a variety of means, including technical guidance to countries, technical guidelines, technical papers, training activities, workshops, expert meetings, NAP expos, case studies, gathering and sharing experiences, best practices and lessons learned, the NAP Central, monitoring progress, effectiveness, and gaps, cooperation with other bodies, programmes, and organizations, and promoting coherence and synergy.

The LEG prepares an annual report on the progress made in the NAP process, which includes information on the progress made by developing countries, and the support provided and received.

## Adaptation Communication

**Adaptation Communications (AdComs)** were established under paragraphs 10 and 11 of Article 7 of the Paris Agreement. Each Party is required to periodically submit and update an Adaptation Communication, which may include information on its priorities, implementation needs, support needs, plans, and actions.

This strategy aims to increase the visibility, importance, and parity of adaptation with mitigation, enhance adaptation action and support for developing countries, provide input to the Global Stocktake (GST), and foster learning and understanding of adaptation needs and actions.

The Adaptation Communication should be submitted, as appropriate, as part of or in conjunction with other communications and/or documents, including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the National Communication, the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), or the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR).

## Facilitative Working Group (FWG)

The Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) is a formal body established at COP 24 in Katowice, December 2018.

This body was established to enhance the operationalization of the LCIPP and facilitate the implementation of its three functions related to knowledge, capacity for engagement, and climate change policies and actions.

In this regard, the FWG collaborates with other Convention bodies and non-Convention bodies, as appropriate, to promote the coherence of the Platform's actions under the Convention. The UNFCCC Secretariat supports and facilitates the work of the body. The working group is composed of 14 representatives, half representing the Parties and the other half representing Indigenous Peoples organizations.





The lifestyles of Indigenous Peoples are inherently low-carbon and affirm the balance between humans and the natural world. Their traditional practices have minimal impact on the environment and are responsive to it, fostering self-sustaining ecosystems. Indigenous Peoples protect an estimated 80 percent of the world's remaining biodiversity.

### Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

Under the Paris Agreement, the **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)** was established to provide a collective vision and direction for the international community to engage in adaptation efforts and build the necessary resilience. Following the conclusion of a two-year work programme, at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 5) (December 2023), Parties adopted the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience as part of the UAE Consensus. The Framework includes a set of thematic and dimensional targets for climate change adaptation and resilience and provides a platform for enhancing the implementation of adaptation actions on the ground.

CMA 5 also established the two-year UAE-Belém work programme on developing indicators to measure progress towards the targets set out in the Framework, which will be jointly implemented by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

The purpose of this agreement is to enable adaptation actions that are timely, scalable, and specific. Given that countries experience and are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change to different degrees, its objective is also to encourage solutions that consider local contexts and the specific needs of vulnerable people.

### Adaptation and Climate Justice

Adaptation is an essential element of the long-term global response to climate change to protect people, livelihoods, and ecosystems. Adaptation actions should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory, and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities, and ecosystems. Adaptation should be based on and guided by the best available science and, where appropriate, by traditional, Indigenous Peoples' and local knowledge systems, with the aim of integrating adaptation into relevant social, economic, and environmental policies and actions.

## Chapter 4: The Global Stocktake (GST)

### The Concept of the Global Stocktake (GST)

The Global Stocktake (GST) is a periodic assessment mechanism carried out under the Paris Agreement on climate change. It aims to review the progress of countries in implementing mitigation and adaptation goals for climate change. It is akin to an inventory process: it involves looking at all matters related to the global stance on climate action and support, identifying gaps, and assessing whether global efforts are aligned with the goals of keeping the increase in global temperature to well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels, while striving to limit the increase to 1.5°C. Science from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that global greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 at the latest and decline by 43% by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The IPCC has warned that exceeding the 1.5°C threshold threatens to unleash more severe impacts of climate change.



The GST process takes place every five years, with the conclusion of the first-ever stocktake occurring at COP 28 in 2023. During the GST process, governments, communities, organizations, businesses, the private sector, and all other stakeholders convene to assess their implementation efforts and the ambition of their climate change plans. It is a collective endeavor. The two-year review process first reviews available information, conducts a technical assessment, and moves into considering actions, decisions, and pathways. The purpose is to inform the next round of climate action plans under the Paris Agreement (Nationally Determined Contributions - NDCs). The review aims to determine the new NDCs that will be put forward by 2025.

### The Importance of the Stocktake in Advancing Climate Justice

The Global Stocktake is a crucial tool for advancing climate justice by promoting fair, inclusive, and effective climate action globally through:

1. **Promoting Equity and Equality:** The GST emphasizes the importance of social justice and a rights-based approach to climate action. Recognizing that marginalized and climate-vulnerable communities are the most affected, it encourages adaptation and mitigation strategies that prioritize these groups, leading to more sustainable and equitable outcomes. The IPCC affirms that these approaches support transformative change and foster climate-resilient development.
2. **Guiding Policies and Actions:** By providing a comprehensive assessment of global climate efforts, the GST informs political decisions and encourages states to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This process ensures that climate actions are consistent with the principles of equity and justice, address the needs of those most affected by climate change, and aims to motivate countries to escalate climate action to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.
3. **Supporting Vulnerable Nations:** The GST also plays a role in mobilizing support for developing countries, ensuring they receive adequate resources, technology, and capacity building. This support is essential to enable these countries to effectively participate in global climate efforts and protect their populations from climate-related harm. The GST assesses not only mitigation and adaptation but also the means of implementation and support, underscoring the importance of providing assistance to those who need it.

## Chapter Five: Lima Work Program on Gender

Climate change does not affect men and women equally. Women and girls suffer most severely from the effects of climate change, which exacerbates existing gender-based inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety. Women are more dependent on natural resources, yet they have less access to them. They also bear a greater responsibility for securing food, water, and fuel. During periods of drought and irregular rainfall, women, as agricultural workers and primary aides, exert greater effort to secure income and resources for their families. This puts



*This photo was taken from a study by Nabd Organization in Yemen regarding the impact of climate change on women's sexual and reproductive health in Ta'izz, Yemen.*



additional pressure on girls to help their mothers shoulder the increasing burden, potentially forcing them to leave school.

Climate change is a "risk multiplier," meaning it intensifies social, political, and economic tensions in fragile and conflict-affected environments. Women and girls face a rising incidence of all forms of gender-based violence (GBV), including conflict-related sexual violence, human trafficking, child marriage, and other forms of violence.

When disasters occur, women are further harmed due to existing gender-based inequalities stemming from disparities in knowledge, mobility, decision-making ability, and access to resources and training. In the aftermath, women and girls have less access to relief and assistance, which increases the threat to their livelihoods, well-being, and recovery, creating a vicious cycle of vulnerability to future disasters.

The health of women and girls is also threatened by climate change and disasters due to reduced access to health services and care, and increased risks related to maternal and child health. Research indicates that extreme heat increases stillbirths, and climate change increases the spread of vector-borne diseases that affect mothers and children.

The Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) is an international framework recognized by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at COP 20 in Lima, Peru, in 2014. The program aims to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment within the context of climate policies, and to improve women's participation in climate negotiation and decision-making processes. The program aims to: achieve gender balance in state delegations participating in climate negotiations, particularly in leadership positions; integrate a gender perspective across all aspects of climate action, including adaptation, finance, technology, and education; build capacity and train on gender and climate change issues for state representatives and civil society; collect and analyze gender-disaggregated data to support evidence-based policies; and advocate for national policies that are gender-responsive, such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The program was initially launched at COP 20 (Lima, 2014) for an initial two-year period. It was then extended and expanded at COP 22 (Marrakech, 2016). At COP 23 (Bonn, 2017), the first Gender Action Plan (GAP) was adopted within the Lima Programme framework.

At COP 25 (Madrid, 2019), the program was strengthened and extended for several years, and officially named: "The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action."

This is considered one of the first official initiatives that recognizes the pivotal role of women in addressing climate change. It calls for the empowerment of women not just as victims of climate phenomena, but as key agents in the solutions. It works to promote climate justice by acknowledging structural inequality and its impact on vulnerable groups.

The Five Priority Areas of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), as approved by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), are:

- 1) Capacity Building, Knowledge, and Information Sharing: Strengthening the understanding of gender and climate change issues among policymakers, civil society, and stakeholders through training and knowledge exchange.
- 2) Gender Balance, Participation, and Leadership: Supporting equal and effective representation of women in climate negotiations, decision-making, and leadership at all levels.



- 3) Coherence in Institutional Arrangements: Promoting the integration of gender into the structures, policies, and bodies under the Climate Convention, including working groups and executive bodies.
- 4) Implementation, Means of Implementation, and Support: Emphasizing the provision of equitable and inclusive climate finance that considers the needs of women and marginalized groups, while ensuring their access to resources.
- 5) Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting: Developing clear mechanisms to measure progress in gender integration, follow up on the implementation of activities, and enhance transparency and accountability.

A quick look at women in the Arab Region reveals that the majority of women do not own natural resources such as land, water, and fisheries. While agricultural work relies on more than 60% of women's labor—often unpaid or intermittently low-paid—women own less than 10% of agricultural land. When floods occur or when water scarcity and drought strike, these women lack the capacity to cope with or adapt to these changes. They cannot change the type of crop, nor can they resort to another irrigation system or afford to buy suitable new fertilizers.

Women's knowledge of coping and adaptation methods is also difficult to acquire when 47% of women in the region suffer from illiteracy, and when responsible authorities in their countries do not bother to convey information to rural women, or even communicate information through radio and television, which illiterate rural women could potentially access.

### **The Climate Gender Action Plan (GAP) in the Arab Region**

In 2022, 17 Arab countries ratified a Joint Regional Statement from the League of Arab States and UN Women during a preparatory meeting, focusing on women's economic empowerment within climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. The statement demands the integration of "gender-responsive measures" into climate planning and the political framework, including its links to National Action Plans (NAPs) such as the action plan for **Status Change Report** (SCR) 1325.

In 2023, the ESCWA highlighted the importance of integrating gender issues into National Climate Plans (NAPs/NDCs), noting that women in the region bear an additional burden due to water scarcity, food insecurity, and increasing forced migration. It concluded that supporting local policies that adopt a gender perspective is the optimal way to ensure a sustainable and more just climate.

A joint study between UN Women and the Arab Water Council in November 2023 highlighted the impacts of climate change on migrant women in Jordan and Sudan. It recommended the necessity of including various categories of women (such as migrants) in the design of climate policies and development programs.

### **Linking to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**

A UNFPA report issued in September 2023 highlights the importance of including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) within adaptation strategies. It stresses that women and girls face increased risks due to climate impacts on public health services, food security, and water.

### **Data for Institutional Action and Follow-up**

There is an urgent need for quality data disaggregated by gender to measure the impact of climate policies. A comprehensive ESCWA report from 2024 clarified the necessity of strengthening monitoring mechanisms to observe disparities and enhance accountability in the implementation of climate goals related to equality.





## The Role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Global Climate Negotiations

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a pivotal role in global climate change negotiations, representing the voice of people and communities affected by the consequences of climate change. These organizations contribute to raising awareness, providing scientific analyses and reports, and lobbying governments and decision-makers to adopt fair and sustainable policies. They also work to ensure transparency and accountability in the negotiation process, and they enhance the participation of marginalized groups, such as Indigenous Peoples and youth, in formulating climate solutions. Thanks to their continuous efforts, CSOs have become an indispensable element in driving the climate justice agenda and achieving the commitments of the Paris Agreement.



*This photo was taken from the page of the Woman and Gender Constituency (WGC), it was captured during SB62 in Bonn, Germany*

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) accredited by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) play important and multifaceted roles in the negotiation process and the shaping of climate policies, despite not having formal voting rights. For example, they monitor the course of negotiations and document what takes place in official sessions; publish reports and analyses that highlight the progress or setbacks of climate commitments; conduct advocacy and lobbying activities; exert political and moral pressure on governments to adopt more ambitious and just decisions; organize events and peaceful demonstrations during conferences to convey grassroots messages and demands from community bases; represent marginalized groups; and elevate the voice of local communities, Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth who are disproportionately affected by climate change. In the field of education and technical expertise, they organize workshops and parallel seminars to the official sessions to explain complex issues in simple language. They provide technical and scientific expertise, such as presenting scientific data and technical reports to support evidence-based decision-making.

The UNFCCC grants these accredited organizations several rights, including: the Official "Observer Status," enabling them to attend official plenary sessions (though they may only speak with special permission);



organize side events, where they organize workshops and conferences within the convention venue to highlight specific issues or propose political and scientific alternatives; submit written memoranda to negotiators summarizing their positions or recommendations; and meet with government delegations to discuss policies and engage in lobbying. They can also participate via "Constituencies":

- Business and Industry NGOs (BINGO)
- Environmental NGOs (ENGO)
- Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA)
- Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPO)
- Research and Independent NGOs (RINGO)
- Trade Union NGOs (TUNGO)
- Youth NGOs (YOUNGO)
- Farmers (currently operating on an ad-hoc basis)
- Women and Gender NGOs (WGC)

### Overview of the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC)

Established in **2009**, the WGC aims to ensure that gender justice is integrated into all levels of climate policy. It consists of a number of feminist, environmental, and development civil society organizations from around the world.

### WGC Activities in Climate Change

- Advocacy for Gender-Just Climate Action
- Demanding the integration of women's issues and gender justice into climate decisions and negotiation
- Focusing on the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, especially in the Global South.

### Formulating Alternative Policies:

It issues "Political Demands" at every Conference of the Parties (COP), which include recommendations for integrating gender into mitigation, adaptation, climate finance, and technology transfer.

### Supporting and Empowering Participating Women

It organizes pre-conference training sessions to support the participation of women from local communities and the Global South. It oversees the annual "Gender Just Climate Solutions Award."




## What the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is Allowed at Climate Conferences as a UNFCCC Accredited Group

- Attend official sessions as an observer
- Deliver formal interventions on behalf of women
- Speak in plenary sessions in its capacity as the representative voice of women and the gender perspective.
- Organize side events focusing on the impact of climate change on women, women-led solutions, and gender-just climate finance.
- Meet directly with state representatives (delegations and negotiators) to influence the texts of agreements or negotiating clauses.
- Cooperate with other constituencies and coordinate with Indigenous Peoples' organizations, youth, and environmental organizations to strengthen shared positions.

The Working Group in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) works within the WGC to ensure that the voices and aspirations of women and girls in the region take center stage in the link between gender justice and climate.

## Chapter 6: Climate Finance

### What is Climate Finance and Why is it Necessary?

Climate finance is a term referring to all the financial resources allocated to address climate change and support activities aimed at mitigation or adaptation globally, specifically financial flows to developing countries. These resources include public and private investments directed towards projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or enhance the ability of communities to cope with the effects of climate change.

Funding is directed by national, regional, and international entities for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects and programs. This finance includes climate-specific support mechanisms and financial aid for mitigation and adaptation activities through capacity building, research and development, and economic development. The term has been used in a narrow sense to refer to transfers of public resources from developed countries to developing countries, in light of the United Nations commitments under the Climate Convention to provide “new and additional financial resources,” and in a broader sense to refer to all financial resources and flows related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Climate finance is a priority in UN talks and has been at the core of discussions for nearly 15 years, since the Copenhagen Conference in 2009, where the first official financial commitment was ratified by wealthy nations to help developing nations combat the effects of climate change. Since then, climate finance has been the main issue for discussions at the annual Conference of the Parties (COP).

The Paris Climate Agreement is considered a turning point in global efforts to combat climate change, setting clear goals for climate finance, notably:

- **Supporting Mitigation and Adaptation:** The Agreement stipulates providing finance to developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through renewable energy projects, energy efficiency, and reforestation, and urges the enhancement of the capacity of states and communities to adapt to the negative effects of climate change such as drought, sea-level rise, and climate disasters.
- **Achieving a Balance Between Mitigation and Adaptation:** The Agreement focused on providing equal funding for mitigation and adaptation projects to ensure integrated and sustainable support.
- **Achieving the Annual Goal:** The commitment to **mobilize \$100 billion annually** from developed countries to support the efforts of developing countries.



## Sources of Climate Finance

Climate finance sources are one of the fundamental pillars for confronting the environmental and economic challenges posed by climate change on communities, especially in developing and least developed countries. These sources aim to provide the necessary financial support for implementing projects to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, which enhances countries' capacity to protect their natural environments and achieve sustainable development. Climate finance sources vary among national governments, international institutions such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), development banks, as well as the private sector and community initiatives.

### International Funding Sources

#### The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)

The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) is an international initiative aimed at establishing a new collective financial target to support developing countries in their efforts to deal with climate change.

The NCQG is an important source within the "International Funding Sources," and aims to improve access to climate finance and ensure compliance with the financial promises made by developed countries to developing countries. It also seeks to enhance international cooperation to secure sustainable financial resources that contribute to the implementation of comprehensive climate strategies.

The NCQG primarily aims to improve the financial commitment from developed countries and provide sustainable and comprehensive funding that meets the needs of developing countries. This, in turn, contributes to bridging current financial gaps and establishes more flexible and transparent mechanisms for accessing climate resources. This framework is being developed under the umbrella of the UNFCCC to replace the previous goal of mobilizing \$100 billion annually.

#### Green Climate Fund (GCF)

The **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** is a funding mechanism established by the UNFCCC to support developing countries in addressing climate change. It is one of the largest sources of international climate finance, focusing on supporting projects aimed at adaptation to climate change and the mitigation of carbon emissions. It provides innovative funding to support developing countries' efforts to achieve their climate objectives.

The Fund's financing concentrates on renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable water management and agriculture, in addition to protecting coastal and terrestrial ecosystems. GCF funding relies on contributions from governments and private institutions, and it allows developing countries to apply for direct project funding.

#### Loss and Damage Fund

This Fund is considered part of the international effort to compensate developing countries for damages associated with climate disasters. The launch of the Fund was announced at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP 28) in Dubai. The importance of this Fund stems from the fact that it represents an international acknowledgment of responsibility toward the impacts of climate change.

The Fund is financed by contributions from developed countries and donor entities. It focuses on providing grants rather than loans to ease the burden on affected countries. It concentrates on providing financial support to compensate for losses resulting from climate disasters, such as floods and storms, and offering support for the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure.





## Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** is included among the most prominent international funding sources. It is an international financial partnership involving 183 countries, along with development agencies and international organizations, operating in cooperation with the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The GEF provides grants and concessional loans to support sustainable environmental programs, such as financing projects for agricultural land rehabilitation and improving the efficiency of natural resource management. It focuses on supporting projects in biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable development, which enhances the capacity of developing countries to implement effective environmental programs.

## Adaptation Fund

This Fund was established under the Kyoto Protocol to support developing countries in climate change adaptation projects. It is included as one of the most prominent specialized funding sources for climate change adaptation projects. The Adaptation Fund is dedicated to supporting projects aimed at assisting developing countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as improving infrastructure and enhancing natural resource management.

The Adaptation Fund's financing relies on a share of the proceeds from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), in addition to voluntary contributions. It aims to build resilience against climate disasters, finance sustainable agricultural projects, improve water management, and enhance resilience in coastal and mountainous communities.

## The Role of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) contribute to providing finance and technical support for implementing climate-related policies and projects through concessional loan programs and grants allocated to countries seeking to mitigate or adapt to the effects of climate change.

The World Bank specializes in offering concessional loans and grants to support climate projects such as renewable energy, water management, and climate-resilient infrastructure. It launches initiatives such as the "Climate Investment Funds" (CIF) to support developing countries.

The IMF focuses more on policies and technical support, offering programs such as the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST), which supports countries in building their capacity to cope with climate change. It works to integrate climate policies into long-term economic plans.

## Regional and Local Funding Sources

**Regional Initiatives:** These include funding initiatives from regional organizations like the Arab League, which support joint projects among member states to develop effective regional strategies for confronting climate change.

**Local Funding Programs:** Local governments and NGOs play a key role in implementing climate finance programs at the local level. These programs include initiatives to support sustainable agriculture, improve water resource management, and promote renewable energies.

**Private Sector:** The private sector plays an increasing role in climate finance by investing in renewable energy projects, carbon emission mitigation technologies, and improving resource efficiency.

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** PPPs are an effective way to enhance climate finance, as they allow for the integration of efforts and resources to implement projects with broad and sustainable impact.



## Challenges Facing Climate Finance in the Arab World

The proportion of Arab countries accessing international climate finance is limited compared to their growing needs to address climate change challenges. According to the ESCWA report "Climate Action Finance: Needs and Flows in the Arab Region," the total international public finance for projects where climate is a primary objective in the region amounted to about \$14 billion during the period 2010–2020. Of these flows, the share from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), one of the most prominent international climate finance sources, was approximately \$90 million annually for national projects in the region during the period 2016–2020.

Furthermore, the region has witnessed a significant reliance on loans compared to grants; total loans amounted to \$30 billion during the same period, which is seven times the grants received by the region (\$4 billion). A worrying trend is the increasing reliance on non-concessional debt financing, which constituted 75% of total public finance flows for climate action in 2019, according to ESCWA.

The most prominent challenges facing Arab countries in accessing climate fund financing can be summarized as follows:

- **Weak Institutional and Technical Capacity:** Many Arab countries suffer from a lack of institutional and technical capabilities to prepare climate project proposals according to international fund standards. Many officials lack expertise in managing and preparing the financial, environmental, and social feasibility studies required to obtain funding. In addition, the absence of effective national mechanisms for coordination between governmental bodies and local institutions impedes access to climate finance.
- **Limited Transparency and Accountability:** Financial transparency and effective resource management pose a major challenge, as international funds require strict adherence to transparency and accountability. In some Arab countries, administrative corruption and poor financial management hinder the implementation of supported climate projects. Many Arab countries also suffer from the absence of clear monitoring and accountability systems, which leads to a loss of donor confidence in recipient countries.
- **Lack of Domestic Financing and National Contribution:** Arab countries rely heavily on international funding to confront climate change challenges, with an absence of sufficient domestic investment. There is a noticeable weakness in the private sector's participation in financing climate projects, despite it being an essential partner in many developed countries.
- **Political and Security Challenges:** Some Arab countries are experiencing internal conflicts and political instability that obstruct the implementation of climate projects and make them less attractive for international financing. The lack of political stability also leads to donor hesitation in providing funding, due to the risks associated with project implementation in unstable environments. Furthermore, conflicts affect government priorities, with resources allocated to urgent issues instead of climate change issues.

## Chapter 7: Armed Conflicts, Armament, and the Climate Crisis

The climate crisis and armed conflicts form a dangerous combination that threatens security and stability in many regions of the world, particularly in fragile states affected by multiple crises. Climate changes—such as drought, rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and the scarcity of water and natural resources—contribute directly and indirectly to the escalation of social and economic tensions, which can lead to the outbreak of armed conflicts or the exacerbation of existing ones. Conversely, conflicts leave devastating environmental impacts, as they destroy infrastructure, pollute water and soil sources, and reduce communities' capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change. Wars, armed conflicts, and occupation cause death and destruction, and also result in environmental pollution and climate crises. Emissions are produced



by wars through the use of diverse weapons and tools of war, and also result from numerous training exercises on weapon usage, and the preparation for or threat of war. The militarization industry is a cause of global climate disasters. Therefore, we must aim to end armament and call for humanitarian security policies instead of focusing on military security and defense. We need peaceful solutions to the multiple conflicts the world is witnessing, we need to mitigate climate crises and invest in adaptation programs, and we need a Just Transition towards clean energy sources and a new economy that is not based on neoliberalism, so that we can achieve climate justice.



*This photo was taken by Abdallah Juma'an in Dubai during COP 28*

Global spending on armament reached **\$2,718 billion in 2023**, exceeding the expenditure on environmental protection and tackling climate crises. Military spending also rose from 4% to 9% from 2023 to 2024. Furthermore, the military expenditure of NATO countries in one year is equal to what all developing countries require over five years to tackle their climate change crisis.

In the midst of these crises, women and refugees bear the heaviest burden. They are often on the front lines, securing food, water, and care for families. As climate crises and conflicts intensify, these responsibilities multiply, putting their lives and dignity at risk. Forced displacement resulting from wars or environmental disasters creates harsh conditions in refugee camps, where women suffer from insecurity, gender-based violence (GBV), and a lack of essential services such as health and education.

Moreover, women are often marginalized in decision-making processes related to climate or security, despite their participation being essential for formulating effective and sustainable solutions. Women, particularly refugees, possess local knowledge and lived experiences that can contribute to building more resilient communities capable of adapting to environmental and security challenges.





Therefore, addressing the impact of conflicts and the climate crisis requires a holistic, gender-responsive approach that enhances women's participation in peace processes, climate policies, relief programs, and empowerment. Women's and refugees' issues must also be integrated into national and international climate adaptation plans, ensuring fair and inclusive financing for initiatives that promote gender equality and climate justice.

Climate justice cannot be separated from social and humanitarian justice. Sustainable peace or a secure environment cannot be achieved without recognizing the disparate impact of these crises on women and refugees, and without empowering them to play an active role in response and recovery.

### **Climate and Conflict in the Arab Region: An Intersecting Crisis with Feminist and Humanitarian Dimensions**

The Arab region today faces unprecedented challenges resulting from the intersection of armed conflicts and the climate crisis, within a context of political, economic, and social fragility. Many countries in the region, such as Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Iraq, and Libya, are experiencing prolonged internal conflicts that coincide with extreme climatic phenomena such as drought waves, desertification, water scarcity, and declining food security. This intersection not only produces a complex crisis but also increases the vulnerability of susceptible groups, especially women and refugees.

#### **Climate as a Conflict Multiplier**

Climate change contributes to fueling conflicts in the Arab region by stressing limited resources, particularly water and agricultural lands. For example, the Euphrates and Tigris rivers are vital sources for countries like Iraq and Syria, and changes in water flow due to drought and transboundary water policies have led to increased tensions among farmers, communities, and even between states. Drought in areas of northeastern Syria also exacerbated poverty and displacement, which indirectly contributed to the escalation of tensions that preceded the armed conflict in the country.

#### **Women: Forgotten Victims and Resilient Responders**

In this complex environment, women are exposed to multidimensional risks. Conflicts deprive women of safety and increase incidents of sexual violence and child marriage, while climate changes lead to the loss of livelihoods and increased domestic burdens resulting from the scarcity of water and resources. In agricultural communities, water scarcity and land degradation negatively affect women's role in farming, as they lose a primary source of income and food.

Nevertheless, the roles of women are not limited to being victims. In refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon and displacement areas in Palestine, Sudan, and Yemen, women play a pivotal role in providing care, organizing communities, and building local initiatives to adapt to crises. However, their voices remain absent from the tables where decisions are made regarding climate adaptation, resource management, and peacebuilding.

#### **The Refugee and Climate Crisis**

The Arab region contains some of the largest communities of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world. Environmental disasters—such as floods in Libya and Sudan, and fires and rising temperatures in Iraq and Syria—have exacerbated the suffering of these refugees, as they live in fragile environments lacking infrastructure capable of coping with climate disasters.

Refugee women in camps face specific challenges, such as a lack of health services, the absence of legal protection, and difficulty accessing education and employment. They are also rarely included in climate policy-making or humanitarian planning, even though their experiences and knowledge of the communities are essential for building effective and inclusive responses.





## Armament Spending in Arab Countries

Armament spending is increasing in the Arab region, resulting in a severe decline in the economic and social situation of these countries, a deterioration in the status of women and less fortunate groups, and the deprivation of many of their human rights.

For example, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar are among the highest spending countries on arms in the region, with 27% of global arms imports going to the Middle East. Egypt is considered among the top five countries in the world importing arms, where spending on armament exceeds that on both health and education. Armament spending in Saudi Arabia is equal to what it spends on education and exceeds what it spends on health. The United States, Germany, Italy, and France are the largest exporters of arms to the region.

The increase in armament spending has not resulted in stability in the region; on the contrary, conflicts have increased and diversified. Spending should be directed toward peace, not war. There must be major reforms to UN policies to establish peace, especially since the five permanent members of the Security Council are among the largest arms exporters. There must also be regular international reports on the impact of armament on increasing emissions and on exacerbating the climate crisis in countries suffering from armed conflicts, and the participation of women in peacebuilding must be ensured.

Climate challenges and armed conflicts in the Arab world are not merely environmental or political crises; they are humanitarian and feminist crises that demand integrated responses that prioritize dignity, justice, and equality.

## Guide Conclusion

In conclusion, this guide clearly demonstrates that Climate Justice represents the cornerstone of global efforts to confront the challenges of climate change. By highlighting the main axes, this guide has covered the general frameworks, which include major international agreements such as the Paris Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol, and the UNFCCC. It also reviewed the importance of mitigation of climate change impacts through adopting effective policies to reduce emissions and promote the use of renewable energy.

On the other hand, adaptation to climate change reflects a fundamental axis aimed at enhancing the resilience of communities and ecosystems, with a focus on strategies such as ecosystem-based, technological, and social adaptation. The role of social justice and Just Transitions was addressed as a crucial pillar for achieving sustainable development that ensures the rights of vulnerable groups and most-affected communities.

Furthermore, the focus on climate finance mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), shows the importance of international cooperation in bridging the gaps between developed and developing countries. The guide has demonstrated the importance of working to involve civil society and women in climate efforts to ensure comprehensive results.

We consider this guide a contribution to drawing a comprehensive roadmap that helps policymakers and civil society members understand climate challenges and take effective measures to achieve climate justice and ensure a sustainable future for coming generations.

The Arab States Civil Society Organizations and Feminists Network seeks for this guide to be a tool that assists in training the largest possible number of interested individuals (male and female) in climate issues and Arabic speakers. Furthermore, it aims to be a tool that facilitates communication with official bodies responsible for climate issues in the Arab region, and a tool that aids in negotiation with national, regional, and international entities for climate justice in which women participate in decision-making.



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