

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

FOR WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN THE COP PRESIDENCY & LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR COP27

To the attention of: H.E. Shoukry COP27 President

Copy sent to : H.E. Mahmoud Mohieldin, High-Level Climate Action Champion;
H.E. Antonio Guterrez, UN Secretary General ; H.E. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment;
H.E. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC; Mr. Nigel Topping, High-Level Climate Action Champion

His Excellency,

We are writing this letter to you to ask for more equal representation of women leaders in the composition of the COP27 Presidency team, as well as demonstrating an inclusive process and narrative in the lead up to the COP27 meeting in Sharm-El-Sheikh in November 2022. While President El-Sisi is to be congratulated on a well represented Parliament that comprises 25% women, we are surprised that there are not more women being selected and appointed to top positions within the COP27 Presidency team.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, for the Egyptian COP27 Presidency team, to not only be a leading and shining example for Egypt as a country but for all Nations of the world. For this to happen, we need non-tokenistic appointments of female representatives to the team with clear transparency that their perspectives and proposals for solutions are being taken into account. Diversity and inclusiveness are essential to make COP27 a collective success and to secure a brighter future for humanity on Earth.

As per the IPCC report last week, the climate crisis is on our doorstep and it is affecting us all. But, the perspectives on, and decisions about, how to tackle it have been made mainly by men, without the complementary input of the perspectives and solutions put forward by women.

Only 34% of COP26 committees, and 39% of those leading delegations, were women. This is despite the [Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender](#) which aims at achieving and sustaining the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the UNFCCC process. During the COP26 closing plenary in Glasgow, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa noted there were no women on the podium, and that only a third of the women in the audience were lead negotiators.

For all life to survive on this planet, we need all human perspectives to be heard and a 50:50 vision for the future, with men and women working together to achieve a more sustainable future for humankind. Not only is this fair, but it makes sense too. Research shows that countries with a greater number of female parliamentarians have more advanced climate policy

and lower recorded emissions. Women are also the most likely change-makers for climate in business, with female investors being twice as likely to consider ESG when investing. Women also play a critical role in peace negotiations: according to the World Economic Forum, research has shown that when women are at the table, a truce is 64% more likely to succeed and last.

For the COP26 Presidency, we published an open letter, which was signed by more than 400 influential women leaders and celebrities, and amplified by the Financial Times and other significant global media outlets. You can read the letter here: <https://www.shechangesclimate.org/our-achievements/#openletter>. The social media outreach reached more than 140 million people.

Our asks in 2022 include:

1. A 50:50 balanced representation of men and women at the high-level team for COP27; embracing women's equal participation, supporting gender equality and ensuring that the COP27 approach is transparent and accountable;
2. Demonstrating global leadership by ensuring that Egypt's updated Nationally Determined Contribution includes a gender analysis and commitment to tackling gender inequality via action on reducing emissions, and calling on all Parties to do the same;
3. Ensuring that close to 100% of climate finance is gender inclusive and developing minimum standards to increase accessibility to finance for women-led and women's rights organizations addressing climate change impacts on the front line;
4. Phasing out fossil fuels and committing to net zero by 2050;
5. Including women in peace negotiations, as women empowerment, peace and conflict resolution and climate adaptation are inextricably linked.

We see this issue as urgent and important, as we are now only a few months away from the COP27 summit in Sharm-El-Sheik.

We would like to work collaboratively with you. We believe we can best add value in the set-up and facilitation of a *Friends of the Climate Champions team* providing advice on climate policy, gender equity, inclusiveness and diversity, and bringing together more Parties that can support Egypt in championing this important agenda.

We would very much like to hear your views, ideas and suggestions on how we can best make such a group enhance and support your work in the lead up to COP27.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Bianca Pitt, Antoinette Vermilye, Elise Buckle
Co-Founders of SHE Changes Climate
www.SHEchangesclimate.org

LIST of SIGNATURES- PARTNERS

[Christine Lagarde](#)

[Christine Milne](#)

WECAN ED

[Womens Earth Alliance Co-Directors](#)

WOCAN

[XXX](#)

More information:

***SHE Changes Climate** is a global network established in 2020, which is driving awareness of the crucial role that women play in taking action on climate change. Founded by [Bianca Pitt](#), [Antoinette Vermilye](#) and [Elise Buckle](#), SHE Changes Climate exists to increase female representation at all levels of climate decision making; by influencing key players, campaigning for public support, collaborating with counterparts and amplifying the overlooked. Our vision is a world where women, in all their diversity, are active participants in just climate decision-making.*

SHE Changes Climate is working to bring about real transformation. We do this in three ways:

- 1. **Influencing.** We support diplomats behind-the-scenes to appoint more women into leadership roles at the Conferences of the Parties (COPs).*
- 2. **Amplifying positive stories.** We galvanise public support and opinion by harnessing media endorsement and leveraging social media.*
- 3. **Collaborating.** We foster and facilitate collaboration between other gender and environmental groups, to ensure we calibrate our respective messaging to maximum effect.*

*Please see our first year **Impact Report** [here](#).*

