

Submission of the United Arab Emirates on implementation of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP)

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) views gender equality as essential for effective and sustainable climate action, given both capacity that women and girls bring to climate action and climate's disproportionate impacts on women and girls. The UAE has a strong record of empowering women in key climate and environment roles, with over 50% of UAE climate negotiators being women. Furthermore, the UAE is home to a strong ecosystem of women's organisations, working on wide range of issues, from equal pay regulation to renewable energy, finance, and women, peace and security.

In 2024, the UAE ranked 7th globally and 1st across the Arab countries in the UNDP's Gender Inequality Index. Additionally, the UAE ranked 1st globally in 5 of the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2022 sub- indicators, which are: enrolment in primary education, enrolment in secondary education, enrolment in tertiary education, sex ratio at birth, and women in parliament. In recent years, the UAE has launched the UAE Gender Balance Strategy, a platform to enhance women's participation in the renewable energy transition, and a Strategic Partnership with UN Women, establishing a Women's Climate Fund to support the mobilisation of gender-responsive finance. This work is complemented by the General Women's Union, the national mechanism for women's empowerment. The UAE National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point has worked closely with these organisations and across government to produce this submission on the Gender Action Plan (GAP), in accordance with relevant mandates and priorities.

As President of the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28), the UAE has also focused on gender equality. Recognising that a just and inclusive transition to a low-carbon economy cannot take place without women and girls, the UAE launched the COP28 Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership as its anchor outcome. 83 countries have endorsed the Partnership.

The UAE would like to acknowledge the efforts of the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points, whose contributions to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the enhanced Lima Work Programme have been invaluable. This submission details progress made for each activity under the GAP. In the future, the UAE would like to build upon the progress made in three key areas:

The UAE would like to acknowledge the efforts of the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points, whose contributions to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including the enhanced Lima Work Programme, have been invaluable. This submission details progress made for each activity under the GAP. In the future, the UAE would like to build upon the progress made in three key areas:

- Firstly, the new work plan should seek to build ambition upon the previous work plan that supports gender- responsive climate action, ensuring that it includes realistic, timebound and measurable activities with specific indicators to support monitoring and evaluation of the new GAP. In particular, the UAE would like to see continued efforts on collaborative working across the UNFCCC, including with Constituted Bodies.
- Secondly, in line with the UAE Just Transition Work Program and COP28 Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership, the UAE would like to see a stronger focus on just transitions, including work across sectors and with the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, to ensure the advancement of gender equality through a just and inclusive transition to low-carbon economies, taking into account capacity-building and addressing gender-based stereotypes.
- Thirdly, the new plan should seek to further strengthen the evidence base and enhance gender statistics, noting the importance of gender-disaggregated data in finance and resource allocation in climate action and policy. This takes into account the Agreed Conclusions of the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which called for enhancing gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex on climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.

Priority area A: capacity-building, knowledge management and communication

Activities	Deliverables	Challenges & Gaps
• Strengthen capacity-building efforts for governments and other stakeholders in mainstreaming gender in formulating, monitoring, implementing and reviewing, as appropriate, national climate change policies, plans, strategies and action, including nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and national communications	 As noted in the UAE's third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the UAE recognises the crucial need to incorporate gender equality deeply into its efforts to tackle climate change. For this reason, significant efforts have been made to engage women in climate action and decision-making. As further noted in the UAE's third NDC, Masdar is contributing to ensuring women are heard in the sustainability debate by means of the Women in Sustainability, Environment and Renewable Energy (WiSER) initiative. WiSER aims to educate, engage and empower women globally to be enablers of sustainability and innovation. Masdar is Abu Dhabi's renewable energy company. The UAE's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) will not only integrate concrete actions across the NAP process, but also continue the country's ongoing efforts to create an enabling environment to ensure that no one is left behind, in line with the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience. Different social groups will be included in the UAE NAP development process, including women, men, children, youth, people of determination, elderly, migrant workers, indigenous communities, and low-income groups. 	 In 2024, the UAE will update their NDC to further mainstream gender in formulating, monitoring, implementing and reviewing, as appropriate, national climate change policies, plans, strategies and action.
 Discuss and clarify the role and the work of the national gender and climate change focal points, including through providing capacity-building, tools and resources, sharing experience and best practices, workshops, knowledge exchange, peer to-peer learning, mentoring and coaching 	 The UAE has sought to ensure that the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point is equipped with capacity-building, tools and resources, as well as access to best practice and exchange knowledge through peer-to-peer learning. The UAE National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point has worked continuously across government departments, including the General Women's Union, the Office of Special Envoy on Climate Change, the UAE Gender Balance Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well women's organisations operating in the UAE. 	• Whilst the UAE National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point has continued to work across women's rights organisations, the UAE delegation to the UNFCCC is dynamic and this often means that the focal point changes on a regular basis.
 Enhance capacity-building for governments and other relevant stakeholders to collect, analyse and apply sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis in the context of climate change, where applicable 	 The UAE recognises that understanding the gendered impacts of climate change is central to shaping gender-transformative policies, monitoring progress towards global and national commitments, and informing environmental advocacy. However, data gaps remain on the gender and environment nexus. On 28–29 November 2023, the Conference of Parties 2023 (COP28) Presidency, UN Climate Change High Level Champions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, UN Women, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) co-convened "Counting on a Sustainable Future: A Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data". The conference brought together more than 200 participants in-person and virtually to signal the need for urgent action to increase the collection and use of gender and environment data to fuel gender-responsive climate and environment action globally. A global Call to Action emerged from both the in-person and online conference discussions. Moreover, the UAE initiated and endorsed the COP28 Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership, where it committed to support the development of evidence-based methodologies, including sex, disability, and age-disaggregated data and standard indicators, to assess gender equality in the transition to a Paris Agreement-aligned economy. 	 There is an opportunity to enhance gender- disaggregated data reporting and analysis, in line with the Global Call for Action and the COP28 Gender-Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership.
• Strengthen the evidence base and understanding of the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women and the role of women as agents of change and on opportunities for women	 The UAE has worked closely with UN Women UAE – Liaison Office for the GCC to strengthen the evidence base and understanding of the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women. This has included the convening of high-level events on the critical intersection between climate change and women's empowerment, bringing together UN agencies, government officials and civil society. In 2024, the UAE and UN Women adopted a strategic partnership. As part of this partnership, the UAE and UN Women will convene national, regional and global policy discussions and strategy sessions that will strengthen the gender focus on climate change and contribute to global process. 	
 Promote the use of social media, web resources and innovative communication tools to effectively communicate to the public, in particular reaching out to women, on the implementation of the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan and on gender equality 	 The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment continues to enhance domestic efforts across all fields relating to its functions, so as to achieve sustainable development and the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Ministry has a strong social media presence and web resources. Similarly, the Office of the Special Envoy on Climate Change, the UAE Mission to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and other government departments use social media to highlight the opportunities arising through gender empowerment and gendered impacts of climate change and for announcements, including the COP28 Gender Equality Day. The UAE has incorporated traditional communication methods as part of communication and engagement strategies for climate and environment awareness. For example, the UAE has used public dialogues with local leaders (the "Majlis"), as well as in a traditional 'Barzah' setting (with one day designated for men and the other for women) to cover topics such as HSE and emergency response procedures, local hiring plans and processes, and potential plans to expand fuelling facilities to better meet the community's energy needs. 	• Whilst there have been extensive efforts made to raise awareness of the enhanced implementation of the enhanced Lima Work Programme through social media, the UAE has found the 'Majilis' to be more effective in highlighting the gendered impacts of climate change given the opportunity for interaction.

Priority area B: gender balance, participation and women's leadership

Activities	Deliverables	Challenges & Gaps
 Promote initiatives for capacity-building in leadership, negotiation and facilitation of negotiation for women delegates including young women, indigenous women and women from local communities, including through webinars and in- session training to enhance women's participation in the UNFCCC process 	 The 2026 UAE Gender Balance Strategy represents the country's federal gender equality strategy and includes commitments to policy and legislative reform, programmes, partnerships (with the private sector and international organizations), and international engagement on key areas – including sustainability and climate – particularly related to COP28. The UAE government is also considering additional policy levers, such as gender impact analysis for climate policies, gender-responsive climate finance, sex-disaggregation of climate- related data, and quotas for UNFCCC delegations. The UAE has a strong tracked record in ensuring women are well-represented in delegations to the UNFCCC. For example, every year since 2016 the UAE has sent a delegation with 50% or more women to the Bonn Intersessional negotiations. Women on the negotiation teams have access to peer-to-peer mentoring and development opportunities. Moreover, the UAE enjoys strong women's leadership, including through the UAE's Head of Delegation to the UNFCCC who supported facilitation of the GST and the mid-term review of the GAP in 2022. As COP28 Presidency, the UAE has sought to ensure gender balance in its appointment of chairs and facilitators for negotiations processes, including those from its own team. The Presidency has continually emphasized the importance of Gender balance in its communications to Parties. 	 Whilst the UAE has enjoyed success in ensuring women are well-represented in delegations to the UNFCCC, there tends to be proportionately fewer women than men attending COPs. Further research is required to understand this shift and data on the breakdown on accreditation (technical staff/party overflow) would be helpful for this analysis.
 Promote travel funds as a means of supporting the equal participation of women in all national delegations at UNFCCC sessions, as well as funds to support the participation of grass-roots local and indigenous peoples' communities from developing countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States and encourage Parties and relevant organizations to share information on travel funding 	 Ahead of COP28 UAE, the United Arab Emirates supported the Women's Delegate Fund (WDF), which is run by the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO). This allowed women delegates, who might not otherwise be funded to travel to COP28 UAE, to both travel and attend capacity building workshops ahead of the sessions. Also, the COP28 Presidency and Youth Climate Champion teams provided funding to facilitate the travel and participation of youth from the most climate-affected communities, with priority given to those who had not previously attended COP. Through the International Youth Climate Delegate Program, 100 young people were fully funded and trained to attend COY18 and COP28, 56 of which were women. This included 74 delegates from Small Island Development States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), 10 delegates from conflict regions, 12 indigenous youth, and 6 youth with disabilities. The Program saw representation from Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and the Pacific. Many delegates were connected to their Party delegations through the Program and participated in the COP negotiations. 	• The UAE has often shared opportunities for travel through social media and UNFCCC constituencies. Whilst efforts have been made to ensure gender balanced, disability- and indigenous-inclusive delegations, reaching a wider group who may not have regular access to internet has been challenging. This has was most evident during capacity building courses ahead of COPs
 Invite the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group to collaborate and co- host a dialogue to discuss advancing the leadership and highlighting the solutions of local communities and indigenous women and ways of enhancing their effective participation in climate policy and action, to the extent that it is consistent with the workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group and within existing resources 	 The UAE recognises the importance of engaging with Indigenous Peoples and local communities to achieve the Paris Agreement. During the 22nd UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the UAE co-hosted side events to further strengthen working with Indigenous Peoples to ensure COP28 outcomes were inclusive of Indigenous Peoples, including their knowledge, values and expertise. The UAE welcomed the involvement of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group (LCIPP FWG) as part of the previous Gender Action Plan and would welcome further opportunities to engage with the LCIPP FWG in the next work plan. 	 There is an opportunity to further strengthen engagement with the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.

Priority area C: Coherence

Activities	Deliverables	Challenges & Gaps
• Ensure that members of constituted bodies are introduced to gender-related mandates and to the relevance of gender in the context of their work in a consistent and systematic manner	 The UAE is proud to have participated in the Transitional Committee on funding arrangements and the fund for Loss and Damage in 2023 and to discuss the relevance of gender to its work. We welcome further efforts by the Gender Secretariat to ensure continued gender-related mandates in constituted bodies. 	
• Facilitate the exchange of views and best practices of the Chairs of constituted bodies on how to strengthen the integration of the gender perspective into their work, taking into account the synthesis reports on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes referred to in paragraph 15(b) of this decision	 The UAE welcomes continued efforts by Chairs of Constituted Bodies and the UNFCCC Gender Secretariat in facilitating the exchange of views and best practices on how to strengthen the integration of the gender perspective into their work. 	
 Strengthen coordination between the work on gender considerations of the subsidiary bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and other relevant United Nations entities and processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as applicable 	 The UAE welcomes strengthened gender considerations of the SBs. The UAE welcomes gender considerations in the UAE Consensus, including the outcome of the First Global Stocktake. In the run up to COP28 UAE, the UAE has worked closely with the High-Level Champions on gender considerations, including on just transitions, gender-responsive finance and gender-mainstreaming and meaningful representation. 	• There is further scope for joint working under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action to strengthen the involvement of non-state actors, including women's rights organisations and organisations involved in just transition efforts.
 Encourage Parties and relevant UNFCCC constituted bodies, in line with their respective mandates, to support action and implementation of the enhanced LWPG and GAP 	 The UAE has continued to advocate for integration of the enhanced Lima Work Programme and its Gender Action Plan, including through the set of agreements comprising the UAE Consensus: the First Global Stocktake, the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, the UAE Just Transition Work Programme, the Mitigation Work Programme, the Technology Implementation Programme and the decision on the Youth Climate Champion. 	

Priority area D: Gender-Responsive Implementation and Means of Implementation

Activities	Deliverables	Challenges & Gaps
• Share experience and support capacity-building on gender budgeting, including on the integration of gender- responsive budgeting into national budgets to advance gender- responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate	 As part of the UAE-UN Women Strategic Partnership, both Parties agreed to strengthen global frameworks, partnerships, norms and standards to reinforce technical capacity to support gender-responsive climate action and climate resilience building. The General Women's Union have sought to promote capacity building on gender budgeting through working collaboratively across governments to convene discussions on: Plastic consumption production. Environmental sustainability, with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Women and Environmental Sustainability, with the Sharjah University Six workshops and field visits focused on women and agricultural financing, with the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority. Gender-just transitions and financing on Emirati Women's Day (28 August), with the COP28 Presidency. 	• There is further scope to support sharing of experience and capacity- building on the integration of gender-responsive budgeting in local and regional budgets e.g. local authorities, municipalities.
 Raise awareness of the financial and technical support available for promoting the strengthening of gender integration into climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate, including good practices to facilitate access to climate finance for grass-roots women's organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities 	 Building on recent intergovernmental outcomes including the COP 28 and the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66), UN Women in partnership with the UAE will galvanize gender-responsive climate action, build climate resilience and support just transitions to green/blue economies, including by setting up, operationalizing and capitalizing a flexible and rapid funding mechanism through a Women's Climate Fund to support: (i) women's civil society, grassroots and feminist organizations to build their capacities, resources, and resilience, as well as links to national and international policy fora and financing institutions, and (ii) national gender equality mechanisms/ministries/machineries to more effectively influence climate resilience and just transition polices, processes and investments, giving priority to at least five and up to ten least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) and (iii) National and regional partners to implement the outcomes of COP 28. The UAE hosted Gender Equality Day - intentionally – in conjunction with Finance Day during COP28 UAE to highlight the need for gender-responsive finance and budgeting. As part of this day, the COP28 Presidency co-hosted events with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Further, the UAE has been working closely with the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) and the Climate Champions Team (CCT) to support a campaign on facilitating access to finance for grassroots and women's organisations. The UAE continues to work with the Climate Champions Team on a campaign on direct access to finance for Indigenous Peoples, funding a Global Data Study for Indigenous Peoples to strengthen the evidence base of IP-led financed projects in climate action, working with Indigenous Peoples Organisations. 	 The new GAP should support continued efforts to mobilise financial resources for National Climate and Gender Focal Points. This could be through activities such as training workshops for focal points to engage with the private sector, inviting Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to report on efforts to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including sector transition strategies that including funding opportunities.
• Promote the deployment of gender-responsive technological solutions to address climate change, including strengthening, protecting and preserving local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors and for improving climate resilience, and by fostering women's and girls' full participation and leadership in science, technology, research and development	 Women represent 56% of the graduates from STEM fields, while 44.5% of engineering undergraduates in the country are female - one of the highest globally. This has helped support the deployment of gender-responsive technological solutions to address climate change whilst fostering women's leadership in STEM. WiSER has sought to promote the deployment of gender-responsive technological solutions through fostering women's and girls' full participation and leadership in science, technology, research and development in several ways, including: The year-long WiSER Pioneers Program offers young women aged 25 to 35 access to bespoke educational workshops and global networking opportunities with industry experts. The program empowers young women to take a leading role in the global transition to a net-zero future by providing them with a platform to make their voices heard. Launched in 2018, the WiSER Pioneers program which is open to women enrolled in the WiSER Pioneers Program which is open to women enrolled in the WiSER Pioneers Program. Its purpose is to help them progress in their careers by giving them access to one-to-one mentoring sessions with senior figures from various industries. The sessions focus on goal setting and help participants expand their skills and prepare for leadership roles. Launched in 2021, the WiSER Mentorship Program invited more than 330 hours of one-to-one mentorship sessions. 	 Whilst the UAE has one of the highest levels of women's participation in STEM studies and research globally, women are not as well- represented in STEM- aligned job sectors. More research needs to be undertaken to understand retention
• Support the collection and consolidation of information and expertise on gender and climate change in sectors and thematic areas as well as identifying experts on gender and climate change, as needed, and enhance knowledge platforms on gender and climate change	 Through the UAE's MASDAR, the WiSER platform has conducted research on Gender, Inclusion and Climate Change in the Middle East and Northern Africa. The research covered the following areas: Climate-related health risks Climate-related human security risks Access to finance Gender-responsive policies and strategies Capacity building and awareness raising WiSER collected and consolidated information through a survey made readily available online in Arabic and English and circulated through diplomatic missions, government departments and civil society. The research helped inform a white paper to understand impactful strategies to reduce women's vulnerability to climate change, existing capacity building initiatives and how to support women-led initiatives, including seed funding, small business grants, and scaling up existing projects. 	

Priority area E: Monitoring and Reporting

Activities	Deliverables	Challenges
• Strengthen the monitoring and reporting on women in leadership positions within the UNFCCC process in the context of the gender composition report referred to in paragraph 15(b) of this decision and including through case studies	 The UAE welcomes the inclusion of additional information in the gender composition report, as provided by the UNFCCC Gender Secretariat. 	
 Monitor and report on the implementation of gender- responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate, reported by Parties in regular reports and communications under the UNFCCC process 	 The UAE welcomes the monitoring and reporting on the implementation of gender-responsive climate policies, as compiled and in the synthesis report. 	
 Support the review of the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan 	• The UAE is committed to support the review of the Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan through submitting inputs on progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the gender action plan, categorized by deliverable or output for each activity under the gender action plan, and on future work to be undertaken on gender and climate change	
 Raise awareness of the support available to developing country Parties for reporting on the implementation of the gender action plan 	 UAE welcomes efforts to raise awareness of the support available to developing country Parties on both the UNFCCC website and through regular updates on the UNFCCC Gender and Climate Change LinkedIn Page, managed by the UNFCCC Gender Secretariat. 	

Glossary of Terms:

- ACE Action For Climate Empowerment
- AIM for Climate Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate
- AQ Air Quality
- AYC Arab Youth Centre
- AYCCC Arab Youth Council for Climate Change
- CCRN Climate Change Research Network
- CCS Carbon Capture and Storage
- COP28 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of The Parties of the UNFCCC
- EAD Environment Agency _ Abu Dhabi
- EGA Emirates Global Aluminium
- EMEA Europe, Middle East and Africa
- ENEC Emirates Nuclear Energy Company
- EN-WWF Emirates Nature in Association With World Wide Fund for Nature
- ESMA Emirates Authority for Standardizations and Metrology
- ETAF Energy Transition Accelerator Financing
- ETF Enhanced Transparency Framework
- EV Electric Vehicle
- ICBA International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture
- IEA International Energy Agency

- IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- IRENA International Renewable Energy Agency
- ITC Integrated Transport Centre
- LTS Long-Term Strategy
- Masdar Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company
- MENA Middle East and Northern Africa
- MOCCAE Ministry of Climate Change & Environment
- MOEI Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
- NAP National Adaptation Plan
- NbS Nature-Based Solutions
- NCCAP National Climate Change Adaptation Programme
- NDC Nationally Determined Contribution
- OECD The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
- UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
- UNDP United Nations Development Programme
- UNFCCC United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change
- WiSER Women in Sustainability, Environment and Renewable Energy
- WRI The World Resources Institute
- WWF World Wildlife Fund