

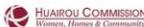
EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON “TRANSFORMING LAND RIGHTS AND CLIMATE JUSTICE THROUGH A WOMEN-LED RENEGOTIATED NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT”

Thursday 29th February and Friday 01st March 2024
Brentwood Suites, Quezon City, Philippines

Summary of EGM by Roshni Sharma



Expert Group Meeting on Transforming Land Rights and Climate Justice through a Women-Led Renegotiated New Social Contract



29 February - 1 March 2024 | Brentwood Suites
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Session 1: Plenary opening session

The EGM began with a plenary opening session, moderated by Mino Ramarosan, Huairou Commission, set the scene for the two days with the context and scope of discussions around transforming land rights and achieving climate justice. Opening remarks were made by Violet Shivutse (Huairou Commission) and Siraj Sait (University of East London), before Nathaniel Don Marquez (ANGOC) spoke to the objectives of the EGM.

There are many complexities of creating a new social contract on climate change impacts, land rights in the context of land as a limited resource, and women and girls. In the journey towards securing land rights, women often find themselves grappling with the intricacies of climate change. From enduring prolonged droughts and floods to combating diseases exacerbated by shifting climates, these challenges significantly impact agricultural productivity, resulting in substantial losses. Yet, amidst these trials, women persist in crafting practical solutions such as land leasing arrangements to ensure food security.

It is noteworthy that many of these effective strategies originate from the ingenuity and perseverance of women, rooted in collective efforts, peer learning, and knowledge sharing across communities and continents. Despite their pivotal role, discussions often overlook the crucial contributions of grassroots women in addressing these challenges and propelling resilient solutions forward. In fact, those who are affected most are generally not considered or involved in platforms or discussion about solutions. Most often, the poor, and in particular poor women and girls, are seen as victims rather than partners to provide solutions to climate change. Added to this is the climate aspect that solutions to climate-based challenges are most effective at local scales, given the local scale at which they are experienced differently. To complicate matters further, funding for climate mitigation and resilience is often decentralised, but clarity on how it is allocated to communities is not always easy to access.

Session 2: Updates on the global development agenda on land rights, climate justice and gender equality from a women and girls perspective

Clarissa Augustinus, one of the founders of GLTN, spoke to the land debate and introduced alongside if the climate debate with its complex global multistakeholder context, exploring what we might need to know about the global climate change agenda to get women and girls perspectives included in the climate programs to ensure their land rights and for gender equality.

She began by introducing the nine planetary boundaries, of which six have been recorded as crossed in 2023¹, noting that the land agenda is linked to three of them, under the frameworks of the three Rio conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD), which collectively but disjointedly align on climate's three broad arms - land, water and marine. Clarissa then showed three scenarios from the second Global Land Outlook report from the UNCCD, which explores three scenarios ranging from business as usual, restoration only, and restoration and protection, with regards to current global trends in land and natural resources degradation. Based on this report, if there is business as usual, demand for food, feed, fibre and bioenergy will continue to rise such that by 2050, a further area the size of South America will be degraded, food production will be slow, and nature and biodiversity will continue to decline as agricultural lands expand. With restoration between now and 2050 of 35% of the global land area, however, we will still not be doing enough to create a healthy planet for people. The third scenario takes this restoration scenario plus protection measures to cover close to half of the Earth's land surface by 2050.



¹ <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/research-news/2023-09-13-all-planetary-boundaries-mapped-out-for-the-first-time-six-of-nine-crossed.html>

The United Nations Convention of Biodiversity Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework GBF agreed by 188 governments in 2022, sets aside 30% of the planet – land and marine - to be conserved by 2030. However, within this we see impacts on the world’s poor and their livelihoods, such that many subsistence farmers and pastoralists will see reduced access to land with increased protection and restoration of biodiversity, and population movements from rural to urban areas would intensify. These changes will inordinately impact women and girls more than many other segments of global populations.

With regards to the UNCCD, UNFCCC and UNCBD, participating countries produce regular reports to each. All of these plans impact land tenure and gender equity, however these links are rarely overtly stated in these reports. Of interest to this group is the NDC report to the UNFCCC, which will speak to national climate action plans to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts, which will be updated in 2025 - an opportunity to bring both land tenure and gender equity to the fore in national reporting. This is not easy for surveyors, who need to learn the new ‘language’ of climate alongside their own professional jargon, however it is necessary to raise the profile of land and gender in the climate agenda. This is necessary for the creation of equal rights and access to land and natural resources in an equitable, meaningful way that has informed participation for women and girls, particularly with global-to-local power imbalances. Leadership at all levels with engagement, action, policy and decision-making will be required to bring land and gender into biodiversity and conservation efforts.



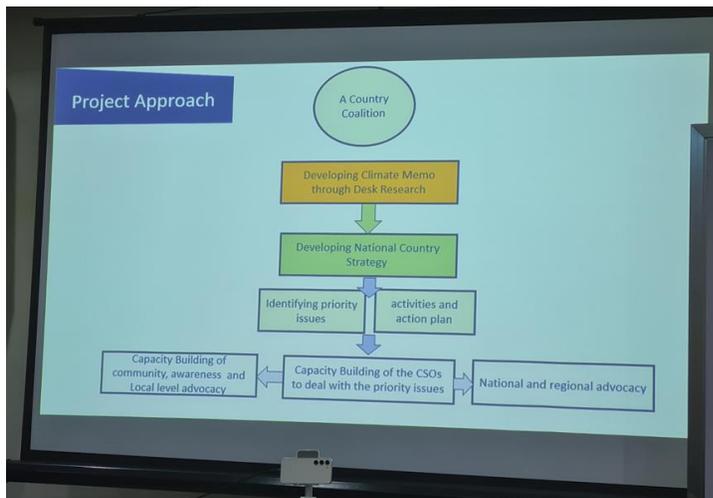
Discussion following this keynote presentation explored the complexities of positioning women as partners rather than beneficiaries in climate conversations, particularly with regards to helping clear messages about what climate change is and what its impacts will be to women and girls at a district level amidst the gendered social context they live in. Approaches to strengthen implementation of policies and ensure

grassroots voices, such as women farmers, were also explored, with an emphasis on taking an intersectional lens. Examples from Bangladesh and Nepal showed the need for effective policy implementation over just formulation. Discussions then centred around grassroots empowerment, with calls to elevate indigenous knowledge systems and ensure local voices shape climate monitoring and reporting. This session set the groundwork for collaborative action through a shared understanding of opportunities and gaps at the intersection of land rights, climate justice and gender equality.

Session 3: Learning from women-led initiatives and reconfiguring climate action strategies

This session began with three presentations from experiences of women-led initiatives that are creating impact with regards to gender, land rights and climate.

The first presentation provided insights into the work being done in Bangladesh to address women's land rights and climate resilience. Ripa Shandija from Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) in Bangladesh discussed how climate change is exacerbating land inequalities in her country, with women disproportionately impacted by issues like flooding, cyclonic storms, and land insecurity. Coastal regions are climate change hotspots, particularly vulnerable to the effects of salinity, frequent cyclones, and flooding of wetlands and rivers. These climate risks intersect with insecure livelihoods and land ownership, exacerbating issues of food insecurity, displacement, and peace and security. The program being run by ALRD has three broad outcomes - (1) to facilitate better networking between CSOs and communities to equip them to better manage climate risks, increase women's land rights and climate resilience; (2) enable women to be active participants in local and national forums on climate policy and programs, including climate risk response and emergency preparedness; and (3) enable women's land rights to be recognised regionally and nationally as a key tool for effective climate action and emergency preparedness.



A national coalition of stakeholders from academia, grassroots organisations, journalists (to facilitate media coverage at national and international levels) has been formed to take action on climate issues in four priority locations. This group prepares regular community reports (Climate Memo's), with particular input from grassroots women who are living in climate-prone areas. More broadly, this community-led research is mapping risk levels and developing national-level resilience strategies, with a focus on

including the perspectives of indigenous women in mangrove forest areas. This strategy emphasises capacity building, of which one of the most important parts is the creation and distribution of knowledge and materials to share with grassroots communities at national and local levels. This national coalition has an expert group at its core and groups for each of the three pilot geographies, as well as poor women groups. Each of these groups are led by women and have regular meetings with communities in their areas, interfacing with local government, raising issues of risk impacts and resilience, to facilitate two-way sharing of information in the creation, maintenance and implementation of this national strategy. The ALRD also works with partners in Naples, Maldives and Colombia. Ripa also highlighted discrepancies found in Bangladesh's National Determination Report regarding the limited mention of the link between women and land rights. Looking ahead, ALRD is drafting a report outlining

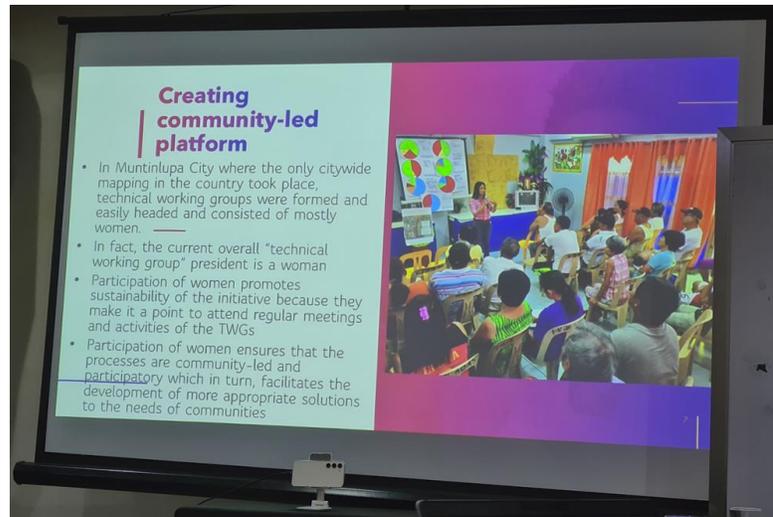
this issue to use as an entry point for negotiating with the government to better include women in upcoming reporting, as countries are expected to submit revised plans.

The second presentation provided insights into women-led climate change and land rights. Ruby Haddad from the Philippines spoke to the Homeless People's Federation Philippines, Inc.'s (HPFPI) Informal Settlement Communities in the context of climate change, and responses of the communities to initiatives such as community mapping, community organising and savings initiatives, participator site planning and design, establishment of community-led platforms, and urban gardening and food security.

Ruby discussed how land ownership and property rights in the Philippines remain heavily tied to increasing land value, presenting affordability issues. Strengthening climate change awareness at a community local level is important to reduce damages from disasters. HPFPI collaborate across both government and local communities, facilitating community empowerment through capacity development, emphasising a holistic approach to address vulnerabilities, as land rights issues intersect with

other factors like livelihoods and environmental restoration. Currently, most land ownership in the areas they work in falls under private property regimes rather than communal rights. This integrated view is necessary to balance priorities and effectively deal with climate impacts in the Philippines. Overall, the discussion highlighted the long road ahead to fully secure land rights, especially for indigenous communities, while building climate resilience at the national level.

The third presentation shared insights into the work being done in India to address climate resilience and land rights issues facing tribal communities. Rohini Reddy from India discussed the work of South Asian Rural Reconstruction Association (SARRA) in the state of Andhra Pradesh with the particularly vulnerable Kolam tribal group living near coastal forests. Efforts are focused on teaching climate-resilient agriculture practices and recording a seasonal calendar of forest activities like honey collection and bamboo cutting times. However, increasing population growth, cyclones, and the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated problems like human-animal conflict as



elephants and leopards enter villages more frequently. Rohini emphasised the important role that government officials and forest departments could take to better inform tribal communities about policies and provide more support through awareness raising. She emphasised challenges in implementing traditional rules for land ownership and registration. While the government aims to distribute land to vulnerable groups, political will is needed to overcome issues like degraded forests occupying 40% of India's land that could otherwise support these communities.

The final presentation was made by lawyer Jennifer Duncan on GLTN Phase 3 Gender Stocktaking Report. She provided insights as a lawyer and small farm owner who has worked in the field of land rights and gender in climate action for over 25 years. The GLTN Phase 3 Gender Stocktaking Report explored work done over Phase 3 on climate action and provides broader context to inform future gender efforts.

Jennifer spoke to the methodology involved, including reviewing documentation and interviewing over 25 stakeholders from GLTN partners, countries, and global partners. Key findings from the report highlighted the high level of commitment to gender equality demonstrated. It also found GLTN's work continues to be grounded in gender-inclusive tools and approaches, with successes seen in reaching scale through a combination of capacity development and tools to enhance security in countries like Uganda, Zambia, and the DRC. She discussed institutional reforms supported, such as developing capacity to measure and report on women's land rights in relation to the SDGs and advocacy efforts on women's land rights in conflict setting.



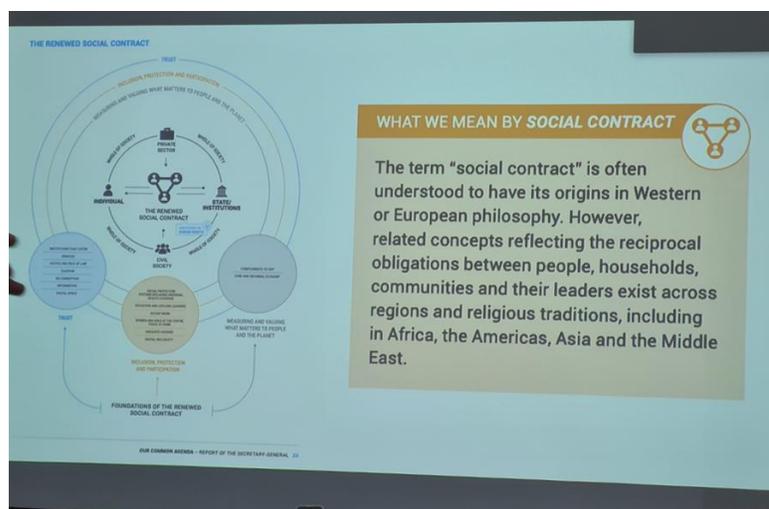
The discussion that took place following these presentations focused on women's land rights and climate resilience initiatives around the world, emphasising the need to take a holistic approach to addressing land rights and livelihoods and exploring the challenges faced and lessons learned from initiatives on the ground. This included discussion on how monitoring progress on Sustainable Development Goals like SDG 1.4.2 on women's land rights can be incorporated into efforts at local and national levels, the complexities of bringing women's voices into climate conversations at national and international levels based not only on bureaucratic factors and political will but also gendered social norms.

Session 4: Enhancing land rights and women's led climate action through a new social contract

This session began with a presentation from Dr. Shampa Roy-Mukherjee of the University of East London on a project to develop a new social contract with young people in the London borough of

Newham. The project aims to empower youth to effectively participate in health decision-making. The presentation shared early findings from surveys and focus groups with over 300 young participants on priority health issues and what young people envision in a social contract. Dr Roy-Mukherjee shared how it takes a multi-stakeholder approach involving young people, healthcare providers, local government, and community partners. Some key challenges highlighted included engaging the most vulnerable youth and gaining the perspectives of diverse groups. Lessons from the project included the importance of a co-development process with young people involved at every stage. Some key insights from Dr. Shampa Roy-Mukherjee's presentation that were brought into the discussion about developing a new social contract for women and girls on land and climate issues include:

- The importance of a co-development and co-design process that meaningfully involves women and girls at every stage, not just as beneficiaries.
- The challenges of engaging the most vulnerable groups of women and girls and ensuring their perspectives are represented.
- Learning from examples of small-scale, bespoke projects that can unlock voices of women and girls who may be absent from mainstream discourse.
- The value of qualitative and quantitative data, including from surveys and focus groups, to understand priority issues and perspectives of women and girls on what they want in a social contract.
- The multi-stakeholder approach involves different professional groups, communities, local government, and women's groups.



The session moderator, Siraj Sait, then prompted the audience with six key questions for exploration:

1. What is innovative about the new social contract in relation to housing, land and property (HLP) rights?
2. How is it relevant to women and climate change?
3. What are the priorities, principles, processes?
4. Who are the partners and what roles do they play?
5. What are the mutual rights between the different stakeholders including the national and local governments?
6. How could this be monitored and implemented?

with grassroots women to determine the appropriate data attributes required to monitor progress for women and marginalised groups. Close consultation and involvement of local women would be needed to identify the priority issues in their context and ensure data collection methods do not further marginalised or filter out voices. Their perspectives must be directly incorporated to establish relevant indicators and frameworks for ongoing assessment and implementation of the social contract in a manner sensitive to women's lived realities and rights.

Developing ongoing platforms to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue and knowledge exchange around implementing the social contract framework was considered a priority. It was noted that such engagement cannot be a one-off activity restricted to intermittent meetings or time-bound projects. Participants stressed the need for mechanisms that allow continued participation and discussion between diverse stakeholders over the long term. The creation of virtual or in-person spaces was proposed where grassroots communities, women's groups, local government representatives, and other partners can routinely share experiences, learn from each other, and inform priority-setting and decision making in a collaborative manner. Only through sustaining such participatory processes well beyond the design stage can the social contract evolve flexibly to address emerging challenges. It aims to move beyond extractive models of engagement by institutionalising two-way communication channels and empowering local voices in an inclusive monitoring of progress.

EGM participants also highlighted the importance of directly involving women's groups and local women leaders in understanding challenges faced in accessing critical services, shelters and information during disasters. One participant shared their experience from community consultations where women complained about not receiving timely early warning messages or having inadequate access to safe shelters during emergencies. It was noted that existing government relief efforts are often not designed with women's unique needs and vulnerabilities in mind. Discussion emphasised engaging frontline women to shed light on such gender-specific barriers and inform more responsive disaster management. Their inputs could help evaluate shelter conditions, information dissemination methods, and whether marginalised women like indigenous groups experience additional exclusion. Only by working closely with grassroots women's networks can stakeholders gain nuanced insights and ensure the social contract framework strengthens women's agency and protection in times of crisis.

Finally, it was emphasised that recognizing women as equal partners and active agents of change in developing the social contract framework, rather than passive beneficiaries, is vital. Documenting women's meaningful contributions to addressing climate change impacts and building community resilience was seen as one of their keys to achieving this. It was noted that grassroots women are already demonstrating innovative climate solutions and playing a leading role in mitigating risks through their indigenous knowledge and practices. However, such initiatives and the leadership roles of women often remain undocumented or overlooked in mainstream policy discourses. The social contract process thus aims to centre gender by capturing women's agency, solutions, and on-ground experiences through participatory research methods. Doing so would help validate women's critical role in climate action and shift the narrative to see them as driving forces of change rather than victims. This repositioning of

women as equal stakeholders was seen as crucial to empowering them and ensuring their priorities and rights are central to the social contract's implementation.

Session 5: Assessing Preparedness and Coping with the Socio-Economic Impacts of Climate Change

This session began with an insightful, thought-provoking and broad-ranging presentation provided by Adil Sait from the London School of Economics on key issues emerging from the GLTN Scoping Study on Land Rights and Climate Change completed NUST/UEL in 2021. This study provided a rapid evidence review of >120 academic and policy documents, yielding 8 case studies and 4 main thematic findings.



This set the scene for discussion: land use changes significantly impact climate change and women's land rights, while land tenure insecurity is both a cause and consequence of climate change, affecting women's abilities to mitigate climate risks. Effective programme interventions should begin with assessing women's specific climate vulnerabilities and stressors, ensuring gender-responsive, evidence-based objectives aligned with global frameworks. Utilising land tools can enhance sustainable development and women's management of climate risks, particularly when targeting development needs to reinforce women-led climate initiatives. Strengthening women's climate resilience and land tenure security necessitates localised capacity development, recognizing the direct influence of local context on women's land tenure status and governance alongside climate policy. Land tools must assess climate hazards, women's vulnerability, and adaptive capacity, emphasising effective communication to enable the success of women-led climate initiatives, while prioritising local women's knowledge, priorities, and resources.

Participatory discussion during the session was focused around four key prompts:

1. What do we mean by preparedness and coping?
2. What actually facilitates/supports/creates socio-economic empowerment for women and girls in the context of land and climate?
 - a. How will land use change in response to climate impacts in the next 10-20-50 years?

- b. How will land tenure status and land governance work alongside climate policy over time?
3. We know what we know - what don't we know? What don't we know about assessing preparedness and coping with socio-economic impacts of climate change?
4. What measures are needed to enhance representation of women and girls in land governance structures and climate change policymaking processes? What tools can we build on to achieve this?



The group had an in-depth discussion around understanding preparedness and coping strategies in the context of climate change impacts. Clarissa highlighted the need to plan for large-scale migration of up to 600 million people globally, by choice or not, by 2050 due to the effects of climate change. There was a focus on exploring the need to strengthen food, water and healthcare security at the community level to improve resilience and reduce vulnerability when disasters strike. They also stressed the importance of land tenure security in enabling households to

invest in more climate-resilient housing and infrastructure. Alongside this, there was consideration of facilitating access to natural resources for those remaining on the land after a disaster, as well as restoring degraded ecosystems. Preparedness involves both anticipating future risks and developing response capacities to cope with current climate impacts affecting local communities.

Discussion examined the impacts of climate change on land rights and rural livelihoods in depth, focusing on the complex challenges climate change poses for rural women's livelihoods and land-based livelihoods. Violet highlighted concerns about loss of agricultural land and shifts towards industrialised farming models that exclude grassroots women. As lands become unsuitable for agriculture due to climate impacts, there are worries this will undermine the economic gains women have made through farming. Rafiq and others emphasised the need to transform food systems in an inclusive manner that supports women. Participants also discussed threats like desertification and GMO seed promotion negatively affecting traditional seeds and knowledge. The changing land use patterns induced by climate change were noted as directly impacting women's land rights. Securing tenure was identified as crucial for building adaptive capacity in pastoral communities disproportionately affected.

There was robust discussion on empowering women through land governance and climate change policymaking, especially the complexities of empowering women at the local, national, and global levels of land and climate governance. Rohini highlighted how social norms often prevent women from fully benefiting from land titling initiatives in many cultures, and there was discussion around supporting joint

land ownership between husband-wife to address this. Legal aid was identified as an important tool for helping women understand their land rights. Ensuring women's representation in decision-making was also emphasised, such as through awareness raising and formal organisation of vulnerable communities. The tensions between different climate change framings like mitigation versus adaptation were noted as impacting land use decisions. Integrating a gender lens into emerging frameworks and mainstreaming women's voices in developing solutions were seen as priorities. Case studies from Liberia and other countries demonstrated participatory approaches and gender-sensitive tools can strengthen climate resilience when done inclusively.

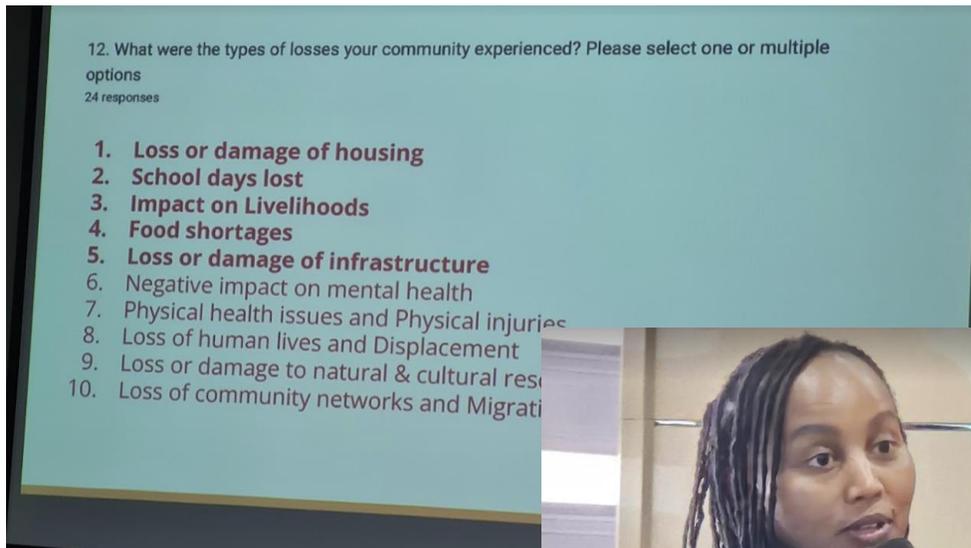
The need for holistic approaches addressing both social and structural dimensions to overcome challenges women face in securing land rights and coping with climate impacts was highlighted in terms of addressing social norms and structural challenges facing women in depth. Rohini highlighted how social norms can prevent women from fully benefiting from land titling and limit their participation in public decision making. Grace emphasised the importance of transforming social norms to avoid conflict within communities. Structural issues like discriminatory customary practices and lack of representation in institutions were also noted as barriers. The need to work with both grassroots women and change makers within government and organisations was identified. Case studies from Nigeria and Nepal showed tackling gender discrimination through legal reforms and knowledge building can help strengthen women's resilience. Ensuring policies and programs are gender responsive rather than just focusing on economic incentives was an important point raised.

There was also consideration of the importance of ensuring equitable disaster preparedness budgets and responses. Maria highlighted issues with current budget allocations in the Philippines, noting that poorer and more vulnerable communities often receive less funding. This biases disaster risk reduction efforts against those most impacted by climate change. Participants recognized the need for interventions and programs implemented by governments to be tailored to community needs. It was noted that marginalised groups like women are frequently not well-represented in decision making around budgets and responses. The discussion emphasised supporting formal organisation of such sectors to have a voice. Assessing budget allocations across different communities could help determine if they are properly equipped to cope with disasters. Overall, the conversation underscored that equitable empowerment requires understanding resource distribution at local levels and mainstreaming input from those most at risk.

Session 6: Responding to climate change and its impacts: Community informed approaches to loss and damage, protection, and compensation

Mino Ramarosan introduced this session by presenting results from a survey conducted by Huairou Commission with 24 groups in Asia and Africa on climate change impacts. The survey engaged with communities, NGO staff, and a Head of Government Association, receiving responses from over 950 members total. The presentation showed that communities strongly agree climate change is impacting their lives. Key climate impacts reported over the last 20 years were unpredictable weather, droughts, floods, longer dry seasons, heat waves, and loss of forests and pastures. Key losses experienced included

damaged housing, disrupted schools and livelihoods, food shortages, and negative health impacts. Mino also discussed the types of invisible losses communities face, such as injuries among vulnerable groups, water-borne diseases, hunger, gender-based violence, and loss of culture and indigenous knowledge. Finally, she spoke to the lack of compensation communities receive for climate-related losses and damages.



Following Mino's presentation, Clarissa spoke to the importance of addressing unavoidable climate impacts, particularly those



faced by vulnerable countries. She noted that some communities are already experiencing irreversible damages due to climate change and highlighted the unequal distribution of climate damages and funding, with frequent concerns that money from developed nations' loss and damage fund doesn't reach vulnerable communities directly. She also stressed the need to prioritise non-economic losses from climate change such as loss of culture

and displacement. Enhancing community capacities to respond to loss and damage, including through grievance mechanisms, adaptation of climate laws to include women, and educating governments on community needs, have been shown to be effective. Social protection and greater government responsibility to support communities affected by climate change is needed.

Hellen-Nyamweru Ndungu from GLTN then presented on how to adapt existing tools to reflect the issues of loss and damage and compensation. This was showcased in a case study from Nepal that demonstrated how GLTN tools were adapted and applied to address land issues after a major earthquake in 2018. The presentation highlighted the challenges faced by earthquake survivors in obtaining post-disaster grants due to lack of documentation like citizenship certificates and land

ownership proofs. Tools like STDM and participatory mapping/enumeration were utilised to collect data on affected households and verify land rights. The tools were customised to the local context, including mapping multiple land holdings for households impacted by the disaster. An integrated resettlement plan was developed for relocating over 85 households to a new settlement area, with livelihood support also provided to vulnerable groups through skills training and agriculture assistance. The implementation process involved ongoing monitoring of the permanent resettlement site and efforts to provide full infrastructure and services. This case study showed a climate-relevant example of how GLTN approaches can be adapted to respond to climate disasters while incorporating community priorities and the needs of women and girls.

There was significant discussion from participants around addressing loss and damage from climate change impacts, specifically about how loss and damage efforts must focus on unavoidable climate impacts, particularly those faced by vulnerable countries. It was noted that some communities are already experiencing irreversible damages due to climate change. The unequal distribution of climate damages and funding was highlighted, with concerns that money from developed nations' loss and damage fund was not reaching vulnerable communities directly. Participants discussed the importance of prioritising resilience and addressing non-economic losses from climate change such as loss of culture and displacement. The need for transparency around loss and damage was also raised. Speakers explored ways to enhance community capacities to respond to loss and damage, including through grievance mechanisms, adaptation of climate laws to include women, and educating governments on the needs of communities requiring support. Advocating for social protection and responsibility from governments to support communities affected by climate change was also discussed in depth.

Participants also spoke to empowering grassroots communities and women in loss and damage efforts, especially the need to prioritise women's needs and priorities in defining loss and damages. It was suggested that existing evidence on the impacts faced by communities be used to centre women in both the design and management of loss and damage funds. Participants proposed a funding scenario where women would play a central role in determining how funds are allocated. Civil society organisations working together with governments was presented as a model to demonstrate this approach. Concerns were raised about power imbalances in stakeholder platforms, highlighting the importance of grassroots organising and capacity building. Ensuring sufficient representation of grassroots communities in high-level discussions was also discussed. Discussion stressed the crucial role of women in shaping loss and damage responses and advocated for their leadership beyond a beneficiary role in both setting priorities and overseeing loss and damage resources.

There was also significant discussion around prioritising the needs and priorities of affected communities in loss and damage efforts. The presentation of a survey conducted with communities in Asia and Africa was highlighted, which found that communities face impacts like unpredictable weather, flooding, and damage to homes, schools and livelihoods from climate change. It was emphasised that the priorities of grassroots communities, such as those identified in the survey, should be at the centre of defining and addressing loss and damage. Speakers suggested taking a community-led approach and using existing evidence on women's needs and priorities to shape loss and damage efforts. This included

involving civil society organisations and governments but ensuring communities directly inform the process, with women leading the design and management of loss and damage funds being crucial to truly prioritise community needs.

Developing tools and guidelines for responding to climate disasters in the context of loss and damage was also highlighted as important with regards to loss and damage efforts. It was suggested to focus development of a climate toolkit, incorporating existing tools like those produced by GLTN to address community needs when responding to climate events such as community relocations. The toolkit could provide guidance on issues to consider such as infrastructure, livelihoods and housing support. Participants also discussed using a case study from Nepal where GLTN tools were customised and applied after an earthquake to help verify identities, map land rights and develop resettlement plans for affected communities. This case was presented as a model for incorporating women's priorities and GLTN approaches into climate disaster response. Capacity development for tools like participatory mapping was highlighted to better understand community risks. The need for practical guidance and demonstrated approaches that empower local responses to loss and damage from extreme weather and help marginalised groups access post-disaster support was emphasised.



There was meaningful discussion around ensuring land rights are included in loss and damage agreements in addition to property rights. A key point made was that international frameworks and national laws often only recognize formal, registered property rights and exclude the land rights of indigenous communities. This could leave vulnerable groups uncompensated for climate damages if land rights are not explicitly covered. This emphasises the importance of land rights for adaptation and resilience efforts. It was suggested that advocacy focus on changing the language in climate instruments to encompass both property and land use rights. The complexities increase when viewed from both a

land and climate lens, for example in post-conflict countries where governments may only compensate for registered property, stressing the need for loss and damage negotiations and social contracts to clearly include land rights held through customary tenure.

There was robust discussion around preparing for upcoming climate change negotiations, such as the upcoming UNFCCC COP27 and UN Habitat meetings and advocating key priorities. It was agreed that advocating for the centrality of social protection in loss and damage discussions is important for these, as governments often fail to provide sustainable social protection support. Being clear about how to articulate the link between land rights, climate impacts and gender inequity in these negotiations will be critical to avoid fragmentation. Community-led approaches to loss and damage funding were also discussed, with a proposal to design funding mechanisms where communities direct resources. It is important to prepare evidence-based arguments to effectively negotiate with governments on priorities like recognizing non-economic impacts, responsibilities for supporting vulnerable groups, and empowering local control over climate finances.

Session 7: Where do we go from here? Towards a new social contract for the World Social Summit, Summit for the Future, and World Urban Forum

This session presented a draft new social contract based on the two days of discussion so far.

There was emphasis on how to ensure women's leadership and inclusivity are well represented in the new social contract. Ensuring representation of diverse women in both the leadership and solutions was an important consideration that came up in crafting the language for this document. Discussion centred around how to position women as key agents of change in addressing land and climate issues, while using inclusive language that does not separate women into different groups. While EGM participants debated using terms like "voice of the poor" that could categorise women. It was suggested to instead recognize those most burdened and affected. The group also discussed ensuring language does not separate women but represents diversity and addresses intersectionality. Emphasising women's agency as leaders in climate action while maintaining an inclusive approach emerged as an important consideration raised in this topic.

There was also discussion on the types and principles of social contracts. There was debate around taking a minimalist approach with only a few core principles versus a more comprehensive list. It was noted that social contracts can vary in their size, scope, partners and objectives depending on the specific context and goals, and for this purpose, ensuring the document was accessible to a wide audience was a key consideration in the level of complexity and technical terms used. Some of the principles discussed included participation, inclusion, and addressing structural issues of gender inequality. There was a focus on finding the right balance between recognizing the complexity of social contracts while simplifying the language for broad understanding.

The discussion around land rights and objectives of the social contract touched on several key points. It was agreed that the focus should be on amplifying marginalised voices, especially women and youth, in

decision-making around climate change policy. There was debate on whether the language should prioritise all communities equally or specifically call out women at first. It was also highlighted that the objectives were largely drawn from past works like the Dhaka Declaration. Ensuring the document addressed the diverse issues communities face related to land and climate change was also discussed. EGM participants worked through each specific objective listed to achieve an inclusive and equitable framework through the social contract.



Finally, there was discussion around stakeholder engagement and groups involved in sustainable development. There was debate around how stakeholder groups select their representatives, and ensuring autonomy and democratic principles in the process. Nine major stakeholder groups recognized by previous UN conferences were identified. Participants also discussed including additional relevant groups like social workers. The importance of using current and inclusive terminology for stakeholder categories was highlighted. Key players mentioned included grassroots movements, governments, businesses, and professionals from fields like environment and land. Challenges around finding representatives for some stakeholder constituencies were also brought up.

Session 8: Plenary Closing: Recalibrating Phase IV of GLTN

Arach David James from NAMATI presented his closing remarks on implications to GLTN Phase IV first. He emphasised the importance of regarding land security through the lens of women's rights, and of considering different social groups' access to and participation in decisions around land, particularly in the context of climate change and food security. He highlighted the need to pay attention to land rights in rural customary systems, especially in his home country of Kenya where over 60% of land is held in customary title. David stressed that within these systems, women often face challenges and barriers in

decision making around land use. He expressed that focusing on facilitating opportunities to strengthen community governance and ensure more inclusive processes that incorporate women's participation in land management decisions will be important for GLTN Phase IV.



Following this, Roshni Sharma from FIG provided her closing remarks on behalf of FIG and the Professional Cluster of GLTN. She emphasises that securing land tenure for women and girls is vital in creating effective outcomes in the rapidly changing environmental context at the intersection of climate, land and gender. To be able to do this, it is important to have appropriate data on people, land and livelihoods to inform solutions. As surveyors have relevant expertise in land administration, the professional cluster hopes to support these efforts. Key issues raised over the two days that need to be captured in data include the need to respect women and indigenous peoples' dignity and empower them through awareness raising, as well as considering social norms and power imbalances that impact women's livelihoods in agriculture and rural areas. Solutions must navigate global pressures on the local level through a locally-focused approach with national and international support. Effective pilot projects demonstrate what can be achieved, and continued learning between partners will generate hope and empowerment to achieve land and climate goals.

Grace Ananda from Habitat for Humanity then provided her closing remarks. She reflected on the achievements over the two days of discussions, noting the wealth of new information presented. She emphasises the strong link between land tenure and climate change, suggesting this is an area the GLTN strategy should strengthen. She highlighted that National NDC reports also present an opportunity for land and gender issues to be linked and showcased. Grace spoke to how the adaptation of GLTN tools for climate change, such as STDM, should be prioritised. Alongside this, awareness raising is important to position women at the centre of climate change debates.



Finally, closing remarks on behalf of ANGOC and GLTN were made. Lessons from the EGM will help GLTN strengthen efforts such as advocacy documents, tool adaptation for climate change, and responsive land use planning projects. Ensuring women are beneficiaries as well as active participants in discussions on climate change is vital as the impacts threaten all populations. Going forward, GLTN can focus on redirecting the climate change narrative by documenting indigenous land management practices, sharpening its agenda on climate change, and building partner capacity at the national level. Don Marquez highlighted the importance of circulating the draft social contract document for feedback to help guide next steps, before thanking participants for their valuable contributions.