

*MOBILIZING THE VOICES OF MOST AFFECTED
TOWARDS PARIS, COP 21*

*MOBILIZATION TOOLKIT FOR NATIONAL
MOBILISATIONS AROUND COP 21*



CLIMATE JUSTICE

*ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ON WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT
(APWLD)*

INTRODUCTION

The future of the humanity is in the hand of the “Paris Agreement” to be adopted at COP 21. As governments gather to decide on our climate future from November 30 to December 11, 2015 in Paris, we, the women in the global South, demand for Climate Justice!

The Asia Pacific region is one of the most vulnerable to climate change. Extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts, floods, landslides and tropical cyclones have already impacted thousands of communities in the region. The livelihoods of these communities rely majorly on agriculture, natural resources and forestry. The marginalised communities of Asia Pacific, especially the women who have so little contributed to global warming, are bearing the greatest brunt of climate change. For example, women of Carteret Islands in Papua New Guinea have been displaced from their home islands due to rising sea level, becoming one of the first climate refugees of the world. The indigenous women of coastal areas of Bangladesh and of the remote mountainous region of Nepal are struggling to survive as they are losing their agricultural lands due to salinity and landslides respectively. Meanwhile, women in Kalimantan district of Indonesia have become victim of false climate change solutions like REDD+ as their access to the forest where they got their traditional livelihoods is now denied.

The evidences above prove that climate change has become an **issue of survival** for the poor communities of the global South. They are paying high price for the climate chaos caused by developed countries in achieving their economic growth since the dawn of the industrial revolution. Yet instead of working towards curbing greenhouse gas emissions, developed countries refuse to assume their responsibility for the crisis and promote ‘business as usual’. They have created a favourable environment for multinational corporations through an economic model that plunders and exploits natural resources and violates human rights.

World leaders have repeatedly failed to deliver strong climate regulations. In the last 25 years, since the establishment of the UNFCCC, greenhouse gas emissions have increased by 60%. As they keep on negotiating climate policies without any strong outcomes, poor and marginalised communities at the frontlines of climate change are suffering the most. If the world continues to extract, emit and consume in the current rate, the temperature is likely to rise by 4°C – which basically means a dead planet. Women of the global South have had enough; they reclaim power in their own hands and demand climate justice. This women mobilisation in Asia Pacific is part of a global mobilisation for climate action called by various civil societies to let the world know the determination of people to demand climate justice.

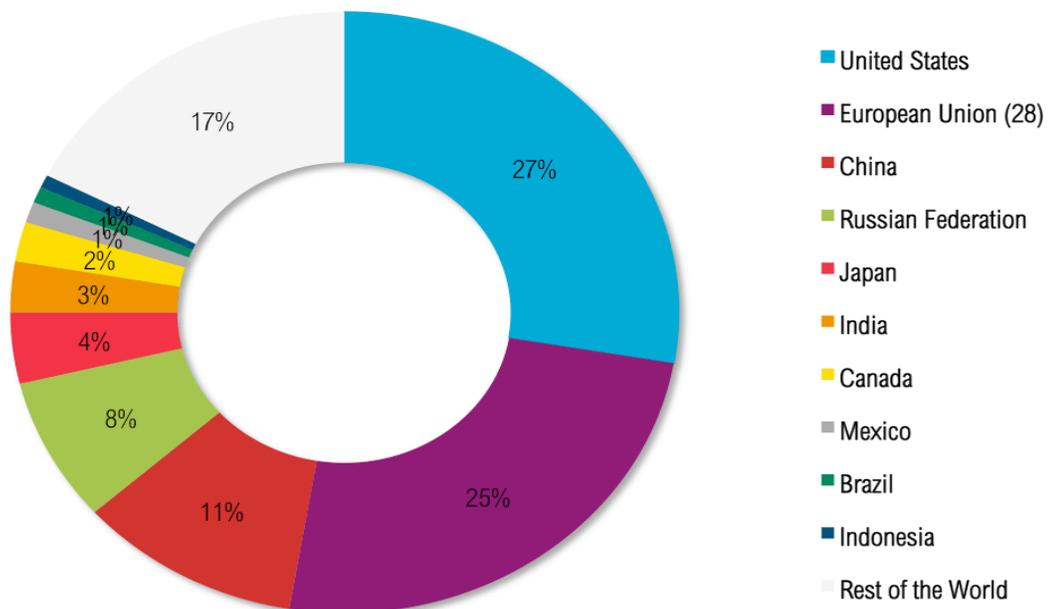
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?

Burning fossil fuels, mainly coal, oil and gas, is the main cause of climate change. After the industrial age started, 90 multinationals fossil fuel companies, such as Chevron, BP and Exxon, are to be blamed for the two thirds of the man-made global greenhouse gas emissions¹! These companies are owned mostly by the richest few of the developed countries.

The members of the G7 countries are alone responsible for 59% of historical global carbon dioxide emissions². The USA holds only 4.5 % of the world's population but has been responsible for 27% of all carbon dioxide emissions since 1850.

The following chart shows the percentage of carbon dioxide emitted by the countries from 1850 - 2011³.

Cumulative CO₂ Emissions 1850–2011 (% of World Total)



¹ <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/nov/20/90-companies-man-made-global-warming-emissions-climate-change>

² <http://wordsinthebucket.com/g7-infographic>

³ World Resources Institute, <http://www.wri.org/blog/2014/11/6-graphs-explain-world%E2%80%99s-top-10-emitters>.

This graph clearly shows that **the US has caused more climate pollution than any other nation on the planet**. And if you look at the emissions not per country but per capita (which means per person), the inequality of emissions is even higher! An American emits an average of 20 tonnes equivalent CO₂ (tCO₂e) per year, twice more than a West European or Russian (9 tCO₂e) and more than twice a Middle East or China inhabitant with about 8 tCO₂e. A South East Asian or African inhabitant will emit no more than 2.4tCO₂e, whereas the global average is around 6tCO₂e⁴.

Therefore, **the per capita carbon emission of the USA is 135 times higher than Nepal**. Perversely, Nepal is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. This is due to Nepal's geographic position, but also because the lack of resources and technical knowledge makes it difficult for developing countries to face the impacts of climate change.

Commitment to stop climate change is required from all but according to **the principle of common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR)**, developed countries have a huge environmental debt towards developing and underdeveloped countries. According to the United Nations Framework Convention on the Climate change (UNFCCC), these industrialised countries are required to provide the financial resources and environmental friendly technologies to the developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change. However, developed countries are not mitigating their GHG emissions in order to prevent catastrophic climate change nor providing the means needed by developing countries in the fight against climate change.

To facilitate the support that needs to be provided by developed countries to developing countries to support them mitigate and adapt to climate change, the UNFCCC established in 2010 a financial entity called the Green Climate Fund (GCF). As of June 2015, 33 developed countries have pledged to the Fund, with a total amount accounting for \$10.2 billion. It is far away from the \$100 billion a year that developed countries have promised to deliver in 2020. It is also far lower than what developed countries should provide according to their historical responsibilities and respective capacities. For example, so far, the USA has only pledged a total of \$3 billion to the GCF, where it is actually required to contribute **\$635 billion** according to their historical responsibility and ability to act to climate crisis⁵. It is undeniable that developed countries are not doing the efforts required to fight climate change but are rather keeping the business as usual. To hold the perpetrators of climate change accountable we need to build a strong local movement and demand for climate justice!

⁴ Chancel L., Piketty T., *Trends in the global inequality of carbon emissions (1198-2013) & prospects for an equitable adaptation fund*, 3rd November 2015, available at: <http://piketty.pse.ens.fr/files/ChancelPiketty2015.pdf>

⁵ http://webiva-downton.s3.amazonaws.com/877/b2/1/6527/20151001_GCF.V11.compressed.pdf

WHO ARE THE MOST CLIMATE AFFECTED PEOPLE?

Every socially, culturally, politically marginalised community is more vulnerable to climate change. In countries of Asia Pacific rural, indigenous, urban poor and migrant women are the ones suffering the first and the hardest of climate change. APWLD Climate Justice Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) evidences that women in these communities are already suffering the severe impacts of climate change as they have lost their homes and source of livelihoods. The communities like in Papua New Guinea who have left their home Island due to rising sea level becoming one the first climate refugees of the world, the indigenous women of Nepal, Bangladesh and Indonesia who are losing their source of livelihood, the urban poor and migrant women in the metro Manila of Philippines who are losing their work and pay due to severe climatic events are just tip of an iceberg. These women who own little and lives on little are the ones most affected to climate change. Yet they have contributed next to nothing in global emissions.

WHY DO WE NEED TO MOBILIZE?

The **main objective** of the mobilisation is to put pressure to these biggest emitters to curb carbon emissions and support developing nations and the most marginalised communities, including women, in fighting climate change.

Science tells us that to limit the global warming below 2°C compared to pre-industrial level, we should limit carbon emissions from human activities to one trillion tonnes since the beginning of the industrial revolution. This quota is known as a [carbon budget](#). But so far we have already used 52 % of the carbon budget. With the current rate of GHG emission, we are on the track of using the remaining 48 % in next three decades⁶. The current global emissions are increasingly rapidly; in 2013 the global carbon emission due to burning of fossil fuel was 2.3 % higher than 2012, which was further expected to rise by 2.5% in 2014⁷. If the current global emission is not curbed, the world will follow a trajectory of beyond 2°C, beyond which climate change would be catastrophic and irreversible. The reason behind this current rate of emissions is the use of fossil fuels mostly by the big industrialised countries. We need to call against this unfair act and demand climate justice. Our survival should not be trade with their economic growth.

⁶ <http://www.wri.org/blog/2013/09/world%E2%80%99s-carbon-budget-be-spent-three-decades#fn:2>

⁷ <http://co2now.org/Current-CO2/CO2-Now/global-carbon-emissions.html>

Six out of 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change are in Asia Pacific. Countries like Bangladesh, Philippines, Nepal and Vietnam are the ones most vulnerable. Many communities have little contribution to global warming but in the past few years are the ones bearing the greatest brunt of climate change. The extreme climate events have increased. As they continue to suffer the impact of climate change, developed countries and have done nothing to stop climate change. Governments are continually failing to take a lead in climate discussion to take a binding political climate agreement whereas the corporations are running their business as usual. Climate change impacts are already making lives of women in the developing countries difficult. It has become an issue of survival for them as they continue to lose their access to food and work to climate change. This is injustice. The one who has done nothing to contribute to global warming are bearing the greatest brunt. The world leaders who will come together in Paris to decide on the future of humanity should listen to these stories and adopt an agreement that places gender equality and human rights as its guiding principles.

In order to keep the global temperature below 2° C, the limitation of carbon emissions from human activities needs to be under 1 trillion tones since the start of industrial period.

This quota is called carbon budget. As of now we have already used 52% of it. With the current rate of emissions, which is increasing every year, we only have 30 years to use up the remaining carbon budget.

91% of the CO₂ (carbon) emission comes from burning of fossil fuel and cement production mostly by the industrialised developed countries.

6 of the 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change are in Asia Pacific.

OUR KEY MESSAGES

The Paris agreement must address the historical responsibility of developed countries and corporations and challenge the very foundations of the economic model causing climate change. Climate change is an issue of social justice - it violates the right of people to live in a safe and clean environment. The call for climate justice is not only the call to drastically curb

GHG emissions but it is also about creating sustainable futures where human rights and gender equality will be realities.

It is not only about ensuring a sustainable planet but also a fair one, where the majority is not the victim of inequalities created by the few rich and elite who control the world economy. The perpetrators of climate change should urgently act so that millions of women around the world do not have to worry about surviving or suffer post-disasters tragedies induced by climate change.

This is a global call for ending the pursuit of selfish economic growth which continues to marginalised millions of women and men and which currently has us on a pathway of a temperature rise of 4°C by 2100. Now is the time for system change.

THE THEME OF MOBILISATION

Women's rights organizations and feminists around the world have come together to take urgent action against the climate change through [Women's Global Call for Climate Justice](#). As the lead up to the Paris each month various actions are being under a theme related to climate change. The theme of November mobilisations is '[POWER](#)'. We have waited enough on our leaders to adopt just climate regulations, and so far, nothing concrete has been achieved. Globally democracy is in terminal decline. Governments are rarely accountable to their own constituents, let alone those outside of their borders. Governments appear to be more concerned about the interests of multi-national corporations who seek to weaken the agenda and profit from climate change than with their constituents. The only way to shift governments now will be through the demonstration of our collective power.

Claiming power for the women means challenging the governments and profit-driven corporations which have created this unjust system. Women want to create an equitable and just society. Women want to change the system!

HOW TO GET MOBILISED?

Each country is advised to form an organising committee for this mobilisation. It would be effective to partner with other organisations and create as much momentum as possible. The regional team from APWLD will assist and work closely with each country organising committees.

Rallies, protests, flash mobs are some of the most common and influential strategies of getting mobilised. Submitting written petitions to pressure the countries with historical responsibility accountable is another of protesting peacefully.

PROTEST IN FRONT OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES EMBASSIES

On this particular day, we have decided to mobilise by protesting in front of developed countries embassies or consulates in our cities. Doing this stunt means calling to their leaders to take responsibility in addressing the climate crisis. Embassies are established with a mission to ensure bilateral relationships between two countries. They also serve as contact points between the leaders of the countries and help keeping both parties informed about each country's situations. Strikes in front of foreign embassies directly challenge developed countries to respect and ensure climate justice. This not only will create an opportunity to voice out the demands of the women who cannot directly participate to COP 21 but also help to create a global climate justice movement to keep the momentum alive.

The high regard embassies get from the host nations and its institutions make them a strategic point to mobilise climate women's strike. Mobilising and including creative stunts in front of embassies would also generate a lot of media attention.

Alternatives:

In some countries, protesting and holding rallies around places like embassies are considered illegal. If this is the case in your, you can consider organising the event in a frequented public places, parks or historical areas in central city where such public events usually take place. Every city has a public place, symbol of past events and hub of public events in the present. You can identify one of these places and choose to perform there a rally, a protest or a flash mob with a strong message to demand that the Paris climate deliver climate justice.

KINDS OF PROTEST ACTIONS

Here are some of ideas to organise the protest. The organising committee in each country can choose to do one or all as per their decision based on resources and capacity.

1. Organising a rally and converging it in front of the embassy;
2. Sit in protest in front of a developed country embassy or consulate;
3. Flash Mob action;
4. Submitting petitions to the ambassador of a developed country.

Rallies

1. Inform and invite networks, friends, and partner organisations to join the rally;
2. Fix a route of rally prior to the event – inform the local traffic station or police for the security and co-operation;
3. Inform and send out invitations to networks, friends, partner organisations prior to the rally and calculate the tentative participants;
4. Strike placards and slogans;
5. Converge the rallies in front of the targeted embassy and host sit-in in protest/chant slogans.

Sit In protests

Protests can be made in more “creative” ways than just standing and chanting slogans. It can be made more participatory by doing some quick easy stunts in addition to converging and chanting slogans. In the box below, you will find two tips for quick actions that you can perform by just mobilising among yourself. To make these stunts effective, make sure to practice before the protest date.

Stunt of lying down on the floor - After protesting/shouting slogans long enough to inform people on what is happening, you can perform a quick stunt by suddenly lying down. The people lying down on the floor would represent the governments who are not taking action on climate change. To give the clear message from this symbolic action make sure to print some placards with demand of climate justice and place it over your body as you lie on the ground.

Climate Stories: Protests are effective and attractive when people deliver short speeches in the form of personal stories. This will grasp the attention of the people. The benefit of sharing personal stories is that people who are new to the concept of climate change can understand its impacts through your stories. This should not last more than 3-5 min for each speaker. Given the fact that we are protesting in front of embassies, our actions and activities should be kept short and well planned; embassies have high securities and we might not have the opportunity to protest for a long time.

Flash Mob Actions

Performing some striking action suddenly is another best way of catching attention of the people. As we gather in front of the embassies we can suddenly perform some flash mob actions like lying down as dead on the floor - acting as the victim of climate change-, performing flash mob and chanting slogans for climate justice. These types of action can be performed without using many resources and are effective.

- *Use colorful BIG Banners, Placards and Slogans in the rally and protest*
- *Wear traditional and bright dresses (ethnic or national dress)*
- *If possible have a color code for the event*

MAKING PROTESTS CREATIVE

Props

Props are an effective means of delivering the message in the rallies. Climate change has impacted our livelihoods – forests/food production and our traditional knowledge. We can demonstrate this impact by using various props.

1. Bringing haystacks/ vegetables/utensils weaved from local resources like rattan, bamboo, etc. during the demonstration.
2. Singing and dancing are great means of delivering messages. In some societies, they hold great cultural values and are often practiced. If you already have such practices, you can create short catchy folk songs about climate change and its impacts in your daily life and perform them during the protest.

Recommended Action

It is important to show that developed countries are the biggest polluters. A way to do it can be using a prop showing the difference between the US emissions and your country emissions, using the symbol of the foot, recalling the “carbon foot print”. **The US foot will be x number of times larger than the foot of your country, according to the ratio between your country emissions and the USA emissions.**

Example: in Nepal, the US foot will be 135 times bigger than the Nepal foot as the US emits 135 times more than Nepal (per capita carbon emission). Inside the foot, information such as GDP per capita income, Human Development Index, vulnerability of your country to climate change can be provided to highlight even more deep inequalities between countries. This would be the striking way to show the climate injustice faced by the poor countries.

If you decide to create this prop for your national mobilisation, please let APWLD know, and we will provide you with the accurate data to build the human feet.



Fig: Example of feet cut out to demonstrate carbon foot print

The person holding the foot cut out should be in front of the group, to make the emission difference represented by the human foot visible to the people.

Cut out the foot in an approximate measurement but make sure to have enough placards showing the exact percentage of emissions of your own country and of the country against who you are protesting.

POTENTIAL EMBASSIES

The USA, given that it's the higher GHG emitter, historically and still nowadays, and given its many attempts to defeat the international climate process, **is the main target of this mobilisation**. However, based on your particular context, e.g absence of an American embassy in your city, security conditions, etc., each organisation can choose its own target.

1. USA
2. Canada
3. Australia
4. France
5. Other EU countries: Germany, UK, ...

MEDIA

Use both traditional media like newsprint, radio and TV as well social media – Facebook and Twitter widely to disseminate information on the mobilisation.

Tips for Using Traditional Media

1. Press release;
2. Invite local TV/FM to cover the protest;
3. Arrange an interview with the local FM station ;
4. Write a column about gender and climate justice in the local paper.

Send out a media release few days earlier to the event day. The media advisory should include the answers to the questions like **Who, What, When, Where and Why**. Include the contact information of the organising committee for communication and outreach purposes. Follow up with the news outlets before the event and inform them about your availability for comments and interviews.

At the event or after the event on the same day you can organise a press release at your organisation. You can write a strong statement with striking pictures and quotes of the participants in the press release.

Below is a sample for media advisory and press release for your reference which you can edit as per your organisation's standards.

Strategy!

To get more attention of the embassy, the protest could be organised at a time during which the embassy is opened and staff come to work.

MEDIA ADVISORY SAMPLE

MEDIA ADVISORY

For **include the date**

WHAT

Name of the organisation is organising a protest event in front of the **XYZ** embassy as part of global mobilisations against climate change before/during/after (choose the accurate term) the COP21 in Paris, France where States gather to adopt the Paris Agreement.

WHO

Women activists will take part in the protest. They demand that developed countries responsible for climate change because of their historical emissions are being held accountable and stop their global greenhouse gas emissions.

WHERE and WHEN

Exact time and address of the embassy where the protest will be held or if you are inviting the journalists only at the press conference then write the address of where it will be held.

EVENT SCHEDULE

A rough agenda of the activities of the event.

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Date

City:.... Country :

Mobilising the Voices of Most Affected Towards Paris

To the women of **name of country** climate change has become an issue of survival. We no longer can wait for the implementation of promises made too many years ago. We want governments to act now! The government of **xxx (the one where the protest is held)** and of other developed countries should take responsibility for their historical green house gases emissions. Because of the economic model they shaped which exploits natural resources and profits few rich people, we, women of global south, have become the one most affected by the climate change. We protested today in front of **xyz** embassy to send a message to the world's leaders gathering in Paris. We want a fair and equitable climate agreement with women's human Rights as one of the guiding principles. We demand that developed country take responsibility for the climate crisis they have created. We demand gender justice and climate justice.

Name of your country has only **..%** percentage of greenhouse gas emissions compared to USA which is times greater. Yet we are one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. We, women are at the forefront of climate change, lack resources and knowledge to tackle the complex impacts of climate change in our daily life for which we have contributed next to nothing. As women of **name of your country** are already struggling with the issues of poverty and inequality, the impacts of climate change has further exacerbated the discriminations that we are enduring.

This demonstration organised by **name of your organisation** is part of the global movement of climate actions **before/during/after (choose accordingly)** COP 21. Women everywhere around the world are mobilising and demanding climate justice.

Insert one or two quotes of the participants.

Attached: pictures from the event.

Media Person Contact:

HOW TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Create a Facebook event page and invite people;
2. Disseminate information using social media like Facebook and Twitter;
3. Post photos/videos about the protest on Facebook and Twitter;
4. Live tweets from the place of demonstration;
5. Use of Hashtags - #WomenforClimateJustice #CaptureEmbassy #CaptureEUEmbassy, #CaptureUSEmbassy #FrontLinesTruth, etc.
6. Post lots of pictures of the event, post pictures of slogans.

SAMPLE STATUS AND TWEET

It is effective to prepare a post for Facebook or Twitter prior to the event.

Pre Event

- Join **name of the organisation** on **put the date** to #CaptureUSAEmbassy and call for #ClimateJustice;
- Let's hold the biggest carbon polluters responsible! Join us for #CaptureUSAEmbassy on **(Place and Date)**
- USA is the biggest polluter of climate change whereas **name of your country** is the most vulnerable country! This is injustice! Let's mobilize against this and #CaptureUSAEmbassy on **(Place and Date)**

On Protest Day

- We are demanding climate justice by protesting in front of the US Embassy. USA is the biggest polluter and denier of climate change! #CaptureUSEmbassy;
- The most affected by climate change are calling for justice #CaptureUSEmbassy #ClimateJustice #FrontLinesTruth;
- Tweets and posts about the slogans used in the protest.

SLOGANS

Below are some ideas for slogans. Translate this into your local language without losing the meaning. You can also develop strong slogans which fits your local context and politics.

- Name and shame the climate polluter – USA
- System Change Not Climate Change
- Avoid 1.5°C global temperature rise
- Women want Climate Justice
- Fair and Equitable Paris Agreement
- Don't trade away our lives! We demand a Fair Paris Agreement
- Least contributor of GHG but most vulnerable to Climate Change. This is Injustice!
- You break It, You fix It!

LOGOS

You can use the following graphics during the march:



**THE WOMEN'S
GLOBAL CALL FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE**



**THE WOMEN'S
GLOBAL CALL FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE**

**THE WOMEN'S
GLOBAL CALL FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE**

For better quality, download directly from : <http://womenclimatejustice.org/>