

The background features a dense collage of various icons related to sustainability, including wind turbines, solar panels, a globe, a bird, a leaf, a water drop, a recycling symbol, and a person. The icons are rendered in a light teal color against a darker teal background.

# CALL TO ACTION

# COUNTING ON A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL

THROUGH GENDER AND  
ENVIRONMENT DATA

THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER AND  
ENVIRONMENT DATA AT COP28

# CALL TO ACTION:

## Counting on a sustainable future for all through gender and environment data

People relate to and interact with the environment in gender-differentiated ways. Vulnerability to climate hazards is profoundly shaped by gender, as is one's ability to cope with the effects of climate change. Data indicate that, among women who rely on natural resources for their livelihoods, these are often their main source of income; meanwhile, men are more likely to diversify their income sources, which increases their resilience.<sup>i</sup> Literature is also plentiful on the disproportionate barriers women face when it comes to owning assets and accessing finance, limiting their capacity to cope with disasters and other environment-related hazards.<sup>ii</sup> Women – including young women, elder women and girls – in all their diversity, are underrepresented in environmental decision-making,<sup>iii</sup> which limits their influence on natural resource management and their contributions to attaining a sustainable future for all.

Understanding these differences is important to shaping gender-transformative policies, monitoring progress towards global and national commitments, and informing environmental advocacy. However, data gaps remain on the gender and environment nexus. Only 10 of the more than 90 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) environment-related indicators include a gender angle and, among those, data are only available for two. Many urgent gender-environment concerns are not reflected in the SDG framework, such as resilience to disasters, reliance on forests and other natural resources, or environment-related violence. Other monitoring frameworks – such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Global Set of Climate Change Indicators, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Monitoring Framework – do cover some of these topics, but gender data are almost completely unavailable for most countries and indicators.

Although there is ample evidence demonstrating the need to address gender equality and women's empowerment in environmental policy and action, the continued lack of gender statistics on the triple planetary crisis (climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss) challenges policymakers' ability to put in place effective, evidence-based gender-responsive policies and programmes at all levels. Without data on the gender-environment nexus, policies cannot be evidence-informed, progress towards their implementation cannot be measured, and advocates cannot make their case for gender-responsive environmental decision-making and research.

On 28–29 November 2023, the Conference of Parties 2023 (COP28) Presidency, UN Climate Change High-Level Champions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, UN Women, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) co-convoked "*Counting on a Sustainable Future: A Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data*". The conference brought together more than 200

participants in-person and virtually to signal the need for urgent action to increase the collection and use of gender and environment data to fuel gender-responsive climate and environment action globally.

The following global Call to Action emerged from both the in-person and online conference discussions:

*Reaffirming* the Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Agreement, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, alongside many other international agreements on gender equality and environment-related issues;

*Recalling* the [Agreed Conclusions](#) of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which called for enhancing gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex on climate change, environmental degradation and disasters;

*Building on* the momentum of the Generation Equality Forum, and reiterating our commitments to the blueprint of the Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice, reflected in the Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality, through the collective efforts of the Gender and Environment Data Alliance;

The Conference calls on all world leaders, policymakers, key actors in gender and environment data systems, and decision-makers to urgently:

**1. Promote and prioritize the production of gender and environment data, in an ethical and transparent way.**

- Generate gender and environment data on the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, including gender data that span mitigation, adaptation, just transition, and loss and damage.
- Prioritize gender and environment data in national statistical planning, including gender and environment data actions in National Strategies for the Development of Statistics, and other national planning tools.
- Develop tools and methodological guidance, through international cooperation and dialogue, to better measure the nexus between gender and the environment, and generate comparable, quality statistics.
- Build expertise for the production of gender and environment data among government and non-government data producers, including by facilitating technical training for statisticians and researchers, including on how to improve and/or implement standards on upholding personal consent on data collection as well as transparency on data usage.
- Recognize Indigenous People's science and knowledge as integral to filling gender-environment data gaps, as well as to governance, prioritizing efforts to work collaboratively on gender and environment data that support and promote the rights and self-determined priorities of Indigenous Peoples.
- Recognize the inherent sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples with respect to data about them, or collected from them, including free, prior and informed consent, ensuring a human-rights-based approach to data.<sup>iv</sup>

- Ramp up the production of gender and environment data within national statistical systems, including by leveraging existing data-collection instruments, deploying dedicated surveys, integrating data from multiple data sources, and including qualitative and quantitative gender and environment data that are representative of the needs of the most impacted.
- Encourage researchers to analyse existing data and contribute to the production of statistics that shed light on the connections between gender equality and environmental sustainability.
- Promote the use of non-conventional sources for the production of gender and environment statistics, including big data, geospatial information, community and citizen-generated data and technologies, and feminist participatory action research.
- Upgrade statistical infrastructure within countries, including to facilitate the use of non-conventional data sources, the timeliness of data exchanges, and the openness of gender and environment data.

## **2. Accelerate the use and uptake of gender-environment data for decision-making, programme development, monitoring, research and advocacy.**

- Include gender indicators in monitoring frameworks of key environmental conventions, declarations and agreements, including the Gender Action Plan of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its Gender Plan of Action, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species at its Review of Significant Trade (RST) Management System, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement.
- Ensure gender and environment data are used regularly to track progress towards the implementation of national environment, climate and sustainable development policies, programmes and financing, as well as to inform corrective action to achieve these goals, where needed.
- Provide open access for gender and environment data and encourage the re-use and secondary analysis of data to fill gaps on gender and the environment.
- Disseminate data in accessible and user-friendly formats, taking into consideration different types of audiences; and establish communication strategies that highlight gender and environment data.
- Organize frequent data user-producer dialogues with meaningful consultation and engagement with local communities, including to inform the development of gender-environment data collection activities, monitoring frameworks and policies.
- Build the capacity of: decision-makers; government officials; advocates working on gender, women's rights, environment and climate change; journalists; scientists and other data users to find, understand, interpret and use gender and environment data.
- Encourage the use of qualitative information and feminist participatory action research to complement gender and environment data and inform gender equality and environmental sustainability decisions.<sup>v</sup>

### **3. Finance and invest in gender-environment data production and use.**

- Increase international and domestic financing for gender data and statistics, including: a) national budget allocations to data producers for gender-environment data collection, analysis and dissemination; and b) consistent and sustainable donor financing to support the production and use of gender and environment data.
- Increase financial support to grass-roots, local, Indigenous, women's rights and youth-led organizations for the production and use of gender and environment data, including supporting citizen- and community-generated data initiatives that incorporate intergenerational perspectives.
- Ensure that national governments and development partners thoroughly document and track over time financial allocations to gender data, environment data, and to the intersection of the two.

### **4. Ensure global, regional and national statistical and data governance processes are inclusive.**

- Guarantee the consistent inclusion of gender considerations in all environment and sustainable development statistical production, including by fully implementing Decision 51/115 b. of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), about mainstreaming gender across all areas of its work; and calling on the UNSC to convene, review and agree on statistical guidelines to measure gender and the environment.
- Facilitate and finance opportunities for youth, grass-roots organizations and women's organizations, including young and elder women and girls in all their diversity, and feminist movements to contribute to national and international data governance processes.
- Promote substantive participation, co-creation and co-ownership across data governance with feminist organizations, youth-led movements and organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Support diverse women's contributions – including those of young and elder women – to statistical leadership, both at international and national levels, including by ensuring that more women, in all their diversities, hold managerial roles in national statistical offices, and are encouraged to lead on the production and use of gender and environment data – while making efforts to create enabling conditions for girls to take on educational and career pathways in statistics.

### **5. Create and strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships for gender and environment data.**

- Strengthen collaboration between users and producers of gender-environment data in countries, including by establishing formal communication channels between policymakers, statisticians, researchers and advocates, to inform the development and implementation of national policies.

- Encourage and reinforce partnerships between official and non-official data producers to promote knowledge exchanges and jointly contribute to closing gender-environment data gaps.
- Encourage private sector contributions to fill gender and environment data gaps, including by: creating partnerships for data-sharing; promoting and seeking opportunities for knowledge creation; and through financial contributions, both for national statistical systems, and for local, grass-roots and Indigenous Peoples' organizations working with gender-environment data.
- Provide spaces for civil society organizations, youth leaders and local communities to share their data and expertise and to collectively promote accountability regarding the use of gender data.
- Strengthen the statistical capacities of policymakers, advocates and researchers on gender and environment data, including through trainings and opportunities for mutual learning and exchange on inclusive data collection and use.

---

<sup>i</sup> UN Women. 2023. [Gender and Environment Survey Report: Kingdom of Tonga](#).

<sup>ii</sup> UN Women. 2022. "Figure 9: Proportion of women ages 18–49 who were married before age 18, by frequency of drought episodes, latest available year (percentage)." In [Women and the Environment: An Asia-Pacific Snapshot](#). p. 11.

<sup>iii</sup> International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). 2021. "[New data reveals slow progress in achieving gender equality in environmental decision making](#)." 1 March. Retrieved 30 November 2023.

<sup>iv</sup> UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). 2018. [A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data](#).

<sup>v</sup> For more information on gender-environment data methodologies, see the "Resources" section of the Gender + Environment Data Alliance website: <http://genderenvironmentdata.org/resources>.