



Statement submitted by Deutsches Komitee für UN Women (UN women Germany e.V.), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

The consequences of climate change affect everyone, but they are not gender neutral. The German National Committee for UN Women demands more gender just policies and climate justice.

Even before the Covid 19 pandemic, we've known that extreme incidences like war, displacement, escape, natural disasters and pandemics have an especially negative impact on women and girls and worsen existing inequalities.

Climate change will cause a multitude of these extreme incidences. The consequences of global climate change will affect the global south and therefore women and girls in countries therein especially hard. In sub-Saharan Africa female farmers produce 70% of food. Periods of drought not only menace the economic survival of female farmers and their families, but additionally the lives of people who depend on local food production. Whenever people need to leave their homes due to drought periods or inundations destroying their livelihoods, women and girls on the run are the ones who suffer most.

Women suffer particularly from poor health care, especially concerning sexual and reproductive aspects. If more people become ill due to climate change and are dependent on medical treatment, women and girls are at greater risk. At the same time, women will bear most of the care work, as during the pandemic, whether as health care workers or as providers for their families at home.

We therefore demand effective measures to protect our natural livelihoods, to live, work and do business in a climate neutral way and at the same time to realize gender equality.

- The gender dimension must be taken into account in climate protection and all measures must lead to greater gender equality.
- Women and girls must be involved in decision making at all levels: in risk prevention policies, climate protection plans and recovery strategies – in business, science, governments and administrations, but also in parliaments.
- Climate protection measures must have a social dimension. If a climate neutral private and industrial consumption is to be achieved through price mechanisms,

we need transformation programs for the entire economy, not just for the male-dominated industrial jobs.

- If all modes of production are to become climate neutral, the economic concerns of women producers (even, if they produce in small businesses) must become part of the transformation process. Furthermore, social compensation for private consumers is required so that they can afford climate neutrality.
- Climate protection-related measures alone will not be enough to protect women and girls from harder impacts. Therefore, existing inequalities in all areas have to be overcome, immediately and not at some point in the future.

For years, we are not suffering from a lack of knowledge, but from a lack of action. We are running out of time for implementing the 2030 agenda, in particular SDG 5, Gender Equality. The international community must no longer stop at recommendations, but must finally take action. The realization of Goal 5, Gender Equality, is the prerequisite for the implementation of all SDG's.

We want comprehensive gender equality to become a reality on all levels and in all parts of the world.