



Enhancing Gender-Responsive Nationally Determined Contributions



Insights from the Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard





Around the globe, the impacts of climate change on environmental rights, roles, responsibilities and opportunities are felt differently by women and men¹, due to gender inequalities.



While various studies document the positive contributions of women and girls to climate action, their inclusion and consideration within climate policies and financing are still limited and do not address the full spectrum and impacts of gender inequality – such as unpaid domestic and care work, poor access to health care or gender-based violence.

¹ “Women” and “men” are not homogeneous groups, their identities are shaped by intersecting factors such as age, race, and socioeconomic status. Each mention invites readers to take a context-specific and intersectional approach.

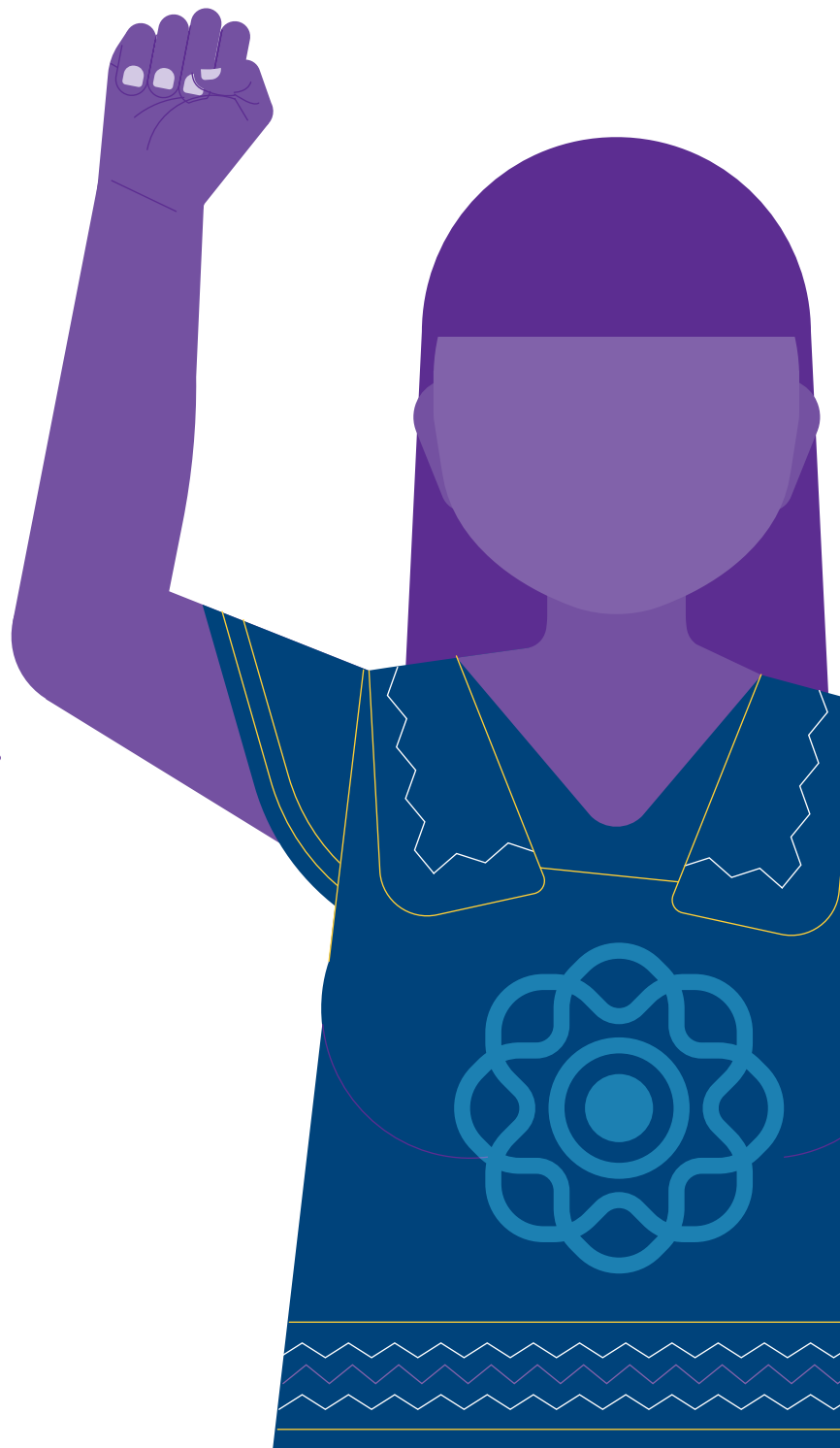
As climate change threats increase, it is more pressing than ever to monitor **how governments are responding** to its gender-differentiated impacts and bringing women's leadership to the forefront of climate action.



The Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard will monitor national climate policy commitments aimed at addressing gender inequalities, and their implementation.

The Scorecard considers **five gender dimensions, alongside gender mainstreaming**, as essential for climate policies to be truly gender-responsive.

It evaluates how countries **assess the impacts** of climate change on gender inequalities and barriers, **highlights the contributions** of women and girls to climate action, and **tracks policy actions** aimed at addressing these inequalities.



How to use this guide

The Scorecard will monitor the 2025 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and their implementation via a framework based on five key dimensions of gender inequality.² This brief provides insights on scoring criteria through guiding questions and promising examples from current NDCs that can support policymakers to include more ambitious and comprehensive gender commitments in the 2025 update of their NDCs.

² The Scorecard will assess countries' progress on gender and climate actions and implementation by analysing the 2025 updated NDCs, national gender and climate plans, climate finance mechanisms, and enabling frameworks.

Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard

NDC Analysis Checklist



Does your country address these dimensions in its NDC update?





1 Women's economic security

- Identifies women's unequal access to and control over resources, goods and services
- Recognizes women's key economic contributions to climate action
- Includes actions to improve women's access to and control over resources, goods and services for a just transition to a sustainable economy



2 Equal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work

- Identifies women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work
- Recognizes women's key unpaid contributions to climate action
- Includes actions to reduce or redistribute unpaid care, domestic and community work in the context of climate change



3 Safety from gender-based violence

- Identifies the impacts of climate change on different forms of gender-based violence
- Recognizes women's expertise in addressing gender-based violence in climate response and action
- Includes actions to address gender-based violence related to climate response



4 Safeguarding women's health

- Identifies women's differentiated health risks and barriers to health access due to climate change
- Recognizes women's key contributions to health in the context of climate change
- Includes actions to address women's health risks and access to services, especially in disasters



5 Women's participation and leadership

- Identifies barriers to women's equal, full and meaningful participation in climate decision-making and action
- Recognizes women's voice, agency, participation and leadership as key to climate decision-making and action
- Includes actions to enhance women's equal, full and meaningful participation in climate decision-making and action



6 Cross-cutting gender mainstreaming frameworks, processes and tools

- Enabling gender and climate policy and coordination frameworks that support the NDC are in place
- The NDC development was done in consultation with women's ministries, organizations and groups
- Gender-responsive analyses, monitoring and evaluation and accountability processes are included
- Capacity building to enhance gender-responsive climate action is included
- Sufficient resources are allocated to implement the gender components in the NDCs



Women's economic security

Improving women's access to and control over natural and economic resources and ensuring they are equal actors in just transitions.



Identifying barriers and risks:

- + How is climate change impacting women's livelihoods, as compared to men's, in areas such as poverty, food security, productive workloads, income generation or job losses?
- + What legal, structural and financial barriers prevent women from accessing and controlling the resources, goods and services needed to adapt to climate change and build resilience (e.g. land, livestock, natural resources, technology, financial resources, capacity building)?
- + What barriers do women face in gaining equal opportunities in the transition to a sustainable economy, including in education, access to capacity-building, climate-related information and technology, and green enterprises?



Recognizing contributions:

- + What contributions do women make to resilient livelihoods and climate action?
- + What roles are women currently playing or could play in the green transition across all national climate priority sectors?



Taking action:

- + What concrete policy actions can your country's next NDC take to advance women's economic security as part of broader efforts to transition to a just and sustainable economy? Are these budgeted for and sufficiently resourced?

COUNTRY ACTION EXAMPLES



Jordan

Jordan stresses the importance of supporting at-risk social groups in climate adaptation by "improving the existing social protection system to cope with climate change consequences and serve Jordanian segments of society including the poor, orphans, elderly, abused women and children among other vulnerable groups and individuals" (2021, p. 53).



Cabo Verde

Cabo Verde, where women account for less than 1 per cent of the workers in the utilities sector, aims to "Operationalise the Action Plan for Gender and Energy by 2030 and support the emergence of local businesses and promote economic opportunities for women particularly in the field of [renewable energy] to represent at least 20% of the workforce in 2030" (2021, p. 28).



Costa Rica

Costa Rica "will develop specific training programs for women, youth, Afro-descendants, indigenous people and other groups historically excluded from the labor sector, in order to facilitate access to green jobs, including areas such as renewable energy, regenerative and precision agriculture, sustainable construction and recycling" (2020, p. 49).



Equal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work

Recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's unpaid care burdens in the context of climate change and a just green transition.



Identifying barriers and gaps:

- + How is climate change affecting the time women and girls spend on domestic chores (e.g., water and wood collection, food gathering and production), caring for children and sick family members and environmental community work compared to men and boys?
- + How does unpaid care and domestic work affect women's and girls' ability to access education and economic opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaptation?
- + What barriers exist to the recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work in the context of climate change?



Recognizing contributions:

- + How are women's experiences and contributions in undertaking unpaid care, domestic work and unpaid community environmental efforts being recognized and incorporated into climate action on mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction?



Taking action:

- + What actions can your next NDC take to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work in the context of climate change? Are these actions budgeted for and sufficiently resourced?

COUNTRY ACTION EXAMPLES



Cambodia

Cambodia recognizes that women “often carry the burden of household care including medical care for the family” (2020, p. 12). Hence, one of its NDC adaptation actions sets a goal for “50% of all women project beneficiaries [to] avail childcare services to enable their full participation in horticulture training programmes” (2020, p. 112).



Guinea

Guinea plans to transition to cleaner cookstoves to reduce household reliance on fuelwood, a burden mainly carried by women, which will reduce the time and money spent while “also decreasing women's exposure to the risk of gender-based violence” during fuelwood collection. Likewise, modernized stoves “will reduce exposure to toxic fumes and the incidence of respiratory diseases in women and children” (2021, p. 30).



Vanuatu

Vanuatu highlights the heightened risk adolescent girls face of “being pulled out of school to help alleviate extra domestic burdens, like fetching water, that are shouldered by women” (2022, p. 23). One of Vanuatu's targets is “by 2030, 100% of water-climate vulnerable rural communities in the six provinces have developed a DWSSP [drinking water safety and security plan] and are able to address water needs in normal and (climate, disaster and environmentally) stressed times” and a gender outcome indicator will track proportion of men and women with access (2022, p. 59).



Safety from gender-based violence

Preventing and responding to different forms of gender-based violence, which are exacerbated due to climate change, and ensuring women's safety from gender-based violence in climate action.



Identifying barriers and gaps:

- + How is climate change, including weather-related disasters, impacting the rates and forms of gender-based violence in your country (e.g., child marriage, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, human trafficking)? How is it also impacting services for gender-based violence and women's access to them?
- + How are different forms of gender-based violence preventing women from entering or continuing education, jobs and roles related to mitigation, adaptation and environmental protection?
- + What barriers and gaps exist regarding the elimination of different forms of gender-based violence and how is climate change impacting those national efforts?



Recognizing contributions:

- + How are women's experiences and contributions to addressing gender-based violence risks being heard and recognized in climate action? How are male allies contributing?



Taking action:

- + What concrete actions can your country's next NDC take to address the different forms of gender-based violence, in the context of weather-related disasters and climate action to ensure safer and more inclusive societies?

COUNTRY ACTION EXAMPLES



Pakistan

Pakistan's efforts to introduce social safety nets in disaster management included training sessions to "sensitize men and harness them as champions in preventing violence and assault" (2021, p. 57).



Vanuatu

Vanuatu "commits to ensure that climate displaced people, people at risk of displacement, internal migrants, people living in informal settlements, communities relocating to new locations and host communities, have continued access to basic health and medical services, including post-sexual assault treatment and care relating to sexual and reproductive health and chronic illness" (2022, p. 15).



El Salvador

El Salvador's goal on sustainable transportation explains how it will result in "Equal access for women and men to sustainable transportation infrastructure and technologies, in an environment free of violence against women" (2022, p. 93).



Safeguarding women's health

Mitigating the differentiated health risks among women and men due to climate change and securing women's access to health services amid climate change impacts and disasters.



Identifying barriers and gaps:

- + How is climate change affecting women's and men's health differently (e.g., injuries, fatalities and mental health impacts of extreme weather, heat-related illnesses and deaths, vector- and water-borne diseases or air quality and respiratory illnesses). How do socioeconomic and gender inequalities exacerbate these impacts?
- + How is climate change impacting women's access to health care services compared to men's?



Recognizing contributions:

- + How are women's knowledge about and contributions to health care and to safeguarding the health of their families and communities contributing to climate change adaptation?



Taking action:

- + What actions can your country's next NDC take to address climate change-related diseases and build the capacity of health sector agencies to integrate gender into climate change responses?

COUNTRY ACTION EXAMPLES



Mexico

To enhance energy efficiency in households in Mexico, one mitigation action is to “support rural communities to reduce the use of firewood and to have more efficient combustion processes, thereby protecting the health of the population, mainly women and children in rural households that currently have a high exposure to this pollutant” (2022, p. 15).



Seychelles

To inform climate adaptation actions on early warnings and disaster risk management, Seychelles commits to “ensuring that climate-related vulnerability assessments and actions take into account sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence risks and protective measures and are informed by disaggregated population data” (2021, p. 36).



Nigeria

Nigeria mentions its 2020 National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change, which includes actions to “train women community nurses to address climate change-related diseases” and “conduct capacity building on integrating climate change and gender issues in the health sector for health sector agencies” (2021, p. 38).



Women's participation and leadership

Promoting women's voice, agency and their full, meaningful and equal participation in climate decision-making and action.



Identifying barriers and gaps:

- + What barriers, challenges and gaps exist to women's full, meaningful and equal participation in climate decision-making and action, particularly for women environmental defenders and women most impacted by climate change?
- + How is climate change impacting women's equal participation and leadership in climate decision-making and action?



Recognizing contributions:

- + How are women's knowledge, participation and leadership in climate decision-making and action in your country being recognized and promoted, particularly those of women at the forefront of climate impacts and action?
- + How are women environmental defenders participating and leading in climate decision-making?



Taking action:

- + What actions can your country's next NDC take to enhance women's agency and full, meaningful and equal participation in climate action and decision-making processes?

COUNTRY ACTION EXAMPLES



Indonesia

To enhance communities' capacities and participation in natural resource management, Indonesia proposes the "development and implementation of appropriate mechanisms for community participation, taking into account gender participation, gender equity and gender balance and vulnerable groups (disabled, children and elders), and cross intergenerational needs" and action to "facilitate and oversight to ensure community interests, including gender, are accommodated in [the] development plan" (2022, pp. 42 – 43).



Tunisia

Tunisia aims to form "a committee of parliamentarians from all regions of Tunisia dedicated to the cause of women, particularly those in rural areas, in order to support the institutionalization of gender and its integration into public policies through climate change measures" and to "support the knowledge and training of parliaments in the areas of gender equality, gender and climate change in order to strengthen, get closer to gender parity and achieve representation of the population in all its diversity including all categories of women" (2021, p. 66).



Guatemala

One of Guatemala's adaptation goals on forest resources, ecosystems and protected areas is that "by 2025 (...) at least 30% of them [the forests] under management are managed by indigenous and non-indigenous women" (2022, p. 45).



Cross-cutting gender mainstreaming frameworks, processes and tools

Enhancing frameworks, processes, tools, capacities and investments to advance gender equality in climate policies.



Identifying barriers and gaps:

- + What are the barriers and gaps to mainstreaming gender equality into climate policy, including capacity and finance needs, and how are these being addressed?
- + Are national gender and climate change legislation, policies or plans in place?
- + Are gender ministries part of existing national coordination mechanisms on climate change, including for the development and implementation of the NDC?



The next update of NDCs is an opportunity to better integrate gender equality into climate policies by:

- + Involving national women's machineries and diverse women's organizations in consultations for the NDC development and implementation.
- + Including gender equality commitments, objectives and activities and ensuring they are adequately resourced across all sectors.
- + Using gender analysis, including sex-disaggregated data, in NDC risk assessments.
- + Incorporating gender indicators in the NDC's monitoring framework to track progress.

COUNTRY ACTION EXAMPLES



Canada

Canada's NDC "is committed to using Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+), an analytical process that provides a rigorous method to assess systemic inequalities, across the federal government to advance gender equality in Canada" including "for each policy and program to maximize positive benefits for those most impacted by the negative effects of climate change, including low-income Canadians, women, Indigenous communities, and people living in rural and remote areas" (2021, p. 10).



Liberia

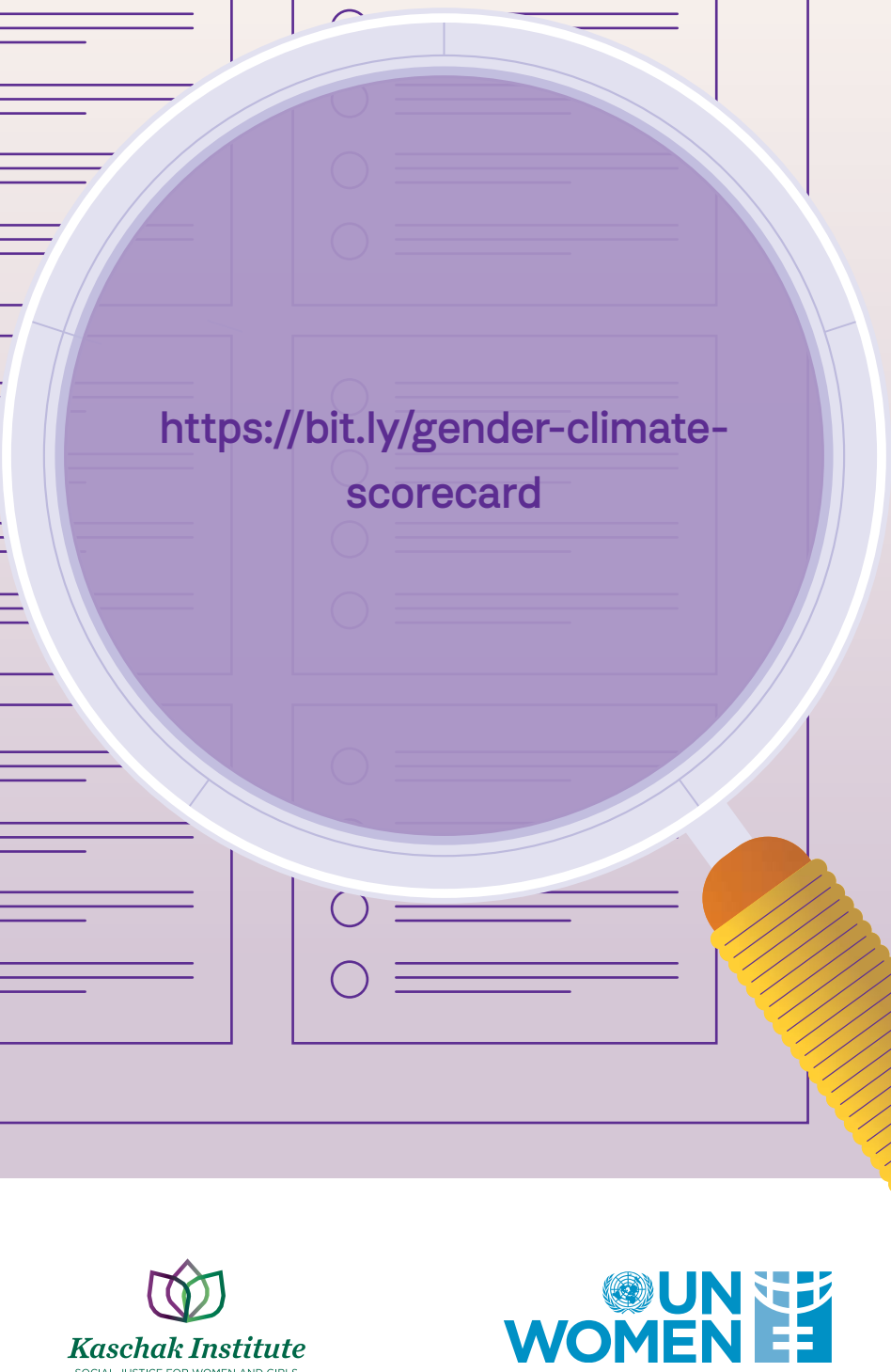
Liberia organized a National Gender Dialogue to "incorporate gender inclusiveness in Liberia's NDC for an effective and efficient implementation", with a focus on women's economic empowerment and participation. The dialogue included "civil society groups promoting gender equality and women empowerment, gender coordinators across Liberia's 15 political sub-divisions, as well as the private sector and community-based groups supporting women's empowerment" (2021, pp. 11-12).



Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda will develop a monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system that "will promote the collection of sex and age disaggregated data and focus on ensuring that there is sufficient information available for all social/gender groups (including women, children, men, people with disabilities, the elderly and vulnerable and disadvantaged people, etc.) to participate in decision making" (2021, p. 34).

To receive updates on the scorecard's progress or take part in consultations to inform its development, please visit:



<https://bit.ly/gender-climate-scorecard>

