

Official Side Event

4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States

Title: Women's Leadership in Climate Action – Investing in Women as Change Agents and First Responders to the Climate Crisis

Hosts: German Federal Foreign Office in partnership with the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)

Moderator: **Timo Stuehm**, First Secretary, German Mission to the United Nations

Date and Time: 29th May 2024, 14:00 – 15:30 AST

Location: American University of Antigua College of Medicine, University Park, Jabberwock Beach Road, Coolidge, Antigua – **Room 2**

Duration: 90 minutes

Event Website: <https://wphfund.org/womens-leadership-in-climate-action-investing-in-women-as-change-agents-and-first-responders-to-the-climate-crisis/>

Abstract

Women and girls are indispensable to climate action. They are essential agents of change when it comes to sustainable solutions. At the same time, they are often most affected by the impacts of climate change. It is therefore critical to invest in women as change agents in climate mitigation and adaptation, peacebuilders and humanitarians acting as first responders to disasters and crises. Promoting the leadership of women is a precondition for and will lead to more effective and inclusive solutions and foster climate resilience. This side event will highlight the work of women's organisations and women entrepreneurs to showcase existing projects and initiatives, such as the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's (WPHF) new Women and Climate Security Initiative, the Rising Nations Initiative (RNI) and the German International Climate Initiative (IKI). The event will bring together representatives from government, the United Nations and civil society.

Objective

This event will highlight the work and good practices of women as change agents and first responders to the climate crisis.

Sub-objectives:

- Highlight existing policy efforts and policy gaps of the international community to promote women's leadership and meaningful participation in climate action.
- Discuss challenges, opportunities and good practices of investing in women's leadership and meaningful participation in climate action.
- Call to Action to promote women's leadership in climate action, including through the WPHF Women & Climate Security Initiative in partnership with Germany.

Agenda

The side event will begin with opening remarks highlighting the importance of promoting local women's leadership and meaningful participation in climate action through feminist foreign policies. This will be followed by an interactive panel and interventions from the floor featuring women leaders from local civil society organizations, global civil society networks and non-partisan institutes at the forefront of climate action. Women leaders will discuss challenges, opportunities and good practices to accelerate women's climate action. The event will conclude with a Call to Action to promote women's leadership and meaningful participation in climate action and flexible funding for women's climate action.

Time	Item	Objectives & Speakers
14:00 - 14:20	Opening	<p>Opening remarks and keynote on policy efforts and gaps of the international community to promote women's leadership and meaningful participation in climate action.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Morgan, State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action, German Federal Foreign Office • Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, UN Women Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, UN System Coordination and Programme Results
14:20 - 15:00	Panel Discussion	<p>Discussion on challenges, opportunities and good practices of investing in women's leadership and meaningful participation in climate action.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Pacific Regional Representative of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Programme Manager of the Pacific Women's Mediator Network, Technical Advisor of the Pacific Island Feminist Alliance for Climate Justice, Fiji • Rueanna Haynes, Director of the Caribbean Team at Climate Analytics, Trinidad and Tobago • Ayesha Constable, Technical Director for Climate Justice at the Global Fund for Women, Founder of the Young People for Action on Climate Change Jamaica and GirlsCARE, Global Advisor to the FRIDA Young Feminist Fund, Jamaica • Shanna Emmanuel, Climate and Disaster Resilience Programme Officer at the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Saint Lucia



15:00 - 15:20	Questions and Interventions from the Floor	Questions and interventions from the floor on challenges, opportunities and good practices of investing in women's leadership and meaningful participation in climate action.
15:20 - 15:30	Closing and Call to Action	<p>Closing remarks and Call to Action to accelerate joint action to promote women's leadership in climate action and flexible funding for women's climate action.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andreas von Uexküll, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs



About the WPHF Women & Climate Security Initiative

The WPHF Women & Climate Security Initiative was launched at COP28 in partnership with Germany. It aims to invest in women's rights and women-led organizations that focus on preventing and responding to climate-related conflicts and injustice. It will involve channelling funding to local women CSOs through a pilot Call for Proposals in the Pacific Region, Nigeria and Colombia followed by a global Call for Proposals across 12 priority countries/groups of countries. UNWomen is acting as the Management Entity for grants at country level. The Initiative will focus on the following impact areas:

- Prevention of climate-related conflicts and injustice: Women participate in and inform decision-making processes and responses related to the prevention of climate-related conflicts and injustice (aligned with WPHF impact area 2)
- Economic and political participation on climate security and climate justice: Women lead and participate in green socio-economic recovery and political decision-making to reduce climate-related conflicts and injustice (aligned with WPHF impact area 6)

The Call for Proposals will make available financing for women's civil society organizations working on climate security and climate justice through programmatic funding grants from 30,000 USD to 200,000 USD and institutional funding with grants from 2,500 USD to 30,000 USD.

Eligible WPHF Countries: Amongst the WPHF list of eligible countries, 12 countries/groups of countries were identified as priorities based on existing funding gaps as well as vulnerability to conflict and climate shocks:

- Bangladesh
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Haiti
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Pacific (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu)
- Palestine
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Sudan

Official Website and Funding Appeal: <https://wphfund.org/women-and-climate-security/>