



Global Network of
Civil Society Organisations
for Disaster Reduction

Call to Action for COP 27, Sham El Sheik, Egypt

This call to action has been co-developed with GNDR members from across the globe. We are the largest international network of civil society organizations working together to strengthen the resilience of communities most at risk of disasters.

COP27 is an important milestone in the Paris Agreement negotiations. This COP is based in Egypt, a key stakeholder in the climate change negotiations, making it even more essential that we champion local voice, expertise and recommendations from our members from across the globe, working on the frontline of climate risk. Further to this, the next 12 months marks the mid-term point of the wider 2030 Agenda Frameworks and this COP27 is an important milestone in reflecting on the progress being made on the Paris Agreement, by the international community.

Background & Perspectives from those on the frontline

GNDR recognizes climate change to be a man-made crisis, largely created by actions made in the global north. The GNDR members are describing climate change as a super risk driver. Those living on the frontline of risk have been documenting, evidencing and highlighting the catastrophic impact climate change is having across the globe and disproportionately to the global south. Our flagship project, *Views from The Frontline* outlined that GNDR members are reporting continued increase in climate extreme events such as floods, droughts, storms, changing weather patterns, heatwaves, wildfires, desertification, soil and forest degradation.

Secondary impacts of climate extremes such as food insecurity, poverty and increasing tension and conflict over natural resources are clearly demonstrating the cascading and interconnected nature of climate risk. Climate change, combined with the ongoing impact of COVID-19, rising energy and food prices and the conflict in Ukraine and in some African



countries are pushing those on the front line of risk into significantly higher states of vulnerability.

Practically, this means that climate solutions should take into consideration the vulnerabilities that climate change has triggered and their impacts on frontline communities. This is possible when DRR and Climate Change actors and local communities come and plan together towards integrated solutions.

GNDR has a specific role in the COP27 negotiations. Here, we aim to bring the risk-informed expertise from our members across the globe to the climate change context. With this, we support our colleagues in CAN International championing civil society's demands on climate change. Here, we see our strategic contribution to the discussions to be linking the climate change negotiations to risk reduction policies and plans at all levels and be propositional in outlining how the climate negotiations can and must be risk informed.

GNDR champions localization, promotes risk-informed development and ensures the civil societies work together in ensuring global decision making is society driven . For COP 27, GNR's main areas of policy influence are targeted towards the discussions on loss and damage, financing and adaptation. We also aim to champion the importance of women and youth inclusion in decision making.

Recommendations

Call to Action

At the start of 2022, GNDR asked members in the global south what they feel must be prioritized if we are to reach the 2030 agenda targets. The key recurring recommendations from our members then formed the GNDR Call to Action. This policy paper aims to contextualize our call to action points specifically to the climate change context. Here, we aim to contribute to the climate change negotiations by bringing a gender transformative and risk-informed lens to decision making on adaptation and loss and damage. Therefore, we call on member states to champion the following ten call to action messages in their COP27 negotiations. We also call on all stakeholders to actively champion evidence and include these messages in all climate change influencing, policy negotiations and action.



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1. Listen and effectively engage with communities who are at the frontline of climate risk

It is essential that those living on the frontline of risk, at the local level, are meaningfully included in decision making on climate change adaptation and loss and damage at all level. Here, the local expertise, evidence and knowledge is essential for risk-informed policy and action. The national delegation should therefore integrate the actions of local actors and their views/voices by facilitating their participation in climate debates. This will also serve as an entry point for the integration of local and indigenous knowledge systems into the global climate debate.

2. Invest at the local level

Finance for adaptation and loss and damage should be channeled through existing national structures and policies such as National Disaster Risk Management Policies, National Adaptation Plans and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). However, both public and private finance around these legislations must be directed to the local level. Decision making around how this finance is spent must be driven from the local level and be guided by local knowledge and expertise from those on the frontline of climate risk. These funds should clearly integrate both humanitarian needs and disaster risks management.

3. Empower civil society to strengthen the effective climate actions on the ground

Civil society organizations have an important role to play in effectively coordinating actions on adaptation and loss and damage. Civil society must be meaningfully included in the negotiations, decision-making and implementation at all levels and work together to coordinate effective risk-informed policy and action. CSO should benefit from financial support to empower local communities in the process of power shift and capacity building. Moreover, The UNFCCC and the host country (ies) should work together to put in place favorable and tangible conditions for the participation of CSO, especially those from the developing countries.

4. Create space for women leaders to meaningfully participate in decision making on climate change at all levels



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GNDR recognizes that women often face the worst of the cascading negative impacts of climate change. However, women also have the local knowledge and capacity required to adapt effectively to climate change risk. Women must be meaningfully involved in decision making on climate change actions and advocate for climate justice at all levels.

5. Strengthen climate risk-reduction and adaptation in conflict affected states

GNDR members are clearly reporting that increasing stress on natural resources is exacerbating tension and conflict in fragile states. Risk reduction governance is often overlooked and deprioritized in fragile and conflict affected states. Therefore, the global community must work together to strengthen climate risk-informed governance in fragile states as a critical element of peace building and stability.

6. Meaningfully involve youth in loss and damage and adaptation decision making

Young people have the knowledge, skills and innovation required to meaningfully tackle the climate crisis, strengthen adaptation efforts and translate the loss and damage negotiations into practical action. They are the most exposed and their future is highly threatened by climate hazardous events. It is essential that member states work with young people and bring youth into decision making at all levels.

7. Learn from COVID19 and the weakness in risk governance the pandemic demonstrated. Apply this learning to strengthen climate risk-reduction and governance

The COVID19 pandemic outlined the weaknesses in risk governance across the globe. Invest in learning from these failures and apply lessons learned to the climate crisis to ensure sustainable and meaningful progress on adaptation and loss and damage action. This learning should mainstream and blend indigenous knowledge and contemporary science into all climate actions. More than COVID-19, impacts Climate change can also be detrimental and challenge any system in place. This can be avoided.

8. Promote inclusion across all levels of climate change decision making



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Meaningful integration across all decision making levels on climate change including those less visible, less heard and most vulnerable is essential to ensure no one is left behind in tackling the climate crisis. Climate solutions should be considered by all societies and should be informed by any social capital. Therefore, it is important to extend the climate debate to all the communities including women, youth, people with disability etc.

9. Countries should effectively engage land use planning in disaster risk reduction, climate adaption, loss and damages.

Dealing with climate change not only involves managing greenhouse gas emissions, but also minimizing the risks from natural hazards through mitigation and adaptation, well structured and well elaborated land use plan. Land use planning plays a key part in reducing current and future community risks associated with climate change, notably by enhancing prevention and preparedness and/or facilitating response and recovery in a community. Responsible management of the environment and its resources, and flexible and responsive development will reduce climate risks.

10. Establish and implement community centered Nature Based Solution (NBS), Nature Based Infrastructure (NBI) and Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA).

NBS are actions to protect, sustainably manage, or restore natural ecosystems, that address societal challenges such as climate change, human health, food and water security, and disaster risk reduction effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

Nature-based solutions such as green roofs, rain gardens, or constructed wetlands can minimize damaging runoff by absorbing stormwater, reducing flood risks and safeguarding freshwater ecosystems. NBS/NBI can contribute to disaster risk reduction, build resilient cities, improve water management and contribute to long-term food security.

For more information on this call to action or the work of GNDR, please visit our website at www.gndr.org or email our Climate Lead: Kossivi Adessou at: adessou.kossivi@gndr.org or our Policy Lead: Becky Murphy at: rebecca.murphy@gndr.org