

## Briefing Note

# Gender equality and the climate crisis: where do international commitments stand?

## Baseline ambition of G7, G20 and UNFCCC decisions

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### Key messages

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International commitments and long-term prosperity are threatened by the erosion of gender norms and a resurgence of strategies and discourses that delay meaningful climate action.

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The G7, G20 and UNFCCC recognise that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts women and that climate action needs a gendered lens. Leaders also agree that the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in climate decision-making is vital.

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Commitments on the nexus of gender and climate vary significantly. The UNFCCC considers the greatest breadth of climate sectors; the

G7 leads on gender, considering women and girls in all their diversity, as well as LGBTQIA+ persons.

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This review serves as a baseline to chart future progress and pushback on gender equality and climate action within multilateral processes.

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# Abbreviations and acronyms

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COP	Conference of the Parties
G7	Group of Seven
G20	Group of 20
LGTBQIA+	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual plus
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
ODA	official development assistance
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WEDO	Women's Environment and Development Organization

# Executive summary

To date, efforts to implement the Paris Agreement put us on track for 2.7°C of global warming and commensurately desperate impacts (CAT, 2024). These impacts will disproportionately affect women and girls, and they are compounded by a steady repeal of women's and girls' rights and a growing number living in poverty or amidst conflict. Warming of 2.7°C is far higher than the level countries committed to under the Paris Agreement – an agreement that is the product of decades of international cooperation both within and outside the UN, and the legally binding framework under which countries will continue to work to reduce emissions.

This year – 2025 – is an important time to assess where international commitments stand on the nexus of gender equality and climate ambition. Rising geopolitical tensions and conflict threaten international cooperation, without which countries cannot effectively address the climate crisis and exacerbating gender inequalities. It is the deadline for the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – the primary vehicle through which countries communicate their climate plans under the Paris Agreement. Scrutiny will fall on the pledges of countries with historic responsibilities to lower emissions and provide climate finance, as well as the pledges of high-emitting states.

This briefing note examines commitments at the gender–climate nexus, i.e., pledges that bring together efforts to achieve gender equality and climate goals. We analyse outcomes from 2022 to 2024 across three forums: the Group of Seven (G7), a group of historic greenhouse gas emitters; the Group of 20 (G20), the world's largest economies; and the universal decisions made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations. Establishing the current baseline will allow progressive governments and research and civil society organisations to better track backlash and advancements in the challenging years ahead. Over the next five years, ODI Global will track change and report progress against this baseline.

Four themes have emerged from our baseline review. Across the G7, G20 and UNFCCC, outcomes share language related to:

- 1) *framing the nexus of gender and climate change*
- 2) *equal participation in climate decision-making*



3) *gender-responsive climate policies*

4) *gender-responsive climate finance.*

The UNFCCC sets the bar on climate ambition by considering the greatest breadth of sectors as nexus priorities. By comparison, the G7 sets the bar on gender ambition, with its nexus commitments that consider women and girls in all their diversity, as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual plus (LGBTQIA+) persons. Reflecting its historic responsibility, the G7 performs best on timebound, supported and tracked commitments aimed at the gender–climate nexus. G20 outcomes reference the nexus between gender and climate the least – references are largely found in gender rather than climate outcomes.

The real challenge, however, is implementation. The commitments of these forums and prospects for future progress are threatened by two aspects: firstly the accelerated erosion of global human rights norms related to gender, referred to as ‘norm-spoiling’ (Sanders, 2018); and secondly the resurgence of strategies and discourses that delay meaningful climate action, or ‘climate delayism’. The G7 notes strong concern about the recent rollback of the rights of women, girls and LGBTQIA+ people in this time of crisis (G7, 2024a), and one immediate implication is that commitments already made will not be implemented. Policy discourses matter, but so do the material realities of backing this agenda. There is also serious concern over how material resources to support gender and climate action will be identified, monitored, measured and scaled.

Building new and well-informed coalitions will be critical to counter pushback in multilateral institutions, building on feminist civil society organisations already undertaking and funding crucial work in this area. These groups will need to hold leaders to account against previous commitments (like those of the G7) and push forward expected actions (like adopting a new Gender Action Plan at the 30th Conference of the Parties, COP30). They will also need to push leaders to adopt timebound, supported and tracked commitments across multilateral spaces. Our findings serve as a baseline to collectively chart progress, as well as degrees of norm-spoiling and climate delayism, in future multilateral negotiations.

# 1 Introduction

This year marks a new era for international relations. Long-simmering geopolitical tensions have boiled over, leading to tectonic changes in countries' security arrangements, trade patterns and spending choices. Policy-makers are scrambling to respond to threats such as punitive tariffs, land grabs and aid cuts, and they have thus had little chance to consider the profound threat facing the liberal international order.

Among the most consequential shifts is the broad change in policy in the United States, which signals a retreat from international cooperation (e.g., their withdrawal from the Paris Agreement) and commitments to gender equality. The United Kingdom, Germany and France have announced cuts to their official development assistance (ODA), casting doubt on existing commitments to finance climate action and advance gender equality. Only 15 countries met the February 2025 deadline to submit NDCs to the Paris Agreement, leading the UNFCCC Executive Secretary to implore leaders to make clear their climate plans until 2035 (IISD, 2025). Without enhanced commitments to lower emissions, the ability to limit global warming to 1.5°C will slip farther away.

The current global turmoil perhaps masks a concerted attack on gender equality and climate action in plurilateral and multilateral arenas. Regrettably, this is not new, but rather an acceleration in norm-spoiling – challenges to accepted standards around women's rights – and a resurgence of climate disinformation and delayism (Supran, 2021; Patterson, 2023; Holmes, 2024).

The re-drawing of military alliances and closure of export markets may pose a more obvious immediate threat. However, a world in which women are seen as inferior and the climate is more hostile is ultimately going to be less safe, prosperous and fair. Tackling the backlash against gender equality and climate action must therefore be understood as an urgent and shared priority by any country committed to ending poverty and ensuring its long-term prosperity.

Strategies to combat this shift need to be grounded in an informed understanding of international agreements on the nexus of gender equality and climate change. Schott (2024) documents how a coalition of anti-gender states is working to water down language relating to gender in UN spaces, as part of a broader strategy to roll back gender equality and human rights across the multilateral system. While these efforts have historically concentrated in gender-focused forums, they are increasingly spreading into unexpected policy areas. Anti-gender states have pushed for the removal or dilution of references to gender, inserted sovereignty clauses and blocked consensus to weaken international agreements.

This briefing note complements the work of Schott (2024) and expands its scope by examining gender and climate nexus agreements made by the G7, the G20 and the UNFCCC between 2022 and 2024. Our goal is to detail the current international consensus on the nexus between gender and climate. The positions of the largest and wealthiest economies typically set the parameters for international agreements; analysing G7 and G20 outcomes lends insight to both their positions and underlying tensions, especially when compared to the universal decisions of the UNFCCC. This baseline will enable progressive governments and civil society organisations to assess and challenge backsliding in gender norms and climate ambition.

We chose to focus on these three forums for different reasons.

The G20 brings together the countries with the largest economies and/or populations in the world to advance economic cooperation and engage in political dialogue. Its decisions are influential as its members represent a large majority of the world's gross domestic product, trade and population. The G7 represents a specific subset of the G20, which is to say the largest democratic, industrialised members. These distinctive characteristics mean the G7 may have significantly different positions on gender and climate ambition that we want to surface. Finally, we look at the UNFCCC, which is the universal decision-making forum on climate action, i.e. the arena in which all countries are represented. Examining the UNFCCC decisions therefore reveals whether and how the other 170 plus parties to the Convention influence commitments on gender and climate.

Together, these forums arguably host the highest levels of discussion on the nexus of gender equality and climate action. (Other plurilateral

and multilateral forums, such as the BRICS summit<sup>1</sup> or the Commission on the Status of Women, do discuss gender equality and climate action – though rarely as concurrent agenda items.) And all three forums publish their outcomes, enabling scrutiny of the consensus reached. Here, we briefly introduce the origins and processes of each.

## 1.1 G7

The G7 began as a platform for economic and financial cooperation in response to the 1973 energy crisis. The member countries are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US. The European Union also participates (G7, 2025). While G7 outcome documents are not legally binding, they serve as important markers of areas of consensus, as all members agree on the outcome text. Members can also make voluntary commitments, and relevant bodies can be instructed to implement certain decisions.

The G7 has formalised a Gender Track and a Climate, Energy and Environment Track – giving these issues a formal space for discussion at the ministerial level. Moreover, the two tracks engage with one another: for example, the Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers commissioned the *G7 Gender equality and diversity in the energy sector report* (G7, 2022a).

## 1.2 G20

The G20 formed in 1999 to improve coordination when addressing international financial crises. The G20 comprises 19 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK and the US, as well as the European Union and, since 2023, the African Union. Together, G20 countries account for about 85% of global gross domestic product and 75% of international trade (Gumbi et al., 2025).

Like the G7, G20 outcome documents are not legally binding but serve as important markers of areas of consensus, as all members agree on the outcome text. The G20 has two main tracks through which it organises its work: the Sherpa Track, which focuses on socioeconomic issues including environment and women's empowerment, and the Finance Track (G20, 2025).

Compared to the other forums, G20 outcomes reference the nexus between gender and climate the least. Commitments are found

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<sup>1</sup> BRICS is a plurilateral group formed of 11 countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia and Iran. The BRICS acronym derives from the names of the early members (BRICS, 2025).

mostly in Sherpa Track outcomes and leaders' declarations, which define top priorities. Overall, most references to the nexus of climate and gender feature in gender rather than climate outcomes.

### 1.3 UNFCCC

The UN climate negotiations bring together the 198 countries that are party to the UNFCCC. Every year, the UN convenes these parties to discuss and agree how they will work together to address climate change under the UNFCCC (adopted in 1992), the Kyoto Protocol (adopted in 1997) and the Paris Agreement (adopted in 2015). Decisions are legally binding and are made by consensus (Tenzing et al., 2023).

Under the UNFCCC, developed countries that are historically responsible for greenhouse gas emissions are also responsible for reducing emissions and providing climate finance (see Box 1 on use of terms). The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities is enshrined in the Paris Agreement. While gender is not referenced in the original UNFCCC or the Kyoto Protocol, it is in the Paris Agreement. Nexus commitments are now present in decisions related to all three treaties and appear across decision types, including those related to mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, for example.

There is a dedicated track on gender within the climate negotiations. Parties launched the Lima work programme on gender in 2014, and in 2024 they agreed to extend an enhanced Lima work programme on gender for a further 10 years (UNFCCC, 2024a). The Lima work programme aims to improve gender balance and the integration of gender considerations throughout the UNFCCC's work, in order to achieve gender-responsive climate policy and action. The accompanying Gender Action Plan lays out priority areas, activities and outputs to achieve this aim (UNFCCC, 2025). Parties will consider adopting a new Gender Action Plan in 2025 (UNFCCC, 2024a). Outside the dedicated gender negotiating stream, nexus commitments appear most frequently in UNFCCC finance decisions.

### **Box 1      Terminology – ‘developed’ and ‘developing’ countries**

We use the terms ‘developed’ and ‘developing’ countries in line with the language of the UNFCCC. These terms are grounded in the original Annex I and Annex II country groupings agreed in 1992, and they continue to shape obligations and expectations within the climate regime.

We recognise that these broad categories mask significant heterogeneity in income, emissions and climate vulnerability across countries. As noted in an ODI Working Paper on the New Collective Quantified Goal, the Annex-based structure has remained largely static despite dramatic changes in the global economic and emissions landscape (Colenbrander et al., 2023). Although alternative framings such as ‘global north’ and ‘global south’ or income-based categories are increasingly used in academic and policy discussions, we retain the UNFCCC's terminology for consistency.

## 2 Methods and approaches

This briefing note contextualises international agreements on gender equality and climate ambition. To find commitments, we reviewed outcome documents for 2022, 2023 and 2024. For the G7 and G20, this includes communiqués, leaders' declarations and joint statements. For the UNFCCC, we reviewed adopted decision texts. We reviewed 205 outcome documents in total. See Appendix 1 for the key documents analysed and where they fall within the G7, G20 and UNFCCC negotiations.

An initial reading of the documents gave us our primary and secondary search terms – the words most used by countries when referring to gender equality and climate action. Our primary search terms were “women” and “gender”, as well as “climate” and “energy”. Our secondary search terms were used less frequently and often in conjunction with the primary search terms.<sup>2</sup>

We searched all outcome documents for these terms. For G7 and G20 outcomes, we analysed paragraphs that contain both gender and climate terms (see Box 2). As the UNFCCC decisions inherently relate to climate action, we analysed paragraphs that contain gender terms. We reviewed these paragraphs for active treatment of both concepts. Once we identified where G7, G20 and UNFCCC outcome documents discuss commitments, we reviewed each paragraph containing language on the nexus of gender equality and climate action. Figure 1 depicts the number of paragraphs from 2022 to 2024 analysed, as well as where within the forum outcomes they sit.

Four themes – areas where similar language or ideas are used repeatedly – emerged from our review. Across the G7, G20 and UNFCCC, outcomes share language related to:

1) *framing the nexus of gender and climate change* – all three forums recognise that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts women and that climate action needs a gendered lens;

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<sup>2</sup> Secondary search terms included: “men”, “female”, “male”, “boys”, “girls”, “marginalised groups (marginalisation)”, “sexual minorities”, “LGB\*”, “adolescent”, “youth”, “care”, “care work”, “unpaid care”, “family”, “sexuality”, “parents”, “parental”, “diversity”; as well as “mitigation”, “adaptation”, “loss and damage”, “emission”, “green”, “carbon”, “just transition”.

2) *equal participation in climate decision-making* – leaders across forums also agree that the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in climate decision-making is vital;

3) *gender-responsive climate policies* – the outcomes of all three forums discuss the benefits of gender-responsive climate policies and of supporting these policies to varying degrees;

4) *gender-responsive climate finance*.

We organise our findings under these themes, discussing and comparing the ambition of these commitments.

Unclear or hollow commitments undermine accountability. They allow signatories to evade obligations, to dodge establishing measurable goals and to delay the allocation of necessary resources. Without clear, specific and substantive commitments, it is difficult to track implementation and push for further action. Our discussion of ambition is oriented around five indicators. We consider whether pledges are:

- *inclusive*: examines the way in which both gender and climate concepts are framed (see Box 3).
- *timebound*: indicates a clear timeframe or deadline that progress can be assessed against with specific dates rather than an open-ended or ongoing intent. Additionally, if a commitment falls within a pre-existing agenda with ongoing time-bound targets, we consider it timebound for the purposes of our analysis.
- *specific*: makes clear who (e.g., local, national or global actors) will do what. Here, we also consider the strength of the action verb (e.g., *should* versus *shall*) and their legal implications, particularly in the UNFCCC.
- *supported*: the degree to which the commitment is backed by dedicated resources, primarily financial but also technical assistance or capacity-building.
- *tracked*: whether there is a monitoring and reporting framework to assess progress over time. If a commitment falls within a pre-existing agenda with ongoing monitored targets, we consider it tracked for the purposes of our analysis.



**Figure 1. Where climate and gender are mentioned by the G20, G7 and UNFCCC**

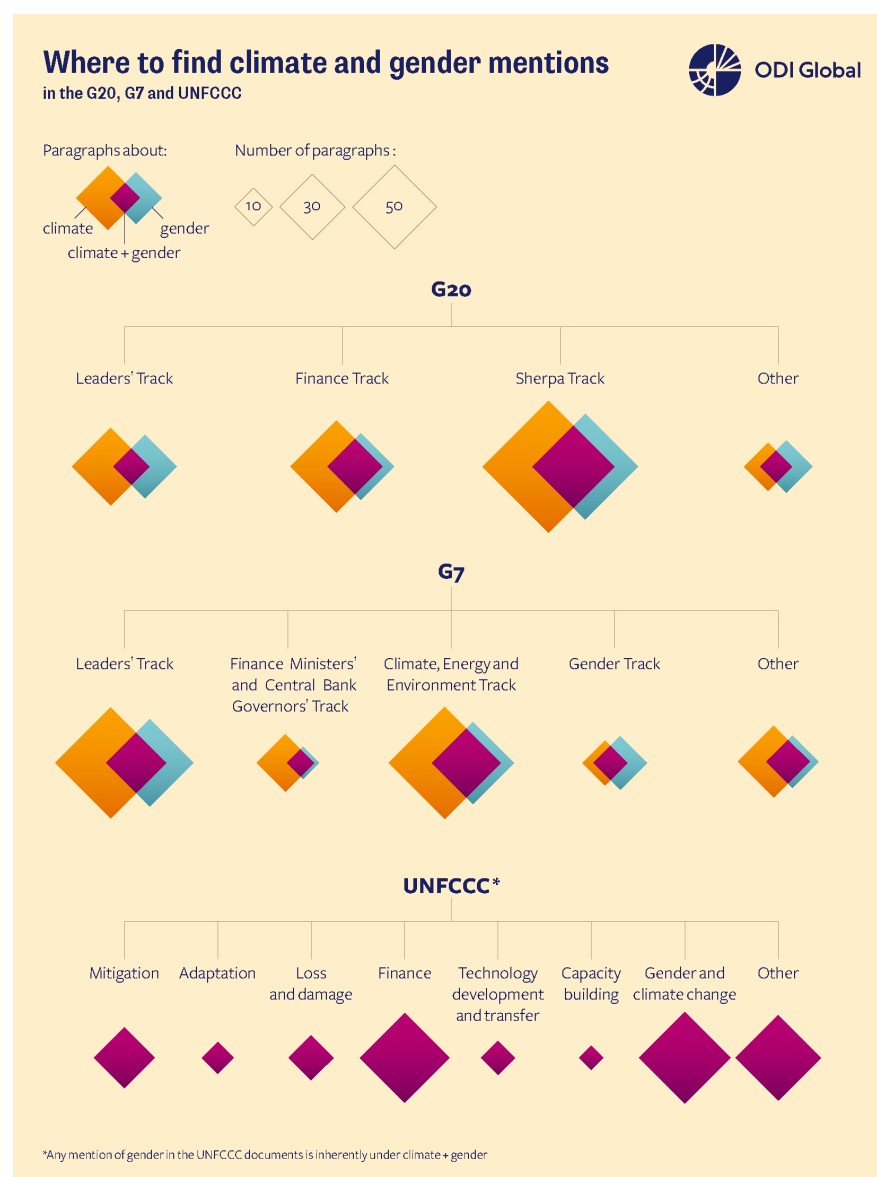


Figure 2 Source: The authors. Designed by Michela Lazzeroni.

## Box 2 Beyond the nexus: separately assessing ambition on climate action and gender equality

Our analysis focuses on the nexus between gender and climate in the three multilateral forums. We do not assess their ambition on these agendas as standalone issues. We made this choice because we did not want to duplicate existing work evaluating how countries perform on these agendas.

On the climate front, we draw your attention to two resources. The Climate Transparency series ([www.climate-transparency.org/g20-climate-performance](http://www.climate-transparency.org/g20-climate-performance)) provides a concise overview of the climate performance of G20 members in an annual stocktake; the Climate Action Tracker (<https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/>) assesses the sufficiency of policies and targets against the temperature targets of the Paris Agreement. The two resources focus on different aspects of climate action and apply different approaches to attribute responsibility, therefore they are worth reading in parallel.

On gender, the G7 internally monitors progress and in 2023 compiled a *G7 Gender equality implementation report* (OECD, 2023). Further reviews find that while both the G7 and G20 have committed to women's economic empowerment, climate justice and LGBTIQ+ inclusion, their track records are mixed on meeting commitments within their own countries and their efforts to advance gender equality globally could improve (Lopez and Contreras, 2020; Nordmann, 2023).

### Box 3 What do we mean by 'inclusive'?

We use 'inclusivity' to refer to the active and meaningful participation of all people – particularly those who have been historically marginalised – in climate-related decision-making and implementation processes. We use the language of the three forums, which includes, but is not limited to:

- **women in all their diversities:** recognising that women are not a homogenous group. This phrase intentionally includes women of different races, ethnicities, ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and geographic locations.
- **girls and young women:** acknowledging that their experiences and vulnerabilities are distinct from adult women, and their voices are often excluded from formal processes.
- **LGBTQIA+ individuals:** who face systemic exclusion, violence or invisibility in many policy-making spaces. Inclusive climate action must affirm and protect their rights and contributions.
- **Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and other structurally marginalised groups:** whose perspectives and knowledge systems are essential to equitable and effective climate governance.

## 3 Nexus commitments and ambition

Across all three forums, outcomes share common language related to: 1) framing the nexus of gender and climate change; 2) equal participation in climate decision-making; 3) gender-responsive climate policies; and 4) gender-responsive climate finance. We organise our findings under these themes, considering and comparing the ambition of these commitments made between 2022 and 2024.

### 3.1 Framing the gender–climate nexus

All three forums recognise that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts women, creating an imperative for a gendered approach to climate action. Commitments under this theme vary in each forum – from accelerating a clean energy transition in the G7 to all actions necessary to implement the Paris Agreement in the UNFCCC. The population groups deemed to be impacted disproportionately by the climate crisis also vary between these forums, influencing the communities with which leaders seek to engage. Our analysis focuses on gender inequalities; however, disparities across social, economic and cultural factors also impact who is most exposed to climate risks (Burns, 2025).

#### 3.1.1 G7

G7 outcomes repeatedly recognise that women and girls in all their diversity are disproportionately and negatively impacted by the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution (G7, 2024a). The G7 also recognises the climate vulnerability of ‘marginalised groups and disadvantaged neighbourhoods, including older persons, children, persons with disabilities, low-income families, minorities, LGBTQIA+ communities, and Indigenous Peoples’ (G7, 2023a: 3). Of the 76 G7 nexus commitment paragraphs reviewed, 57% consider ‘women and girls in all their diversity, as well as LGBTQIA+ persons’.

In response, the G7 commits to putting ‘gender and LGBTQIA+ equity at the heart of [its] efforts to tackle the triple crisis and to accelerate clean energy transition’ (G7, 2024b: 2). In addition to supporting women’s empowerment and gender equality in relevant multilateral forums, the G7 states that it ‘will continue to work towards gender equality and diversity particularly in the clean energy sector, including [through] joint efforts under the Equal by 30 campaigns’ (ibid.).

Launched in 2018, Equal by 30 works towards ‘equal pay, leadership and opportunities for women and to advance gender equality and diversity in the clean energy sector by 2030’ (G7, 2022a: 27). Under Equal by 30, the G7 strives for gender balance in leadership positions across national public energy institutions. Efforts are also made within member governments, which may include designating a national gender and energy transition focal point to coordinate and facilitate implementation and integration of economy-wide gender strategies. The G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, the Clean Energy Ministerial, the International Energy Agency and the International Renewable Energy Agency all report campaign progress annually and develop recommendations for further action (G7, 2022a, 2023b, 2024b).

By considering ‘women and girls in all their diversity, as well as LGBTQIA+ persons’, G7 nexus commitments set the bar on gender ambition. G20 and UNFCCC outcomes consider both women and girls, yet the UNFCCC most frequently considers only women when discussing the nexus of gender and climate change.

When agreeing actions to address climate change, the nexus decisions taken by the UNFCCC cover a range of work relating to mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, to name a few. By comparison, the G7’s named focus is the clean energy sector. Having a timebound Equal by 30 campaign with bodies tasked to report and track progress is perhaps the most tangible commitment against this theme, but the scope of the G7’s work is limited to building an innovative and inclusive clean energy workforce, equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to support net-zero economies.

### 3.1.2 G20

G20 outcomes acknowledge that global challenges like climate change disproportionately affect women and girls, as well as other vulnerable segments of the population including local communities, youth, children, older persons and persons with disabilities (G20, 2023a).

The outcomes note that disproportionate impacts of climate change are ‘observed particularly among women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as, inter alia, rural women, women living in poverty, women with disabilities, women from local communities as well as Indigenous women, Roma women, women of African descent, migrant women, older women, and other women in situations of vulnerability’ (G20, 2024a: 12). G20 leaders also recognise that ‘the persistence of gender inequalities creates challenges for holistically addressing climate change and dealing with its impacts, including in relation to adaptation, mitigation, and just and inclusive transitions, as well as in the management of resources’ (ibid.).

G20 members commit to ‘gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls’ (G20, 2024b: 9). In 2024, members celebrated the inaugural convening of the G20 Empowerment of Women Working Group, which will promote measures to achieve these aims.<sup>3</sup> The Working Group has commissioned international organisations – including UN Women; the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and the International Labour Organization – to develop studies on women and climate action (G20, 2024a). It highlights the importance of accumulating further knowledge on the disproportionate climate impacts on women and girls and calls for ‘the collection and use of more disaggregated data, as applicable in respective national contexts and circumstances’ (G20, 2023b: 27).

Like the UNFCCC outcomes, the G20’s consideration of the nexus between gender and climate is framed by national contexts and circumstances. In celebrating the inaugural convening of the G20 Empowerment of Women Working Group and commissioning studies on women and climate in 2024, the G20, as compared to the UNFCCC and the G7, appears to demonstrate the shortest history in addressing the nexus of gender and climate. Framing language appears with regard to wide-ranging climate actions, including just transitions, adaptation, disaster risk reduction strategies, and finance preparedness policies and plans.

### 3.1.3 UNFCCC

Decisions taken at the UNFCCC recognise ‘with concern that climate change impacts on women and men can often differ owing to historical and current gender inequalities and multidimensional factors and can be more pronounced for developing countries and for local communities and Indigenous peoples’ (UNFCCC, 2024a: 23).

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<sup>3</sup> For more information and updates see <https://g20.org/track/women-empowerment/>.

Parties have agreed they should respect, promote and consider gender equality and the empowerment of women when acting on climate change. This principle was agreed in the Paris Agreement<sup>4</sup> and is referenced several times in decisions taken from 2022 to 2024. Broadly interpreted, all climate actions to implement the central aims of the Paris Agreement – to limit temperature rise to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C, increase countries' ability to adapt and deal with climate impacts, and make finance flows consistent with a low greenhouse gas pathway (Tenzing et al., 2023) – should consider gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In 2022, parties reviewed and amended the Gender Action Plan they agreed in 2019. The Gender Action Plan identifies five priority work areas: 1) capacity-building, knowledge management and communication; 2) gender balance, participation and women's leadership; 3) coherence; 4) gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation; and 5) monitoring and reporting. Under each priority area, parties outline activities, the lead and contributing actors responsible for deliverables and outputs, as well as a timeline.

In 2024, parties acknowledged 'the important role of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the UNFCCC process' (UNFCCC, 2024a: 23). They decided to extend the enhanced Lima work programme on gender until 2034 and consider adopting a new Gender Action Plan in 2025 to detail priority activities and timelines for those activities (ibid.).

Under the UNFCCC, parties have decided that they *should* respect, promote and consider gender equality and the empowerment of women when acting on climate change. The UNFCCC employs a hierarchy of verbs to signal varying levels of obligation or expectation (see Box 4). These terms are not incidental: they shape the legal and political force of climate decisions and commitments, and therefore the difference between words can significantly affect implementation and accountability. In legal terms, *should* indicates a recommendation or guidance, suggesting that something is expected but not required. The language *shall* or *must* indicates that action is required (Duvic-Paoli et al., 2024).

Parties have also decided to act according to their respective obligations (language that is echoed by the G20). This is understood

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<sup>4</sup> See preambular paragraph 11: 'Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, 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 people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity' (UNFCCC, 2015: 2).

to mean their national obligations on human rights and their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities to undertake climate action. Countries, as well as the UNFCCC Secretariat and relevant organisations, are encouraged to act locally, nationally, regionally and internationally. If agreed in 2025, the activities laid out in the new Gender Action Plan will likely hold the UNFCCC's most specific, timebound and tracked nexus commitments.

The UNFCCC employs a hierarchy of verbs – such as shall, should, encourages and notes – to signal varying levels of obligation or expectation. In Box 4, we illustrate how the UNFCCC uses this language through examples related to gender, drawing on definitions from the Guide to climate negotiations terminology (Duvic-Paoli et al., 2024).

#### **Box 4      Language matters: understanding the weight of words in UNFCCC decisions**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Example [emphasis added]</b>
Encourages	Suggests or expresses hope that a party or entity will take action on something. A weaker variant of 'urges'.	Decision 24/CP.27 'encourages Parties and relevant organizations to strengthen the use of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis in implementing climate policies, plans, strategies and action'.
Should	Indicates a recommendation or guidance, suggesting that something is expected or advised but not required. Regularly used to indicate the non-binding status of a commitment.	Decision 1/CP.27 'Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, 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 people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity'.

Shall	Means that an action is required. If used in a treaty, the term indicates that the following action is obligatory or binding. If followed by qualifying language, such as 'as appropriate' or 'as necessary', the term requires parties to attempt to do something.	Decision 7/CMA.4 'The Supervisory Body may draw on the expertise necessary to perform its functions, including from the UNFCCC roster of experts. In this context, it shall take fully into account the consideration of regional and gender balance'.
Must	Means that the action is required and almost always binding. It could create binding commitments in the context of a treaty; however, it is rarely directed explicitly at parties and is rather used in the passive voice (as in 'measures must be taken'), often to strengthen overall goals and obligations.	Decision 1/CMA.5 'Reaffirms that sustainable and just solutions to the climate crisis must be founded on meaningful and effective social dialogue and participation of all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities and governments, women, and youth and children'.
Will	Means that the action is going to take place with certainty. Anticipates a future fact in assertive, rather than mandatory, language. Is used as obligational language in the context of less formal agreements, such as the arrangements between the COP and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).	Decision 2/CP.28 'The Santiago network secretariat will commission one independent review of the performance of the Santiago network, including, inter alia, sustainability and sources of funding, adequacy of funding levels relative to technical assistance requests, timeliness, effectiveness, engagement, gender-responsiveness and delivery of technical assistance to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in a timely manner so that the findings of this review can feed into the subsequent review of the Warsaw International Mechanism'.



## 3.2 Equal participation in climate decision-making

All three forums commit to the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women in climate decision-making. Though again, who this includes, and what actions the forums are taking, varies. While the UNFCCC encourages parties to appoint focal points and tracks the gender balance of participants, we found it difficult to identify specific actions the G7 and G20 will take under this theme.

### 3.2.1 G7

The G7 recognises that, despite disproportionate climate impacts, ‘there is a persistent underrepresentation of women in leadership positions in the international, national and regional fora where decisions about environmental policies, strategies and related financing are made’ (G7, 2024c: 5, 2024d: 4). Women are further recognised as agents of change, whose participation and leadership are critical for making climate actions more effective. The G7 also expresses ‘strong concern about the recent rollback of the rights of women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ people around the world, in particular in time of crisis’ (G7, 2024a: 33).

The G7 commits to women’s, girls’ and LGBTQIA+ people’s ‘full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision making related to climate, energy and environment’ (G7, 2023b: 7). It is ‘determined to support women’s empowerment and gender equality in all relevant fora, such as the Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan implementing under the UN climate change process and the Gender Plan of Action under the Convention on Biological Diversity’ (G7, 2024b: 2). The G7 also commits to work with global partners to advance gender equality across multilateral forums, and to promote ‘action to increase the representation and leadership of all women at all levels of decision-making in climate and environmental action’ (G20, 2024d: 9).

Though the G7 commits to the participation and leadership of an inclusive range of people across all levels of decision-making, it is more specific about supporting equal participation in multilateral forums (though notably not in the G7 itself) than in national- or local-level decision-making. It also only discusses a mechanism to monitor progress in 5 of the 20 nexus paragraphs that formulate these commitments.

### 3.2.2 G20

G20 outcomes also recognise that ‘although women and girls are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change, they are often underrepresented in environmental, climate, and disaster risk

reduction-related decision-making fora and also often have unequal access and ownership over resources' (G20, 2024a: 12). Together, this makes women and girls more vulnerable to climate-related hazards and environmental degradation.

The G20 sees women and girls as leaders and agents of change in responding to climate change, in building solutions for adaptation and mitigation and for biodiversity loss, as well as in reducing disaster risks. In this context, 'equal participation of all women in political and economic decision-making processes on climate action and environment is essential for tackling climate change and building healthy, sustainable, and climate-resilient societies for all people' (ibid: 13). In response, the G20 commits to enhancing 'the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women in climate policy and decision making' (ibid: 2).

G20 leaders state that they will 'support and increase women's participation, partnership, decision-making and leadership in climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as disaster risk reduction strategies' (G20, 2023b: 28). They also state that they will 'facilitate the creation and promotion of multi-stakeholder and multi-level forums led by women to support grassroots women's rights organisations, as applicable in respective national contexts and circumstances, and empower them to lead climate- and environment-related initiatives' (ibid: 29).

While G20 outcomes do frame climate decision-making as extending from grassroots organisations to international action, like the G7, it rarely presents timebound or tracked commitments related to equal participation.<sup>5</sup> Its outcomes also continue to emphasise countries' ability to determine which actions fit their respective national contexts and circumstances.

### 3.2.3 UNFCCC

Parties recognise and reiterate that 'the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women in all aspects of the UNFCCC process and in national- and local-level climate policy and action is vital for achieving long-term climate goals' (UNFCCC, 2023a: 18). They also note the importance of taking further steps in this regard (ibid.).

In decisions taken from 2022 to 2024, the gender balance of participants and members of UNFCCC bodies – understood to be the equal presence of women and men – is the most-referenced marker of these steps. The UNFCCC Secretariat tracks the participation of

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<sup>5</sup> Among the G20 outcomes reviewed, 11 paragraphs reference equal participation in climate decision-making. Of these, only two instances relate to commitments that have been tracked.

delegates to the negotiations, as well as to UNFCCC elective posts, and it publishes reports on gender composition. In 2024, women accounted for 42% of the members of the UNFCCC's bodies (UNFCCC, 2024b). That same year, at COP29, women accounted for about 35% of party delegates (WEDO, 2025).

Parties are encouraged 'to appoint and provide support for a national gender and climate change focal point for climate negotiations, implementation and monitoring' (UNFCCC, 2024a: 25). They request the UNFCCC Secretariat to continue to 'support the attendance of national gender and climate change focal points at relevant mandated UNFCCC meetings, upon request and subject to available resources' (ibid.).

UNFCCC decisions recognise the value of women's leadership in local, national and international decision-making. And, unlike the G7 and G20, the UNFCCC does track gender-balanced participation – though only at the international level, where gender-balance has yet to be achieved. It has also undertaken efforts to broaden international tracking beyond participation and develop metrics for leadership. The Secretariat tracks the gender composition of elective posts and Heads of Party Delegations. The UNFCCC Secretariat has also conducted case studies to understand the gendered ratio of speaking times at UN climate negotiations, but these case studies have been limited by the availability of resources. Like the G7 and G20, the UNFCCC does not commit to achieving equal participation within a set timeframe.

### **3.3 Gender-responsive climate policies**

The outcomes of all three forums discuss the benefits of gender-responsive climate policies, and they reference National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and NDCs. They also discuss supporting these policies to varying degrees, with the G7 in particular referencing gender-responsive budgeting in alignment with its historic responsibilities. Similar to the previous theme, we found it difficult to identify specific commitments on gender-responsive climate policies. While all three forums discuss benefits and reference supporting these policies, we identified only one timebound call.

#### **3.3.1 G7**

The G7 'strongly commits to enhance [its] individual and collective efforts to implement the Paris Agreement and outcomes thereunder, ... to keep the limit of 1.5°C temperature rise within reach and to achieve [its] aim of net zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible and by 2050 at the latest' (G7, 2022b: 9). The G7 states that

member countries ‘need to ensure that the transition to net zero emissions and climate-resilient and nature-positive societies comes into effect in an inclusive, gender equal and socially just manner’ (ibid.).

The G7 acknowledges the importance of gender mainstreaming throughout climate targets and goals. To this aim, it recognises ‘the need to include and engage subnational and non-state actors in the development, update and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and to support them in their efforts to educate, raise awareness, enhance public participation and implement localised climate action, including through technical assistance, capacity-building, and finance’ (G7, 2022a: 26). Leaders are ‘determined to support ... the need for gender-responsive policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change and address biodiversity loss, including by using gender-responsive budgeting’ (G7, 2024d: 5).

The G7 further commits to ‘identify and implement climate adaptation actions that consider vulnerable populations and are gender-responsive and inclusive, while striving to avoid or mitigate any adverse social, environmental or economic repercussions that may result from such actions’ (G7, 2024b: 19). It will also increase efforts to collect better gender-disaggregated data to support the accumulation of knowledge on the impacts of climate change on women and girls, and it will better assess the gender impacts of its actions (G7, 2022a, 2023b).

While G7 leaders recognise the importance of mainstreaming gender throughout climate targets, in the outcomes reviewed leaders only commit to implementing gender-responsive adaptation actions. While they stress the need for gender-responsive policies, including gender-responsive budgeting, they do not articulate specific actions that the G7 will take to meet this need. The most tangible actions under this theme relate to supporting subnational and non-state actors in policy development through technical assistance, capacity-building and finance. Though NDCs and NAPs do have timebound submission deadlines negotiated under the UNFCCC, the G7 – like the G20 – does not detail a separate, more nuanced timeframe defining when it will undertake this work.

### 3.3.2 G20

The G20 reaffirms the Paris Agreement temperature goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and reiterates its resolve to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. ‘Mindful of our leadership role, [the G20] reaffirms our steadfast commitments, in pursuit of the objective

of UNFCCC, to tackle climate change by strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and its temperature goal, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances' (G20, 2023a: 4). The G20 also reiterates its commitment to 'intensify efforts to achieve global net zero greenhouse gas emissions/carbon neutrality by or around mid-century. [It encourages] members to bring forward net zero GHG emissions/climate neutrality commitments in a nationally determined manner, taking into account the Paris Agreement and different national circumstances, pathways and approaches' (G20, 2024b: 11).

Leaders affirm the need for enhancing the gender-responsiveness of climate action (G20, 2024a). G20 outcomes note several ways that members intend to drive gender-responsive climate action, while considering different national contexts and circumstances. It urges proactive measures to:

- '... mainstream gender-responsive approaches in development and, where appropriate, implementation of relevant national policies, strategies and actions on environment, climate, biodiversity, natural resources, pollution and disaster risk reduction, such as National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies ...
- support quality foundational, technical, and vocational education, including education for sustainable development and training programmes, for all women and girls in diverse situations and conditions, to acquire the knowledge and skills that can strengthen their resilience and adaptive capacities to attain high-quality jobs in the sustainable economy.
- support gender-responsive and climate- and environment-resilient solutions, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) solutions, to build resilience to climate change' (G20, 2023b: 28–29).

In nexus commitment paragraphs, WASH solutions are referenced 13 times within the G20 documents reviewed. Documents referencing WASH solutions include joint statements, leaders' declarations and outcome documents of environment and climate ministers' meetings. Throughout these, the G20 welcomes the *Call to action on strengthening drinking water and sanitation and hygiene services* (G20, 2024b) and recognises WASH as fundamental for women's empowerment (G20, 2023a).

Language around national contexts is evident throughout G20 discussions of mainstreaming gender across climate policies. The *Call to action on strengthening drinking water and sanitation and hygiene services* is the most tangible outcome, under which the G20 will support gender-responsive and environmentally resilient solutions, including WASH solutions, to build resilience to climate change. However, channelling work through this call limits the scope of identifiable commitments under this theme. Like the G7, the G20 does not define a timeframe within which they will undertake this work, although NDCs and NAPs do have timebound submission deadlines negotiated under the UNFCCC.

### 3.3.3 UNFCCC

Under the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement sets the long-term goals we see picked up across the other forums. This includes holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C; increasing countries' ability to adapt and deal with climate impacts; and making finance flows consistent with a low greenhouse gas pathway. The route to achieving these goals is determined through NDCs that are updated and enhanced every five years. This 'ratchet-up mechanism' is intended to steadily increase ambition, but the collective total has fallen short of limiting global temperature rise and achieving the agreed climate aims because governments can individually define their fair share of effort.

Parties to the UNFCCC recognise that gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation – primarily understood to mean finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building in the UNFCCC – can enable countries to raise ambition and to enhance gender equality. They note that gender-responsive implementation of climate policies can enhance 'the just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities' (UNFCCC, 2024a: 23).

In response, parties are encouraged to ensure gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation to raise climate ambition and achieve climate goals. Among decisions made between 2022 and 2024, gender-responsive implementation is referenced most in decisions related to climate finance and adaptation. For example, by 2030 all parties are urged to have in place gender-responsive NAPs (UNFCCC, 2023b). NDCs, the primary vehicle through which parties communicate mitigation pledges under the

Paris Agreement, were not given an explicit gender mandate from 2022 to 2024.<sup>6</sup>

To track progress, parties are invited ‘to include information on efforts and steps taken to implement the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and any subsequent gender action plan in their national reporting under the UNFCCC process, as applicable’ (UNFCCC, 2024a: 24). The UNFCCC Secretariat will then continue preparing biennial synthesis reports on the implementation of gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and actions, as communicated by parties (ibid.).

Unlike the G7 and the G20, the UNFCCC decisions do encompass a timebound call under this theme. By 2030, parties are strongly encouraged – *urged* (see Box 4) – to adopt gender-responsive NAPs, policy instruments, and planning processes and/or strategies. Decisions from 2022 to 2024 further encourage parties to ensure gender-responsive means of implementation in finance decisions. They are also invited to track progress nationally through country reporting, which is then synthesised collectively.

### 3.4 Gender-responsive climate finance

Context is particularly important for this theme. Under the UNFCCC, developed countries historically responsible for greenhouse gas emissions are also responsible for providing climate finance. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities is enshrined in the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and it applies to the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance adopted in 2024 (UNFCCC, 2024c). The G7 comprises entirely of developed countries with historic climate finance responsibilities. Developed countries form half of the G20's membership, and the historic context of their climate finance obligations is expressed in the nexus outcomes under this theme.

#### 3.4.1 G7

The G7 acknowledges ‘the need to make climate finance gender-responsive and enhance its effectiveness, especially to unleash the potential of women empowered to contribute to climate and sustainability action’ (G7, 2022a: 23). In 2018, the G7 launched the 2X Challenge to collectively mobilise \$3 billion in private sector investments in developing country markets. In 2024, it recognised the success of the 2X Challenge by adopting a new commitment to mobilise at least \$20 billion over three years in financing that applies

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<sup>6</sup> UNFCCC decisions taken outside the 2022–2024 timeframe do mention gender within the context of NDCs. Decision 4/CMA.1 (UNFCCC, 2018) outlines planning processes that include engagement with local communities and Indigenous peoples in a gender-responsive manner, and Decision 17/CP.22 (UNFCCC, 2017) encourages gender-sensitive and participatory education, including in the implementation of NDCs.



a gender lens, encouraging investments at the nexus of gender and climate. It calls upon other public and private actors to collaborate to promote sustainable transformative investments and women's financial empowerment (G7, 2024a, 2024c).<sup>7</sup>

The G7 also promotes a gender-transformative, multi-sector approach to member countries' foreign policy, humanitarian aid and development cooperation, including on climate resilience. Members commit to 'collectively increase G7 Official Development Assistance for gender equality and will explore ways to do this at the nexus of climate change and gender, particularly in Africa' (G7, 2024a: 33). Leaders will also consider supporting the New Economic Partnership for African Development's (NEPAD) Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) or the Women in the Sustainable Economy (WISE) Initiative to improve equal access to land tenure, productive resources, climate-smart technology and inclusive financial services to increase women's resilience (G7, 2024c, 2024d).

Finally, leaders commit to increasing the gender-responsiveness and inclusivity of their climate and biodiversity finance. The G7 contributed to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) open until 2026, which it sees as 'the main financial mechanism that addresses all aspects of the environment in an integrated and synergistic manner' (G7, 2022a: 3). Members commit to 'take critical steps towards building capacity and enhancing access to finance for adaptation, especially for the most vulnerable groups, women and girls, in all their diversity, Indigenous Peoples and marginalised groups, as well as in regions, and countries' (G7, 2024b: 20).

G7 outcomes from 2022 to 2024 reference timebound gender-responsive climate finance pledges. The G7 has also made less specific commitments to collectively increase G7 ODA (though it does not indicate by how much) and explore ways to do this at the nexus of climate change and gender, as well as to consider supporting specific initiatives related to gender and climate.

### 3.4.2 G20

Reflecting the differing obligations of its members, G20 consensus outcomes from 2022 to 2024 do not incorporate aims to finance gender-responsive climate action. One paragraph from 2023 on environmental and climate action mentions both promoting women's entrepreneurship and fostering the development and adoption of digital financial services that help with climate change mitigation and

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<sup>7</sup> For more information on the 2X Challenge visit [www.2xchallenge.org](http://www.2xchallenge.org).



adaptation (G20, 2023b). However, actions to link and implement the two aims are not elaborated in that or other outcomes reviewed.

### 3.4.3 UNFCCC

UNFCCC parties, as well as relevant public and private entities, are encouraged to strengthen the gender-responsiveness of climate finance. Parties continue to emphasise ‘the urgency of scaled-up support for developing countries to implement the Lima work programme on gender and any subsequent gender action plan, consistent with relevant provisions of the Convention’ (UNFCCC, 2024a: 25). And parties are invited ‘to provide support to developing country Parties for addressing gender related action under the Convention, including in relation to the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and any subsequent gender action plan’ (ibid.). Under the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance adopted in 2024, parties and other relevant actors are urged ‘to promote the inclusion and extension of benefits to vulnerable communities and groups in climate finance efforts, including women and girls’ (UNFCCC, 2024c: 5).

UNFCCC parties and public and private entities are also encouraged to build women’s capacity and facilitate simplified access to climate finance for women, including grassroots women’s organisations (UNFCCC, 2024a). Outcomes from 2022 to 2024 cite parties’ decision to improve tracking and reporting of gender-related aspects of climate finance, but state that ‘work remains to be done on strengthening gender mainstreaming efforts and the availability of gender-disaggregated and other gender-related data to evaluate outcomes’ (UNFCCC, 2022: 16).

The UNFCCC decisions do not present commitments to mobilise gender-responsive climate finance. However, under the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance, parties and other relevant actors are strongly encouraged – *urged* – to promote the inclusion and extension of climate finance to women and girls (UNFCCC, 2024c). To this end, parties have decided to improve tracking and reporting, and they name specific groups – e.g., grassroots women’s organisations – that they encourage funding to flow to.

## 4 Conclusions

This year, 2025, marks a new age of international cooperation. In assessing international commitments on gender equality and climate ambition from 2022 to 2024, we sought to establish a baseline that allows progressive governments and civil society organisations to better track progress. This is done against a backdrop of remarkable change, which may directly impact the credibility of the nexus commitments made by the G7, G20 and the UNFCCC and the feasibility of implementation.

US policy changes on gender equality and international cooperation are of particular note, not least the country's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. And only 15 countries met the February 2025 deadline to submit NDCs. Together with recent aid cuts announced by the US, the UK, Germany and France, these changes raise doubts around international commitments to finance climate action – namely to increase G7 ODA at the nexus of climate change and gender.

It is important to acknowledge these changes as we consider our findings. During 2022–2024, the UNFCCC set the bar on climate ambition by considering the greatest breadth of sectors as nexus priorities. By comparison, the G7 set the bar on gender ambition, with its nexus commitments that consider women and girls in all their diversity, as well as LGBTQIA+ persons. The G7 has also performed best on timebound, supported and tracked commitments aimed at the gender–climate nexus: during this period it committed to advance gender equality and diversity in the clean energy sector by 2030 (Equal by 30) and to collectively mobilise \$20 billion in investments at the nexus of gender and climate (2X Challenge). This contrasts with the G20, whose outcomes reference the nexus between gender and climate the least among the three forums.

These findings must be contextualised with recent global developments and they must be qualified with the historic responsibilities of member states when comparing levels of commitment. When considering ambition for both climate action and gender equality, it is important to acknowledge that the collective commitments of all three forums fall short of creating a safe, prosperous and fair world. However, having a baseline understanding

can inform strategies to influence progress. For example, the G20 does not demonstrate ambition on the intersection of gender and climate. Does this forum deserve greater scrutiny, given it comprises the world's largest economies? And will greater transparency enable targeted pressure? Given its historic responsibility, does the G7 need to be held to account to achieve and expand its pledges? As the forum for which universal decisions are adopted (and taken forward by the G7 and G20) is the UNFCCC the best instrument to advance nexus commitments?

Over the next five years, ODI Global will consider these questions and partner with others to collectively chart progress, as well as to understand norm-spoiling and climate delayism in multilateral negotiations. Establishing new and well-informed coalitions will be critical to counter pushback in multilateral institutions, building on the endeavours of feminist civil society organisations already undertaking and funding crucial work. These groups will need to hold leaders to account against tangible commitments made previously (like those of the G7) and drive forward expected actions (like adopting a new Gender Action Plan at COP30). Such groups must also continue the important task of pushing leaders to adopt timebound, supported and tracked commitments across multilateral spaces.

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# Appendix 1 Key documents

**Table A1. G7 key documents**

Presidency	Leaders' track	Finance ministers' and central bank governors' track	Climate, energy and environment track	Gender track	Other
<b>Italy (2024)</b>	Apulia leaders' communiqué	Finance ministers' and central bank governors' meeting communiqué	Climate, energy and environment ministers' communiqué	Ministerial meeting on gender equality and women's empowerment ministers' statement	G7 Development ministers' meeting communiqué
<b>Japan (2023)</b>	Hiroshima leaders' communiqué	Finance ministers' and central bank governors' meeting communiqué	Climate, energy and environment ministers' communiqué	Fact sheet: promoting gender mainstreaming through the nexus approach	G7 Leaders' statement on economic resilience and economic security  Clean energy economy action plan
<b>Germany (2022)</b>	Elmau leaders' communiqué	Finance ministers' and central bank governors' meeting communiqué	Climate, energy and environment ministers' communiqué	Joint statement of the gender equality ministers	Statement on climate club  Terms of reference for the climate club

**Table A2. G20 key documents**

Presidency	Leaders' track	Finance track			Sherpa track			Other
		Finance ministers and central bank governors	International financial architecture	Sustainable finance	Environment	Development	Women's empowerment	
<b>Brazil (2024)</b>	Rio leaders' declaration	<p>Third Finance ministers' and central bank governors' meeting communiqué</p> <p>Fourth finance ministers' and central bank governors' meeting communiqué</p>	G20 Roadmap towards better, bigger and more effective multilateral development banks	2024 G20 sustainable finance report	Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group ministerial declaration	Development Working Group G20 Rio update		Side event report: the G20 finance track and women: the quest for equality and women's empowerment in building a just world and a sustainable planet
<b>India (2023)</b>	New Delhi leaders' declaration	<p>Third G20 Finance ministers' and central bank governors' meeting G20 Outcome document and Chair's summary</p> <p>Fourth finance ministers' and central bank governors' meeting communiqué</p>			G20 Environment and climate ministers' meeting outcome document and Chair's summary	<p>Development ministers' meeting outcome document and Chair's summary</p> <p>Action plan on accelerating progress on the SDGs</p>	G20 Ministerial conference on women empowerment Chair's statement	



Indonesia (2022)	Bali leaders' declaration	Third G20 Finance ministers' and central bank governors' meeting Chair's summary  Fourth G20 Finance ministers' and central bank governors' meeting Chair's summary			G20 Joint environment and climate ministers' meeting Chair's summary  Energy transitions ministers' meeting Chair's summary	Chair's summary on multilateralism for Sustainable Development Goals – G20 Development ministerial meeting	Ministerial conference on women's empowerment Chair's summary	Decade of actions – Bali energy transitions roadmap
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Table A3. UNFCCC key documents

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – COP								
Presidency	Mitigation	Adaptation	Loss and damage	Finance	Technology development and transfer	Capacity-building	Gender	Other
<b>Azerbaijan (2024)</b>  <b>COP29</b>			Warsaw international mechanism for loss and Damage	Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance  Report of the Green Climate Fund  Report of the Global Environment Facility		Report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building	Gender and climate change	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform  Matters relating to the least developed countries  Report of COP29: proceedings
	Impact of the implementation of response measures		Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage	New funding arrangements, including a fund, for responding to loss and damage  Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance	Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism		Gender and climate change	Report of COP28: proceedings

<b>Egypt (2022)</b>  <b>COP27</b>				Report of the Green Climate Fund  Report of the Global Environment Facility  Administrative, financial and institutional matters				
	Sharm el-Sheikh implementation plan	National adaptation plans	Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage	Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance  Report of the Green Climate Fund  Report of the Global Environment Facility	Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism	Report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building	Intermediate review of the implementation of the gender action plan	Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security  Matters relating to the least developed countries  Action plan under the Glasgow work programme on action for climate empowerment  Report of COP27: proceedings

Paris Agreement – COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA)							
Presidency	Mitigation	Adaptation	Loss and damage	Finance	Technology development and transfer	Capacity building	Other
<b>Azerbaijan (2024)</b>	Further guidance on the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4  Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme	Global goal on adaptation	Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage	New collective quantified goal on climate finance  Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund		Report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building	
<b>United Arab Emirates (2023)</b>	Outcome of the first global stocktake  United Arab Emirates just transition work programme  Impact of the implementation of response measures	Global goal on adaptation	Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage	New funding arrangements, including a fund, for responding to loss and damage  Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund	Enhancing climate technology development and transfer to support implementation of the Paris Agreement		
<b>Egypt (2022)</b>	Sharm el-Sheikh implementation plan  Matters relating to cooperative	Global goal on adaptation	Santiago network for averting, minimizing and	Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund	Enhancing climate technology development and transfer to	Report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building	Matters relating to the least developed countries  Action plan under the Glasgow work

	<p>approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2</p> <p>Guidance on the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4</p>		<p>addressing loss and damage</p>		<p>support implementation of the Paris Agreement</p>		<p>programme on action for climate empowerment</p> <p>Report of COP27: proceedings</p>
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Presidency	Kyoto Protocol – COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP)	
	Mitigation	Finance
Azerbaijan (2024)		Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund
United Arab Emirates (2023)	Impact of the implementation of response measures	Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund
Egypt (2022)		<p>Report of the Adaptation Fund Board</p> <p>Fourth review of the Adaptation Fund</p>