AAWJ Climate Change Committee

Discussion paper

# Does the committee meet the objectives of the IAWJ/AAWJ?

## IAWJ

* The IAWJ supports and empowers its global network of women judges to advance gender equality and human rights.
* The IAWJ believes that advancing human rights and access to justice happens at a local level.
* Respecting and Valuing Cultural Diversity
* Using Human Rights Laws as a Vehicle to Integrate Women in Society

## AAWJ

…to promote education which contributes to the understanding and resolution of legal issues facing women.

# How does climate change interact with the IAWJ/AAWJ objectives?

* Violence against women and people from gender minorities in the aftermath of extreme weather events is on the rise amid global warming.**[[1]](#footnote-1)**
* Women are more likely to suffer the effects of food insecurity as a result of climate change[[2]](#footnote-2)
* "Cultural Diversity and Biodiversity for Sustainable Development", convened by UNEP together with UNESCO during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002:
  + underlined the importance of respecting and integrating the diversity of nature and culture as a prerequisite for sustainable development and examined ways and means to further the dialogue on cultural diversity and biodiversity.
  + featured ideas on how to develop a global environmental ethic - benefiting fully from the culture, knowledge and skills of indigenous peoples.[[3]](#footnote-3)

# What has the Climate Change committee done so far?

* Circulate articles of interest to members of the committee

# Should the committee have a broader scope?

* Is it enough to focus on climate change?
* If not, what else should the committee be concerned with?

# What role should the committee have?

* Education?
* If yes to education, of whom?
* Other initiatives?

# Recommendations

1. That the name of the committee be changed to AAWJ Committee on the environment.
2. That the committee’s primary focus be a recognition that climate change and environmental degradation (environmental issues) has a greater impact on women and children.
3. That the committee look for opportunities to:
   1. Educate judicial officers about the impacts of environmental issues on women and children;
   2. Where possible, support initiatives that recognise these impacts and propose non-judicial, non-legislative solutions;
   3. Where possible, support sustainable development proposals[[4]](#footnote-4)

1. Rodrigues: [How climate change could drive an increase in gender-based violence (nature.com)](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-01903-9) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Food Security and Gender Equality: A synergistic understudied symphony  [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.unep.org/resources/report/cultural-diversity-and-biodiversity-sustainable-development [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. E.g. carbon neutral conferencing, recycling initiatives in court, supporting zero waste initiatives [↑](#footnote-ref-4)