

## Plenary 3: Just and Inclusive Transition towards Net-Zero and Resilient Societies in ASEAN.

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### Advancing a Just and Inclusive ASEAN: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Climate Action Planning and the Implementation of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework

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Tuesday, July 29th, 2025, Yokohama, Japan

# AGENDA

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2	Part 1: The ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework
3	Part 2: Regional Dialogue and Research Supporting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
4	Recommendations
5	Conclusion

# Setting the Context

## What is ACWC?

The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) is an intergovernmental body established by the ASEAN Leaders in October 2009. Its mandate is to promote and protect the rights of women and children in ASEAN. ACWC serves as an overarching body for women and children in ASEAN, working to implement regional commitments and initiatives.

## What is Gender Mainstreaming?

Gender mainstreaming is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.

## Presentation Overview

Exploring insights derived from regional dialogues on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Climate Action Planning, framed by the implementation of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework.



# Part 1: The ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework

**What it is:** ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework 2021-2025. This framework is a product of the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).

## Vision and Approach:

The framework aims to institutionalize gender mainstreaming approaches by integrating gender equality as an integral dimension in policies and programs across all political, economic, and societal spheres. It outlines a strategic direction for a "whole-of-ASEAN" gender mainstreaming approach. This approach emphasizes strengthening coordination and collaboration between the three ASEAN Communities:

- ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC)
- ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)
- ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)

**“Resilient, Innovative, Dynamic, and People-Centred ASEAN”**

# Strategic Objectives for GESI Integration

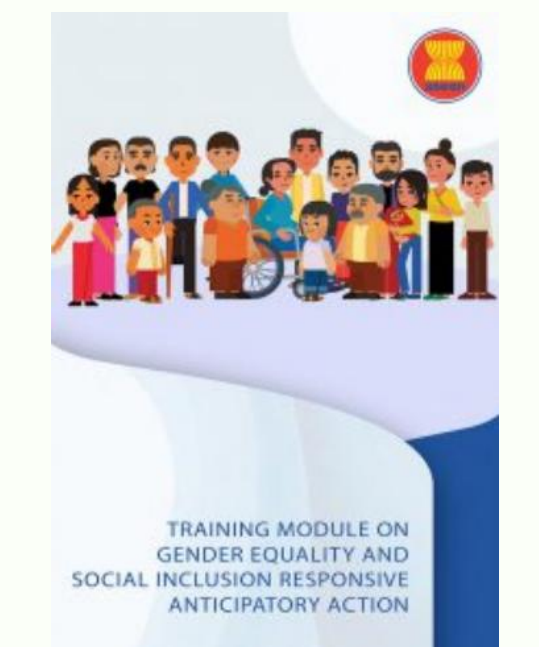
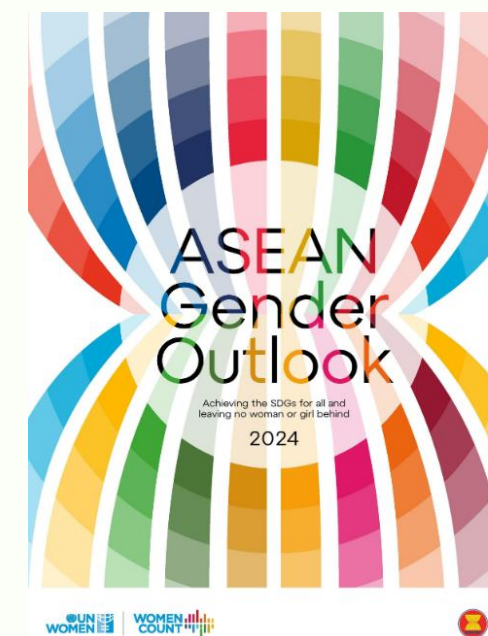
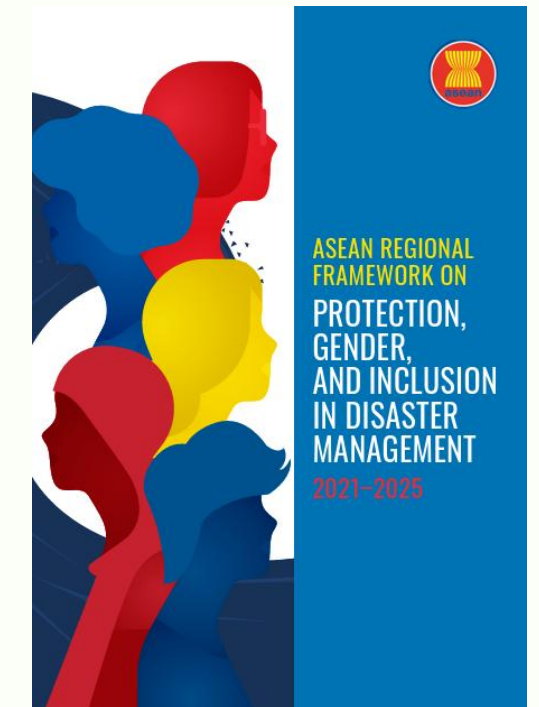
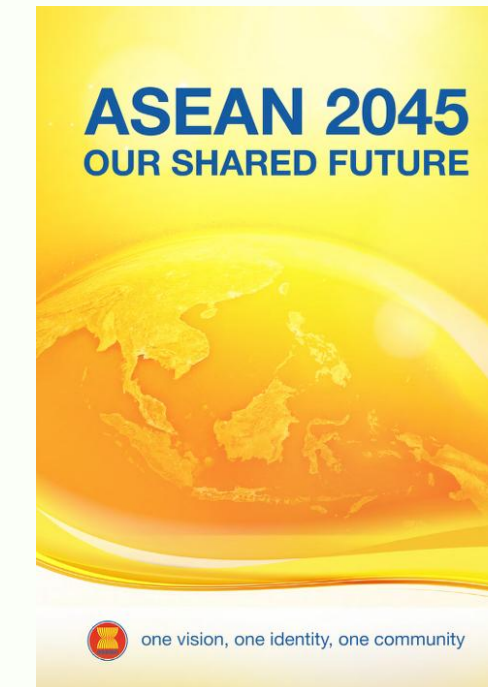
The framework outlines four strategic objectives

● ASEAN policies, institutions, and practices better embody its vision for a fairer, more equitable, and inclusive world.	This involves strengthening the capacity of relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and the ASEAN Secretariat to integrate gender mainstreaming into their policies, programs, and internal operations.
● ASEAN builds its knowledge, technical competencies, and capacity on gender and inclusion issues.	This includes developing gender analysis skills, collecting and utilizing gender-disaggregated data, and promoting gender-responsive budgeting.
● ASEAN policies and action plans better reflect the needs of women and girls in the region, and Sectoral Bodies are able to undertake more effective initiatives.	This focuses on ensuring that gender perspectives are systematically integrated into the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all relevant ASEAN policies and programs.
● ASEAN supports intergovernmental processes and Member States' gender mainstreaming and gender-focused initiatives.	This involves facilitating knowledge sharing, providing technical assistance, and fostering partnerships to strengthen national efforts in promoting gender equality.

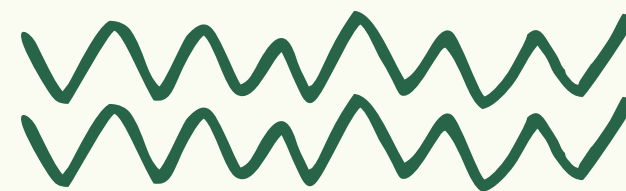


# Other ASEAN Frameworks and Plans on GESI Integration

- Declaration on ASEAN 2045 Our Shared Future
- ASEAN Community Vision 2045 “Resilient, Innovative, Dynamic, and People-Centred ASEAN”
- ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Strategic Plan
- ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework 2021-2025
- ASEAN Economic Community 2026-2030 (Strategic Goal 2- A Sustainable Community: Engendering and mainstreaming climate-responsive elements and policies in all dimensions)
- ASEAN Regional Framework on Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Disaster Management 2021-2025
- ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (2022-2032)
- ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work 2026-2030
- ASEAN Gender Outlook 2024 – Achieving the SDGs for all and leaving no woman or girl behind
- Etc.







The "Regional Dialogue Supporting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Climate Action Planning" project serves as a key mechanism to implement the framework's goals, particularly in the critical area of climate action. This project directly contributes to building knowledge, fostering dialogue, and supporting Member States' efforts in integrating GESI across sectors, aligning with the strategic direction of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework.

## **Project Areas (Phase 1):**

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam

## **Project Areas (Phase 2):**

Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines, and Singapore

## **Expected Outcome:**

Collaborate on integrating GESI mainstreaming guidelines into national, sub-national, and regional policies and procedures relevant to climate change, natural resource governance, and the environment.





# Overview of Draft Report

## Action Planning in ASEAN – State of Policies and Implementation

### Gender equality and social inclusion in climate action planning in ASEAN

State of policies and implementation

Report draft  
November 2024

ASEAN Commission on the Promotion  
and Protection of the Rights of  
Women and Children

### Data Collection

**Primary data:** interview, or group discussion by national researchers in each country

**Secondary data:** Desk Review on Policies-related Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and Climate Change

### The draft report included:

- **The state of** Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (**GESI**) in Climate Action Planning
- **Barriers and Opportunities** to integrate GESI in Climate Action
- **Recommendations** for policy makers and Civil Societies



# Part 2: Regional Dialogue and Research Supporting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

## The Project:

- **Project Title:** Regional Dialogue Supporting gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Climate Action Planning (Phase 2).
- **Key Result Area:** 3. WEAVING & MAINSTREAMING - Deepening awareness and institutionalizing women and child rights. Outcome: 3.1. Institutionalised and standardised mainstreaming of women and children's rights in ASEAN.
- **Funding Source:** World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and Chulalongkorn University.
- **Project Duration:** January 01, 2022 - March 31, 2025.

# Part 2: Regional Dialogue and Research Supporting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

## Objectives of the Dialogues – Fostering Inclusive Climate Action

- **Strengthen** collaboration and establish a community of practice among ASEAN Member States, Civil Society Organizations, dedicated to accountability and collaboration in gender-responsive and social inclusion in climate action.
- **Foster** dialogue on barriers to inclusion and the dynamic representation of social inclusion, especially for women and children in the region.
- **Raise** critical awareness among ASEAN Member States participants on the nuances, policies, and practices influencing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in their respective countries, highlighting common norms/themes, best practices, and areas for collaboration.
- **Build** a practical understanding of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Mainstreaming in Climate Change, Natural Resource Governance, and Environmental Policies and Programming, and the role of Civil Society in influencing these policies.
- **Develop** the skills and confidence to voice community-based data and narratives through representation in High-Level Platforms.



# Key Insights from Implementation

## Challenges in Integrating GESI into Climate Action

- Lack of disaggregated data.
- Policymakers and relevant stakeholders in the climate change sector have limited awareness and understanding of GESI.
- The lack of adequate funding, staff, and time further impedes the implementation of GESI commitments.
- Language barriers, technical jargon, and access to information pose challenges for coordinating across stakeholder groups and ensuring the participation of different people.
- Stereotypes persist across Southeast Asia, impacting people's access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making roles.
- Societal expectations relegate women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities to restricted roles within both domestic and public lives, limiting their participation in decision-making processes.
- Political will for promoting GESI is constrained as governments prioritize economic growth over inclusive climate action, often neglecting the needs of marginalized groups.
- Pushback claims GESI is a foreign concept imposed by international agendas rather than a locally relevant framework.

# Key Insights from Implementation

## Opportunities and Good Practices

- Donors and international partners play a pivotal role in providing funding, technical assistance, and guidance, while GESI-related requirements can push for integration.
- Collaborative efforts among stakeholders, supported by civil society networks and regional forums, can help build advocacy momentum and strengthen capacity for GESI integration.
- Technology, including social media and big data, offers new avenues for enhancing inclusion in climate policies and actions, aiding in information dissemination, collaboration, and decision-making processes.
- Exemplary leadership, where people in leadership positions can advocate for change, organize grassroots mobilization.
- Use of data to demonstrate the need for GESI integration and its positive outcomes, as well as to leverage strategic entry points such as policy trends or human rights frameworks.
- Implementing localized and targeted approaches, considering cultural sensitivities and community dynamics, is crucial, as is acknowledging policymakers' perspectives and proposing solutions that benefit all.
- Incremental changes, pragmatic infrastructure improvements, and proactive engagement with policymakers are highlighted, emphasizing the importance of understanding the context and navigating social norms for sustainable transformation.



# State of Implementation of GESI Integration

## Gender equality

Increasing of involvement of gender experts in climate decision-making spaces, alongside implemented programs promoting women's participation. But, challenges persist, with gender often addressed in policies to meet donor requirements, leadership imbalances and women's underrepresentation in decision-making processes

## Children and youth

Children and youth are increasingly involved in climate and disaster risk reduction activities. In some countries, governmental support for youth leadership and involvement is evident. However, challenges continue in ensuring inclusive engagement, particularly for young people living in remote areas.

## Persons with disabilities

Progress in disability inclusion within climate action has been limited, with more progress in disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction and emergency response. While some community-based disaster management plans have been developed with persons with disabilities

## Ethnic communities

Progress in Indigenous Peoples' inclusion in climate policies varies across AMS, with the Philippines being the only country that officially recognizes the term "Indigenous Peoples". Challenges persist in the lack of legal recognition and repression

# Recommendations

## For decision- and policy-makers

- Strengthen coordination within and across government agencies and assign/train GESI focal points in each climate-related agency.
- Develop coordinated systems for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of climate-related data.
- Establish and strengthen GESI-responsive budgeting.
- Ensure documents, consultation processes, communications and delivery formats are available in languages and formats accessible by different stakeholders, including marginalized groups



# Recommendations

## For civil society actors

- Enhance public awareness of GESI in the context of climate change through social media campaigns, youth activism platforms, and civil society alliances and networks.
- Strengthen and amplify existing civic platforms and develop knowledge exchange platforms between different key stakeholder groups.
- Accelerate individual and collective capacity enhancements, particularly on climate change related information and technology, soft skills.
- Invest in gender-transformative approaches, strategies, and tools, involving people of all genders, and share successful examples/pilots and good practices.
- Invest in creative and participatory initiatives that can engage all the stakeholders on equal footing in order to facilitate inclusive dialogue and equitable participation in climate actions.
- Invest in transformative approaches, strategies, and tools, involving people of different genders and socio-economic identities, and share successful examples/pilots and good practices.

# Conclusion

## Reiterate the Synergy:

The principles and actions of the macro-frame should be reflected in climate policies such as the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan 2025-2030 (ACCSAP), national long-term strategies (LTS), national contribution targets (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPS), which will trigger the mainstreaming of climate change targets and measures in a synergistic and inclusive manner



# THANK YOU!



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