

Financing pathways for gender-just energy transitions

As a part of the Finance Meets webinar series, the Green Finance Platform and the GGKP Gender Expert Group hosted a webinar on financing pathways for gender-just energy transitions. Here's a summary of the discussion.

The concept of "just transitions" embedded within the Paris Agreement refers to the greening of economies in fair and inclusive ways. Transitioning towards low-emission and resilient pathways requires fundamental shifts in how energy is produced and used.

Yet gender equality outcomes are often left out from being effectively integrated into just transition initiatives, with ambition low for large-scale investments in particular. Financial innovations could support the realization of gender equality in energy transitions while meeting investment goals.

As part of the Finance Meets webinar series, the Green Finance Platform and the [GGKP Gender Expert Group](#) brought together leading gender and finance experts from international organizations, NGOs and the finance sector to discuss the importance of incorporating gender considerations with concrete actions across various sectors.

During the [webinar](#), the Gender Expert Group also launched its new report [Powering a Gender-Just Energy Transition](#), which explores the challenges and opportunities for inclusive energy investments and presents the Gender-Just Energy Transition Outcomes Framework.

Irene Giner-Reichl, co-founder and senior adviser of the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNEN), highlighted the complexity of energy transitions and the need for incorporating inclusivity and gender balance in them. She noted that energy transitions offer opportunities to create societies that are more just, inclusive and participatory, and they pay off not only in terms of the economic bottom line, but as a fundamental right of women. She also said the Gender Expert Group's report can provide an entry point to take action based on the gender integration spectrum.

Taciana Peão Lopes, co-founder and executive director of Mozambique Women of Energy (MWE), highlighted how sustainable energy can contribute to achieving a just energy transition, which in turn can empower women. The MWE supports women through research, capacity building, project implementation and mentorship to provide an equitable energy access for all.

During the panel discussion, **Maria Elena Valenzuela**, chief technical adviser at the International Labour Organization (ILO) emphasized that gender equality and social inclusion should not be only seen as byproducts in energy transition. She noted the lack of real commitment to engender climate policies and to achieve gender parity in decision-making arenas and concluded that an integrated and participatory approach is needed to prevent marginalization of certain communities in the transition to low-carbon economies. Access to clean energy is also crucial for empowering women in rural areas, reducing their care burden and promoting sustainable transportation options that benefit women.

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Regarding job creation in the clean energy sector, Valenzuela pointed to the need for clear policies to address gender inequalities. She explained how clean energy sector provides opportunities for decent work, but at the same time can be skewed to job creation mainly on male-dominated sectors without explicit measures.

Inka Ivette Schomer, senior gender and infrastructure specialist at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), explained how the IFC provides advisory support and identifies a business case together with the private sector to incorporate gender considerations into investments and decision-making processes. For example, she elaborated on how enough data on respectful workplace principles can enhance the monetary benefits of a company.

Zonibel Woods, senior social development specialist with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), introduced a set of principles on just transitions for multilateral development banks, to which ADB is a signatory. This includes gender equality as an outcome of inclusive planning, implementation and monitoring. She also highlighted the importance of ensuring that women are not disproportionately affected by the energy transition process. While focusing on early retirement of coal power plants, she explained that capacity building and upskilling women to transition to clean energy jobs are also crucial.

Woods added that a pathway for women to acquire skills and join the newly created jobs in the renewable energy sector can start with STEM education for young women. She highlighted the importance of family-friendly policies and especially the education system to challenge the social and gender norms hindering women throughout the life cycle. Breaking silos and working across sectors, including energy, education, social protection and labour, are crucial to ensure a more equitable and gender-just transition.

All speakers highlighted key considerations for bringing gender to the forefront of climate change and energy transition discussions.

“Let's promote social dialogue, incorporate all partners into this discussion and put gender at the centre of climate change and energy transition policies.”

– **Maria Elena Valenzuela**, Chief Technical Advisor, International Labour Organization (ILO)

“As gender specialists, it is important to understand the sector you're working in, understand the project cycle, how investments are made and work with the government and the private sector to get them to understand the opportunities. This will allow having practical conversations on embedding gender into different sectors.”

– **Inka Ivette Schomer**, Senior Gender and Infrastructure Specialist, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

“We have to be intentional about investing in gender equality. Setting a target for women's employment is not enough if we are not really committed to taking all the steps to attain the targets. We need to make sure that we are investing financial resources that women can benefit from the energy transition.”

– **Zonibel Woods**, Senior Social Development Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

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“Gender integration in climate finance and in the energy sector cannot only be a tick in the box to comply with reporting requirements. More discussions on financing women working in informal sectors will also highly contribute to tackling climate change and energy transition.”

– **Taciana Peão Lopes**, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Mozambique Women of Energy (MWE)

“Let the energy transition process itself be structured in a participatory and inclusive way with full participation of women. Let’s take into account how energy transitions can at the same time be socioeconomic transformations.”

– **Irene Giner-Reichl**, Co-Founder and Senior Adviser, Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET)

Notes to editors

Green Finance Platform

The Green Finance Platform (GFP) is the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership’s platform that provides the latest finance research, regulations, tools and guidance to banks, investors, insurers and regulators to enable sustainable finance practices aligned with international standards. One of its flagship products, the Green Finance Measures Database is a global compendium of 780+ sustainable finance policies and regulations across 109 developed and developing countries. The Sustainable Finance Diagnostic Toolkit of the GFP lays out strategic 10 steps for policymakers to improve their understanding of actions to enhance the mobilization of financing for sustainable development.

GGKP Gender Expert Group

The [GGKP Gender Expert Group](#) convenes leading experts in green growth and gender with the aim of catalysing collective action towards gender equality and women's empowerment in global green transitions. A collaboration among leading green growth organizations, the Expert Group provides research, capacity building and knowledge sharing to respond to critical knowledge gaps and aid evidence-based policy development processes integrating gender equality in green growth approaches. The Gender Expert Group has produced [three papers](#) addressing key knowledge gaps in gender-just transition data, policy and tools.