

**Call for input “Promotion and protection of human rights in the context of mitigation, adaptation, and financial actions to address climate change, with particular emphasis on loss and damage”**

**1. What experiences and examples are you aware of that are being faced by particularly individuals and communities in vulnerable situations (as identified above) that have suffered loss and damage due to the adverse impacts of climate change?**

- In some areas, individuals and sometimes entire communities have had to experience relocation of their homes and lives after climate hazards, such as cyclones, which implies loss of identity, territory, property, and livelihood opportunities
- Small-hold farmers have suffered both economically and culturally as their farmland has been destroyed by the effects of extreme weather, such as hurricanes, drought, flooding and cyclones through for example saltwater intrusion and soil degradation. They can no longer live of the land as they have done in the past, sometimes for generations, losing both their income opportunities as well as food sovereignty and the types of lives they used to live (loss of social identity, cultural heritage and agricultural production).
- When livelihoods are destroyed, such as home gardening, women often have to rely on the income of men meaning they loss their autonomy and also puts them on (further) risk of violence.
- Many female-headed households rely completely on farming to secure their income and food consumption. In many contexts, for example Palestine, women do not have many alternatives so those that practice farming in the family usually have no other source of income or job opportunity. Hence, the adverse impacts of climate change and extreme weather on agriculture sector directly and disproportionately affect women practicing farming. When natural resources become limited as a result of the environmental and climate crisis, several consequences take place including higher need for agriculture inputs, lower production quality and quantity as well as limited income which in turn makes them highly vulnerable with limited coping mechanisms and less adaptive or absorptive capacity to climatic hazards and related stresses.
- Women who collect herbs and food from nature are highly vulnerable to extreme weather events that could cause the disappearance of the natural plants they are collecting or could stop them from reach those areas.
- During extreme weather such as droughts, and floods, women tend to work more to secure their households’ livelihoods. This in turn leave less time for women to access training and education, develop skills or earn income. Hence, they suffer loss of time, opportunities, skills and income.
- Farmers struggle with the effects of climate change which impact their incomes, livelihoods, yields and practices. High temperatures and heat waves increase the spread of diseases and pests and even the appearance of new ones causing changes in crop area and pattern due to decreases in optimal farming conditions and result in decreased crop and livestock productivity. Low rainfall postpones planting dates, and low temperatures delay maturation and harvesting. High temperatures are causing loss of soil organic matter, reduction in soil moisture content, loss of soil structure and increase mineralization and respiration rates, while decrease in rainfall

amounts have other impacts including reduction of Fe and nitrates, reduction in soil organic matter, increase soil salinization, and reduction in nutrient availability. In case of floods and winds soil is also affected by increased soil surface runoff and erosion and nutrient leaching. This adversely affects the agro-production process, the dependent economy as well as the livelihood and food security of farmers.

- There has been an increase in the reliance on negative coping mechanisms, including reduction of food intake, as well as in borrowing food from friends or relatives among farmers who suffer from losses and damages to their agricultural production due to climate change. Repeated climate shocks can undermine these households' ability to maintain their livelihood asset base or to reinvest in agriculture, leading some to chronic food insecurity, malnutrition, poor health, and lack of economic productivity. This could also bring major social, economic and health changes and risk exacerbating existing inequalities and tensions.
- The livelihoods of the poor and women are particularly affected by the climate crisis. The vast majority of female farmers /workers in the agricultural sector are the most affected and this is exacerbated by the current and future climate change adverse impacts, in terms of inequality in the ownership and control of household assets, increased family burdens, declining access to food and water. Hence, increased exposure to disasters caused by climate change can undermine women's ability to achieve economic independence, and promote human capital, maintaining health and well-being. As women become less able to generate independent income, gender norms and imbalances in socioeconomic status increase and therefore women are less able to participate in formal labor markets, join civil society organizations, or mobilize collectively for political change. The results of these processes can reduce the level of gender equality in society through restrictions on the advancement of laws and norms that promote equal gender status.

**2. What legislation, policies and practices do you think are necessary to provide redress for particularly individuals and communities in vulnerable situations that have suffered and will continue to suffer loss and damage due to the adverse impacts of climate change?**

There needs to be compensation – a funding mechanism for loss and damage under the UNFCCC needs to be established as well as mechanisms to ensure that the funding reaches those most affected.

Discriminatory social norms and practices that hinder women and youth in many contexts, for example Palestine, to have the same access to financial products and services as men needs to be addressed. Likewise, legislation needs to ensure that women have the same access to, use of and control over land and other productive resources. If these types of structural barriers are not removed, then women will be disproportionately affected by the climate crisis as their ability to cope with and adapt to the impacts of climate change will be hampered and they will suffer (more) loss and damage.

**3. Please provide examples of policies and practices (including legal remedies) and concepts of how States, business enterprises, civil society and intergovernmental organisations can provide redress and remedies for individual and communities in vulnerable situations who have suffered loss and damage to the adverse impacts of climate change.**

Organizational and policy solutions are needed to solve the climate change challenges including strengthening farmers' (and other vulnerable groups) compensation system against natural hazard induced disasters through improving financial allocations for this system, create MFIs tailored programmes, adopt suitable strategies to reduce the impact of climate change, supporting the establishment of regulatory framework and enabling investment and funding environment, supporting an effective and sustainable agricultural insurance system and climate early warning system. All shall be counted while considering gender and social inclusion.

4. Please provide examples of ways in which States, the business enterprises, civil society and intergovernmental organisations have provided redress and remedies for individuals and communities in vulnerable situations who have suffered loss and damage due to the adverse effects of climate change.
  
5. **What international, regional and national policies and legal approaches are necessary to protect current and future generations and achieve intergenerational justice for particularly for individuals and communities, from the adverse impacts of climate change?**
  - There needs to be accountability mechanisms to ensure commitments and emission targets are reached
  - We need to move beyond recommendations and guidelines to legislation on international, transboundary emissions and environmental impact– including from aviation and shipping, plastic, chemicals, deforestation and overfishing
  - NDCs need to include emissions from the military
  - The underlying root causes of climate risks and vulnerabilities need to be addressed, instead of only their effects and impacts.
  - Ecocide needs to be made illegal in all countries and legal remedies established to hold businesses and political leaders accountable for ecocide within and across national boundaries.
  
6. In 2021 at 26th session of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), some Parties and civil society organisations proposed a new financial facility to support loss and damage.
  - a. Please provide ideas and concepts on how a new facility would operate and how the funds needed to underwrite this fund would be established and maintained.
  - b. Please provide ideas and concepts on how a new financial facility for loss and damage could provide redress and remedies for individuals and communities in vulnerable situations who have suffered loss and damage due to the adverse impacts of climate change.
  
7. **What actions are necessary to enhance actions by States, business enterprises, civil society and intergovernmental organisations to dramatically increase efforts to reduce emissions of**

**greenhouse gases, including through support to developing countries, in particular small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing States, to limit the human rights impacts on particularly individuals and communities in vulnerable situations to the adverse impacts of climate change?**

- Ensure access to sustainable and renewable energy sources
- Improve legislation around extractive industries
- Their needs to be legally binding mechanisms that penalize large-scale emissions, investments in fossil fuels as well as greenwashing.
- Emission targets need to be science-based
- All investments need to be based on environmental assessments.

**8. What actions are necessary to enhance actions by States, business enterprises, civil society and intergovernmental organisation to increase efforts to ensure that actions to adapt to the impacts of climate change contribute to reducing, and not exacerbating, the vulnerabilities of individuals and communities in vulnerable situations to the adverse impacts of climate change?**

- Clear information and knowledge on risk of maladaptation – and climate assessments tools that ensure avoidance of maladaptation
- Improved practices on risk assessment and actions plans to look at multiple risk and the interplay of risk, including environmental risks, such as biodiversity loss and pollution. A common example of climate action is tree planting, but without properly looking at the environmental aspects, you risk planting the wrong type of trees at the wrong places – causing risks to the ecosystem and biodiversity as well as risks to livelihood opportunities and land rights.
- Limit investment and building of large-scale hydropower plants as they often inflict on human rights and cause harm to the local environment
- Adaptation initiatives should identify and address gender-specific impacts of climate change particularly in areas related to water, food security, agriculture, energy, health, disaster management, and conflict. Important gender issues associated with climate change adaptation, such as inequalities in access to resources, including credit, extension and training services, information and technology should also be taken into consideration
- Youth and women's priorities and needs must be reflected in the development planning and funding. Youth and women should be part of the decision making at national and local levels regarding allocation of resources for climate change initiatives. It is also important to ensure gender-sensitive investments in programmes for adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building.
- Organizations and donors should also take into account women-specific circumstances when developing and introducing technologies related to climate change adaptation and to try their best to remove the economic, social and cultural barriers that could constraint women from

benefiting and making use of them. Involving women in the development of new technologies can ensure that they are adaptive, appropriate and sustainable. At national levels, efforts should be made to mainstream gender perspective into national policies and strategies, as well as related sustainable development and climate change plans and interventions.

- Knowledge, awareness, and capacity building are key elements for improving agricultural practices towards more climate adaptable practices. This includes introducing the suitable technologies and practices that fit the context with the provision of suitable capacity building to operate and maintain them, building the farmers' capacities (with special focus on women and youth) to assess and prevent climate change risks, improving the societal awareness regarding climate change issues and how to overcome them and reduce practices that increase the exposure to its risks, connecting farmers with means of communication as early warning systems, providing an integrated training program to the farmers, conduct exchange visits, improving human resource capacities to become able to adapt and resist external disturbances and recover from pests, droughts, weather fluctuations, and storms.