

**FEMINIST** →

**ACTION NEXUS**

for Economic and Climate Justice

# CONCEPT AND KEY DEMANDS

Neoliberalism, patriarchy, white supremacy, and colonialism are structures and systemic drivers of women's oppression, reinforcing and strengthening each other to the detriment of equality and justice. Centered on the concentration of power, upholding the private profit imperative and "market-based solutions," our current global order actively subjugates most of the global population, especially women, girls, and gender-diverse people. Patriarchal, fossil-fuel capitalism fueled by extraction has also directly created the climate crisis, exploiting and abusing both nature and the labor of women, girls and gender-diverse people while continuing to thwart attempts to advance equity and justice in international and national contexts.

Widespread revenue losses due to illicit financial flows, debt service, and inequitable trade agreements including unjust investor protection agreements cause governments to resort to indirect, consumption-based taxes that disproportionately impact women and people of lower income. At the same time, decades of neoliberal austerity measures have resulted in skeletal or nonexistent public services and infrastructure. The care work often provided by feminized people subsidizes this failure of the state, without being recognized as a crucial contribution to the global economy according to current understandings.

**A systemic and structural transformation of our global economic systems and governance is therefore required, to bring about a new paradigm grounded in a feminist and decolonial global green new deal.**

The vision for a feminist and decolonial global green new deal encapsulates a broad economic justice agenda aimed at creating an equitable, peaceful and healthy planet for all. Acknowledging the interdependence of trade, human, capital and climate flows, this framing resists socially constructed hierarchies of racial, gender, class, caste, age, sexuality, and ability-based inequalities that underpin colonial, neoliberal, capitalist structures. A feminist and decolonial global green new deal seeks to achieve structural transformation of international financial and trade architectures, to simultaneously eradicate poverty and guarantee ecological sustainability. This includes confronting and dismantling the interlinking trade, taxation, debt, and overall macroeconomic systems and structures that undermine domestic resource mobilization and challenge the ability of governments to provide gender-responsive, quality public services that fulfill human rights and to finance climate action, among other national priorities.

As the world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, war and conflict, and widespread climate and environmental crises—all which have disproportionate

impacts on women, girls, and gender-diverse people—a shift to a new paradigm is urgently required. In 2021, a group of feminist civil society activists working to achieve global climate and economic justice came together in an “action nexus,” formed across two Action Coalitions of the Generation Equality Forum. This group is led by four key partners, who also serve as civil society co-leads of the Action Coalitions on economic justice and on climate justice: the Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), the Women’s Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG-FFD), FEMNET –The African Women’s Development and Communication Network, and the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA).

Now known as the **Feminist Action Nexus for Economic and Climate Justice**, this informal coalition is guided by the objectives, principles, and key demands outlined below. On this basis, the co-conveners welcome likeminded civil society organizations and individuals to join us in influencing global policy arenas to advance our collective agenda for feminist economic and climate justice.

To sign up for updates on the work of the Action Nexus, please go to [bit.ly/ActionNexus](https://bit.ly/ActionNexus).

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE ACTION NEXUS

- The primacy, indivisibility and non-negotiability of human rights for all (including women's human rights and labor rights);
- Accountability for human rights and environmental obligations and reparations for violations;
- Just and equitable transition centering needs of communities ;
- Intersectionality, encompassing a broad agenda to ensure accessibility, redistribute wealth, power, and resources, center the voices of those most marginalized, and return power to the people; and
- Resistance to corporate capture and the increasing reliance of national and multilateral systems on the private sector; a people and planet-centered approach that challenges oppressive systems, promotes structural change, and advances equality and justice.

## OBJECTIVES

The Action Nexus aims to:

- Advance a vision for a feminist and decolonial green new deal, to shift towards regenerative economies that center care for people and planet and ensure women's human rights and a peaceful and healthy planet for all.
- Outline recommendations to address multiple asymmetries within the global governance system, pursue alternatives to neoliberal economic ideology, challenge power particularly that of rich and powerful global North countries and multinational corporations, and redress past-to-current drains of wealth, resources, and knowledge through colonialism and neoliberalism; and
- Build a broad advocacy agenda for feminist economic and climate justice, centering the leadership of global South women, girls, and gender-diverse people to influence key global policy spaces towards economic and climate justice, including through official representation on delegations, and to forge connections across movements and regions.

# POLICY DEMANDS

1

**Transform global and national economic systems to enable a just and equitable transition to a feminist decolonial green new economy:**

- Confront exploitative and unsustainable production and consumption patterns, shifting from the privatization and commodification of nature to a degrowth mindset grounded in sustainable, equitable production and resource use.
- Promote alternatives to GDP, to measure quality of life and well-being rather than production.
- Divest from fossil fuel, military and carceral systems, regulate the financial sector, and redirect budgets to invest in care and in equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- End austerity and commit to scaling up investments in economic recovery, comprehensive public services and social protection, to fulfill human rights and safeguard public goods.
- Guarantee decent work, particularly for women and girls in the informal sector, and redress the exclusion and exploitation of affected workers and those whose livelihoods have already been disrupted by climate change through technology co-creation and upskilling.
- Enact reparations for both institutionalized racism and climate damage, to advance racial, climate, and economic justice through commitments to non-repetition, restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, and satisfaction of claims.

*Sites: UN, National level*

2

**Restructure the global trade system to enable local and small producers to thrive.**

- Diversify economies and existing value chains, by reducing promotion of the global value chain and promoting instead local and domestic production and supporting cooperatives and small cottage industries to transform the export-oriented development model dominating the global South.
- Eradicate economic dependency on fossil fuels, mining and other harmful extractive industries and reduce the contribution of global trade to carbon emissions.
- Reflect and operationalize special and differential treatment for developing countries in international trade agreements.

- Dismantle the current investor protection and dispute settlement system, promoting transparency and the public interest rather than the primacy of profits of foreign investors.
- Reform trade rules that govern intellectual property rights, enshrining a new system that encourages knowledge transfer and sharing, supports cheaply available generic drugs, and avoids the misuse of patents to appropriate or interfere with traditional knowledge and cultural practices such as saving, exchanging and breeding seeds.
  - > This includes immediately agreeing a TRIPS waiver to enable local production of vaccines and treatments and urgently end the vaccine inequity that prolongs and deepens the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women, girls, and gender-diverse people of the global South.
- Ensure the transfer of environmentally-sound and climate change-related technologies to developing countries to equip their implementation of Paris Agreement Nationally Determined Contributions and make the shift to more equitable, ecologically-just and sustainable development.

*Site: WTO*

**3**

**Redistribute wealth and resources through a progressive and equitable global tax system, to enable governments to mobilize domestic resources and invest in public service provision and climate action.**

- Develop a just and equitable global tax architecture, through a universal and inter-governmental UN Tax Convention with binding commitments (as opposed to via undemocratic and unaccountable spaces like the G7 and OECD).
- Stop illicit financial flows, including cross-border tax abuse, tackle tax havens, and end the “race to the bottom” system of tax incentives (including by requiring country-by-country reporting and public disclosure of beneficial ownership, among other measures).
- Implement expansionary, countercyclical fiscal stimulus policies and reform tax systems to be progressive and gender-responsive, through greater and more stringent taxation of wealth, assets and inheritances; reducing dependence on sales and consumption taxes that place a disproportionate burden on poor people; increased marginal tax rates on the income of the highest earners and on corporations; and ending tax incentives for multinational corporations. [[Mexico City Framework for Beijing+25](#)]

*Site: UN (Shifting from OECD)*

**4**

**End the sovereign debt crisis** and promote debt justice. Redirect public resources from servicing predatory, illegitimate, and colonial loans towards climate action and gender-responsive public services to reduce and redistribute unpaid care work and survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Enact a new multilateral mechanism for sovereign debt cancellation and workout, under the auspices of the United Nations, to support states in restructuring or canceling debts owed to all creditors, in an equitable and transparent manner. Restructuring and cancellation should be based on debt sustainability assessments that meaningfully integrate climate financing, gender equality, and human rights impact assessments.
- Unconditionally cancel public external debt for at least the next four years, to enable global South countries to address the COVID-19 pandemic and to fund climate action and the 2030 Agenda.
- Align debt restructuring and cancellation to address the need for climate reparations for historical carbon emissions and loss and damage, and climate finance owed by developed countries according to their fair shares.

*Site: UN (Shifting from the G20)*

**5**

**Democratize the global economic and financial architecture** to promote global solidarity and collective ambition to address global crises.

- Reform global economic governance structures founded on colonial era inequities and power, especially the IMF and World Bank, to guarantee fair participation in decision-making for global South countries.
- Promote participatory decision making and redress in the activities and strategies of multilateral development banks, to align them with the priorities and needs of local communities.
- Restore the role of the United Nations in leading decision-making on macroeconomic issues of debt, tax, and trade as well as regarding emerging issues such as digitization and internet governance.
- End the extension of conditional loans that promote austerity, shifting to grants that target domestic social welfare and the provision of public goods and services. (See the [Principles of the Feminist COVID-19 Collective](#))
- Recall the duty and obligation of the UN to promote human rights and fundamental freedom for all. Other goals such as economic growth cannot outweigh and outrank the pursuits for human rights, economic and climate justice.

*Site: UN, IMF, World Bank (Shifting away from G7/G20)*

## 6

## **End corporate capture and influence over global public goods and service provision, centering human rights and accountability of private capital.**

- Limit corporate power within global economic governance and require corporations to meet their extraterritorial obligations, including by strengthening the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights and enacting a legally binding international treaty regulating transnational corporations for human rights and accountability.
- Require and implement ex-ante and periodic human rights, environmental, and gender impact assessments of all economic policies, private financing, and trade and investment agreements; revise or terminate any economic activities or agreements incompatible or detrimental to human rights and the environment.
- Halt land and water grabs, guarantee continuous free, prior and informed consent, and support the agricultural practices and traditional knowledge management of women and Indigenous Peoples, including through the free sharing of seeds and greater regulation of agribusiness.
- Immediately end support to unproven and high-risk technologies such as geo-engineering, carbon capture and storage, nuclear, large hydro and geothermal, waste-to-energy and other harmful proposals, and dismantle narratives and financial support to false “solutions” to the climate crisis, particularly regarding net zero and “nature-based solutions.”
- Implement global and national regulation of financial trading transactions to limit speculation and arrest volatility in currency and asset prices.

## 7

## **Ensure all climate finance is gender-just, to implement feminist solutions to the climate crisis that prioritize immediate emissions cuts; a just and equitable transition and decent work for all; ecosystem-based approaches; and redressing loss and damage.**

- In fulfillment of historical obligations, provide climate finance that is predictable, adequate, transparent, accountable, and in the form of grants rather than loans. This must include the provision by developed countries of at least \$100 billion in climate finance per year in grant-based finance, with at least 50% allocated to adaptation, and new and additional funding for adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage.
- Support and replenish the multilateral climate funds serving the Paris Agreement—the Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund, and Global Environment Facility—and champion democratic, inclusive, and participatory decision-making and transparent operations that center gender equality and human rights, including the imperative of free, prior, and informed consent for Indigenous Peoples.

- Create a specific financing facility to address loss and damage, and operationalize a clear governance structure including through the Santiago Network on loss and damage.
- Implement new gender-responsive delivery mechanisms to support direct access to climate finance for grassroots women’s organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, along with equitable and transparent monitoring of funding streams, to support adaptive capacity and resilience of communities through the realization of rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.

## SOURCES AND FURTHER READING

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Feminist Coalition for a Green New Deal (2019): [Principles](#)

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