

ZONTA International Think Tank Presentation

Climate Justice in the Asia and Pacific Region



Carole Shaw, CEO-UN
13 July, 2024



Acknowledgement



Building on the Work & Wisdom of previous generations.



A bit about my advocacy journey & Speaking Truth to Power...



Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW)

The Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) is a regional network of women's groups which monitors and collaborates with the United Nations, national governments and non-government organizations (NGOs) in empowering women and advancing their human rights.

APWW is represented by five (5) sub-regions – Central Asia, East Asia, the Pacific, South Asia and South-East Asia and is also joined by representatives of each of three major international women's networks in the region: Asia Pacific Women Law and Development (APWLD); ARROW Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Center for Women (ARROW), and Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN).

APWW also hosts and leads the **Asia Pacific Regional NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW – AP)** (a regional committee of NGO CSW in New York) working to support regional engagement at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) each year with NGO CSW in New York.



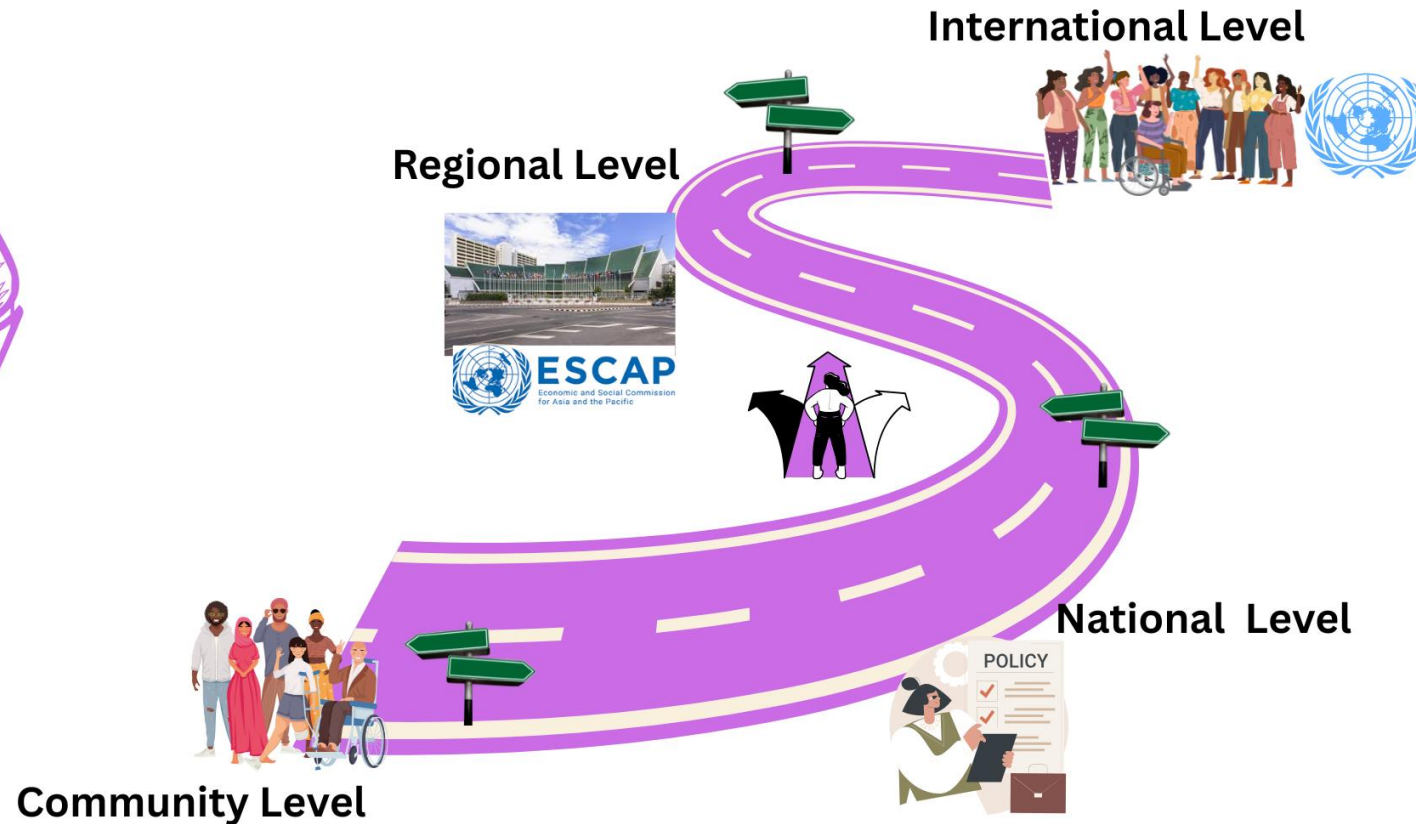
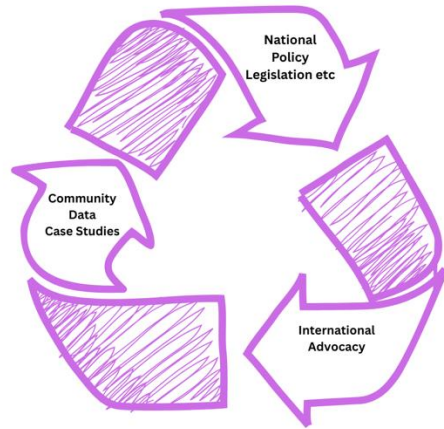
APWW – Strategic Platform

APWW has 5 priority thematic areas for 2022-2026

1. Promoting integration and mainstreaming of women's rights and gender equality standalone goal of the Global Agenda 2030 into national and regional sustainable development strategies and sustainable development action plans,
2. Building capacity to join and engage in effective development cooperation from a women's rights and gender equality perspective
3. Advocating for gender equality and empowerment of women in all their diversity into all goals national, regional sustainable development strategies and action-plan,
4. Monitoring of implementation of BPFA commitments through SDG processes throughout in the Asia-Pacific region,
5. Pushing back on the Global Push Back on women's rights and supporting CSOs effective engagement at all levels and all mechanisms/processes to achieve gender equality



APWW – How and where APWW works



Beijing Platform for
Action – 12 Critical Areas



BEIJING+30 ASIA - PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATIONS

THEME 1

16 August

11:00 - 13:00 ICT

Advancing Women's Economic Justice & Rights, Social Protection & Decent Work

THEME 2

22 August

11:00 - 13:00 ICT

Boosting Women's Leadership, Representation & Political Participation

THEME 3

29 August

11:00 - 13:00 ICT

Strategies to End Discrimination & Violence Against Women

THEME 4

3 September

11:00 - 13:00 ICT

Future Forward Strategies for Gender Equality & Equity



Is Registered at <http://Beijing30.org>

Mode of Engagement: Virtual

Organiser: Asia-Pacific Civil Society Working Committee





WOMEN'S RIGHTS CLIMATE FRONTLINE

CLIMATE JUSTICE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC

13 JULY - 3AM UTC
SPEAKER - CAROLE SHAW

Chief Executive Officer of UN Asia Pacific Women's Watch, Co-chair of the Women's Gender Equality Caucus Australia, expert in gender inclusive policy, justice, and empowerment for women and girls



Register at zonta.org/events

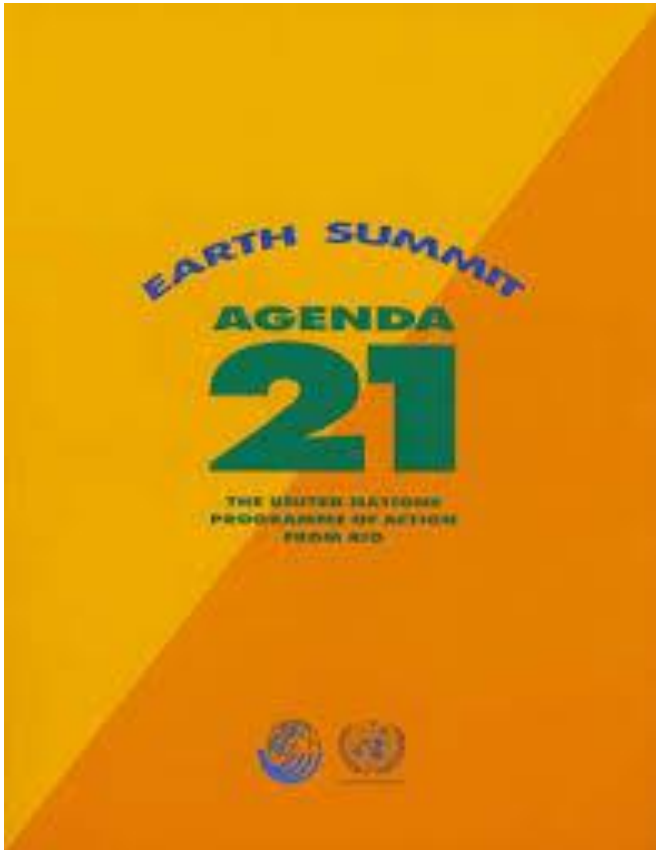
INTERCONTINENTAL THINK TANK



So what do we want to say when we
talk about
Climate Justice in the Asia and Pacific
Region?



The seeds of Climate Justice sit in Climate Change



Origins and Adoption:

First warnings in 1957 – Oceanographer in the US

- 1972: The UN Conference on the Human Environment:** in Stockholm, Sweden, is considered a precursor, raising global awareness about environmental issues.
- 1987: The Brundtland Report:** (Our Common Future) highlighted the concept of sustainable development, emphasizing the need to integrate environmental protection and economic development.
- 1992: The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED),** also known as the Earth Summit, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, marked the formal adoption of Agenda 21.
- More than 178 countries endorsed the plan, signifying a global commitment to addressing environmental and development challenge



Private Sector / Government Interests

Trade Agreements



Civil Society Actors



Trade Union Movements



International Labour Organization

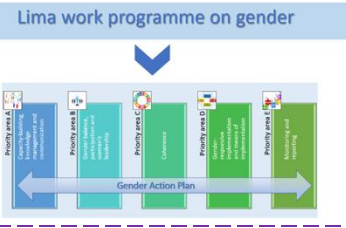
INTERESTS

EXISTING AGREEMENTS

Frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction



Climate Pact (COP 28th) & previous COP Declarations and Agreements



5-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan

Rio Summit – Kyoto Protocol



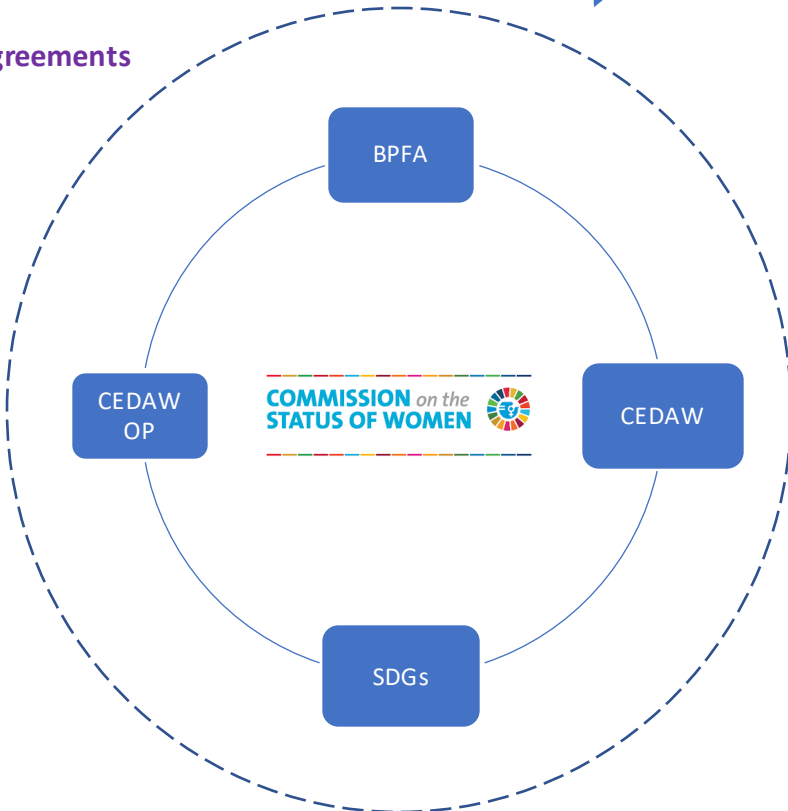
Financing for Development

Paris Agreements

Doha Agreements (FFD)



Generation Equality SDG's / MDGs





Climate change mitigation and adaptation are two distinct yet complementary approaches to addressing the challenges of a changing climate.

Mitigation focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit the extent of future warming.

Adaptation involves adjusting to the impacts of climate change that are already happening or are expected to occur.

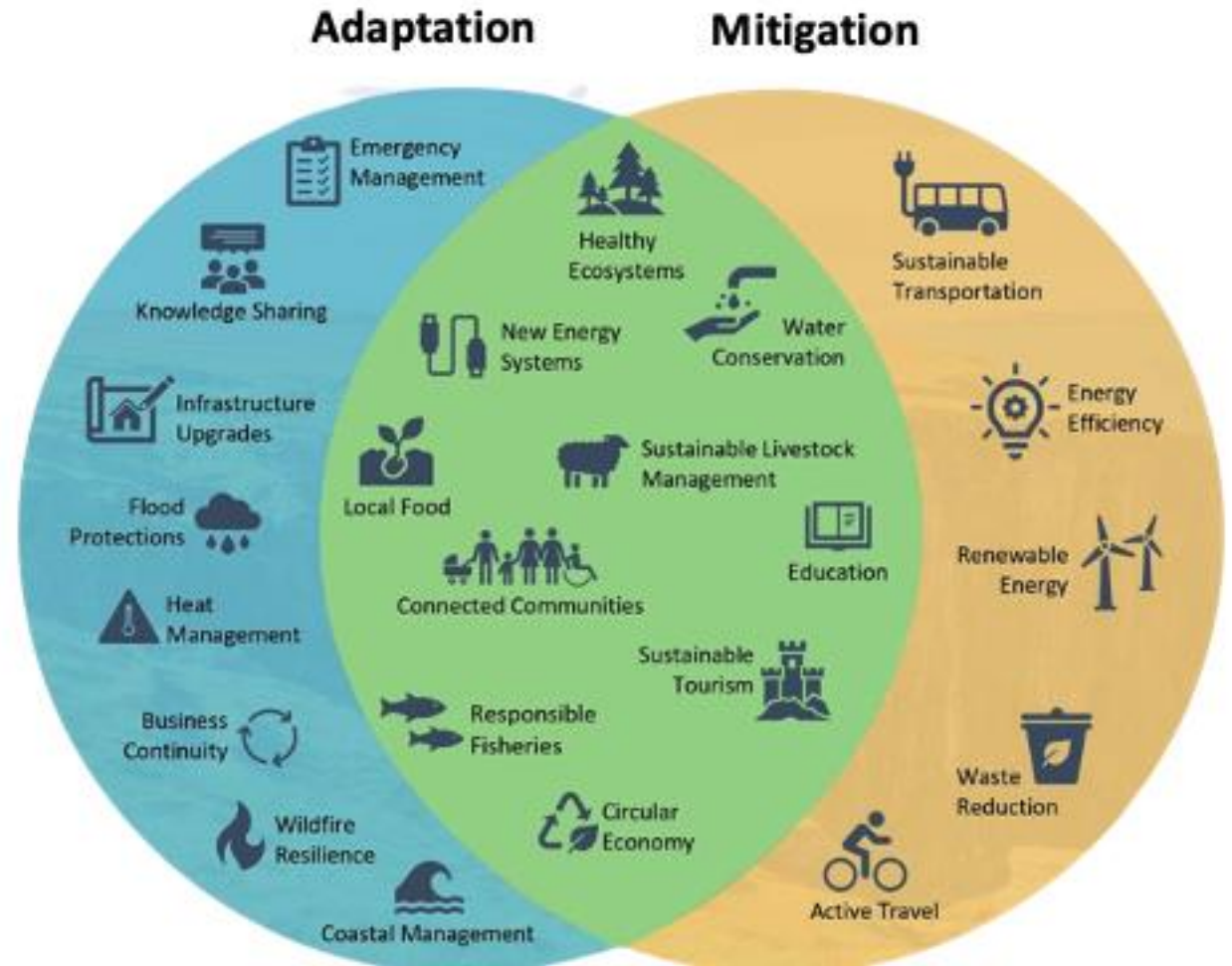


Image Source etc-Africa

<https://www.etc-africa.co.za/blog/50-climate-change-understanding-the-difference-between-adaptation-and-mitigation>

Asia and Pacific Region

5 Regions

East Asia – China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Mongolia

South East Asia - Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and others

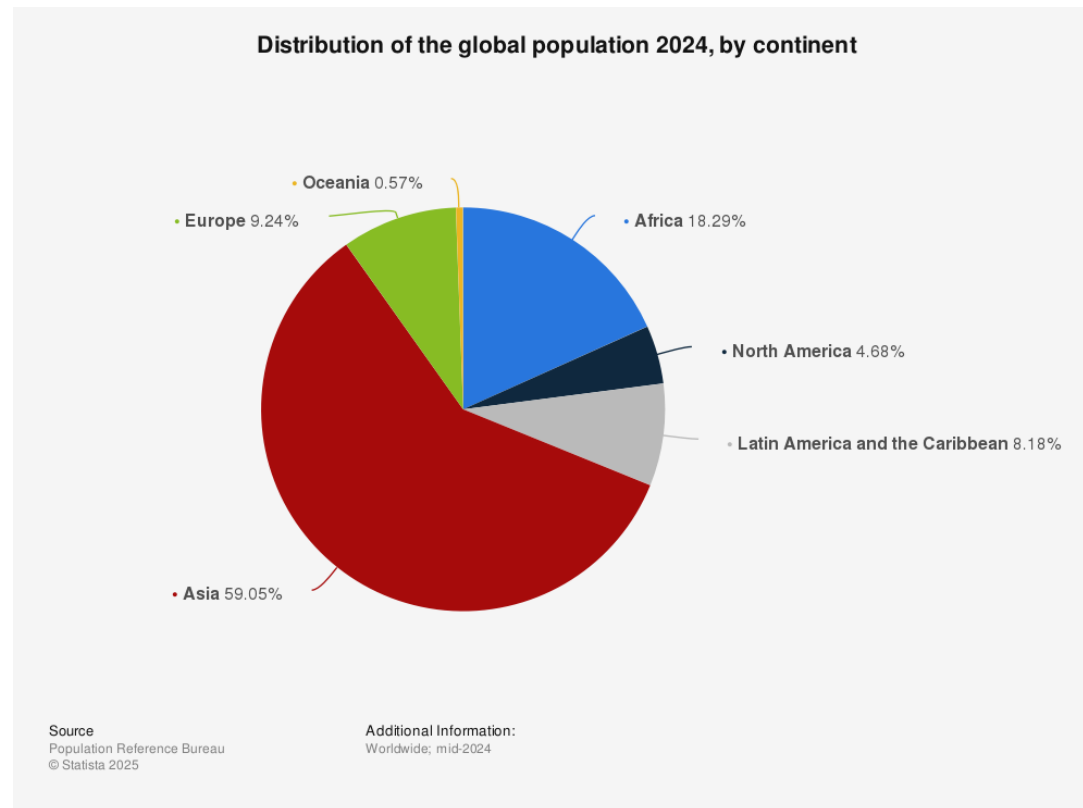
South Asia - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives

Central Asia - Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan

Pacific - Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands, Nuimea, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and many smaller island states.



Global population (approx. 8 Billion)



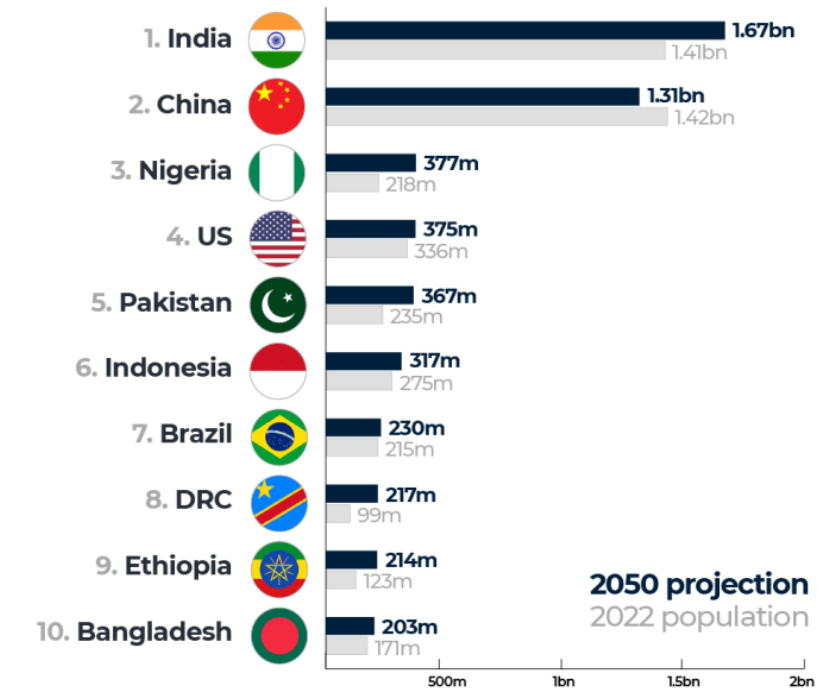
Source: statista 11July 2025

www.statista.com/statistics/237584/distribution-of-the-world-population-by-continent/

WORLD POPULATION DAY

Most populous countries by 2050

The world's population is expected to reach 9.7 billion by 2050, as per UN projections.



Source: UN Population Division (2022) | July 11, 2023



What is Climate Justice?

Climate justice means putting equity and human rights at the core of decision-making and action on climate change.





Gender Climate Tracker App



<https://genderclimatetracker.org>

WEDO - developer

Facing Push back and backlash ...

- Over the last 30 years, despite many gains in the area of women's development and advancement, we are now at a critical juncture, witnessing dangerous co-option and dilution of Human Rights and Women's Rights, increased violence against women and girls and a global pushback on women's rights and backlash on women's rights defenders/organisations.
- Push back and back lash of feminist agenda
 - creating less spaces for interventions and making those that exist more political.
 - legislation and policy
- Back lash - Backlash against women's rights activists and women's organisations in the form of harassment, pressure or aggression on individual activists and progressive women's organisations is occurring when unequal power structures or male violence against women is challenged.
- Shifts from shifts from global norms and standards to national norms and standards
- Co-option through the rise of the gender ideology
- Co-option and Intersectional Feminism



Thankyou

A fragile earth, a changing sky,
Where storms now rage and futures lie,
A gendered toll, a human cost,
In every wave, a life is lost.
Let wisdom rise, let justice flow,
From balanced hearts, new seeds will grow

