



Standing Committee on Finance

12 March 2024

**Thirty-third meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance
19–20 March 2024
Bonn, Germany**

**Background paper on the 2024 Forum of the Standing
Committee on accelerating climate action and resilience
through gender-responsive finance**

Expected actions by the Standing Committee on Finance

The Standing Committee on Finance will be invited to:

- a) Appoint co-facilitators for the work;
- b) Discuss and agree on sub-themes for the Forum;
- c) Consider options for possible venues and dates for the Forum.

**I. Possible actions for consideration by the Standing Committee
on Finance**

1. The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) may wish to appoint co-facilitators, who will guide the preparation of the Forum of the Standing Committee on accelerating climate action and resilience through gender-responsive finance.
2. The SCF may wish to discuss and agree on the objective, scope and sub-themes of the Forum.
3. The SCF may wish to consider possible venues and dates for the Forum, including the expression of interest by an SCF member to host the Forum in conjunction with the final meeting of the Committee in 2024 in the United Republic of Tanzania.
4. Furthermore, the SCF may wish to provide guidance to the co-facilitators on the inter-sessional work to prepare for the Forum, which may include:
 - (a) Preparing a draft programme for the Forum based on the objectives and sub-themes identified by the SCF;
 - (b) Opening a call for submissions from Parties, accredited observers and relevant stakeholders on information and case studies relating to the topic and sub-themes of the 2024 SCF Forum, to inform the Forum programme;
 - (c) Undertaking outreach activities to institutions, events or processes relevant to gender-responsive finance.

II. Background

A. Background and mandates relating to the 2024 SCF Forum

5. The COP mandated the SCF to organize a forum for the communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate finance to promote linkages and coherence.¹ The COP requested the SCF to facilitate participation of the private sector, financial institutions and academia in the Forum,² as well as to further strengthen its stakeholder engagement.³

6. At SCF 32, the SCF agreed to focus its 2024 Forum on accelerating climate action and resilience through gender-responsive finance and its 2025 Forum on accelerating climate action and resilience through financing for sustainable food systems and agriculture. COP 28 welcomed both topics for the Forum.⁴

B. Work relating to gender and finance within and outside of UNFCCC

7. The enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan has played an important role in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the UNFCCC process. COP 28 and CMA 5 took decisions that relate to gender-responsive finance and constituted bodies are addressing gender mainstreaming into their workstreams. The secretariat compiled information on work relating to gender-responsive finance within and outside of UNFCCC in the annex. The SCF may wish to consider the information contained in the annex when discussing the Forum sub-themes and providing guidance to the co-facilitators on potential linkages and outreach activities.

C. Expression of interest received from an SCF member to host the Forum

8. At SCF 32, an SCF member expressed interest to host SCF 35 and the Forum in September 2024 in the United Republic of Tanzania. Should the SCF choose Tanzania as the venue, the Forum could be held from 2 to 3 September 2024, back to back with the SCF meeting to be held from 4 to 7 September 2024).

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 121(a).

² Decision 5/CP.18, paragraph 4.

³ Decision 8/CP.23, paragraph 14.

⁴ Decision 5/CP.28, paragraph 12 ([Advance unedited version](#)).

Annex

A snapshot of ongoing work and decisions relating to gender-responsive finance within and outside of the UNFCCC

1. Secretariat compiled below information through desk research. The information is not exhaustive, and more information could be received through an open call for information and case studies relevant to the Forum topic and sub-themes.

A. UNFCCC

2. With regard to new or updated **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, Parties are increasingly considering gender in their NDCs and recognizing gender integration as a means of increasing the ambition and effectiveness of their climate action. The share of Parties referring to gender in the new or updated NDCs compared with their previous NDCs has increased and the share of Parties considering gender as a cross-cutting issue has also risen.

3. In their NDCs, 79 per cent of Parties provided information related to gender and 33 per cent affirmed that they will take gender into account in implementing them. While 60 per cent of Parties referred to relevant policies and legislation, 37 per cent affirmed a general commitment to gender equality. Others also included information on how gender had been or was planned to be mainstreamed in their NDCs implementation; for instance, 40 per cent on specific tools and methods, such as gender analyses or assessments, gender indicators, gender-disaggregated data, and gender-responsive budgeting, and five per cent included gender as a criterion for prioritizing activities.¹

4. A five-year **enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan (GAP)** was established at COP 25 to advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of works under the Convention, as well as women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process. The main activity of this year is to identify progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the GAP and further work to be undertaken for its final review to be concluded by SB 61 (November 2024).

5. At COP 28, the strong importance of gender responsiveness and gender mainstreaming in climate action was acknowledged again across the agenda items. For example, as an outcome of the **first global stocktake**, Parties decided that by 2030 all Parties have in place country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent national adaptation plans and planning processes. Meaningful and effective social dialogue and participation of all stakeholders were also emphasized, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities and governments, women, and youth and children.

6. Also, by the decision on **UAE Just Transition work programme**, it was acknowledged that Parties should, when taking climate actions, respect and consider respective obligations on human rights as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity. Furthermore, the **Governing Instrument of the Fund for responding to loss and damage** indicates that the Fund will pursue gender equality, gender-response approaches, and engagement with women for its operationalization.

B. Constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement

7. A number of the constituted bodies have demonstrated progress in integrating a gender perspective into their processes and substantive work. For instance, the **Technology**

¹ FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/12.

Executive Committee and the **Climate Technology Centre and Network** have made continued efforts to mainstream gender considerations in the implementation of the joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism for 2023–2027,² including the launch of the global roster of gender and climate change technology experts and the endorsement of the Climate Technology Centre and Network gender policy and action plan.

8. The **Adaptation Committee’s Task Force on National Adaptation Plans** published a policy brief entitled *Progress, Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Prioritizing and Incorporating Gender-Responsive Adaptation Action*,³ which presented best practices and lessons learned on gender-responsive adaptation actions from countries. This also includes recommendations to ensure adequate financial resources allocated to gender-responsive and participatory adaptation planning processes and actions.

C. Relevant work undertaken by the UNFCCC Climate Funds

9. The operating entities of the Financial Mechanism present progress in mainstreaming gender perspectives in their operationalization and essential decision-making process.

10. **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** has a requirement that all funding proposals are gender-responsive, containing gender assessments and gender action plans, with sex-disaggregated data and concrete activities to mainstream gender in funded activities in accordance with the updated Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan 2020 – 2023. Also, support through the readiness programme ensures gender consideration through the development of national and subnational gender strategies.⁴

11. **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** ensures that all projects have detailed gender analysis and gender-responsive results framework in accordance with the GEF Gender Implementation Strategy. GEF continues to raise visibility of gender issues in GEF projects as well as enhance engagements with women’s organizations and other non-state stakeholders in its country and regional activities. GEF Gender Partnership (GGP) also serves as a platform for knowledge exchange and learning among the members on best practices in the integration of gender perspectives in GEF projects.⁵

12. **Adaptation Fund (AF)** has implemented the updated gender policy and action plan⁶ since 2022. It includes the commencement of the pilot phase of the application of the AF gender scorecard, by monitoring and evaluating gender quality at entry, during implementation, and at exit, which was welcomed by COP 28.

D. Multilateral development banks (MDBs)

13. **MDBs** released a *joint statement*⁷ at COP 28 to reaffirm their commitment to socially inclusive, gender-responsive and nature-positive climate and development action, taking into account their different mandates, their unique country and client networks, operating models, geographies, and expertise. This also included their efforts for collaboration in identifying and expanding financing for gender-responsive solutions for governments and businesses drawing on our knowledge and programmatic experience on the gender-climate nexus.

² <https://unfccc.int/tclear/tec/workplan>.

³ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/202310_adaptation_gender.pdf.

⁴ FCCC/CP/2023/8 and Add.1.

⁵ FCCC/CP/2023/6 and Add.1.

⁶ https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/AF-gender-guidance_Sep-2022.pdf.

⁷ Joint statement by Consisting of the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Council of Europe Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank Group, Islamic Development Bank, New Development Bank, World Bank Group: <https://www.ifc.org/en/statements/2023/cop28-mdb-joint-statement>.

E. UN agencies and international organizations

14. The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** has contributed to improving understanding of comprehensive linkages between gender and climate finance. In 2021, *A Framework for Enhancing Gender and Poverty Integration in Climate Finance*⁸ was released under the UNDP NDC support programme and Strengthening Governance of Climate Change Finance Programme. In the same year, a comprehensive case study on national financing mechanisms in Indonesia was shared through a report entitled *Leveraging Climate Finance for Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction*.⁹ In 2022, a policy brief entitled *Gender Responsive and Socially Inclusive Public Climate Finance*¹⁰ was published to present good practices and lessons learned on mainstream gender and social inclusion in climate change policy, planning and financing in Thailand. Furthermore, in 2013 the UNDP's Financial Centres for Sustainability Network (FC4S) launched the *Gender Finance Charter*¹¹ with 21 financial centres that pledged their support to advance gender equality in sustainable finance. As its extension, the FC4S Gender Working Group released a *Gender Finance Booklet*¹² in partnership with UN Women.

15. The **United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)** spearheads various initiatives focused on integrating gender considerations into climate finance, emphasizing the pivotal role of women in climate action and sustainability. For example, the Net Zero alliances that the UNEP FI has established,¹³ which aim at mobilizing the finance sector towards achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, are committed to integrating gender-smart strategies to ensure that climate finance is accessible to women and acknowledges their essential role in the transition to a net-zero economy. Furthermore, UNEP FI advocates incorporating gender impacts in climate risk assessments and financial disclosures under the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures programme, promoting an inclusive approach to climate finance.

16. **UN Women** released a guide entitled *Guide to Strengthening Gender Integration in Climate Finance Projects*¹⁴ that provides a comprehensive framework for integrating gender perspectives into climate finance projects. It offers concrete examples and resources, showcasing how project teams working with multilateral climate funds such as the Adaptation Fund, Climate Investment Funds, GEF and GCF can enhance gender integration. This initiative is aimed at both implementing entities and country focal points involved in the design, implementation, and monitoring of climate finance projects. Furthermore, UN Women advocates for gender-responsive budgeting. By supporting governments in applying gender-responsive budgeting tools across budget cycles, UN Women helps ensure that investments in climate resilience and adaptation are accessible to women and recognize their unique vulnerabilities and capacities in facing climate change.¹⁵

17. The **Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** works on analyzing official development assistance (ODA) for gender equality and women's empowerment, based on the *Development Assistance Committee (DAC) gender equality*

⁸ https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2021-12/UNDP-A-Framework-for-Enhancing-Gender-and-Poverty-Integration-in-Climate-Finance_0.pdf.

⁹ <https://www.undp.org/indonesia/publications/leveraging-climate-finance-gender-equality-and-poverty-reduction-comparative-study>.

¹⁰ <https://www.undp.org/thailand/publications/policy-brief-gender-responsive-and-socially-inclusive-public-climate-finance>.

¹¹ <https://fc4s.net/charter-for-gender-finance-in-financial-centres-signed-on-26-september-2023-in-dublin-ireland/>.

¹² <https://fc4s.net/publication/fc4s-gender-finance-booklet/>.

¹³ It includes Net-Zero Banking Alliance, Net-Zero Insurance Alliance, Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance, and the Net-Zero Export Credit Agencies Alliance.

¹⁴ <https://wr.d.unwomen.org/practice/resources/guide-strengthening-gender-integration-climate-finance-projects>.

¹⁵ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/un-women-strategic-plan-2022-2025/gender-financing>.

policy marker.¹⁶ It recently released a report in 2022 entitled *Development Finance for Gender-responsive Climate Action*,¹⁷ which provided an overview of how members of the OECD DAC are integrating gender equality and climate action objectives into their bilateral allocable ODA.

18. The **Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)** published the *GGGI Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy 2021-2025*,¹⁸ which lays out pathways for inclusive green growth, ensuring a strong and systematic focus on meaningful participation, equal access to benefits and social safeguard management at all stages of green growth and climate action processes.

F. Examples of actions taken at international, regional and national levels:

19. **FONERWA** is the Rwanda National Green Fund established in 2012 to invest in public and private projects with the potential to create transformational change, build an ecosystem to incubate and accelerate growth capital to high-impact green ventures. In 2020, FONERWA developed the *Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Gender Action Plan*¹⁹ to emphasize its commitment to incorporating gender-sensitive and gender-responsive approaches in its role as a Green fund for public relations, as well as in its partnerships and participation in international and national events. As a result, FONERWA set a requirement for project applications to conduct a gender assessment to identify gaps and issues in the project area and develop appropriate strategies to address these gaps.

20. In 2020, Bank OCBC NISP in **Indonesia** received IDR 2.75 trillion (equivalent to \$200 million) from the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** for the Gender and Green Bonds to finance green projects and women-owned small and medium enterprises.²⁰ Women entrepreneurs and women-owned small and medium enterprises in Indonesia are key beneficiaries as well as key economic drivers, owning 34 per cent of medium enterprises and 50 per cent of small businesses.

21. **Gender and Environment Data Alliance (GEDA)**²¹ was launched in conjunction with the UN General Assembly in 2022 to improve availability, accessibility, understanding, and application of gender quality and robust data and information at the gender and environment nexus. GEDA was highlighted at the event, Counting on a Sustainable Future: Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data²² held ahead of COP 28 in Dubai as a good practice of catalyzing and scaling the analysis and use of gender-disaggregated data and intersectional analysis.

22. The **Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA)**, mainly consisting of the UNDP, UNEP, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) was launched in 2007 to ensure that climate change policies, decision-making, and initiatives at the global, regional and national levels are gender-responsive. The GGCA published a paper entitled *Ensuring Gender Equity in Climate Change Financing*,²³ which presented how climate financing can be structured to promote greater gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2013, the GGCA released a policy brief entitled *Gender and Climate Finance*²⁴ to introduce a gender-climate finance

¹⁶ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-gender-equality-marker.htm>.

¹⁷ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/development-finance-gender-climate-action.pdf>.

¹⁸ https://ggi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/GGGI_Gender-Strategy-2021-2025-FINAL-January-1-2020.pdf.

¹⁹ <http://www.fonerwa.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/FONERWA%20Gender%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan.pdf>.

²⁰ <https://pressroom.ifc.org/all/pages/PressDetail.aspx?ID=25737>; <https://disclosures.ifc.org/project-detail/SII/43613/dcm-ocbc-nisp-2>.

²¹ <https://genderenvironmentdata.org/>.

²² <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/cop28genderdata>.

²³ <https://www.undp.org/publications/ensuring-gender-equity-climate-change-financing>.

²⁴ <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/PB5-AP-Gender-and-Climate-Finance.pdf>.

nexus and Gender-sensitive climate finance regimes and a same-titled brief in 2016,²⁵ which highlighted a paradigm shift to gender-responsive climate finance funds and mechanisms. In 2015, a brief on *Gender and Climate Investment Funds*²⁶ was published to provide an overview of gender dimensions of climate finance mechanisms.

²⁵ <https://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/UNDP-Gender-and-Climate-Finance-Policy-Brief-5-WEB.pdf>.

²⁶ <https://www.undp.org/publications/gender-climate-investment-funds>.