

## Terms of Reference

January 2022

### Background

The Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Climate Justice (SRHR & CJ) Coalition is a global network of more than 25 civil society organizations 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.

The coalition emerged from the need to create a space where we can break down silos between the SRHR and the Climate Justice organizations and movements, facilitate knowledge sharing, jointly mobilize, and amplify the voices and priorities of grassroots organizations, led by women, youth, girls, the LGBTQIA+ community, and Indigenous people from the Global South, particularly those most affected by climate change and without continuous access to high-quality SRH services.

Members of this Coalition include representatives of women's rights, feminist, SRHR and climate justice organizations, movements, advocacy groups, and research and academic institutions.

In July 2021, the SRHR & CJ Coalition submitted a joint commitment at the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), a global gathering for gender equality convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France. The coalition committed to advocate to advance the GEF [Action Coalitions](#) commitments on bodily autonomy and SRHR, and feminist action for climate justice for an initial period of 2 years, with the possibility of extending to 5 years. This forum brought together governments, civil society, youth-led groups, UN agencies and the private sector to secure commitments for gender equality.

The work of the newly established SRHR & CJ Coalition will be guided by this Terms of Reference (ToR). The ToR have been drafted by the Coalition convener group in consultation with the member organizations. This document describes the Coalition purpose and objectives, guiding principles and structure.

### Purpose and Objectives of the Coalition

The purpose of the SRHR and Climate Justice Coalition is to advocate for SRHR and climate change policies, programs, and funding mechanisms that help advance gender equality, human rights, and climate justice.

To achieve our purpose, the Coalition will:

- Document the impact of climate change in the access to SRHR, identify gaps in research, programs, funding, and services, and generate and disseminate new evidence to relevant stakeholders. We will use our network to identify communities or groups where sexual and reproductive health has been especially adversely impacted by the climate crisis and seek to

provide platforms or where possible opportunities for advocacy for affected individuals, where this is requested.

- Create collective policy recommendations to influence key climate and SRHR advocacy spaces and international conferences, to advocate for the integration of SRHR in climate policies, programs, and financing mechanisms and to advocate for policy makers and healthcare providers to include the impact of the climate crisis on sexual and reproductive health and equitable access to healthcare in planning and programming.
- Design campaigns and advocacy strategies in partnership with feminist, indigenous, youth and grassroots movements. We seek to situate our area of concern, SRH, within a bigger vision of a healthier and more equitable world.
- Promote collaborative exchange and learning opportunities among members and partners to advance SRHR, gender equality and climate justice.

## Guiding principles

The work of the SRHR and CJ Coalition is guided by the following principles:

**Human Rights:** This Coalition is grounded in a rights-based approach that protects and promotes individuals' rights to bodily autonomy and the right to health and (although not yet codified in international law) the right to a healthy environment. We affirm the rights of women and girls, indigenous peoples, and affected communities to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes at all levels, including in aligning key climate policy instruments with national development plans and developing climate responses that center human rights.

**Intersectionality:** We take an intersectional approach in collective work for SRHR and climate justice, recognizing that climate change affects people differently based on their multiple identities. An intersectional approach is key to ensure that climate interventions adequately account for women's and girls' realities and needs in climate crises.

**Bodily Autonomy:** We support and advocate for the fundamental right of every individual to make decisions about their body, their health and their future without coercion or control by others, including with regard to choices about whether or not to be pregnant or on how many children to have. We recognize coercion is better understood as a spectrum and can be complicated, especially when individuals and communities have few choices in healthcare access. We believe that access to contraception and safe abortion care are ends in themselves and healthcare and access to healthcare should not be instrumentalized to reduce human population as part of a solution to the climate crisis.

**Justice:** We believe any SRHR and climate justice initiative must address racial, social and economic equity.

**Inclusive Organizing:** The Coalition is an open, inclusive space that welcomes civil society organizations and individuals from the feminist and climate justice movements.

## Coalition Structure

The SRHR and Climate Justice Coalition is an open and inclusive space that brings together a diversity of partners and aims to mobilize their collective strengths to advance SRHR and gender equality from a climate justice approach.

This global coalition is currently co-convened by [Women Deliver](#), [Ipas](#) and [Women's Environment & Development Organization](#) (WEDO), but its coordination may change over time as the coalition work evolves. The main role of the convener organizations is to serve as the organizer and connector of the coalition. The conveners will schedule, arrange, and facilitate coalition meetings as necessary; share information with coalition members; serve as the primary point of contact for the coalition; and keep track of the coalition advocacy and action plans.

To advance in the achievement of the Coalition goal and objectives, we will create working groups integrated for coalition members with expertise or interest in specific areas. Participation in these or any future working group is voluntary and open to all members who agree to support the respective group's objective(s). Members should express their interest in participating in a working group by contacting the group coordinator. Suggested working groups in the initial phase of the coalition include:

**The Advocacy and Accountability working group** defines the advocacy and accountability priorities of the coalition; identifies opportunities to influence international, regional, and national advocacy spaces and institutions, and creates policy recommendations, statements, and other advocacy documents in consultation with the coalition members.

**The Evidence and Learning working group** generates and coordinates learning opportunities and materials for the coalition members and partners. This working group also collects evidence of the impact of climate change in SRHR and gender equity to support the work of the other working groups.

**The Outreach and Communications** working group develops coalition materials, press releases and strategies to outreach to the broader collective of individual endorsements.

Other groups as defined by the coalition.

## Members

The SRHR & CJ Coalition membership includes organizations and individuals that are actively working at the nexus of gender, SRHR and climate. The list of member organizations can be found on the Women and Gender Constituency's SRHR & CJ [website](#), where you can also find further information on how to join the coalition.



Partners for  
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