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**Investors call for ‘urgent action’ at COP27 climate talks to enshrine gender equality into climate finance**

*Signatories of a call to action urge governments, public sector institutions and private sector finance organisations to ensure climate finance is gender-smart.*

November 7, LONDON – Some of the world’s leading investment funds, foundations and financial institutions have united behind calls for greater gender equality in climate finance commitments across the financial system.

In a letter published ahead of the UN COP27 summit, which starts this weekend in Sharm el Sheikh, the 15 signatories warn that “far too little progress” has been made to increase the participation of women in climate action and finance.

Among those to sign the letter, which argues the climate crisis cannot be solved without involving women, are Aviva, Generation Investment Management, the David Rockefeller Fund, the European Investment Bank and Legal and General Investment Management (LGIM).

“Ahead of the COP27 climate talks, we are calling for urgent action to enshrine gender equality into the design, delivery and accessibility of climate finance,” said **Suzanne Biegel**, co-founder of GenderSmart, which coordinated the letter together with the Women in Finance Climate Action Group and the 2X Collaborative.

“The calibre of organisations joining this call to action demonstrates a growing global recognition that gender is a material consideration whether you are looking at women as investors, entrepreneurs, leaders, innovators, customers or suppliers. And we need women’s leadership at every level of the climate finance and business value chains.”

Women are both disproportionately affected by climate change and under-utilized agents of change. Meanwhile companies with more gender-diverse boards are [reported](https://www.greenbiz.com/article/how-board-diversity-enables-transition-net-zero) to be more advanced in their disclosure and decision-making on climate action.

The letter, which also includes signatories such as Wallace Global Fund, the 30% Club, Hesta, Private Infrastructure Development Group, and Oliver Wyman, made four calls to action of public and private sector financial decision makers:

* Improve women’s inclusion within the financial system and ability to access climate finance
* Integrate gender into public and private climate policy frameworks
* Develop gender metrics and integrate them into climate finance reporting
* Improve gender-balanced representation in decision making roles in climate finance and climate-smart businesses.

“The COP27 climate talks and the upcoming COP15 biodiversity talks are crucial moments that should enable the direction of trillions of dollars of capital towards tackling shared global threats.” said **Amanda Blanc**, Group CEO of Aviva.

“Governments, multilateral institutions and private sector organisations all need to consider how this private capital can better incorporate gender concerns in order to ensure that these trillions of dollars needed to meet our climate goals will flow in an equitable way. Mobilising climate finance in a way that actively works to address gender inequality will be essential to transform economies and societies to be more equal and resilient in the future.”

Ends

For further information or an embargoed copy of the letter, contact:

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**Notes to editors**

**About GenderSmart**

[GenderSmart](https://www.gendersmartinvesting.com/) is a global field-building initiative dedicated to unlocking the deployment of strategic, impactful gender-smart capital at scale. The GenderSmart community is made up of 2,500 investors and investment influencers, intermediaries, and others, in over 50 countries. Its working group on Gender & Climate Finance highlights the work already underway to address the climate emergency with a gender lens, and encourages the adoption of these approaches at scale and pace in mainstream finance.

**About the Women in Finance Climate Action Group**

The [Women in Finance Climate Action Group](https://www.aviva.com/sustainability/women-in-finance/) is a collective of women leaders from business, the public sector and civil society – who have come together to consider what more can be done to improve gender equality when designing, delivering and accessing climate finance.

**About the 2X Collaborative**

The [2X Collaborative](https://www.2xcollaborative.org/) is a global industry body for gender lens investing. It brings together a broad range of investors deploying capital with a gender lens. It provides members with access to peer learning networks, knowledge, co-investment platforms, partnership and training opportunities and innovative investment tools. 2X Collaborative initiatives like the 2X Gender and Climate Finance Taskforce drive gender-smart investing in thematic areas.