



**PROJECT
DANDELION**

UNITE FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

**A Women-Led Summit
Outcome Document and
COP28 Policy Asks**



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A Women-Led Summit

“The wisdom, the voices and the agency of women really make a difference. More women at the table, strong and bold decisions and trusting the system is what we hope and expect from COP28”



Maria Fernanda Espinosa

Executive Director of the Global Women Leaders for Change and Inclusion, diplomat, politician, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, former President of the UN General Assembly

Women leaders, pioneers, activists, and diplomats all joined for one reason, to unite for climate solutions. Together, [SHE Changes Climate](#), [Project Dandelion](#) and partners invited decision-makers, stakeholders and passionate individuals to address the climate emergency and what emerged were women-led solutions. We believe that conversations like this one could turn the tide and ensure a climate-safe future.

This year is predicted to be the [hottest on record](#), with a 1.43-degree Celsius temperature rise, dangerously close to the Paris Agreement’s 1.5-degree target. We are in a climate emergency. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change — [80% of people displaced by climate change are women](#). Equipping women with financial resources and decision-making authority is crucial, as they can champion climate-resilient solutions from local communities to global negotiations. Promoting inclusion and diversity in climate negotiations is not just an ethical imperative but critical for systemic change in the fight against climate change. Since COP26, SHE Changes Climate has been advocating for at least 50% of women at all levels of decision-making, from local to national and

global levels. At COP27, there was some slight progress with 36% of women delegates, but only 20% being women heads of delegation. This year, under UAE leadership, notable women like Hana Al Hashimi, COP28 Climate Chief Negotiator, H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, UNFCCC High-level Climate Champion, H.E. Shamma Al Mazrui, COP28's Youth Climate Champion and H.E. Mariam Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment in charge of the net zero carbon plan are driving the process. The climate negotiations team led by Hana Al Hashimi consists of 63% women.

The conversations throughout the day were rich and insightful. Setting the tone for the day were Hana Al Hashimi and Maria Fernanda Espinosa, the Executive Director of the Global Women Leaders Voices, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and former President of the UN General Assembly.

“Data shows that having greater gender parity and contribution of women across all levels of decision-making improves climate change solutions and policies. Communities are more successful in resilience and capacity building when women are part of the process.”



Hana Al Hashimi
COP28 Chief Climate Negotiator

During the opening dialogue, Hana Al Hashimi and Maria Fernanda Espinosa raised the importance that COP28 serves as a crucial platform for countries to join the Global Stocktake and enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as well as their long-term strategies for low carbon development. The Global Stocktake requires world leaders to assess progress and elevate ambitions

in tackling the climate crisis, in light of the latest IPCC scientific reports. The climate crisis is a leadership crisis and women have a key role to play to address it. Urgent and decisive global leadership is imperative to address the root causes of climate change, making COP28 a pivotal opportunity for a radical and systemic transformation of society.

The lack of data and research persists, with the need for more gender-disaggregated data to inform policymaking and prevent the oversight of women-specific needs. There are also cultural resistances and systemic barriers which prevent women from rising to leadership positions, including in politics. This is the kind of leadership shift that is needed to curb the climate crisis. Governments, particularly at the national level, should prioritize incorporating inclusion and diversity, including for disabilities, into adaptation and resilience portfolios. Intergenerational collaboration is vital for effective climate action, emphasizing the co-creation of solutions on an equal footing. Increasing women's participation in climate science is essential, not only for generating solutions but for fostering a diverse and innovative community.

It is time to unleash the transformative power of women to unlock positive impacts for people and the planet. Gender equality is essential to foster and enable just and long-lasting systemic changes that are needed to have a climate-safe future for all.

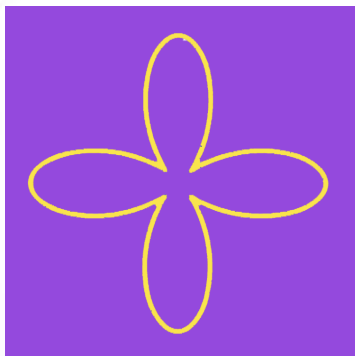
The Tabono Symbol

We sought a central creative visual and symbol to bring out our core idea. How might we bring out the essence of unity and women's leadership in climate justice? Our creative concept utilised the "Tabono" symbol. This comes from the Adinkra people in Ghana, in West Africa.

It blends different ideas in one:

1. Paddles (collective effort and cooperation)
2. Balance (for earth, for her, for youth, for voices, for nations)
3. Purpose & Direction (akin to a compass pointing to true north)

We interpreted it in purple and yellow and played around with it akin to the petals of a flower to express our partnership with Project Dandelion. This visual metaphor utilized the images of diverse women, participants, and speakers to convey unity and interconnectedness in the Unite for Climate Summit.



The Tabono Symbol from the Adinkra people of Ghana in West Africa.

Finance Dialogue

Gender-resilient climate financing across different funding mechanisms, from the Loss and Damage Fund to local grantmaking and private sector investments.

This session fostered a meaningful dialogue on gender-responsive climate financing by addressing the historical oversight of gender considerations in climate funding and exploring strategies to enhance their integration, emphasizing the positive impacts associated with this integration. The discussion insights from concrete examples, including the Loss and Damage Fund, philanthropic funding and local grant-making, and private sector investments. By examining these instances, the aim is to provide practical models for understanding the benefits of gender-responsive approaches and anticipate emerging trends in the dynamic landscape of climate financing.

“We can’t fix the climate crisis without providing funding to the women driving climate solutions in the private sector.”



Carey Bohjanen,
Founder of The Rallying Cry

Speakers:

- **H.E. Ambassador Katharina Stasch**, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations
- **Carey Bohjanen**, Founder of The Rallying Cry
- **Marie-Laure Schaufelberger**, Head of Group ESG & Stewardship at Pictet Group, President of Sustainable Finance
- **Laura Garcia**, President and CEO at Global Greengrants Fund
- **Yamide Dagnet**, Director of Climate Justice at the Open Society Foundation

Key Asks:

- Resources must be used as tools for change, ensuring they reach the communities that need them most, particularly the women within these communities.
- We need to be more intentional about who has access to funding. Women are catalysts for change, visible in various sectors, including the climate space. This recognition should extend to youth and disability movements and perspectives. It is crucial for historically marginalized groups to be at the centre of funding and decision-making processes.
- Make sure resources are ready to trickle down to communities affected by climate disasters beforehand. This necessitates a greater focus on the global south, on frontline communities and on adaptation measures.
- Break climate finance silos: Break down climate finance silos: Significant funds remain untapped, requiring a gender-transformative budget on both the international and local levels. This would require breaking down the silos and integrating climate funding and gender funding in philanthropy.
- The Loss and Damage Fund needs to be sustainable. There is a risk that it could become an “empty shell” but to avoid this, replenishment is key.

Energy Dialogue

Fast-tracking a just energy transition for all and phasing out fossil fuels.

We all want a safe and liveable future. To ensure this we need a fossil fuel phase-out by 2030, we have 7 years. In this dialogue, the key question was unpacked: how do we get there? This dialogue highlighted the numerous barriers that complicate this transition, but overcoming challenges relies on locally-led, women-led, and youth-led solutions. Partnerships play a pivotal role in fostering innovative growth, directing crucial support, finances, and expansion towards initiatives spearheading the energy transition. Inclusivity is paramount in these partnerships, recognizing the right of individuals to lead dignified lives and the imperative to safeguard the planet. Crucially, the energy transition impacts everyone, necessitating policies, partnerships, and growth strategies that consider the diverse experiences of those affected.

“Now more than ever, we need to see what a new generation of partnerships looks like in practice towards the just transition we need.”



Monica Araya,

Executive Director International Program at European Climate Foundation

Speakers:

- **Monica Araya**, Executive Director International Program at European Climate Foundation
- **Alboricah Tokologo Rathupetsane**, Junior Researcher at the Centre for Sustainability Transitions
- **Elena Balbekova**, Energy Transition Advocate and SHE Changes Climate Ambassador
- **Anvesha Thakkar**, Partner & National Lead for Clean Energy, KPMG India
- **Oluwadabira Abiola-Awe**, Partnerships and Regional Expansion Associate at Student Energy

Key Asks:

- A just energy transition needs facilitation on various levels, considering all those impacted. It goes beyond the shift from coal to renewables; it involves a social and economic transformation, ensuring the well-being of everyone involved to prevent anyone from being left behind.
- Partnerships play a critical role in fostering new types of growth. For this to happen the nature of partnerships needs to fundamentally change. It can no longer be a top-down approach. There is a need to reconfigure relationships between communities, people, businesses, and how financial institutions come in, to enable the process and co-own and co-build. This cannot be a purely capitalistic endeavour, it needs to look at the social and environmental issues and hold on to that dream of wanting to make a productive environmental and economic environment that is greener but is still inclusive.
- No one should be excluded from the journey towards a just transition. In the realm of businesses and the energy sector, this involves the entire world; everyone, either directly or indirectly, plays a role in the energy transition and has a responsibility.



- Balanced perspectives are required. Policies, partnerships and growth need to take into account the diversity of experiences that are impacted throughout a just transition.
- Solutions are being created on the ground, both at the local level and regional and national level, and people, especially young individuals and women, are actively addressing challenges within their communities, contextualizing their actions within the community's specific needs and dynamics.

Inclusion and Diversity Dialogue

Mobilizing all actors of society including women leaders in all their diversity, Youth, Indigenous Leaders, Local community leaders and locally elected representatives.

The discussion centred on the urgent need for inclusive climate action, emphasising the intersectionality of environmental issues and social justice. The panellists delved into strategies to amplify underrepresented voices in climate decision-making, examine the unique insights that indigenous communities bring to sustainable practices, and explore how youth engagement can drive meaningful change. By fostering a dialogue that spans grassroots activism, governmental policies, and international cooperation, the panel charted a path toward more inclusive and effective climate action, setting the stage for the upcoming COP 28 event in Dubai.

“Intersectional approach is paramount to ensuring that our climate action is equitable, inclusive, fair and that it leaves no one behind”



Jemimah Njuki,
UN Women's Chief for Women's Economic Empowerment

Speakers:

- **Jemimah Njuki**, UN Women's Chief for Women's Economic Empowerment
- **Kristina Wintermeier**, International Programs Manager, Fondation CHANEL
- **Ellyanne Wanjiku Chlystun-Gith**, Africa's Youngest Climate Change Ambassador
- **Mirian Cisneros**, Indigenous leader from Ecuador and member of Parliament, Andrea
- **Reena Gupta**, Climate Advisor, Government of Delhi

Key Asks:

- We must ensure that all voices are represented in all current debates; those that are at the forefront must be part of the negotiation process. The underrepresentation of women delegations at COP is very evident. Women from the grassroots, indigenous women, and young people also do not have enough representation on the negotiations front, and something needs to be done about this. A number of barriers cause this and some of them include but are not limited to financial barriers, language barriers, and direct engagement barriers in decision-making. These barriers need to be broken.
- Inclusivity is our only path to effectively tackle this crisis.
- Building capacity is essential for those participating in negotiations, especially young and female negotiators.
- It is important to move away from silos and bring movements together. This includes youth movements, disability rights movements, human rights movements, and indigenous movements.
- The quality of climate funding is important; not just the quantity. This includes investing in core functions and long-term funding.
- Children have a voice and should actively participate in discussions.
- More than ever we need feminist leadership. Protecting indigenous people and their lands is a collective fight that calls for unity.

Nature Dialogue

Putting Nature and People at the heart of the climate agenda, including the role of Oceans, Forests, Soils, Ecosystems and Regenerative agriculture for resilience.

This session explored the role of nature in addressing the climate crisis. Nature-based solutions can provide up to a third of the emission reduction needed to reach the Paris Agreement goal of staying below 1.5°C of global temperature increase. Forests, land-based ecosystems and oceans provide ecosystem services which are essential to our lives and also natural carbon-sequestration sinks. Nature is also essential to help us build more resilient communities, to adapt to climate change. Hence Nature and People are the Heart of the climate agenda. This multi-stakeholder dialogue brought together UN officials, Government, Cities, Private sector and Civil society leaders to explore the most innovative solutions and also interact with the audience in a unique and inclusive online platform.

“We don't need to justify that nature is a solution to be taken into consideration in climate action. There is no justification because it is obvious – we need nature to protect the climate, and climate change is threatening nature and that is threatening people”



Hindou Ibrahim,
President of the Indigenous Women & Peoples
Association of Chad

Speakers:

- **H.E. Razan Al Mubarak**, President of IUCN and UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28
- **Hindou Ibrahim**, President of the Indigenous Women & Peoples Association of Chad
- **H.E. Shara Duncan Villalobos**, Ambassador of Costa Rica
- **Amira Diamond**, Co-Founder of the Women's Earth Alliance
- **Dr Monalisa Sen**, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia
- **Irene Suarez**, UNFCCC Climate Champions Team Nature Lead
- **Charmian Love**, Global Director of Advocacy at Natura & Co
- **Ebony Twilley Martin**, Executive Director of Greenpeace US

Key Asks:

- Women, being disproportionately impacted, hold valuable solutions to our climate challenges.
- There is a need to genuinely and authentically connect with real and pragmatic solutions and listen to those who actually need to implement them.
- We need to ensure that processes are inclusive, but that also needs to be backed up by data.
- Finding solutions, communicating them effectively, and uncovering diverse, relatable stories can serve as powerful tools for building connections with diverse audiences.
- The protection of oceans and wetlands is an essential part of climate action.
- Vision and hope go hand in hand with optimism. There is hope for climate and nature to go together. Restoring land without a relationship is empty, which also means the end of arresting climate and land defenders. This is a fight for people and the planet.

Next Steps

Throughout the day, an echoing sentiment and one Mary Robinson reiterated in the closing remarks, is the power that arises when women collaborate and unite for climate solutions. What was also made very clear is that we cannot afford to fail. It is critical that we have an inclusive and diverse pool of leaders working together to implement just decisions for a climate-safe world.

As the world's attention turns to COP28 we need to focus on climate justice which includes pushing for a fossil fuel phase-out by 2030. To ensure that just decisions are made, women's voices and the voices of those most impacted by climate change need to be at the centre. These perspectives serve as catalysts for change. Across the Summit dialogues, it's consistently evident that women are at the forefront of these solutions—action is already underway. Funding should acknowledge those who have been safeguarding natural resources, nurturing communities, and experiencing the direct impacts of climate change. Redirecting funds towards frontline communities and adaptation is imperative.

“One urgent message has come through at every session is that we are in a crisis that is hurting women, children, the elderly, those with disabilities, and those most vulnerable. This is because we have not committed to phasing out fossil fuels. This is the one decision that COP28 can take.”



Mary Robinson,
Co-Founder of Project Dandelion, Chair of The Elders, and former
President of Ireland

The conversation does not end here. [Project Dandelion](#) is on a mission to unite, mobilize and amplify the work of women leaders, the climate community, social justice champions and those around the world building a climate-safe world for all. On 12 December join Project Dandelion by taking action and holding your leaders accountable for the decisions they took at COP28. For more information visit Project Dandelions [web page](#) and follow on socials.

SHE Changes Climate is calling for governments, non-state actors and civil society organizations to join in the movement of championing diversity by endorsing our [inclusion and diversity principles](#). We need an inclusive and diverse pool of leaders working together to implement just decisions.

The more diversity of perspectives and views that are in leading positions, the more likely decisions will be well-rounded and more robust for climate-friendly decisions.

Now is the time to unite, unite for climate solutions.

Summit Partners Included





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