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Nordic Council of Ministers



# NORDIC ACTION ON GENDER AND CLIMATE

- The Nordic Countries' objectives for the integration of gender issues into climate policies
- Examples of Nordic-backed initiatives linking gender and climate issues



PHOTO: Matti Nummelin and Norden.org



**NEW NORDIC CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**



# Why do the Nordic Countries want to emphasise gender issues in global action on climate change?

Women in the rural regions of developing countries suffer most from climate change, due to its impacts on their routine activities such as fetching water and growing crops. The burden of adapting to impacts such as more frequent droughts and floods will make life harder for them if no counter measures are realised. Since women are most affected, women need to participate in all climate actions and have access to resources and technologies designed to facilitate adaptation, otherwise gender inequality will worsen.

Meanwhile, choices largely made by women in both rich and poor countries related to feeding their families and running their homes

have a considerable impact on global greenhouse gas emissions. Women can therefore play a vital role in mitigating climate change. It is important for women to fully participate in shaping awareness-raising measures and other mitigation actions.

### How should gender issues be incorporated into global climate policies?

The Nordic Countries have actively integrated gender issues into international climate actions and policies, supporting the work of organisations including the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA).

Gender issues have already been well integrated into the programmes,

decisions and procedures of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Gender responsiveness has also been mainstreamed into funding criteria applied by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and now also the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The Nordic Countries are working to ensure that the next major climate agreement will include “gender equality and the full and equal participation of women in all climate actions” as a guiding principle at the highest level.

“Women are often primarily responsible for the everyday choices made in households, for the majority of agricultural work, and for ensuring families’ food security. This means that they play a key role in both production and consumption, and can make valuable contributions to low carbon development. Gender equality must be incorporated into all matters connected to climate change.”

– Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland.

### Issues related to climate change in women’s lives



## The Nordic Countries support many initiatives designed to make climate actions more gender-sensitive, and to empower women from developing countries to respond to climate challenges.

PHOTO: WEDO



### Seats at the negotiating table

The Nordic Countries want to integrate gender equality into international climate negotiations, particularly by increasing the involvement of women from developing countries. Finland and Iceland have actively backed the Women Delegates Fund, which provides training, networking and other support to help women delegates from Least Developed Countries participate in UNFCCC meetings. Since its launch in 2008 the scheme has helped about 50 women delegates from more than 30 countries to participate in the negotiations, while also providing training and other support for more than 300 additional women. [www.wedo.org](http://www.wedo.org) › **women's leadership**

### Linking gender issues and climate actions in the Mekong region

The Nordic Development Fund, financed by the Nordic Countries, is working with the Asian Development Bank to support a project aiming to help Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam boost gender-sensitive climate change mitigation policies and project finance. Gender issues are being mainstreamed into national and sub-national climate policies, and the participation of women in decision-making processes is being promoted. Ongoing replicable pilot projects and related microfinance schemes for climate-friendly technologies can now be scaled up thanks to additional Nordic funding announced in July 2015. [www.ndf.fi](http://www.ndf.fi) › **projects**



PHOTO: SNV

PHOTO: World LPG Association



### Benefits for women and the climate from clean cooking stoves

Reliance for cooking on open wood fires and inefficient stoves results in smoke-related health problems that disproportionately impact women and girls. Such practices also result in deforestation and unnecessary emissions. Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland have all donated funds to the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. This public-private partnership aims to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by promoting markets for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance is currently prioritising actions in eight focus countries: Bangladesh, China, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. [cleancookstoves.org](http://cleancookstoves.org)

### Giving indigenous women a voice in actions combating deforestation

Indigenous women play a key role in the use and management of forest resources, so their participation in actions to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) is essential. Since 2009 the Copenhagen-based human rights NGO International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and partner organisations in Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam have been running the project Climate Change Partnership with Indigenous Peoples: Promoting Rights-based, Equitable and Pro-Poor REDD+. Supported by Denmark and Norway, this project aims to increase indigenous women's awareness of forest conservation policies, and empower them to advocate for indigenous peoples' rights in national REDD+ strategies. [www.iwgia.org](http://www.iwgia.org) › **environment** › **REDD**



PHOTO: Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association

# DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- Taken together the Nordic countries constitute the 7<sup>th</sup> largest area in the world with a total of 3,42 million square kilometers.  
(Source: Nordic Statistics)
- The population of the Nordic region is 27 million.  
(Source: Nordic Statistics)
- Combined the Nordics are the 12th largest economy in the world with a total GDP of 1.5 trillion euros.  
(Source: World Bank)
- The Nordics are the countries best positioned to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.  
(Source: Sustainable Governance Indicators 2015)
- Since 1995 the economy of the Nordic countries has grown by 45% while CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have been reduced by 17%.  
(Source: Nordic Statistics)
- The Nordic countries have a common electricity market – the most integrated cross-border energy market in the world.  
(Source: Nordic Energy Research)



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