

Gender Equality and Human Rights in Climate Action and Renewable Energy

E-Course Syllabus

Background

The deep-rooted and far-reaching impacts of climate change make it one of the most defining challenges in the world today. The impacts of climate change manifest in primary effects such as increased frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events like droughts, storms and floods. However, it is the negative secondary effects that often go over-looked, especially for those who already experience inequalities, including women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities and minority groups. For women and girls, existing gender norms and stereotypes affect their access to, ownership and control over resources, making them disproportionately affected by climate change. In addition, challenges of protecting, promoting and fulfilling fundamental human rights exacerbate the effects of climate change on those most vulnerable.

These multiple and intersecting social inequalities affect the ability of marginalized groups to adapt to a changing climate, excluding them from decision-making processes at household, community and national level. They also prevent them from taking hold of the opportunities that low-emissions, climate resilient development brings towards improved livelihoods and socio-economic wellbeing, particularly in sectors like renewable energy.

Therefore, it is crucial that **decision-makers are equipped with the tools and knowledge to integrate gender and human rights in climate policies and commitments** as well as **develop inclusive climate mitigation and adaptation actions in sectors like renewable energy** while the actors such as financiers and entrepreneurs engage in appropriate schemes and ventures on renewable energy conducive to those who experience inequalities including the women.

At international level and in various regions around the world, there is growing recognition of the interlinkages between gender, human rights, renewable energy and climate change and the role that holistic climate and sectoral policies and programmes contribute towards building resilience and securing sustainable development. This starts with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which highlights the importance of achieving gender equality (SDG 5), ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7), addressing climate change (SDG 13), and strengthening partnership (SDG 17), recognizing the integrated nature of the goals and the need to “leave no one behind”.

In this context, this e-course provides an overview of the **interlinkages between gender, human rights, renewable energy, and climate change**. It provides participants with the specific knowledge and tools to integrate and implement gender equality in access to renewable energy and renewable energy entrepreneurship, as well as related gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

This e-course is jointly developed by [UN CC:Learn](#), [UN Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) and [UN Women](#) under the project [EmPower: Women for Climate Resilient Societies](#), with the support of the [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(SIDA\)](#).

Target Audience

This e-course offers a holistic and integrated approach that demonstrates the interlinkages between gender equality, human rights and climate change and identifies pathways towards low-carbon and inclusive development.

The course is primarily designed to build capacities of **policymakers, government officials, financial institutions and other stakeholders working in the fields of climate change, renewable energy and gender** who can contribute to, and ultimately drive forward the implementation of gender-responsive, human rights-based climate change actions and renewable energy policies and programmes.

This course consists of three interactive modules; one introductory module and two specialized modules. The introductory module focuses on the interconnections between gender equality and human rights in climate action and renewable energy access and entrepreneurship.

The second module focuses on how to implement gender responsive renewable energy policies and programmes, with the aim of creating more opportunities for women in access to renewable energy, renewable energy entrepreneurship, and financing for renewable energy entrepreneurship.

The third module delves into how to develop and implement gender responsive and human rights inclusive climate change policies and frameworks at national level, including in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Therefore, course is of particular interest to the following audiences:

1. National policymakers, government officials and stakeholders in sectors of climate change, gender equality and renewable energy, as well as regional actors;
2. Renewable energy service providers and officials of financial institutions in renewable energy entrepreneurship;
3. Anyone interested in learning more about gender equality and human rights-based approaches in the renewable energy sector.



Learning Objectives

This course features three distinct modules that aim to equip participants with the knowledge, skills and resource materials to understand the interlinkage between gender equality, human rights, renewable energy and climate change and identify entry points in climate policies and action and renewable energy development that address gender equality and human rights.

After completing the course, participants will be able to:

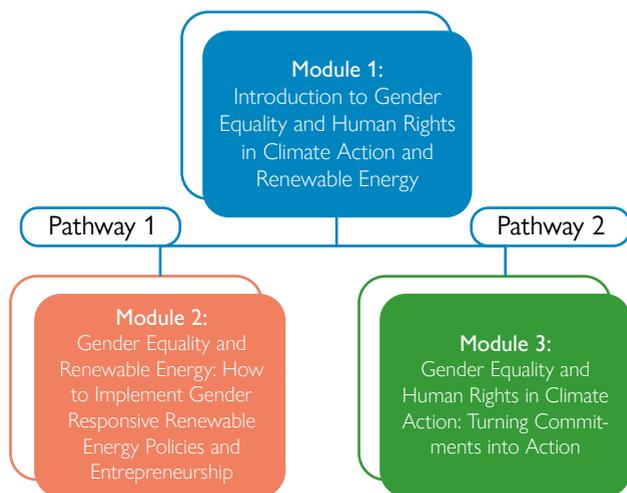
- **Describe** the nexus between gender equality, human rights, renewable energy, and climate change
- **Explain** how a gender responsive and human rights-based approach in climate action leads to economic, social, and environmental benefits
- **Recognize** international and sectoral commitments on gender equality, human rights and climate change and their relationship with national priorities and policies
- **Identify** entry points for gender and human rights in renewable energy and climate policy and action
- **Select** and apply tools and approaches for the promotion of human rights-based and gender responsive climate action
- **Discuss** targeted opportunities for women in climate change and renewable energy, with a particular focus on multi-stakeholder collaboration, renewable energy entrepreneurship and access to finance.



Course Content and Structure

Each of the **three modules** in this course consists of **specific learning objectives and contains a broad range of features including videos, case studies, and quizzes with the latest data and trends**. The modules are divided into 4 lessons of around 30 minutes each.

The course provides learners with the option to **choose** and **combine different thematic modules**. There are two main learning pathways available as shown below that participants can select based on their interest. Both learning pathways have a common introductory module. Participants can also opt to take all three modules.



Module 1 – Introduction to Gender Equality and Human Rights in Climate Action and Renewable Energy (2 hours)

This module provides an introduction to gender equality and a human rights-based approach to climate action and renewable energy. Participants will be guided through the basic concepts required to understand and address gender equality and the safeguard of human rights in the context of climate change and renewable energy, as well as their interlinkages. They will consider how negative gender norms, stereotypes and intersectional discrimination hinder effective and inclusive climate action and the opportunities that a gender responsive, human rights-based approach in renewable energy and climate action result in positive social and environmental benefits. The module provides a basis on which participants can decide on which learning path to enroll.

At the end of module 1, participants will be able to:

- Explain the interlinkages between gender, human rights, renewable energy, and climate change
- Indicate international frameworks related to gender and human rights and their



application within national renewable energy and climate policies

- Present tools and approaches for the promotion of a gender responsive, human right-based approach in renewable energy and climate action
- Discuss the importance of a gender responsive, human right-based approach in renewable energy and climate action and the economic, social, and environmental co-benefits.

Module 2 (Learning Pathway 1) – Gender Equality and Renewable Energy: How to Implement Gender Responsive Renewable Energy Policies and Entrepreneurship (2 hours)

This module focuses on gender equality and renewable energy. Participants will be guided through how to implement gender responsive renewable energy policies and programmes, including in NDCs, and using gender mainstreaming tools in the energy sector. The module will also look at the role of governments, private sector and entrepreneurs, financial institutions, and civil society in providing increased access to renewable energy for women, including opportunities for renewable energy entrepreneurship, women's participation in the decision-making in the energy sector and access to finance for women in renewable energy entrepreneurship. This module is specifically designed for finance institutions working in financing for climate action and energy, specifically renewable energy as well as renewable energy experts and policymakers.

At the end of module 2, participants will be able to:

- Identify entry points for gender and human rights integration in energy policies and programmes, particularly renewable energy, that enhance women's access to clean, sustainable energy
- Present targeted opportunities and funding sources for women in renewable energy entrepreneurship that support women's economic empowerment
- Identify opportunities to address gender representation in the energy sector particularly, renewable energy, building on a multi-stakeholder approach with government, private sector, civil society and energy service providers.

Module 3 (Learning Pathway 2) – Gender Equality and Human Rights in Climate Action: Turning Commitments into Action (2 hours)

This module focuses on applying an integrated gender equality and human rights-based approach in designing and implementing national climate change policies and regulatory frameworks. It provides participants with an understanding of the tools for measuring gender and climate change and means of implementing gender and human rights inclusive approaches in climate action to ensure that climate policies protect and fulfil human rights and promote gender equality. This module is specifically designed to target national level policymakers, government officials and stakeholders in the sectors of climate change, gender equality and renewable energy.

At the end of module 3, participants will be able to:

- Identify the entry points for gender equality and human rights in national climate change policies, including in NDCs and NAPs
- Apply tools and techniques to develop, implement and monitor a gender action plan; turning policy objectives into implementable action
- Identify opportunities to promote women's participation in climate change decision-making and action

Methodology

The course is **self-paced** and can be completed according to the schedule of the participant. The course will feature **various learning experiences**: **absorb** (read); **interact** (activity); and **reflect** (relate to one's own reality). The lessons feature engaging content with clear storyline, complemented by videos, case studies, interactive features, activities and exercises, relevant tools, and links to additional resources.

Certification & Evaluation

The course features **two levels of certification**:

Level 1: Each module in the course has a final quiz to assess participants' understanding of the content. Participants will receive a completion badge upon successful completion of each quiz.

Level 2: Participants who pass all the final quizzes within their learning pathway will receive a UN certificate of completion, where successful completion will require a score of 70% or higher with a maximum of 3 attempts at each quiz.

- **Pathway 1** – Module 1 and Module 2
- **Pathway 2** – Module 1 and Module 3

Once the certification criteria have been met, participants will be able to download their badges and certificate – or both certificates if they followed all three modules – from the “Certification” section of the course’s webpage.

After completion, participants have the possibility to submit a feedback form accessible on the course webpage. Users are also invited to participate in a pre- and post-survey on how they (intend to) use the knowledge acquired.

Technical Requirements

Browser:

- The course works best with Firefox 50 or higher
- The course is also compatible with Google Chrome and Internet Explorer
- JavaScript & Cookies must be enabled

Platform: 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; MacOS 9 or MacOS X

Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space

Modem: 128 K

