

**LEAD THE TRANSFORMATION, RAISE AMBITION**  
**COMMIT TO CLIMATE ACTIONS THAT ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY**  
**AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

**Your pledge is needed for our collective ambition to be heard loudly  
at the SG's Climate Action Summit**

**Why climate action needs gender equality**

Climate change impacts are staggering: they are robbing people, especially those most vulnerable, of their lives, livelihoods and their future. Women and girls commonly face higher risks and greater burdens due to existing inequalities. Climate change is thus threatening the global communities' gains in advancing gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment.

Yet to meet the temperature goal of 1.5 °C, it is critical that everyone contributes to the solutions. The Paris Agreement, the Lima Work Programme on Gender and the Gender Action Plan of the UNFCCC and other decisions from UN bodies provide clear mandates: climate programmes, initiatives, and actions must empower women and engage them as actors, beneficiaries and leaders. Women-led initiatives must be supported and scaled-up for an equitable, resilient, low-carbon economies and societies.

Many women have been leading climate actions. They are clean energy engineers, scientists, innovators of local resilience solutions, keepers and bearers of traditional farming knowledge and technologies, and much more. But gender inequality persists, and women continue to be constrained in their actions by structural barriers that limit their access to and control over resources, including finance and decision-making processes in public and private spheres and at all levels.

Governments, organizations and other stakeholders have been supporting and continue to support climate actions that advance gender equality and women's empowerment. Their work include developing climate change and gender action plans, gender-responsive nationally determined contributions and National Adaptation Plans. They also support programmes such as climate-smart agriculture and energy projects centered on advancing women's empowerment. Strong political messages including from the G7 on climate change and addressing gender inequality and from climate finance mechanisms requiring projects and programmes to engage and benefit women on the ground have brought renewed focus to gender equality in climate action. Initiatives such as the UNFCCC Momentum for Change award are bringing global attention to scalable climate actions by women on the ground. **These impressive efforts should be built on**, as more is urgently needed to realize maximum sustainable development dividends and to raise climate ambition.

The dedicated commitment on gender equality to raise climate ambition forms a significant **consolidated commitment towards facilitating women's vital leadership in climate actions**. These actions will ensure sustained attention and support for women and girls to carry out their critical roles as climate actors building their own and their communities' resilience and contributing to transformational and ambitious efforts to realize the goals of the Paris Agreement.

## Commit to climate actions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

The Social and Political Drivers of Climate Action (SPD) Coalition is led by the governments of Peru and Spain, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Department Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The gender task force of this coalition is supported by Costa Rica and Australia as well as Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF). Our coalition of governments, agencies and institutions aims to harness these social and political drivers to improve people's health, reduce inequalities, including gender inequality, promote social justice and maximize opportunities of decent work for all – while protecting the climate for future generations.

The UN Secretary-General's September **2019 Climate Action Summit** will bring together commitments to **climate actions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls**.

This is in line with the goal of a transformational, ambitious and clean future for all where no one is left behind. To accelerate action to implement the Paris Agreement, you are encouraged by the governments of Peru and Spain, UN Women, WHO, UNDESA, and ILO to commit to one of our goals and step up climate action by signing on to the following commitment:

Signatories commit to implementing climate actions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. This commitment recognizes the differentiated impact of climate change by gender, and that ensuring women's and girls' agency and leadership will make climate action more effective, contributing to increased ambition in all sectors.

By 2025, signatories, as appropriate, decide to:

- 1) Adopt and implement gender-responsive climate change action plans, policies or strategies.
- 2) Improve the evidence base by supporting women's knowledge platforms and quantifying the benefits and effectiveness of engaging women and girls in climate actions and other initiatives.
- 3) Track progress by including in their regular reporting to UN bodies and other related fora: i) efforts, actions, initiatives supporting the implementation of gender-responsive climate policies and programmes; ii) percentage of climate-related programmes that incorporate gender considerations.
- 4) Promote and enhance innovative tools that demonstrate and measure the transformative power of women's and girls' leadership in modifying patterns of consumption to reduce carbon emissions.
- 5) Support and promote initiatives that foster women's and girls' full participation and leadership in mitigation and adaptation measures, including in science, technology, research and development.

## Commit to climate action

Please send confirmation of your governments intention to sign on to this commitment through and email to [spdcast@un.org](mailto:spdcast@un.org)