

Submission on behalf of YOUNGO on the 2024 SCF Forum on accelerating climate action and resilience through gender-responsive finance

Introduction :

We commend the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) for its decision regarding this crucial matter, and we hope that the initial proposition concerning gender and intergenerational equity will still be well reflected in the forum. As the conclusion of last year's forum indicated a lack of consensus on the definition of Just Transition, we should learn from our mistakes and not only focus on solutions and good practices, but also on identifying the issues and defining gender responsiveness.

We also need to ensure that we do not only discuss one gender, but rather all women and queer communities, even if it may be politically sensitive. This is to recognise the assertion that gender-responsive climate finance operates across differential scales across community stakeholders, local, federal and national governments and global climate financial architecture. Therein, involvement of intergenerational equity augurs for representation from community leaders across cross-cutting identities. Speakers will lend their expertise on evidence-informed practices along with critical lenses to gauge gaps, barriers and solutions across vertical and horizontal frameworks of climate finance. This entails locally-led practice implemented at community, national and regional scales. In this manner perspectives from beyond the UNFCCC processes will be integrated into our discussions. Speakers should also, with a few exceptions, be people directly affected by the issues raised, to avoid mansplaining.

Thematic proposal :

As such, we propose that the 2024 SCF Forum on accelerating climate action and resilience through gender-responsive finance dedicate one panel to the following topic and mode of discussion.

I. What is gender responsiveness finance?

Key themes of discussion:

- The first panel will serve as an **introduction to the topic, addressing all levels of knowledge**. It will cover definitions, applications, potential themes, and the genre designated by the term.
- **Clearly defining gender-responsive finance** and debunking the misconceptions that surround it. Understanding the subject at hand, what it's about and why it's important set

us on a trajectory to attaining equitable and effective gender responsive finance as it will be fact based.

Format of discussion: First expert panel

II. Debt Justice as a central pillar of gender-responsive climate finance: intergenerational perspectives

Key themes of discussion:

- **Recognizing and addressing the marginalised perspectives in climate finance through intersectional gender responsive lenses**, pertaining to tax justice, debt justice, budgeting, disaster risk financing and insurance to cohere with the sustainability of climate financial landscape for the marginal communities.
- **Synergizing mitigation and adaptation finance with climate finance targeting losses and damages to accrue climate-resilient development** requires policies and practices to encompass the entire gender spectrum.
- **Context-specific nuances to climate finance reveal the indigenous, racial and gendered peculiarities** that advance the case for integrating gender-responsiveness into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- **Underscoring the salience of the gender-responsive data ecosystem involving both quantitative and qualitative data** to ensure gender-responsive programming of climate mitigation and adaptation projects. Bridging the data paucity will provide depth to the emerging Loss and Damage Fund.
- **Addressing the gendered dimensions of the informal nature of economies and non-institutionalized financial architecture** to integrate gender minorities into mainstream economic apparatus.
- **Reconciling the prevalent gender discrimination in lending practices of financial institutions**, resulting in women paying higher interest rates, facing stricter terms on collateral, or overall receiving less finance and shorter terms.
- **Gender diverse voices of youth reiterate that restructuring of debt portfolios** bring intersectional and intergenerational justice to climate finance. Multi-sectoral approach to climate finance reveals the untapped scope of gendered aspects to blended finance.
- **Highlighting the differentiated experiences of racialised and queer folks** in experiencing debt burdens, and the need for an equitable framework to ensure responsiveness for all women and queer communities.
- **Taking stock of the success and failures of existing debt-based financial instruments geared towards women's financial empowerment**, such as microcredit programmes, that have in reality exacerbated social exclusion and inequality of women across geographies.

Format of discussion: Expert panel and Break out Group (BOG)

III. Intergenerational and gender connectivity

Key themes of discussion:

- **Empowerment of young women or queer and girls through examples** of women and queer who have navigated the current climate finance space to attain success across the varying business landscapes whether local, national, or international.
- **Overcome knowledge barriers to female-led and trans-led entrepreneurship** through the provision of first steps and generally accepted business practices that can empower women and people from gender minorities to found their own enterprises.
- **Break age-related bubbles in the business landscape to promote intergenerational connectivity** to promote a more productive and inclusive subset of competition.
- **Explore strategies for ensuring equitable access to climate finance** for all especially for marginalised genders, youth and children.

Format of discussion: Expert panel and BOGs

IV. Climate Financing and systemic gender inequities in the financial sector

While these issues may appear unrelated to climate change, it's crucial to recognise them as integral components of a patriarchal and capitalist system that harms and exploits all living beings, including non-dominant gender populations.

Key themes of discussion:

- **Addressing the issue of Pink Tax** is a general tendency for products marketed toward non-cisgender men consumers to be more expensive than those marketed toward cisgender men. It is often observed in a variety of everyday products and services.
- **Examining the merchandising of women's bodies**, including topics such as prostitution, pornography, and advertising. This entails exploring the societal implications and ethical considerations surrounding the commodification of women's bodies in various forms of media and commercial industries and networks of climate change-induced human trafficking. For example, the sexualisation of women is often used to promote polluting products (cars, fast fashion, etc.).
- **Discussing the gender pay gap**, exploring its causes and solutions to promote wage equality, as economic disparities exacerbate women and queer communities' disproportionate vulnerability to environmental impacts.
- **Discussing unpaid labour**, predominantly undertaken by women and queer individuals, remains undervalued despite its crucial role in the economy. This perpetuates economic disparities and reinforces traditional gender roles.
- **Addressing the underrepresentation of women and queer individuals in finance, especially in leadership roles**, is a necessity.

Format of discussion: Panel with womens and persons from queer communities and various BOGs

V. Tools and practices for moving forward

Key themes of discussion:

- **Improving reporting on gender responsiveness finance** thought better **data collection and analysis. Methodology and indicators** also need to be discussed. This topic can be linked to the reports produced by the SCF, for the UNFCCC and the future NCQG.
- **Sharing good practice** such as public policies put in place, on the different topics addressed in panel/ BOGs and others which haven't been raised.

Format of discussion: various BOGs