



gender action for peace and security

## **GAPS's Statement on COP27**

As COP27 kicked off this weekend in Egypt, GAPS is looking forward to seeing member states come together with women's rights organisations and civil society activists to commit to **transformative action towards net zero that puts people before profits**. Discussions and negotiations about the climate crises are redundant, the time for **actual implementation** is now.

The past year has shown us the catastrophic impact of climate change at the current level of global emissions. **Record heat of 40°C and wildfires** were recorded in the UK, **flooding in Pakistan, South Sudan and Bangladesh** left millions displaced, and **global droughts** are causing food and water shortages<sup>1</sup>. A recent report by the UN Environment Agency led to the devastating finding that there is "no credible pathway to 1.5°C in place"<sup>2</sup>. This is a clear warning to governments that if they do not start turning words into implementation, our planet will continue on a pathway to becoming **uninhabitable**.

At COP27 this year, GAPS is hoping to see the **meaningful inclusion and participation of civil society and women's rights organisations and human rights activists** and a focus on **climate justice** in any discussions.

Women, girls and minority groups feel the **disproportionate impacts of climate change**<sup>3</sup>, as food and water insecurity, displacement and lack of access to health services directly impact their day-to-day lives. Addressing climate change would **reduce the risk to women's and girls' rights**, and any discussions must take this into account. COP26 faced criticism from women's rights organisations and activists for not providing **access to negotiation spaces, and for largely ignoring their needs**<sup>4</sup>. Civil society voices are crucial to **inclusive solutions and responses to climate crises**, and members attending COP27 must commit to ensuring that **key spaces are accessible**.

**Global South countries are the least responsible for but most vulnerable to climate change**, which threatens everyone's **human right to live in a safe and resilient world**. Estimates suggest that unavoidable impacts of climate change could cost Global South countries between \$290 and \$580 billion in 2030, and exceed \$1 trillion by 2050<sup>5</sup>. Alongside climate justice activists, we are calling for governments at COP27 to commit to a Loss and Damage finance facility that would acknowledge and mitigate the **growing and disproportionate financial impact of the climate crises on Global South countries**.

Finally, we recognise the concerns around hosting COP27 in Egypt, a state that has **indiscriminately and violently suppressed the voices of civil society activists and organisations** – including human rights defenders<sup>6</sup>, and we call for the **immediate release of all activists who have been detained for peaceful forms of dissent**. A safe and peaceful COP27 conference cannot happen where activists feel intimidated or threatened, and the Egyptian authorities must take meaningful steps to address this. Effective climate action is not possible without open and safe civic spaces.

GAPS Secretariat, November 2022

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<sup>1</sup> Greenpeace, [You're not imagining it – there really were a lot of climate disasters this summer](#)

<sup>2</sup> UN Environment Agency, [Emissions Gap Report 2022](#)

<sup>3</sup> GAPS, [Defending the Future: Gender, Conflict and Environmental Peace Policy Brief](#)

<sup>4</sup> The Guardian, [COP26 legitimacy questioned as groups excluded from crucial talks](#)

<sup>5</sup> LSE, [What will it take to deliver substantive progress on Loss and Damage at CO27?](#)

<sup>6</sup> COP Civic Space, [The Egyptian human rights coalition on COP27 petition](#)