

# Green Feminism

## SUSTAINABLE

## FUTURE

## TOPICS

**Climate change is a gender issue.** What role does the gender factor play in the causes, effects and solutions of climate crisis?

**Gender and climate action and activism.** There is a gender divide in climate-related opinions and climate action.

**The Gender Action Plan.** UN action plan includes five priority areas to advance gender-responsive understanding and inclusion in all work around climate policy. .

„The climate issue is often perceived as something to be solved by someone else in a technological way, at another place and in another time. Maybe at a meeting in Brussels. But **feminist demands on the climate are relevant to us, every day, around the world.** It is all about power. There are always people who take matters into their own hands and fundamentally change their context.“

Linnéa Engström in *Climate Feminism: Role Models and Climate*

**Climate change**  
**is a gender issue.**

**Adopting gender perspective in climate discourse is essential for understanding climate crisis and finding real, working solutions to it.**

Gender perspective brings the gender variable to the public discourse:

*Acknowledging the world is different for men, women and minorities.*

*Aiming to understand the social structures that lead to gendered life experiences and outcomes.*

*Considering gender in all work around climate policy, from data collection to representation in decision-making.*

## Three broad themes for how impacts of climate change are differentiated

Actual or perceived vulnerability of individuals, groups and communities

Who is involved in decision-making and attitudes towards responses to climate change impacts

Who benefits from action on climate change

## **Vulnerability: the worst off – the worst affected.**

Worst affected by climate change are women of the global south, who are more vulnerable to its effects due to

- being more likely to live in poverty than men
- having less access to basic human rights, like the ability to freely move and acquire land
- being often main caregivers and providers of food and water
  - *Women farmers produce 70% of the food in Sub-Saharan Africa.*
- Instability and crisis being related to a decrease in women's rights

UN figures indicate that 80% of people displaced by climate change are women. This gender imbalance will have huge effect as the amount of climate refugees rises.

Women and children are 14% more likely to die or be injured during a disaster

## **Inclusion in decision-making: bringing diversity to the table.**

Women are also vastly underrepresented in policy making

- This is true on at local, national and global levels
- This easily leads to policies that are more accommodating for men

Gender equality on a state level is correlated with more robust climate policies and likelihood signing on to international climate treaties.

## **Climate action impacts: who benefits from the (political) responses to climate crisis?**

„People who are socially, economically, culturally, politically, institutionally, or otherwise marginalized are especially vulnerable -- to some adaptation and mitigation responses.” IPCC fifth assessment report

- Every anthropogenic greenhouse gas emission is connected to decisions, behaviour, choices, action or inaction of people
- Every climate change policy, project or programme that impacts/benefits/involves people requires a consideration of gender to be as effective and just as possible

# Gender divide in personal climate action

In general, men produce more climate emissions

- True in both global north and south
- It's generally due to gendered behaviour patterns and men in general having more resources
- In the west this is in part due to things like
  - ... being more likely drive a car
  - ... traveling more
  - ... eating more meat

Women seem to have more trust in that their own choices can make a difference

- Women are more likely to do things like waste sorting or buying produce that is labeled "climate conscious"

# **Why is there fewer male climate activists?**

## Gender stereotypes

- Is climate activism considered feminine? In surveys men report to feel, that things like vegetarianism and recycling would make them less manly

## Climate movement as a threat to patriarchal power

- Most big climate movements are led by young women and they openly call out the current policy makers, who are predominantly middle-aged white men
- For some, especially conservative men, this is seen as a challenge to the prevailing order

**UNFCCC**

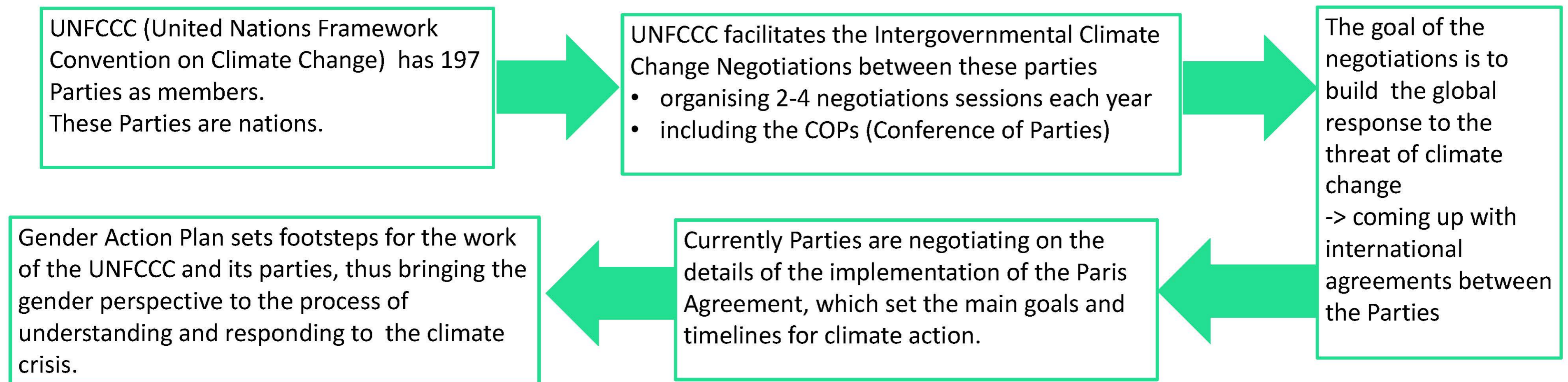
**Gender Action Plan**

There are policies and frameworks of different scales that aim to compound gender perspectives to the climate policy, an important one being **UNFCCC Gender Action Plan**.

- Gender Action Plan is based on the work on Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG), established by COP in 2014 in order to advance gender considerations in the implemenatations of the Convention and Paris Agreement
- At COP25 Parties agreed a 5-year enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan (GAP).

**Gender Action Plan** aims to increase knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC

## Recap: How does the GAP situate in the global politics?





United Nations  
Climate Change

# Gender Action Plan



PRIORITY AREA A

Capacity-  
Building,  
Knowledge  
Management &  
Communication



PRIORITY AREA B

Gender  
Balance,  
Participation &  
Women's  
Leadership



PRIORITY AREA C

Coherence



PRIORITY AREA D

Gender –  
Responsive  
Implementation  
& Means of  
Implementation



PRIORITY AREA E

Monitoring &  
Reporting

Read more on gender & climate in UNFCCC work:

<https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/gender-and-unfccc-topics>