

Building Connections across the Gender, Climate and Security Nexus

Side-Event to the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 09.00am-10.30am EST

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3KFIR9F>

Co-sponsors: UN-Women, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the UN

Concept Note

1. Context and Objective

Climate change and conflict do not exist in isolation from each other. The countries most exposed to climate change are disproportionately affected by conflict and face persistent gender inequalities. Women- and youth-led organizations around the world have played a major role in advocating for global, national, and local commitments to take climate action. Many of those are also engaged in peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives in their communities. Regrettably, a smaller share of climate finance reaches conflict and fragile affected areas. Extremely fragile and fragile states recently received \$74.5 million per country compared to \$161.2 million per country, for not fragile states including the SIDS.¹ Such funding is often not adequately aligned with conflict prevention and peacebuilding priorities or gender equality goals.

The policy report from UNDP, UN DPPA, UNEP, and UN Women, "[Gender, climate and security: Sustaining inclusive peace on the frontlines of climate change](#)" offers a comprehensive framework for understanding how gender, climate, and security are inextricably linked. The report assesses entry points for integrated action across existing global agendas and offers concrete recommendations. The findings from this report align with key themes of the Secretary-General's report *Our Common Agenda*, including the importance of investing in prevention and resilience, ensuring the protection of our planet, and placing women, girls and gender equality at the heart of security policies. Still, there is progress to be made in terms of incorporating gender considerations in policy and programmatic efforts as well as financial allocations.

This side event will bring together stakeholders for a dynamic discussion on the gender-climate-security nexus among representatives from Member States, the UN, and local women and young climate activists and environmental peacebuilders.

¹ UNDP and the Climate Security Mechanism. 2021. Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace: Making Climate Finance Work for Conflict-Affected and Fragile Contexts. This study examines \$14 billion of climate finance implemented under four of the climate change "vertical funds" (funding mechanisms which address specific issues or themes), in 146 countries, including 46 fragile contexts over the period 2014-May 2021.

The objective of this side-event to the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women is to:

- **Discuss the way forward** for addressing the gender-climate-security nexus and linking community-led initiatives to national, regional and international peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts;
- Provide a space for interactive dialogue between Member States, UN entities, women and young climate activists and environmental peacebuilders, to share insights from **integrated age- and gender-responsive policy and program approaches**, including the relevance of cross-border initiatives and regional approaches;
- Identify **concrete actions** to increase support to women and young climate activists and environmental peacebuilders in conflict and fragile contexts.

2. Issue(s) to be discussed

This side event will seek to address the following issues:

- The role of **women and young climate activists and environmental peacebuilders** in conflict and fragile contexts. The importance of harnessing **local knowledge and capacity** to inform peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts.
- The role of **Member States** at the national and regional level, as well as through intergovernmental processes (CSW; COP; PBC) and UN organs (Security Council) to operationalize the gender-climate-security nexus.
- The status of **UN system** coordination and policy efforts to increase integrated programmatic efforts in line with Our Common Agenda, placing women and girls at the center of security policy.

3. Proposed format

The event will take the form of an **interactive virtual dialogue** in Q&A format. It will be driven by a young woman moderator (with experience in climate action and/or environmental peacebuilding who will: 1) narratively illustrate the current dynamics of and gaps between gender, climate and security in the conflict and fragile affected contexts; and 2) direct the conversation toward building connections across gender, climate and security nexus with key actors from different sectors and the audience to ensure a diversity of views.

The **target audiences** are policy- and decision-makers and practitioners from Member States, UN entities, regional organizations, civil society, potential donors, educators, researchers, and students. The audience will be encouraged to interact through “Slido” and the chat function on the platform.

Provisional Agenda

	Segment	Speaker(s)
15min	Opening remarks	Co-sponsors

15min	Opening narrative	Moderator
55min	Facilitated conversation	<p>The role of women and young climate activists and environmental peacebuilders in conflict and fragile contexts. The importance of harnessing local knowledge and capacity, including from indigenous groups and other marginalized communities, to inform peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts.</p> <p>The role of Member States at the national and regional level, as well as through intergovernmental processes (CSW; COP; PBC) and UN organs (Security Council) to operationalize the gender-climate-security nexus.</p> <p>The status of UN system coordination and policy efforts to increase integrated programmatic efforts in line with Our Common Agenda, placing women and girls at the center of security policy.</p>
5min	Closing remarks	