



gender action for peace and security

The UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates Thursday November 30 2023

On Thursday, 30 November 2023, COP28 begins in Dubai, which will be chaired by an [oil chief executive](#). What has been called for since the very first COP is **transformative action towards net zero that puts people before profits**. The world can not afford any delays on ambitious and rights-based implementation of the Paris Agreement and a **decisive break from fossil fuels**. 2023 is on track to be the [hottest year on record](#) with many extreme and unpredictable weather events. Yet, [according to the UNFCCC](#) – the UN body overseeing the Paris Agreement – even if current national pledges are fulfilled, emissions will rise with 8.8% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels. This means all states, especially Global North states which carry disproportionate historic and contemporary responsibility for the climate crisis, will fail to uphold their commitments to people and planet.

The climate crisis is already here and it is **those least responsible for the climate emergency that are already facing the most severe consequences**. Climate change is a threat multiplier: compounding the impacts of conflict; exacerbating inequalities; and making the escalation of violence more likely. In **Afghanistan**, the brutal regime of gender apartheid imposed by the Taliban means that women and girls face increased food and water insecurity during one of the most [severe and prolonged droughts](#). In **Ukraine**, Russian tactics such as the destruction of critical infrastructure including dams and trench warfare are causing [significant deforestation and biodiversity loss](#), as well as making the disproportionate care burdens women and girls have more dangerous and difficult. In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the [sharp rise in violence](#) is directly linked to increased [global interest in the rare earth minerals](#) essential for a green transition – and demonstrates the danger of climate action that is not rights-based, gender-sensitive and transformative. Yet in responses to these crises, military spending has gone up while development aid has gone down. By ending or reducing the scale of military operations and weapons production, governments can significantly decrease carbon emissions and minimise the devastating environmental and humanitarian impacts of these activities. Reallocating military spending to gender-transformative climate action will further free up resources for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage funding.

Amidst ongoing conflicts and violence, including in **Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Iraq and Libya**, the conference provides a unique opportunity for regional feminists to integrate their perspectives into climate action. There are disastrous environmental consequences in the ongoing Israeli offensive on **Palestine**. The bombings destroyed hospitals, schools, homes, and UN shelters. Unexploded ordnance; the pollution of, and complete shutting down of water supplies; and the use of biological and chemical weapons have [grave consequences](#) for Palestinians and for the long-term health of ecosystems and the environment – which in turn determine the habitability of Gaza.

[Military emissions](#) are a significant yet often excluded source of greenhouse gasses, and environmental scientists are already pointing at the [increased emissions](#) of the violence. This COP28 will for the first time include a [dedicated effort and a possible declaration](#) on the linkages between gender, climate and conflict. From Palestine to Ukraine, from Afghanistan to the DRC, this COP is therefore a long overdue opportunity to bring these linkages to the forefront. To do so successfully, and echoing the [MENA section of feminist in the Women and Gender Constituency](#) and our member the [Women International League for Peace and Freedom](#), we call on states to

- Mainstream gender, the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, and intersecting frameworks regarding marginalised peoples in Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, and all climate and Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness policies, programs and financing on national, regional, and global levels. Conflict-sensitive approaches to climate change must integrate feminist climate justice and the WPS agenda
- Ensure meaningful participation of women and girls in all their diversity across all negotiations, including by providing financial support to women and girls on the frontline of climate change and conflict to attend COP28. Women and girls bring essential knowledge and expertise, respond to the needs of their communities as well as provide best practices to communities elsewhere. Their leadership is crucial for the success of the Paris Agreement
- Reassessment of the annual climate pledge of \$100bn to a New Quantified Goal that represents the true yearly needs of the Global South, including on Loss and Damage, and reformation of multilateral development and financial institutions as well as funding structures to meet Global South needs with a shift towards and prioritization of flexible, gender-transformative, localized mechanisms that directly benefit impacted communities
- Commit to including military emissions in all climate policies, especially their NDCs and the Global Stocktake, and the environmental impacts of conflicts states are involved in. Commit to reversing the trend of increased military spend and redirect resources to meet current outstanding climate finance commitments

Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) Secretariat