



### **Draft Meeting Report**

#### **Integrating gender equality into the just transition and climate change agenda**

IBCs on Environment & Climate Change and on Gender Equality webinar in response to requests by UNCTs Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Türkiye

*26 June 2025, online (10:00-11:30 CET, Teams)*

The purpose of the meeting was to hold the first joint IBC-GE and IBC-ENV session to support strengthened gender mainstreaming within climate and environment agendas, responding to requests for support from UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye, and Serbia. The meeting was opened by Klaus Beck, Deputy Regional Director of UNFPA, who welcomed participants on behalf of the co-chairs of both IBCs. Klaus highlighted that climate change disproportionately affects women and worsens gender inequalities, emphasising the need for just transitions that address intersectional gender and human rights issues, strengthen UNCT capacities, and promote gender-inclusive programming. The meeting was closed by IBC-ENV co-chair Nicholas Bonvoisin, International Environmental Policy Advisor at UNECE, who emphasised ongoing collaboration, upcoming initiatives, and the sharing of session materials. The session was moderated by Brianna Harrison (UN Women), Elena Osipova (UNESCO) and Jing Fang (UNESCO).

In total, 72 participants were represented: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNECE, UNESCO, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, Resident Coordinator Offices.

- **Session 1: Priorities for gender-sensitive programming for just transition and climate change**

In the first session, Ela Ionescu, Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation Specialist (UN Women) presented on **priorities for gender-sensitive programming in the just transition and climate agenda** and shared data from [UN Women's 2024 snapshot report](#). She stressed that climate change disproportionately affects women and girls, exacerbating existing inequalities, particularly in sectors such as agriculture and water security where women are heavily represented. In addition, she outlined key global frameworks including the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, and the Gender Action Plan and called for stronger gender-transformative commitments.

- **Session 2: Frameworks, Methodologies, and Guidance**

In the second session, Özge Berber (ILO) and Kenneth Abraham Barrientos (UNESCO) presented **frameworks, methodologies and guidance supporting gender-responsive just transitions**.

Özge presented key insights from the **ILO's recently developed policy guidance on equality, diversity and inclusion in climate action and just transitions**. Özge noted progress in integrating gender into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and emphasized the role of sectoral and industrial



policies in promoting women's inclusion in green jobs. In particular, shared the [ILO Guide on Gender, Equality, Inclusion in Just Transition for Climate Action](#) covering 9 core policy areas to support just transitions.

Kenneth presented **UNESCO's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Strategy (2022–2029)**, focusing on skills development for green transitions through a global network spanning 152 countries. She highlighted specifically the work in: [Strengthening Greening and Gender transformative approaches in Technical and Vocational Education and Training in South Sudan](#).

- **Session 3: Regional Case Studies and Good Practices**

The third session spotlighted **three country-level case studies showcasing gender-responsive approaches to just transitions**.

Milana Rikanović, Gender Specialist and Head of UN Women Serbia, provided an overview of the UN Country Team in **Serbia's comprehensive approach to gender in just transitions**. She framed Serbia as a strong case study due to its national Just Transition Action Plan, firmly anchored in gender-responsive principles. Lorenza Jachia, Head of RCO in Serbia, complemented Milana's overview by focusing on **practical application of gender-responsive principles in Serbia's draft Just Transition Action Plan**, derived from the National Energy and Climate Action Plan targeting net-zero by 2050. Serbia UNCT is supporting the Government and welcomes any suggestions or advice from IBCs to ensure that gender is integrated into the Plan and its implementation. Lorenza concluded that without explicit gender-responsive design and implementation, the transition risks excluding women and deepening existing inequalities.

Andrea Borovac, UN Women Gender Responsive Climate Officer, provided an overview of **UN Women's multi-agency programmes on just transitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)**. Andrea pointed to key efforts on energy poverty, including a nationally recognised gender-sensitive definition, sex-disaggregated data, inclusive energy policies, capacity-building programmes designed to empower women in climate resilience, green job skills. Andrea concluded by underscoring the portfolio's ambitious scope and collaborative nature, laying foundations for climate and gender justice in BiH.

Iamze Mirazanashvili, Programme Assistant, from **FAO Georgia** provided an overview of early gender integration efforts in climate response, supported by the UNCT in Georgia. Iamze gave an example of best practice through the gender-responsive land degradation neutrality project with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture. Gender-sensitive measures were introduced, including: a dedicated gender chapter in the National Pasturelands Management Policy and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) incorporating gender. This approach supports ecosystem restoration while empowering women as leaders in sustainable land management.

- **Discussion and Reflections**



Diljana Malbasa (UNFPA) noted the absence of concrete health-related measures and partners in Serbia's Just Transition Action Plan and asked how to better address health and gender inequalities. Lorenza Jachia (RCO Serbia) responded that the plan is still a draft, and the Ministry has committed to strengthening gender elements following public consultation.

Brianna Harrison (UN Women) stressed the importance of engaging additional ministries, the NHRI, and gender machinery. Cristina Martínez (ILO) raised concerns over declining female representation in climate negotiations (e.g., COP29) and proposed a joint IBC webinar on gender in climate leadership. Ela Ionescu (UN Women) confirmed the downward trend and Andreas Brox (UN Women) shared that women's participation at COPs has declined overall since 2019, particularly in delegate roles.

- **Session 4: Human rights perspective on Gender and Just Transition**

The final session featured a presentation by Rina Kuusipalo, Human Rights Officer for OHCHR, who highlighted the gender–climate nexus, emphasizing how fossil fuel dependence impacts human rights and health. She outlined states' legal obligations under frameworks such as CEDAW, including General Recommendation No. 34, to ensure climate responses uphold gender equality. Kuusipalo also stressed the role of UNCTs in advancing just transitions and reaffirmed OHCHR's commitment to integrating environment, gender, and human rights considerations.

To conclude, Nicholas Bonvoisin (UNECE) stressed the need for **continued collective UN action on climate and gender equality**. He reiterated the session's aim to respond to UNCT requests from Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, and Türkiye, encouraged ongoing engagement with the IBCs, and confirmed upcoming ILO initiatives.

### **List of Annexes:**

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

Annex 2: Meeting presentations

Annex 3: ILO Guide on Gender, Equality, Inclusion in Just Transition for Climate Action at [EN GUIDE\\_07 24.pdf](#)

Annex 4: [Strengthening Greening and Gender transformative approaches in Technical and Vocational Education and Training in South Sudan](#)

Annex 5: [UN Women's 2024 snapshot report](#)