



Swedish Society
for Nature Conservation

Position paper for the UN climate negotiations 2022, COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh



This is at stake

The recent IPCC reports^{1,2} show that climate change is already impacting every part of the world and that its impacts are more severe than expected. Current policies in place sets the world on a global warming of 2.8 degrees. Implementation of conditional and unconditional policies in the NDC scenarios put this figure at 2.4 and 2.6 degrees³. Urgent and drastic action is needed if we are to meet the 1.5-degree target. Around 3.3 to 3.6 billion people are living in areas highly vulnerable to climate change, and around one billion people are at risk of coastal hazards⁴. However, the impacts and the severeness of climate change greatly differ in characteristic and magnitude across regions, countries, and different groups. It is unequivocal that climate change has an impact on human rights across the world⁵. Climate change is a threat multiplier, exacerbating already existing crises and inequalities⁶. The countries and communities that have contributed the least to the climate crisis - including marginalized groups such as women in all their diversity, children, indigenous peoples and local communities, migrants, and displaced populations - are bearing the heaviest burden of its consequences. It is thus crucial that climate action is people- and human rights-centered. The latest IPCC report⁷ showed that international mitigation efforts are insufficient as global greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise between 2010 and 2019.⁸ Global emissions must be reduced by at least 43% (compared to 2019 levels) by 2030 and reach zero emissions by 2050 for the world to have a chance of staying below the 1.5-degree target. Sweden and other high-income countries are responsible for most of the historical greenhouse gas emissions and in a favourable position to mitigate the territorial and consumption-based emissions at a faster pace. Thus, Sweden and other high-income countries have a responsibility for spearheading the transition needed and for ensuring low-income countries' capacity to adapt to the consequences of climate change and grow their economies sustainably.

Another crisis is the ongoing loss of biodiversity. Never before have ecosystems and species disappeared at such a rapid pace. These two crises must be dealt with simultaneously and as interconnected issues, as the cause in both cases is our unsustainable production and consumption patterns. The latter is also linked to the third global crisis of chemical pollution. This autumn's two international summits, COP27 under the UN Climate Convention and COP15 under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, are crucial opportunities to reverse the trend.

¹ [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability | Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability \(ipcc.ch\)](#), [Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change \(ipcc.ch\)](#)

² IPCC, 2019: Summary for Policymakers. In: IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, M. Tignor, E. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegria, M. Nicolai, A. Okem, J. Petzold, B. Rama, N.M. Weyer (eds)]. In press.

³ United Nations Environment Programme (2022). Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window – Climate crisis calls for rapid transformation of societies. Nairobi. <https://www.unep.org/emissions-gap-report-2022>

⁴ [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability | Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability \(ipcc.ch\)](#), [Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change \(ipcc.ch\)](#)

⁵ [With 161 Votes in Favour, 8 Abstentions, General Assembly Adopts Landmark Resolution Recognizing Clean, Healthy, Sustainable Environment as Human Right | UN Press](#)

⁶ Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change

⁷ [Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change \(ipcc.ch\)](#)

⁸ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_SPM.pdf



Therefore, the decisions made at COP27 must address how climate change and the loss of biodiversity are linked.

This is what COP27 must deliver

It is imperative that COP27 results in higher ambition and real implementation globally, closing both the significant mitigation and adaptation gaps and addressing loss and damage, based on equity, human rights, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.⁹ Sweden and the EU have an important role to play, and we expect Sweden to pursue the highest possible ambition, both within the EU and in bilateral talks with other countries, bearing in mind its upcoming presidency in the EU Council. In the following eight areas, we have high expectations of the meeting and of the EU's and Sweden's actions:

1. Raised ambition for climate change mitigation

Climate change requires a transformation of the way our societies and economies function. Global emissions must decrease by at least 43% by 2030 compared to 2019s levels and reach net-zero emissions by 2050 to meet the 1.5-degree target. However, the aggregated emission reductions of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are far from this even based on their swift implementation, where another gap remains. Under the Glasgow Climate Pact, nations were requested to update their NDCs in line with the 1.5-degree target by the end of 2022. However, by mid-October 2022 only around 20 countries had submitted new, revised, or updated NDCs¹⁰. COP27 must deliver higher ambition that results in actual implementation in line with the 1.5-degree target. The IPCC report Mitigation of Climate Change,¹¹ clearly points out the necessary changes needed and upscaling available under different sectors where systematic transformations are needed within e.g., the energy, transport, agriculture, and industry sectors. Furthermore, the report concludes that a large majority of the required measures already are available for deployment and upscaling.

Sweden should, as the first country, set a consumption-based emission target, and encourage other countries to do the same. Sweden and the EU should support the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty as a mean to strengthen the multilateral climate architecture by binding commitments to put an end to all exploration of fossil fuels, phase out existing production and fast-track real solutions for a just transition.. Further, climate action must happen in a just and inclusive way that benefits all of society, worldwide.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation is of the opinion that:

- It is of the utmost importance that the levels of ambition in the updated climate plans are in line with being able to reach net-zero emissions globally by 2050 at the latest.

⁹ [Paris Agreement English \(unfccc.int\)](https://unfccc.int)

¹⁰ <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>

¹¹ [Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change \(ipcc.ch\)](https://www.ipcc.ch)



- Global net-zero emissions in 2050 require, in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities that countries with high historical emissions, reach net-zero emissions much earlier. Based on this principle, Sweden needs to reach close to zero emissions by 2030.
- Parties should finalise or update their long-term GHG emissions development strategies (LT-LEDS) to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- The joint decision, “COP decision”, which will be published at the end of the meeting, will reiterate and strengthen the parties' commitment to deliver and implement more ambitious climate plans. The decision should also call on all parties to speed up the implementation of their climate plans to prevent the temperature increase to exceed a maximum of 1.5 degrees.
- Parties should submit new and updated NDCs aligned with the 1.5-degree target by the end of 2022.
- Sweden and the EU should publicly commit at COP27 to revising the emission reduction target in the EU's NDC to at least 75% by 2030 with the ambition of reaching close to net-zero by 2035.
- Add the establishment of National sufficiency policies to the NDC framework.
- COP27 sets clear expectation for the Global Stocktake in 2023 and the subsequent NDC review process. Parties that successive NDCs should represent a progression, should reflect its highest possible ambition, and can be updated with a higher ambition at any time, and that Parties should verify that current NDCs are in line with the IPCC's latest scientific recommendations.¹²

2. Consistency and synergies in the work for climate and biodiversity

An increase in ambition means not only sharply tightened commitments for emission reductions, but also commitments that meet the need to sequester carbon. The world's land, ocean and freshwater ecosystems' vital role as carbon sinks must, therefore, be acknowledged, and biodiversity protected, sustainably managed, and restored. At COP27, parties should strive to integrate biodiversity and climate action and create closer synergies between COP27 and CBD COP15.

The ocean has generally received less attention in the climate agenda. Thus, in line with the recent summary report¹³ from the UN Climate Change Secretariat its fundamental role in the climate system must be addressed at COP27. Land, ocean, and freshwater ecosystems rich in biodiversity are also more resilient to climate change. At the same time, climate change is a key driver of biodiversity loss. Further, climate change also affects the mobilization and distribution patterns of chemicals in ecosystems, including usage patterns of chemicals in

¹² [CAN Europe letter on COP27 recommendations for ENVI and Pre-COP - CAN Europe](#)

¹³ UNFCCC (2022). The Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue 2022. Informal Summary Report. UNFCCC. Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/OceanAndClimateChangeDialogue2022_summary%20report.pdf



agriculture, with further impacts on biodiversity.¹⁴ These crises (climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution) are thus intrinsically linked and must be tackled together as one triple planetary crisis.

Nature-based solutions (NbS) to climate change mitigation, such as ecosystem protection or conservation of land and sea, are already practiced by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).¹⁵ Their knowledge systems and practices must be recognized at COP 27. Promoting NbS as carbon “offsets” while continuing business as usual is not a solution to climate change. This particularly affects IPLCs in low-income countries and risks undermining both human rights and environmental goals.

At last, IPLCs received an unprecedented level of attention, recognition, and support at COP26. This was the result of many years of consistent and strategic campaigning by IPLC groups and their allies, in combination with growing scientific evidence that shows how their custodianship of land and forests is an indispensable solution to climate change.¹⁶

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation expects parties to:

- Strengthen the synergies between biodiversity and climate agendas by adopting a COP27 decision that recognizes the importance of an ambitious post-2020 GBF in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- Support increased integration and synergies, along with commitments and adequate finance, for actions under the climate change, biodiversity and chemicals and waste conventions, while keeping financial commitments and reporting separate to avoid double-counting,
- Promote solutions that guarantee both climate and biodiversity benefits, while ensuring respect for the human rights of IPLCs as well as gender equality.
- Investments in NbS should build on functional and sustainable local solutions and be developed together with IPLCs in line with their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).
- Increase ambition that includes ocean action and integrate ocean-based solutions into NDCs, NAPs and other national processes.
- Adoption of initiatives to, and funding of, conservation, management, and restoration of land and marine territories must take into account human rights and respect tenure and the knowledge-based management methods of IPLCs

¹⁴ Chemicals, wastes and climate change. Interlinkages and potential for coordinated action (https://mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/Climate_Change_Interlinkages.pdf).

¹⁵ Rights and Resource Initiative, 2020, Estimate of the area of land and territories of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro- descendants where their rights have not been recognized, Technical Report. For example, IPLCs hold or claim as traditional territories equivalent to almost 50% of the land area in 42 countries representing 80% of global biodiversity. Similar evidence, although scarcer, are found in IPLCs marine territories of life.

¹⁶ World Resources Institute, 2021 October, 9 facts about community land and climate mitigation.



3. Adaptation

As the effects of climate change are becoming more prevalent the need to respond to these through adaptation planning is growing. Adaptation planning is a voluntary part of the NDCs but given the clear needs, countries should finalize and implement their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)¹⁷. The distribution between mitigation and adaptation finance has long been uneven. At COP26 in Glasgow, countries promised to double adaptation finance by 2025 (compared to 2019s levels). Adaptation planning should be based on a bottom-up needs approach that is inclusive, gender-sensitive and transparent, not the least to minimize the risks of maladaptation. It is crucial that finance reaches the groups that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change- and are designed in an inclusive and gender responsive way.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation expects from COP27 and beyond:

- Commitments from all parties to finalize their NAPs and start implementing them, low-income countries must be given the support needed to achieve this.
- Delivery on the Glasgow Climate Pact goal to double adaptation finance by 2025 from the 2019 level, in particular targeting communities and countries that are hardest hit by the climate crisis.
- That a larger portion of adaptation projects and finance should be guided by the principles of locally led adaptation.
- That Sweden and the EU actively works towards a decision on the Glasgow Sharm-el-Sheik Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GlaSS), which ensures that adaptation is on the political agenda with dedicated agenda items on the GGA at COP27 and COP28 and at the Subsidiary Body (SB) meetings to ensure the delivery of substantive outcomes on adaptation¹⁸.

4. Loss and Damage

Climate induced loss and damage are those impacts that are beyond “adaptation limits”. This is referred to by the IPCC as when adaptation is no longer able to “provide an acceptable level of security from risks to the existing objectives and values and prevent the loss of the key attributes, components or services of ecosystem”.¹⁹ Like other climate impacts, conflict affected countries, marginalised groups and people in low-income countries that depend on climate vulnerable livelihoods such as agriculture are those suffering the worst consequences. The Glasgow Climate Pact states on Loss and damage “Reiterates the urgency of scaling up action and support as appropriate, including finance, technology transfer and capacity building...”.

At COP26, the Glasgow Dialogue was established. It is now up to world leaders to show real efforts in this space and not merely keeping it at a dialogue level. The summary of the co-

¹⁷ <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans>

¹⁸ CAN Europe letter on COP27 recommendations for ENVI and Pre-COP - CAN Europe

¹⁹ [Loss and damage case studies from the frontline: a resource to support practice and policy \(iied.org\)](https://www.iied.org/loss-and-damage-case-studies-from-the-frontline-a-resource-to-support-practice-and-policy)



chairs noted at the last round of consultations in July that “Overall, Parties viewed that loss and damage would be one of the defining characteristics of success of COP27...”²⁰. There is currently no finance under the UNFCCC to address loss and damage. Loss and damage is happening now and it is urgent that this is addressed at COP27 and that clear mechanisms for financing are decided upon. Low-income countries and large parts of civil society pushes for a separate [finance facility](#) to channel this. These actors need to be listened to at COP27.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation expects:

- COP27 to deliver firm commitments to target volumes and modalities for new and additional loss and damage finance, to be delivered in the form of grants. That this will be additional to previous Official Development Aid (ODA) commitments and the collective target of US\$100 billion (to mitigation and adaptation), in the form of grants. Loss and damage should neither be covered by insurance nor loans and be informed by the countries and groups that have been and are living with the consequences of loss and damage, based on the principles of justice and equity.
- That Sweden and the EU engage in exploring the role of a Loss and Damage Finance Facility under the UNFCCC, proactively and constructively, as demanded by developing countries.
- The parties to highlight the so called “non-economic” losses related to health impacts, mental health, loss of culture, languages, and opportunities.

5. Climate finance

According to agreements under the UNFCCC, high-income countries shall mobilize \$100 billion annually in new and additional climate finance for mitigation and adaptation in low-income countries, but countries are falling short on meeting the target t²¹. In addition, designated finance for loss and damage is critically needed and increasingly demanded. Finance for adaptation and loss and damage is particularly important to the most affected countries and communities. The climate finance system has, a side from not meeting the collective target, had several difficulties; ambiguous definitions, lack of transparency and an unequal distribution between mitigation and adaptation finance.²²The total annual climate finance in Africa (domestic and international) amounted to \$30 billion in 2020, meeting solely 12% of the amount needed.²³Studies show that climate finance efforts are often gender blind. Furthermore, IPLCs tenure and forest management receives less than 1% of public climate finance. Climate finance channelled through large funds is difficult to access for local initiatives and CSOs, and communities most at risk have limited possibilities to influence decision-making around climate finance. There is further a need for serious commitment to ocean climate finance, which could help close the finance gap and help the most at risk – the small island coastal

²⁰ [Summary_HoDs_LD_14-07-22.pdf \(unfccc.int\)](#)

²¹ OECD found that developed countries only mobilized \$83.3 billion of climate finance in 2020. [286dae5d-en.pdf \(oecd-ilibrary.org\)](#)

²² [Full article: Post-2025 climate finance target: how much more and how much better? \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

²³ [COP27: re-imagining partnerships for adaption finance | International Institute for Environment and Development \(iied.org\)](#)



states.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation is of the opinion that COP27 must result in:

- No erosion and competition with support for poverty reduction and other areas within the global sustainability agenda, as the entire agenda contributes to reduced vulnerability to climate change.
- Definitions and reporting must ensure that climate finance is new and additional to pre-existing ODA, and that loans, credits and guarantees are not overreported.
- All climate finance mechanisms guaranteeing a rights-based and gender transformative approach.
- Delivery of the \$100 billion climate finance commitment by 2023, including by countries scaling up their own contributions of new and additional finance in the form of grants and highly concessional loans. Climate finance must not contribute to further debt crises in affected countries.
- An agreement on a significantly higher goal for the post-2025 climate finance, with sub-goals for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage, as well as for a gender transformative approach. The new goal should prioritize grants first.
- The post-2025 collective target for adaptation and mitigation should amount to at least a doubling of the \$100 billion target i.e., \$200 billion.
- Increased financial commitment to ocean climate finance.
- Mandatory reporting on gender inclusion to the UNFCCC, for all types of climate finance.

6. International mechanisms - Article 6

Article 6 under the Paris agreements covers how countries can use, for example, carbon markets to reach their emissions reduction targets set out in their NDCs. The rulebook for this was approved at COP26 in Glasgow. Under article 6 it is allowed that emission reductions that have been authorized for transfer by the selling country government could be sold to another country. However, with the approved rulebook many risks still remain, these are related to double counting, additionality, failing to deliver increased ambition and progressions and inflicting adverse environmental, social, and economic impacts on the local communities involved²⁴. Although many countries and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) are hopeful that this mechanism will deliver the necessary finance and emissions reductions it is dubious whether it will serve its purpose or be counterproductive. It is therefore relevant to highlight the below aspects related to implementation, regulations, and compliance.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation emphasises that it is critical that carbon markets are contributing to real mitigation and has therefore the following basic demands:

²⁴ [Global Forest Coalition Page not found - Global Forest Coalition](#)



- Any transfer of emissions under Article 6 must lead to an increase in the climate commitments of the countries involved, in line with what is required to limit global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees.
- Article 6 can be voluntarily used by countries. SSNC argues that Sweden should not use it to achieve the national targets. If countries choose to use it, a quantitative limit on the number of credits/units of no more than 10% of the national commitment that can be used within the framework of Article 6. All registered projects must provide measurable, additional, permanent, and verifiable emission reductions.
- The use of mechanisms under Article 6 should contribute to achieving an overall mitigation in global emissions (OMGE). For this to happen, the emission reductions achieved under Article 6 must not be used to compensate for emissions by the investing party²⁵. Instead, the emission reductions generated must guarantee additionality.
- It must be guaranteed that double accounting does not take place. This applies to the transfer of credits both within the UNFCCC-system and with systems outside, including carbon offsetting from air traffic and the reduction scheme for international aviation (CORSIA). All transfers must be reported in an open, transparent, and consistent manner, which ensures that external actors, including civil society, can review the system.
- No transfer of credits generated under the Kyoto Protocol (CDM or JI credits) to mechanisms after 2020 may take place. None of these credits should be eligible for use against national climate plans (NDCs). Existing projects must be controlled under robust rules, before they can be classified as projects under Article 6. Most projects registered under the Kyoto Protocol will continue to generate emission reductions even after 2020 without further funding from the Article 6 mechanisms.
- Social protection mechanisms and environmental guarantees must be required of all projects and therefore social and environmental considerations and human rights must be credibly guaranteed in Article 6 mechanisms.

7. The alignment of financial flows

One of the overall goals of the Paris Agreement (2.1 c) is that financial flows should be made aligned with a path towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. This goal is closely linked to the agreement's other overarching goals: limiting the increase in temperature and increasing adaptability. This will only be achieved if financial flows support, and do not undermine, the transition to a climate-resilient society with low greenhouse gas emissions. This includes, but is not limited to, the rapid dismantling of financial resources and support for industries related to fossil fuels. So far, the goal and its significance have been given little space during the climate negotiations. In fact, what is needed is a complete system

²⁵ New Climate Institute, 2019: How could the concept of an "overall mitigation in global emissions" (OMGE) be operationalized under the Paris Agreement?



change on the global level to redirect financial flows from fossil fuels to climate-resilient development.

The redirection on financial flows is necessary to close the investment gap of trillions of dollars needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. COP27 will deal with several topics to close the investment gap: provision of public finance, private sector investments, improved access to finance and debt relief. Governments around the world spend hundreds of billions annually on fossil fuel subsidies. Redirecting these subsidies to renewable energy would significantly reduce emissions and catalysing public investment. Paired with a Just Transition perspective, societies have much to gain from this shift.

Public finance is important to de-risking private sector investment. But regulations are also needed to create a paradigm shift with the private sector to limit global warming and close the investment gap. The world's 60 largest bank, has since the Paris Agreement entered into force, provided over 4,6 trillion dollars to the fossil fuel industry.²⁶ Clean energy investment worldwide will need to more than triple by 2030 to around \$4 trillion and no new invested in fossil fuels if to limit global warming to 1.5C.²⁷ Sweden should actively promote the introduction of mandatory climate plans for banks and other financial institutions. The large share of climate finance and development aid that is channelled through Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) must align with the 1.5-degree targets.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation is of the opinion that:

- Parties should commit in decision text to end all public investments and subsidies that are harmful to the climate and nature and redirect them to mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage finance.
- Sweden should actively work to promote the implementation and increase the number of signatories of [the Statement on International Public Support for Clean Energy Transition](#) adopted at COP26, in particular with regard to ending official export credit agencies' and public finance institutions' support for unabated fossil fuels projects.

8. Climate change and gender

The effects of climate change are not gender neutral. Due to historical and structural gender inequalities and unequal power relations, women and girls are disproportionately affected by and vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation on a global level. This vulnerability is further exacerbated for groups who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, on account of their socio-economic status, ethnicity, caste, race, age, disability, or migrant status. Women and girls are often more dependent on natural resources and typically bear the burden of providing food and water for their families. When access to such resources is limited, it also has enormous effects on women's and girls' lives and livelihoods. They are also more likely to be displaced by and die from climate disasters.²⁸

²⁶ <https://www.bankingonclimatechaos.org/>

²⁷ [Net Zero by 2050 – Analysis - IEA](#)

²⁸ UN Doc A/77/226, para 44



Finally, their perspectives, voices and knowledge have often been omitted or disregarded in the political debate on climate change.

The COP27 negotiations must strive to raise the ambition and accelerate the work on climate justice and gender equality in the implementation of the Paris agreement, across all relevant workstreams. If a gender perspective is not applied to the design, implementation and follow-up of projects and programs addressing climate mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, climate finance and just transition, these projects risk conserving, or even exacerbating, current gender inequalities.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation is of the opinion that:

- An intersectional gender perspective should be integrated into the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes on climate change adaptation and mitigation, loss and damage and climate financing.
- In line with CSW66 Agreed Conclusions²⁹, the full, equal, effective, and meaningful participation, representation and leadership of women in all their diversity must be ensured at all levels of relevant climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction decision-making bodies and processes.
- We support the position of Women and Gender Constituency³⁰ of the UNFCCC that the 2020-2024 enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP) should be strengthened by guaranteeing full funding of the planned activities and including clear progress indicators and targets to ensure the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these.

Finally, The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation further stresses the following areas as crucial for successful and just climate action :

There is an urgent need for transformation. Climate change, the loss of biodiversity and pollution are interlinked and bring negative impacts on human rights across the world. Consequently, the climate convention needs to be equipped to address cross cutting, systemic change. SSNC urges all parties and stakeholders to proactively engage in the following areas

Civic space

This year with the COP27 summit being held in Egypt concerns have been expressed about shrinking civic space ahead of the meeting. UN Special Rapporteurs recently highlighted: "Arrests and detention, NGO asset freezes and dissolutions and travel restrictions against human rights defenders have created a climate of fear for Egyptian civil society organizations to engage visibly at the COP27." Meaningful civil society participation is not just imperative

²⁹ UN Doc E/CN.6/2022/L.7, para o

³⁰ Women & Gender Constituency, Gender and climate change: Submission on the progress of implementation of the activities contained in the gender action plan



from a justice perspective, it also is an important aspect in ensuring that policies are ambitious, accepted and successfully implemented. Environmental defenders play a crucial role in acting to stop destructive business practices and protecting the environment. Yet Global Witness reports that one environmental defender has been killed every other day in the last 10 years. Others are threatened, criminalized, and attacked. The UN Human Rights Council has affirmed that “human rights defenders, including environmental human rights defenders, must be ensured a safe and enabling environment to undertake their work free from hindrance and insecurity, in recognition of their important role in supporting States to fulfil their obligations under the Paris Agreement”.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation expects parties at COP27 to:

- Act to strengthen protection arrangements for human rights and environmental defenders, through measures such as protection grants, amnesties, and funding for rapid response emergency mechanisms.
- Work for enhanced transparency in the implementation and reporting of the Paris agreement to improve possibilities for civil society and the public to hold decision-makers accountable for their commitments
- Work for and support civil society space at COP27 and future COPs, through practical and financial assistance and removal of barriers and restrictions, especially for civil society from the Global South.
- Promote civil society participation and access to all spaces, Demand full transparency on all financial sponsoring of sessions and exhibitions

Sustainable economics

Production, together with its supply of energy and supply chain transports account for a staggering 50 percent of the annual global GHG emissions³¹. In order to curb industry emissions and those that are linked to it, the speed of flow and volume of materials in the economy must reduce. Circular economy strategies, including measures to extend product life spans, and new ownership models or collaborative consumption, are important and will help reduce the need for raw materials, energy, process water and chemicals. The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) has adopted several resolutions relevant to circular economy in connection with its past meetings. The development and implementation of national sufficiency policies could, according to the IPCC, have a great potential in the reduction of energy demand. And hence help to slow down the material flow in the economy and reduce GHG emissions. Following the 2022 Sthlm+50 meeting, it is suggested that one of the most important measures to reduce the need for energy and virgin materials, and hence reduce emissions, is to move beyond GDP as the main metrics for economic development.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation is of the opinion that:

³¹ IPCC, Climate change 2022, summary for policy makers
(https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf).



- Parties at COP27 should endorse a roadmap towards the establishment of a set of metrics that goes beyond GDP and places economic progress relative to human and planetary health.
- Endorse a roadmap towards the establishment of a set of metrics that goes beyond GDP and places economic progress relative to human and planetary health.
- Parties at COP27 should add the establishment of National sufficiency policies to the NDC framework. This includes, but is not limited to, a significant speed-up of the transition to low carbon resource efficient material flows in the economy, e.g., through circular economy strategies in combination with consumption dampening measures and sharing and transfer of know-how and technology to support similar development in all countries.
- The parties of the UNFCCC should explore all possible synergies with the chemicals and waste conventions to support the necessary systemic transformation of the economy. To open the full potential for material resource efficiencies, circular economy actions to curb GHG emissions depend on close regulatory alignment with chemicals and waste regulation, and product design legislation, nationally and globally, to ensure toxic-free material cycles to the highest degree possible.

Transformation of the world's Food Systems

The negative impacts of the global food sector on the climate are well known, yet typically missing from the climate agenda. With agriculture and other food systems contributing with over one-third of greenhouse gas emissions, there are many complex challenges to overcome but also huge opportunities. A transformation of the world's food system is, thus, urgently needed. This would help to create a net-zero world, while also ensuring social justice and food sovereignty. Such an approach, considering forest food and small-scale aquatic food production as well, would increase resilience to crises, help mitigate the impacts of climate change, and ensure that people live in dignity and harmony with the environment. The role of small-scale producers as positive agents of change should be at the centre of further discussions.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation is of the opinion that:

- A transformation of the global food system towards a food sovereignty approach to build resilience is needed.
- Agroecology, low impact small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, and wild foods should be promoted, and their development supported, while putting an end to all harmful subsidies to chemical-intensive agriculture practices and industrial fisheries.
- Agricultural subsidies that favour fossil fuel should be phased out in favour of fossil free investment and production systems.³² Subsidies should incentivise sustainable production and efficient use of water, energy and fertilizers and food prices should clearly reflect the social and environmental costs.

³² Data available in 2012–2014, for 52 countries responsible for approximately two thirds of global agricultural value, suggest \$519 billion of support was given per annum to agriculture



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