

Statement by the European Union and its 27 member states at COP29 on the importance of an ambitious outcome on gender and climate change.

Supported by: The Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America

We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to advancing gender equality in climate action, at all levels. Our ability to effectively address the climate crisis hinges upon our commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, in all their diversity.

We will strive for a new Work Programme and Gender Action Plan that are ambitious and fit for purpose and support the work of both the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, including continued integration of gender-responsive and gender-transformative considerations in the UN Climate Change Conference process, across all items, constituted bodies and Work Programmes, while also aiming to be relevant to be implemented on the ground, by a broad diversity of stakeholders, at different scales.

This year also provides a good opportunity to promote and advance gender equality as a crosscutting priority in climate action. We are committed to integrating gender considerations when implementing climate policies, plans, strategies and action. We urge all Parties to join us in this effort, including considering issues related to gender in the design and implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), as well as deciding on the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance (NCQG).

We strongly emphasize the crucial importance of gender equality in climate action. Women and girls are not only disproportionately impacted by climate change, but they are also powerful agents of change. Across the world, they are often on the frontlines of addressing climate change as leaders, community members and activists. Gender equality and climate action are mutually reinforcing and allow for more effective and sustainable solutions.

We acknowledge that the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and the Gender Action Plan have resulted in stronger and more effective gender mainstreaming in climate action across all levels. We also recognize ongoing challenges raised in implementation, including the lack of capacity building, human resources and technical knowledge for effective implementation, the importance of enhancing the gender-responsiveness of climate finance and the availability and use of gender-disaggregated data and the underrepresentation of women in climate decision-making at all levels.

We recognize the importance of including women and men, and girls and boys in all their diversity, civil society organizations and national women and gender equality institutions in

climate action. We underline that men and boys are crucial stakeholders in achieving and upholding gender equality.

Progress is also urgently needed in the UN Climate Change Conference context: At COP28, only 36% of Party delegates were women, and the figure for heads and deputy heads of delegation was an even starker 27.5%¹. Gender balance in decision-making is a prerequisite for effective and inclusive international climate governance, which is why we strive for gender balance in our delegations and negotiating teams and call on all Parties to nominate National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFP).

We are committed to developing an ambitious new Work Programme and Gender Action Plan addressing these opportunities and challenges and look forward to continuing to engage constructively with other Parties and stakeholders.

Sincerely,

European Union and its 27 member states

¹ Gender composition. Report by the Secretariat. 2024.