

SUBMISSION ON THE CLIMATE FINANCE WORK PROGRAMME: REGIONAL CSO PERSPECTIVES ON CLIMATE FINANCE

Submitted by: Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

Date: 6 September 2026

Subject: Further views on the Climate Finance Work Programme, including Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement in the context of Article 9 as a whole

INTRODUCTION

Across Asia and the Pacific, climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and energy insecurity are increasingly affecting communities and deepening existing inequalities. Women and girls in all their diversity, including Indigenous women, young women, women with disabilities, migrant and displaced women, ethnic minorities, and women from local communities, continue to experience disproportionate impacts due to structural inequalities, unpaid care responsibilities, limited access to resources, and exclusion from decision-making. At the same time, women, Indigenous Peoples, and frontline communities are leading community-based solutions for climate resilience, adaptation, disaster preparedness, and renewable energy. The regional transition towards renewable energy and low-carbon development must therefore be localized and grounded in gender equality, human rights, social inclusion, and climate justice.

ARROW is a feminist organization working across Asia and the Pacific on gender equality, women's rights, and climate justice. Its work includes the intersections of climate change, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and sustainable development. ARROW has also been working to strengthen gender-responsive climate action and to ensure that the priorities and leadership of women and girls in all their diversity are reflected in regional and global climate policy processes. ARROW has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) and an observer status with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

It is in this context that we welcome the opportunity to provide further views to the Climate Finance Work Programme, including on Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement in the context of Article 9 as a whole.

This submission draws on the discussions and recommendations from the “Last Mile First: Strengthening Partnerships for a Just Equitable Energy Transition and Gender-Responsive Climate Action in Asia” regional CSO workshop held on 27–28 June 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The workshop brought together 33 participants from across Asia and the Pacific, including representatives of national and regional civil society organisations, UN agencies, development partners, and donor organisations. Participants represented Malaysia,

Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, India, Laos, and Thailand, bringing diverse perspectives and experiences on gender-responsive climate action and a just and equitable energy transition across the region

The workshop was a CSO-led process to develop a Regional Roadmap to 2034 for the regionalization of the Belém Gender Action Plan (GAP) in Asia and the Pacific. The discussions recognized that climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and energy are deepening inequalities across the region. Women and girls in all their diversity continue to face disproportionate impacts due to structural inequalities, unpaid care responsibilities, limited access to resources, and exclusion from decision-making, while also contributing leadership, knowledge, and community-based solutions.

The Regional Roadmap to 2034 sets out collective CSO priorities, advocacy asks, financing needs, and partnership opportunities. The workshop also highlighted that climate finance should not only be about increasing the amount of resources available but also about what is financed, who can access finance, who participates in decisions, whose knowledge is recognized, who benefits, and how accountability is upheld.

We provide the following insights in line with the Climate Finance Work program for next year.

1. VIEWS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT YEAR

Climate finance should reach communities and organizations that are already working on climate resilience, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and just energy transition. This requires a shift towards approaches that recognize communities as rights holders, knowledge holders, leaders, and decision-makers, rather than only as beneficiaries.

As such, the next year of the Climate Finance Work Programme should also focus on improving and expanding its accessibility, quality, distribution, transparency, and accountability.

Building on the collective discussions at the Regional CSO Workshop, the following frameworks should guide the next year of the work program:

- Gender-responsive and gender-transformative approaches
- Human rights and intersectionality
- Meaningful participation and co-creation
- Community ownership and localization
- Indigenous knowledge and data sovereignty
- Transparency and accountability
- Climate justice and intergenerational equity

We also encourage the work program to continue meaningful engagement with non-Party stakeholders, particularly women's rights organizations, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, youth-led organizations, disability rights organizations, community-based organizations, and other frontline groups.

Engagement should go beyond consultation, and meaningful opportunities should extend across all sectors and stakeholders to strengthen the processes that contribute to the development of recommendations and to inform how climate finance is designed, delivered, and assessed.

2. PROVISION AND MOBILISATION AND ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE

In line with Article 9 of the Paris Agreement, climate finance should be provided and mobilized in a way that responds to the needs and priorities of developing countries while ensuring that finance is accessible, transparent, and responsive to those most affected by climate change.

In this context, the Climate Finance Work Programme should consider not only the scale of climate finance but also its quality, accessibility, distribution, and effectiveness. It should complement and enhance the existing financing pathways that are conducive for women-led, Indigenous-led, and community-based organizations to access and shape climate finance.

Indeed, scaling up climate finance is necessary. The regional CSO workshop stressed the importance of financing pathways that are flexible, accessible, and sustainable, particularly for women-led, Indigenous-led, and community-based climate solutions. The Regional Roadmap process also identified climate financing gaps and opportunities for CSOs, women-led, and Indigenous-led initiatives as a key regional priority.

The workshop also stressed the need to address the gap between climate finance and communities and explore financing arrangements that make finance more accessible rather than create additional barriers.

Access to available climate finance remains a significant challenge for many grassroots and community-based organizations.

Participants in the June workshop identified several barriers, including the complexity of existing funding mechanisms, administrative and compliance requirements, reporting processes, language barriers, and formal registration requirements. Short-term funding was also identified as a challenge, with programs sometimes ending before community initiatives can be sustained.

These measures can help advance the objectives of Article 9 by making climate finance more accessible to organizations and communities that face barriers to existing financing mechanisms.

The Climate Finance Work Programme should consider practical measures to address these barriers through the following recommendations:

- Simplify processing requirements, from application, compliance and reporting, to make it manageable for community-based organisations to directly access climate finance.
- Make financing more flexible and ensure that information regarding application processes and reporting requirements is accessible and available in appropriate contexts and languages.
- Recognise the knowledge and lived experiences of community organisations and strengthen their capacities based on their local contexts and needs.

3. TRANSPARENCY OF CLIMATE FINANCE

Transparency in climate finance remains a concern. The current modality appears to be largely restricted to top-level decision-makers, while accountability gaps have yet to be fully identified and addressed.

Parallel to these efforts, transparency in climate- and gender-related data still needs to be strengthened, particularly in terms of ownership, accessibility, processes and validation, ensuring continuity among data gathering, analysis and validation.

Finally, CSOs stressed that transparency must cover the entire climate finance cycle, including decision-making, provision, and how and where it contributes and who benefits.

Conclusion

The development of the Regional Roadmap to 2034 highlighted that communities across Asia and the Pacific are already developing solutions to climate change and the energy transition. The challenge is to ensure that these solutions receive recognition, support, and adequate resources.

For the Climate Finance Work Programme, this means looking beyond the question of how much finance is mobilized. We also need to ask who can access it, who decides, what is financed, who benefits, whose knowledge counts, and who is accountable.

The next year of the work program should strengthen pathways for climate finance that are accessible, flexible, gender-responsive, rights-based, and community-led. It should also strengthen transparency and accountability so that progress can be assessed not only through financial flows but also through the real outcomes experienced by communities.

The Regional Roadmap to 2034 provides a regional CSO perspective that can contribute to this work, particularly in strengthening financing and partnership pathways for gender-responsive climate action, just transition, and community-based solutions across Asia and the Pacific.

These efforts are important to push forward the Article 9 of the Paris Agreement in practice by ensuring that climate finance is mobilized towards communities and organizations working on the frontlines of climate change.