



79th Commission Session

15-19 May 2023

Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific

Side Event: 79th session of the Commission

18 May 2023, 12:45-13:45 GMT+7

Hybrid, United Nations Conference Centre, CR-3, Level 1 & Zoom

Language: English

Concept Note

Organizers

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Co-organizer

Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Maldives

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Asia-Pacific Regional Office

Registration

In-person participation: All in-person participants must complete the registration form to attend the 79th session of the Commission via Indico: <https://indico.un.org/event/1003482/> by 11 May.

Please register using the option “**Registration for Others**”, choose your Representation Type as “**Non-ESCAP Meeting Participants**” and choose your side event. Those who do not register on Indico will NOT be able to access the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.

Online participation: All online participants must complete the registration form to join via Zoom using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/99765534172> by 17 May.

Background

Climate change and climate-induced disasters are increasingly and continuously threatening development in the Asia-Pacific region. Hard-won development gains are undermined, and underlying drivers of poverty and societal inequalities are exacerbated. Persons in vulnerable situations, in particular women and girls are affected. Moreover, in the region, a majority of the population depends on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods, making them particularly susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change. Gender inequality in access to resources, decision-making power, and opportunities exacerbates these challenges. To address the intersection of gender and climate change, it is crucial to foster an inclusive and gender-responsive approach in climate policies and actions.

Key Questions and Outcomes

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. How do climate change impacts differ for women and men in the Asia-Pacific region, and how can policies be designed to address these disparities?
2. What are some good practices and successful case studies in promoting gender-responsive climate action in the region?
3. What are recommendations and strategies for enhancing gender equality in climate policies and actions?
4. In the context of the forthcoming Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, how can the topic be elevated on the agenda?

Bringing together a diverse panel, this side event will facilitate the exchange of lived experiences from different stakeholders and from different parts of the region. The objective is to propose recommendations for action to ensure that gender perspectives are inclusive and responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations including women and girls.

Programme

Opening and Introduction		12:45 – 12:52
Mr. Björn Andersson Regional Director, Asia-Pacific Regional Office, UNFPA (video statement)	Opening remarks	
Keynote Address		12:53 – 13:58
H.E. Ms. Aishath Mohamed Didi Minister, Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Maldives	Keynote address	
Moderated Panel Discussion <i>(Tentatively 2 rounds of questions, 2-3 minutes for each question per panellist)</i> Moderator: Ms. Sabine Henning , Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP		13:58 – 13:20
Panellists		
H.E. Ms. Aishath Mohamed Didi Minister, Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services, Maldives		
Ms. Maria Holtsberg Deputy Regional Director (OIC)/Humanitarian, DRR, Climate Advisor, Asia-Pacific Regional Office, UN Women		
Ms. Biplabi Shrestha (virtual) Programme Director, Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Malaysia		
Mr. Eduardo Klien Regional Representative, HelpAge International, Asia-Pacific Regional Office, Thailand		
Q & A from the Floor		13:20 – 13:42
All participants		
Closing		13:42 – 13:45
Dr. Srinivas Tata Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP	Closing remarks	

For information, please contact:

Ms. Sabine Henning, Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP (hennings@un.org)

Mr. Napaphat Satchanawakul, Social Affairs Officer, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP (napaphat.satchanawakul@un.org)

Ms. Madu Dissanayake, Programme Specialist, a.i., UNFPA, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (mdissanayake@unfpa.org)

Relevant Documents

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (2018). Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C: available [here](#).

IUCN (2021). Gender and national climate planning: gender integration in the revised Nationally Determined Contributions: available [here](#).

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (2017). Gender, the Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific: available [here](#).

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (2022). Asia-Pacific Report on Population Ageing 2022: Trends, Policies and Good Practices regarding Older Persons and Population Ageing (ST/ESCAP/3041): available [here](#).

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (2022). Climate Change and Population Ageing in the Asia-Pacific Region: Status, Challenges and Opportunities (ST/ESCAP/2993): available [here](#).

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (2022). Gender equality and climate change. ESCAP Policy Brief: available [here](#).

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (2023). The 79th session of the Commission: available [here](#).

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: available [here](#).

UN Women and IUCN (2022). CSW66 agreed conclusions and ways forward for addressing VAWG and climate change linkages in policies, decision making and programming: available [here](#).

UN Women and IUCN (2022). Tackling violence against women and girls in the context of climate change: available [here](#).