



# WAGGGS AT COP27



## KEY DEMANDS

#BringInTheGirls

### OVERVIEW

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time and poses a critical threat to our future. Girls and women are disproportionately affected by climate change due to the existing gender inequality which worsens their vulnerability. Despite the fact that they can play a vital role in responding to environmental degradation and climate change, they are often excluded from relevant wider discourse, and their participation in decision-making is limited. This further undermines their ability to influence measures designed to address climate change and environmental degradation. As the leading voluntary organization for girls and young women, with 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 152 countries, the **World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)**, believes that girls and young women must participate at all levels of decision making and in the design, delivery and implementation of all relevant environmental programmes in order to shape a sustainable and equal future for all.

COP27 should be an opportunity for girls to speak out and share their concerns to the international community. To let the world know that if we are to solve the climate crisis, we need to **#BringInTheGirls**. We have outlined below our key demands for the outcomes of COP27

### WE CALL ON COP27 TO:

- 1 Fulfill commitments in the Paris Agreement
- 2 Invest in resilient, gender-transformative, climate justice education
- 3 Recognize and Invest in girls' agency and voice
- 4 Advance a Gender Action Plan (GAP) that prioritizes needs of girls and young women
- 5 Deliver on finance and prioritize adequate adaptation measures
- 6 Ensure rights to land, water and sanitation in all climate action





# 1

## Fulfill commitment to human rights in the Paris Agreement & keep 1.5 degrees alive

We remind Parties of one of the most fundamental promises of Paris that is key to keeping 1.5 alive. “Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of girls and women and intergenerational equity.”

Without the full recognition of human rights, including the rights to effective participation in all aspects of climate change policy-making at national and sub-national levels, Parties will not be able to create nor implement ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

### CALL TO ACTION



- This commitment must be reaffirmed in all aspects of decisions taken at COP27, including around strong human rights safeguards in Article 6, as well as through key decisions under the Local Communities and Indigenous People’s Platform and the Gender Action Plan.
- Parties, particularly developed countries, should submit new or updated NDCs with enhanced ambition. While updating and implementing their NDCs, states should ensure that gender experts, including women and gender-related groups and national gender machineries, are being included as well as effectively engaged in that process. Gender equality should be considered as a cross-cutting element of the NDC planning process.
- Decisions at COP must reflect and address the current emissions gap to keep warming under 1.5 degrees and set out a clear pathway for enhanced ambition, centered on fulfilling human rights and safeguarding ecosystem integrity.
- Governments should align NDCs with responses to COVID and ensure that economic policy measures for post-COVID response are just, climate-compatible and prioritize support for the well-being of all people, and especially the most marginalized and at risk namely girls and young women





### 2

## Invest in resilient, gender-transformative, climate justice education

As stated in a report by our partners from the Malala Fund<sup>12</sup>, “in 2021 climate-related events prevent a big number of girls and young women in developing countries from completing their education. If it continues in this manner, by 2025 climate change will be a contributing factor in preventing girls from completing their education. Yet, we know that investing in women’s and girls’ education is also critical to enhancing a country’s ability to effectively adapt to climate change.

### CALL TO ACTION



- Leaders at COP27 must commit to financial and political investments in both direct support for women and girls’ appropriate education and access to education, especially STEM, as well as to share learnings on the development of climate-focused and gender-transformative formal and non-formal educational curricula that can support all people.
- Strengthen education systems to be more resilient and gender transformative as part of adaptation strategies in NDCs and NAPs, including via the development of national climate learning strategies that are gender transformative and recognize the importance of youth leadership by prioritizing civic engagement, gender perspective, rights, green life skills, sustainability sciences, policy processes and activism, and ensure that girls and young women are meaningfully engaged in the development of these strategies.
- Ensure that women get support and compensation for their formal jobs in order to adapt and build resilient livelihoods in the countryside and in the cities.
- Continuous training of women experts and stronger support for regional cooperation to promote a diverse and enriched network with multidisciplinary and intercultural exchange of knowledge.
- Recognise and embed these climate learning strategies in climate financing, policies, and agreements, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs);
- Align with and enhance coordination between Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and other workstreams (including Lima Work Programme on Gender, Local Communities and Indigenous People’s Platform, Nairobi Work Programme on Adaptation).





### 3

## Recognize and Invest in Girl's Agency and Voice

There is no policy decision that does not affect girls and young women. As experts in their own lives, their meaningful, diverse and **safe** inclusion must be normalized and systematically included across all policy, strategy, and planning processes.

### CALL TO ACTION



- Ensure that girls and women can have access to public environmental information and promote effective participation and leadership in decision-making implementation strategies at the local, community, and national levels.
- Establish and guarantee girls and women's participation in spaces, roles or power positions free of any type of gender violence. With ethical codes and gender-based policies.
- Design and resource effective youth engagement strategies that meet girls and young women where they are at and embed their participation, including feedback and accountability mechanisms.
- Establish and work through local partners who form longstanding and empowering partnerships with girls and young women.
- Recognize the work made by young women leaders in climate action as capacity building. By doing this, governments and women become allies in achieving NDC's.





### 4

## Advance A Gender Action Plan (GAP) that prioritizes needs of girls and young women

Girls and women are on the frontlines of the climate crises; disproportionately impacted, they are often taking action to mitigate and respond to its effects within their communities. Yet girls are largely absent from governments climate action plans.

It was further reported by the UN that since women represent a large number of the world's overall population, they form a large number of the world's poor. They lack access to worldwide opportunities including climate justice education, access to decision-making platforms, technology, development opportunities and work that would increase their capacity to adapt to climate change.

### CALL TO ACTION



- We call for an updated Gender Action Plan that takes into account human rights, ensuring a just transition, and the rights of vulnerable people like girls, women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities via a set of new activities aimed to meaningfully shift towards capacity building and enhanced implementation of gender-responsive climate action at all levels.
- We call upon Member States to recognize girls by prioritizing the development of gender and age-responsive strategies and solutions. Girls and young women must also have access to climate education to understand why it is happening, the impacts and how they can respond.
- Commit to compulsory climate education in schools and non-formal educational settings and provide accessible information to reach diverse youth populations.
- Improvement and investment in gender specific statistics and data to improve the relationship between gender and climate





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### Deliver on Finance and Prioritise adequate adaptation measures

Parties must raise the quantity and quality of climate finance overall to ensure finance is gender-responsive, and that the proportion of grants-based funding for adaptation is significantly increased, with new, additional funds for loss and damage, as a matter of climate, social and gender justice.

#### CALL TO ACTION



- Honouring the existing pledge by developed countries to provide climate finance to developing countries in the amount of 100B\$ per year from 2020 onwards.
- Providing financing for adaptation that is needs-based, new and additional to still unfulfilled climate finance commitments made by developed countries, and the balanced allocation between mitigation and adaptation, as well as the full operationalization of the Santiago Network for Loss & Damage;
- Guidance to the finance mechanisms of the COP to ensure enhanced direct access to finance for organizations and movements who adequately respond to the needs and rights of the most vulnerable communities like youth, women and indigenous groups, as the ones resisting in the Global South, and not only governments and UN agencies;





### Ensure rights to land, water and sanitation in all climate action

Ignoring the role of women in resource management can perpetuate inequalities and grievances linked to natural resources which one of the catalysts for violence. We believe that safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, management of water resources, waste water management and water quality are all indispensable elements for poverty eradication, sustainability and security of the world and critical to all climate action. The scarcity of clean water in several countries such as the ones in the Global South (Africa, South America and other countries around the world) has far-reaching consequences for health, including sexual and reproductive health.

#### CALL TO ACTION



- We call on leaders to ensure by 2030, we achieve universal access to basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for households, schools and health facilities. This will increase girls' resilience to climate change, and in turn, their ability to remain in school, to access employment and live a stable life
- Provision of capacity building opportunities in natural resources. This includes, improving and supporting education for women at the high level management in the water & sanitation sector to build infrastructures anticipating climate change.
- Addressing issues of inequality related to land use and ownership in communities, enhance women's participation in decision-making when the use of natural resources is discussed.

