

FROM GLOBAL SOUTH FEMINISTS TO COP26 DECISION-MAKERS: RADICAL CHANGE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

COP26 has the potential to be a critical milestone in the fight against climate change, but only if it centres the needs and solutions of individuals and communities directly impacted by the climate crisis. These include global South women, young women, girls, and non-binary people in all their diversity. Rooted in the diverse communities they serve, women’s rights organizations and feminist movements offer compelling, local perspectives on climate change impacts and solutions.

The Equality Fund’s September 2021 *Dialogue on Feminist Climate Action* brought together over 30 representatives from global South women’s rights organizations and feminist movements. Its aim was to amplify their voices to ensure they are at the forefront and considered by decision-makers before, during, and after COP26. This brief, a summary of the full Dialogue report, highlights participants’ recommendations to COP26 decision-makers.

“We do not talk about climate change, but climate crisis. Climate change is here... [and] it is producing a huge and urgent crisis that we need to solve.” - Sandra Liliana Luna Delgado, Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres



RECOMMENDATION #1

Adopt a people- and nature-oriented development framework that recognizes and advances human rights, in particular women’s rights and Indigenous peoples’ rights.

Dialogue participants called for transformational change to the extractive, exploitative systems that caused the climate crisis in the first place. Beyond mitigation and adaptation efforts, this transformational change requires: support for sustainable, community-led production, consumption and development; respect for Indigenous knowledge and solutions and Indigenous sovereignty over natural resources; and treatment of the care economy as a climate action intervention.*

*According to the [Feminist Green New Deal](#), the care economy is a “green economy” because: it is necessary for sustaining the entire economy and society; care jobs contribute less to climate change than many other sectors of the economy; and careers in care are important options for the workforce transitioning to the green economy.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Increase the accessibility of climate finance for women’s rights organizations and feminist movements.

Despite being under-resourced and under-recognized among climate actors, women’s rights organizations and feminist movements offer effective solutions to the climate crisis. Dialogue participants recommended increasing climate finance to women’s rights organizations and feminist movements. Existing funding mechanisms like [GAGGA](#) and the [Equality Fund](#) can be employed. Processes and funding requirements of the [Green Climate Fund](#) and the [Adaptation Fund](#) can be modified to ensure greater access by women-led climate justice organizations. Funding should be long-term and unrestricted as women’s rights organizations tackle climate change and the myriad issues and inequalities that ripple from it.



RECOMMENDATION #3

Establish the preconditions for civil society-led, trusted, and safe partnerships among women’s rights organizations and feminist movements, governments, and the private sector.

While COP26 calls for “accelerated action” on collaboration between governments, businesses, and civil society, Dialogue participants raised concerns. Climate negotiation agendas are dominated by private sector and government interests. And these actors perpetrate discrimination and violence against women and Indigenous human rights, environmental, and land defenders. Before partnerships are possible, foundations must be laid, notably: supporting, recognizing, and promoting women and Indigenous people’s leadership; respecting Indigenous peoples’ rights over ancestral lands and resources; and protecting women and Indigenous human rights, environmental, and land defenders.

Some Dialogue participants outlined how they saw greater potential for climate action outside of COP processes. They are concerned the COP agenda is not sufficiently informed by grassroots and community priorities. From where they sit, civil society participation is primarily tokenistic. Real change to address the climate crisis requires action at local, regional, and national levels, in addition to meaningful agreements at COP26.



ABOUT THE DIALOGUE ON FEMINIST CLIMATE ACTION

The September 2021 Dialogue convened over 30 representatives from women’s rights organizations and feminist movements in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It attracted participants tackling a range of gender equality and women’s rights issues, from agriculture and food security, to reproductive health and rights, to violence. This diverse participation is a testament to the interconnected nature of gender equality and climate action– and the need for a multi-sector response to the climate crisis.