

INTRODUCTION

In the Americas and in the African continent it is already possible to see the impacts of climate change including heavy rainfall, never seen before prolonged droughts, floods and heat waves. It is increasing the spread of infectious diseases, worsening air pollution and interfering with food sources which causes dramatic starvation. There is no doubt that the impacts of climate change ultimately generate profound social inequalities across the globe and women are already the ones who suffer the most. The attention that the climate emergency has received presents a unique opportunity to proffer solutions to the unique challenges women of African descent – in both the diaspora and on the continent – face in this regard.

In 2021, the world watched global leaders united at the COP26 (Conference of the Parties) in Glasgow where they signed the Glasgow Climate Pact. It reaffirms the long-term global goals, including those in the Paris Agreement, to hold the increase in the global average temperature to below 2°C. Country-specific commitments will be key to achieving the stated objectives of the Pact. An example to be followed by the rest of the world, Costa Rica has prepared a far-reaching climate change strategy and is committed to becoming a carbon-neutral (C-neutral) country. In fact, the country is one of the first to craft a national decarbonization plan. It is also the first tropical country to stop and reverse deforestation. Finally, it has managed to produce about 99 percent of its electricity from renewable sources, a rare accomplishment even among the wealthiest nations. African countries, although the least contributors to global carbon emissions, have shown significant solidarity with the climate change agenda to tackle the climate emergency, by putting forward, and in some cases, revising their Nationally Determined Contributions. Tackling both mitigation and adaptation, while taking care of critical challenges linked to just

transitions will be critical to ensure fair and just outcomes in how the world tackles the climate emergency.

Climate change is an issue that disproportionately affects women and perpetuates social inequalities as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change. Cooking is a very simple art and skill with far reaching effects contributing to deforestation and global climate change. It is estimated that more than three billion people currently rely on wood that is collected from forests. In Africa, the burden of wood fuel is borne by women and girls who need to walk for long distances with exposure to many risks. Many women do not have alternatives to solid fuel that can liberate and empower them while at the same mitigating deforestation, Climate change and indoor air pollution.

THE SUMMIT

The “Racial and gender intersectionality and the struggle for Climate Justice” to be held as a CSW parallel event aims to promote the discussion about the main challenges faced by women of the African diaspora and Africa in the struggle for climate justice. It will also discuss strategies to promote gender and racial equality in the context of climate change. It will convene academics, young climate activists, policymakers amongst others from the African continent and the diaspora and other stakeholders to address issues around the climate crisis, including the concerns and achievements of young people, and the vision and voice of women and others who have been traditionally underrepresented.

The event falls within the framework of ARDN's Red Card Campaign to end all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, which is part of ARDN's Pathway Solutions Initiative, and will focus

particularly on the following Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs):



Sustainable Development Goal #5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Sustainable Development Goal #13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Sustainable Development Goal #17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Summit are as follows

- Increase women's leadership in climate change solution implementation, mitigation and adaptation effects;
- Mitigating the effects of climate change on gender equality and life chances;
- Identify and discuss the overwhelming effects of Climate Change and its everyday consequences on women of the African diaspora and Africa;
- Engage stakeholders in the issues of concern to women of the African diaspora and Africa;
- Share innovative initiatives that aim to promote women's human rights across the globe;
- Promote gender and race intersectionality in the climate agenda;
- Examine, bring attention to and popularize relevant Sustainable Development Goals;
- Prepare for the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

CO-ORGANIZERS

Organized by African Renaissance and Diaspora Network (ARDN) in collaboration with the Republic of Costa Rica, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), the Africa Bureau of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Centro de Estudos das Relações de Trabalho e Desigualdades (CEERT).

RED CARD CAMPAIGN

Women's rights are human rights. In the game of football (soccer), a red card symbolizes a significant infraction of the rules. ARDN Red Card Campaign seeks to mobilize individuals from all sectors of society to commit to giving a red card to all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

The Red Card Campaign falls within the framework of the Pathway to Solution's Initiative, an international, multilateral special project for the United Nations, spearheaded by ARDN, to popularize the SDGs, in collaboration with United Nations system entities, the international community, civil society, the private sector, academia, the world of sport and culture and governments.

To sign the Red Card Pledge:

<https://www.redcardpledge.com/>

For more about Pathway to Solutions:

<https://www.ardn.ngo/pathway/>

CONTACT

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