

POLICY BRIEF

HOW TO SUSTAIN A GENDER-RESPONSIVE DECISION-MAKING AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the past twenty years, alarming natural phenomena have been increasing worldwide due to climate change. This environmental crisis, in the same way as any other crises, tends to aggravate pre-existing gender inequalities, human rights violations, and discriminations, especially in post-disasters settings. Being the first group to be affected by this crisis, women and girls experience a large range of inequalities in terms of exposure to environmental disruption but also access to resources as well as protection from climate change consequences. Therefore, integrating women and girls into the international struggle against these issues at all levels has never been more important, and above all, necessary to achieve sustainable development. Despite this point having already been raised by the international community during the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, initiatives to include feminist policies in international environment protection strategies are still relatively rare.

Advocating for a feminist, intersectional, and sustainable approach to international climate action cooperation, the goal of this paper is to promote the voice of women within the society and to feminize international decision-making. By addressing this problem, the Gender in Geopolitics Institute hopes to contribute to the ecofeminist philosophical movement as a potential approach to international politics in order to take gender-specific and environmental interests into account in all international issues. Additionally, the Gender in Geopolitics Institute strives to involve youth movements in international negotiations to influence climate stakeholders' perception of environmental protection in an innovative way.



INTRODUCTION

Half-way through 2023, the world is facing severe climate impacts and environmental degradation to such a level it has not seen before. All around the planet, global warming and extreme weather conditions lead to terrible disasters, as well as calamitous human rights consequences for millions of people. As a matter of fact, climate change is one of the most alarming causes of hunger, malnutrition, health issues, and reduced access to water. Overall, it threatens multiple social and economic rights, including the right to adequate housing, food, and resources, for an extremely high number of people. Precisely, according to the United Nations 2022 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Report, 3 billion to 3.6 billion people live in places that are highly vulnerable to climate change, meaning almost half of the worldwide population is at risk. On top of that, experts have declared that, if further cooperation on environmental issues is not achieved, the window of time to avoid climate catastrophe will be closing rapidly. Unless more relevant policy efforts are taken, climate change will not stop affecting humanity anytime soon, particularly the lives and rights of one of the most affected groups of people – women and girls.

Due to its crisis dimension, the exposure to the consequences of climate change are not uniform, nor « gender neutral ». On the contrary, climate change multiplies pre-existing inequalities among populations, including but not limited to gender inequalities. Specifically, it escalates social, political and economic disparities between people, acutely affecting those in fragile or conflict-affected societies. Gender inequalities as one of the most concerning issues of our time becomes even more threatening when it is combined with environmental crises, especially for all gender minorities over the world. In crisis situations, women's lives, livelihoods, health, safety and security are more jeopardised. On a regular basis, women are more vulnerable to the impacts of environmental and natural disasters such as drought, floods, and cyclones. Their socially constructed roles in society, the discrimination, abuses and inequalities they face, as well as the lack of assistance they receive, all place women and girls, and more broadly every gender minority, at the forefront of climate change victims. Depending on the pre-established economic and social situation and location, such exposure can simply result in warmer summers or in extreme and unpredictable outcomes, less food, decreased access to safe water, and unstable living conditions. In other words, this turns climate change into a cross-cutting challenge that divides people affected by gender and then again by class, work, geographical location, family composition, education, and etc.

Both part of the seventeen sustainable development goals (SDGs), gender equality (goal 5) and climate action (goal 13) are intrinsically related. In order to achieve sustainable development, policy-makers must take into consideration every gender minorities' needs and interests. This requires a full understanding of the gender dimensions that determine a gender minorities' disadvantaged position when it comes to the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation. There is a need to understand inequalities, vulnerabilities, and disparities in terms of needs as well as roles between all genders to attain a more inclusive and environmentally stable world. Following this argument, this policy paper will introduce the idea that such an achievement could only take place through gender-responsive solutions. Focusing on the area of leadership and decision-making, this work will attempt to contribute to the emerging literature about feminist policy for sustainable development, provide a relevant analysis of gendered implications of environmental issues, and participate in a gender-sensitive response to climate change. Divided in three sections, this paper will start with the methodology used to build meaningful policy strategies. Then, based on existing findings, the second section will introduce five different areas of study explaining the correlation between climate action and gender, followed by detailed recommendations designed to achieve the set objectives. The final section will conclude with a summary of the results and their limitations but also their implications for future works.

METHODOLOGY

This section introduces the data this policy paper will use and presents the strategy it will follow. To empirically address the issue of how gender, climate change, and leadership are related, this paper will conduct an analysis of secondary data. For this purpose, the Gender in Geopolitics Institute will discuss and analyse data covering governmental and international approaches to the integration of gender issues in public policies, gender minorities' experiences of environmental degradations, youth and women's initiatives for sustainable climate action, and emerging approaches toward an inclusive management of the environment. The data sample consists of the study of existing information from the beginning of the century until now. It includes reports, public policies, interview transcripts, anthropological observation notes, case studies investigations, and focus group discussions. This timeframe has been chosen to consider the largest number of environmental activities, from the very start of policy action to the modern approach.

There has been a multitude of research on climate change, however, the impact it has and how gender impacts this has only been partially addressed. As such an additional and deeper layer of analysis utilising secondary data is [WP1] to be necessary. Specifically, this method involves « using pre-existing data derived from previous research studies » as to investigate supplementary research and verify or challenge previous findings published in public and institutional archives. Moreover, secondary analysis of qualitative data has been proven to be a relevant approach to studying sensitive areas, particularly social issues and disadvantaged populations. Such a process, given the aim of this research, the inclusion of those who have not been properly included in previous environmental mitigation strategies to help fulfil their needs, seems well placed to this end. In doing so, this paper will raise questions about experiences of violence, discrimination, and exclusion to better understand the experiences of those excluded from prior policy on climate change action.

AREA 1

UNDERSTANDING GENDERED IMPLICATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

It is nothing new to assert that crisis, of any kind, primarily affect groups that may already be in a vulnerable position within society. Climate change, particularly, impacts women and girls more acutely because it exacerbates the existing consequences of gender inequality. In its Gender Equality and Environment Report, the United Nations Environment Programme identifies multiple causes to this unequal exposure to climate change consequences. First of all, women globally have less socioeconomic power; this means they have less means to afford an environmental-friendly way of living or to adapt when climate issues threaten their safety. In these conditions, slight environmental degradation or disturbed weather can become a disaster and a financial burden. Secondly, women's socially and culturally prescribed roles place them as the prior caretakers of the environment. These responsibilities prevent them from dedicating time and efforts to other areas of their lives such as better education and economic opportunities. Thirdly, due to women constituting the primary employees in the agriculture sector, women face a greater dependence on natural resources in terms of nutrition but also income. As agriculture is particularly vulnerable to effects of climate degradation, women are then the first ones to suffer from these effects, making their land-based work extremely difficult and increasing their vulnerabilities even more. Finally, when disasters strike, women are more likely to experience Gender-Based and Sexual Violence; women who have to migrate because of environmental damage for instance may endure harassment, violence, threats, early/forced marriage, unwanted pregnancy, rape or even trafficking.

Not only are women and girls the primary affected group by climate challenges, but they also have little access to disaster-related resources or assistance both during and after environmental catastrophes. Effectively, relief programmes are most often based on heteronormative frameworks of climate consequences and do not consider sexual and gender diversity. Besides reinforcing the pre-existing patriarchal structure of society, these activities further threaten women's livelihoods, wellbeing, recovery, and vulnerabilities to any future disruptions in their lives.



Humanitarian aid, through the lens of intersectional feminism, can be argued as actually exacerbating inequalities among women themselves, neglecting the needs of specific groups of women and girls, including but not limited to indigenous and Afro-descendent communities, migrant, elders, LGBTIQ+ people, women and girls with disabilities, and those living in remote or conflict-prone areas. To put an end to what seems to be an endless cycle of inequalities in the way that climate change affects populations, there is a need to apply a gender equality lens to environment-related policies and strategies. Unless changes are made towards a more significant understanding of the mutually reinforcing relationship between Gender Equality and Climate Action, current approaches will not deliver the expected results of a sustainable and more inclusive world.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Raise awareness of the impact of climate change and environmental risk on women's and girl's livelihoods, health and safety.

- As mentioned above, women face social and economic, as well as additional political [WP1] barriers that put them in a highly disadvantageous position regarding environmental degradation and limit their capacity to cope with or even survive such dramatic consequences. Despite evidence of this unequal exposure to climate change, mainstream policies still struggle in addressing gender minorities vulnerabilities.
- A strong feminist advocacy strategy is then necessary in order to promote greater gender-sensitive policies at every level as well as to ensure gender-responsive access to justice and accountability for environmental harms. This should be pursued by supporting of feminist and intersectional research on the topic to identify relevant approaches in responding to natural disasters and in post-conflict and recovery situations.

2 Support regional and national gender-responsive actions focused on inequalities in the way that natural resources are used, owned and managed by men, women and other gender minorities.

- Gender inequalities in terms of environmental management and consequences is not a recent concern. In fact, international institutions have been warning governments and the public for now more than a decade. Yet, due to laws and culture differences, the global cooperation on that topic does not yet seem to have reached populations at the local level. A strong feminist advocacy strategy
- Accordingly, tools and resources must be provided to local institutions, NGOs, and civil society organisations (CSOs) committed to narrowing gender gaps through inclusive green growth initiatives. A stronger gender budgeting should then be adopted to ensure equal access to finance as well as relevant gender considerations in environment and development projects.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

3 Collaborate with partners, stakeholders, and local institutions at all levels to foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences, but also to provide evidence of exemplary approaches to gender equality and inclusivity.

- Environmental damages present global challenges that extend beyond national borders and pose threats to human rights. Therefore, efforts must be made, and relevant actors be mobilised in a collective and collaborative way to enhance gender-responsive environmental action and policies.
- For this to be achieved gender experts should be involved in both national and global dialogues, particularly when it comes to adaptation and mitigation planning, risk analysis, monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management. Gender indicators should be included as baselines to ensure gender mainstreaming is shared and reproduced.

4 Prevent gender-based and sexual discrimination and violence in environmental matters as well as guarantee effective implementation of international human rights treaties.

- Rooted in discriminatory gender norms, Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV) functions as a means of exerting control, subjugation, and exploitation to perpetuate and strengthen gender inequality. It constitutes a violation of fundamental rights and carries long-lasting consequences that affect every facet of a survivor's life.
- In order to tackle gender-based discrimination and violence within the environmental realm, it is crucial for States to review, modify, or abolish laws, policies, and practices that contribute to or perpetuate gender-based disparities in environmental impacts. Efforts should be made to diminish inequalities pertaining to land ownership, tenure, and resource access.

AREA 2

GENDER LEADERSHIP IN CIVIL SOCIETY MOVEMENTS

As mentioned above, in order to be sustainable, a development policy must be inclusive, as well as participatory, and leaders must represent the people they serve in order to better understand their needs. In all fields, in all societies, women can embody leadership and make important contributions through their position. In fact, for several years, several movements have been set up with the aim of fighting for gender equality. Thanks to these movements, progress toward gender equality has been achieved nationally and globally. Such steps forward have been possible because women and girls are the best actors in identifying the issues they are facing, their difficulties, and the actions that need to be implemented for their rights to be respected. Having to struggle in such a way has provided women with leadership skills, which have led them to assert themselves, bring up their perceptions in formal or informal contexts, and on a broader scale, to push for more consideration of gender issues in climate action strategies.

However, since women are under-represented in all areas of the society, there is still a long way to go before policies completely take their needs and priorities into account. With women being the main victims of climate change and disasters, it is therefore imperative to include them even more in climate discussions, particularly at the local level, where women are the most active. Indeed, a large number of women and girls are leading movements for climate and environmental action within civil society. In order to equip climate emergency strategies with an inclusive perspective, women civil society's leaders need to be listened to, as well as brought to higher-level decision-making positions in the long term. This will prevent policies to perpetuate their pre-existing biases that are currently excluding women's needs and compromising their fundamental rights. Without this integration of women CSOs, neither climate justice and environmental sustainability will be achieved.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Strengthen the capacities of feminist civil society organisations.

- By increasing their capacities, women will reinforce the effectiveness of their actions and make the world benefit from their knowledge on women's rights or practices in advocacy.
- Such a strengthening could happen through an increased consultation of feminist ideas from civil society on environmental issues.

2 Provide feminist movements with strategies to develop skills in communication, leadership, and any other areas that can influence political and governance processes, including electoral processes.

- When feminist groups form, they can create lasting change. It is important to support young and emerging feminist organisations to have the greatest impact in their communities. Learning, for climate feminist movements, is not only a reinforcement of self-confidence; but also a minimum guarantee in terms of knowledge, which will allow access to a social, economic or political role in this field .
- As an example, providing training would help understand the impact of climate change on women, and empower women's ability to make decisions in this area.

3 Support women leaders within the civil society who advocate for environmental policies.

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4

Recommend equal gender representation at the local and national levels within action groups, teams, committees for climate action, and other institutions dedicated to environmental action.

- Simply involving women in climate decision-making through consultation or with limited bargaining power is insufficient; women must have equal representation alongside men at all levels of climate decision-making and possess equivalent decision-making power.
- In order to promote women's leadership in crucial decision-making positions, it is imperative that governmental and non-governmental organisations, public institutions, political parties, the private sector, employers' associations, and trade unions take concrete steps to achieve this goal. These steps involve creating a significant number of female executives, managers, and leaders in such roles. To ensure that women have access to higher levels of decision-making, it is recommended that mechanisms be established or strengthened to verify their access.

AREA 3

THE REPRESENTATION OF GENDER IN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

Gender equality in the struggle against climate change was a key theme at the 26th UN Annual Climate Conference in November 2021. As part of the event, the entirety of the 9th of November, 2021 was dedicated to Gender, highlighting the empowerment of women and girls in international climate policy and action. Unfortunately, despite this international engagement, women remain underrepresented in the decision-making circles for climate action. In fact, while women's role in climate action was recognised during COP 26, attendance reports demonstrated that, even during this event, women government delegates occupied only 33% of the stakeholders. Moreover, the space for women to speak was also largely insufficient, reaching only 25% and pointing out once again that men still largely dominate the space for speaking in climate negotiations. Such low turnout had already been noted at the 2020 and 2019's conferences, proving that the international community, which had barely adopted a five-year gender equality plan in Madrid, has not improved regarding gender leadership. Looking at the United Nations itself struggling with equal gender representation inside of its own decision-making institutions, it then seems like this problem needs a global answer in the shortest possible time.

Representing 50% of the world's population, women's and girls' participation in the international decision-making process is therefore first and foremost a democratic requirement. Moreover, women's approaches to development and environment protection tend to take the specific needs of minorities as well as geo-specific concerns into account. In addition to being inclusive and intersectional, women's contribution to international negotiations offers a sustainable vision that is not often applied in policymaking. At a time when numerous experts are warning policy and decision makers about the window of action left, the conclusion is clear: women's participation in the climate decision-making process must be increased, in particular to help reach binding and inclusive consensus at the international level. Being already remarkable at the local level, women's leadership around the world could really help the whole planet in not missing this pending deadline.



Alongside under-representation, there is also a lack of implementation regarding gender-responsive tools. In order to extend an inclusive perspective in the international negotiations sphere, some countries have been promoting a feminist foreign policy with the aim of sharing it as a common practice to attain gender equality in their international partnerships. This has meant involving women in decisions that will impact their country's future as well as the development of international cooperation agreements. However, while adopting feminist foreign policies could help influencing the strategies of other states, only a few states in the world currently do so. Accordingly, governments need to understand that, not only is such an approach essential to combat gender inequalities and achieve climate justice, but it is also crucial to improve all of the SDGs by 2030. The clock is ticking, and these measures cannot wait any longer for concrete actions at the international level.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Women must be included in environmental negotiation and decision-making processes.

- On the one hand, the proportion of women included in environmental and climate protection negotiations must reach a parity. On the other, the space for dialogue in international negotiations on climate and environmental issues must be qualitatively gender sensitive.
- In addition, for feminist substantive work on environmental issues, more women should have access to positions in gender equality departments within national, regional, and international environmental institutions.

2 Progress on environmental issues must be multilateral and intersectional.

- Negotiations on the environment and the struggle against climate change should systematically include a feminist and intersectional focus, in particular through feminist foreign policy and within international climate binding texts.
- Moreover, in the framework of the achievement of the SDGs, actors must promote actions in line with SDG 5 (gender equality) while supporting the achievement of SDG 13 (fight against climate change) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the achievement of the goals).

3 International environmental funding must be gender responsive.

- To support the development of feminist international climate action, international public funds must adopt a feminist and intersectional grant requirement.
- International and regional organisations should therefore improve their efforts toward feminising environmental research and counselling

AREA 4

THE APPROACH OF ECOFEMINISM

Ecofeminism's central concern is the connections that exist between the dominance of men over nature and, by extension, their dominance over women. One question circles around this notion: is it a new way of understanding environmental issues, while integrating the gender perspective? Taken up by the English-speaking world in the 1980s, and notably by the American scholar Karen J. Warren, the concept of ecofeminism was introduced as a combination of "a critique of the logic of domination (which leads to the subordination of women and nature) with the aspiration for an ethic of care that makes women's voices heard in environmental issues and does not reduce ethics to arbitration between competing rights". In Catherine Larrère words, "rather than putting environments under glass, this approach recommends taking minorities into account in the protection of nature based on ethics rather than on mechanisms techniques imposed vertically. This is an intersectional approach to environmental issues, which meets the concerns of work on the ethics of solicitude (or ethics of care)". Thus, historically, the development of this concept marked the first attempt to promote the importance and necessity to integrate gender issues into environmental protection approaches as well as vice versa.

Although the ecofeminism approach remains scarcely known, and sometimes misunderstood, the concept seems to be growing in the minds of the society. In fact, over the past few years, ecofeminism has even been widely deployed in the four corners of the world. In Africa, for example, activists and feminists are at the forefront of the fight for sustainable ecology on the continent. They seek to draw a close link between feminist concerns, human oppression within patriarchy, and the exploitation of a natural environment, of which women are more often affected by as all the while being framed as caretakers. One of the central figures of ecofeminism in Africa is undoubtedly Wangari Maathai and her Green Belt Movement. Being the first ecologist to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, she has demonstrated that there is not a long way to go between African feminism and African environmental activism, which challenges both patriarchy and the neo-colonialist structures that are weakening the continent.



Beyond this remarkable figure, there are other lesser-known ecofeminists who stand at the crossroads of gender, economics, and ecological justice. Their daily struggles, their commitment, and will power to build a radical future that combines justice, equity, rights, and environmental sovereignty is to be recognised.

Unfortunately, ecofeminism movements do not always succeed everywhere. Indeed, in certain Asian countries, such as India for instance, a worrying phenomenon is being observed: the green revolution. It is manifested by the abandonment of subsistence agriculture in favour of industrial agriculture, cash crops, and monoculture. This new approach, driven by commercial pretensions, aims at fostering economic growth and emphasising food security. Overproduction, however, has by no means ever eliminated hunger. Instead, it has aggravated environmental degradation, resulting in the loss of biodiversity, food diversity and a decrease of the population's health as well as farmers' incomes increasing inequality. As a consequence, there is then only one argument that can be made: ecofeminism is more and more essential in environmental debates and should be implemented at the earliest opportunity to solve existing and upcoming problems.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Listen to and amplify the voices of women and girls in the climate movement, particularly by popularising ecofeminism.

- On December 8, 2015, for example, the COP21 made a small place for women at Le Bourget. As for the Climate Generations space, several international NGOs held conferences.
- In the official zone, a “Gender and solutions for climate justice” meeting was on the program under the aegis of the United Nations. Another was entitled “Women and sustainable energies” in the Moroccan pavilion.

2 Read and share the stories of women at the forefront of climate action around the world to recognise their work.

- In 2015, the French Minister of Ecology Ségolène Royal, met with several interlocutors to come and speak at the French pavilion on a similar theme, inviting even more women to join the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network.
- Continuing such a promotion of role models will encourage women, girls, and individuals of all genders to join ecofeminist networks.

3 Extend the ecofeminist approach to the realisation of all sustainable development projects.

- It is important to think about our models of development through the prism of ecofeminism. By thinking about ecology through the lens of gender, the ecofeminist movement invites us to turn our gaze toward designing truly sustainable and inclusive models that inherently celebrate diversity of perspectives and approaches.
- For example, one specific application of this idea is to harness the link between women's empowerment and environmental protection, especially through women farmer empowerment projects.

4 Discuss and cooperate about current issues of ecofeminism, especially by learning from actors who have concrete experience in the field.

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AREA 5

YOUTH MOVEMENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STRUGGLES

Climate change and environmental degradation are significant concerns among younger generations who tend to consider these issues as the worst problems in the world. Causing a large range of emotions such as fear, anxiety, helplessness or anger, environmental disruptions negatively impact young people's mental health, making them feel that their government is not doing enough or has failed them. Yet, this exposure to climate change issues does not prevent young people from being very active in making the world a more sustainable place. In fact, just before the opening of the COP26 in Glasgow, Laurence Tubiana, Chief Executive Officer of the European Climate Foundation, has particularly insisted on the fact that 'young people are demanding witnesses', adding that their movements 'have an impact on institutions' and are 'the best news for climate'. They are the key holding the future.

Unfortunately, a number of obstacles hinder youth movements in their efforts to protect the environment, such as youth washing and violence. Being a form of greenwashing, youth washing is a deceptive publicity disseminated by organisations to present an environmentally responsible public image and attract young people's attention. More precisely, the Climate Reality Project has observed that young activists are increasingly being used by politicians and companies to improve their image rather than being heard by them. This observation was notably backed by climate activists, such as Dominika Lasota, who pointed out there were more standing ovations for youth activists during international conferences than concrete actions following these events. In other words, there is a broad criticism of marketing schemes targeting young people and their growing interest in climate change.

In addition, climate activists also face the suppression of their movements by the authorities with multiple cases of violence by police forces and jail sentences. One of the reasons for such abuses is the lack of protection for climate change and environmental activists. As a matter of fact, regardless of the age, 227 land and environmental activists were assassinated in the world according to the NGO, Global Witness. Some young activists, such as the Colombian Fransisco Vera, a 12 year old, and the Swedish Greta Thunberg even receive death threats.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Facilitate the access of young people to international conferences such as the COP and further include youth movements into policy-making processes.

- Young people already experience the effects of climate change and will be affected by future changes even more. They are aware of this, and are extremely active, as we can see with the multiplication of youth movements and youth conferences.
- Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to include them in the decision-making process and encourage their creativity to design solutions.

2 Empower young women-led organisations and support the visibility of their revendications and actions.

- In spite of their age, young women are not immune to discrimination in terms of leadership. Overall, they are still underrepresented into environmental action organisations, even within youth organisations.
- Accordingly, in order to promote a climate action that will also push forward gender equality, the international communities need to support organisations embodying women as leaders.

3 Make sure every community, minority, and social class gets to speak up.

- Everyone does not have the same level of opportunity to speak up and share their opinions and worries depending on their origin, community, wealth, sexual orientation, and gender identity, or the colour of their skin.
- Consequently, it is important to have an inclusive approach if we want to build a foundation for a better future.

4 Ensure that young environmental and climate activists are safe by enforcing the right to protest and making sure those trying to hurt and kill them are prosecuted.

- As mentioned throughout this paper, climate activists, especially women and girls, face extreme violence from different actors. However, expressing worries concerning the future should not put these people's lives at risk in any way.
- Therefore, due to their responsibility to protect their citizens, governments should enforce measures to stop these abuses from happening.

CONCLUSION

In recent years, the feminist approach has been increasingly mentioned in public debates as a way to address environmental issues. Indeed, it has been argued that adopting such a strategy would allow international decision-makers to tackle climate change consequences more appropriately and with greater inclusion. Specifically, this approach considers the gendered implications of environmental disruptions and promotes an intersectional lens so as to address climate issues as well as protect all categories of affected people. However, despite its acknowledged relevance, this strategy is still struggling to be implemented in decision-making processes, at all levels.

In order to resolve this problem, this policy paper has identified three main areas for improvements that stakeholders should work on to feminise their actions in international climate cooperation. First of all, climate change issues must be systematically analysed from a gender-specific and intersectional perspective to ensure that any disparities in terms of exposure are fully captured. Secondly, environmental actors must integrate more women into decision-making processes to achieve equal representation in institutions and, in the long term, into public policies. Thirdly, the climate action community must advocate for greater recognition of women's and young people's initiatives to protect the environment as well as the ecofeminist approach these movements are committed to.

In summary, the Gender in Geopolitics Institute urges decision and policy makers to support the implementation of a feminist approach in the context of environmental solutions, with the aim of mainstreaming this practice among all local, national, regional, and international stakeholders. In the future, adopting such a cross-cutting approach will undoubtedly benefit a wider range of SDGs, in particular by reducing inequalities and protecting the worldwide population, regardless of any geographical, economic, social or gender particularities.

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