







Girls for Climate Action

Position the Beijing +30 Declaration for Action

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Girls for Climate Action (GCA) stands in solidarity with women and girls across Africa and marginalized communities in advocating for climate justice as a fundamental human right. As the Commission on the Status of Women 69 (CSW69) reviews progress on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, we emphasize the urgent need to fully integrate climate action into gender equality frameworks, ensuring that women and girls, particularly from vulnerable communities, are recognized as key actors in climate governance.

We, young women and girls from Uganda and different parts of Africa, come together to assert our position and ensure that the Beijing+30 process centers the lived realities, experiences, and determination of young women and girls in Africa. We stand at the intersection of resilience and urgency. As young women and girls on the frontlines of the climate crisis, Beijing+30 presents an opportunity to collectively address the barriers that hinder our full participation in climate governance, ecosystem leadership, and environmental conservation.

Our voices emerge from a landscape where the struggles of women and girls at the forefront of the climate crisis reverberate louder than the forces that seek to silence them. This position paper stands as a testament to the strength and resilience of those whose stories are often obscured by capitalist, fascist, colonial, and authoritarian structures that prioritize profit over people and the rights of women and girls.

Young people come to the global stage not as passive witnesses but as active architects of change. Our demands for climate justice, especially regarding women and the environment, embody the urgency of now and the foresight for an equitable world. We assert that the Beijing+30 Declaration for Action must bridge a way forward for the SDGs and the next five years of action.

Our futures are non-negotiable, and our demands are imperatives, not mere requests. We are ready to challenge existing power dynamics, disrupt narratives of inaction, and forge a path toward gender-responsive actions that build a climate-resilient and just future where women and girls can thrive..

Our Principles:

- Recognizing the transformative power of girls' education and their role in leading transformational change, a critical area in Beijing+30.
 - Grounded in intersectionality, recognizing the diverse experiences of young women and girls and ensuring that all voices, regardless of background, are heard and valued
 - Recognizing the agency and potential of young women and girls as key drivers of climate action.
 - Commitment to gender equality, dignity, respect, and the protection of rights for all, particularly vulnerable groups.
 - Rejecting false solutions that compromise the well-being of women, girls, and the planet, while defending the commons—"people over profit!"
- Our position is structured around the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Declaration, with a strong emphasis on climate justice. We, therefore, call on our governments, the African Union, the United Nations, the UNFCCC, and other stakeholders to take immediate action.

Women Economic Empowerment

The Beijing Platform for Action emphasizes action on combating poverty in all its forms for Women and girls. This highlights that women are poor and they face multiple discrimination and therefore the need for economic justice.

Climate change exacerbates poverty, disproportionately affecting women and girls in marginalized communities.

Africa stands at the forefront, grappling with the disproportionate impacts of a changing climate. The intricate web of ecosystems, communities, and cultures woven across this vast continent faces unprecedented challenges relentlessly manifested in erratic weather patterns, rising temperatures, and extreme events. While the entire continent is navigating the impacts of a changing climate that is having a big impact on the economy, it is the women and girls often situated in the fringes of society, who bear the brunt of these adversities and pushes them further into poverty.

We recognise that Women, girls and youth emerge as the unsung heroes and resilient custodians of their communities. They navigate the intricate dance between adaptation and survival, often with limited productive resources and land and in the face of deeply entrenched gender inequalities. We also recognize care work as paid labor to support women's dual roles as caregivers and food gatherers that is further exacerbated by the impacts of climate change.

Call to action

- We call for gender-responsive climate financing that prioritizes grassroots women-led initiatives in adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable livelihoods.

- Enable access to productive resources for women and girls especially land ownership, access and governance.

- We demand investments in gender-responsive climate solutions such as energy-efficient cookstoves, water accessibility projects, and financing for women-led green enterprises led by rural and indigenous women and enable their easy and direct access to markets.

- Ensure women and girls access to climate education especially in the field of STEM, agroecology, digital platforms technology and capacity building and strengthening in green entrepreneurship, to empower them as future leaders in climate action. We recognise that education and capacity building is a key pillar of climate resilience.

The Beijing Platform for Action further focuses on women, health and Violence Against Women. However, Climate disasters have continuously intensified gender-based violence (GBV), including displacement-related vulnerabilities and also Climate-induced health crises, including vector-borne diseases and maternal health risks, continue to disproportionately impact women. Women have also faced mental health challenges and the access to reproductive health services in the times of disasters has been greatly affected. The Beijing declaration gives us an opportunity to hold member states to account and ensure transparency especially in the delivery of quality health products and services to women and girls in times of disaster.

Call to action

- We demand for a holistic position on health and building resilience of health systems and to consider health as one of the primary needs for women and girls in Africa that is non-negotiable. We demand for climate change to be fully integrated into local, national and international health policies in order to prepare healthcare systems for climate related health impacts.

- Humanitarian aid/support in the wake of the climate crisis should center access to Sexual and Reproductive Health services for adolescents, women and girls, and youth and access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Innovative strategies to make local sunscreens for persons living with albinism.

- We urge governments to integrate climate resilience into health policies and expand access to gender-responsive healthcare services.

- We call for the inclusion of GBV prevention strategies in climate policies and funding for safe spaces for women and girls in climate-affected areas.

Women and environment, in Power and Decision-Making

Women remain underrepresented in climate governance and yet as primary caretakers of land, have deep-rooted knowledge of sustainable land management. Yet, they are often excluded from decision-making processes and land ownership.

Call to action:

■ We demand legal reforms that ensure women have equal access, management and governance of land and natural resources. FAO data reveals that increasing women's access and governance to land could increase agricultural output in developing countries by up to 30%, bolstering climate resilience and food security.

■ We call for the recognition and integration of indigenous knowledge as an essential pillar of agricultural resilience. Indigenous women, as custodians of traditional farming practices, offer invaluable insights that have sustained communities for generations.

■ We need to prioritize the documentation and dissemination of this knowledge is crucial for building climate-resilient agricultural systems, particularly as climate variability intensifies.

■ We advocate for legal frameworks that mandate gender quotas in climate policy leadership at national and international levels, ensuring African women's voices are heard in COP negotiations.

■ We call for strengthened national gender and climate institutions with adequate funding to implement gender-responsive climate policies, ensuring accountability in commitments to the Paris Agreement and SDGs.

■ Legal protection of climate refugees and displaced women and girls as a result of the climate crisis. Climate migration should be recognised as a human rights issue and the need to protect the often targeted women environmental defenders who are being threatened and harassed as they fight for the shared ecosystems in their local communities.

■ Environmental policies must be gender-transformative. We advocate for land rights for women, community-led conservation efforts, and equitable access to climate adaptation resources.

The Beijing platform for action recognises The Girl-Child under the key critical areas of action

Girls face heightened risks of child marriage, school dropouts, and exploitation due to climate shocks. Our call to action is climate-responsive child protection policies and targeted investments in education for girls in climate-affected regions. Disasters should not push girls out of school.

Beyond the realms of adaptation and mitigation, loss and damage we recognise that some losses are irreversible, and some damages demand justice, and financial redress. Women and girls are redirecting the meager resources to deal with loss and damage. We recognize the non-monetary damage that cannot be restored or replaced, and therefore as young women and girls, we boldly demand for and urge global leaders to recognize climate justice as integral to the Beijing Platform for Action. We call for immediate, gender-responsive climate policies that prioritize African women and girls, ensuring their leadership, resilience, and rights in the face of the climate crisis. We call upon global leaders to uphold the Beijing+30 Declaration for Action as a framework for achieving gender equality in the face of the climate crisis. Our futures are non-negotiable, and our demands must be met with urgent, transformative action.