



UNFCCC COP29 Pavilion: “Kyrgyzstan: Sustainable Mountain Development”

Location: Pavilion F8, COP29 Blue Zone, Baku city, Azerbaijan

The Side event

“Unlocking Financing for Gender-responsive Climate Security and Peace”

Concept

Date: 16 November 2024

Time: 16:00 - 17:30

Moderator: Ela Ionescu, UN Women

Online participation: To participate online, please register using the following link: [link](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details on how to access the conference. Registration is required only once, and the provided link will grant you access to all events at the Pavilion “Kyrgyzstan: Sustainable Mountain Development” throughout its entire duration November 13-21, 2024.

Background:

Contextual Framework:

The international community has recognized that climate action in fragile and conflict-affected countries must be enhanced and adequately supported, as reflected in the adoption of the COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery, and Peace at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference¹, in in CSW 66 agreed conclusions², and in regional declarations³ and dialogues⁴ echoed in the UN Security Council, Peacebuilding Commission, [the Pact for the Future](#). While these instruments recognize that the effects of climate change, environmental degradation, and natural resource scarcity are exacerbating insecurity and instability worldwide, **there remains an urgent need to better address the intersections between gender, climate, peace, and security.**

Recognizing the gender dimensions of climate security is vital to prevent worsening vulnerabilities and to use gender equality as a catalyst for climate resilience and peacebuilding. Supporting women and their organizations in climate responses fosters equitable resource management and community resilience. For instance, UN Women research shows that gender-responsive water management improves access, reduces women's labor burdens, promotes equity, and aids in conflict prevention.⁵

¹ <https://www.cop28.com/en/news/2023/12/COP28-Presidency-host-day-to-drive-action-to-support-world-most-vulnerable>
² [E/CN.6/2022/L.7](https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/from-commodity-to-common-good-a-feminist-agenda-to-tackle-the-worlds-water-crisis-en.pdf)

³ <https://www.undp.org/africa/press-releases/landmark-declaration-adopted-strengthen-climate-security-sahel>

⁴ <https://asean-aipr.org/asean-un-regional-dialogue-on-climate-peace-and-security/>

⁵ <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/from-commodity-to-common-good-a-feminist-agenda-to-tackle-the-worlds-water-crisis-en.pdf>

Problem Statement:

For these solutions to be replicated and scaled up it is crucial to increase financing at the intersection of gender, climate security and peace. But resources invested in this area are minuscule. Research by UN Women⁶ shows that only a minimal portion of global climate finance commitments - 56 out of more than 160,000 commitments, equivalent to a mere 0.035% - directly address these intertwined issues. **This major gap stresses the urgency of increasing commitments from Members States, international organizations, UN entities and financial institutions to integrate conflict and gender sensitivity across climate financing, understanding that it is indispensable to achieve inclusive and sustainable outcomes.** This includes ensuring gender-sensitive conflict analyses are an integral requisite to inform climate finance; promoting local ownership by working with women and women's organizations to ensure they play a central role in decision making throughout program cycles; and increasing targeted funds to support interventions linking gender, peace and climate security, with a focus on those led by women and women's organizations.

Policy and Legal Framework:

There are existing mechanisms that can be used as an example to guide peace-responsive, gender sensitive climate finance. [The Peacebuilding Fund](#) has long been recognized as a funding mechanism that embeds gender equality as an integral part of peacebuilding portfolios, allocating over 30% of its funding towards projects whose principal objective is to empower women. For example, in the fragile border area between Mali and Niger, the PBF is empowering women to contribute to local and cross-border conflict prevention by enhancing their participation in local decision-making, supporting women's led cooperatives working on to reducing the impact of climate change and mitigating related tensions on local communities through inclusive mechanisms to manage natural resources. Such examples of dedicated funding for women-led and gender-responsive programmes must be scaled up through climate finance mechanisms.

Another example is the [UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund \(WPHF\)](#) which mobilizes financing for local women's organizations and Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) in crisis response and peacebuilding. Since 2016, it has supported over 1,300 organizations and 500 WHRDs across 44 conflict-affected countries. WPHF funds innovative local solutions to climate issues, such as women-led disaster committees in Vanuatu and sustainable food initiatives in Haiti. At COP28, WPHF launched the Funding Initiative on Women and Climate Security to enhance funding for local women's leadership in climate action, offering grants from \$2,500 to \$200,000 to combat climate-related conflicts. The initiative began in the Pacific, Nigeria, and Colombia, with plans for broader expansion.

In this context, governments, international, regional, and local organizations, financial institutions, philanthropic and private sector entities need to work towards harmonizing existing policy frameworks, including Women, Peace and Security commitments, to place **gender as a cornerstone of the design, implementation and evaluation of climate finance.** The National Action Plans (NAPs) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) can serve as a guiding framework in this direction. They constitute a concrete instrument materializing the nexus of gender, climate change, peace and security, with 43 out of 107 (40%) NAPs incorporating references to climate change. WPS NAPs

⁶ Climate finance for gender equality and peace: a global analysis (prospective publication)

development and implementation can serve as policy conduit in contexts where the emerging language around climate, peace, and security is not well understood by policy actors, and be leveraged as an effective platform for civil society, governments, and multilateral institutions to work together on advancing gender and peace responsive climate action.

Historical Perspective:

On October 4, 2024, Kyrgyzstan hosted the Central Asia Women’s Leaders Caucus Forum on “Women, Peace, and Security,” focusing on women's roles in enhancing peace and security in Central Asia and Afghanistan. The forum aimed to strengthen the WPS agenda through regional cooperation and women’s leadership in peacebuilding. Participants discussed women's leadership in peace, gender-responsive climate adaptation, and transboundary water management, proposing measures like gender markers in climate studies, educational programs for women, and platforms for dialogue on gender in water resource management, as well as training in sustainable technologies. It was recognized that **the application of tools and strategies such as gender-responsive budgeting, national investment frameworks with gender targets, gender financing assessments, and innovative financing instruments is essential to mobilize resources for gender equality in climate action.**

Drawing on the findings and lessons learned from the research by UN Women and partners, Kyrgyzstan along with UN Women and in partnership with PBSO and WPHF will aim of **eliciting a discussion around best practices to promote gender-sensitive, peace-responsive climate finance**, including through the exchange of experiences stemming from existing funding mechanisms and highlighting success stories showcasing the ripple effect of investing in women for climate resilience and sustaining peace.

Side Event's Objectives:

- Showcase how the WPS agenda, specifically through the implementation of the NAPs, can serve as a guiding framework for finance mechanisms to adopt gender- and peace-responsive climate action.
- Facilitate the exchange of best practices to promote gender- and peace-responsive, climate finance, including through sharing lessons learnt from existing funding mechanisms, such as the PBF and the WPHF.
- Discuss the importance of incorporating gender sensitive conflict analyses in climate action, as a critical instrument to understand structural inequalities, roles and dynamics within communities and their access to and use of resources and allow for tailored programming.
- Share impact stories stemming from funding directed to women and women’s organizations, with a focus on initiatives that promote conflict prevention and climate resilience through community-led solutions, with a focus on promoting women’s leadership and transforming gender norms.

Agenda

16:00 – 16:10 Opening and introduction:

- **Mr. Mukhtarbek Baimurzaev**, First Deputy Minister of Labor, Social Security and Migration of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **[Name, Position]**, government representative

16:10-16:30 Funders' Discussion: Showcasing Good Practices in Gender-Responsive and Peace-Responsive Climate Finance

- How does your fund support women's meaningful participation and leadership to respond to the climate, peace and security challenges?
- From your experience, what are the main barriers for women and women-focused organizations to access climate finance?
- What are some good practices from your work to overcome these barriers and promote gender-responsive and peace-responsive climate finance?

Panelists:

- **Maria Krisch**, Programme Coordinator for Europe, Asia and Latin America & Climate Security Lead, United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, Geneva, Switzerland
- **[Name, Position]**, DPPA? PBSO?

16:30 -17:10 Panel Discussion: From Lessons Learnt to Legacy: Ensuring Sustainability in Gender Responsive Climate Solutions and Diplomacy

- *In what ways can the WPS agenda serve as a guiding framework for developing climate finance mechanisms that are both gender-responsive and peace-oriented?*
- *What strategies can be employed to promote women's leadership in climate action and water diplomacy initiatives? How does this leadership contribute to transforming gender norms within communities?*
- *How can understanding structural inequalities and community dynamics enhance access to resources for women in climate-affected areas? What roles do women's organizations and networks play in this process?*
- *Can you highlight successful initiatives that demonstrate how funding directed to women's organizations has led to conflict prevention and enhanced climate resilience? What outcomes were achieved?*

Panelists:

- **[Name, Position] Women Environmental Human Rights Defender/WECF**
- **Dr. Jeanene Mitchell**, Senior Transboundary Stakeholder Engagement Advisor for the USAID South Caucasus Regional Water Management Program, member of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network
- **Ms. Begim Zhanuzakova**, RCOY 2024 Organizing Committee (Regional Conference of Youth on Climate Change in Central Asia and Afghanistan), Kyrgyzstan
- **Ms. Marwa Alam Safa**, Youth Climate Activist, Climate Adaptation Officer at Agha Khan Foundation, Afghanistan

17:10 -17:20 Final questions to all participants:

- *Looking ahead, what immediate actions do you recommend for policymakers, funders, and practitioners to strengthen the connection between gender, peace, and climate finance?*

17:20 -17:30 Closing

- Ela Ionescu, UN Women

Take-away messages, conclusions, and recommendations for the development of the topic

Conclusions:

- Implementing the WPS agenda alongside climate action creates a holistic approach that addresses both gender and environmental issues, leading to more sustainable outcomes.
- Collaboration among stakeholders - governments, NGOs, community organizations, and funders - is critical for sharing knowledge, resources, and best practices to enhance the impact of gender and peace-responsive climate finance.
- Sharing of best practices and lessons learned from various initiatives are vital to refine strategies and ensure that gender-responsive climate action remains effective and relevant.

Key messages:

- WPS agenda, particularly through the NAPs, is crucial for creating frameworks that effectively integrate gender considerations into climate finance.
- Targeted funding for women and women-led organizations not only fosters resilience but also enhances conflict prevention strategies, showcasing the effectiveness of grassroots solutions.
- Learning from existing funding mechanisms, such as the PBF and WPHF, provides valuable insights for developing gender-responsive climate finance strategies that can be replicated and scaled.
- Incorporating gender-sensitive conflict analyses is essential to address structural inequalities and ensures that climate action is relevant and effective within local contexts.
- Elevating women's leadership in climate initiatives not only promotes equity but also contributes to transformative changes in gender norms and community dynamics.

Recommendations:

- Prioritize the integration of WPS NAPs into climate policies, ensuring that gender considerations are central to climate finance mechanisms.
- Develop and promote funding mechanisms that are specifically designed to support women-led initiatives in climate resilience and conflict prevention, ensuring that access is equitable and transparent.
- Invest in capacity-building programs for women and local organizations to enhance their ability to engage in climate action and advocate for gender-responsive policies.
- Support platforms for knowledge exchange among stakeholders to share best practices and lessons learned from successful initiatives, fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation.
- Establish robust monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the impact of gender-responsive climate initiatives, ensuring that lessons are documented and applied for continuous improvement.

Administrative information:

Person responsible for organizing the Side-event: **Ela Ionescu**

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