

inside:

What women want from Doha

Climate change:  
The gender dimension

a daily  
multi-stakeholder  
magazine on  
climate change  
and sustainable  
development

# outreach.

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pic: McKay Savage

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Outreach is a multi-stakeholder publication on climate change and sustainable development. It is the longest continually produced stakeholder magazine in the sustainable development arena, published at various international meetings on the environment; including the UNCED meetings (since 1997), UNEP Governing Council, UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) and World Water Week. Published as a daily edition, in both print and web form, Outreach provides a vehicle for critical analysis on key thematic topics in the sustainability and climate change arenas, giving a voice to individuals and organisations from all stakeholder groups. To fully ensure a multi-stakeholder perspective, we aim to engage a wide range of stakeholders for article contributions and project funding.

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# Say yes to women's participation in the UNFCCC

Lakshmi Puri  
UN Women

Mary Robinson  
Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice

Women make essential contributions to the economy, their society and the environment. From household heads, village leaders, corporate managers, peacekeepers, Nobel Prize winners, presidents and prime ministers, women have contributed to securing better health, livelihoods and education, advancing peace and security, realising human rights, promoting sustainable development and addressing climate change challenges.

At the community level, women contribute to influencing sustainable consumption and production, safeguarding the natural environment and biodiversity, preserving traditional knowledge, and allocating adequate and sustainable resources within the household and community. Within the context of the care economy, women living in poverty have to manage the allocation of scarce resources, including water and energy, and when confronted with environmental degradation, women's care burden increases.

Given this dependence on natural resources and the environment around them, women are affected differently by the negative impacts of climate change than men. This increases women's exposure to risks ranging from disease and under-nutrition to violence and death due to disasters.

Often overlooked, however, are that women's existing roles and responsibilities reflect the essential role they have to play in the global response to climate change, within the contexts of both mitigation and adaptation. In agriculture and industry, in households and political decision-making, and through science and traditional knowledge, women have ideas and experiences, and are poised to drive positive changes. Providing women with equal opportunities and resources and engaging them in decision-making related to climate change will not only improve their livelihoods and wellbeing, but could also benefit entire communities. At the global level, the inclusion of women in decision-making can inform integrated and inter-generational policies and advance sustainable development.

COP18 provides an opportunity to make women's voices heard in the climate change negotiations and their participation, representation and leadership in the negotiations a reality. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action provide solid support for the recognition of the importance of women's empowerment and their full participation on equal terms with men in all spheres of society, including participation in decision-making processes and access to power.



pic: Sean Hawkey/ACT

Most recently, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) Outcome Document recognised women's leadership and their vital role in achieving sustainable development and emphasised the impact of setting specific targets and implementing temporary measures, as appropriate, for substantially increasing the number of women in leadership positions, with the aim of achieving gender parity.

While there has been progress in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in international climate change policy, as well as in some aspects of women's representation in bodies created under the Convention, much remains to be done. One initiative that is being pursued at COP18 is the proposal for a new decision to promote gender equality through improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established by the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

The adoption of a new decision at COP18, which sets a goal of gender balance to improve women's participation and representation will send a strong political signal and ensure that women and men elected to UNFCCC bodies and involved in the negotiations fully address the gender dimensions of climate change.

More importantly, in this critical juncture of discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development framework, a landmark decision on women's participation in climate change negotiations at COP18 in Doha will be an important foundation for renewed commitment to the critical development goals of advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

The devastating impacts of recent extreme weather events are a wake-up call for the international community to take action and acknowledge the critical role of women in informing the policies and making the decisions that affect their lives. We cannot combat climate change without the contribution of women: after all they make up half of the intellect, energy and ingenuity we have at our disposal ■

# Gendered carbon footprints – gendered mitigation policy

Ulrike Röhr  
LIFE e.V.

While gender equality dimensions are increasingly acknowledged in climate policy, this is mostly limited to climate change adaptation, and in particular to the role of women in developing countries. When it comes to climate change mitigation in high-emitting countries, these dimensions are almost completely ignored in both research and policy making at all levels, including NGO advocacy. The following article focuses on Europe, although situations in other regions seem similar.

Recently, LIFE conducted a study on behalf of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), analysing climate policy in Europe from a gender perspective with a focus on EU member states' energy and transport policies. The results are alarming: the data provides clear evidence that gender plays a crucial role in European mitigation policy, yet this knowledge is not reflected in policies, neither at European, nor at national level.

The data highlights several gender dimensions, including:

- Women's carbon footprints are smaller than those of men due to mobility habits and nutrition preferences for example.
- All over Europe women earn less, do more family care work, and are less involved in decision-making than men.
- Lower socio-economic status lessens a person's capacity to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Perceptions and behaviour are influenced by gender, resulting in different preferences for mitigation solutions or willingness to make lifestyle changes.

The study concludes that as a result of such gender dimensions, policies and measures have different impacts on women and men, which must be reflected in planning, decision-making, and implementation. This will otherwise limit the potential of ambitious climate policy as research has shown that policy acceptance is lower if people feel that these policies are not equitable and fair.

In this context, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on gender and climate change in April 2012, based on a hearing of the Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. European Parliamentarians recognised that climate change is not

gender-neutral. If gender discrimination is not taken into consideration from the beginning of the decision-making process, policy risks negatively impacting gender equality and women's rights. Therefore, the European Parliament calls on "the Commission and the Member States to include – at all decision-making levels – gender equality and gender justice objectives in policies, action plans and other measures relating to sustainable development, disaster risk and climate change, by carrying out systematic gender analyses, establishing gender-sensitive indicators, benchmarks and developing practical tools. [This] underlines that the climate change negotiation process must take into account the principles of gender equality at all stages, from research and analysis to design, implementation, and the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies."

This general call is substantiated by a range of specific recommendations, such as the collection of country-specific and gender-disaggregated data when planning, implementing and evaluating climate change policies, programmes and projects. In the field of climate change mitigation, the call urges the Commission and upcoming presidencies to launch a study specifically focusing on the gender dimension of mitigation policies. It also demands for the development of indicators, which evaluate the gender impact on projects and programmes and promote gender budgeting in climate-related policies, in addition to tools and guidance for gender analysis of mitigation policies and related research activities.

The resolution provides a good starting point for gender responsive mitigation policy in high-emitting countries, but undoubtedly implementation remains a long way off. At the hearing preceding the resolution, the Commissioner on Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard, was not in favour of addressing gender in European climate policy, because she deemed it relevant only for developing countries. European climate change policy is such a complex issue with links to many other policy fields, she argues, it should therefore not be "overloaded" by integrating gender aspects.

This demonstrates that women are not necessarily gender sensitive. Consequently, having more women involved in decision-making (though strictly necessary) does not automatically guarantee gender responsive climate policy. A real transformation is urgently needed: firstly, involving progressive men who are prepared to question their masculinity and gender roles, and secondly, jointly uncovering the embedded gender and power relations in climate change policy and mitigation strategies. We expect this to make the benefits of gender responsive climate policy more apparent and comprehensive ■

## MORE INFO

Results of the study published by EIGE: <http://tinyurl.com/bnd6fjm>

Resolution of the European Parliament on Women and Climate Change: <http://tinyurl.com/c8jpolx>



# Women paving the way in the Arab Youth Climate Movement

Tariq Al-Olaimy

AYCM Coordinator for the Kingdom of Bahrain

"Please give a round of applause for Saudi Arabia!" It's rare to hear a phrase like that at a climate conference, and is one which has not been uttered at the main UN meeting either, but this was the case at the 8th Conference of Youth (COY8) where an all-female panel representing the Arab Youth Climate Movement (AYCM) formally launched in front of an audience of international youth climate movements. In the 10 weeks since the AYCM was formed, it has already achieved great things.

The initial workshop gathering for AYCM was held in Cairo in September of this year, and brought together 20 national coordinators spread across 15 Middle East and North African (MENA) countries. The idea for the movement was initiated by IndyAct, a league of independent activists, and set up with support from the Global Campaign for Climate Change Action (GCCA), 350.org, and Climate Action Network (CAN) International. The first coordinator's workshop attracted nearly 600 applications, a record for 350.org. The majority of the selected participants were young women who, having attended the workshop, quickly established national chapters in their respective countries upon returning home.

AYCM has set out to create a generation-wide movement across the MENA region to help solve the climate crisis and to support the establishment of legally binding agreements to deal with climate change issues, through the forum of international negotiations.

On the 10th November, just before government delegations convene in Doha for COP18 to discuss climate change actions, AYCM came together to organise the very first Arab Day of Climate Action. Youth in 13 countries called for Arab governments, especially Qatar, to take the lead during COP18 and submit emission reduction pledges to the international community.

In Palestine, whose country chapter is coordinated by Sara Suwan, Gaza youth marched to encourage Qatar to take progressive action on climate change at COP18. In the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Oman, the country chapters, led by Jihad M'nasria, Reem Al Mealla, and Sarah Al Harthy respectively, focused on spreading their message through climate education for youth and

capacity building of civil society. In Algeria, Selma Chirouf organised a conference with a local university and later took participants to march on the streets. In Sudan, Nema Shawki led a team that set up four days of continuous climate action activities. In Cairo, a march targeting the Arab League headquarters was coordinated by Amena Adel, Mariam Allam and Merna Ghaly. Finally, AYCM Saudi Arabia, who were brought together for the first time by Zainia Al Showaigh just a day before the day of action, delivered a message to the world that Saudi youth do care about climate change.



A new national AYCM chapter will be established in Qatar, having been formally announced at the Conference of Youth. Eventually the AYCM movement will cover all 22 Arab states, from the Gulf to the Atlantic.

Despite the achievements thus far, if mobilised, there could be a more remarkable Arab youth generation to come, as the Middle East youth population has been projected to rise to 100 million by 2035. According to 350.org and AYCM, this generation could face remarkably difficult challenges if we don't set a course to 350 parts per million atmospheric CO2 between now and 2020.

Governments are getting together in Doha after a year of record-breaking extremes driven by climate change. These have hit many people hard, particularly those who are more vulnerable to climate change impacts, such as crop failures and increased food prices. We are running out of time, the world is already facing climate impacts we can no longer prevent or adapt to. As a national coordinator for AYCM, I believe that if we turn these challenges into generation defining opportunities, it will be because the current generation of young Arab women is paving the way for the solutions ■

## MORE INFO

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# What women want from Doha

**Dr. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**

CEO of Food Agriculture Natural Resources Policy Advocacy Network and spokesperson for global agriculture coalition Farming First

Women are the fountain of life. They are mothers, innovators, educators, farmers and custodians of the environment, particularly rural women.

In Africa, 70% of the population – of which a significant portion are women – live in rural areas and are fully dependent on land and other natural resources for their livelihood. Women in Africa, as in other parts of the world, are masters of many trades and because they are charged with the responsibility of securing water, food and fuel for cooking and heating, they are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

The 2009 International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Gender and Climate Change Manual shows that the proportion of smallholder women farmers affected by climate-related crop changes in Africa ranges from 48% in Burkina Faso, to 73% in the Congo. Annually, women in Southern Africa struggle to cope with variability of maize, sorghum, millet and groundnut yields associated with the El Niño Southern Oscillation. Crop productivity in extreme El Niño years is expected to drop a further 20–50% in southern Africa.

Furthermore, climate change has significant impacts on freshwater sources, affecting the availability of water used for domestic and productive tasks. The consequences of the increased frequency in floods and droughts are far reaching, particularly for rural women who in countries like Mozambique already travel a distance of 30 to 40 km to fetch water for the entire household. Currently only 58% of sub-Saharan Africans live within 30 minutes walking-distance of safe water and only 16% have a household connection.

Their situation is exacerbated by unequal access to key livelihood resources, services and information. There are insufficient numbers of women at the tables where major decisions about climate change and the environment are made. In UNFCCC negotiations over the past decade, women accounted for only 30% of registered country delegates and 10% of heads of delegations.



pic: CIAT International Center for Tropical Agriculture

As Parties and delegates prepare to engage in climate change discussions at the COP18, Doha, it is important to remember that women are not only vulnerable to climate change but can be the solution as champions of change in climate adaptation and mitigation. Women's responsibilities in households and communities, as custodians of natural and household resources, positions them well to contribute to creating livelihood strategies which are adapted to changing environmental realities.

Women should rise up and demand to be equal partners in policy and decision-making processes on climate change issues. African Governments, and the international community, must empower women with the knowledge to help facilitate solutions to climate change. The UNFCCC should review progress in mainstreaming gender in all parts of the Convention. This is important because women in Africa are responsible for the production over 70% of the food and should have a voice. COP18 leaders should recognise the unique role of agriculture in the global climate change response, as agriculture constitutes a crucial sector in Africa accounting for 30-40% of Africa's total GDP, and supports the livelihoods of millions globally. A work programme on agriculture should be established to facilitate increased cooperation and knowledge sharing, to help address current knowledge gaps and help deploy effective solutions ■

## November 27th, 2012 UNFCCC Gender Day

**Event: Gender and Climate Innovation: Breakthrough changes for gender equality**

**3:00 – 6:00pm, Side Event Room 4**

As part of the COP18 UNFCCC Gender Day, WEDO, GGCA, LIFE eV, Gender CC and members of the UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency, are excited to host an interactive dialogue and innovation marketplace, focused on pushing the agenda for gender-responsive climate action beyond rhetoric to implementation.

Follow on Twitter: [#shesparks](#) [#beyondrhetoric](#) [#COP18GenderDay](#)

Find out more: <http://ow.ly/fzzhM>

# The cross section of climate change and womens rights

Lauren Lavitt

MediaGlobal News/UNEARTH News Journal

Climate change is an issue affecting both women and men. Despite the surface similarities shared by both genders, women experience climate change more adversely than men due to fundamental inequalities and discrimination.

Women make up a disproportionately large share of the poor worldwide. The poor are being hit first by the impact of climate change and the results are falling hardest on poor women, especially those in the developing world.

Lakshmi Puri is the Deputy Executive Director of UN Women: "Women face different vulnerabilities than men to climate change due to structural inequalities and pervasive discrimination."

In developing countries, women's livelihoods often depend on local natural resources. Representing a majority of the world's small-scale farmers, women produce much of the world's food. Women are usually the primary caregivers, child rearers, and food providers for their families. They are often responsible for their homes water and energy supplies.

"Globally, women spend more than 200 million hours per day collecting water," says Puri. "They spend time collecting firewood and other types of fuel."

Yifat Susskind, the Executive Director of MADRE, an international women's human rights organization, explains: "Women, and those who rely on them for care – children, people with disabilities, and the elderly, for example – are made vulnerable to climate change by preexisting inequalities.

"They often grapple with poverty, live in rural areas reliant on women's farming or in slums close to cities, or rely on public services for clean water and electricity, without the means to reach into their own pockets when those resources are cut off or privatised."

Climate change is causing more extreme weather and natural disasters. Such dubious and severe weather has deeply negative consequences specifically for women.

"Climate change and environmental degradation therefore impact women directly, as they have to work harder, walk longer and find new ways of subsistence when they are faced with changes in the environment," explains Puri. "All these translate to time lost for education and engaging in remunerated productive activities, among others."

Women farmers will face more crop failures, forcing them to work more for fewer yields. Potential flooding and droughts will contribute to health crises such as outbreaks of diarrhea, cholera, malaria, and dengue fever. Unpredictable rainfall makes food, fuel, and water scarce, so women have to walk longer to collect their household needs. Not only is that wasted time better used on other tasks such as work, but longer walks increase their risk of violence on their path.

Susskind clarifies, "When climate change triggers a natural disaster, women struggle to provide for their families' human needs: shelter, clean water, safety and food."

Considering women's roles in society as primary caregivers, women must be explicitly targeted for promoting strategies for conservation, adaptation, and reducing environmental degradation in order for their quality of life to be improved.

Rachel Harris, the Advocacy Coordinator of the Women's Environment and Development Organization, explains: "Women need equitable access and rights to resources including food, water, shelter, fuel, healthcare, education, transportation, land ownership. Resources such as these enable women to increase their resilience to hard-hitting impacts, especially those resulting from climate change."

"By increasing women's access and rights – through policies, programs, and practices – to, what many would consider very basic necessities, you are giving women the tools to be empowered to participate in decision-making on climate change that help to ensure sustainability of their livelihoods as well as the livelihoods of their families and communities."

Access to education about climate issues, helps provide one solution towards women's empowerment. Women also need to rise politically, becoming full participants in their local governments at all levels to ensure that government solutions focus on women and girls.

"From the famine in Kenya to hurricanes in Haiti, women have a comprehensive understanding of the needs of their own communities. This makes them vital first responders and crucial experts to confront long-term hazards, such as food insecurity and lack of access to clean water," says Susskind.

Basic access to electricity, clean energy, and clean water are major issues faced by women in the developing world. Recent initiatives show promise for change. All solutions and initiatives must be implemented quickly so women's lives have a greater chance for prosperity and survival ■

This article is adapted from one that was originally published by UNEarth News: [www.unearthnews.org](http://www.unearthnews.org)

# Climate change: The gender dimension

Daniel Wasonga

African Union Youth Volunteer, Ethiopia

The global crisis that climate change has become is already taking its toll on development and less than adequate responses have often contributed to the escalation of its impacts.

Meaningful responses have been concentrated more on the scientific and economic solutions than on the significant human aspects such as gender dimensions. Women and children are known to bear more of the brunt of climate change related events such as floods, heat waves and hurricanes, yet they contribute the least to its causes. They also have the weakest voice in issues concerning climate change policies and responses.

Prior to Rio+20, there were sustained calls to consider and act upon linkages between climate change, sustainable development and gender equality concerns. Practical strategies are still too scarce and uncoordinated to suggest any real headway in this regard. Holistic approaches that address gender and climate change are key to tackling these inter-linkages, which are central to sustainable development. These should be hinged on the significant effects that climate change has on women in particular, and related social consequences.

Policy changes that accommodate innovative gender approaches to climate change have been identified by the UNFCCC process as crucial to achieving progress in the area, owing to the fact that women have been conspicuously absent from decision-making process at all levels. At COP13 in Bali, women comprised only 28% of delegation parties and 12% of heads of delegations. These figures demonstrate how women were shunned from the process and lead to the conclusion that the effectiveness of the negotiations was always going to be limited, as they were predominantly focused on male points of view.

Beyond the fact that men, women, girls and boys have the right to articulate their priorities and participate in decision-making on issues that affect their lives; there is a need for all societal groups to be able to hold decision makers to account, especially with regards to the commitments of leaders to international agreements such as the international Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which mandates governments to promote women's equal participation in decision-making and public life.

Granted, good efforts on gender and climate change are beginning to be noticed at all levels. However, experts from the different disciplines involved are disjointed in their actions and, consequently, the ability to pool resources, and more creative and effective solutions is lost. Many complexities in human relationships are also largely ignored. Women are often treated as a homogeneous group, when as a group they are highly differentiated according to their social class, access to resources, age and culture among other factors. For instance, in many cultures, women are not involved in decision-making at home and are thus highly unlikely to be consulted on climate change issues at either the micro (family) or public level. The misleading but common portrayal of women as merely victims of the effects of climate change rather than possible agents of positive change has continued to stifle women's engagement in the matter.



pic: Oxfam Africa

Glaring gaps still exist between research work and gender related practicalities and without thoroughly exploring the opportunities for greater inclusivity, current policies – and the subsequent choices that they enable – may not go far enough. A more dynamic approach is required. One which ensures that the knowledge of both women and men is valued in climate change responses; gender and climate change efforts happen in inclusive ways; human rights, including women's rights, are at the centre of climate change debates and policies; and that gender analyses and scientific studies inform climate change policy and practice.

With gender equality neither mentioned in the UNFCCC nor in the Kyoto Protocol the gender debate in the climate change discussions is clearly behind schedule. There are no quick fixes here, the only way is to develop and inculcate gender sensitive sustainability principles into the process and encourage as much education on the matter as possible, especially among young people. This is the most sustainable way to ensure progressive developments in climate change adaptation involve women ■



# When adaptation to climate change and health intersect with gender

**Zeenah Haddad**  
World Health Organisation

The negative health impacts of climate change often interact with gender inequalities putting one sex at a disadvantage over the other. These different health impacts reflect a combination of physiological, behavioural and socially constructed factors that in turn influence the vulnerability and the adaptive capacity of men and women.

Given the increasing rate and severity of environmental changes, adaptation is becoming a necessity now more than ever. The concept is evolving to include more than an intervention-focused approach, tackling the roots of what is causing vulnerability using development-oriented approaches. In the context of societies living with gender inequalities, this translates into mainstreaming gender into climate change and health adaptation programmes.

There is no doubt that any such adaptation programme endeavour will require a strong commitment of community resources, such as striving towards equitable access to, distribution of, and control over resources for both men and women. However, this community commitment is important because by employing a scaled adaptation approach, programmes will be able to tackle gender inequality at its roots, moving towards empowerment of vulnerable groups, regarding them as active rather than passive agents of change, which in turn increases the effectiveness of these adaptation programmes and enhances gender equity in societies.

By implementing gender mainstreaming, the programme ensures that the different experiences, needs and capabilities of women and men are considered, and the potential implications of any planned intervention for women and men is adequately analysed. To do so, the programme needs to first conduct a sufficient and iterative gender analysis process that helps understand the relationships between men and women and between groups of men and women, their differences in access to and control over resources, their roles in the community, society and within the household, and the different abilities and constraints they face in adapting to climate change. This is done by intersecting gender with health-related considerations. Once these differences are determined, the programme can provide a better understanding of the varied patterns of exposure to health hazards, different vulnerabilities, and the distinct health impacts on women and men, boys and girls. After all, effectively targeting adaptation strategies requires understanding

what demographic or geographical sub-populations may be most at risk and when that risk is likely to increase.

Upon conducting the initial gender analysis, the programme needs to consider several factors, both individually and collectively, to mainstreaming gender. These are:

- **Local context**, in which the country's legal and policy frameworks in gender and health are identified and analysed alongside potential and existing stakeholders and partners.
- **Target population and participation**. The importance of proper selection methods to target populations and ensure equal participation of women and men as well as boys and girls.
- **Human resources, technical capacity building, and gender responsive budgeting**. The organisational make-up and dynamics of the programme is a reflection on its mainstreaming efforts, calling for sex parity at all decision-making levels, meaningful participation, and equal compensation and benefits for both men and women. Providing capacity building to all programme staff to promote gender equality and using gender responsive budgeting as an imperative tool can both ensure that resources are appropriately allocated towards addressing gender inequality.
- **Health communication**. Effective approaches include having gender-responsive publications, language and messages, and ensuring sensitivity towards differences among target audiences, and consequently using proper access and communication channels to reach men and women equally.
- **Data and indicators**. Highlighting the importance of using sex-disaggregated data, conducting base-line studies, and the characteristics of indicators development and selection for monitoring and evaluation.

Guaranteeing that women have an active role in mainstreaming efforts and an equal voice in decision-making processes is imperative to any gender mainstreaming strategy. The World Health Organisation's user's guide for "mainstreaming gender in health adaptation to climate change programmes" provides in-depth information, tools and tips for climate change and health adaptation programme managers to guide them into mainstreaming gender throughout all four phases of the programme cycle: identification, formulation and design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. By using guides such as this, we can strive towards a gender-responsive working programme for a more effective and sustainable adaptation ■

# The time is now: Raising the visibility of young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights at COP18

Mimi Melles  
Advocates for Youth

As we gather here in Doha to share progress and take action towards improved climate change adaptation and mitigation, it is critical that we recognise the role of women and young people, especially young women, who are often the stewards of their area's natural resources.

In low and middle-income countries, adolescent girls and women account for more than half of the agricultural labour force and are responsible for collecting water and fuel. As a result, the greater a woman or girls' involvement in resource management, the greater their risks are when their environmental stability is threatened. Women must walk further to collect water, work harder to produce crops from dry soil, and cope with drought, flooding and other natural disasters and diseases.

Yet, empowered women and young people can be strong agents for sustainable change in their communities. A community's ability to mitigate or respond to climate change can improve significantly if women can access sexual and reproductive health information and services to plan their families. In fact, addressing the unmet need for family planning worldwide would avert an estimated 54 million unintended pregnancies. In spite of this, today an estimated 222 million women around the world still face an unmet need for contraception.

Furthermore, responding to the unmet need for family planning and supporting girls education is much less costly than low-carbon energy development options, including solar, wind, and nuclear power, second-generation biofuels, and carbon capture and storage. For every \$1 spent on international family planning efforts, governments save up to \$31 in health care, water, education, housing and resources they need to provide for themselves and their families.

Upholding the right to family planning is not only good for women, their partners and young people around the world, but also for efforts to address climate change. To this end, Advocates for Youth, in partnership with numerous youth organisations from around the world, ask for the Adaptation Committee to take the following actions:

- include discussions on gender, young people, and sexual and reproductive health and rights as it pertains to climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- share relevant information, knowledge, experience and illustrative good practices on sexual and reproductive health and rights programming; and
- promote synergy and strengthen engagement between national, regional and international organisations, centres and networks that are working on climate change and sexual and reproductive health and the rights of women and young people.



In addition, we ask the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to take the following actions:

1. As it pertains to the technical guidance for the Nation Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, to:

- include discussion of gender, young people, and sexual and reproductive health and rights as it pertains to climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- if there is a section on case studies, include a country example where gender vulnerabilities and related adaptation solutions were addressed in the main part of the document; and
- if there is a section on key vulnerabilities and adaptation solutions, include at least one example that addresses gender and sexual and reproductive health/family planning solutions.

2. Include discussion of gender, young people, and sexual and reproductive health and rights as it pertains to climate change adaptation and mitigation during regional training workshops for LDC Parties on technical guidance, sharing of best practices and lessons learned, and promotion of regional and international synergies.

And what better time than now? We cannot afford to overlook powerful solutions to addressing climate change, especially when such solutions also uphold and advance other human rights. The UNFCCC must commit to action here in Doha to support the education of girls and boys, empowerment of women, meeting the unmet need for voluntary family planning, and improving access to comprehensive, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services ■

# COP18 side event calendar

DATE	TIME	VENUE	TITLE	ORGANISERS
TUESDAY 27th NOVEMBER	13:15–14:45	Side Event Room 7	Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
	13:15–14:45	Press Conference Room 2	CDM Executive Board: Question and answer session	Secretariat of the UNFCCC
	15:00–16:30	Side Event Room 7	What Doha and the Durban Platform need to do about REDD & LULUCF	Global Witness, EIA, RFN & RFUK
	16:45–18:15	Side Event Room 7	Mediation and Climate Change: Applications Both Locally and Globally	Mediators Beyond Borders (MBB)
	18:30–20:00	Side Event Room 7	Islamic values and traditional knowledge in Drylands	Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)
	18:30–20:00	Side Event Room 4	Gender and Climate: Moving beyond the Rhetoric	Secretariat of the UNFCCC
	18:30–20:00	Side Event Room 2	Climate change and education - making the future work for you	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
	20:15–21:45	Side Event Room 2	End of the age of coal: why it will happen sooner than people think	Greenpeace International
	20:15–21:45	Side Event Room 8	Climate Justice for LDCs	LDC Watch
	20:15–21:45	Side Event Room 6	Mainstreaming Sustainable Low Carbon Transport With Voluntary Commitments: From Rio+20 to NAMAs	Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)
WEDNESDAY 28th NOVEMBER	11:30–13:00	Side Event Room 7	Brazilian indigenous peoples present elements for a indigenous plan to adapt to Climate change	Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM)
	13:15–14:45	Side Event Room 4	Climate change and disaster risk management	WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
	13:15–14:45	Side Event Room 7	Supporting climate policies through social media - opportunities and limits	Responding to Climate Change (RTCC)
	15:00–18:00	Side Event Room 4	Gender and Climate Innovation: Breakthrough changes for gender equality	WEDO, GGCA, LIFE eV, Gender CC and members of the UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency
	15:00–16:30	Side Event Room 6	Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Climate Change Research and Training: Lessons-Learned	Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde (ENDA-TM)
	16:45–18:15	Side Event Room 7	Overcoming barriers to start pro-poor carbon projects in Africa	Institute Research for the Upliftment and Prevention of Poverty (Nova Institute)
	18:30–20:00	Side Event Room 6	Green economy and global climate change risks: Challenges and Opportunities	China Association for Science and Technology (CAST)
	18:30–20:00	Side Event Room 5	Contribution of mining and metals to a low carbon economy	International Council for Mining and Metals (ICMM)
	20:15–21:45	Side Event Room 7	What National Forest Monitoring Systems can do? – Development of NFMS and MRV system for REDD+	Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)
	20:15–21:45	Side Event Room 10	Agriculture in the Climate Talks and the Food Security Imperative: Which Way to Just Solutions?	IATP, CIDSE and EAA
	20:15–21:45	Side Event Room 5	The Green Climate Fund – maximizing public and private sector capital to drive low carbon investment	UNEP - Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)



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# Reflections from COP18, Monday 26 November

**Luke McGreevy**

Australian student delegate

As COP18 started today in Doha, it became clear that this is a symbolically unique event. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, stated in her opening address to the Conference that Qatar has an "unequalled world stage" to set the tone for a constructive set of talks that can make real progress on a number of key issues after the breakthrough discussions at COP17 in Durban.

Firstly, the Kyoto Protocol is set to expire at the end of the year, and establishing a second commitment period will be crucial. The first and only treaty for carbon emissions will need renewed ambition in order to survive.

Secondly, the fact that this is the first time a COP has been hosted by a founding member State of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), should not be ignored. COP18 places a spotlight on how oil-exporting countries operate in the negotiations, and gives them a chance to capitalise on their recent renewable energy investment. This is especially important, given their questionable record of cooperation on climate negotiations in the past.

It is also the first time the COP has been hosted by a Gulf state more broadly. Qatar worked hard to be able to host this conference, and this represents not only an opportunity for Qatar to show its growth as a nation, but for it also to be a leader for the region on climate change. As the Executive Secretary stated, there is a need to put the Gulf's "regional energy growth on a more sustainable path".

So far, Qatar has presented a professional and efficient face to the COP. The opening comments have highlighted the symbolism of COP18 – time will tell if countries use it to the advantage of the talks ■

**Jelena Kiselova**

British Council Climate Champion

My first day at COP18 began at 8am with a UNFCCC Youth NGO Constituency (YOUNGO) meeting, where we discussed the message should be printed on YOUNGO T-shirt for the Young and Future Generations Day. The logo: "I am part of the solution – are you?" received the most votes and was selected. This message reflects the Youth position at this COP: at Doha, youth wants everyone – including negotiators – to be part of the solution, not the problem. We need to tackle climate change together.

The same message was seen during the COP18 Opening Ceremony. Almost every delegate stressed the need for collective action by all countries in tackling climate change. However, Tariq Al-Olaimy of the Bahrain Arab Youth Climate Movement, the only person selected to represent YOUNGO at the Opening Ceremony, stated:

"Many government delegations provided statements that did not reflect the reality of their actions over the pre-sessionals or previous COPs. There is a disconnect when civil society statements vary greatly from government statements. It would be more constructive to hear more truthful depictions of where we stand at these sessions, even if honesty is harder to hear."

Youth was also very disappointed that YOUNGO were given only a minute to deliver their civil society statement; this is for a constituency which is supposed to represent over 1 billion people.

The best inspiration of the day was to sit side by side with Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, in the afternoon youth meeting. She was brilliant, as usual, saying that even if youth cannot affect the COP negotiations directly, indirectly we are all affecting the spirit of the event. After the event I felt both inspired and energised to continue my mission of raising awareness and taking action to amplify the voices of youth on issues that affect all our lives ■



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