



## Reflections on COP 27

COP brought together more than 45,000 participants to share ideas, solutions, and build partnerships and coalitions. Indigenous peoples, local communities, cities, faith-based groups, and civil society—including youth and children—showcased how they are addressing climate change and shared how it impacts their lives.

Young people had a significant presence at COP27, with the UN Climate Change’s Executive Secretary promising to urge governments to not just listen to the solutions put forward by young people, but to incorporate those solutions in decision and policy making. Young people made their voices heard through the first-of-its kind pavilion for children and youth.

## Loss and Damages Funding

Loss and Damage Funding for vulnerable countries that have been hit hard by climate disasters became a significant priority for UNANIMA International at the COP27 Conference. There is no doubt that this outcome moves us forward on a decade-long conversation on funding for loss and damage, and how we address the impacts on communities whose lives and livelihoods have been ruined by the very worst impacts of climate change. [Creating a specific fund for loss and damage](#) certainly marked an important point of progress, with the issue added to the official agenda, and adopted for the first time at COP27.

Governments took the ground-breaking decision to establish new funding arrangements, as well as a dedicated fund to assist developing countries in responding to loss and damage. Governments also agreed to establish a ‘transitional committee’ to make recommendations on how to operationalize both the new funding arrangements and the fund at COP28 in 2023

## **Adaptation**

COP27 saw significant progress on adaptation, with governments agreeing on a way to move forward on the Global Goal on Adaptation, which will conclude at COP 28 and inform the first Global Stocktake, improving resilience among the most vulnerable. New pledges, totaling more than USD 230 million, were made to the adaptation fund at COP 27

## **Mitigation**

COP27 significantly advanced the work on mitigation. A mitigation work program was launched in Sharm El Sheikh, aimed at urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation. The work program is due to start immediately and will continue until 2026 when there will be a review to consider its extension. Governments were requested to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their national and climate plans by the end of 2023, as well as accelerate efforts to phase down unabated coal power and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

The decision texts recognizes that the unprecedented global energy crisis underlines the urgency to rapidly transform energy systems to be more secure, reliable, and resilient, by accelerating clean and just transitions to renewable energy during this crucial decade of action

## **Gender Equality Day at COP 27**

The Gender Thematic Day spotlighted the efforts needed to ensure women’s inclusion in the just transition to a climate-resilient future. Women remain under-represented in climate governance and debates. This Thematic Day brought together women leading climate change at national, regional, and global community levels to discuss gender within the climate agenda.

Women as we know and hear, continue to bear the disproportionate burden of the adverse weather impacts created by climate change. It was highlighted that women must be fully integrated into the processes of formulating and implementing policies to ensure gender inclusion. As a result, the Gender Thematic Day was launched at COP27 to bring this issue to the forefront and provide a platform to discuss existing challenges in this space.

The President of the National Council for Women in Egypt, Dr Maya Morsi, emphasized that “Women are not helpless victims of climate change, they are powerful agents of change, and their leadership is critical. A bottom-up approach is significant to understand women in communities, their environmental concerns, realities, and experiences”.

## Sessions

### **Voices of Women Leaders in Climate Debates, Policies, Implementation and Beyond**

Focused on how women are disproportionately affected by the climate catastrophe, and that if given the opportunity they can lead the world out of it.

### **African Women Climate Change Realities: Adaptation, Mitigation and Response**

Focused on the crucial role women play in climate change mitigation and adaptation and the need for African Governments, civil society, and policymakers to invest in capacity and skill building, as well as education of women and girls to enhance awareness.

## Women and Water Day

I met with Ayshka Najib, a UNICEF advocate, who said at this session “nothing about us without us’ which was music to my ears. She said that young climate activists, women, and young girls in all their diversity have been leading the climate movement for centuries, so they should not be shut out. She said, “they should be co-owners and agenda-setters of the climate process, but that is not the case now, gender is still debated in the negotiating rooms.”

Women and girls face greater obstacles when trying to adapt to climate change. They suffer greater economic repercussions, they bear increased unpaid care and domestic work when disasters hit, and on top of this, they are more vulnerable to potential violence triggered by crisis.

Women and girls are essential, effective, and powerful leaders to address the climate catastrophe. But they remain undervalued and underestimated with limited access to technology necessary for effective adaptation and the impacts of climate change.

## NGO ActionAid Session

We heard how the priority for mothers is water. As the husbands of many have left home looking for new pastures, they will take their daughters out of school to walk for miles to get water. Eventually, they must go undergo female genital mutilation for them to be married off. This is because the families cannot feed extra mouths.

### **Empowered Climate Resilience: Women as change makers for water-sensitive climate action**

An excellent session which explored how women engaging in resilience strategies, adaptation, as well as mitigation activities across sectors, provides broader benefits to communities. We heard how climate resilience depends on women! Women change-makers are playing a powerful role in tackling the effects of climate change—nowhere more than through innovative water management at local, national, and many other levels. Yet, women continue to face persistent social, political, and financial barriers to equal participation in water jobs and water decision making. True and inclusive resilience can only be built if we enable a broad engagement in climate adaptation and mitigation.

We also heard about the gender gap in agriculture and food security which is **extensive**. As consumers, women and girls are more food-insecure than men in every region of the world. As producers, they face systemic barriers in accessing productive resources and services, technology, market information, and financial assets. In terms of mobility women are underrepresented in local institutions and governance mechanisms and have fewer decision-making abilities and power at all levels. Moreover, the changing extreme weather conditions is a threat multiplier—creating a

kind of vicious cycle of vulnerability among women and girls because of differential impact. Long standing and prevailing gender norms further lead to undermining their work as “unrecognized” and “unpaid.” Changing labor markets and increasing migration of rural men has led to the “feminization of agriculture” making women’s roles and responsibilities in agriculture and allied activities much more significant.

## **Gender Responsive Budget (GRB)**

Several global policy frameworks call for addressing women’s rights as human rights for greater allocation of resources. GRB means preparing budgets or analyzing them from a gender lens. It involves using tools, techniques, and procedures of the budget cycle in a systematic way to promote gender equality. It reiterates transparency, multi-stakeholders’ engagement in the budgeting process, and tracking of Gender responsive budgets. Over 100 countries have adopted GRB since 1996 and evidence shows that GRB is relatively recent in many countries. Progress is being made although the frameworks tend to operate as an ‘add-on’ rather than as a strategic and integral part of resource allocation decisions, monitoring, and auditing.

## **Gender Responsive Budget in the Agricultural Sector**

Gujarat India – A GRB was adopted in India in 2005. 18 States and 57 Ministries have adopted a GRB and are at varying degrees of execution.

There is a need for a **Paradigm Shift in GRB in Agriculture and Allied activities**—as it would be incorrect to assume that gender equality can be achieved Only by earmarking public funds or by having well laid policies. Instead, embedding gender specific approaches within the normal annual routines of budgeting is needed. There needs to be routine availability of gender-disaggregated data, tracking and reporting progress, gaps, and opportunities, in order to act on that information.

## **Women as change makers for Climate-related and water-based Nature-based Solutions**

The gender gaps in natural infrastructure and water management in Peru: A 2020 study on gender gaps found that both men and women play key roles in maintaining natural infrastructure through both actions and knowledge. They suggested that social changes are underway in which women are taking on an even more important role in natural infrastructure and water management. However, despite their contributions, women are less involved than men in decision-making related to natural infrastructure and water. The barriers to women's participation in decision-making and benefits of natural infrastructure and water are structural and cultural, including gender gaps in:

- Access to land and water resources
- Domestic work, time poverty, and pay equity
- Formal Education
- Gender based violence

### **Individuals**

Women's Leadership Program for Water and Natural Infrastructure Management in Peru: this program received over 1,300 applications. 123 women leaders from national, local, regional authorities, local organizations, and academia completed the program between 2020 and 2022.

The participants enhanced their knowledge and skills to strengthen their leadership in water and natural infrastructure management. They also connected with other women leaders in a diverse, growing network, and are advancing initiatives to close gender gaps with the support of mentors.