



# WAGGGS' Key Demands to COP29

## 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 153 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. **COP29 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.**

## SPECIFICALLY, WE CALL ON COP29 TO:

- 1** Invest in resilient, gender-transformative, climate justice education.
- 2** Support women entrepreneurs and income-generating opportunities to enhance their financial resilience.
- 3** Capacity building for gender-inclusive resilience.
- 4** Ensure equitable access to resources and decision-making power for girls and young women in vulnerable communities.
- 5** Ensure access to land, water, and sanitation rights in all climate action.
- 6** Integrate gender-responsive policies and frameworks in climate adaptation and loss and damage strategies.



## 1

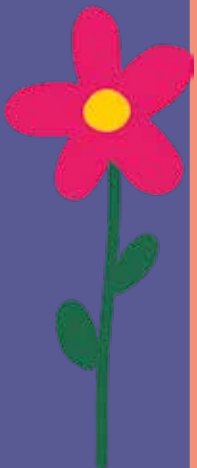
### INVEST IN RESILIENT, GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE, CLIMATE JUSTICE EDUCATION

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 COP29 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).





## 2

### SUPPORTING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND INCOME-GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE THEIR FINANCIAL RESILIENCE

We demand that governments, financial institutions, and development organizations prioritize and invest in programmes and initiatives that support women entrepreneurs and provide income-generating opportunities to enhance their financial resilience in the face of climate induced loss and damage. By empowering women economically, we can help them mitigate the impact of climate-related challenges, secure their livelihoods, and contribute to overall community resilience.

#### CALL TO ACTION

- Prioritize and fund initiatives that support women's income-generating opportunities, empowering them to be financially independent and resilient in the face of climate change impacts in their communities.
- Provide financial inclusion (e.g., access to credit, financial literacy, collateral-free loans, access to microfinancing opportunities, policy and regulatory support, government grants and subsidies) to girls and women to pursue climate resiliency in societies.
- Set up a concrete and structured monitoring and evaluation system of women's empowerment to understand the prevailing challenges women entrepreneurs face, build redressal schemes, and initiate efficient tracking of implementation of already existing laws and policies.





## 3

### CAPACITY BUILDING FOR GENDER-INCLUSIVE RESILIENCE

We insist on the urgent need for capacity-building initiatives tailored to the specific gender dimensions of climate-induced loss and damage in affected regions. Such programs must empower communities, particularly women, to develop the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to effectively cope with and recover from climate impacts. This includes providing training in disaster preparedness, climate-resilient livelihoods, and gender-responsive disaster risk reduction measures. Capacity building should also encompass leadership and decision making skills for women and gender-diverse individuals, enabling their active participation in shaping climate adaptation strategies and recovery efforts. These initiatives must foster gender equality, ensuring that all members of affected communities, regardless of gender, have the capacity to adapt to the changing climate and minimize the impact of loss and damage.

#### CALL TO ACTION

- Leaders at COP29 must commit to financial and political investments in both direct support for women and girls' appropriate education and access to climate 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.
- Prioritize comprehensive gender-responsive climate education and gender-sensitive curricula, awareness, and engagement initiatives that align with the Gender Action Plan.
- Include all girls and women in funded projects decision making as they understand the impact climate change is having on the productive assets upon which they depend





## 4

### ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND DECISION MAKING POWER FOR WOMEN IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

We demand the immediate and unwavering commitment of governments, institutions, and organizations to ensure equitable access to resources and decision-making power for women in vulnerable communities, particularly in the context of loss and damage caused by climate change as gender-inclusive decision-making processes in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction can lead to more effective strategies for addressing loss and damage. The empowerment of women is not only a matter of justice but a fundamental prerequisite for building resilience and achieving sustainable climate solutions. Women's voices must be heard, their perspectives must be valued, and their leadership must be recognized in all climate-related decisions and actions.

#### CALL TO ACTION

- Champion women and gender empowerment in environmental protection through targeted policies, funding, and inclusive decision-making, recognizing the vital role of women in preserving our planet for future generations.
- Ensure women's equal access to resources and decision-making power in climate action, promoting gender equity and inclusive decision processes at all levels.
- Prioritize funding and resources for climate education programmes that are accessible to all girls and young women, to ensure their active engagement in climate action and decision making. Moreover, the funding should address all barriers that prevent girls and women from accessing those programmes once for all.





## 5

### 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.





## 6

### INTEGRATING GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICIES AND FRAMEWORKS IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND LOSS AND DAMAGE STRATEGIES

We call for the immediate integration of comprehensive and well-defined gender-responsive policies and frameworks within climate adaptation and loss and damage strategies. This integration must encompass clear guidelines that address the unique vulnerabilities, roles, and needs of women and men in the face of climate change impacts. Gender considerations should be an intrinsic element of all aspects of adaptation and loss and damage planning, from policy development and resource allocation to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Gender-sensitive approaches are not an option; they are imperative to ensure equitable, effective, and resilient climate responses that leave no one behind.

#### CALL TO ACTION

- Decisions at COP must reflect and address the current emissions gap to keep warming under 1.5 degrees, evaluate climate policies and track commitments made by governments and businesses.
- 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.
- We urge immediate support for the development and implementation of gender sensitive climate policies that address the unique needs and vulnerabilities of women and men, ensuring that climate action is equitable and inclusive.
- Establish and fund gender-responsive climate policies and strategies that prioritize the needs and contributions of girls and young women, with a focus on building resilience and reducing loss and damage.

