



# Women's Environment & Development Organization

**Submission from the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)<sup>1</sup>**  
*in response to the call for inputs by the Standing Committee on Finance*  
*in the organization of its next Forum*

**A. The theme for the next Forum of the SCF, building upon the outcomes of the discussions of the Committee at its 18th meeting on this item:**

**The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) supports the proposed theme of Sustainable Cities and strongly encourages gender to be included as a cross-cutting element.** Cities are increasingly where the majority of the world's population lives and works, and thus cities are the loci of many critical gender inequalities. By 2050, nearly 80% of the world's women and girls will live in urban areas.<sup>2</sup> Cities have historically developed and been governed by entrenched gender inequalities, including, for example, in housing and tenure rights, participation in city government, access to relevant transport options, and exposure to violence which need to be addressed.<sup>3</sup> Creating access to financing and reorienting financial architecture that considers gender (and intersectional) inequalities and engages gender experts, women's organizations and gender-related groups as well as gender machineries is a necessary component toward progress on sustainable cities.

We would also support themes or sub-themes, such as sustainable transportation or water infrastructure (both proposed), but do urge the continued support of gender as a cross-cutting issue throughout all the sub-themes. Looking at gender as a cross-cutting issue means avoiding the pitfalls of featuring it as a siloed side topic, as the subject of a single "special" break-out session, or highlighting the participation of women in the Forum as demonstrative of discussing gender-responsive climate finance. While gender parity in speakers, panels, and other aspects of the Forum remains a significant goal the SCF should strive to reach through intentional and inclusive design of the Forum, representation of women is not a substitute for engaging gender experts to frame the gendered aspects of climate finance architecture and implementation. Gender experts participating in the Forum across themes will highlight both cities' needs for gender-responsive programming and examples of gender-just climate solutions, often women and community-led, that deserve resources and the opportunity to be replicated and/or scaled.

WEDO has engaged with and supported various climate finance mechanisms in developing increasing information on and access to financing for women and gender-related groups, including facilitating training and support to these institutions and national gender machineries to build their capacity, while also holding the financing mechanisms accountable to their policies and mandates. Some of the activities in which WEDO has recently engaged, which is not an exhaustive list of WEDO's engagement with promoting gender-responsive climate finance, include the following:

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, please contact Tara Daniel, [tara@wedo.org](mailto:tara@wedo.org).

<sup>2</sup> UN Conference of Parties, Outreach Issues, Warsaw, 2013, [www.cop19.gov.pl](http://www.cop19.gov.pl).

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, Chant, Sylvia and McIlwaine, Cathy (2016) [Cities, slums and gender in the global south: towards a feminised urban future](#) Routledge, London, UK. ISBN 9780415721646

- Under the CIF E&L Initiative’s Transformational Change Learning Partnership, WEDO has undertaken a strategic CIF-wide evaluation and learning process, aimed at capturing ways in which implementation of investment plans and projects has been enhanced via the early engagement of women and gender-related groups, including national gender machineries, in development and design. The intention is to establish learnings on proven methods, common challenges, and transformational impacts of these efforts, articulating clear and useful guidance for decision-makers and implementors.
- WEDO has contracted with Prospera, the International Network of Women’s Funds, to examine the theoretical and practical experiences of access, power, and participation for women’s organizations seeking to engage with international climate funds, particularly in the Asian-Pacific region, and identify ways various actors can work to re-orient climate finance to provide more effective pathways for supporting gender-responsive climate action.
- As an accredited observer to the GCF, WEDO has contributed significantly to the CSO work analyzing the GCF Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan drafts, and reviewed and offered comments on individual gender assessments and action plans within specific funding proposals
- With Both ENDS, as a partner of the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), and supported by the Wallace Global Fund, WEDO launched the initiative, “Women Demand Gender-Just Climate Finance.” The initiative is funding the direct participation of feminist and women’s rights activists in the work of the GCF, supporting regional feedback channels, working with women’s funds on strategies for direct access, and hosting a webinar series to take a deep dive into important aspects of the climate financing architecture, with the aim of ensuring this money reaches local women’s groups, that projects are designed to respond to the needs of communities, and that the work of the GCF respects human rights.

Additionally, and in coordination with the aforementioned inclusion of gender, WEDO supports the proposal to include capacity building as another cross-cutting sub-theme during the next Forum, particularly supporting capacity building on the issues and approaches for enhancing a gender-responsive approach toward achieving Sustainable Cities, with evidence of lessons learned and practices to be shared across city-relevant topics.

WEDO would be willing and interested to share findings and lessons learned from our work, as well as contribute to efforts to build capacity of engaged people/institutions of the SCF on gender dynamics and considerations within urban landscapes.

**B. Relevant events that are scheduled to take place in 2019, which could be considered by the SCF as potential partners to organize the Forum with**

The NDC Partnership hosts regional NDC Dialogues to build the capacity on a variety of issue pertinent to this proposed Forum theme and subtheme. Noting the role of financing in the NDC Partnership as a strategic pillar, the SCF could engage with the Partnership and UNDP (which facilitates the NDC Dialogues and support members (countries, international implementing agencies and donors). Supporting the Dialogue with relevant issues regarding financing for Sustainable Cities, as well as the cross-cutting issues of gender and capacity building are both integral to the NDC Partnership objectives and goals to enhance climate change action.

### C. Relevant information and case studies in relation to the proposed theme.

- UN Women’s three-page brief “Gender and the New Urban Agenda” describes how the New Urban Agenda strategically supports mainstreaming gender equality and women’s empowerment across all social development goals:  
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/10/gender-equality-and-the-new-urban-agenda>
- The report “Access and Gender,” the first paper in the *Access for All: Policies for Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development* series, looks at sustainable urban mobility with a gender lens and makes recommendations: <https://wedo.org/access-series-policies-inclusive-transit-oriented-development/>
- The position paper of the Women’s Major Group circulated during the High Level Political Forum in July 2018, contains an analysis and recommendations for Goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), from a gender perspective on pages 9-11: [http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/WMG\\_HLPPF2018\\_Combined\\_final.pdf](http://www.womenmajorgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/WMG_HLPPF2018_Combined_final.pdf)
- The Sustainable Urban Transport Project report “Approaches for Gender Responsive Urban Mobility” was released at the Women Mobilize Women Conference, and is complemented by the SUTP factsheet “Implementing the New Urban Agenda (iNUA): Gender and Urban Transport”: <https://sutp.org/en/news-reader/how-to-make-urban-transport-gender-responsive.html>