



Supporting women in addressing climate change: Why we are committed

At COP21* in December in Paris, an agreement must be found to limit climate warming and its many negative impacts. The importance of women's contribution in combating climate change must be fully recognised at the conference. Politicians, artists, members of associations and citizens commit to achieve that goal through this appeal.

Climate change has even more serious consequences for women than for men in developing countries

On a daily basis, climate change affects poor women more severely than men: the scarcity of natural resources such as water and wood is lengthening the distance to collect them, increasing women's working time and making their living conditions more precarious. And when a climate disaster occurs, they are more vulnerable because they have been less prepared: 80% of the victims of the cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh, and 61% of the victims of Nargis in Myanmar were women and girls. In disaster areas, healthcare and access to contraception are often wiped out, further hindering their capacity to space out births, a prerequisite for their empowerment.

Recognising women as actors in addressing climate change

Despite these obstacles and the discriminations they suffer, women are striving to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change impacts. They are innovating on all continents by applying conservation agriculture (which reduces the needs for water and fertilisers and captures carbon), by installing adapted irrigation and drinking water reservoirs, and by creating complete waste recycling lines...

And yet their actions, often undertaken locally, are undervalued and too rarely funded. Little known players of this combat, women are barely involved in decisions taken nationally or at international negotiations. Women will be all the more efficient as they become empowered and fully exercise their rights.

COP21 must represent a decisive and concrete step forward by incorporating gender equality commitments in the Paris Agreement and in future strategies and funding.

We demand:

- The integration of human rights and gender equality in the Paris Agreement, the promotion of women's contribution and strengthening of their participation at all levels in addressing climate change.
- Concrete implementation of these commitments by ensuring that the projects and funding devoted to addressing climate change promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

* 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Upon the initiative of:

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HAUT CONSEIL
ÉGALITÉ
ENTRE LES
FEMMES ET
LES HOMMES



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DE LA FRANCOPHONIE



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