



PRESS RELEASE

First women-led virtual climate summit featuring 35 leading global climate organisations calls for a full fossil fuel phase out — not a phase down.

For Immediate Release

On November 21, over 800 climate change makers attended the Unite For Climate Solutions: an inclusive virtual event hosted by SHE Changes Climate and Project Dandelion. Discussions highlighted challenges and recommendations for the COP28 presidency and governments to include the provisions of gender-resilient climate financing, inclusivity, and a just transition to renewable energy for all.

29th November 2023 | Geneva, Switzerland: The Unite for Climate Solutions Summit marked a pivotal moment in amplifying the voices of women, indigenous peoples, youth and those disproportionately affected by climate change. Bringing together women leaders and everyday change makers for in-depth discussions demonstrated that women are able and already uniting for climate solutions.

The Summit attracted over 800 attendees and brought together 40 speakers from around the world, including COP28 High-Level Champion, H.E. Razan Al Mubarak; and UAE Chief Climate Negotiator, Hana AlHashimi. The event's agenda emphasised the climate emergency while amplifying the need for diversity and inclusion as a sustainable and united way forward.

"We need to keep the 1.5 within reach, not as a goal, but as a biological and planetary limit," said **H.E. Razan Al Mubarak**. "This can only be done by tackling the climate crisis and the nature crisis at the same time — by cutting emissions by half, and with equal rigour, by protecting our carbon sinks, and protecting nature."

H.E. Razan's remarks focused on how Nature-Based Solutions can provide up to a third of the emission reduction needed to reach the Paris Agreement goal of staying below 1.5°C of global temperature increase during the Nature dialogue.

The summit enabled the sharing of diverse experiences and expert opinions around Energy, Finance, Nature, and Inclusion & Diversity within the context of climate challenges and solutions. The result was recommendations that organising partners- SHE Changes Climate and Project Dandelion- are taking to COP28 with the hope that they will be implemented in the Climate Implementation document at the end of the climate conference.



“The wisdom, the voices and the agency of women really make a difference” **Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Executive Director of the Global Women Leaders Voices** said in the Summit’s opening plenary. “More women at the table; strong and bold decisions and trusting the system is what we hope and expect from COP28.”

Among the recommendations are: the provision of gender-resilient climate financing across different funding mechanisms, from the Loss and Damage Fund to local grantmaking and private sector investments; fast-tracking a just energy transition for all and phasing out fossil fuels; mobilising all actors of society including women leaders in all their diversity, youth, indigenous leaders and local community leaders; and the role of oceans, forests, soils, ecosystems and regenerative agriculture for resilience.

“Some of the greatest challenges in addressing climate finance are adequate funding and the funding being directed towards women and gender-focused groups and solutions,” remarked **Laura Garcia, President and CEO at Global Greengrants Fund**. “To tackle this, we need an intersectoral approach where we have governments working together with civil society.”

Garcia’s remarks were echoed by **Dr. Jemimah Njuki, Chief of Empowerment at UN Women** who equally spoke on the missing link in global negotiations towards climate change. “Climate impacts hit vulnerable groups, especially women, hard. Unequal access, financial barriers and underrepresentation persist. Our approach is intersectional- inclusive and actionable. Yet, voices most affected by climate change are sidelined in crucial decisions.”

During the summit’s closing session, key reflections and recommendations emerging from all the sessions were shared by Mary Robinson, Co-Founder of Project Dandelion, Chair of The Elders and former President of Ireland, who further emphasised on why leaders at COP28 must commit to a full fossil fuel phase-out, not a phase down, as well as a just transition to renewable energy for all.

“We have to put investment where the solutions are - and that is into renewable energy,” **Mary said.**

Ms. Robinson was in conversation with COP28 President Designate, H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, together with Samar Alshorafa, CEO of SHE is Arab,

In his closing remarks, Dr. Sultan spoke on the vital role of women in shaping the success of COP28 and emphasised the UAE’s commitment to making it the most gender-inclusive COP ever. “Tonight, I have the pleasure of speaking to “SHE Changes Climate” and stressing the importance we place on equality, equity and inclusion at COP28. I look forward to hosting the most gender-inclusive COP ever and welcoming women from all corners of the world to the UAE,” **H.E. Al Jaber said.**

SHE Changes Climate will host three events at COP28:

- Weaving a Climate Resilient Future: A Cross-Generational Dialogue Between Women Leaders on 6th December at the WGC Pavillion — Blue Zone.



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- COP28 High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue: 50:50 Balance, Building Trust and Radical Collaboration for People and the Planet on 8th December in the Women's Pavilion — Green Zone.
- Circle of Trust on 10th December at the Global Commons Pavilion.

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