

November
14 GENDER
DAY



COP 27 Presidency

*Statement of the Official Opening of the
Gender Day*

*The Launch of The COP 27 Presidency
Initiative*

*African Women Climate Adaptive Priorities
AWCAP*

14th November 2022

Excellencies, Partners, friends,

It is a pleasure to be with you today in the highlight of the COP 27 Presidency Gender Thematic Day

COP27 Gender Day is tackling a comprehensive approach for Women Empowerment and Gender Equality in the Climate Change Agenda.

The focus of our day will be on Women within decision making in Climate actions, Women and Climate finance, the nexus between COVID19- Climate crisis and women's empowerment; Women Realities within Adaptation, Mitigation, Response and Solutions in just environmental transition.

Excellencies, Partners , Esteemed Guests and Friends

Close your eyes, and imagine,

You are in the middle of a flood thinking of
the lives of your loved ones or being displaced
out of your home,

or living in days of drought standing in long
lines to get food for your family,

or walk for miles to have access for clean
water,

or exposed to wildfire during pregnancy and
fearing a high incidence of birth defects.....

Climate change effects are hammering on the
doors of our generation, A RED ALERT

Drought can harm food production and women's health.

Flooding can lead to disease spread and damages to ecosystems and infrastructure and services.

Women health issues can increase mortality, impact food availability, and limit women worker productivity.

The threats to climate change is not gender neutral ..

It affects women **more negatively compared to men** in five impact areas:

- (i) agricultural production;
- (ii) food and nutrition security;
- (iii) health;
- (iv) water and energy;

(v) climate-related disasters, migration, and conflict.

So if Women are affected more, they should be taking the lead, RIGHT????????

Women are not just helpless victims of climate change – they are powerful agents of change and their leadership is critical.

BUT... If the impact of climate change on women goes unaddressed, globally we will find the gender equality and Women's Empowerment 2030 agenda going backwards to where it was in 2010. Another RED ALERT

With a strong political will and commitment from the President of Egypt, Women's Empowerment is a corner stone for a just green environmental transition in the Egypt's National Sustainable development and

Climate Change Strategies all anchored on inclusive climate action governance, policy making and community participation.

Allow me today, to congratulate H.E Dr. Yasmine Fouad the Minister of Environment , H.E Dr. Hala el Said Minister of Planning and Economic Development, H.E Dr. Rania El-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation, H.E Dr. Nevine El Kabbag , Minister of Social Solidarity.

We are so proud of our Women Ministers and the role in the COP27 Special thanks to Dr. Yasmine Foad I have personally learned a lot from you in this year....

We are also so proud of our COP27 Presidency Youth Envoy, Dr. Omnia EL Omrany, And of course Eng Sarah EL Batouty, UNFCCC Global Ambassador

We are today celebrating Our Egyptian Women Young Leaders to the Climate Change Agenda

Dear Friends,

Since Climate change Action is a multisectoral issue, a Holistic approach that deals with interrelated matters such as growing population, digitization, decent housing and urbanization is important and also helps in capturing progress and achievements.

Accordingly, Egypt has launched two of its Mega Development Presidential Programs in its history.

The "Hayah Karima" (Decent Life) which is the largest development program in Egypt and the world (in terms of funding and targets), in which women and their needs are

one of the main pillars. It also takes into account environmental dimensions and sustainability criteria and targets 58 million citizens, 50% of whom are women.

The National Egyptian Family Development programme aims at improving the demographic characteristics and quality of life of families in more than 20 Governorates allowing for a more resilient communities on the local level in Egypt.

The Egyptian Women's Health Initiative has reached more than 23 million women.

Also Recently and as a lead up to COP27, Egypt has launched a **National Initiative for green smart projects** in all 27 governorates with a dedicated women component. It is an

incentive to all projects that provide local innovative solutions for Climate Change. More than 1000 projects submitted for women category of the initiative.

We did not forget the Girls, We have also launched National Program targeting adolescent girls.... The “Noura” Program An investment Framework in young Girls as future leaders.

Egypt has also intensified its efforts in the field of Women Empowerment to mitigate the effects of climate change, including:

raising awareness and

training women on environmentally friendly farming methods and industries,

and taking into account women's employment opportunities during a just environmental transition.

A Bottom-up approach is significant to understand women in communities their environmental concerns, realities, and experiences.

And on the Global level ,

Egypt has Launched the “Global Perspective.... Women Environment and Climate Change (WECC)” in March 2022 in the CSW, with the Seven Action Areas as a point of Departure

1- Promote gender sensitive perspectives within adaptation, mitigation, and responses

2-Strengthen Women’s Voice and their **Meaningful Participation** in environmental governance.

3-Leverage opportunities for women within the just transition to the green economy and

green consumption habits and within blue economy in the context of achieving sustainable development.

4-Tackle differential health and social implications of environmental issues on women.

5-Promote Educational and Behavioral Change on women and climate change.

6-Apply women-specific perspectives in financing for climate action.

7-Promote knowledge, data generation and analysis on women and climate change.

Esteemed Guests

After more than 16 Regional, and international discussions and consultations from March 2022- to October 2022...

Today, I am honored to present to you all the **The Presidential Initiative “African Women Climate Adaptive Priorities” AWCAP. A resilient water-energy-food just transition for women**

The AWCAP is proposed based on 3 of the actionable areas in Egypt’s Global Perspective (1, 3 & 5) and in support of the commitments of the UNFCCC.

We are Glad to announce UN WOMEN as our Global partner along with the broader UN System...

More than 9 members states have expressed interest to join. Also Civil Society African Organizations are joining too such as Karama organization and FEMNET. As well as the private sector (RAWYA MANSOUR) leading the initiative of entrepreneurs zero waste eco villages and Microsoft Egypt.

WHY AWCAP?

- African women are almost 50% of the continents population
- Rural women in Africa are at a significant risk of being adversely affected by climate change due to household responsibilities and increased agricultural work and displacement resulting from climate impacts. Not to mention, in the wake of disasters.

- Women and children in Africa are 80% of those in need of assistance while, poor women are 14 times more like to die during a natural disaster.
- Almost 40% agricultural workforce in 46 of 53 African countries are women.
- They represent just 15% of landholders, and 70% of the continent's food is produced by women.
- The gender gap in information, communication and technology (ICT) in Africa is 23%.
- African Women are heavily reliant on environment- related livelihoods working in disproportionately climate-exposed sectors such *as agriculture and*

livestock management, forestry, water management, and health.

- Existing inequalities facing women and girls limit sustainable and equitable transition to resilient water- energy-food systems especially in the most climate change prone areas.

Investing in youth is investing in a climate resilient future. Girls have the agility needed to counter the crises. With their talents and equipping them with education, we will respond better.

As financing being one of the major obstacles, there is an urgent need for directing more finance for increasing women's meaningful participation in the resilient water, agriculture and energy management sectors.

What are the AWCAP Objectives?

- Creation of a nexus includes presidents of women machineries/ministers and relevant environment ministers.
- Promotion of knowledge production, enhancing the provision of climate information technologies, data collection, research, exchanges of experiences,
- Strengthen commitments for investing in women: support women in the in education (e.g., STEM) to the labor market,
- Capitalize on existing Public-Private-Partnerships
- Promote gender sensitive social protection policies and measures to accompany just transition pathways.

Our Target is:

➤ Capacity Development inclusion

Upscaling of Green Sectors 500B\$ will be spent in the next 10 years to re-skill employees in new green skills. The initiative aims to ensure women are fairly included in re-skilling of relevant sectors.

➤ Women and girls represent 36% participation in STEM fields, the initiative aims to dedicate resources needed in Africa to ensure higher representation.

➤ Encourage Funding of Women led green startups. The initiative aims to make sure that women benefit from the massive influx of money coming to green entrepreneurship.

We have not just launched a standalone gender initiative; we are also partnering with other Presidency led initiative to mainstream women such as “Decent life for Climate

Resilient Africa” with Ministry of Planning & Economic Development in Egypt.

Dear Champions, Women Leaders , and Great Supporters

- Our Planet is threatened by our own actions.
- But here we are
- We meet for today’s 8 billion lives and the lives of their children.
- We meet for this Planet, We meet for Actions, for results & for implementation.
- We need global cooperation,
- We need Responsibility, Ownership and Commitment.

- We need more women leading the climate debates.
- We need to protect the planet for our sons and daughters and our grandchildren and the future generations.

Today we have no excuse to save our children...
and their children

Together for Implementation and the Time is
NOW.

THANK YOU!