

# CLIMATE JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS & SRHR

A SYSTEMS-  
BASED VISION  
FOR COLLECTIVE  
GLOBAL ACTION

Towards a common advocacy agenda

Menstrual Rights Global





# Acknowledgements

## **A systems-based vision for collective global action**

*Prepared after discussions from the Second World Summit on Social Development (Doha), COP30 (Belém), and the Climate Inequality, Human Rights and Sustainable Development (Geneva), November 2025*

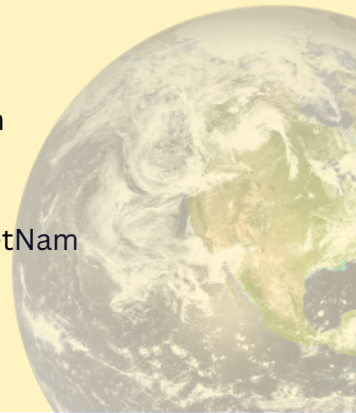
## **Presented by Menstrual Rights Global**

Advocating for the right to thrive for women, girls, and people who menstruate from menarche to menopause.

Menstrual Rights Global drives life-course menstrual justice by advancing rights-based, evidence-driven advocacy and systems change. The organisation works to dismantle structural barriers and ensure menstrual equity for all, because dignity, health, and opportunity should never depend on a biological cycle.

[www.menstrualrightsglobal.com](http://www.menstrualrightsglobal.com)

- Dr Jennifer Martin, Co-Founder, Scotland
- Sidra Ifran, Climate & SRH Lead, Pakistan
- Laura Youngson, Policy Lead, Scotland
- Dr Bismah Nayyer, Board Member, Pakistan
- Mary Alu, Nigeria Representative, Nigeria
- Candice Chirwa, Board Chair, South Africa
- Huỳnh Nguyễn Ánh Mai, Policy Analyst, VietNam



**FOR MANY OF US, THIS WORK IS DEEPLY PERSONAL. I COME FROM A PLACE WHERE EACH BREATH CAN FEEL LIKE SMOKING 30 CIGARETTES A DAY, WHERE TOXIC WINTER SMOG, EXTREME HEAT AND MONSOON FLOODS REPEATEDLY PUSH FRAGILE HEALTH SYSTEMS TO THE BRINK. IN EVERY CRISIS, WOMEN, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE, CARRY THE HEAVIEST BURDEN.**

**THIS IS NOT ONLY THE STORY OF PAKISTAN OR OF COUNTRIES WITH LOWER INCOMES. CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS WOMEN AND GIRLS ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE IN EVERY REGION. NO HEALTH SYSTEM IS FULLY PREPARED. NO COUNTRY IS IMMUNE.**

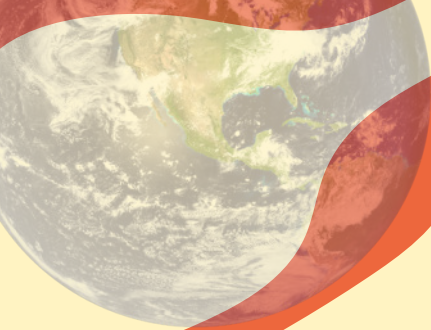
**WHAT CAN BE DIFFERENT IS HOW WE RESPOND. CLIMATE ACTION MUST BE INCLUSIVE, INTERSECTIONAL AND GROUNDED IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND SRHR. IT REQUIRES EQUITABLE CROSS SECTORAL PARTNERSHIPS THAT ELEVATE FRONTLINE AND LOCAL EXPERTISE, AND SYSTEMS APPROACHES THAT LINK HEALTH, GENDER EQUALITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE.**

**CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT GENDER NEUTRAL. OUR RESPONSE CANNOT BE EITHER.**

Sidra Irfan  
Climate x SRH Lead  
Pakistan

Menstrual Rights Global





# Global Declarations can deliver a Shared Mandate for Climate and Health

The year 2025 marks a turning point. The International Court of Justice advisory opinion confirmed that states have binding obligations to prevent climate harm and protect human rights (ICJ 2025). The World Health Assembly adopted the Global Action Plan on Climate Change and Health 2025–2028 (WHO 2025), while the Belem Health Action Plan set out a coordinated global vision for climate and health (WHO 2025a). The Doha Political Declaration renewed commitments to justice, equity and global solidarity (UN 2025), and the Pact for the Future (UNGA 2024) reinforced multilateral cooperation and shared responsibility. The thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action reaffirmed that gender equality is central to sustainable development.

Within this global mandate, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including menstrual health, must be recognised not as peripheral concerns but as central pillars of climate justice and human resilience.

# A Call for Justice Based, Rights Centred & Gender Responsive Climate Action

Globally, the  
richest 1%  
produce as  
much carbon  
pollution as  
the poorest  
66%

These declarations are not separate texts; they form a shared global mandate. Together they call for a new kind of climate action: justice based, rights centred, gender responsive, systemically aligned and collectively implemented.

Climate change deepens socioeconomic challenges, gender inequality and health disparities. It interacts with structural patriarchy, colonisation and discrimination that determine whose land is exploited, whose voices matter and whose bodies are controlled. Children, women, older persons, LGBTQIA+ people, people with disabilities, migrants, displaced groups and Indigenous Peoples face disproportionate climate impacts. At the same time, emissions inequality persists, with the richest 1% producing as much carbon pollution as the poorest 66% (Oxfam 2023).



**Climate change is not gender-neutral. Our response cannot be either.**

Menstrual Rights Global



Meeting this mandate requires more than policy commitments. It demands a stronger and more interconnected ecosystem that mobilises actors far beyond the traditional climate and health sectors.

**Education systems** have a critical role in building climate literacy, advancing comprehensive sexuality education and promoting gender transformative curricula.

**Workplaces**, including private sector employers, trade unions and informal labour networks, must ensure climate resilient and gender responsive working conditions, from heat safe labour protections to menstrual friendly environments.

**Local and national governments, social development agencies, human rights institutions, feminist movements, youth led organisations and Indigenous leadership networks** must be engaged as equal partners in shaping governance, accountability and community driven solutions.

**Climate finance institutions, philanthropic organisations and private investors** must align funding with rights based and gender equitable outcomes, ensuring that SRHR and menstrual health are integrated into adaptation and resilience planning rather than treated as afterthoughts.

These ecosystem actors together form the enabling environment through which commitments become practice, and through which justice becomes material change.

**WE NEED A  
ACTION-  
ORIENTATED,  
GLOBALLY  
ALIGNED  
AGENDA FOR  
SRHR X CLIMATE  
X SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

Menstrual Rights Global



# Our Agenda

We will now outline an action-oriented, globally aligned agenda for implementing the commitments of 2025. It contains six principles that promote holistic, systems-based vision showing how we can move forward as a global ecosystem to achieve climate justice, human rights and resilient societies, together.

Menstrual Rights Global



## 1. Rights-based climate action: SRHR is an adaptation priority

The ICJ ruling makes clear that climate harm is a human rights violation. Realising the rights to health, life, equality, development and bodily autonomy requires placing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including menstrual health, at the centre of adaptation. SRHR protects safety, agency, dignity and the foundations of health. Climate shocks disrupt essential SRHR services, exacerbating socioeconomic challenges and undermining resilience (UNFPA 2024).

Embedding SRHR into climate planning is not optional; it is an essential part of achieving sustainable development. This includes:

- Integrating SRHR into National Adaptation Plans and national health emergency preparedness with explicit budgets and workforce plans (short-term: within next NAP update).
- Mandating continuity plans for SRHR in health emergency protocols.
- Requiring data disaggregation by sex, age, disability, location, income, indigenous population, migration status, among other localised adaptable categories, for SRHR service coverage and climate vulnerability.

**Action lens:** Countries must integrate SRHR and menstrual health into adaptation as a central pillar, not a marginal add-on. Health systems must be climate-ready, rights-centred and accessible to all. Despite its centrality, SRHR continues to be marginalised in climate policy spaces, reflecting deeper gendered power dynamics and historical silences around bodies, autonomy, and self care

## 2. Building Equitable Ecosystems: Centring Communities in Climate and Health Governance

There is clear evidence that policies are most effective when they are shaped with, and not for, the people they aim to serve. Community leadership has proven its impact across global health: the HIV and AIDS movement showed how communities strengthen systems, accelerate access and improve accountability. The WHO led global consultation Nothing About Us Without Us similarly demonstrated that co creation with affected groups leads to more equitable and sustainable outcomes (Fisher and Martin 2021).

Climate policy requires the same commitment to equity, partnership and shared leadership. Communities are not beneficiaries, they are co leaders within a wider ecosystem of actors who together drive resilience and justice. Their knowledge, lived experience and innovation are essential sources of insight, and must guide decision making at every level.

Viewed through an ecosystem lens, advancing equity means ensuring that community leadership sits alongside governance, finance, science, education, social development and human rights. This requires moving beyond consultation to genuine co ownership, where those most affected influence the priorities, design, implementation and evaluation of climate and health actions.

**Action lens:** Governments and global institutions must invest in community leadership and embed co governance into climate and health planning. Participation must be resourced, respected and institutionalised, not extracted or tokenised. This includes fair compensation for time and expertise, accessible and inclusive decision making spaces, long term partnerships with community based organisations and mechanisms that ensure accountability flows both upwards and downwards. Without this ecosystem wide and equity driven approach, climate action will continue to reproduce the power imbalances it seeks to dismantle.

### 3. Intersectional and systems-based understanding of climate realities



Climate change is a multiplying force. It interacts with gender, disability, socioeconomic challenges, migration status, racism and historical marginalisation to shape risk and resilience. These fault lines are structural, not accidental.

Addressing climate impacts requires a systems lens: climate resilience depends on health, education, water, sanitation, food systems, urban planning, labour, energy and social protection. Fragmented approaches will not deliver the transformation needed.

Applying an intersectional and systems-based approach requires:

- Mandate intersectional analysis (gender, age, disability, income, indigenous population, migration status) in climate and health policies and plans.
- Conduct multi-sector climate risk assessments that map impacts across SRHR, WASH, food, education, labour and social protection systems.
- Establish cross-ministerial coordination to align adaptation, health, gender, finance and social development strategies.
- Strengthen integrated service delivery by ensuring SRHR, WASH, primary health care and social protection systems are climate-resilient and mutually reinforcing.
- Require human rights and gender impact assessments for major climate and infrastructure investments.
- Institutionalise community participation in monitoring, evaluation and policy review, especially for frontline and marginalised groups.
- Track and publicly report inequality outcomes to ensure climate action reduces and does not reproduce structural disparities.

**Research & data gaps:** There is limited disaggregated evidence on how climate shocks affect access to SRHR services across gender identities, age groups, disabilities, indigenous population and migration status, among other factors. Donors and national statistical offices should prioritise routine, disaggregated health and socio-economic data collection, and fund operational research on SRHR continuity in climate emergencies and climate adaptation, including climate-induced migration.

**Action lens:** Policymakers must adopt intersectional and systems-based strategies that recognise how inequalities shape climate impacts, and ensure no policy reproduces them. Intersectionality must be understood not just as an analytical tool, but as a feminist and decolonial commitment to dismantling layered systems of oppression

## 4. Framing climate justice through mitigation, adaptation, remediation and transformation

The MART framework – mitigation, adaptation, remediation and transformation – introduced by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development (Deva 2024), offers an essential foundation for understanding what climate justice now demands. Developed in response to growing evidence that current approaches are too fragmented and too narrow, MART brings together legal obligations, human rights principles and development priorities into a single, coherent vision. It provides a structured way of interpreting the global mandate set by the 2025 declarations and clarifies how states, institutions and societies must act.

MART is not a checklist. It is a narrative and a compass for systems change.

1. **Mitigation** acknowledges structural inequities in emissions and demands fair responsibility for reducing harm, especially by those with the greatest historical and current contribution to climate change.
2. **Adaptation** affirms that protecting lives, rights and essential services, including SRHR, is central to building resilience in every community.
3. **Remediation** recognises that justice must be delivered where loss and damage have already occurred, with meaningful redress for affected populations.
4. **Transformation** confronts and seeks to dismantle the underlying systems of patriarchy, colonisation, racial capitalism and gendered oppression that continue to drive climate vulnerability and global inequality.

Together, these pillars make clear that climate justice cannot be achieved by focusing on environmental action alone. MART teaches us that justice requires whole ecosystems of actors working together across sectors, regions and institutions. It requires governance that aligns climate action with health, gender equality, social protection, economic policy, education and human rights. It demands sustained partnership with communities who hold lived expertise, and an explicit commitment to equity as the organising principle for all action.

**Action lens:** Countries, regions and global institutions should adopt MART as a shared north star for implementing all 2025 commitments. Doing so grounds climate action in justice, aligns fragmented agendas into a single project and strengthens the collective capacity to deliver transformation at scale.

## 5. Financing climate resilience: shared responsibility across the ecosystem

Achieving a truly action orientated and globally aligned agenda for SRHR, climate and social development requires a transformed financing ecosystem. Current funding is fragmented, short term and concentrated in institutions far from the communities most affected. To deliver on the commitments of 2025, financing must shift towards equity, rights and long term resilience.

Blended financing is central to this shift. When public, private and philanthropic capital is combined with transparent governance and safeguards, it unlocks resources that traditional funding models cannot. Development banks can derisk national and local programmes across SRHR, health, social protection and climate resilience. Regional development finance institutions offer context specific mechanisms that reinforce national ownership. Local governments, meanwhile, can mobilise community finance and strengthen the organisations that anchor resilience at the frontline.

Financing must not replicate colonial aid hierarchies. It must be grounded in redistribution, reparations, community ownership and self determination. Funding must reach women's groups, Indigenous communities, youth movements, community health workers, SRHR providers, disability organisations and locally led groups who hold the lived expertise essential for effective action.

An integrated ecosystem requires a financing pathway from grassroots to global:

1. pre seed and early stage support for community innovation;
2. flexible core funding for locally led organisations;
3. regional pooled financing for cross border priorities;
4. long term national and global mechanisms for systems strengthening.

The Gavi model offers a useful precedent. Its mix of catalytic financing, co financing milestones and transition pathways supports countries to strengthen systems while gradually assuming greater financial independence. A similar approach across SRHR, climate and social development could align global solidarity with domestic resource mobilisation and durable national ownership.

Financing must also move at the speed of reality, not bureaucracy. Disbursement systems must be fast, accessible and accountable. Critically, measurement must shift. Indicators must capture equity, resilience, shifts in power and system strengthening , not only numbers reached. Impact must show whether financing is reducing inequalities, strengthening SRHR access, improving resilience and transforming structures.

**Action lens:** Countries, regions and global institutions must adopt blended and regionally led financing models that channel resources directly to frontline actors, support national ownership and track impact in terms of equity, power shifts and system change. Only a diversified, just and community anchored financing ecosystem can deliver a truly action orientated agenda for SRHR, climate and social development.

“

**CLIMATE JUSTICE X  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
X SRH REQUIRES A  
GLOBAL ECOSYSTEM  
THAT CENTRES EQUITY  
AND RIGHTS, WITH  
DIVERSE SECTORS  
ENGAGING AS EQUAL  
PARTNERS AND  
SYSTEMS WORKING  
TOGETHER TO DRIVE A  
SHARED AGENDA FOR  
PEOPLE, RESILIENCE  
AND COLLECTIVE  
PROGRESS.**

Dr Jenni Martin  
Co-Founder, MRG  
Scotland

Menstrual Rights Global





# A holistic vision for global systems change

We now have the knowledge, clarity and tools to act. The opinions and declarations of 2025, Belém, WHO GAP, Doha, Pact for the Future, Beijing+30, offer a **holistic, globally aligned vision** for how to address climate, health and social development together. This is not a sectoral agenda. It is not a regional agenda. It is a **global ecosystem agenda**.

It recognises that:

- climate change is a justice issue
- health is foundational
- SRHR is non-negotiable
- human rights must shape climate and corporate action
- structural systems must be dismantled
- communities must lead
- finance must be fair

This is how we move forward: as one global ecosystem, with shared purpose and shared responsibility.



# Six priorities for collective action

Below are action-oriented, future-facing priorities, grounded in the new knowledge and global commitments of 2025.

## **Priority 1. Make SRHR a core adaptation pillar**

- Integrate SRHR including menstrual health into all climate and health plans.
- Ensure continuity of essential SRHR services during climate shocks

Why this matters: SRHR is foundational to human resilience, dignity and rights.

## **Priority 2. Apply gender, inter-generational, and intersectional analysis across all climate decisions**

- Use intersectional evidence to design policies that protect those facing the greatest socioeconomic challenges.
- Ensure intergenerational leadership, learning, and knowledge exchange.
- Ensure climate action addresses structural patriarchy, colonisation and discrimination.

Why this matters: Inequality drives vulnerability. Ending it strengthens resilience.

## **Priority 3. Institutionalise community co-leadership**

- Embed communities in climate governance and fund their leadership.
- Treat lived experience as essential expertise.

Why this matters: Policy succeeds when shaped by those most affected.



#### **Priority 4. Adopt MART as a shared global framework**

- Use MART to align global declarations into one justice-centred project.
- Implement strategies collaboratively across sectors, regions and institutions.
- 

Why this matters: MART unifies us around a common purpose

#### **Priority 5. Build a diversified, justice-aligned financing ecosystem**

- Scale blended finance, development bank support, philanthropy and local government financing.
- Ensure funding flows directly to frontline organisations and local leaders.
- 

Why this matters: Resilience requires resources, and equity requires redistribution.

#### **Priority 6. Strengthen multilateralism and inter-state collaboration**

- Expand fiscal space through coordinated global action, including fairer taxation, debt reform, blended finance and aligned investment from development banks, bilateral donors, multilaterals, foundations and high-net-worth individuals.
- Co-design shared governance structures that integrate climate action with inequality reduction, enabling countries to jointly plan, finance and deliver climate resilience, social development, adaptation and mitigation.

Why this matters: No country can deliver climate justice alone. Strong multilateralism and shared global architecture are essential to unlock resources, strengthen equity and invest in a just, resilient future.

“

**INTERSECTIONALITY IS BOTH AN APPROACH AND A COMMITMENT: TO RECOGNISE PEOPLE'S FULL REALITIES AND BUILD CLIMATE RESPONSES THAT REFLECT THEM. JUSTICE BEGINS WITH LISTENING TO THOSE MOST IMPACTED AND DESIGNING SYSTEMS THAT TRANSLATE LIVED EXPERIENCE INTO GROUNDED, EQUITABLE AND TRANSFORMATIVE RESILIENCE.**

Huỳnh Nguyễn Ánh Mai  
AdAnalyst  
VietNam

Menstrual Rights Global





# Call to action

The commitments of 2025 gave us clarity. MART gives us direction. Communities give us leadership. SRHR gives us resilience. Human rights give us purpose. The Beijing Declaration gives us vision. The ICJ gives us obligation. The Belém and WHO plans give us a pathway. The Doha Declaration gives us solidarity. The Pact for the Future gives us momentum.

Multilateralism is the backbone of climate justice. Only through shared leadership and inter-state collaboration can countries unlock the fiscal space and global architecture needed to invest in people, resilience and a just future.

What we need now is collective global implementation.

We must act as a global ecosystem, aligned, committed and united around human rights, justice, gender equality, community leadership and systemic transformation. We need to build the World as it should be, not just accept how it is.

Climate justice is achievable, but only if we deliver it together. There is no climate justice without bodily justice. Period.



# Appendix A.

## Definitions & scope:

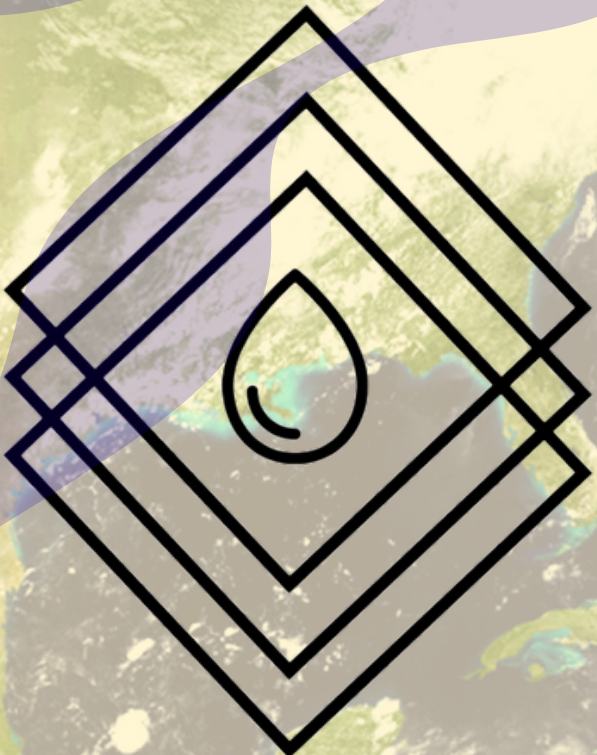
For this brief: SRHR includes sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and menstrual health services and rights. Climate justice refers to the “moral and ethical principles that seek to address the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities and future generations”, which results in policies that allocate responsibilities and resources in proportion to historical and current vulnerable communities. MART means mitigation, adaptation, remediation and transformation, which serves as a rights-based pathway for action.



# Appendix B.

## References

- Deva, S. (2024) Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development: Mitigation, Adaptation, Remediation and Transformation (MART) Framework. United Nations Human Rights Council.
- Fisher, A. & Martin, J. (2021) Nothing About Us Without Us: Community Co-Creation for Equitable Health Systems. World Health Organization.
- ICJ (International Court of Justice) (2025) Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and Human Rights Obligations. The Hague: ICJ.
- Oxfam (2023) Climate Equality: A Planet for the 99%. Oxford: Oxfam International.
- UN (United Nations) (2025) Doha Political Declaration – Second World Summit on Social Development. New York: United Nations.
- UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) (2024) Pact for the Future. New York: United Nations.
- UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) (2024) The Impact of Climate Change on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. New York: UNFPA.
- WHO (World Health Organization) (2025) Global Action Plan on Climate Change and Health 2025–2028. Geneva: WHO.
- WHO (World Health Organization) (2025a) Belém Health Action Plan on Climate and Health. Geneva: WHO.
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995; reaffirmed 2025) Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women and 30-Year Review. New York: UN Women.



Menstrual Rights Global