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GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Strengthening climate action by promoting gender equality

Women and men are experiencing climate change differently, as **gender inequalities persist** around the world, **affecting the ability of individuals and communities to adapt**.

Recognising the important contributions of women as decision makers, stakeholders, educators, carers and experts across sectors and at all levels can lead to **successful, long-term solutions to climate change**.

Women have proven to be leading the way towards more equitable and sustainable solutions to climate change. Across sectors, women's innovations and expertise have transformed lives and livelihoods, and increased climate resilience and overall well-being.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20-30% which could raise total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5-4%.

Raising women's labour force participation to country-specific male levels would raise GDP in the United States by 5%, in Japan by 9%, in the United Arab Emirates by 12% and in Egypt by 34% according to a report by the International Monetary Fund.

It is important to ensure equal space and resources for women and men to participate in climate change decision making and action at all levels.

Climate finance should be accessible to both men

What can be done?

United Nations climate change negotiations, void of gender-related texts and discussions until 2008, have more recently reflected an increased understanding of the links between gender equality and responding to climate change. The Lima Work Programme on Gender adopted at COP20 in 2014, for example, promotes gender balance and achieving gender-responsive climate policy. A gender-responsive outcome at COP21 in Paris would set the standard for implementation.

At national and subnational levels, important steps forward include the design and planning of policies, programmes and projects, as well as financing, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

In particular, investing in participatory, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral Climate Change Gender Action Plans can help countries to develop comprehensive action that integrates gender concerns and builds on women's unique knowledge and perspectives.

