

**Gender mainstreaming in adaptation and mitigation: A nexus approach**  
**Joint UN Side Event on Gender Equality**

**UNFCCC COP24**  
**11 December 2018, 18:30 – 20:00**  
**Katowice, Poland, Venue: Warmia**

**TOP-LEVEL MESSAGES**

- **Women and girls are agents of change. They are key actors and leaders in transformational climate change actions.**
- **Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are indispensable to the realization of all the Sustainable Development Goals. States have an obligation to ensure gender-responsive climate actions that promote, protect and respect human rights.<sup>1</sup>**
- **The Paris Agreement presents a strong mandate for the full, equal and effective participation of women in shaping climate policies and actions, as well as for the systematic integration of a gender perspective in the work under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.**
- **A nexus approach to climate action, with gender equality, women’s empowerment and their human and labour rights at the core, ensures synergies and the leveraging of co-benefits of all climate responses in key thematic areas including agriculture, food security and nutrition, decent work, education, health, energy.**
- **Education is a powerful tool to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. It contributes to changing mindsets, building social cohesion and enhancing the resilience of communities in the context of climate change.**
- **There are essential enabling factors for gender-responsive climate actions, including:**
  1. Ensuring that climate change policies, legislation, institutional frameworks, programmes, budgets, investments and other financing initiatives are gender-responsive, underpinned by human rights and ensure a just transition, consistent with the Paris Agreement;
  2. Strengthened capacity of government officials and institutions to collect, analyze, manage and disseminate data on climate change and its related gender dimensions (including sex- and age-disaggregated data);
  3. Implementation of gender-related mandates of climate financing, such as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund, including by ensuring accessibility of opportunities for local women’s groups and ensuring that fund allocations are channeled to entities addressing women’s issues at national and sub-national levels;
  4. Supporting efforts to empower women, including grassroots and indigenous women and gender equality mechanisms, in sub-national, national, global intergovernmental climate change and sustainable development processes through investments in their training and capacity-building and facilitating their participation and engagement in national climate change policy and planning processes, along with global processes and conferences;

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<sup>1</sup> According to Human Rights Council resolution 38/4 “the human rights obligations and responsibilities as enshrined in the relevant international human rights instruments provide roles for States and other duty bearers, including businesses, to promote, protect and respect, as would be appropriate, human rights, including those of women and girls, when taking action to address the adverse effects of climate change”.

5. Promoting a just transition to a low-carbon economy, which ensures that equality of opportunity and treatment of women and men is established as a specific goal from the outset and that gender inequalities in employment and social protection are not reinforced through the impact of climate policies, but on the contrary that opportunities are harnessed to address gender gaps;
6. Ensuring that the ongoing and future technological transformation, particularly access to new technologies needed to adapt to low-carbon economies and digitalization of energy systems, contributes to reducing existing gender inequalities by improving the representation, participation and leadership of women in the development, integration, adoption and promotion of climate-smart technologies and energy systems.

## PANEL

**Moderator, Her Excellency Ms. Lorena Aguilar, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica,** Convenor of the *For All Coalition initiative*<sup>2</sup>

### Opening remarks:

Her Excellency **Ms. Sigrid Kaag**, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, The Netherlands

Her Excellency **Ms. Carolina Schmidt**, Minister of the Environment, Chile

### Elaborating on the nexus approach:

Ms. **Maria Helena Semedo**, Deputy Director General Climate and Natural Resources, Food and Agriculture Organization - nexus of gender equality, climate change and agriculture

Ms. **Claire Harasty**, Special Adviser to the Deputy Director-General for Policy, International Labor Organization – nexus of gender equality, women’s rights and just transition / decent work

Ms. **Fwilane Banda**, Gender Support Manager, Project Luangwa - nexus of gender equality, education and climate change

A **representative from the Government of Kenya**: To share experience on the integration of gender equality considerations in the country’s National Climate Change Action Policy

### Implementing the Gender Action Plan: presentation of normative guidance, tools, knowledge products:

**Benjamin Schachter**, Human Rights Officer, Climate Change and Environment, OHCHR

**Verona Collantes**, Intergovernmental Specialist, Focal point for the Rio Conventions, UN Women

### Voices from stakeholders:

**Nisreen Elsaim**, Chair, Sudan Youth Organization on Climate Change, **Youth Constituency**

A representative from the Women and Gender Constituency

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<sup>2</sup> The FOR ALL Coalition’s main objective is to support countries and negotiating groups to strengthen the reflection and raise the visibility of gender equality and human rights messages and garner broader support for gender-specific and human rights commitments and action across the different multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).