

CHARTER FOR ENGAGEMENT

*TAKING THE LEAD FOR INCLUSION:
WOMEN LEADING CLIMATE ACTION*



PREAMBLE

We, members of the Women's Forum and Women & Climate Daring Circle, and signatories of this Charter are convinced that women have an essential contribution to make in the fight against climate change; that climate action must recognise the differentiated impact of our changing climate on women; and that the transition to a green economy is a considerable opportunity for women's economic, social and political empowerment.

We affirm that equal access of women and men to leadership, education, means of actions, representation and opportunities are key levers to accelerate the sustainability transition at the pace required by the challenges ahead we face.

- **Remembering** that this Charter builds upon the **Women's Forum's engagement at COP21, its Rome Manifesto**, the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan adopted at COP 23, and the work undertaken by the Women and Gender Constituency recognising their value as precedents, engagements and milestones in terms of gender-based climate action implementation;
- **Recalling** the conclusion drawn by the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007, that **climate change does not impact women and men in the same way**, especially among the poor;
- **Considering** the **goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement** and objective 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals **to reach gender equality by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050**, to limit global warming well below 2°C and if possible 1.5°C;
- **Convinced** that with **ambitious policies and action undertaken with no further delay**, climate change and its bleak consequences are still avoidable;
- **Affirming** that, as leaders, innovators, political actors, entrepreneurs, decision-makers, and in the household, **women can be a driving force** in the achievement of vital climate targets;
- **Acknowledging** the **important influence of the youth**, whose ideas and mobilisation are essential to the future of the planet and the strategic role academic institutions can play in addressing major societal challenges;
- **Conscious** that given the scale of the challenges, the **convergence in action of all stakeholders** is essential to establish a coordinated, collaborative and impactful response.

We call for governments, local authorities, academic institutions, corporates, private and public sectors, associations and individuals to work together to drive inclusive climate action at scale.

CHARTER FOR ENGAGEMENT

I Achieve gender equality in climate decision-making bodies by 2030

We call for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making at all levels as key leaders of change to achieve the Paris Agreement and SDG ambitions of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 and gender equality by 2030.

II Raise awareness among all generations of the interactions between gender and climate and provide girls with access to education and green jobs

We call for the systematic incorporation of climate-related information and awareness in school programmes to raise the ecological consciousness of all citizens. We also call for increased education of girls and women, to increase girls' and women's access to the opportunities presented by the transition to an inclusive and sustainable economy.

III Improve access to essential and productive means to enable women's full engagement in climate change action

We call for universal access to essential means of action to unleash women's potential in the fight against climate change through greater access to social and economic capital such as legal rights, energy, mobility, health and finance.

IV Integrate gendered data to highlight and inform the development of climate policies and actions

We call for the integration of gendered considerations in climate strategies, through the incorporation of gender-disaggregated metrics and data into evaluation, planning and development activities, in order to better inform climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and programmes, reduce the disproportionate impacts on women and girls and remove barriers for them to lead the change.

V Finance and develop gender-responsive and scalable social, economic and technological climate solutions

We call for a systemic change, towards sustainable and inclusive production and consumption models, especially in the financial and energy sectors, to channel resources and opportunities (finance, technology, network, etc.) and scale-up gender-conscious climate actions to achieve Paris and SDG-compatible ambitions.

OUR COMMITMENTS

Today, seeking to lead by example, we take the following engagements to provide access for women to five key enablers of their representation and participation in climate action:

Goal 1: Achieve gender equality in climate decision-making bodies by 2030

***Observing that,** despite having held vital leadership positions in climate actions such as the Paris Agreement negotiations, women remain underrepresented in politics and at high levels of private organisations. They currently represent only 6% of ministerial positions responsible for national energy policies and programmes and 15% of Green Climate Fund Boards.*

***We call for** the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making at all levels as key leaders of change to achieve the Paris Agreement and SDG ambitions of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 and gender equality by 2030.*

- **We as public authorities,** commit to supporting and providing equal opportunities for women's leadership and increased participation in decision-making processes. We commit to nominate women to governing bodies or publicly administered organisations related to climate, environment and energy, at international, national and local levels.
- **We as corporates,** commit to achieving balanced representation of women and men in decision-making bodies and in all functions involved in climate actions, including strategy, energy, CSR, financial and risk management.
- **I as an individual,** commit to facilitating equal gender representation in climate action by adopting an inclusive approach in my professional and personal initiatives.

OUR COMMITMENTS

Goal 2: Raise awareness among all generations of the interactions between gender and climate and provide girls with access to education and green jobs

Observing that while women demonstrate a stronger belief in the need for behavioural changes to reduce the effects of climate change, persistent education and employment barriers have limited women's capacity to lead changes. Currently, more than half a billion women worldwide are illiterate, and only 20-25% of the workforce in the energy sector are women, in part due to lower participation in STEM education.

We call for the systematic incorporation of climate-related information and awareness in school programmes to raise the ecological consciousness of all citizens. We also call for increased education of girls and women, to increase girls' and women's access to the opportunities presented by the transition to an inclusive and sustainable economy.

- **We as public authorities and academic institutions**, commit to raising awareness of the gender and climate nexus among all citizens and decision-makers through revised curricula, continuous education programmes and innovative media initiatives. We also commit to enabling girls and women to become agents of change by significantly increasing their access to education, training and employment opportunities related to the sustainable transition, through gender-conscious education policies and supporting programmes for women.
- **We as corporates**, commit to providing equal access for women to continuous training and jobs in climate-related sectors, through inclusive recruitment process, dedicated training, mentoring and awareness raising programmes, and promotion of gender-equal, climate-responsible corporate culture.
- **I as an individual**, commit to informing myself of the intersection of climate and gender issues, and to supporting gender equality and sustainable behaviours in education and the workplace.

OUR COMMITMENTS

Goal 3: Improve access to essential and productive means to enable women's full engagement in climate change action

***Observing that** globally, women are more likely to lack essential resources and means of action, including access to energy, legal rights, property ownership, mobility and health, which hinders their ability to participate in the uptake and scaling of sustainable practices that women have a greater tendency to adopt. For example, while one fourth of all economically active women are engaged in agriculture, women own just 15% of the world's agricultural land, which prevents them from adopting or scaling sustainable technologies and innovations that could increase on-farm yields by 20-30%. When women run businesses or take climate action, they tend to create more inclusive organisations and share benefits with their communities.*

***We call for** universal access to essential means of action to unleash women's potential in the fight against climate change through greater access to social and economic capital such as legal rights, energy, mobility, health and finance.*

- **We as public authorities**, commit to implementing and strengthening policies that guarantee all citizens, especially women, the same rights to natural resources, property, social and economic capital, in order to ensure that women have equal access to the means of action to contribute to and benefit from the transition to a green economy.
- **We as corporates**, commit to ensuring that, where suitable, essential products and services are accessible and adoptable to all, particularly those addressing the basic needs of the most vulnerable, especially women (land, water, food, energy, housing, mobility, health and finance).
- **I as an individual**, commit to calling for equal rights for women and men to access social and economic capital.

OUR COMMITMENTS

Goal 4: Integrate gendered data to highlight and inform the development of climate policies and actions

***Observing that** women are disproportionately impacted by climate disturbances – currently 80% of climate refugees are women and women are 14 times more likely to die than men during climate-related disasters – and that many national climate action and disaster preparedness plans do not account for the gendered components of climate risk. Further, that transformation efforts should also account for the differentiated experience of women; for example, in urban planning, by accounting for the impact of air pollution upon maternal health, and by making public transport safe and useable.*

***We call for** the integration of gendered considerations in climate strategies, through the incorporation of gender-disaggregated metrics and data into evaluation, planning and development activities, in order to better inform climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and programmes, reduce the disproportionate impacts on women and girls and remove barriers for them to lead the change.*

- **We as public authorities**, commit to include gender disaggregated data in all national action plans and disaster planning, and accelerate the creation of open databases containing gender-disaggregated information to facilitate the assessment by cities, territories and corporates of their vulnerabilities to climate change. We also commit to organise participatory and inclusive processes in the development of gender-responsive climate policies.
- **We as corporates**, commit to engaging in climate risk assessment and to developing climate-responsive solutions along our value chains, with the integration of gender disaggregated data and components, in particular regarding vulnerability.
- **I as an individual**, commit to calling on my representatives to instigate gender-sensitive climate action and to supporting initiatives for gender-responsive climate resilience.

OUR COMMITMENTS

Goal 5: Finance and develop gender-responsive and scalable social, economic and technological climate solutions

***Observing that** engagement in climate action remains fragmented and insufficient to drive action to the scale needed to meet ambitious global targets, and that gender-responsive climate solutions remain underrepresented in agendas for business strategy, financial decision-making, technological innovation and network organisation.*

***We call for** a systemic change, towards sustainable and inclusive production and consumption models, especially in the financial and energy sectors, to channel resources and opportunities (finance, technology, network, etc.) to scale-up gender-conscious climate actions to achieve Paris and SDG-compatible ambitions.*

- **We as public authorities**, commit to prioritising and channelling finances and resources for gender-inclusive climate actions through increased climate finance, sustainable public procurement policies, and promotion of standardised environmental labelling, particularly in five key sectors: finance, energy, agriculture, urban development and transport.
- **We as corporates**, commit to designing and scaling innovative sustainable and gender-sensitive technologies, business models (circular economy) and financing instruments (microfinance, green financial products) that are compatible with a 1.5°C trajectory and that ensure women's participation.
- **I as an individual**, commit to adopting an environmentally and socially responsible lifestyle, and to requesting further disclosure of the climate performance and gender-sensitivity of products and services.

With less than 12 years to reverse global warming and halt its catastrophic impacts, we must collaborate to address climate change – and we must do it now. **As we act, taking a gendered approach is crucial**, in part because women are disproportionately impacted by climate change. Around 80% of current climate refugees are women and women are 14 times more likely to die than men during climate-related disasters.

We also know that **women's leadership and participation can accelerate climate action**. Numerous studies show that women think more long-term and that communities and organisations with more women leaders perform better against a wide range of sustainability measures. Women's leadership has also been found to bring in 20% more patents – spearheading innovation for sustainable results within businesses. If women farmers - one quarter of all economically active women - had the same access to finance and resources as men, on-farm yields could increase by as much as 20-30%.

Our focus should not be on women as victims of climate change - **they are critical positive actors, leaders, designers and implementers of solutions**. We urgently need more women to join the fight and to create the conditions where all women can contribute equally to men.

This is why the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society created the Women & Climate Daring Circle – to empower women and highlight the vital role women can play, while identifying scalable solutions through which they can bring added value in climate action. The Women & Climate Daring Circle is identifying solutions to:

- Empower women to lead actions against climate change,
- Create a new, equal and sustainable economy
- Address the disproportionate impact climate change has on women's empowerment and equality.

Ultimately, the Circle's focus is on identifying courses of action. Through a combination of scenario analysis, research, best practises and expert consultation, the Circle is working to communicate and scale solutions – both existing and new – to drive women's empowerment and climate action simultaneously.

Together, governments, the private sector and all of us as individuals can help to make a sustainable and equal world a reality.

MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN & CLIMATE DARING CIRCLE

Lead by



L'ORÉAL

In collaboration with



with 

in association with



as Knowledge Partners

WHY A CHARTER?

22 years after the birth of the landmark Kyoto Protocol, the **Women's Forum launches the first charter linking climate and women**, convinced that **women's leadership can contribute to solving climate challenges**.

Under the theme **Taking the lead for inclusion: Women leading climate action**, the Women's Forum aim to amplify the powerful voices and differentiated vision of women and girls in support of urgent and sustained climate progress. Capitalising on the talent, insights and leadership of women is vital for identifying and accelerating innovative solutions. Failing to do so means putting the green progress of our economies and societies at risk, today and in the future. Women are not only victims; **they can and must bring added value and innovative solutions and become powerful actors of change**.

Climate change raises the stakes - and makes the need for inclusion all the clearer. Gender inclusion is imperative; a precondition for achieving sustainable growth, clean energy transitions, and inclusive innovation on climate change. Women have the **capacity to lead in the green economy**. Through climate entrepreneurship, public policy, green finance, and civil society action, **women's leadership is central to designing and implementing solutions at scale** on the frontlines of climate endangered areas and in the boardrooms of global companies.

At the Women's Forum, we focus on promoting individuals, companies and states to lead by example.

Based on insights and recommendations from business, youth movements, the non-government sector, government, academia and beyond, and key initiatives like the Women & Climate Daring Circle, the Women's Forum brings concrete recommendations and commitments to act as well as projects to scale. These are summarised in our **solution oriented Charter for Engagement**, which calls for action from individuals, corporates and governments. We are convinced that only together, we will build a community of committed stakeholders for **inclusive climate action**.

Our Charter also aims to **enrich the work of the governments** and their commitments to create a favourable environment for women's leadership in climate action – for the benefit of us all.

LET'S ENGAGE FOR IMPACT!



Chiara Corazza

Managing Director

Women's Forum for the Economy & Society

VISION

The Women's Forum for the Economy & Society is a leading platform dedicated to highlighting women's voices and added values on global issues.

THE WOMEN'S FORUM IS COMMITTED TO BRINGING A GENDERED PERSPECTIVE TO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES AFFECTING ALL PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.

The Women's Forum for the Economy & Society creates the conditions for women leaders to **engage for impact** thus contributing to a **more inclusive world**.

We focus on **women's issues as human issues**, and we believe the leadership of women is crucial to unlocking fresh solutions.

We seek to accelerate the transformation of businesses, governments, cultural and civil society actors towards **gender parity and diversity as a means** to drive inclusive progress.

2019 Meetings

Stand, Speak, Rise Up!

26-27 March 2019

Luxembourg

Women's Forum Americas

30-31 May 2019

Mexico City, Mexico

Women's Forum Kyoto

26-27 June 2019

Japan

Women's Forum Asia

18-20 September 2019

Singapore

Women's Forum Global Meeting

20-22 November 2019

Paris, France

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MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S FORUM STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

