

Reconceptualizing the Role of Women Lawyers in Climate Justice

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Reconceptualizing the Role of Women Lawyers in Climate Justice

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Abstract

The idea of climate justice seeks to foster the rights of people and communities that are most vulnerable to climate impacts including people living in small island nations and those in developing countries. Effective climate action requires climate justice to be realized. It envisages the participation of people and communities most impacted by climate change including those in developing countries, indigenous communities, women and children as part of the climate solution in order to foster climate justice. This paper critically explores the role of women lawyers in climate justice. The paper argues that women lawyers have a crucial role to play in fostering climate justice. It discusses the concept of climate justice and highlights its core tenets. It further highlights ways through which women lawyers contribute in achieving the ideal of climate justice. The paper further examines the progress made towards embracing the role of women lawyers in climate justice and challenges thereof. It also offers some ideas towards strengthening the role of women lawyers in climate justice.

1.0 Introduction

The impacts of climate change such as intense droughts, water scarcity, severe wild fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity are being witnessed across the world threatening the achievement of Sustainable Development¹. As a result, climate change has been described as the most defining challenge of our time². It is a major global concern that is affecting both developed and developing countries in their efforts towards realization of the Sustainable

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¹ United Nations., 'What is Climate Change?' Available at <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

² Ibid

Development agenda³. Climate change is an undesirable phenomenon that affects realization of the Sustainable Development agenda across the world by affecting the sustainability of the planet's ecosystems, the stability of the global economy and the future of humankind⁴. It has been noted that if left unchecked, climate change will undo a lot of the development progress made over the past years and will also provoke mass migrations that will lead to instability and wars⁵.

Due to its severe impacts, climate change has risen to the top of the policy agenda, at local, national, and global levels⁶. The United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*⁷ acknowledges that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal 13 urges states to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts⁸. In addition, Africa Union's *Agenda 2063*⁹ also recognizes climate change as a major challenge for the continent's development. Agenda 2063 seeks to address climate change by fostering environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities in Africa¹⁰. Responding to climate change is therefore key in realizing Sustainable Development.

³ Muigua. K., 'Achieving Sustainable Development, Peace and Environmental Security.' Glenwood Publishers Limited, 2021

⁴ Climate Change., 'Meaning, Definition, Causes, Examples and Consequences.' Available at <https://youmatter.world/en/definition/climate-change-meaning-definition-causes-and-consequences/> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

⁵ United Nations., 'Goal 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts.' Available at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs., 'Forum on Climate Change and Science and Technology Innovation.' Available at <https://www.un.org/en/desa/forum-climate-changeandscience-and-technology-innovation> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

⁷ United Nations General Assembly., 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1., Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want.' Available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33126-doc-framework_document_book.pdf (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

¹⁰ Ibid

Effective climate action requires climate justice to be realized¹¹. It has been observed that some people and communities are more vulnerable to climate impacts including people living in small island nations and those developing countries¹². In addition, it has been noted that the communities that have contributed the least to climate change are the ones that are the most affected by its impacts¹³. The concept of Climate Justice has thus therefore emerged to deal with the justice concerns brought about by climate change¹⁴. Therefore, in designing appropriate responses to climate change, it needs to be acknowledged that the people who have contributed least to the changing climate are being affected by it the most, and are likely to be less able to protect themselves from the impacts¹⁵. Effective climate action therefore envisages the participation of the people and communities most impacted by climate change including developing countries, indigenous communities, women and children as part of the climate solution in order to foster climate justice¹⁶.

This paper critically explores the role of women lawyers in climate justice. The paper argues that women lawyers have a crucial role to play in fostering climate justice. It discusses the concept of climate justice and highlights its core tenets. It further highlights ways through which women lawyers contribute in achieving the ideal of climate justice. The paper further examines the progress made towards embracing the role of women lawyers in climate justice and challenges thereof. It also offers some ideas towards strengthening the role of women lawyers in climate justice.

¹¹ Muigua. K., 'Fostering Climate Justice for Development' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Fostering-Climate-Justice-for-Sustainable-Development.pdf> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

¹² United Nations., 'What is Climate Change?' Op Cit

¹³ Sultana. F., 'Critical Climate Justice' Available at <https://www.farhanasultana.com/wpcontent/uploads/Sultana-Critical-climate-justice.pdf> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

¹⁴ Muigua. K., 'Fostering Climate Justice for Development' Op Cit

¹⁵ Oxfam., 'Climate Justice.' Available at <https://www.oxfam.org.au/what-we-do/climate-justice/> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

¹⁶ Muigua. K., 'Fostering Climate Justice for Development' Op Cit

2.0 Conceptualizing Climate Justice

Climate justice recognizes the disproportionate impacts of climate change on the people and communities least responsible for this global problem¹⁷. Climate justice seeks solutions that address the root causes of climate change and in doing so, simultaneously address a broad range of social, racial, and environmental injustices¹⁸. The climate crisis brings enormous injustices since it affects everyone, but not equally¹⁹. It has been noted that people and communities who have contributed least to climate change are being affected by it the most, and are likely to be less able to protect themselves from its impacts²⁰. For example, people and communities in developing nations in places such as Africa, Asia, the Caribbean Islands and the Pacific Islands which due to an unfortunate mixture of economic and geographic vulnerability, continue to shoulder the brunt of the burdens of climate change despite their relative innocence in causing it²¹. These countries are more vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change including severe flooding, intense droughts, sea level rise, increasing temperatures and frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones, and storm surges despite their very little contribution to greenhouse gas emissions when compared to countries such as China and large industrialized economies of Europe and North America including the United States of America²².

Climate justice connects the climate crisis to the social, racial and environmental issues in which it is deeply entangled²³. This concept recognizes the disproportionate impacts of climate change on low-income communities around the world, the people and places

¹⁷ Center for Climate Justice., 'What is Climate Justice?' Available at <https://centerclimatejustice.universityofcalifornia.edu/what-is-climate-justice/#:~:text=Climate%20justice%20connects%20the%20climate,least%20responsible%20for%20the%20problem.> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Oxfam., 'Climate Justice.' Op Cit

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Giles. M., 'The Principles of Climate Justice at CoP27.' Available at <https://earth.org/principlesofclimatejustice/#:~:text=That%20response%20should%20be%20based,the%20consequences%20of%20climate%20change> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

²² Ibid

²³ Center for Climate Justice., 'What is Climate Justice?' Op Cit

least responsible for the problem²⁴. This concept acknowledges that while climate change is global, the poor are disproportionately vulnerable to its effects²⁵. This is due to the fact that they lack the resources to afford goods and services they need to buffer themselves and recover from the effects of climate change²⁶. Climate justice therefore links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable people and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its impacts equitably and fairly²⁷. It involves understating climate change as an issue that relates to equity, fairness, ethics and human rights and not just an environmental phenomena²⁸. This concept provides a framework that focuses on the intersection between climate change and social inequalities²⁹. It examines the concepts of equality and human rights within the lens of climate change³⁰. Climate justice focuses on how climate change impacts people differently, unevenly and disproportionately and seeks to address the resultant injustices in fair and equitable ways³¹.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), climate justice is underpinned by principles of equity, non-discrimination, equal participation, transparency, fairness, accountability and access to justice³². UNEP further notes that climate justice entails issues of equity and equality within a nation, between nations and

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Responding to Climate Change.' Available at <https://www.unep.org/regions/africa/regional-initiatives/responding-climate-change> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Mary Robinson Foundation Climate Justice., 'Principles of Climate Justice.' Available at <https://www.mrfcj.org/principles-of-climate-justice/> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

²⁸ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Climate Justice.' Available at <https://leap.unep.org/knowledge/glossary/climate-justice> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Sultana. F., 'Critical Climate Justice' Op Cit

³¹ Ibid

³² United Nations Environment Programme., 'UN Resolution Billed as a Turning Point in Climate Justice' Available <https://www.unep.org/cep/news/story/un-resolution-billed-turning-point-climate-justice> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

between generations³³. These principles of climate justice are foundational building blocks for achieving a just transition out of the climate crisis³⁴.

Climate justice seeks to achieve various facets of justice including distributive justice, procedural justice, and justice as recognition³⁵. Distributive justice involves identifying and acknowledging the disproportionate impacts that climate change is already having and will continue to have on the people, communities and countries that are least responsible for climate change but which bear the full brunt of its devastating impacts³⁶; Procedural justice aims to address distributive injustices by tackling climate change through processes that are participatory, accessible, fair and inclusive³⁷; while justice as recognition refers to the importance of centring the voices of people who have traditionally been marginalised in climate action as a result of structural inequality³⁸.

The concept of climate justice is therefore key in climate action. It seeks to address the causes and impacts of climate change in a manner that recognizes and fosters the rights and concerns of vulnerable people, communities and countries³⁹. Climate justice also aims to achieve equal access to natural resources, fair and effective solutions in response to climate change and the assigning of responsibility for those who contribute most to the global threat of climate change⁴⁰. Climate justice has been described as an important aspect of just transition toward a sustainable future⁴¹. This concept suggests that the

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ Monica. T & Bronwyn. L., 'Community Lawyering and Climate Justice: A New Frontier.' *Alternative Law Journal* (47) 3 pp 199-203

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ Schlosberg. D & Collins. L., 'From Environmental to Climate Justice: Climate Change and the Discourse of Environmental Justice.' *WIREs Clim Change*, 2014

⁴⁰ New Internationalist., 'Four Principles for Climate Justice.' Available at <https://newint.org/features/2009/01/01/principles-climate-justice> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

⁴¹ United Nations Development Programme., 'Climate Change is a Matter of Justice - Here's Why.' Available at <https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/climate-change-matter-justice-hereswhy> (Accessed on 08/05/2024)

responsibilities in addressing climate change should be divided according to who is contributing most to the problem, while addressing systemic, socioeconomic, and intergenerational inequalities⁴². It is therefore necessary to foster climate justice for effective climate action and Sustainable Development.

3.0 The Role of Women Lawyers in Climate Justice: Opportunities and Challenges

Lawyers in general play a key role in climate justice⁴³. It has been correctly noted that members of the legal profession as a whole must get behind the movement to protect the planet from the catastrophic impacts of climate change⁴⁴. Lawyers as agents of social engineering can foster climate justice by operating on a *pro bono*, volunteer, or reduced fee basis, for those negatively affected by the climate crisis, as well as advising clients of the potential risks, liability, and reputational damage arising from activity that negatively contributes to the climate crisis⁴⁵. It has also been asserted that lawyers as influential figures and thought leaders within society can enhance climate action by living responsibly in the face of the climate crisis through measures such as reducing their environmental footprint in every-day actions and by supporting positive changes in the workplace, including the adoption of more sustainable practices, such as greater reliance on electronic file storage facilities and digital technologies, embracing the use of more energy efficient offices, and more climate-friendly practices⁴⁶.

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ Muigua. K., 'Re-Imagining the Role of Lawyers in Climate Justice' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Re-imagining-the-Role-of-Lawyers-in-Climate-Justice-Kariuki-Muigua-20th-July-2023.pdf> (Accessed on 09/05/2024)

⁴⁴ The Role Lawyers Can Play in Addressing the Climate Crisis' Available at <https://www.wtwco.com/engb/insights/2022/02/the-role-lawyers-can-play-in-addressing-the-climate-crisis> (Accessed on 09/05/2024)

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Dernbach. JC., Russell. IS., & Bogoshian M, 'Advocating for the Future', *The Environmental Forum*, March/April (2021).

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Lawyers play a crucial role in achieving climate justice through approaches such as climate litigation⁴⁷. This involves cases before judicial and quasi-judicial bodies that involve material issues of climate change science, policy, or law⁴⁸. Through climate change litigation, lawyers are able to help courts and tribunals adjudicate upon pertinent issues in climate change such mitigation and adaptation measures as well as climate change-related loss and damage⁴⁹.

In addition, lawyers can also enhance climate justice by fostering public awareness, public participation and public access to information on climate matters⁵⁰. It has been noted that through such initiatives, the public will be better informed and able to effectively participate in the climate change discourse towards attaining climate justice⁵¹. Lawyers also have a key role to play in climate justice by unlocking climate finance⁵². This can be achieved by shaping the legal, policy, and institutional environments on climate finance in order to unlock funding necessary to support mitigation and adaptation measures that are vital in achieving climate justice⁵³. In addition, lawyers can contribute to climate justice by participating in the formulation of laws and policies on climate change⁵⁴. Through such participation, lawyers can promote climate justice through the implementation of efficient programmes, policies and plans towards climate change mitigation and adaptation⁵⁵.

⁴⁷ Muigua. K., 'Redefining the Role of Lawyers in Climate Justice' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Redefining-the-Role-of-Lawyers-in-Climate-Justice.pdf> (Accessed on 09/05/2024)

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ Setzer. J., 'Climate Change Litigation: A Review of Research on Courts and Litigants in Climate Governance.' Available at https://www.researchgate.net/profile/JoanaSetzer/publication/331499727_Climate_change_litigation_A_review_of_research_on_courts_and_litigants_in_climate_governance/links/5e89690d92851c2f527f820d/Climate-change-litigation-A-review-of-research-on-courts-and-litigants-in-climate-governance.pdf (Accessed on 09/05/2024)

⁵⁰ Muigua. K., 'Redefining the Role of Lawyers in Climate Justice' Op Cit

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Ibid

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵ Ibid

Greening of the legal profession is another key approach through which lawyers can foster climate justice⁵⁶. It has been noted that adopting practices such as the use of electronic correspondence, electronic filing of court documents, use of electronic bundles at hearings, encouraging the use of videoconferencing facilities for client interviews and virtual court sessions as an alternative to travel, where appropriate and selecting suppliers and service providers that are committed to the Sustainable Development agenda can lessen the carbon footprint of the legal profession therefore strengthening climate action⁵⁷. Lawyers in general therefore have an integral role to play in achieving climate justice.

Women lawyers in particular have a vital role in climate justice. Women have been identified as the key for the future of climate action throughout the world⁵⁸. It has been noted that the climate crisis perpetuates and magnifies structural inequalities, such as those between women and men⁵⁹. For example, in Africa, women bear an unequal burden when it comes to climate change impacts⁶⁰. Many women in the continent rely primarily on climate-sensitive livelihoods, such as small-scale farming and manual labour⁶¹. This makes them highly exposed to the impacts of extreme weather events such as recurring droughts and floods which damage crops and kill livestock upon which their livelihoods depend⁶². In addition, women face increased risks to the long-term consequences of these impacts including heightened vulnerability to food insecurity, deepening poverty, and increased exposure to violence and displacement⁶³. This presents an opportunity for

⁵⁶ Muigua. K., 'Green Arbitration: Aligning Arbitration with Sustainable Development.' Available at <http://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Green-Arbitration-Aligning-Arbitration-withSustainable-Development-Kariuki-Muigua-April-2023.pdf> (Accessed on 09/05/2024)

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ United Nations Development Programme., 'Women are Key for the Future of Climate Action in Africa' Available at <https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/women-are-key-future-climate-action-africa> (Accessed on 09/05/2024)

⁵⁹ Ibid

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ Ibid

⁶² Ibid

⁶³ Ibid

women lawyers to foster climate justice by spearheading climate action through advocacy, community engagement and innovative solutions in order to achieve gender-responsive climate solutions⁶⁴.

Women lawyers can also foster climate justice by spearheading feminist climate action⁶⁵. The vision for feminist climate justice is of a world in which everyone can enjoy the full range of human rights, free from discrimination, and flourish on a planet that is healthy and sustainable⁶⁶. According to the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), women and girls are at the forefront of climate justice and must be recognized as active agents of change who possess diverse knowledge and skills essential to transformative climate action⁶⁷. It notes that the persistence of gender-based discrimination, inequality and patriarchal institutions contribute to women disproportionately experiencing harmful effects of climate change⁶⁸. Therefore, gender equality and climate justice are inextricably linked⁶⁹. Women lawyers can foster a rule of law approach to feminist climate action through: empowering diverse groups of women and girls to claim environmental rights, access justice and actively participate in climate-related decision-making processes⁷⁰; participating in the development of gender-transformative approaches to legal, institutional and regulatory processes related to climate and biodiversity⁷¹; and participating in programmes aimed at strengthening women's capacity to access and benefit from land and other natural resources, including

⁶⁴ Ibid

⁶⁵ United Nations Women., 'Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action' Available at <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/11/feminist-climate-justice-a-framework-for-action> (Accessed on 09/05/2024)

⁶⁶ Ibid

⁶⁷ International Development Law Organization., 'Climate Justice for Women and Girls: A Rule of Law Approach to Feminist Climate Action' Available at https://www.idlo.int/sites/default/files/pdfs/publications/a_rule_of_law_approach_to_feminist_climate_action.pdf (Accessed on 09/05/2024)

⁶⁸ Ibid

⁶⁹ United Nations Women., 'Feminist Climate Justice: A Framework for Action' Op Cit

⁷⁰ International Development Law Organization., 'Climate Justice for Women and Girls: A Rule of Law Approach to Feminist Climate Action' Op Cit

⁷¹ Ibid

through enhanced tenure security, elimination of discriminatory laws, and greater gender-responsiveness of customary and informal justice institutions⁷².

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), gender equality is a cornerstone for climate justice⁷³. Women lawyers can therefore play a role in promoting justice and accountability in environmental and climate change matters through the realization of environmental rights and the promotion of the environmental rule of law⁷⁴. This can be realized through participation in the development of an enabling and gender sensitive legal framework that enables women to enjoy their right to a healthy environment, advocating for the development of people-centred institutions that are key in delivering gender sensitive responses for climate justice, and fostering access to justice for women in climate matters⁷⁵. Enhancing access to justice is vital in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in contexts of climate and environmental crises and disasters⁷⁶. In order to achieve this ideal, it has been noted that victims and survivors should have equal and unimpeded access to high-quality services; women environmental human rights defenders should be guaranteed protection; and effective investigations of violations and abuses should lead to accountability of perpetrators and justice for victims⁷⁷. Women lawyers therefore have an important role to play in achieving access to justice for women in climate matters.

From the foregoing, it is evident that women lawyers have a crucial role to play in climate justice. It has been correctly observed that climate change exacerbates existing social

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ United Nations Development Programme., 'Gender Equality: A Cornerstone for Environmental and Climate Justice' Available at <https://www.undp.org/blog/gender-equality-cornerstone-environmental-and-climate-justice> (Accessed on 09/05/2024)

⁷⁴ Ibid

⁷⁵ Ibid

⁷⁶ Ibid

⁷⁷ Ibid

inequalities, leaving women disproportionately vulnerable to climate impacts⁷⁸. This is due to the fact that women are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change⁷⁹; women are often constrained in their response to sudden onset disasters such as floods and cyclones⁸⁰; women farmers are disproportionately affected by climate change as a result of their limited access to natural resources and limited access to information and services about climate resilient and adaptive agricultural strategies and technologies; and women face additional social, economic and political barriers that limit their participation and coping capacity⁸¹. Therefore, acknowledging that men and women are impacted differently by climate change and enabling equal participation in the design, planning and implementation of climate policies and programmes can contribute to the development of gender-responsive climate policies which are ultimately better for people and planet⁸². Women lawyers thus have a pertinent role to play in climate justice by participating in the design and implementation of gender responsive climate policy and climate action. It has been noted that realizing the ideal of climate justice for women is hindered by factors such as gender-blind laws and regulatory frameworks that exacerbate the injustices of climate change, systematic discrimination and diverse cultural barriers which create inaccessible pathways to justice, gender-based violence emanating from the climate crisis, gender insensitive approaches to climate-related security risks and funding, and limited access to land and natural resources, and prevailing food insecurity⁸³. Women lawyers have an important role to play in addressing these challenges in order to achieve climate justice for women and society at large.

⁷⁸ Mary Robinson Foundation Climate Justice., 'Women's Participation: An Enabler of Climate Justice' Available at <https://www.mrfcj.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/MRFCJ- Womens-Participation-An-Enabler-of-Climate-Justice 2015.pdf> (Accessed on 09/05/2024)

⁷⁹ Ibid

⁸⁰ Ibid

⁸¹ Ibid

⁸² Ibid

⁸³ International Development Law Organization., 'Climate Justice for Women and Girls: A Rule of Law Approach to Feminist Climate Action' Op Cit

4.0 Conclusion

Climate justice is a key concept that seeks solutions that address the root causes of climate change and in doing so, simultaneously address a broad range of social, racial, and environmental injustices⁸⁴. It seeks to address the causes and impacts of climate change in a manner that recognizes and fosters the rights and concerns of vulnerable people, communities and countries⁸⁵. Climate justice is an important aspect of just transition towards a sustainable future⁸⁶. Lawyers are critical agents of climate justice⁸⁷. They can foster the achievement of the ideal of climate justice by enhancing access to justice through climate litigation, fostering public awareness, public participation and public access to information on climate matters, spearheading the law reform agenda to ensure effective legal, policy, and institutional frameworks on climate change, and greening of the legal profession⁸⁸. Climate justice is of utmost importance to women who face an unequal burden when it comes to climate change impacts⁸⁹. Climate change exacerbates existing social inequalities, leaving women disproportionately vulnerable to climate impacts⁹⁰. Women lawyers can foster the attainment of climate justice by spearheading feminist climate action, advocating for gender equality in the climate agenda, enhancing access to justice for women in climate matters, and participating in the design and implementation of gender responsive climate policy and climate action⁹¹. It is therefore necessary for women lawyers and members of the legal profession at large to participate in legal, policy, and institutional initiatives that aim to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases and increase resilience to the effects of climate change⁹².

⁸⁴ Center for Climate Justice., 'What is Climate Justice?' Op Cit

⁸⁵ Schlosberg. D & Collins. L., 'From Environmental to Climate Justice: Climate Change and the Discourse of Environmental Justice.' Op Cit

⁸⁶ United Nations Development Programme., 'Climate Change is a Matter of Justice – Here's Why.' Op Cit

⁸⁷ Muigua. K., 'Redefining the Role of Lawyers in Climate Justice' Op Cit

⁸⁸ Ibid

⁸⁹ United Nations Development Programme., 'Women are Key for the Future of Climate Action in Africa' Op Cit

⁹⁰ Mary Robinson Foundation Climate Justice., 'Women's Participation: An Enabler of Climate Justice' Op Cit

⁹¹ International Development Law Organization., 'Climate Justice for Women and Girls: A Rule of Law Approach to Feminist Climate Action' Op Cit

⁹² Muigua. K., 'Re-Imagining the Role of Lawyers in Climate Justice' Op Cit

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Since confronting climate change is essential to the effective functioning of the entire society, the legal profession cannot ignore its role in climate action⁹³. Women lawyers are key in strengthening the participation, leadership, empowerment, and access to justice for women in climate matters. The role of women lawyers in climate justice therefore needs to be reconceptualized in order to make them key agents in the quest towards the ideal of climate justice and the just transition towards a sustainable future⁹⁴.

⁹³ Ibid

⁹⁴ United Nations Development Programme., 'Climate Change is a Matter of Justice – Here's Why.' Op Cit

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