

High-Level Panel: Voice of Women Leaders in Climate Debates, Policies, Implementation & Beyond

14 November 2022 | 10:30-11:30 am, Cairo Time | Venue: Room P-14

Context and issue

Sustainable Development Agenda emphasises the importance of achieving gender equality in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 5, It also highlights the significance of including women in environmental agendas in SDG number 13 by explicitly aiming to “[p]romote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management. Including focusing on women”. Also, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations in December 2019 led to the Enhanced Gender Action Plan (GAP) of the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its priority areas.

In recent years, positive commitments were made by all countries to enhance women’s inclusion in climate action towards achieving climate justice. However, Women remain underrepresented in climate governance and debates. They are sometimes victimised rather than considered as agents of change. While, inequalities facing women, not only place them among the most affected group, they also imply by definition that women and girls are crucial players and accelerators, in dealing with different aspects of climate change, and in achieving the sustainable development agenda in this context, especially their indispensable role in improving agricultural productivity, and contributing to food security.

Several factors account for women’s limited participation in the decision-making processes, such as the lack of sufficient sex-disaggregated data to support sound policy formulation and implementation, lack of understanding of *women’s perspectives*, and the insufficient financing to support implementation. The sustainable development path cannot allow for that anymore. Further promoting gender mainstreaming is a necessity for accelerating progress within climate action and encouraging women-led adaptive efforts, resilience, and agility in the face of climate change is a must, and for effective dealing with climate change, women have to be at the core of environmental governance and policy.

Accordingly, this session will build on the stock of efforts exerted during previous Conferences of Parties of the UNFCCC (COPs) to advance gender equality and women empowerment. It should allow participants to deeply discuss recent challenges facing women in adaptation and mitigation, and in climate policies and action, and renew their pledges to mainstream women’s perspectives, from debate to policy to implementation, and beyond.

Description and objectives of the session:

This session will be a high-level discussion and will facilitate peer learning by enabling representatives to share their experiences on how they have delivered across the Women Environment and Climate Change agenda (WECC) and the UNFCCC's LWPG and its GAP. The session will be centred around increasing women's participation in environment-related structures and relevant leadership positions, through calling for appointing more women, implementing advanced enhanced and tailored capacity building programs, and the promotion of an enabling environment free of violence for women and girls.

It will also be a platform for participants to increase their commitment to increasing the participation of women in climate agendas – from debate to policy to implementation and beyond.

The session will also witness Launching of the Egyptian led initiative "**African Women's Climate Adaptive Priorities (CAP)**".

Targeted outcomes of the session:

- Actionable recommendations for better resilience, representation and meaningful participation of women within the climate change agenda.
- Encourage global coordination to empower women's participation in climate action.