

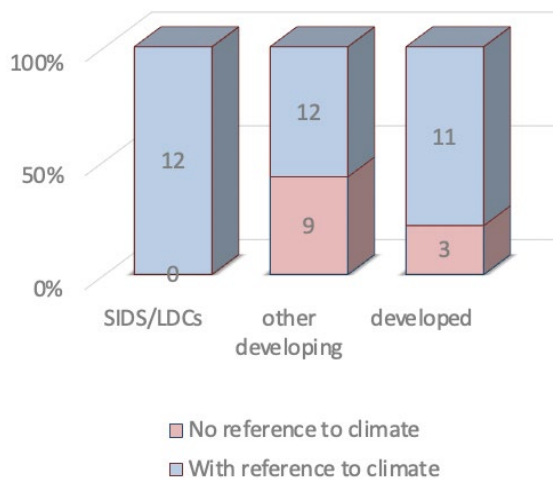
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)



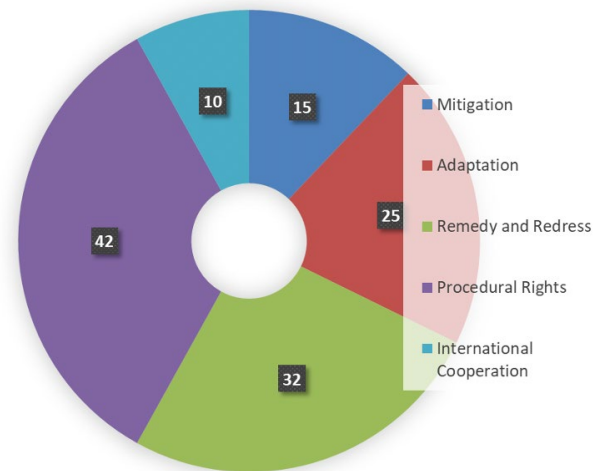
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This note reviews the outputs of the CEDAW related to climate change in 2023 and complements our previous notes dedicated to such outputs up to 2022.

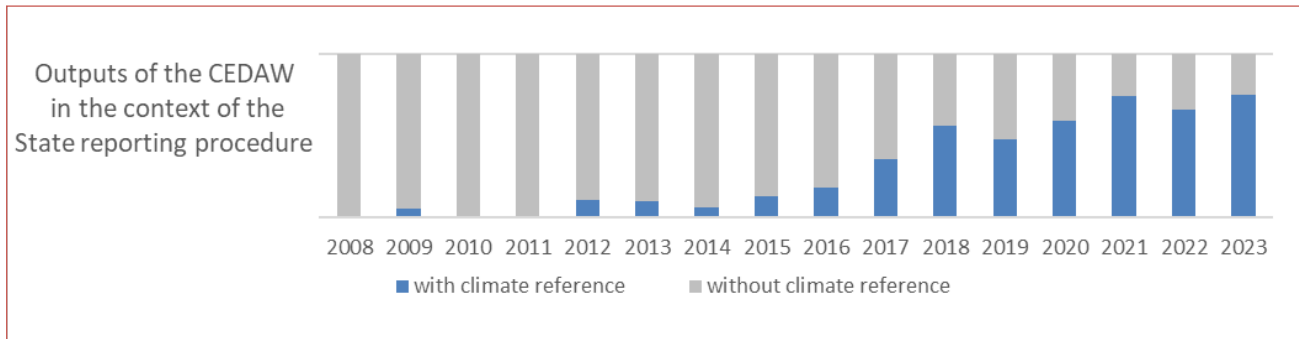
Outputs of the CEDAW in 2023,
by country category



Themes addressed by the CEDAW in the State
review procedure in 2023



In line with the work from previous years, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was the one that issued the highest number of climate-related outputs in its State reporting procedure work in 2023 — including Concluding Observations (COBs), Lists of Issues (LOIs), and Lists of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPRs). It made climate-related recommendations or asked climate-related questions to more than two-thirds of the States that it considered (35 out of 43).



Throughout its outputs, the Committee stressed climate change’s differentiated impact on women (e.g., COBs to Slovenia, Costa Rica, Norway, Mauritania, China, and Venezuela, among others). In that sense, it emphasized the importance of implementing gender-responsive strategies to address environmental degradation and climate change. In particular, the Committee focused on the importance of integrating a gender perspective into States’ framework for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in twenty-four of its outputs (e.g., COBs to Slovenia, Germany, China, Venezuela, Iceland, Bhutan, and France and LOIPRs to Mexico, Mauritius, Laos, Cuba, and Argentina). In doing so, the CEDAW called attention to the importance of its [General Recommendation No. 37 \(2018\) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change](#). Furthermore, the Committee also touched upon how rural women, Indigenous women, women of African descent, migrant and refugee women, women with disabilities, and women living in poverty face an even more significant impact of climate change (e.g., COBs to Mauritania, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Jamaica, Malawi, Nicaragua, and Guatemala). In light of the disproportionate impact of climate change on women’s rights, the Committee emphasized the need for greater participation of women in processes, programs, and policymaking (e.g., COBs to Albania, Norway, Costa Rica, Mauritania, and Slovakia).

The Committee also considered the issue of mitigation policies, although with less frequency than adaptation and disaster risk reduction (eleven outputs). In particular, the CEDAW in the COB to Spain called on the State to guarantee that “a gender perspective is systematically integrated into the development and implementation of climate change mitigation policies.” Interestingly, the Committee, in the COB to Guatemala, asked the State to “[e]nsure the participation of indigenous women in consultation processes related to ... climate mitigation and adaptation programs ... and that any use of their territories is subject to their free, prior, and informed consent and adequate compensation.” A similar recommendation was made in relation to indigenous women in the Philippines (e.g., COB to the Philippines). Here again, with such a recommendation, the Committee highlighted the need to integrate a human rights and gender perspective into climate policy.

The Committee considered issues related to fossil fuels extraction (six outputs). In its COB to Norway, the Committee noted with concern that Norway had “further expanded its oil and gas industry, including by granting forty-seven new oil and gas exploration permits in January 2023, including in the Arctic, where the temperatures rise particularly fast, and despite the EU’s aim to ban extraction in the Arctic.” In line with this, the CEDAW asked the State to “[r]eview its climate change and energy policies, in particular its policy on the extraction and export of oil and gas.” The Committee also required Germany to “[a]ccelerate its reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and utilization of fossil fuels” (e.g., COB to Germany). Additionally, the Committee required Sao Tome and Principe to “[i]dentify the impact of the extractive oil industry on rural women and how possible risks could be mitigated.”

The Committee also addressed the issue of climate finance (five outputs). In the COBs to Norway and Mauritania, the CEDAW called on the States to actively support and participate in creating and operating a loss and damage fund within the framework of the UNFCCC. The Committee also required Timor-Leste and the Philippines to guarantee the participation of women in the creation of the loss and damage fund (e.g., COBs to Timor-Leste and the Philippines).