

GENDER EQUALITY AT THE INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND LAND DEGRADATION



Rio Convention Synergies and UN Convention to Combat Desertification



UN Women emphasizes that achieving gender equality and women's and girls' human rights, the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and achievement of the goals and targets of the Rio Conventions are mutually reinforcing.

UN Women reiterates the CSW66 Agreed Conclusions recognition of women's and girls' vital role as agents of change for sustainable development and for addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and disasters and calls for women's and girls' full, equal effective and meaningful participation and decision-making in the context of the Rio Conventions. To create a more equitable and sustainable future for all, we must give priority to people and the planet over profits.

UN Convention to Combat Desertification 16th Conference of the Parties

Recognizing the interlinkages between desertification, land degradation, drought, gender equality and women's rights, UN Women calls upon Parties to the UNCCD and Conference of Parties to:

-  **1 Guarantee women's land rights and tenure security** and ensure equal access to, control over, ownership of, and benefits from land and water resources for women and gender-diverse persons. Realizing women's land rights is essential for attaining gender equality and an adequate standard of living, among other human rights.
-  **2 Ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in land governance, especially grassroots women, Indigenous women and women in local communities.** Key are eliminating discriminatory social norms, legal frameworks and practices and strengthening women's participation in land use planning, land administration and land restoration at all levels.
-  **3 Address the consequences of desertification, drought and land degradation for women and girls** and their communities, such as increasing conflict, forced displacement, gender-based violence, unpaid care and domestic work, and violations of their human rights.
-  **4 Ensure that food systems transformation benefits women and girls and their communities** by promoting gender-responsive policies and programmes for sustainable land and water management, land restoration, soil health, agroecology and building climate and drought resilience.

-  **5 Respect, protect and fulfil the rights of women environmental human rights defenders** who are at the forefront of protecting land from exploitation and degradation.
-  **6 Promote gender-responsive and human-rights based reforms of land laws, policies and administration and ensure access to justice.** Responsibilities of business enterprises, as articulated in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, should also be taken into consideration.
-  **7 Invest in robust gender and environment data and statistics** and build the capacity to collect, analyze and use gender statistics on access to, use of, and control over land and natural resources to inform policies and programming.
-  **8 Promote gender parity across the Convention** and increase women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of UNCCD decision-making and implementation processes.
-  **9 Integrate measurable and meaningful gender targets into national Land Degradation Neutrality target setting,** reflecting SDG indicators on land rights (i.e., 1.4.2, 5.a.1, and 5.a.2), and ensure their gender-responsive application at national and local levels.
-  **10 Significantly increase financial, technical and capacity support for gender-responsive initiatives** at all levels and scale up investments for implementation of the UNCCD Gender Action Plan. Increase support to the UNCCD Secretariat for timely delivery of the Gender Action Plan Roadmap.

Advancing Gender-Responsive Synergies Across the UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD

Recognizing the interlinkages and synergies across the three Rio Conventions – on biodiversity (UNCBD), climate change (UNFCCC) and desertification (UNCCD) – and the promotion of gender equality and women’s human rights, and their long-standing efforts to coordinate and collaborate, UN Women calls upon Parties to the Rio Conventions and the Conferences of their Parties to:

-  **Address the disproportionate impacts on the rights, resources and resilience of women and girls in all their diversity** caused by the interlinked crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
-  **Take coordinated, holistic measures** to address the acceleration and intensification of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, which are exacerbating poverty and inequalities, including gender inequalities, putting at risk all human and non-human life on earth.
-  **Take a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach** in decisions and their implementation across the Rio Conventions, including advancing and applying relevant Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly recommendations on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
-  **Guarantee the human rights and security of women environmental human rights defenders** whose actions cut across the impacts of and solutions to climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.

-  **Realize women’s land and resource rights and tenure security** as fundamental for achieving the goals and targets established by the Rio Conventions.
-  **Collaborate across the Rio Conventions** to ensure women’s and girls’ full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at decision-making tables to determine and implement decisions. Grassroots women, Indigenous women, women from local communities and youth are central to climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation challenges and solutions.
-  **Protect Indigenous women’s human rights** in biodiversity and climate action, promote their full and effective participation in policy development, project design, and natural resource management, guarantee the tenure and governance of their territories, and support their practices to conserve, protect and restore biodiversity and build climate resilience.
-  **Promote gender-responsive just transitions** away from economies based on the exploitation and extraction of fossil fuels and natural resources to mitigate climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
-  **Increase gender-responsive finance** for the comprehensive and durable implementation of goals and targets and agreed plans and strategies to address climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
-  **Strengthen coordination** amongst Secretariats, Parties and stakeholders of the Rio Conventions to harmonize relevant guidance and recommendations, including in negotiations processes, for gender-responsive implementation.