

VIRTUAL DIALOGUE

CLIMATE ACTION AND TRAINING FOR GENDER EQUALITY

6-23 DECEMBER 2021

CONCEPT NOTE

WEBINAR: THURSDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2021
10:00 NEW YORK TIME/16:00 CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME

BACKGROUND

Climate change is the defining crisis of our time.¹ We know that the climate crisis is not gender neutral. The impacts of climate change are gendered; that is, they impact people in different ways based on their gender.² Women face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change in situations of poverty, and the majority of the world's poor are women.³ As Christina Kwauk of the Brookings Institution puts it, "*Climate change exacerbates existing structural and social gender inequalities in ways that's really led [women and girls] to experience climate change the worst and first.*"⁴ Gender-based violence skyrockets in the aftermath of natural disasters, while the food shortages and financial hardship wrought by climate change can increase violence against women and LGBTQI people.⁵ Gender inequality limits the resilience and adaptive capacity of women, families and communities.

How can training for gender equality contribute to climate action?

This Virtual Dialogue aims to find out.

¹ United Nations, '[The Climate Crisis – A Race We Can Win](#)'.

² International Women's Development Agency, '[Taking a gender sensitive approach to climate change prevention, mitigation and adaptation: IWDA policy position paper on climate change](#)', 2021.

³ United Nations Climate Change, '[Introduction to Gender and Climate Change](#)'.

⁴ Casey Quackenbush, '[On gender day at U.N. climate talks, a call for action that empowers women and girls](#)', *Washington Post*, 8 November 2021.

⁵ Emily Dwyer and Lana Woolf, *Down by the River: Addressing the Rights, Needs and Strengths of Fijian Sexual and Gender Minorities in Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response*, Melbourne: Oxfam, Edge Effect and Rainbow Pride Foundation Fiji, 2018.

It also restricts options for climate change mitigation.⁶ Gender norms constrain the leadership of women and persons of diverse gender identities, and contribute to their marginalization.⁷ Despite this, processes to address climate change remain male-dominated, with women underrepresented in constituted bodies and delegations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).⁸ Women's unequal participation in decision-making compounds inequalities and prevents them from contributing to climate-related planning, policy-making and implementation.⁹

There can be no climate justice without gender justice. As Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, argues, *"The climate crisis is unquestionably a feminist issue."*¹⁰ Half of the world's population cannot be sidelined as we work to safeguard our planet's future.¹¹ Gender equality must be at the heart of any viable strategies on the climate and the environment. Just as women and persons of diverse gender identities are disproportionately affected by climate change, they play a key role in adaptation and mitigation. Unleashing their knowledge and capabilities offers an opportunity to craft climate change solutions for the benefit of all.¹² The verdict of the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), the most critical global climate summit yet, is that governments urgently need to do more to prevent catastrophic climate impacts being locked in by 2030.¹³ As UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in September 2021, *"the climate emergency is a race we are losing, but it is a race we can win."* To do so, we need gender-responsive solutions to the climate crisis. This is where training for gender equality comes in, as one of the most powerful tools we have to advance equality by catalysing transformation on a personal level, in communities, organizations and societies.

OBJECTIVES AND KEY QUESTIONS

The next Virtual Dialogue by the UN Women Training Centre's Community of Practice (CoP) will explore climate action and training for gender equality through a live [Webinar](#) (in English) on the 13th of December 2021 and a two-week forum discussion. The objective of this Virtual Dialogue is to discuss:

- ✓ **HOW** can training for gender equality contribute to climate action?
 - ✓ **What** makes training for gender equality a relevant strategy for advancing climate action?
 - ✓ **What** practical examples exist of using training for gender equality to support climate action?
 - ✓ **How** can we leverage the transformative potential to advance climate action? What strategies and approaches can we use?

⁶ International Union for the Conservation of Nature, '[Gender and climate change](#)'.

⁷ International Women's Development Agency, '[Taking a gender sensitive approach to climate change prevention, mitigation and adaptation](#)', 2021.

⁸ United Nations Climate Change, '[Overrepresentation of Men in UN Climate Process Persists](#)', 12 October 2021.

⁹ United Nations Climate Change, '[Introduction to Gender and Climate Change](#)'.

¹⁰ Mary Robinson, '[Gender and climate: Weathering the storm](#)', *Chatham House Blog*, 1 October 2021.

¹¹ The Greens/EFA, '[Gender and COP26: Why the climate summit should be on every feminist's agenda](#)'.

¹² International Union for the Conservation of Nature, '[Gender and climate change](#)'.

¹³ Tim Benton, Sian Bradley, Anna Åberg, Ruth Townend, and Nina Jeffs, '[COP26 verdict is governments urgently need to do more](#)', *Chatham House Blog*, 14 November 2021.

WEBINAR PANELLISTS (13 DECEMBER 2021)



Dr Lucy Ferguson [MODERATOR]

Lucy is a specialist in gender equality and women's empowerment. As a consultant for the UN Women Training Centre, she has written extensively on using feminist pedagogical principles and working towards training that is reflexive, focused on process and grounded in the transformative potential of participatory training encounters. She has a broad range of experience as both a gender trainer and gender mainstreaming expert working with several international organizations, including the European Commission, the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization, (ITC-ILO), United Nations Volunteers, UNDP Africa and the Commonwealth Secretariat, delivering a combination of gender-responsive evaluation, training the trainers workshops, evidence-based research, developing training courses, and providing policy advice and training on gender mainstreaming. Her latest book is [Gender Training: a Transformative Tool for Gender Equality](#).



Dharmistha Chauhan

Dharmistha is an economist by training and has over 20 years of experience in the field of gender and community-led sustainable development. She has worked extensively in South and South-East Asia, with a focus on enabling people's participation in land and water management. She has worked with a range of international organizations, including UN Women, UNICEF, UNDP, Agence Française de Développement, Oxfam International, ARROW (Malaysia) and Home Net South Asia. The key areas of her work are gender, sustainable development and climate resilience. She was the conceptualizer and convener of the Women's Action Towards Climate Resilience for Urban Poor in South Asia project, recognized as a leading "Women for Results" initiative under the UNFCCC's momentum for change focus. She is the author of the ARROW and UN Women [Training manual on gender and climate change resilience](#). In addition to climate resilience, she is a core advocate and facilitator of gender-responsive and child-responsive budgeting at the local, sub-national and national levels in India.



Ciara Daniels

Ciara is the Gender, Results and Reporting Coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) – Global Environmental Finance Unit in New York. Previously she worked as a Gender and Human Rights Researcher and with the Gender, Peace and Security Programme for UN-INSTRAW (now the UN Women Training Centre) in the Dominican Republic. She has a Masters in Gender, Development and Globalisation from the London School of Economics.



Mairi Dupar

Mairi is a Research Fellow of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the Gender and Social Inclusion Lead and Managing Editor of the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). She has acted as the project leader for major CDKN initiatives to make Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports more accessible to developing countries. Her guide to communicating about climate change is now the subject of a major [e-learning course](#) across the Americas and she is the principal author of CDKN's [Gender in climate action training pack](#). Mairi leads on knowledge management for the Climate Ambition Support Alliance, which works to enhance the capacity of climate negotiators from climate-vulnerable countries; as well as for the Building Resilience and Adapting to Climate Change (BRACC) hub in Malawi and Weather and Climate Information Services in Africa (WISER) TRANSFORM project. She advises on communication and stakeholder engagement for Supporting Pastoralism and Agriculture in Recurrent and Protracted Crisis (SPARC) in Africa and the Middle East.



Eunice Wangari-Muneri

Eunice has worked on the environmental, social and governance-related aspects of sustainability, and on gender, climate and sustainable finance in the food and agriculture, pastoralism, finance, and development sectors for nearly 15 years, in both developing and developed countries. She joined the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in 2018 as a doctoral researcher at the resource politics and environmental change cluster. Her current work is on the intersection of climate adaptation and social differentiation in pastoralist economies in Kenya. This research is part of the European Union Horizon2020 project, Wellbeing Ecology Gender cOMmunity – Innovative Training Network (WEGO-ITN), to map out strategies of resilience and sustainability in communities. Previously, Eunice was a visiting researcher based at the Centre for International Environment and Resource Policy (CIERP) at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in the United States of America, and a consultant on sustainability and finance for organizations like United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, among others.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

WEBINAR

Join us live to pose your questions for the speakers

You can take part in this Virtual Dialogue in two ways: by participating in the live Webinar (in English) on 13 December 2021 and/or contributing to the CoP discussion forum (6–23 December). After our panellists deliver their presentations during the [Webinar](#), you can ask questions using the ‘questions’ feature, which the moderator will pose on your behalf. We will post a recording of the Webinar on the CoP platform and the Training Centre’s [YouTube channel](#). Everyone who participates by asking questions in the Webinar or posting in the forum will be credited in the Virtual Dialogue’s final report.

The Virtual Dialogue is open to everyone, including members of the UN Women Training Centre’s Community of Practice, UN Women and UN system staff, gender and development experts, training practitioners, academics, representatives of governments, civil society, women’s organizations, research institutions and all those interested in training for gender equality. We particularly welcome the inputs of gender trainers and trainers in other fields.

WHAT ARE VIRTUAL DIALOGUES?

Virtual Dialogues are online discussions to exchange ideas, insights and good practices on training for gender equality. These inclusive processes of collective knowledge production are organized by the [UN Women Community of Practice on Training for Gender Equality \(CoP\)](#), an open platform for dialogue and a repository of [training resources](#), [institutions](#) and [opportunities](#).

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US FOR THE VIRTUAL DIALOGUE WEBINAR
13 DECEMBER 2021 ([REGISTER HERE](#))

AND THE [COP DISCUSSION FORUM](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT RUYA.LEGHARI@UNWOMEN.ORG