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From Belém Gender Action Plan to National Gender-Responsive Climate Action

A Government Guide to Nationalising the Belém Gender Action Plan (2026–2034)

Photo: Zorotoo

Purpose of this brief

This brief was created to guide governments in translating the Belém Gender Action Plan (GAP) into national action, policies, institutional arrangements, budgets, and reporting.

Why national implementation matters

Adopted at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, the Belém Gender Action Plan (GAP) for 2026–2034 marks an important milestone in advancing gender-responsive climate action under the UNFCCC. Building on the enhanced Lima work programme on gender, along with years of collaboration and sustained advocacy, the GAP sets out 27 activities and 98 associated deliverables across five official priority areas.

The GAP provides for implementation at the international, national, and subnational levels. At the international level, implementation will be led primarily by the UNFCCC Secretariat and relevant constituted bodies and institutional actors through mandated events, technical work, reports, knowledge-sharing, and other processes established under the GAP. At national and subnational levels, governments and relevant institutions will be responsible for translating the GAP's activities and deliverables into country-specific actions, programmes, institutional arrangements, policies, and practical measures. A substantial share of the Belém GAP's 17 activities and 38 associated deliverables are implemented primarily at national and subnational levels, placing Parties at the centre of delivery. A detailed list of activities and deliverables that primarily require national and subnational implementation is available at this link.

The adoption of the GAP is an important achievement, but its impact will depend on implementation. Climate change and climate policies can reinforce inequalities in resources, decision-making, public services, and economic opportunities, including those linked to unpaid care responsibilities, health risks, gender-based violence, displacement, and threats to women environmental defenders. Nationalising the Belém GAP

means translating its activities and deliverables into country-specific priorities and actions, institutional responsibilities, funded programmes, and measurable results. It requires integrating gender equality into climate governance and implementation, rather than treating gender as a separate or stand-alone issue.

What governments need to do

PRIORITY 1
Assess national needs and establish an evidence base

Governments should identify how climate change and climate responses have implications for gender equality across different contexts, sectors and communities.

Key actions

- Use existing assessments, research, and consultations, and conduct or update national gender and climate assessments where needed to identify inequalities, emerging risks, policy gaps, and opportunities for action.
- Examine the gender dimensions of unpaid care work, health, violence against women and girls, livelihoods, displacement, land tenure, and resource rights in the context of gender and climate change.
- Map existing data, research, and institutional capacity, identifying immediate opportunities for action and evidence gaps that require further work.
- Package the relevant information above into a submission under GAP Activity A.3.9 by March 2027.

Expected result

An evidence-based national picture/understanding of gender and climate inequalities to inform climate action, priorities, policies, and investments.

PRIORITY 2
Establish clear institutional leadership and coordination

National implementation requires coordinated action across government, with clear mandates and accountability.

Key actions

- Strengthen the mandate, capacity, and resources of the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point.
- Establish or reinforce an interministerial coordination mechanism involving climate, gender, finance, planning, health, agriculture, labour, social protection, and other relevant institutions.
- Establish multi-stakeholder mechanisms for coordination between national and subnational authorities and other stakeholders, including relevant UN institutions, women's rights organizations, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and other marginalized groups.
- Integrate GAP priorities into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans, sectoral strategies, disaster risk reduction plans, and relevant public investment frameworks.

Expected result

A functioning institutional arrangement with designated leads, shared responsibilities, and a coordinated approach to delivery as part of C.6.1.

PRIORITY 3
Strengthen women's meaningful participation and leadership

Women and their organisations must be able to shape climate decisions, not simply participate in consultations.

Key actions

- Establish inclusive and accessible consultation processes throughout policy design, implementation, and review.
- Support the participation and leadership of women's rights organisations, Indigenous women, rural women, local communities, women with disabilities, young women, and other groups experiencing intersecting inequalities.
- Remove practical barriers to participation, including inaccessible meeting formats, travel costs, language barriers, and unpaid care responsibilities.

- Strengthen protections and safeguards for women environmental defenders and ensure that climate-related initiatives do not expose women to additional risks as part of B.4.

Expected result

Climate policies and investments reflect the knowledge, priorities, and rights of diverse women and girls, with meaningful opportunities to influence decisions.

PRIORITY 4
Mobilise finance for implementation

Gender-responsive climate action requires dedicated resources and integration into existing public finance systems.

Key actions

- Integrate Belém GAP implementation into funding requests to climate funding mechanisms, including GCF, GEF, Adaptation Fund, and other relevant bilateral and multilateral funding opportunities.
- Ensure strong working relationships between National Gender Climate Change Focal Points and National Designated Authorities.
- Integrate gender-responsive measures into national and subnational budgets, climate finance strategies, and public investment programmes.
- Apply gender-responsive budgeting to assess who benefits from climate expenditure and whether resources address identified inequalities.
- Improve access to climate finance for women's organisations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and other frontline actors.
- Track allocations and expenditure against agreed gender-responsive climate objectives.

Expected result

National GAP priorities are gender-responsive, and national climate actions are costed, financed, and reflected in national budgets, funding proposals, and investment decisions.

PRIORITY 5
Improve gender- and age-disaggregated data

Governments need reliable data to understand inequalities, design appropriate responses, and assess progress.

Key actions

- Identify priority data gaps and develop a plan to address them.
- Strengthen collaboration between climate institutions, gender ministries, national statistical offices, research institutions, and civil society.
- Collect, analyse, and use gender- and age-disaggregated data, complemented where appropriate by other relevant indicators of inequality.
- Ensure data collection is ethical, safe, accessible, and sufficiently detailed to capture the experiences of diverse groups of women and girls.
- Use findings to inform climate planning, budgeting, implementation, and evaluation.

Expected result

Improved evidence for gender-responsive policymaking, resource allocation, and monitoring as part of D.7.

PRIORITY 6
Strengthen monitoring, reporting, and accountability

National implementation needs measurable indicators, clear responsibilities, and transparent reporting.

Key actions

- Define measurable indicators, baselines, targets, and reporting intervals for each national priority.
- Track both implementation outputs, such as actions, policies adopted, funds allocated, and officials trained, and outcomes for women and girls. Integrate relevant progress into national climate reporting, communication strategies, Biennial Transparency Reportd (BTR), NDC implementation reviews, adaptation planning, and applicable UNFCCC reporting processes.

- Publish regular progress updates and provide opportunities for civil society and affected communities to scrutinise results.

Expected result

A transparent national accountability system that tracks progress, identifies implementation gaps, and supports continuous improvement as part of E.1.

A note to Government

Belém secured the framework. National governments must now deliver the change.

Successful nationalisation of the Belém GAP requires political leadership, cross-government coordination, meaningful participation, adequate financing, reliable data, and transparent accountability. By embedding these elements into national climate governance, governments can ensure gender equality is not an afterthought but a core component of effective, equitable, and transformative climate action.

The GAP should be implemented in accordance with its adopted activities, deliverables, and timelines, taking into account national circumstances and existing commitments. Governments should work closely with women's rights organisations, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and other stakeholders to ensure that implementation responds to the realities of women and girls and delivers measurable results.