Integrating Gender Equality into Just Transition Strategies:
A Technical Overview from UN-Women

The transition towards low-carbon economies presents an unprecedented opportunity to address not only the global climate crisis but also longstanding gender inequalities. UN-Women’s comprehensive review of global insights and evidence underscores the necessity for a gender-responsive approach to just transitions. This technical overview synthesizes findings from diverse regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean (LACRO), Asia and the Pacific (APRO), Europe and Central Asia (ECA), and Africa, offering detailed arguments and technical recommendations for embedding gender considerations into climate action and sustainability efforts. We also highlight important perspectives from our corporate work on a feminist climate justice framework, gender-responsive just transitions and the importance of the care-climate nexus in just transitions.

References:
- A gender-responsive just transition for people and planet (UN Women 2023)
- The climate–care nexus: Addressing the linkages between climate change and women’s and girls’ unpaid care, domestic, and communal work (UN Women 2023)
- State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in South Asia and Hindu Kush Himalaya Report
- State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in ASEAN
- Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action (UN-Women 2023)

Gender and Environmental Sustainability in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

Research in Latin America and the Caribbean reveals a growing recognition of the interlinkage between women's rights and environmental sustainability. The emerging field of feminist environmental studies has started to explore how the exploitation of nature and gender-based inequalities are interconnected phenomena. For instance, the collaborative research promoted by CLACSO and UN-Women has been instrumental in establishing a foundational framework that links feminist theory with environmental activism, providing a comprehensive analysis of how gendered social norms impact and are impacted by environmental degradation. The technical recommendation from this body of work includes the development of interdisciplinary research methodologies that can quantitatively and qualitatively assess the co-impact of gender inequality and environmental degradation.

Reference:
- Feminism and environment: an emerging field in feminist studies in Latin America and the Caribbean (2022)
Economic Empowerment Barriers in Amazonia

The analysis of women's economic empowerment barriers in Amazonia offers a detailed examination of how the sexual division of labor and cultural stereotypes contribute to gender inequalities in the region. The technical approach to this issue involves applying gender analysis frameworks to dissect the socio-economic factors that limit women's participation in the labor market. This includes an in-depth analysis of care and subsistence responsibilities, educational attainment, and access to financial resources. The technical recommendation emphasizes the need for policy interventions that target these specific barriers, suggesting mechanisms such as gender-responsive budgeting and the establishment of social protection systems that recognize and compensate unpaid care work.

Gender-Sensitive Climate Action: Insights from Chile

The gender perspective in climate vulnerability analysis conducted in Chile, within the framework of the COP 25 Presidency, serves as a model for integrating gender equity into climate action. This technical work involved the development and application of gender-sensitive indicators to assess the differentiated impacts of climate change across various sectors. The methodology underscores the importance of disaggregating data by sex and territory to inform adaptive strategies that are equitable and responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations. This technical approach advocates for the integration of gender considerations at all stages of climate policy development, from planning and implementation to monitoring and evaluation.

Feminist Climate Justice and Global Perspectives

The UN-Women Research and Data's vision for feminist climate justice emphasizes a transformative approach to economic and social policies, prioritizing care for people and the planet. This approach demands a radical shift in economic and social policies from prioritizing unchecked growth and profits for a select few to fostering resilience through equitable relationships and mutual respect. Central to feminist climate justice is the prioritization of care, posing the critical question of how societies can collectively organize to nurture both people and the planet, ensuring the survival and flourishing of life. It proposes a comprehensive strategy across four key dimensions: recognition, redistribution, representation, and reparations.

Integrating Gender in Green Economy Transitions in Africa

The Green Jobs Report and the LT-LEDS methodology developed in Burkina Faso highlight the technical aspects of integrating gender in the transition to a green economy. These include
applying a gender lens to job creation assessments and developing gender-responsive policies and programs that support women's participation in green jobs. The technical methodology involves conducting gender impact assessments of proposed green economy policies, identifying specific interventions to support women's employment in green sectors, and ensuring women's access to education and training opportunities relevant to the green economy.

References:

- UN WOWEN Green Jobs Report EN-FR | UN Women – Africa

Ensuring a Gender-responsive Just Transition in Europe and Central Asia

The UN-Women ECA Office's work, emphasizing gender integration in climate action, underscores the importance of a gender-responsive approach in the UAE's Just Transitions process. By highlighting gender disparities in climate change impact, advocating for inclusive participation in decision-making, and ensuring women's access to green economic opportunities, UN-Women's initiatives serve as a crucial blueprint. These efforts not only enhance climate action efficiency but also promote gender equality, showcasing the vital role of women's perspectives and capabilities in achieving sustainable and equitable environmental governance. This model aligns with the UAE's commitment to gender equality and environmental sustainability, arguing for the essential inclusion of gender considerations in transitioning towards a low-carbon economy.

Conclusion

The integration of gender equality into just transition strategies transcends the realm of social justice to become a cornerstone of impactful climate action and sustainable growth. UN-Women's detailed analysis, which harvests insights from diverse regions like Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and Africa, firmly establishes the critical nexus between gender equality and environmental action. By proposing a suite of technical recommendations, from our interdisciplinary research to formulating gender-responsive climate initiatives, this overview furnishes a comprehensive blueprint for Parties and other relevant stakeholders, especially those participating in the UNFCCC UAE Just Transitions Work Programme. Through this consolidated submission, UN-Women advocates for a holistic adoption and execution of strategies that not only recognize but actively integrate a gender perspective into programmes and strategies aimed to transform labour markets as we transition to low-carbon economies.

The imperative for a gender-responsive framework in just transitions is highlighted through the examination of regional challenges and opportunities, be it overcoming economic empowerment
barriers in Amazonia, adopting gender-sensitive measures in Chilean climate policies, pushing for global feminist climate justice lens, or fostering gender-responsive transitions in Africa and Europe and Central Asia. The call to action is clear: to address and amend the gender imbalances aggravated by climate change through ensuring women's equal participation in decision-making, access to green jobs, and acknowledgment of their contributions to sustainability. Implementing UN-Women's technical recommendations promises to harness low-carbon transitions as a lever for advancing gender equality, aligning with the UNFCCC UAE Just Transitions Work Programme's goal of merging effective climate action with equity. This strategy, by weaving gender considerations deeply into the fabric of climate policies and sustainability efforts, aims to forge a path toward a resilient, low-carbon future marked by inclusivity, justice, and an unwavering commitment to dismantling persistent gender inequalities.