

84. Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society

Integrating Adaptation and Mitigation to Address the Climate Crisis and Achieve the SDGs

Our focus and concerns

Climate change is having serious impacts on health, food, safe drinking water, sanitation and decent work, and it will aggravate existing inequality, including gender inequality. To ensure that no one is left behind, we should strengthen policy, ambition, and action to promote both mitigation and adaptation measures. It is important to avoid the trade-offs and seek synergies between the implementation of climate change countermeasures and efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Our recommendations

1. Adaptation

The world is already experiencing extreme weather events, and it is necessary to strengthen policy, ambition, and action to promote adaptation measures. To do so, balancing mitigation and adaptation in climate finance should be achieved through accelerating both public and private finance for adaptation. Since the adverse impacts of climate change are more severe for marginalized people that lack finances, know-how and other resources, we therefore urge countries and international organizations to support measures to address impacts on the most vulnerable people (women, children, indigenous people and so on). Additionally, to monitor the global progress on adaptation, countries that have not yet done so should submit adaptation communications prior to COP27 and provide timely information for the global stocktake. From the perspective of conservation of natural ecosystems, nature-based solutions for adaptation are also important.

2. Mitigation

To limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, it is necessary to dramatically reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. For this, we should not forget other types and sources of emissions than energy-derived CO₂ since one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions are composed of methane, CO₂ from Forestry and Other Land Use, fluorocarbons, and so on. For example, countries and international organizations should contribute to implementation of “Global Methane Pledge” and “Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use” declared at COP26. Furthermore, in the transition to a decarbonized society, we should ensure a just transition through concrete efforts such as reskilling and career design support.

3. Gender and climate change

From the perspective of gender equality, it is necessary to promote the mainstreaming of gender into climate change and energy-related policies and measures of each country and promote fair and meaningful participation by diverse stakeholders, including women, in planning and implementation processes for climate and energy-related policies and measures. Women and girls often suffer unequally from the effects of climate change due to factors such as gender-based role divisions and cultural and social norms. They are likely to face significant risks from the effects of climate change in emergencies such as disasters, war, conflict and political instability.