



GENCGOV

CONFERENCE 2026

NIGERIA • JUNE 2026

GENCGOV CONFERENCE 2026
DECLARATION



Abuja Declaration
GENCGOV Conference 2026

on Governing Climate in an Age of Risk, Retreat and Geopolitical Realignment

Adopted at the GENCGOV Conference 2026 organised in partnership with the Office of the Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on Climate Change Matters and Environmental Law Research Institute.

Preamble

We, the participants of GENCGOV Conference 2026 (Gender Inclusive Climate Change Governance Conference), comprising researchers, policymakers, practitioners, civil society organizations, community leaders, development partners, youth representatives, Indigenous Peoples, women's rights advocates, and the private sector, convened under the theme "Governing Climate in an Age of Risk, Retreat and Geopolitical Realignment."

Recognizing that climate change represents one of the defining challenges of the twenty-first century, with impacts that are unevenly distributed across societies and disproportionately borne by women, girls, marginalized communities, Indigenous Peoples, and vulnerable populations;

Concerned that increasing climate risks are occurring alongside geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, democratic backsliding, shrinking civic spaces, and growing pressures on multilateral cooperation;

Acknowledging that gender inequality remains a structural barrier to effective climate governance, limiting participation, access to resources, leadership opportunities, and adaptive capacity;

Affirming that equitable, inclusive, and participatory governance systems are essential to achieving climate resilience, sustainable development, environmental justice, and intergenerational equity;

Recognizing the vital contributions of women, youth, Indigenous knowledge holders, local communities, and underrepresented groups in shaping innovative and sustainable climate solutions;

We hereby adopt this Declaration.

Our Shared Commitments

1. Advancing Gender-Responsive Climate Governance

We recognise that effective climate governance requires inclusive, accountable, and gender-responsive institutions that address structural inequalities and ensure meaningful participation in climate decision-making.

We therefore commit to:

- Integrating gender equality and social inclusion across climate laws, policies, budgets, and institutional frameworks.
- Expanding gender-responsive climate finance that is accessible, equitable, and responsive to local needs.
- Strengthening the collection and use of sex, age, disability, and other socially disaggregated data to support evidence-based decision-making, accountability, and the visibility of groups that are often excluded from climate policy processes.
- Promoting the equal leadership and meaningful participation of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups at all levels of climate governance.

2. Ensuring Inclusive Participation and Leadership

We recognise that legitimate climate governance depends on inclusive participation, shared leadership, and meaningful collaboration among governments, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, communities, academia, youth, and the private sector.

We therefore commit to:

- Expanding meaningful participation and shared decision-making for women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups across all levels of climate governance.
- Strengthening leadership by women and underrepresented groups in public institutions and non-state climate initiatives.
- Fostering partnerships across governments, civil society, academia, communities, and the private sector to build trust, accountability, and collective action.

- Creating enabling environments for intergenerational dialogue, civic engagement, and locally-led solutions that enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of climate governance.

3. Strengthening Climate Justice and Equity

We recognise that climate futures are shaped by power, representation, and the choices made today. Achieving climate justice requires ensuring that those most affected by climate change have an equal voice in imagining and shaping sustainable and equitable futures.

We therefore commit to:

- Addressing the structural inequalities that drive unequal climate vulnerabilities, risks, and access to opportunities.
- Protecting the rights, livelihoods, and self-determination of climate-affected communities through inclusive and rights-based approaches.
- Promoting just and equitable transitions that create decent work, reduce inequalities, and leave no one behind.
- Ensuring that women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalized groups are empowered to shape climate visions, policies, and pathways toward resilient and sustainable futures.

4. Enhancing Resilience in an Era of Global Uncertainty

We recognise that climate risks are increasingly shaped by unequal power relations, geopolitical shifts, and decisions that often expose vulnerable communities to harm without their meaningful participation or consent.

We therefore commit to:

- Building adaptive, accountable, and inclusive governance institutions that can respond to complex and interconnected climate risks.
- Ensuring that climate risk governance is participatory, rights-based, and centered on the voices and leadership of women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and other marginalized communities.
- Supporting locally led resilience, community-based adaptation, and anticipatory action that strengthen agency and self-determination.

- Promoting equitable and transparent risk governance that advances international solidarity, shared responsibility, and climate justice in an evolving global climate order.

5. Supporting Knowledge, Research, and Innovation

We recognise that effective climate governance depends on knowledge that is inclusive, credible, and responsive to the lived realities of diverse communities. We acknowledge that climate evidence is not neutral and that whose knowledge is produced, recognized, and used shapes policy outcomes.

We therefore commit to:

- Advancing interdisciplinary research and learning on gender, climate governance, and societal resilience across formal and informal education systems, including climate education and engagement for children and young people.
- Supporting the co-production of climate knowledge by researchers, policymakers, practitioners, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth, and other underrepresented groups.
- Promoting equitable knowledge exchange, open access to evidence, capacity strengthening, creative practice, and the recognition and integration of Indigenous, local, and experiential forms of knowledge alongside scientific research.
- Encouraging collaboration across disciplines, sectors, regions, and communities, including educators, artists, cultural practitioners and media actors, to ensure that climate evidence is relevant, accessible, and serves those most affected by climate change.

6. Safeguarding Democratic and Accountable Climate Governance

We recognise that as climate governance evolves across public, private, and transnational actors, democratic legitimacy depends on transparency, accountability, and meaningful public participation.

We therefore commit to:

- Protecting civic space and ensuring the meaningful participation of diverse stakeholders, across various levels of governance including local and subnational, in climate decision-making.

- Promoting transparency and accountability in climate policies, finance, partnerships, and reporting across state, subnational and non-state actors, while supporting access to reliable climate information.
- Strengthening oversight, monitoring, and grievance mechanisms to ensure climate commitments are implemented fairly and effectively.
- Upholding democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law, and the role of independent and responsible media as foundations of inclusive and trusted climate governance.

7. Reinforcing International Cooperation

We recognise that international cooperation and climate finance must address historical and structural inequalities rather than reinforce them. Achieving climate justice requires solidarity, equitable partnerships, and financing that is accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of those most affected by climate change.

We therefore commit to:

- Strengthening cooperation among governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, the private sector, and local communities to advance equitable climate action.
- Promoting inclusive and accountable multilateral approaches that amplify the voices and priorities of developing countries and marginalized communities.
- Advancing climate finance that is gender-responsive, accessible, transparent, and aligned with the principles of equity, justice, and country ownership.
- Expanding equitable access to finance, technology, capacity development, and locally led solutions that build resilience without increasing debt or deepening existing inequalities.

Call to Action

We call upon governments, international organizations, academic institutions, civil society organizations, development agencies, businesses, and communities around the world to embrace gender-inclusive approaches to climate governance and to translate commitments into measurable actions.

We further urge them to place justice, inclusion, resilience, and human dignity at the center of climate governance efforts in an era marked by risk, uncertainty, retreat from multilateralism, and geopolitical transformation.

Declaration of Intent

As participants of GENCGOV Conference 2026, we pledge to continue fostering dialogue, research, collaboration, and action that advance gender-inclusive climate governance and contribute to a more just, sustainable, and resilient future for all.

Adopted on the 24th of June 2026.



HOST



**Gender Inclusive
Climate Change Governance**
Championing climate justice through gender equality



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