

COP27 Financial Sector Call to Action on Gender-smart Climate Finance

We the signatories call on allocators of public and private climate finance and other key stakeholders in the financial system to take urgent action to improve gender equality when designing, delivering and accessing climate finance.

We can't solve the climate crisis without involving women.

In many parts of the world, women and girls are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change and the erosion of nature. At the same time, women hold the key to more equitable communities, more thriving economies and delivering a just transition to a more sustainable future for the planet.

Despite increasing acknowledgment of the importance of women's involvement in taking action on climate change, far too little progress has been made to increase that participation, or to improve gender equality when designing, delivering and accessing climate finance.

We need women's leadership at every level of the climate finance and business value chains. Gender is a material consideration whether you are looking at women as investors, entrepreneurs, leaders, innovators, customers or suppliers. Mobilising climate finance in a way that actively works to address gender inequality will be essential to transform economies and societies to be more resilient and equal in the future.

Why now

At COP27, the world's attention will be on the trillions of dollars of capital needed for climate mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage - for which an integrated perspective of climate, nature and ecosystem services is essential. This is a crucial moment for governments, multilateral institutions and private sector organisations to consider how private and public finance can better incorporate gender concerns in order to ensure that those trillions flow effectively, and equitably.

One month later, at COP15 (UN Convention on Biological Diversity), the world's attention will be on the need to establish a global agreement to reverse nature loss and live in harmony with nature - a goal which is closely interlinked with the Paris Climate Agreement.

We hope that this letter, shared ahead of COP27 and COP15, will motivate all allocators of capital, as well as other key stakeholders in the climate finance value chain, to make new commitments, and launch new initiatives to support gender-equitable climate finance.

Our Calls to Action

The signatories call on organisations allocating public and private finance and other key stakeholders in the financial system to:

1. Improve women's inclusion within the financial system and ability to access climate finance

Globally, women (and especially women of colour) have less access to the resources, information and services they need to create, develop and deliver climate solutions, and to ensure that they are protected and resilient to the effects of climate change and related nature loss. In addition, women often have less of a voice when it comes to decisions that affect them and their communities. Increased financial inclusion of women can power the low-carbon transition, support resilience to climate change and ensure that women are not left behind.

Private and public finance providers should seek to apply a gender lens to climate-related products and financing and consider ways in which capital can be allocated to funds and firms that have gender equity at their core, for example through gender balanced leadership, policies and practices, and the design and delivery of products and services that benefit women and are accessible to women.

Businesses, including financial institutions, should consider how accessible their products and services are to women and women-owned/led businesses, and innovate and educate to improve access, including to low carbon and climate resilient solutions in particular.

Governments should identify how and where women are financially excluded in society and introduce policies to shape new norms and business behaviour.

2. Integrate gender into public and private climate policy frameworks

Currently, few organisations involved in climate financing consistently look at the role of gender equality. Without this strategic approach, gender issues are likely to remain marginal concerns, with disproportionate impacts from climate change and nature loss.

All organisations should set out within relevant strategies or policies how they consider and act on the connection between gender and climate. **Governments** should address these in national climate plans; **private and public finance providers** in policies related to core business activities, for example lending, investing and through stewardship and advocacy efforts. **Civil society organisations** addressing either gender or climate should inform and drive gender responsive innovation and resource mobilization.

3. Develop gender metrics and integrate them into climate finance reporting

The reporting landscape on gender metrics remains underdeveloped compared to other metrics now regularly reported on climate. To date, companies and public institutions have been reporting few and inconsistent metrics on gender, limiting the ability of public and private finance providers to meaningfully incorporate these metrics into capital allocation.

All public and private providers of climate finance should aim to measure the gender-responsiveness of their climate-related investments, products, and services.

Relevant existing industry sustainability and climate finance reporting frameworks and initiatives should consider how to incorporate gender/climate metrics into their standards. Civil society organisations working in climate and gender should lend their expertise to ensure metrics measure tangible real-world outcomes and advance climate and gender equality goals.

4. Improve gender-balanced representation in decision making roles in climate finance and climate-smart businesses

Research tells us that when women are excluded, their needs are less likely to be accounted for. Yet, women remain starkly under-represented in decision-making roles, in employment in the fields of climate and finance, and throughout the business value chain.

All organisations providing climate finance should introduce specific measures to improve their gender balance. Financial institutions should also consider joining or establishing industry groups promoting gender equality in climate finance and consider how to promote and execute this via core business activities, for example lending, investing and stewardship. Governments should deliver and extend commitments to support women's equitable participation and leadership; and civil society organisations should hold businesses and governments to account on these measures.

Just climate action requires partnership and cohesion for real and lasting change. No one stakeholder group alone can solve a systemic problem, but when we all move together we can create gender smart climate solutions and secure a better future for all.

Signed by

- 30% Club
- Aviva plc
- The David Rockefeller Fund
- The European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Generation Foundation
- Generation Investment Management
- Gulf International Bank (GIB)
- Hesta
- Legal and General Investment Management (LGIM)
- Oliver Wyman
- Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG)
- Roy and Patricia Disney Foundation
- Trillium Impact Partners GP
- Wallace Global Fund
- WWF UK

This letter is convened by GenderSmart, 2X Collaborative and the Women in Finance Climate Action Group.

Annex

- [GenderSmart Gender & Climate Investment: A Strategy for Unlocking a Sustainable Future](#)
- [2X Green Toolkit](#)
- [2X Investor Toolkit](#)
- [2X Criteria](#)
- [Women in Finance Climate Action Group Report](#)
- [Women in Finance Climate Action Group Metrics Discussion Paper](#)