



INTER-GENERATIONAL DIALOGUE ON GENDER EQUALITY TODAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW OUTCOME DOCUMENT

#IWD2022

On the occasion of the International Women's Day 2022, the United Nations (UN) organizations in Türkiye organized a joint event around the global theme of the 66th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to draw attention to the climate crisis and its impacts on women and girls. The “**Inter-Generational Dialogue on Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow**” was held online on 16 March 2022. Reinforcing the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in tackling the climate crisis in Türkiye, the event hosted diverse stakeholders who discussed the role women and girls play in climate action. The event also aimed at strengthening inter-generational solidarity, a building block of the [Generation Equality Campaign](#).

The event was organized under the coordination of the UN Result Group on Women's Empowerment led by UN Women, the UN Result Group on Climate Change, Sustainable Environment and Liveable Cities led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with the contributions of 10 UN Organizations (FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIC, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women) as well as the Resident Coordinator's Office. 177 participants including representatives from the Turkish Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, local governments, academia, diplomatic missions, trade unions and civil society organizations as well as youth climate activists were actively involved in the inter-generational dialogue.

The guest speakers of Inter-Generational Dialogue Session were: Selma Acuner representing Women's Coalition, Aslı Kaya, co-founder of S.S. Özgür Turna Women's Initiative Manufacturing and Business Cooperative, and Youth Climate Envoy representatives Nuray Çaltı and Meryem Payveren. Bringing together different generations and stakeholders, the session offered a platform where the following points were made, and a series of recommendations were developed:

Women's organizations and women activists play a critical role in climate action. Disproportionate and varying impacts of the climate crisis on women and girls exacerbate existing forms of discrimination and inequalities.

Women and girls should be included in all processes associated with shaping climate policies. Women's labour in agriculture sector and their access to natural resources and production opportunities need to be redesigned.

It is essential to question gender inequalities in terms of climate injustice, to strengthen the connection between these two advocacy fields and to address climate crisis from the perspective of women's human rights and environmental rights.

Gender equality should be integrated into policy documents on climate change. It is essential to establish support and monitoring mechanisms to ensure women's equal participation in local, national and international climate platforms and negotiations, and their representation at the leadership level.

The role of women farmers and producers in the conservation of biodiversity should be encouraged. In addition, women's economic empowerment should be guaranteed and sustainable food systems should be preserved through policy-making and practices that recognize women's central role in agriculture and acknowledge their unpaid labor.

The issue of underrepresentation of civil society in official negotiations at the global level, including the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, must be addressed. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Paris Climate Agreement and CEDAW General Recommendation 37 can be taken as guiding documents. On the other hand, the work carried out by the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Coalition, which is among the Generational Equality Action Coalitions, must be closely followed up.

The ideas and suggestions of nearly 100 participants engaged in two workshops that took place after the Inter-Generational Dialogue session are as follows:

Workshop I: Advancing women's participation and leadership in decision making in climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs

- ☞ Increasing the effectiveness of women's cooperatives, integrating a gender equality perspective into cooperative efforts, establishing gender equality committees within cooperatives and including gender equality in the cooperative statutes;
- ☞ Promoting greater representation of women in chambers of agriculture;
- ☞ Formulating women's employment policies across the renewable energy industry, and supporting renewable energy cooperatives under the leadership of women; expediting women's acquisition of necessary technical knowledge, skills and experience through cooperatives; and this way, ensuring that women are empowered to take part in the green economy as envisaged in the [European Green Deal](#);
- ☞ Including policies that oversee the needs of rural women in climate change action plans, and developing climate change awareness trainings in partnership with the academia, rural women pioneers in agriculture and women producers' platforms;
- ☞ Türkiye becoming a party to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters ([Aarhus Convention](#)) and carrying out campaigns for its integration into Türkiye's system;
- ☞ Ensuring that women and girls enjoy freedom of expression and realize their unlimited potential by accessing safe online media through the vision of Generation Equality Forum [Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality](#);
- ☞ Developing a system of envoys to create solidarity among women working in the fields of climate, environment and technology and to consolidate the working areas of intergenerational dialogue, and extending this system to also include young climate envoys from Türkiye;
- ☞ Creating opportunities for girls to assume an active role in addressing climate justice with the efforts of parents, educators, local governments, chambers of agriculture, provincial directorates of agriculture, as well as politicians; creating spaces of engagement for women and girls of all ages through women's climate networks and UN agencies; increasing visibility of youth initiatives and organizations across digital media; promotion of direct and active participation of young climate activists in international platforms by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UN agencies.

Workshop II: Building women's resilience against climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction

Climate change entails a series of contexts that need to be individually addressed in terms of "resilience and adaptation in the face of environmental degradation and disasters", "climate impact mitigation" and "managing the green transition" as well as "how gender equality and climate agenda are interlinked".

Women are more vulnerable to climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, and they are more severely affected by accompanying issues such as loss of livelihoods, poverty and climate migration.

Considering their involvement in small scale or subsistence production activities, and their leadership in taking responsibilities for the care and wellbeing of their families and communities, women are also critical agents in climate impact mitigation and adaptation at the local level and they play a vital role in the delivery and dissemination of sustainability solutions.

Rural women's leadership is valuable, especially in the management of natural resources and food security.

Recommended actions are listed below:

- ☞ Urging a greater role for women farmers in transforming the understanding of development in terms of ecology and agricultural biodiversity; ensuring more diverse opportunities for women's employment across relevant fields, increasing the resilience of small farmers' organizations;
- ☞ To this end, increasing incentives for organic farming as an area where women are actively involved; and supporting small farming initiatives such as regenerative agriculture, natural farming, and permaculture as well as agro-ecology practices and rural tourism;
- ☞ Formulating disaster action plans based on vulnerability analysis in order to improve disaster management; and including gender equality in national plans for disaster risk reduction and management;
- ☞ Developing targeted policies to ensure the resilience and safety of particularly vulnerable groups of women, such as the elderly, disabled, poor and single mothers, in the face of climate change and disasters;
- ☞ Taking action to empower women advocates of environmental rights and activists fighting for saving wildlife.

Although women are among the natural allies of climate action, climate mitigation and green transition alone cannot be expected to eliminate gender inequalities.

To the contrary, the transition period may as well bring about negative consequences such as violence against women, exacerbation of gender-based discrimination in competing for jobs, increased domestic burden of women due to risk of poverty, and escalation of gendered coping methods such as early marriages. Special action needs to be taken to address these threats, and effective social protection measures should be implemented for quitting pollutants and transitioning to sustainable jobs.

It is essential to collectively promote the practices of “green economy” which are designed to make human life and consumption habits sustainable and nature-compatible, and the practices of gender-responsive “purple economy”.

Equitable and sustainable purple and green jobs that prioritize care services industry, including service delivery in rural areas, should be created.

Efforts should be launched today in the fields of sectoral strategies, education, training, recruitment and workplace policies in order to ensure equal representation of women in the new jobs to be created as a part of the green transition and relevant targets should be included in policy documents.



Alvaro Rodriguez *United Nations Resident Coordinator in Türkiye*

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We must join our forces even more strongly now. For the generations to come, we must create spaces for women, girls, and young people to bring in their experience, knowledge, and vision and take up leadership positions in climate action.”

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There are women and girls who are the most vulnerable and most affected by climate change, making up 50% of the world’s population. It is critical that women, who carry the adverse effects of climate change on their shoulders, can make their voices heard at every stage and level of policies to combat climate change, participate effectively and be in decision-making positions. The public and private sector, civil society, academia, and international organizations should be role models for the society as leading actors in strengthening women’s participation and leadership.”

Ayşin Turpancı

Head of Department for Climate Negotiations and International Policies, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change



Asya Varbanova *UN Women Türkiye Country Director*

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Climate change is not an issue of the future. It is an issue of now. Gender inequality coupled with the climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Women, and especially young women and girls, are environmental defenders and climate activists to guide our planet’s conservation. We need more participation and space for women and youth in decision-making.”

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Covid-19 pandemic or climate change, environmental disasters and shocks do not display much difference in their gender dynamics. They consistently prove that gender inequalities are exacerbating our risks and debilitating our resilience, and eventually risking our future. Gender inequality, crisis vulnerability, climate, and environmental risks are interacting and forming vicious cycles which we need to break out of, as soon as possible, for a sustainable future. Gender lens approaches and youth and women leadership are two critical keys for effective climate action, disaster resilience, and a sustainable future.”

Seher Alacacı Ariner

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Türkiye Assistant Resident Representative (Programme)

