

WOMEN FOR GREEN ECONOMY MOVEMENT UGANDA



REPORT ON THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING THE VOICES OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN CLIMATE POLICY DIALOGUES.



Organization Represented: Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda (WoGEM Uganda)

Project: Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disabilities to Actively Participate in Climate Change Policy and Negotiations (STREVOW)

Event: National Policy Dialogue on Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disabilities in Climate Policy Dialogues

Date: 11th Sept, 2026

Venue: D'ylkers Hotel Mbalwa

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Organization: Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda (WoGEM Uganda)

Introduction

Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda (WoGEM Uganda) participated in the National Policy Dialogue on Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disabilities in Climate Policy Dialogues, organized under the Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disabilities to Actively Participate in Climate Change Policy and Negotiations (STREVOW) Project.

The dialogue brought together women with disabilities, government institutions, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and indigenous people, civil society organizations, climate change actors, humanitarian and development partners, academia and other relevant stakeholders.

The dialogue provided an important platform for stakeholders to discuss the experiences and challenges faced by women with disabilities in relation to climate change and, importantly, their participation in climate change policy, planning, decision-making and negotiations.

For WoGEM Uganda, the dialogue was particularly relevant because of the organization's commitment to advancing gender-responsive climate action, women's participation in environmental governance, climate justice, inclusive development and the empowerment of marginalized women and communities.

Purpose of the Dialogue

The main purpose of the dialogue was to strengthen the participation and representation of women with disabilities in climate change policy processes and decision-making spaces.

The dialogue sought to:

- ❖ Create a platform for women with disabilities to share their experiences and perspectives on climate change.
- ❖ Identify barriers limiting the meaningful participation of women with disabilities in climate policy and negotiations.
- ❖ Promote greater recognition of the knowledge and lived experiences of women with disabilities in climate action.
- ❖ Strengthen collaboration between government, OPDs, civil society, development partners and other climate stakeholders.
- ❖ Identify practical measures for improving the representation of women with disabilities in climate governance.
- ❖ Encourage the integration of gender and disability considerations into climate policies, programmes and adaptation initiatives.
- ❖ Generate recommendations that can contribute to more inclusive, equitable and resilient climate action in Uganda.

Participation and Representation

The dialogue brought together stakeholders from different sectors, including:

- ❖ Women with disabilities and their representative organizations;
- ❖ Government institutions;
- ❖ Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs);
- ❖ Civil society organizations;
- ❖ Climate change and environmental organizations;
- ❖ Humanitarian and development partners;
- ❖ Academia and researchers;
- ❖ Community representatives; and
- ❖ Other actors involved in climate policy and programming.



WoGEM Uganda participated as a civil society organization working to promote women's participation, gender equality, climate justice and inclusive climate action.

The participation provided an opportunity for WoGEM Uganda to contribute its organizational perspective while also learning from the experiences of women with disabilities and other stakeholders.

1.Key Issues Discussed

1.1 Participation of Women with Disabilities in Climate Policy



One of the central issues discussed was the limited representation of women with disabilities in climate policy and decision-making processes.

Although women with disabilities are directly affected by climate-related impacts, they may not always be adequately represented in spaces where climate policies, programmes and adaptation measures are designed.

The dialogue emphasized that participation should go beyond simply inviting women with disabilities to meetings. Their participation should be meaningful, allowing them to influence discussions, priorities, decisions and outcomes.

Women with disabilities should therefore be recognized as rights holders, leaders and contributors to climate solutions, rather than only as vulnerable groups requiring assistance.

1.2 Multiple and Intersecting Vulnerabilities

The discussions highlighted that women with disabilities can experience several barriers simultaneously.

Climate change may worsen existing inequalities by affecting access to livelihoods, food, water, healthcare, housing, mobility and social protection.

Women with disabilities may face additional difficulties during climate-related emergencies because of:

- ❖ Limited mobility;
- ❖ Inaccessible evacuation centres;
- ❖ Lack of accessible early-warning information;
- ❖ Communication barriers;
- ❖ Dependence on caregivers;
- ❖ Limited access to financial resources;
- ❖ Discrimination and social exclusion; and
- ❖ Limited participation in community decision-making.

This demonstrates the need for climate policies to consider the different circumstances and needs of women with different types of disabilities.

1.3 Accessibility of Climate Information

Access to timely and understandable climate information was identified as an important concern.

Climate information, early warnings and disaster preparedness messages are not always provided in formats accessible to everyone.

For example, information may not adequately consider the needs of women with:

- ❖ Hearing impairments;
- ❖ Visual impairments;
- ❖ Physical disabilities;
- ❖ Intellectual disabilities; or
- ❖ Other forms of disability.

The dialogue emphasized the importance of providing climate and disaster-risk information through accessible, inclusive and locally appropriate communication channels.

This is particularly important because early access to information can enable communities to take appropriate preparedness and adaptation measures.

1.4 Physical and Institutional Accessibility

Physical accessibility was also identified as an important consideration.

Climate policy meetings, consultations, trainings and other activities should be held in venues that are accessible to persons with different forms of disability.

Accessibility should also extend beyond physical infrastructure to include:

- ❖ Sign-language interpretation;
- ❖ Accessible documents;
- ❖ Assistive technologies;
- ❖ Appropriate communication methods;
- ❖ Reasonable accommodation; and
- ❖ Sufficient support for participation.

Without these measures, formally inviting women with disabilities may not result in genuine participation.

1.5 Limited Access to Resources and Opportunities

The dialogue also highlighted the importance of resources in enabling women with disabilities to participate effectively.

Participation in national and local policy processes can involve costs related to transportation, accommodation, communication and personal assistance.

Women with disabilities and their organizations may also face limited access to funding for advocacy, research, leadership development and climate action.

There is therefore a need for climate financing and development programmes to intentionally consider the participation of women with disabilities and support organizations representing them.

1.6 Data Gaps

The availability of reliable data was identified as an important issue.

Without adequate data on how climate change affects women with disabilities, it becomes difficult to design policies and programmes that respond to their specific circumstances.

There is therefore a need to strengthen the collection and use of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data in climate-related research, planning and programming.

Such data can help stakeholders understand:

Who is most affected by climate hazards?

What specific barriers different groups face?

What resources are required?

Which interventions are reaching women with disabilities?

Whether climate programmes are producing equitable outcomes?

Importance of Meaningful Participation

A major lesson from the dialogue was that participation should not be treated as a formality.

Women with disabilities should be involved throughout the policy cycle, including:

- ❖ Identifying climate-related problems;
- ❖ Setting policy priorities;
- ❖ Designing interventions;
- ❖ Developing budgets;
- ❖ Implementing programmes;
- ❖ Monitoring interventions; and
- ❖ Evaluating results.

Their participation can bring practical knowledge about the realities of climate change at household and community levels.

For WoGEM Uganda, this reinforces the importance of creating platforms where marginalized women can participate in environmental and climate governance and contribute to solutions based on their lived experiences.

Key Recommendations from the Dialogue

The following recommendations emerged from the issues discussed:

- Strengthen Representation

Government institutions and other climate actors should deliberately increase the representation of women with disabilities in climate policy, planning and decision-making structures.

- Ensure Meaningful Participation

Women with disabilities should not only be consulted but should have opportunities to influence policies, programmes and decisions.

- Make Climate Information Accessible

Climate information, early warnings and adaptation messages should be provided in accessible formats and through communication channels that reach women with different types of disabilities.

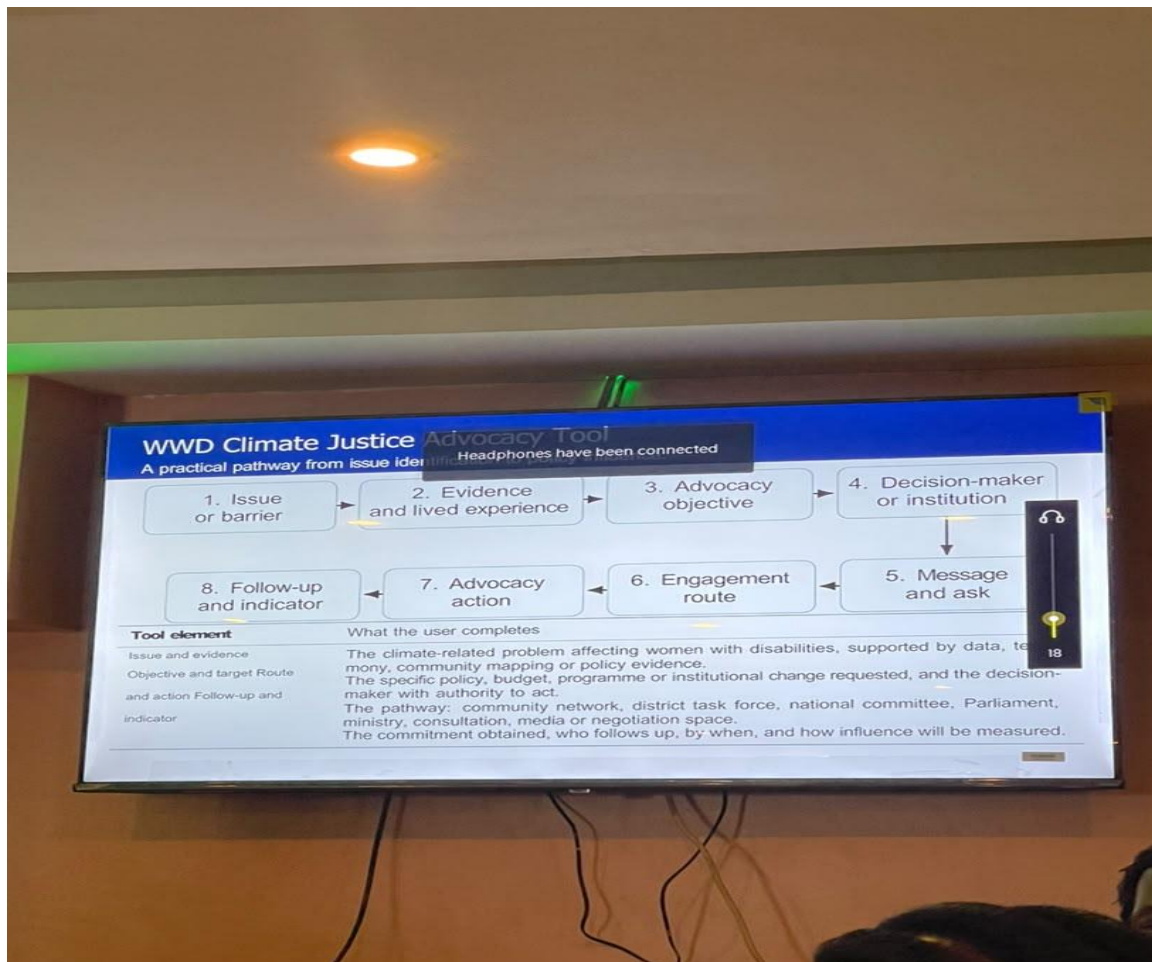
- Improve Accessibility of Policy Spaces

Government and development partners should ensure that venues, materials, communication systems and other participation arrangements are accessible.

- Strengthen Capacity Building

Women with disabilities should be supported with knowledge and skills in areas such as:

- ❖ Climate policy;
- ❖ Climate negotiations;
- ❖ Advocacy;
- ❖ Leadership;
- ❖ Climate finance;
- ❖ Disaster risk reduction;
- ❖ Adaptation; and
- ❖ Environmental governance.



- Improve Access to Climate Finance

Climate financing mechanisms should recognize the needs and priorities of women with disabilities and support initiatives that promote their participation, resilience and livelihoods.

- Strengthen Data Collection

Government, CSOs and research institutions should collect and use disability-disaggregated and gender-responsive data to inform climate policies and programmes.

- Strengthen Collaboration

There should be stronger collaboration between OPDs, women's organizations, government institutions, CSOs, academia and development partners.

- Integrate Disability into Climate Policies

Disability inclusion should be incorporated across climate policies, strategies, adaptation plans, disaster-risk reduction frameworks and climate programmes rather than being treated as a separate issue.

- Recognize Women with Disabilities as Agents of Change

Climate programmes should move beyond viewing women with disabilities primarily as vulnerable beneficiaries and recognize them as leaders, advocates, knowledge holders and agents of change.

Key Takeaways

The dialogue provided several lessons that are relevant to WoGEM Uganda's ongoing work on gender, climate justice and inclusive climate action.

- ✓ First, gender-responsive climate action must also be disability-inclusive. Addressing gender inequality in climate action requires consideration of the different experiences of women, including women with disabilities.
- ✓ Second, meaningful participation requires more than representation. Women must have the opportunity to contribute to decisions and influence outcomes.
- ✓ Third, climate justice should consider the intersection between gender, disability, poverty, access to resources and exposure to climate risks.
- ✓ Fourth, there is an opportunity for WoGEM Uganda to strengthen its engagement with women with disabilities and OPDs when developing climate advocacy, research and community programmes.
- ✓ Finally, the dialogue demonstrated the importance of ensuring that the voices of marginalized women are incorporated into national climate discussions and policy processes.

Proposed Areas for Follow-Up by WoGEM Uganda

Following the dialogue, WoGEM Uganda may consider the following actions:

- Strengthen Engagement with OPDs

Develop or strengthen partnerships with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, particularly women-led disability organizations, to ensure their perspectives are integrated into WoGEM climate justice work.

- Conduct Community-Level Engagement

Support consultations with women with disabilities at community level to document their experiences with climate change, adaptation and resilience.

- Promote Inclusive Climate Advocacy

Include disability inclusion as a cross-cutting issue in WoGEM climate policy advocacy and gender-justice work.

- Support Accessible Climate Information

Develop or disseminate climate information in formats that are accessible to women with different disabilities.

- Strengthen Evidence Generation

Document lived experiences and collect qualitative and quantitative information on the impacts of climate change on women with disabilities.

- Advocate for Inclusive Climate Finance

Engage policymakers and climate-finance actors on the importance of directing resources towards inclusive adaptation and resilience initiatives.

- Build Leadership and Negotiation Capacity

Explore opportunities to support women with disabilities to develop skills in climate advocacy, policy engagement and national and international climate negotiations.

Conclusion

The National Policy Dialogue on Strengthening the Voices of Women with Disabilities in Climate Policy Dialogues provided an important platform for stakeholders to reflect on the barriers limiting the participation of women with disabilities in climate governance.

The discussions demonstrated that women with disabilities are affected by climate change in ways that require greater attention in climate policy, planning and programming. At the same time, their lived experiences and knowledge can make climate responses more practical, inclusive and responsive to community realities.

For WoGEM Uganda, participation in the dialogue reinforced the importance of advancing inclusive, gender-responsive and rights-based climate action. It also highlighted the need to strengthen collaboration with women with disabilities, OPDs, government institutions and other stakeholders.

Going forward, WoGEM Uganda can contribute to ensuring that women with disabilities are not only included in climate conversations but are supported to actively influence climate policies, decisions and solutions.

The dialogue therefore provided an important opportunity to strengthen advocacy, partnerships and evidence-based approaches that promote the meaningful participation of women with disabilities in Uganda's climate governance and climate action processes.



Annexes

Invitation letter to the dialogue;



INVITATION
LETTER- POLICY DIAL

Programme/agenda of the dialogue;

List of participants;



Presentations or discussion materials;

Photographs from the dialogue;



Key recommendations or communiqué produced during the dialogue; and

Any relevant policy documents or materials shared during the meeting.