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Climate Security and SDG 5: The Need for a Gender-Responsive Climate Strategy



Photo Credit: UN Women/Ryan Brown of Flickr.com

Currently, the world is nowhere near on track to achieve SDG5: Gender Equality, let alone the 2030 Agenda. In fact, UN Women's The Gender Snapshot 2022 estimates that it will take another 286 years to remove discriminatory laws and close prevailing gaps in legal protections for women and girls, putting gender equality far beyond the reach of our lifetime – and highlighting the challenges that lie ahead. Gender equality has been [significantly challenged over the last few years](#)— first, as a result of COVID-19 and later, with the Ukraine war and the ensuing food security issues that have emerged in its wake – eroding hard-won gains in areas such as girls' education and child marriage. This is only set to worsen

as the impacts of climate change increase.

As awareness of climate change and the potential devastation it could wreck on human civilisation grows, so does the need for gender-responsive climate policies. [Women and girls are 14 times more likely to die during a disaster](#), and they also make up [80% of people displaced](#) by climate change. Coupled with a tendency for women to be poorer, less educated and hold less decision-making powers, these inequalities also mean that women are disproportionately more vulnerable to climate-related hazards than men. It is therefore vital to consider specific needs of women when crafting policies related to climate, so that these policies do not maintain or exacerbate gender inequities.

[Gender mainstreaming](#) presents a potential strategy to meet the need for gender-responsive climate strategies. This means ensuring that all planned actions and outcomes achieved are explicitly gender-responsive, and that women are also actively involved in leadership and decision-making. The need for gender mainstreaming was recently highlighted by UN Secretary-General (SG) António Guterres in his [remarks to the Commission on the Status of Women](#). SG Guterres mentioned that the UN has commissioned an independent review of its “capacity around gender equality across all pillars of work.”

The [Gender Action Plan of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) has emphasised that participation is key in achieving and sustaining the equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes.

There has also been [emerging evidence](#) that increased female political representation in national parliaments is leading to more stringent climate change policy outcomes.

Similarly, women’s participation in bottom-up based initiatives are also key to translating their experiences into policy. However, even participation – while important – must be gender-mainstreamed. For example, women tend to bear the brunt of unpaid domestic work which limits their time to participate in initiatives organised by government agencies, NGOs or other climate actors.

Therefore, considering the lived realities of women which prevent them from participating in climate initiatives, society can ensure such initiatives do not overburden women in the guise of empowering them. Such initiatives that seek to empower women must either

work around their domestic work schedules (which might lead them to being overburdened) or perhaps work to lighten their workload such as by offering childcare assistance while women participate in ongoing initiatives.

In order for humanity to have any hope of achieving SDGs in a timeframe that not only meets the 2030 deadline, but also work to mitigate the looming climate crisis, half the global population cannot be disregarded. Gender-mainstreaming climate policies are vital – not only due to their disproportionate effects on women, but also to the need to ensure the inclusion of women’s lived knowledge and experiences in climate-related planning and decision-making. Only then, will women be able to live up to their fullest potential, and truly contribute to building resilience in a time of a looming climate crisis.

Suggested Readings

- Jenny Yi-Chen Han et al., *State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in ASEAN*, ASEAN, UN Women (online publication), 2022, accessed 15 March 2023 <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/State-of-Gender-Equality-and-Climate-Change-in-ASEAN-2.pdf>
- UN Women, *Handbook on Gender: Mainstreaming for Gender Equality Results*, UN Women, 2022, accessed 15 March 2023 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2022/02/handbook-on-gender-mainstreaming-for-gender-equality-results#view>
- UN Women and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division 2022, *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2022*, UN Women and UN DESA, 2022, accessed 15 March 2023 https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/Progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2022-en_0.pdf
- Astghik Mavisakalyan and, Yashar Tarverdi, “Gender and climate change: Do female parliamentarians make difference?” *European Journal of Political Economy*, Volume 56, January 2019, Pages 151-164, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpoleco.2018.08.001>

CLIMATE CHANGE

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Indonesia banks on dams to tackle water crisis — but at what cost?

Indonesia is building more water retention dams amidst worsening water security concerns. These needed to supply irrigation, reduce the risk of flooding and provide a source of low-carbon hydroelectric power. But dam-building is causing its own new challenges, from upending the lives of local people to new losses of forests and agricultural land.

Asad Asnawi

Thomson Reuters Foundation, The Japan Times

6 March 2023

UN forges historic deal to protect ocean life: What researchers think

After years of debates and discussions, nations have agreed on a High Seas Treaty to protect marine biodiversity and provide oversight of international waters. On the whole, the high seas have long been considered the 'wild west' of the ocean, with few rules and regulations, particularly regarding the protection of biodiversity.

Nicola Jones

Nature

7 March 2023

India's rural women are 'bearing the brunt' of climate shocks

India's rural women are bearing the brunt of climate-related shocks like severe drought and extreme weather events. Such disruptions are drastically affecting rural women's livelihoods - whether from displacement, drought, or dried up crops owing to insufficient running water.

Sumathi Bala

CNBC

9 March 2023

Climate change: New idea for sucking up CO2 from air shows promise

The research team have borrowed an approach used for applications in water, and "tweaked" existing materials to remove CO2 from the air. In tests, the new hybrid absorbing material was able to absorb three times as much CO2 as existing substances.

Matt McGrath

BBC

9 March 2023

Climate change slowing down, not speeding up, movement of large Arctic rivers: Study

Scientists have long believed that rapid warming in the Arctic would cause river channels to move faster, but a new study has found the opposite may be true for large, winding rivers in the region. They found migration rates of these rivers, rather than increasing, decreased overall by about 20 per cent between 1972 and 2020.

Emily Blake

The Canadian Press, Global News

10 March 2023

'Cognitive dissonance' and climate change: Why some people stop using plastic straws but buy a new car

One perhaps uniquely Singaporean reason for inconsistent behaviour around sustainability issues: that the Government will take care of it. Reliance on state action could be welcome from a perspective of desiring systemic change.

Grace Yeoh

Channel News Asia

14 March 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

The OCBC climate index

Despite the launch of the Singapore Green Plan in 2021, a rise in green activism and in conversations on climate change at the national and global level, the majority of Singaporeans are still not embracing many sustainable behaviours. If they do, the motivations are primarily driven by personal practical benefits and not for the environment.

OCBC Bank, Eco-Business

2022

Turning the tide on Southeast Asia's plastic pollution crisis

This report argues that a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach to addressing this transboundary issue should go beyond reduction in the use of single-use plastic products. It should also cater to comprehensive capacity-building on waste management, mainstreaming scientific cooperation, boosting environmental education at the community level, and legally mandating Extended Producers' Responsibility. The active participation of both state and non-state actors, at the national and regional levels, are essential.

Julius Cesar Imperial Trajano

RSIS Policy Report

2023

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2023

Under the theme "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific," the Forum provides a regional perspective on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by identifying regional trends and sharing best practices and lessons learned.

Bangkok, Thailand

27 - 30 March 2023

2nd World Conference on Climate Change & Sustainability

Climate Week 2023 aims to be the most-important climate conference and Technology exhibition that will provide an exclusive stage for the entire sustainability value chain including academia, governments, global & regional companies, investors, entrepreneurs, to network and deliberate upon the ways to mitigate climate crisis through sustainable business solutions, disruptive technology and advanced knowledge.

Rome, Italy

16 - 18 October 2023

ENERGY SECURITY

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

Indonesia promises move to clean energy, but challenges loom

Indonesia is increasing its target for renewable energy, aiming for to contribute a third of total power generation by 2030. Achieving this goal would mean doubling the pace of current deployment. Financing, however, remains an obstacle.

AP

Channel News Asia

15 February 2023

Ukraine latest: Russian missile attacks cut power to nuclear plant

Russian missiles knocked out the power supply to Europe's largest nuclear plant during a barrage of strikes targeting cities across Ukraine. The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which Russian forces captured a year ago, was left depending on backup generators.

Nikkei Asia

21 February 2023

Meralco offers scholarships in nuclear energy development

The company started to evaluate a floating wind power project off the coast of Fukushima as Japan seeks to replace lost nuclear power facilities.

Richmond Mercurio

Philippine Star

4 March 2023

Indonesian palm oil exports, production to fall in 2023, says industry body

Growth of exports in the 2020-to-2025 period is forecast to fall 7.66 per cent, after an 8.09 per cent increase in export growth in the 2016-to-2020 period, while domestic consumption showed a considerable increase due to a mandatory biofuel programme.

Reuters

The Business Times

8 March 2023

China's energy transition sees 'staggering' progress on renewables — and a coal power boom

A massive wave of permits for new coal-fired capacity poses a significant challenge to the country's climate goals, with Beijing seen as "the glaring exception to the ongoing global decline in coal plant development."

Sam Meredith

CNBC

8 March 2023

Southeast Asia's growth, energy transition to rely on gas access

Southeast Asia's future economic growth and commitments to net-zero emissions goals will weigh heavily on the region's access to affordable natural gas.

Reuters

Channel News Asia

9 March 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Russian nuclear energy diplomacy and its implications for energy security in the context of the war in Ukraine

Authors analyse the state nuclear company Rosatom and its subsidiaries as tools of Russian energy statecraft. They map the company's global portfolio, then categorise countries according to the degree and intensity of dependence, with a focus on countries where Russia is active.

Kacper Szulecki and Indra Overland

Nature Energy

2023

Understanding gender gaps in wages, employment and career trajectories in the energy sector

The energy sector has been lacking in gender diversity since its creation. This report focuses on assessing the extent of gender bias that exists in the energy sector, and ongoing efforts to address this imbalance.

International Energy Agency

2022

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Papers on the Energy Market, Energy Pricing, and Low-Carbon Transition

The Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) is seeking original, unpublished papers on the energy market and energy pricing toward low-carbon energy transition, with a focus on Asia and the Pacific.

Asian Development Bank Institute

9 May 2023 (deadline for submission of draft papers)

International Conference on Computer Security in the Nuclear World: Security for Safety

The Conference will provide a global forum to exchange information and foster international cooperation in computer security as an integral element of nuclear security and safety. Its intended audience includes competent authorities and other bodies engaged in computer security activities related to nuclear security or safety such as operators, and system and security integrators.

Vienna, Austria

19-23 June 2023

FOOD SECURITY

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Why is India rolling back COVID-19 food aid?

In December 2022, the Indian government had decided to consolidate and roll back its grain support programme for its population. The policy reversal owes partly to the high price of wheat in India's open markets, and reflects a fine balancing act by the government, between addressing the interests of the 'poorest of the poor' and those of marginalised individuals who need to purchase food in the open market.

Jose Ma. Luis Montesclaros
East Asia Forum
 20 February 2023

One year after Ukraine invasion, food export curbs have subsided, but concerns remain

Food prices remain elevated one year since the Ukraine invasion began. Food exporting countries have taken measures to stem domestic food price inflation, in particular, export curbs which contributed to international food price inflation. As future shocks cannot be discounted, it is imperative to halt export curbs and for food importers to reduce or eliminate import tariffs and other taxes.

Nadia Rocha and Alvaro Espitia
World Bank Blogs
 22 February 2023

Despite the odds, multilateral cooperation has helped secure global food security

This article praises the initiatives that helped avoid further hunger amid the Ukraine war, including Ukraine's ability to prevent a collapse of its food market, Indonesia's effective leadership and brokering of open food trade as G20 chair, and the efforts by thinktanks and NGOs to inform policymakers of the consequences of misinformed policy approaches.

Peter Timmer
East Asia Forum
 5 March 2023

China's food security well guaranteed: Premier

At a press after his recent election, China's new Premier, Mr. Li Qiang, emphasised that China would continue to pay attention to its rice bowls to meet the growing consumption needs of its 1.4 billion population, "firmly held in their own hands."

Xinhua
China Daily
 13 March 2023

Global seed vault the world's 'ultimate insurance policy' for future food security, say scientists

A Global Seed Vault, located in Svalbard, an arctic archipelago between Norway and the North Pole, contains more than 1 million seed samples. This is envisioned to serve as a 'doomsday vault' containing plant DNA to protect them from potential future catastrophes, including war and climate change.

Fabian Koh
Channel News Asia
 13 March 2023

Before the next shock, the world needs a 'Marshall plan' for food insecurity

The world is in a "dire state" given the host of interconnected challenges faced by the world in recent years, including COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, and the monetary tightening from rising interest rates. There is a need for a "Marshall Plan" for food insecurity, argues the UN World Food Programme chief.

Arif Husain and Adam Gallagher
United States of Peace
 14 March 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Tackling the global food crisis: Impact, policy response, and the role of the IMF

This note highlights measures taken by the IMF in helping tackle the global food crisis, working closely with partners, by providing policy advice, capacity building and financing. It shows how the IMF has provided a "third line of defence" in meeting external financing needs associated with the global food shock, which should ideally be covered by donor grants and concessional borrowing from multilateral development banks.

Bjoern Rother, et al. IMF Notes No 2022/004
 2022

Artificial intelligence applications in the agri-food sectors

This article provides a systematic review of over 450 screened articles, to assess the utilisation of artificial across the food supply chain. The results indicate that various artificial intelligence algorithms are being applied to all the stages of the food system from crop/livestock production up to food or agro-waste management.

Innocent Kutyauripo, Munyaradzi Rushambwa and Lyndah Chiwazi
Journal of Agriculture and Food Research, Volume 11
 2023

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Security Workshop: FarmVibes.AI

This workshop described farm-focused technologies that can help and empower researchers and data scientists to innovate and build their own AI Models for food security. Examples include the use of satellites in tracking land degradation amidst climate-change, as well as weed detection, among others.

Recorded Webinar
 17 November 2022

China's No.1 central document emphasizes rural revitalization, food security

During this expert discussion/news highlight, various experts shared on what China's "No. 1 central document" means for food security, including the nine tasks set for promoting rural revitalisation this year. This seeks to answer questions on how China is ushering in a new stage of rural development, and provides context on why China is working on food security and self-sufficiency in a globalized world.

Recorded Expert Discussion/News Highlight
 16 February 2023

HEALTH SECURITY

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

One health and the Turkey-Syria earthquake

In the period after immediate relief efforts, there are heightened possibilities of further health threats such as infectious diseases. This article suggests that future efforts should take into account the One Health concept.

Richard Seifman, Laura H. Kahn

Impakter

18 February 2023

Avian flu reappears in Cambodia, UN health agency warns

Cambodia reported the first cases of avian influenza, known as H5N1, since a widespread outbreak in 2014. According to the WHO, further human cases can be expected, given the continued presence of the virus in poultry populations.

World Health Organization

26 February 2023

After Turkey's earthquake, a grave mental health toll looms

Experts fear that the earthquake in Turkey had put a heavy toll on the mental health of survivors, particularly children. This adds to the mental pressures which the Turkish people were already facing owing to rising poverty and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Humeyra Pamuk and Timour Azhari

Reuters

27 February 2023

Countries begin negotiations on global agreement to protect world from future pandemic emergencies

Member states of the World Health Organization started negotiations on a global accord on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, which will be used as a basis for negotiating an agreement on pandemic emergencies in the future.

World Health Organization

3 March 2023

Air pollution makes more than 1.3 million Thais sick so far this year

Serious air pollution in Thailand has caused over one million people to suffer from air pollution-related diseases. Thailand's Pollution Control Department has forecasted that conditions in the upper and lower northern regions of Thailand could worsen.

The Nation/Asia News Network, The Straits Times

10 March 2023

Three years of the COVID-19 pandemic: 'A failure of multilateralism and solidarity'

This article reviews global pandemic response as most countries are ending their COVID-19 restrictions. It discusses the additional burdens related to stalled vaccine deliveries owing to intellectual property-related issues; inequality in pandemic responses; and the ongoing negotiations on a global accord.

**Stefan Anderson
Health Policy Watch**

13 March 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

World health statistics 2022: Monitoring health for the SDGs, Sustainable Development Goals

The World health statistics report reveals that Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues to be a global threat to health more than two years after being declared a public health emergency of international concern by WHO. Among others, this reports highlights the importance of primary health care as the cornerstone of an equitable and resilient health system.

World Health Organization

2022

WHO's response to the Ukraine crisis: Annual report, 2022

This report presents what WHO achieved in the 2022 and demonstrates how WHO and its health partners have minimised disruptions to the delivery of critical healthcare services within Ukraine and in countries hosting refugees.

World Health Organization

13 March 2023

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Congress on Health Economics, Health Policy and Healthcare Management

This event seeks to serve as a focal point for researchers in the field of Health Economics, Health Policy and Healthcare Management. It seeks to identify policies and mechanisms that can potentially safeguard the growth and advancement of this field.

Las Vegas, US

3 April 2023

Precision Public Health Asia 2023 Conference

The conference will explore current and future strategies related to precision public health, covering genomics, population health, digital health, big data and artificial intelligence – and how they can benefit public health in the developed and developing worlds.

Singapore

12-14 July 2023

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

How to prevent humanitarian crises

As crises intensify, so does the need for humanitarian reform. By using the anticipatory action approach, humanitarian actors can anticipate risks and plan ahead, further enabling the protection of vulnerable communities.

Myriam Castaneda Solares

Eco-Business

16 February 2023

Public health emergencies: Moving beyond ad hoc military responses

There has been a trend of growing military involvement in health crises. While this shows visible action by national government during times of crisis, it could also be seen with suspicion as a cover for political objectives. This calls for clarify the role of the military in such crises.

S. Nanthini

IDSS Papers

2 March 2023

Disaster management in Southeast Asia: 20 years of progress and challenges

The management of consequences arising from natural hazards in Southeast Asia has seen laudable advancement in the last 20 years. However, there has been an emerging “disaster policy inertia,” reflecting the local realities at the ASEAN and global levels.

Mely Caballero-Anthony, Alistair D. B. Cook and Jonatan Anderias Lassa

RSIS Commentary

2 March 2023

After the Taliban ban on women NGO work, local and foreign aid groups take different approaches

There has been a range of responses to the Taliban ban on women working for NGOs. For instance, the practice of “quiet diplomacy” or cultivating relationships with leaders at the district and provincial level, has allowed NGOs to continue some activities that existed prior to the ban.

Ali M Latifi

The New Humanitarian

2 March 2023

Women leaders forge change to reduce disaster risk for all

Women across Asia and the Pacific have contributed to understanding, preventing and reducing disaster risk. This has included raising awareness on how gender inequality compounds disaster risk, and on what needs to be done to further empower women.

UNDRR

8 March 2023

The big idea: In a disaster, bad help can be worse than no help at all

Although emergency donations are vital, people should avoid taking a short-term approach to situations where ongoing support and long-term resilience are what is needed.

Lucy Easthope

Guardian

13 March 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Inter-agency humanitarian evaluation of the COVID-19 humanitarian response

Based on eight case studies, this report evaluates the collective preparedness and humanitarian response at the global, regional, and country levels to meet the humanitarian needs of people in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inter-Agency Standing Community

2023

“Co-investigators but with different power”: Local voices on the localization of humanitarian research

This reports provide an overview of the challenges faced by humanitarian research institutes in the Global South and the opportunities for increasing equitable participation in the context of the localisation of humanitarian assistance.

Merry Fitzpatrick et al

Tufts University

2023

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Red Lines for Humanitarian Aid in Afghanistan

This webinar brings together experts and practitioners in the field, to discuss the ethics of humanitarian negotiations and actions in the context of Afghanistan.

Recorded Webinar

10 February 2023

Rethinking Humanitarianism: More Trade, Less Aid?

This podcast looks at the results of international trade policies and its applications in economies hit by humanitarian crises. By bringing together experts, it seeks to explore the possibilities of other alternatives such as changing the international trading rules or creating new regional trading blocs.

Podcast

22 February 2023

MIGRATION

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

New study links climate change, land degradation and migration in Central Asia

Land degradation is a “quiet” planetary crisis, whose effects are devastating and wide-spread. The decrease in land productivity and loss of income as a result of this degradation has led to migration in search of livelihood.

UNCCD

20 February 2023

What happens when Ukrainian refugees return?

The conditions refugees face when they return to Ukraine will not all be the same from one refugee to another. Rather, they are likely to differ depending on which part of the country they are returning to, and on how their lives have been affected by the war.

Sara Cincurova

The New Humanitarian

22 February 2023

Efforts to manage climate migration are slowly growing, but their focus is often indirect

While migration in the face of climate change can be a positive if done voluntarily, it can also be unsafe if forced. This is turn is likely to cause problems for migrants as well as host communities.

Lawrence Huang

Migration Policy Institute

1 March 2023

Indonesia must take lead in ending oppression of women migrant workers

Indonesia, as ASEAN chair in 2023, should take the lead in addressing the vulnerabilities of female migrant workers. This is particularly relevant considering Indonesia is one of the largest source countries for migrant labor in the region.

Mariko Hayashi

The Jakarta Post

8 March 2023

New UK asylum bill would be in ‘clear breach’ of international law: UNHCR

The UK was one of the original signatories of the Refugee Convention. However, it is ironic that the country is currently exploring a new bill which will effectively deny the right to seek refugee protection to people arriving irregularly in the UK.

United Nations

8 March 2023

Why detaining families cannot be the answer to increased migration and displacement

Family detention causes serious harm by eviscerating access to asylum. It not only costs billions of dollars, but importantly, has also been proven not to deter migration.

Women’s Refugee Commission

9 March 2023

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

External processing: A tool to expand protection or further restrict territorial asylum?

This report investigates the opportunities that external processing (EP) offers, which refers to conducting part or all asylum procedures outside the destination country’s territory. It also discusses the challenges to EP’s implementation and the risks it could pose to territorial asylum. It further highlights the key conditions that must be present to exercise EP in a protection-sensitive manner.

Pauline Endres de Oliveira and Nikolas Feith Tan

Migration Policy Institute

2022

Automating immigration and asylum: The uses of new technologies in migration and asylum governance in Europe

This report identifies and explores the current uses and functions of new technologies across European immigration and asylum systems both at the national and the EU level. These technologies include forecasting tools, processing of residency and citizenship applications and document verification.

Derya Ozkul

University of Oxford

2023

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ukrainian Displacement in Europe, One Year Later

This webinar examines the range of approaches that have been taken to foster the integration of displaced Ukrainians staying in host communities, to improve the provision of reception services for newcomers, and to help in preparations for those returning to Ukraine.

Recorded Webinar

14 February 2023

Diaspora Space-time: Transformations of a Chinese Emigrant Community

This webinar will bring together experts to discuss the ways in which emigration is being re-conceptualised as overseas financial contributions decrease and diasporic relations change.

Webinar

21 March 2023