



AFRICA'S CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (2022-2032)



THEMATIC AREA: Gender and Youth



Context

Gender inequality, with women having less political, social and economic power than men, continues to be a major challenge in Africa, which is the least gender-equal of all regions of the globe, according to the 2019 Sustainable Development Goal Gender Index. Gender norms and power structures play a critical role in determining how women and men of different backgrounds are impacted by, and respond to, climate change. Pre-existing inequalities, gender-related roles and expectations, and unequal access to resources can deepen inequality and leave some groups disproportionately vulnerable. Women are more exposed and vulnerable to climate change because they are often poorer, receive less education, and are not involved in political and household decision-making processes that affect their lives. Women are also more vulnerable to climate shocks due to their role in subsistence rain-fed agriculture and weaker access to resources and decision-making power.



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Africa has the world's youngest population and future generations who are young today will experience significant climate change impacts over the course of their lifetimes if climate impacts are not efficiently and effectively managed. As a result, their welfare and interests should not only be provided for, but their voices should also be heard. They should play key roles in the development and implementation of solutions to the challenges they face from today and into the future.



Priority action areas

- **Improve gender and youth participation** in policy co-design, co-development processes, co-implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- **Empower and engage young people and women** in climate adaptation planning and implementation through inclusive and participatory approaches.
- **Enhance education and sensitisation** on gender and youth responsive approaches.
- **Increase financial and technical support** for youth and gender organisations.



Regional policy frameworks

The African Union (AU) strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2018-2028) is based on an inclusive and multisectoral approach and builds on the lessons learned from the 2009 Gender Policy. The AU's African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa requires Member States to address all forms of discrimination against women through appropriate legislative measures. The AU has developed several youth development policies and programmes to ensure Africa benefits from its demographic dividend. These policies include the African Youth Charter, Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018), and the Malabo Decision on Youth Empowerment, all of which are implemented through various Agenda 2063 programmes.



Regional flagship initiatives

The Youth Decade Plan of Action (2009-2018) contains five key priority areas, two of which pertain to climate change and education and skills development. The Plan of Action focuses on youth empowerment defining it as building knowledge and education through awareness raising, capacity and skills building and enhancing the accessibility of youth to opportunities.