



Workshop Summary from
 CCIC 2018 Annual Conference: “Is Canada Back? Delivering on good intentions”
 September 19 and 20, 2018
 Ottawa

Some 100 representatives from civil society, academia, and the public sector came together for a workshop on “*Getting to 50/50: Climate Financing for Gender-Transformative Adaptation and Resilience.*” Premised on an understanding of the Global Adaptation Funding Gap as an obstacle for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and other key international commitments, workshop participants explored challenges, opportunities, and ways in which Canada could contribute towards a more equitable approach to climate justice, including a greater role for Canadian CSOs.

Recommendations

Workshop participants adopted the following key recommendations:

- 1- **Commit at least 50% of international climate finance for principal purpose adaptation initiatives** addressing the needs of vulnerable people and countries, and supported by specific strategies to embed gender equality objectives in all of its climate finance.
- 2- **Announce a dedicated mechanism for women’s climate adaptation**, prioritizing support for women’s environmental organizations and movements, and women small-scale farmers and their organizations.
- 3- **Develop a fully-costed implementation plan for Environment and Climate Action in the Feminist International Assistance Policy**, focussed on ensuring that women have the financial, informational, labour, technological and other resources they need to support agricultural production and resilience, food security, household nutrition, and recover from climate impacts.
- 4- **Commit to achieving and maintaining balance in Canada’s current and post-2020 principal purpose climate finance**, in ways that will meet goals for increased adaptation, strengthen the priority for gender equality, and reach vulnerable people and communities.
- 5- **Establish a Canadian-sponsored, climate adaptation-focused fund of funds**, backed with transparent and robust monitoring and accountability mechanisms committed to pro-poor and gender equitable outcomes, to encourage private sector involvement in closing the \$100 billion climate financing gap.

Climate change integral to development

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the face of climate change is one of the defining challenges of the 21st Century. [Sustainable Development Goal 13](#) articulates countries' commitments to "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts." Without urgent and ambitious action, climate change threatens to push an additional [100 million people](#) into extreme poverty by 2030, eroding hard-won development gains. The impacts of climate change are already evident in increasing in levels of [global hunger](#), [displacement](#), and [instability](#).

Closing the Global Adaptation Financing Gap

According to the United Nations Environment Program, global adaptation funding requirements could reach [USD\\$140-\\$300 billion per year in the 2030s, and up to \\$500 billion per year in the 2050s](#). Developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have agreed to jointly mobilize [USD\\$100 billion annually by 2020](#) from all sources to address the needs of developing countries. The [Paris Agreement](#) also calls for climate financial resources to be balanced between adaptation and mitigation, and to favour public and grant-based mechanisms in the most vulnerable countries. However, CSOs estimate that in 2016 bilateral donors were contributing about \$20 billion of their \$37.3 billion share of the UNFCCC commitment – an amount that has not increased since 2014. Meanwhile, only 38% of bilateral climate finance in 2016 was allocated to adaptation, and 57% of all climate finance was delivered through loans, including 33% of finance for adaptation intended for low income and vulnerable countries.

An issue of global social justice and gender equality

The social, cultural and economic impacts of climate change are hardest on those least responsible for causing it. The world's poorest 1 billion people are responsible for just 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet the poorest [absorb up to 80% of the costs of climate change](#), including through food insecurity, loss and damage, compromised livelihoods and instability. The impacts of climate change also fall disproportionately on women and girls. According to the [Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change](#), the effects of climate variability and extreme weather events will likely increase existing inequalities and vulnerabilities between men and women. Women and girls are highly dependent on local natural resources, and are more likely to be vulnerable to climate variability impacts than men, due to social and cultural conditions that influence access to resources and division of labour, as well as lack of participation in decision-making.

Innovative finance

Both the private and public sectors in developed and developing countries face challenges in accessing sufficient capital to address their climate needs – particularly those related to climate change adaptation. Innovative Climate Finance, which includes disaster risk insurance, concessional loans, green bonds, and impact investments, is critical to building resilience to climate change and protecting the billions of people expected to be living in vulnerable countries in the near future. Furthermore, in response to growing [uncertainty](#) around politically-determined public sector contributions to entities such as the Green Climate Fund, involving and improving the business case for private sector investors to grow their portfolio allocations to climate-designated finance is of the utmost importance. Impact investing can serve as a principle tool in building resilience to climate change and promoting sustainable development. Developing funds for investors to place patient capital into will be important as we look for new ways to address the needs of emerging businesses. These funds can play a flexible role in offering diverse instruments such as equity, debt, mezzanine capital, microfinance and more, to ensure

that new investment-hungry sectors. A Canadian-sponsored fund of funds, leveraging climate-focused venture capital/private equity and/or fixed income, is one potential solution that could de-risk investments in underserved regions and thereby provide social enterprises, regional financial institutions, and local entrepreneurs with access to below-market rate or zero-return investments, leading to the dual benefit of building resilience while concurrently spurring local economic growth.

Is Canada really back?

In 2015, Prime Minister Trudeau [pledged](#) \$2.65 billion over five years to help developing countries, “particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, transition to climate-resilient low-carbon economies.” The pledge included a commitment to reach \$800 million in annual international climate change investment by 2020/21. Despite this substantial commitment, Canada’s climate finance as a proportion of Gross National Income put it in 16th position among donors in 2016. In order to meet its fair share of the US\$100 billion in climate finance by 2020, it has been estimated that Canada will need to double its current commitments. Canada is also falling behind in terms of the amount of its international climate finance going to adaptation. Canada’s [Third Biennial Report](#) to the UNFCCC reported that 54% of its climate finance over 2015 and 2016 was allocated to adaptation, putting the country in a position of leadership among its peers. In order to capitalize on this leadership, Canada must make a renewed commitment for increased climate finance for the post-2020 period – one that is equal to our relative wealth and global responsibilities – including an enhanced priority for adaptation for the most vulnerable, with targets to embed gender equality objectives in all of its climate finance.

Sign up to stay informed about our efforts to make Canadian international climate finance more just and ambitious, and ways you can get involved!

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