



## **APWLD Submission on the on “General Discussion on Gender Related Dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change (DRRCC)” by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).**

The Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)<sup>1</sup> is pleased to submit its comments on the general discussion on Gender-Related Dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change for consideration by the CEDAW Committee.

### **Introduction**

Climate change poses the largest threat to human rights, and indeed to human existence, that humanity has faced. Climate change magnifies existing inequalities and reinforces disparities between women and men in their vulnerability to and capability to cope with climate change.<sup>2</sup> Further, the effects of climate change are most acutely experienced by women of the global South. APWLD commends the CEDAW Committee for affirming the differential and disproportionate impacts of climate change on women in its Concept Note for this General Discussion.

As the Concept Note also recognises, governments have pre-existing international legal obligations to both mitigate the threat of climate change and to address its impacts in ways that promote human rights and gender equality. Most recently, the Paris Agreement adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) 21 in Paris acknowledges climate change as a concern for women's rights and calls for 'gender empowerment'.

While climate change and responses to climate change pose a threat to women's human rights, global and local responses to climate change also present an unprecedented opportunity to re-build our economic, political and social structures to fulfil women's human rights and create the foundation for more just and equal societies. We therefore urge the Committee to provide guidelines regarding the obligations of states to address the root causes and structures underlying climate change, which are the same structures that cause—and indeed rely on—gender inequality and a disregard for women's human rights.

The first part of this submission elaborates upon the recommendations in the concept note, including through examples from APWLD's Climate Justice Feminist Participatory Action Research (CJ-FPAR).<sup>3</sup> The second part of the submission highlights the relationship between DRRCC to the issues of decent work, just transitions, indigenous women, and the

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<sup>1</sup> APWLD is Asia Pacific's leading feminist, membership driven network. Our 180 members represent organisations and groups of diverse women from 25 countries in the region. We use capacity development, research, advocacy and activism to claim and strengthen women's human rights

<sup>2</sup> APWLD, (2015), Climate Change and Natural Disasters Affecting Women Peace and Security, p. 6, <http://apwld.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Climate-change-Natural-disasters-Conflict.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> APWLD's Climate Justice Feminist participatory Action Research (CJ-FPAR) programme is led by grassroots women's organisations in some of the most climate vulnerable countries, including Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Philippines, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Thailand, India, and Indonesia

private sector's obligations regarding climate action. These issues are highlighted to illustrate the opportunity that a systemic response to climate change presents to advance women's rights. In conclusion, we explain the importance of looking beyond gender mainstreaming in climate and disaster risk reduction to ensure an approach to climate change that is genuinely consistent with and protective of women's human rights.

## **I. Measures to ensure full compliance with CEDAW in the context of climate change and disaster**

As acknowledged in the Committee's Concept Note, there are already many ad hoc sources of policy advice, best practices, strong evidence based recommendations, innovation, and tools that support adoption of a gender-sensitive approach for disaster risk reduction. However, a lack of political commitment, inadequate capacity for implementation and lack of monitoring and evaluation impede the implementation of gender equality commitments.<sup>4</sup> Effort needs to be made to bring all these resources together and analyse the gap to make the gender and human rights dimensions coherent in all climate and disaster policies.

### **1. Gender and Social Inequalities**

A number of factors explain men and women's differentiated vulnerability to climate change and disasters. Women experience unequal access to resources and decision-making processes, with limited mobility in rural areas. Similarly, socio-cultural norms can limit women from acquiring the information and skills necessary to escape or avoid hazards (e.g. swimming and climbing trees to escape rising water levels). Dress codes imposed on women and their responsibility of taking care of elderly and children also restrict their mobility in times of disaster.<sup>5</sup> For example, women from the flood prone Central Vietnam were not included in the disaster risk reduction teams although they were solely responsible for taking care of elderly, children and placing food and animals in safety.<sup>6</sup> In Bangladesh, a persistent link has been suggested between the loss of lands and livelihoods due to climate change and early, child or forced marriage<sup>7</sup>. Researchers also found that climate change increased demands for dowry payments.<sup>8</sup>

We strongly recommend that state parties are directed to incorporate CEDAW Articles 1, 2 and 5 (a) in formulating all climate change and disaster risk policies, obligating States to implement measures to address discrimination against women and to modify the social

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<sup>4</sup> UNISDR World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, (2015), *Issue Brief on Mobilizing Women Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction*, p. 2, <http://www.wcdrr.org/uploads/Mobilizing-Women%E2%80%99s-Leadership-in-Disaster-Risk-Reduction.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Senay, H. (2013), *Overview of Linkages between Gender and Climate Change* (policy brief 1), pp. 2-3, <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/PB1-AP-Overview-Gender-and-climate-change.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> APWLD and Center for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD), (2015), *Women of the Lagoon- Confronting Climate Change in Rural Vietnam*, <http://apwld.org/watch-women-of-the-lagoon-confronting-climate-change-in-coastal-vietnam-vietnam-on-youtube/>

<sup>7</sup> Margaret Alston et al, 'Are climate challenges reinforcing child and forced marriage and dowry as adaptation strategies in the context of Bangladesh?', *Women's Studies International Forum*, 47 (2014) <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/oxfam/files/2014/05/Are-climate-challenges-reinforcing-child-and-forced-marriage.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Also see Human Rights Watch, 'Marry before your house is swept away', June 2015. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/06/09/marry-your-house-swept-away/child-marriage-bangladesh>

and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women which are based on stereotypes and can result in human rights violations.

## 2. Right to Education and Access to Information

Due to a lack of education, opportunities and resources, women lack access to climate change and disaster related information and trainings. APWLD's CJ-FPAR project involving the Mugal Indigenous women of Nepal and women in central Vietnam has demonstrated that giving information, training and education to women empowers them to be agents of climate change solutions at the local level. Before the CJ-FPAR training, Mugal women were not aware that reports can be made of loss and damage of property due to landslides. They are now engaging with local policy-making bodies to demand the reconstruction of the canal that runs the watermill in the village, which was destroyed by landslides. Similarly in Vietnam, the inclusion of women in developing disaster action plans, the establishment of local early warning systems and trainings on disaster risk reduction has helped them to cope with disaster.<sup>9</sup>

Inequality in access to education and information is a breach of article 19 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and article 19 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), which recognize the right of all persons "to seek, receive and impart information." At a minimum, the ICCPR and UDHR require States to provide public access to any government information of public interest.<sup>10</sup>

We ask that in its General Discussion, the Committee reflects on article 10 of CEDAW which requires equal rights to any form of education to men and women including preschool, general, technical, professional and all types of vocational training. Furthermore, the Hugo Framework for Action (2005- 2015) has listed the equal access to training and education opportunities for women as one of the key activities of building resilient and safe culture at all level.

## 3. Right to land and resources<sup>11</sup>

Women's rights to access, use, control and manage land are often ignored, and women's rights in this context are frequently contingent on their relationships with male family members. Laws and social norms often limit or ignore women's land and property rights and routinely exclude women from decision-making on land and natural resources. Women are thus excluded, much of the time, from planning for adaptation that could improve sustainable use of land in response to climate change.<sup>12</sup> For example the implementation of the Central Kalimantan Forest and Climate partnership (KFCP) in Indonesia as part of a REDD+ project has threatened the Dayak indigenous women's livelihoods and access to resources. Dayak women can no longer access forest for food, vegetables and rattan plant

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<sup>9</sup> APWLD, (2015), *Women Warming Up! Building Resilient, Grassroots Feminist Movements for Climate Justice in Asia Pacific*, <http://apwld.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Climate-change-Natural-disasters-Conflict.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and Columbia Law School, (2015), *Climate Change and Human Rights*, <http://www.unep.org/NewsCentre/default.aspx?DocumentID=26856&ArticleID=35630>

<sup>11</sup> A separate submission made jointly by APWLD, Landesa and the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and elaborates on this section.

<sup>12</sup> Davis, A., Roper, L., & U, Miniszewski. (2015), *Climate Justice and Women's Rights: A Guide to Supporting Grassroots Women's Action*, p. 8, [http://www.inwfresourcecenter.org/Files/ECM001/PUBLICATIONS/1503050634\\_INWF-GGFAF\\_Climate%20Justice%20and%20Women's%20Rights\\_2015.pdf](http://www.inwfresourcecenter.org/Files/ECM001/PUBLICATIONS/1503050634_INWF-GGFAF_Climate%20Justice%20and%20Women's%20Rights_2015.pdf).

for weaving which was a steady source of income for women. They were also excluded from all decision making process concerning KFCP.<sup>13</sup>

To redress these violations of women's rights, we suggest that States Parties to CEDAW implement their obligations under Articles 14 and 15 (2), regarding respectively the "role rural women play in the economic survival of the family" and "equal rights to administer property", in the implementation of all climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction programmes.

#### 4. Participation in Decision Making

Women's formal and de facto exclusion from decision-making often means that women's voices are absent from decisions about environmental management, disaster management, adaptation and mitigation. Rural, indigenous, migration, urban poor and migrant women are the ones most excluded from decision-making spaces. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has noted that most local communities develop indigenous-based adaptation practices that could and should be identified and followed in order to tailor effective, preventive, responsive strategies related to climate change and disaster risk reduction.<sup>14</sup>

As a result of APWLD's CJ FPAR programme, 60 women from two communes in central Vietnam joined the previously male-only Village Rapid Response Teams setting an example of collective feminism for positive change and women as the agent of climate solution.<sup>15</sup> Article 7, Paragraph 5 of the Paris Agreement states that adaptation action should be gender sensitive and Article 11, Paragraph 2 that capacity building for climate action should be participatory and gender responsive. Similarly, Article 7 (b) of the CEDAW requires equal rights for women to participate in the formulation of government policy and Article 14 also specifically addresses the context of rural women calls for their equal participation in development planning at all levels and all community activities.

### 5. Climate Change, Conflict, Refugees, Women Peace and Security

In its General Discussion, we urge the Committee to further develop the obligations of States Parties in the context of climate change-induced conflict. There is a clear and direct link between climate change, and a threat to women's security and human rights. The recent Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 states that "*women and girls experience the nexus between climate change, and peace and security in direct and profound ways.*"<sup>16</sup>

The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report also affirms that the impact of climate change on human wellbeing, peace and security will worsen, especially for the poorest members of society.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Solidaritas Perempuan, (2015), *The Impact of Climate Project (REDD+) on the Protection of Women's Rights Who Live around Forest in Central Kalimantan*.

<sup>14</sup> IPCC, Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri, A. Reisinger (Eds.), Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, Geneva (2007).

<sup>15</sup> APWLD, *Women Warming Up! Building Resilient, Grassroots Feminist Movements for Climate Justice in Asia Pacific*, op. cit.

<sup>16</sup> Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, *Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace*, p. 212,

<http://wps.unwomen.org/~media/files/un%20women/wps/highlights/unw-global-study-1325-2015.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> IPCC, 2014: *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

It also notes the “*potential for armed conflict to increase as both a cause and a consequence of climate change*”; indeed, in the last sixty years, at least 40% of all intrastate conflicts have had a link to natural resources and the environment.<sup>18</sup> The CEDAW Committee itself has already recognised the gendered impacts of conflicts in its 30<sup>th</sup> General Recommendation.<sup>19</sup>

Climate change is also already a driver of migration with estimates that climate induced migration will reach up to 1 billion people by 2050.<sup>20</sup> Large-scale migrations may increase the risk of conflict in host communities as tensions and competition over land and resettlement areas arise. This exposes women not only to the traditional threats of a violent environment, but also to the dangers associated with long migrations such as hunger, dehydration and extreme weather. As reiterated in the Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, displacement also greatly increases the threat of sexual violence against women.

After the Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines in 2013, many women, unable to provide food for their families, were forced into trafficking just to survive.<sup>21</sup> In relocation areas, women’s access to employment is limited because they are forced to take care and provide food to children and elderly. In Nepal, women from remote, climate affected areas report increased levels of migration for marriage as well as migration for domestic work as a result of diminished livelihoods.<sup>22</sup>

Rising tides in the Carteret Islands of Papua New Guinea have already led to a relocation of Islanders. The Islands are matrilineal and displacement means women lose an essential part of their identity, livelihoods and status. Control and decision-making over land has been linked to lower rates of violence against women. Conversely women from the atolls are relocated to Bougainville – an Island with some of the highest rates of violence against women in the world. These relocation sites lack sufficient health facilities and infant mortality rate is high.<sup>23</sup>

While all of the rights guaranteed by CEDAW are threatened in the context of conflict and displacement, we wish to stress article 6 of CEDAW which calls on States Parties to take appropriate measures to suppress all form of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution of women and Article 12 which calls on State Parties to ensure women’s access to health service including services in connection with pregnancy and post-natal period.

As APWLD has recently stated, as recognition grows that the natural environment is a factor in many armed conflicts, and that environmental degradation has specific gender-related impacts, conflict prevention efforts must necessarily account for these factors.

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<sup>18</sup> UNEP, Retrieved March 12, 2015, from

<http://www.unep.org/disastersandconflicts/Introduction/EnvironmentalCooperationforPeacebuilding/tabid/54355/Default.asp>

<sup>19</sup> CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No. 30, *Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*, para 2.

<sup>20</sup> Morris, N (2008), *Climate change could force 1 billion from their homes by 2050*. The Independent, retrieved 15 September 2015, <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/climate-change-could-force-1-billion-from-their-homes-by-2050-817223.html>

<sup>21</sup> APWLD, *Climate Change and Natural Disasters Affecting Women Peace and Security*, op. cit

<sup>22</sup> APWLD (2014), *Climate change destroying livelihoods and traditions of Mugal women in Nepal*, <http://apwld.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/flyer-mwui-corrected-12-1.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> APWLD, *Women Warming Up! Building Resilient, Grassroots Feminist Movements for Climate Justice in Asia Pacific*, op. cit

Women's knowledge of the natural environment and resource scarcity can play an integral role in early warning systems for climate-related resource scarcity and conflict, and in developing a sustainable response to conflict.

## **II) A gender-equitable transition to fossil fuel-free economies**

### **1. Decent work**

Article 11 of the CEDAW Convention protects the right to work “as an inalienable right” and prohibits discrimination against women in the field of employment.

While the Committee's Concept Note recognizes that economic inequalities, and in particular poverty, increase the vulnerability of women to the impacts of climate change, it does not mention the threats climate change poses to women's labour rights, especially for women in the global South. It is common that people are unable to work or continue their economic activities following climatic disasters. Whilst men are the first ones called back to fix infrastructure following a disaster, women are forced to stay home to clean up the damage and look after injured relatives, missing crucial working days, while at the same time assuming their usual role as primary caregiver to children and elders. In Asia and the Pacific, the majority of women work in the informal sector and labour deregulation is pushing increasing numbers into casualised, temporary employment. In the Philippines, for example, the increasing move to the contractualisation and casualization of labour means that women in the flood zones of metro Manila are regularly unpaid when floods and typhoons make it impossible to work.<sup>24</sup>

The impact of climate change on the realization of labour rights and decent work principles has led the International Labor Organisation, supported by trade unions and social movements around the world, to call for a “*just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all*”.<sup>25</sup> While the concept of a just transition is a critically important one, it currently lacks a recognition that the current gendered division of labour often places women in the most sustainable and low emissions employment, including subsistence farming, service industries, domestic and care work, yet undervalued and often dominated by unsecure and unsafe working conditions. A recent Expert Group Meeting convened by UN Women and the UNFCCC also recommended that the UN treaty bodies “elaborate the concept of and implementation strategies for ‘just transitions’ from a gender equality perspective towards just, sustainable and equitable economies that deliver decent work and redistribute the sexual division of labour, within the context of safe and environmentally, socially and economically sound technologies.”<sup>26</sup>

We urge the Committee to call for a just transitions perspective that advances the protection of women's rights and rethinks the value of women's labour. A just transition should aim to reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, the burden of which is an obstacle for women's ability to fully exercise their rights.

## **III) Moving beyond mainstream**

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<sup>24</sup> Marya Salamat, *Urban poor women suffer most during rainy season*, July 10 2015, <http://bulatlat.com/main/2015/07/10/urban-poor-women-suffer-most-during-rainy-season/>

<sup>25</sup> International Labour Organisation (2015,) *Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all*.

<sup>26</sup> UNFCCC, UNDESA, UN Women (2015) *Report of the Expert Group Meeting: Implementation of gender-responsive climate action in the context of sustainable development*.

Climate change is already devastating many lives, in particular lives of women in the Global South. Because of the patriarchal structures of our societies, it is critical to adopt a gender approach to mitigate and adapt to climate change. But what is also critical, maybe even more, is to strive to stop climate change and provide justice to the ones already affected.

The targets for emissions reductions that governments have submitted so far under the UNFCCC framework puts the world on a pathway of increasing temperatures between 3.2 and 3.7C degrees compared to pre-industrial times. According to science, and particularly the IPCC, this scenario will lead to consequences that are beyond what we are able to foresee, reaching some 'tipping' points that will bring catastrophic consequences.

While it is important to stress the necessity of ensuring gender-mainstreaming in all policies and practices regarding climate change, we believe that it is of utmost importance to ensure that those States and entities that are primarily responsible for global warming are made accountable for the loss, damage and human rights violations that have already been suffered as a result of climate change.

In 2015 a group of eminent jurists drew on existing international law to collate a set of legal principles that articulate the "obligations that all States and enterprises have to defend and protect the Earth's climate and, thus, its biosphere" and, secondly, the "basic means of meeting those obligations"<sup>27</sup>. The 'Oslo Principles' recognise that the grave and imminent threats climate change poses to human rights and, inter alia, to the human rights of women necessitate immediate action on the part of developed countries with a 'historic responsibility' for action.

*International law entails obligations to act cooperatively to protect and advance fundamental human rights, including in the context of climate change and its effects on people's ability to exercise such rights. Threatened human rights include, but are not limited to, the right to life, the rights to health, water, food, a clean environment, and other social, economic and cultural rights, and the rights of children, women, minorities and indigenous peoples.*

We urge the committee to draw on the Oslo Principles and recognise the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) states have to prevent violations of women's human rights.

In view of the role envisaged for the private sector in devising solutions to climate change, we stress their responsibility for causing climate change and contributing to women's rights violations. A recent study identified 90 companies that have caused 2/3 of anthropogenic GHG emissions.<sup>28</sup>

Promoting the involvement of the private sector without first ensuring its accountability for past emissions and regulating its future actions obscures the complicity of the private sector, particularly large trans-national corporations, in promoting unsustainable and carbon-intensive models of development. Regulation that ensures accountability and

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<sup>27</sup> Oslo Principles on Global Climate Change Obligations, 2015

<http://globaljustice.macmillan.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/OsloPrinciples.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> The Guardian, *Just 90 companies caused two-thirds of man-made global warming emissions*, 20 November 2013, <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/nov/20/90-companies-man-made-global-warming-emissions-climate-change>.

transparency of non-state actors, particularly trans-national corporations and public-private partnerships, is critical for achieving sustainable development and solve the climate crisis. In this context, we would like to reiterate our support to the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 26/9,<sup>29</sup> which mandates an intergovernmental working group to elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises. We would like to emphasize the necessity of including GHG emissions regulations in the scope of any legally binding instrument concerning the human rights impacts of transnational corporate activity.

The CEDAW Committee has also recognized that State Parties have obligations to regulate non-State actors for their actions that would violate the rights enshrined in the CEDAW Convention. *'The Committee has also repeatedly stressed that the Convention requires States parties to regulate non-State actors under the duty to protect, such that States must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, punish and ensure redress for the acts of private individuals or entities that impair the rights enshrined in the Convention.'*<sup>30</sup>

In the context of climate change the Committee should also recognise the obligations states have to prevent and address violations of state and non-state actors outside of their territorial boundaries. Extra-territorial obligations are pertinent both to the consequences high GHG emissions has on human rights beyond boundaries as well as the actions of transnational corporations, domiciled in a member state. These obligations have been elaborated in both the Maastricht Principles and the Oslo principles and are necessary to uphold women's human rights.

Instead of regulating trans-national corporations, the most common approach is to encourage the involvement of trans-national corporations through market-based mechanisms.<sup>31</sup> These mechanisms are doomed to fail, as they do not halt the release of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere nor address the fundamental need to reduce consumption and production patterns in high emitting countries. Instead, they provide opportunities for private profits, often cause direct rights violations and exacerbate inequalities.<sup>32</sup> For instance, some analysis has suggested that the commodification of carbon emissions rights will contribute to, rather than alleviate, existing economic disparities between and within countries,<sup>33</sup> with the greatest consequences for women given the economic discrimination they already suffer. Clean Development Mechanism projects have often led to land-grabbing, leading to displacement of local communities,<sup>34</sup> and often a loss of their traditional means of income and livelihood.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> UN Human Rights Council, Resolution 26/9, *Elaboration of an internationally legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights*, A/HRC/26/L.22/Rev.1, 26 June 2014.

<sup>30</sup> CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No. 30, *op. cit.*, para 1.

<sup>31</sup> Including the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) or the Reduction Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD/REDD+)

<sup>32</sup> WWF, *Views on new market-based mechanism*, Submission to SBSTA, March 2013, <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/smsn/ngo/342.pdf/>.

<sup>33</sup> See, e.g., Mark Wilson, *The Green Economy: The Dangerous Path of Nature Commoditization*, 10 *Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development* 85 (2013).

<sup>34</sup> UNDP, *The Human Rights Implications of Climate change*, p.9

<sup>35</sup> APWLD, *Women Warming Up! Building Resilient, Grassroots Feminist Movements for Climate Justice in Asia Pacific*, *op. cit.*



Indigenous communities are particularly at risk, given that their territories are particularly rich in natural resources and protected from depletion thanks to their traditional indigenous knowledge on management of natural resources. Their Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) related to their land and territorial rights is often violated, particularly for women.<sup>36</sup>

While paragraph 21 of the concept note pertinently recognizes the multiple forms of discrimination suffered by some women based on factors including the indigenous status, APWLD would like to suggest that attention is given to the specific vulnerabilities faced by indigenous women in regards to climate change, including the violation of their FPIC in regards to mitigation projects implemented on their ancestral territories. Their privileged position to provide knowledge on the sustainable use and management of natural resources as well as the conservation of biodiversity should also be recognized.

Given the impact of market-based mechanisms on the rights of indigenous women and other communities with a connection to their land, we ask that the CEDAW Committee takes a strong stance against these market-based mechanisms. These mechanisms are both ineffective to address the climate crisis and often cause human and women's rights violations.

Finally, as noted in the recent Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of Gender-responsive Climate Action in the context of Sustainable Development, the concept of 'energy democracy' has much greater potential as a path to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions while advancing women's rights.<sup>37</sup> Energy democracy is achieved when women are fully empowered to make decisions over the energy affecting their lives, which can involve everything from energy access and ownership to the forms of energy matching community needs. Energy democracy movements are just emerging and the concept requires further elaboration by advocates for gender equality, including within the UN System.

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<sup>36</sup> APWLD, *Women Warming Up! Building Resilient, Grassroots Feminist Movements for Climate Justice in Asia Pacific*, *op. cit.*

<sup>37</sup> UNFCCC, UNDESA, UN Women (2015) Report of the Expert Group Meeting: Implementation of gender-responsive climate action in the context of sustainable development.