Gender equality in the context of the climate crisis

CSW66 Youth Forum

CSW Youth Forum Priority theme: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and youth in all their diversity in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

Outcomes: Bringing together global adolescents and youth to:

I. Foreground youth concerns on interlinkages between gender and climate change, environmental, disaster risk reduction - with a particular focus on grassroots and community voices.

II. Explore how young people and adolescents can meaningfully engage in intergovernmental political processes.

III. Reaffirm their commitment to gender equality in the context of the climate crisis through community led consultations.

IV. Strengthen an ecosystem of youth partners who can support the journey from CSW66 to COP27.
Opening session

Master of ceremony: Ishaan Shah, National Gender Youth Advocate NGYA, United Kingdom.

09.00 - 09.20 Welcoming participants, outlining ground rules and tech brief.

09.15 - 09.20 Pietro Spataro (Risearth, Italy) - Carbon Emission Reduction.

09.20 - 09.30 Opening remarks from young activists.

The opening remarks will focus on the intersections between climate action, climate justice, and gender equality. They will also explore the interconnected nature of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda and Our Common Agenda.

- Fazeela Mubarak (Kenya, East and Southern Africa)
- Dominique Palmer (United Kingdom)

09.30 - 10.10 Session 1: High-Level Panel Discussion: Gender equality in the context of the climate crisis

Gender equality is a central element of climate justice. Women, girls and youth in all their diversity are, and will continue to be, more vulnerable to the effects of climate change and environmental degradation. In preparation for CSW66, youth and adolescents conducted over 25 community-level consultations, which engaged over 1,500 youth worldwide resulting in a set of practical recommendations for a youth-centric, holistic, and integrated climate change strategy. Results from the consultations focused on the effects of natural and man-made environmental disasters, scarcity of resources, access to education, exclusion from decision-making processes of young people and girls. Young people’s needs, priorities and knowledge are often ignored or overlooked when it comes to climate policy, undermining both their agency and the effectiveness of sustainable management solutions. The goal of this panel is for youth to highlight critical components of the recommendations created and led by youth and adolescents and propose practical steps for implementation of the Agreed Conclusions. High level speakers are expected to reflect on the recommendations and share how they will support amplification of youth and adolescent voices. The session will capture
recommendations to addressing climate, environment, and disaster risk reduction by highlighting youth perspectives and its implications to ensure more transparent, participatory, and accountable means of engagement.

Moderator: Anne Heloise, Salve Barra de Jangada’ movement, Brazil

- Speakers:
  - Sima Sami Bahous, UN Women Executive Director.
  - H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, Chair of the Bureau for the 66th session (2022) of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. TBC
  - Helen Grant. Special Envoy on Girls' Education, Member of Parliament. United Kingdom. TBC
  - Jeevika Shiv, National Gender Youth Activist NGYA - Partner working on Climate Change: (India)
  - Ayshka Najib, Generation Equality Feminist Action for Climate Justice Youth Leader (United Arab Emirates)

10.10 - 10.15  Artivism Transition - Oindrila Ghosh, poet performance/spoken word, Asia Pacific.

10.15-10.55  Session 2: From Observers to Negotiators: The Role of Youth in Climate Justice Arenas

In the last decade, climate change has caused strong impacts on natural and human systems worldwide. It is of particular importance to include youths in the international decision-making process centered on climate change. Young people need to have a say in the decisions affecting their future. Youth is formally recognised as a major stakeholder in international environmental decision-making processes by the United Nations Conference on Environment & Development. However, compared to other stakeholders, young people are less involved in formal political processes on the national and international level. Youth engagement tends to focus on informal approaches such as activism. This high-level conversation will explore how young people can move from being observers and activists to becoming negotiators including intersections between different paths to meaningful youth involvement in political decision making centered on climate change. Through an interactive dialogue, youth will explore best practices that can pave way for inclusive and concrete progress. High level speakers are expected to reflect on the importance of youth as negotiators and how this will be achieved.

Moderator: Majandra Rodriguez, Co-Executive Director, FRIDA, Former Member of Generation Equality Youth Task Force. Peru
**Speakers:**
- Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth.
- Inger Anderson, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. TBC
- Nohora Alejandra, Quiguantar Generation Equality Feminist Action for Climate Justice Youth Leader
- Steasy, Kenyan Young Leader, Plan International


11.00 - 11.45  **Session 3: Designing Inclusive Policies for Climate Change and Environmental Disaster Risk Reduction**

This session will highlight how governments, civil society, and the UN must create inclusive climate change and Disaster Risk Policies, particularly focusing on marginalized and vulnerable youth including people with disabilities and Indigenous people. The session will also touch upon the violence and threats grassroots activists face. High-level speakers are expected to reflect on how minorities, such as persons living with disabilities and marginalized groups, are taken into account within climate change policies and disaster risk reduction and how the work that they are doing is synergistic to the work of grassroots youth activists and networks. High-level speakers will be asked to reflect on their practices of equity within policy development as it relates to climate action.

**Moderator:** Renate Adriaansens, National Gender Youth Activist (Netherlands)

**Speakers:**
- Kate Muhwezi, Co-Director of Restless Development. TBC
- Archana Soreng (Indigenous youth woman) National Women Farmers Network India & Youth representative in the UN Secretary General’s Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change. India
Aisha Akbar, Fridays For Future MAPA (Most Affected People and Areas) Balochistan
Isidora Guzman, Adolescent, Encuentra tu lugar (Chile)


**Closing session:**

11.50 - 11.55  The graphic recording: A summary of the day with Maitree Muzumdar (Graphic Facilitator) moderated by Ishaan.

---

**Saturday 5th March 2022, 11:00 - 14:00 EST**

**To CSW66 and Beyond!**

**Master Moderator:** Renata Koch Alvarenga National Gender Youth Advocate NGYA (Brazil).

11.00 - 11.07  **Welcoming participants, outlining ground rules and tech brief.**

11.07 – 11.30  **Session 1: The Role of Girls in Climate Agenda**

This session will highlight the importance of placing adolescent girls and their lived realities at the center of climate, environment, and disaster risk reduction response. As a key population, adolescent girls are disproportionately impacted by climate issues due to its impacts on access to education, housing, and food security. Extreme weather, such as floods, deforestation, and desertification affects the lives of adolescent girls in many ways, threatening their ability to reach their fullest potential. As such, adolescent girls and their leadership must be placed at the forefront in efforts to combat the impacts of climate change. High-level speakers are expected to engage in discussion with an adolescent girl to hear the concerns from an on-the-ground, grassroots perspective, and respond by discussing their organizational commitment to centering adolescent girls within climate change policies, and to outline the work they are currently engaging in to sustain this transformative shift. High-level speakers will be invited to engage in dialogue with one another and to strengthen a local-to-global analysis in asserting the rights, wellbeing, and prosperity of adolescent girls.

**Moderator:** Besma Katia Arbaoui, Member of the Adolescent Girl Advisory Body for Global Fund for Women, Algeria.
Speakers

- Lopa Banerjee, Executive Coordinator, Generation Equality & Director, Civil Society Division at UN Women.
- Stephen Omollo, Chief Executive Officer at Plan International.
- Nancy Kubilima (17 years) Girls for Climate, Africa, Generation Equality Feminist Action for Climate Justice Youth Leader.

11.36 – 11.41 Recap of Day 1 by Mila Mihajlović (Adolescent girl) Kosovo

11.41 - 12.15 Session 2: Meaningful Youth Political Participation

This session will be a moderated interactive dialogue between two young, high-level politicians sharing their experiences, highlighting barriers to youth political participation. Speakers will be expected to reflect on how they have overcome these barriers, emphasizing how young people can meaningfully participate at all levels of political and decision-making processes ensuring that climate action and gender equality are in the political agenda. They will also share strategies on how to successfully engage with decision makers.

Moderator: Renata Koch Alvarenga

- Speakers:
  - Gabriel Boric - Member of the Chamber of Deputies and president-elect of Chile TBC
  - Elly Schlein - Vice President of Emilia-Romagna, Italy
  - Vanessa Nakate, Uganda Fridays for Future
  - Jerome Foster II (19-year-old White House Environmental Justice Advisor, Founder & Executive Director, OneMillionOfUs & Co-Editor-in-Chief, The Climate Reporter)


Community-level consultations allow youth to formulate the CSW66 Youth Recommendations, placing youth voices at the center of CSW. In breakout rooms, young feminist leaders from diverse backgrounds will link their experiences to a specific recommendation theme, demonstrating how climate justice must be viewed using an intersectional feminist approach. Rapporteurs will gather thoughts and input a brief summary into a shared document.
12.45 - 12.55  Session 4:  Consolidation and Endorsement of Recommendations

Moderator: Joanita Babirye. Executive Director, Girls for Climate. Action Coalition Youth Leader on Feminist Action for Climate Justice, Uganda

By utilizing online platforms to gather feedback, suggestions, and comments, this session will further analyze the CSW Youth Recommendations through interactive polls and messaging. Young people will be polled, based on their reflections on the Youth Recommendations in the previous session, and will have the option to endorse the Recommendations themselves. The results of said polls will be displayed live, where young people can see, in real time, the results of the questionnaire. Following, participants will be asked to share the Recommendations widely within their communities to strengthen the number of endorsements.


This session will focus on sharing the experiences of young climate leaders who have engaged within intergovernmental climate and gender-related negotiation processes and how to effectively engage in such dialogues. Experienced youth climate justice advocates will share their feedback, lessons learned, and key takeaways for future negotiators.

Moderator: Aatika Patel, National Gender Youth Advocate NGYA (Fiji Islands)

Speakers (Young negotiators)
- Leen Assiry, Fridays For Future (Lebanon)
- Sanne Van de Voort. Youth member of the Netherlands government delegation
- Sohanur (Sohan) Rahman, Coordinator, YouthNet for Climate Justice; Young leader of WomenDeliver, Bangladesh

13.20 - 13.45  Session 6:  The Importance of Youth and Adolescent Voice in Multilateral places

Young people continuously face setbacks and challenges, advocating for more inclusive decision-making spaces where young people can participate and contribute as equal partners. Despite these challenges that have also been exacerbated by COVID-19, young people have continued to showcase the resilience, creativity and hope embodied by most young people around the world. Speakers are expected to reflect on how young people can be more visible in multilateral spaces, and how their multifaceted diverse journeys from CSW66 to COP27 fit into the broader UN system, and in particular, UN Women’s Agenda and its focus on the
Generation Equality Journey (including the Action Coalition on Feminist Action on Climate Justice).

**Moderator:** Lucy Fagan, NGYA, United Kingdom

- **Speakers:**
  - Sarah Hendriks (Director Programme, Policy and Intergovernmental Division, UN Women)
  - Bridget Burns (Director, Women’s Environment & Development Organization) TBC
  - Chido Mpemba. African Union Youth Envoy. Zimbabwe TBC
  - Kehkashan Basu, Green Hope Foundation, Generation Equality Action Coalition Youth Leader, Canada
  - Elizabeth Gulugulu, YOUNGO, Global Focal Point to the Official Children & Youth Constituency to the @UNFCCC 2022

**13.50 – 13.55** Summary of the day (graphic recording)
**13.55 – 14.00** Closing Session & Check-Out: Final Artivism performance