

SRHR & CJ COALITION

Integrating Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights into the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan

A Paper by the SRHR and Climate Justice Coalition¹

This paper gives recommendations on how sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) can be integrated into the implementation of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP) through each of the 18 specific GAP activities in Priority Areas A, B, C, and D.

Introduction to the Gender Action Plan

Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted a 5-year Gender Action Plan (GAP) at COP25 in December 2019. The GAP is an annex to the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG), which aims to advance gender balance and integrate gender considerations into the work of Parties and the UNFCCC secretariat in implementing the UN Climate Convention from 1992 and the Paris Agreement from 2015, in order to achieve gender-responsive climate policy and action. This GAP is an enhancement of a two-year GAP adopted in 2017.

The first paragraph of the GAP describes what it is and how it functions:

The GAP sets out objectives and activities under five priority areas that aim to advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the work of Parties, the secretariat, UN entities and all stakeholders at all levels, as well as women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process.

The GAP provides various pathways to integrate gender perspectives into climate action using a set of activities, with actors assigned as leading and/or contributing to each activity. One or more deliverables or outputs are associated with each activity across the five envisioned years of GAP implementation. The GAP is not a checklist to achieving gender equality, but a set of possible activities that various actors can contribute to differently based on their responsibilities, capacities, and the timeline.

The best way to understand the GAP is to [read it!](#)

How including SRHR in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan can help Parties and relevant organizations advance gender-responsive climate action.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are an integral part of achieving gender equality and a necessity for building resilience and adapting to climate change impacts. Even though SRHR are not referenced within the Enhanced LWPG and its GAP, Parties and relevant organizations that support the realization of SRHR and are working to robustly implement the GAP should recognize the opportunities for ensuring SRHR and integrate them within their operationalization of GAP activities.

Below is a list of recommendations for integrating SRHR best practices into each of the 18 specific GAP activities in Priority Areas A, B, C, and D. (Priority Area E of the GAP outlines two monitoring and reporting activities to be carried out only by the UNFCCC secretariat and so has been excluded.)

This document is designed for Parties, National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFPs), and relevant organizations. Each of these, along with the UNFCCC secretariat, can play roles in the implementation of these activities. Civil society, which can include relevant organizations, can contribute to and lead implementation as well as advocate for stronger Party commitment and action. By exploring each GAP activity with an SRHR lens, these actors will be prompted to consider, plan, and support their actions—and those of others—related to the GAP in a more comprehensive way.

Priority Area A: Capacity-building, knowledge management, and communication

A.1 Strengthen capacity-building efforts for governments and other stakeholders in mainstreaming gender in formulating, monitoring, implementing and reviewing, as appropriate, national climate change policies, plans, strategies and action, including nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and national communications

Responsibilities:

Leading: Parties, relevant organizations

Contributing: national gender and climate change focal points, secretariat²

Recommendation for SRHR Integration: Parties, relevant organizations, national gender and climate change focal points and the UNFCCC secretariat must consider and strengthen their capacity for linking SRHR and climate change planning, and then include SRHR in the mainstreaming of gender across climate change policies, plans, strategies and actions, including the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Resources

- The [WGC NDC brief](#) on gender provides guidance for civil society in strengthening gender in NDCs, and one of the first steps is understanding the content of one's NDC.
- In 2021, [50 NDCs were reviewed](#) in an effort led by UNFPA, and only six had references to SRHR. This research also presents ten key findings and recommendations that can guide continued strengthening of NDCs, by ensuring they have integrated SRHR equitably, with consideration of diversity. Advocates and allies committed to these efforts are encouraged to review the [full report](#).
- The NAP Global Network's work on gender-responsive NAPs has led to the creation of a general [toolkit](#) as well as specific [research and guidance on SRHR in NAPs](#) (available in English, French, and Spanish).

Party Example: Uganda

The updated [NDC for Uganda \(2022\)](#) includes priority adaptation actions for the health sector under the outcome, "Sustainable resilient health sector." Key priority actions include: Integrate climate considerations into national health plans and strategies including developing the Health National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and Implement integrated health related climate interventions considering policies on water and sanitation, education, social protection and reproductive health care.

A.2 Discuss and clarify the role and the work of the national gender and climate change focal points, including through providing capacity-building, tools and resources, sharing experience and best practices, workshops, knowledge exchange, peer-to-peer learning, mentoring and coaching

Responsibilities:

Leading (across at least one deliverable): secretariat, relevant organizations

Contributing (across at least one deliverable): national gender and climate change focal points, relevant organizations, Parties, secretariat

Recommendation for SRHR Integration: Parties should support their National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFP) to develop and apply thematic knowledge of SRHR. One potential role for NGCCFPs is a connector and convener, and NGCCFPs could promote collaboration between government entities working on climate change, gender, health, and SRHR, so that SRHR considerations can be integrated in country-level climate policy and programs, including NDCs and NAPs.

Parties and NGCCFPs should also share tools and resources to other Parties and NGCCFPs that they find useful in strengthening SRHR knowledge and related skills.

Parties may consider SRHR knowledge and capacity, or the potential to make connections between climate and SRHR, during the appointment of National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points.

Parties may consider the inclusion of SRHR-related duties within the Terms of Reference of their NGCCFPs, such as the promotion of SRHR, ensuring linkages with health ministries and/or planning processes, or identifying grassroots groups working on SRHR and climate justice.

Resources

- The [directory](#) of National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points can be used to facilitate contact with individual Party NGCCFPs.
- The secretariat's [informal report](#) on the COP26 workshop on the role of the NGCCFP outlines potential responsibilities and roles of NGCCFPs.
- WEDO's [The Role of National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points](#) also considers the different suites of responsibilities possible for NGCCFPs.

A.3 Enhance capacity-building for governments and other relevant stakeholders to collect, analyse and apply sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis in the context of climate change, where applicable

Responsibilities:

Leading: relevant organizations

Contributing: Parties

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Relevant organizations and Parties must support and promote the capacity to collect, analyse and apply data that incorporates SRHR, and that is intersectional, and thereby useful in revealing inequities by disaggregating data, not only by gender but also by geography, sex, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, and other markers of marginalization, risk and vulnerability.

Resources

- UNDP's [Instructions on the collection, processing, analysis, use and storage of gender-disaggregated data to mainstream a gender perspective in climate change adaptation and resilience activities](#) can serve as a useful tool.
- The [Gender and Environment Data Alliance](#) (GEDA) will serve as a specific, dedicated entity to compile, curate, and communicate data at the intersection of gender and environment.

A.4 Strengthen the evidence base and understanding of the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women and the role of women as agents of change and on opportunities for women

Responsibilities:

Parties, relevant organizations, the research community

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Parties, relevant organizations and the research community must contribute in strengthening the evidence base on the intersections between climate change and SRHR, including how the violation and realization of the full range of SRHR impacts women's and girls' opportunities to engage in climate solutions and their role as agents of change.

Resources

- The secretariat's synthesis report on [Dimensions and examples of the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, the role of women as agents of change and opportunities for women](#) demonstrates the types of information Parties (and other organisations) have and are considering. With regard to gender-differentiated impacts, there is a notable gap in that there is no mention of health generally or aspects of sexual and reproductive health specifically, for example reproductive healthcare or maternal outcomes.
- Women Deliver's 2021 publication, [The Link Between Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: An Evidence Review](#), details evidence as well as gaps.
- IPAS' 2022 research on [Climate change impacts women's sexual and reproductive health](#) directly contributes to this evidence base and understanding.

A.5 Promote the use of social media, web resources and innovative communication tools to effectively communicate to the public, in particular reaching out to women, on the implementation of the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan and on gender equality

Responsibilities:

Leading: Parties, relevant organizations, secretariat

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Parties and relevant organizations should ensure that outreach and communications related to gender and climate change incorporates explanations of interlinkages with SRHR, including through demonstrating linkages using current cases and examples.

Resources

- The [Gender Climate Tracker website](#) includes [resources](#) related to the topic of SRHR, searchable by that topic. Anyone can also [submit relevant resources](#) on SRHR and climate to the GCT to be included within this resource library.

Priority Area B: Gender balance, participation and women's leadership

B.1 Promote initiatives for capacity-building in leadership, negotiation and facilitation of negotiation for women delegates, including through webinars and in-session training to enhance women's participation in the UNFCCC process

Responsibilities:

Leading: Parties, relevant organizations

Contributing: secretariat

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Parties and relevant organizations should ensure that capacity-building specific to particular thematic areas covered within the negotiations, including gender, adaptation, and the cross-cutting issue of health, incorporates the interlinkages of SRHR and climate change, especially in relationship to coherence with other UN processes (e.g., the Commission on the Status of Women).

B.2 Promote travel funds as a means of supporting the equal participation of women in all national delegations at UNFCCC sessions, as well as funds to support the participation of grass-roots local and indigenous peoples' communities from developing countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States, and encourage Parties and relevant organizations to share information on travel funding

Responsibilities:

Leading: Parties

Contributing: relevant organizations, secretariat

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Parties and relevant organizations should promote and support the inclusion of women on Party delegations, as well as on observer delegations, that have SRHR expertise and can bring key perspectives into the negotiations and workshops related to gender, adaptation, and cross-cutting issues such as health.

B.3 Invite the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group to collaborate and co-host a dialogue to discuss advancing the leadership and highlighting the solutions of local communities and indigenous women and ways of enhancing their effective participation in climate policy and action, to the extent that it is consistent with the workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group and within existing resources

Responsibilities:

Invite to collaborate: Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group, secretariat

Contributing: Parties, relevant organizations

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Beyond the specific dialogue referenced in B.3 (scheduled for November 9th during COP27), Parties and relevant organizations must ensure that any discussions on SRHR prioritize Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, and experiences, such as on issues of access and consent.

Priority Area C: Coherence

C.1 Ensure that members of constituted bodies are introduced to gender-related mandates and to the relevance of gender in the context of their work in a consistent and systematic manner

Responsibilities:

Leading: secretariat

Contributing: relevant organizations

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Relevant organizations should support the secretariat in training and sensitization of constituted body members using their experience and expertise. Training of members should reference the mandates coming from relevant multilateral agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

including targets under SDGs 3 and 5; the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994; the annual UN Human Rights Council resolutions on climate change and human rights, which in 2018 specifically discussed and called for a gender-responsive approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation policies; and the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as its follow-up, including the CSW66 outcomes, as well as the latest evidence on the intersections between SRHR, gender equality, and climate change.

Resources

- CSW66's [Agreed Conclusions](#) are particularly relevant given that the topic, Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, made explicit linkages between SRHR, gender, and climate.
- The [Basil/Rotterdam/Stockholm \(BRS\) Gender Action Plan](#) is an example of gender in multilateral environmental agreements outside of the Rio Conventions.

C.2 Facilitate the exchange of views and best practices of the Chairs of constituted bodies on how to strengthen the integration of the gender perspective into their work, taking into account the synthesis reports on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes referred to in paragraph 15(b) of this decision

Responsibilities:

Leading (across at least one deliverable): Chairs of constituted bodies, secretariat

Contributing (across at least one deliverable): secretariat, relevant organizations

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Civil society should highlight to members of constituted bodies where SRHR knowledge and topics are relevant to their work. Chairs should discuss the process and content of member reflection and any integration into the work of the body in their exchanges with the secretariat and other chairs.

Resources

- The [list of constituted bodies](#) can inform those looking to do outreach on specific interlinkages, as bodies cover topics such as capacity-building, finance, and technology.
- The synthesis report on [good practices for integrating gender into the work of the constituted bodies](#) may spark ideas.

C.3 Strengthen coordination between the work on gender considerations of the subsidiary bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and other relevant United Nations entities and processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as applicable

Responsibilities:

Leading: secretariat

Contributing: Parties, constituted bodies, relevant organizations

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Parties, constituted bodies and relevant organizations should strengthen the coordination with UNFPA, among others, on the intersections between SRHR, gender equality and the climate crisis. They should also strengthen coordination with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Sendai Framework for DRR, in terms of SRHR, gender equality and climate-related disasters.

With regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Parties and relevant organizations must use the existing data related to SRHR (SDGs 3, 5 and 13) as well as take into consideration how women's SRHR are impacted by the climate crisis with regard to other SDGs.

Parties and relevant organizations may also look to the Generation Equality Forum and its Action Coalitions that incorporate [commitments](#) on climate justice and SRHR to advance gender equality.

Resources

- More information on the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions can be found in the [Global Acceleration Plan](#).

Priority Area D: Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation

D.1 Share experience and support capacity-building on gender budgeting, including on the integration of gender-responsive budgeting into national budgets to advance gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate

Responsibilities:

Leading (across at least one deliverable): relevant organizations, secretariat

Contributing (across at least one deliverable): Parties, national gender and climate change focal points, secretariat, relevant national finance and budgeting entities, any other relevant entity, relevant organizations

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Parties and relevant organizations should include funding for SRHR components in climate adaptation and resilience action in the capacity building on gender budgeting.

Resources

- UNDP's [Gender Responsive Climate Budgeting in Indonesia](#) makes some basic health linkages and connects sexual violence to the impacts of climate change and could provide a foundation for a more robust SRHR integration in gender-responsive climate budgets.
- The Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative's [policy brief](#) on the integration of climate change into budgeting and finance also provides a general foundation to approaches to gender-responsive budgeting in the context of climate.

D.2 Raise awareness of the financial and technical support available for promoting the strengthening of gender integration into climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate, including good practices to facilitate access to climate finance for grass-roots women's organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities

Responsibilities:

Leading: secretariat, Parties

Contributing: Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, private sector, philanthropic financial institutions, other relevant organizations

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Parties, the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, private sector, philanthropic financial institutions, and other relevant organizations must ensure that climate finance for adaptation and resilience includes support for gender equality and SRHR components.

D.3 Promote the deployment of gender-responsive technological solutions to address climate change, including strengthening, protecting and preserving local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors and for improving climate resilience, and by fostering women’s and girls’ full participation and leadership in science, technology, research and development

Responsibilities:

Leading: Parties, relevant organizations, constituted bodies

Contributing: secretariat

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Parties, relevant organizations, constituted bodies and the UNFCCC secretariat must recognize existing technological solutions related to SRHR issues that also support improving climate adaptation and resilience and fostering the full participation and leadership of women, girls, and gender-diverse peoples.

Resources

- [The Safe Delivery App](#) is an an example of a technological solution, supporting birth attendants with evidence-based guidance on their phones to promote healthier birth outcomes

D.4 Support the collection and consolidation of information and expertise on gender and climate change in sectors and thematic areas as well as identifying experts on gender and climate change, as needed, and enhance knowledge platforms on gender and climate change

Responsibilities:

Leading: Parties, relevant organizations

Contributing: secretariat

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Parties and relevant organizations must integrate the full range of SRHR in the collection and consolidation of information on gender and climate change. Experts and advocates on SRHR and the intersection between climate change, SRHR, and gender equality should identify their expertise and connect to share their insights.

Resources

- [The SRHR and Climate Justice Coalition!](#) The Coalition (author of this brief) brings together civil society organizations from across the globe with experience and expertise on these interlinkages who are available for exchange and consultation. The Coalition also seeks to consolidate information at this intersection in its various briefing documents.

D.5 Engage women’s groups and national women and gender institutions in the process of developing, implementing and updating climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate, at all levels

Responsibilities:

Leading and contributing: Parties, relevant organizations

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Parties and relevant organizations must meaningfully engage SRHR organizations in these processes.

Resources

- The list of SRHR and Climate Justice Coalition [members](#) can serve as a starting point for identifying international, regional, and local organizations with technical expertise, experience, or interest in SRHR-climate linkages.

D.6 Exchange information on lessons learned among Parties that have integrated gender into national climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate (e.g. information on results, impacts and main challenges), and on the actions that Parties are taking to mainstream gender in any updates thereto, as appropriate

Responsibilities:

Leading (across at least one deliverable): secretariat, relevant organizations

Contributing (across at least one deliverable): secretariat, national gender and climate change focal points, relevant organizations

Recommendation for SRHR Integration: Parties, relevant organizations, and national gender and climate change focal points must share information and lessons learned from integrating SRHR perspectives into national climate policies, plans, strategies and action, and on actions taken to do so.

Resources

- As mentioned in A.1, [50 NDCs were reviewed](#) in an effort led by UNFPA, and only six were found to have references to SRHR. This research also presents ten key findings and recommendations that can guide continued strengthening of NDCs, by ensuring they have integrated SRHR equitably with consideration of diversity.

D.7 Enhance the availability of sex-disaggregated data for gender analysis, taking into consideration multidimensional factors, to better inform gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate

Responsibilities:

Leading: relevant organizations, Parties

Recommendation for Integrating SRHR: Parties and relevant organizations should invest in collecting and sharing sex-disaggregated data related to SRHR to inform national frameworks for monitoring and evaluation of climate change policies, plans, strategies and action.

Resources

- The [Gender Climate Tracker](#) sorts submitted resources by topic (including SRHR) as well as country, so can serve as a starting point for sharing data and information, including the identification of policies and plans with SRHR and climate.
- See A.3 for additional resources!

Developed by the SRHR and Climate Justice Coalition. October 2022. For more information, please visit srhrclimatecoalition.org

1. The Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Climate Justice (SRHR & CJ) Coalition is a global network committed to collective action and coordinated advocacy to advance SRHR and gender equality in the context of climate change from an intersectionality and climate justice approach.

2. All text in the green boxes is verbatim from the Decision 3/CP.25 in the UNFCCC document, FCCC/CP/2019/13/ADD.1, found at <https://unfccc.int/documents/210471>