



Engagement in CSW66 and Global Platform for DRR: Sharon Bhagwan Rolls

Background:

The purpose of the Shifting the Power Coalition is to collectively address diverse women's underrepresentation in formal spaces where key decisions are made on regional peace and security, disaster management and humanitarian response. Engagement in inter-governmental spaces is an opportunity to address the nexus between climate change, disasters and the WPS agenda for a more integrated, gender-responsive approach to intersecting crises¹.

The Shifting the Power Coalition was able to support an inter-generational team for the 66th Session of UN Commission on the Status of Women and Global Platform for DRR, including the Youth Forum. We also contributed to the PIFS preparatory meeting for officials and Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on CSW66 as well as an Expert Group Meeting on SDG5 in preparation for HLPF 2022 with a focus on effective gender-responsive approaches and financing in climate change and biodiversity policies and programmes are centred in women's rights and feminist networks and coalitions which can be scaled by supporting the partnership models within the women's movement as well as with feminist funds.

During the first week of CSW we hosted a parallel event with Global Fund for Women while also collaborating with DIVA for Equality and the Fijian Government to host a Pacific women led side event.

We continue engagement on regional inter-governmental processes linked to climate security including a priority focus for the Pacific Island region being climate mobility in line with UNSCR2242 as well as learning and supporting engagement of partners and allies through the Pacific Islands Feminist Alliance for Climate Justice in the lead up to COP27.

¹ Maria Tanyag and Jacqui True (2019) *GENDER RESPONSIVE ALTERNATIVES TO CLIMATE CHANGE: A COUNTRY REPORT ON VANUATU*, Melbourne: Monash University. Available at: <https://actionaid.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Monash-GRACC-Report-Vanuatu.pdf>

Our key messages

1. *Accountability to Gender Equality, Women's Rights, and Inclusion: We call on the fulfilment of human rights, ensuring accountability for states' obligations across all relevant environmental, climate, disaster risk reduction, and gender policy processes including the full breadth of the 2030 Agenda:*

Governments must ensure that as they address intersecting linkages of the climate crisis and COVID19 such as the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan, the Sendai Framework, that all national action plans and programmes are in line with international treaty commitments especially the UN Security Council Resolution 2242 (Women, Peace and Security), in addition to including Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocols as well as all the core international human rights other relevant conventions and treaties, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

It is critical to support a movement-led approach that addresses structural root causes of gendered inequalities in decision-making, provide an enabling environment for self-organization that promotes collective agency and facilitates simplified direct access to financing. Such an approach will enable Indigenous and local women, informal workers, rural women, young women, and social movements, including women's human rights defenders and environmental defenders, to be supported to strengthen their capacities for self-organization and influence over decision-making and define their resilience.

At national level it is also vital to localise CEDAW General Recommendation 34 General Recommendation No. 37 on Gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change (CEDAW/C/GC/37) which underscores the urgency of the climate crisis and how gender equality and women's rights agendas can enable resilience as well as contribute to coherence, accountability and the mutual reinforcement of different regional and international agendas on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation by focusing on the impact of climate change and disasters on women's human rights and gender equality

2. *Ensure the full, equal, effective, and meaningful participation, representation, leadership as well Women-Led Innovation and Organising in Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems / Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS)*

Women-led multihazard early warning information and communications mechanisms have had a dual impact on delivering access to information for communities to better

prepare for extreme weather events and health emergencies, including communicating protection services and referral pathways; and supporting the realization of women's rights and gender equality.

Technology has been an accelerator of change for women in the existing initiatives by amplifying their voice and outreach, as well as enabling their leadership in community-led responses. One example is the Shifting the Power Coalition Pacific Owned, Women-Led Early Warning & Resilience (POWER) Systems which will be established with the support of with the support of Australia through Pacific Women Lead at the Pacific Community building on the co-creation of Women's Weather Watch in Fiji, Woman Wetem Weta in Vanuatu and Meri Gat Infomesen in PNG/Bougainville

3. *Feminist Financing - There is a need for dedicated resource for feminist funding models that are centred in the leadership of women's rights and feminist networks.*

- Acknowledging that most climate financing is not gender-transformative and very little reaches women's rights organizations on the ground, it is vital to revamp financing flows in line with human rights obligations of availability, accessibility, transparency, and accountability.
- Inter-governmental processes including the Sendai Mid-term review process are an opportunity to build on existing feminist funding models that already provide gender-responsive delivery mechanisms to support and enhance direct access to climate finance for grassroots women's organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, along with equitable and transparent monitoring of funding streams, to support adaptive capacity and resilience of communities

4. *Enhancing Coherence in Inter-Governmental Processes:*

Pacific governments and communities have consistently identified climate change as one of the biggest threats to the region.² It is crucial that government agencies and officials recognise the interlinkages between climate change, gender equality, women's rights in DRR. Weather and climate services, climate security, as well as humanitarian responses.

The gender equality and women's rights agenda can progress coherence across the multitude of inter-governmental commitments whether it is the Pacific Framework for Resilient Development, the WPS & Humanitarian Action Compact or the SDGS, to achieve Inclusive DRR Governance by:

² Pacific Islands Forum (2018) *Boe Declaration on Regional Security*, <https://www.forumsec.org/boe-declaration-on-regional-security/>

- Co-creating climate resilience, pandemic recovery and disaster risk reduction policies and programming addressing priorities such as eg women’s economic, food and community security – *using the interlinkages across the human security framework which is further linked to the Bore Declaration (2018)* - through explicit intersectional gender analyses and inclusive, multistakeholder co-design mechanisms that recognize and honor traditional knowledge.
- Ensuring connections with decision-making processes at national level, including Parliaments, so that natural resource governance, pandemic and climate processes have dedicated space for representatives of women’s networks and feminist movements especially those representing marginalized groups—and that processes are designed for effective sharing and listening (including capacity strengthening, translation, facilitation and more);
- Ensuring there are equitable multistakeholder models which contribute to the adoption of well-funded and coherent National Gender Action Plans (GAPS) which support member states/governments and inter-governmental organisations to integrate commitments including to UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) & the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to driving the accountability agenda at national and sub-national level.

The engagement in inter-governmental processes and looking forward to the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR, considering the development of a Gender Action Plan (GAP) on the Sendai Framework ensuring alignment with the UNFCCC GAP as well as informing gender transformative action via the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific. It goes beyond attending conferences but also supporting the implementation and accountability phase.

5. Intergenerational Learning

This is critical for supporting learning and sustainable engagement within two distinct spaces of advocacy.

We reiterate the reference in the CSW66 Agreed conclusions that makes reference to *creating space for youth, especially young women and girls, to participate in shaping the decisions on climate change, environmental degradation and disasters that will affect their future (...) and multistakeholder efforts on achievement of gender equality, and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the realization of their human rights and taking note of all international, regional and national initiatives in this regard, to advance the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.*

This requires resourcing for diverse women including young women to be in inter-governmental processes with dedicated resources for preparatory processes with

their own coalitions and networks as well as preparations with regional inter-governmental organisations, their governments and UN system.