



XXXI BPW International Congress

17 – 21 November 2024

Resolutions

6.1.5. External Resolution: Action on Climate Change

Title of proposed resolution	Action on Climate Change
Proposed by	BPW New Zealand
Seconded by	To be confirmed
Supported by	
Financial Impact	None

MOTION:

Recognising the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of best available scientific knowledge.

Mindful of the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and who are already experiencing the greater impact of climate change. Further, of the greater impact of climate change on women and children and the lack of access to financial support, or having a voice, following environmental disasters in their areas. In addition, of the global, regional, national and local risk to economic, social and political stability, or the exacerbation of instability, because of the impacts of climate change.

Acknowledging existing BPW International policy: Taking Initiative in Environment Challenges (2008-19) and Environment – Water (2008-20).

Recognising International mechanisms calling for state parties to address climate change and the role of women, including: the Commission on the Status of Women 67 Agreed Conclusions; General Recommendation 37 to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Be it Resolved:

That BPW International and its Affiliates advocate for urgent and lasting action on climate change by advocating with Governments to:

- a. ensure emissions targets and supporting policy will achieve ‘net zero’ carbon pollution, including by updating Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC’s, a state’s climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts);
- b. formally recognise women as agents of change in addressing climate change by implementing the principles and provisions of General recommendation No. 37 on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in a changing climate; and
- c. introduce mandatory, publicly available, climate change risk disclosure by all those publicly listed companies, financial institutions, insurance providers, investment funds and private companies that have total assets of over \$1 billion.



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RATIONALE FOR THE RESOLUTION:

To strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement. The Agreement aimed to mobilise nations to take action to address rising global temperatures. Over 194 states, totalling over 98% of greenhouse gas emissions, have ratified or acceded to the agreement.

In 2023, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report found that “Human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. This has led to widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people. Vulnerable communities who have historically contributed the least to current climate change are disproportionately affected.” A 2023 International Monetary Fund report found that urgent and decisive action is needed - planned action would see emissions cuts of 11 percent below 2019 levels by 2030, whereas cuts needed to be 50 percent. The report called for drastic increases in mitigation investment.

A priority concern for women and girls is the full implementation of the 2018 General Recommendation 37 (GR37) which addresses the links between human rights and the gendered impact of climate change would underpin good processes.

Private companies also have an important role to play through the reporting of climate change risk. We seek the adoption of legislation that would require organisations to evaluate and disclose the risk that climate change will have on their business, using an internationally recognised reporting framework. By requiring such organisations to measure the financial impact that climate change will have they will develop a greater understanding of the risk that climate change poses to their business. Placing a value on the risk will encourage investment in mitigation and adoption of low carbon strategies and bring evaluating climate risk and resilience into the heart of financial decision making. Shareholders, investors and lenders will also be able to make informed decisions as to whether to engage with an organisation based on their climate change reporting.

IMPLEMENTATION:

BPW International and its Affiliates:

1. Increase awareness of the impact of climate change on women and children through all levels of political engagement.
2. Support and lobby governments to pass legislation.
3. Collaborate with other organisations and NGOs with expertise in climate change to support their work.