

discussion commenting on the rich inputs from participants and reflected on the significance of developing a NSC framework for engaging with land rights and climate change issues, with a particular focus on empowering grassroots' women's leadership.

## Assessing preparedness and coping with the socio-economic impacts of climate change

**Roshni Sharma** (International Federation of Surveyors/FIG) opened the session as moderator with a short introduction on the significance of preparedness and coping with the socio-economic impacts of climate change and the work of the FIG related to climate change. This also introduced the main prompt questions on the meaning of preparedness and coping, socio-economic empowerment for women and girls in the context of land and climate, land use and climate change, land tenure status, land governance and climate policy, knowledge and understanding of climate issues, assessing preparedness and coping, enhancing representation of women and girls in land governance structures and climate change policymaking processes, and retrofitting of land tools.

**Adil Sait** (London School of Economics/LSE) presented key issues emerging from the GLTN Scoping Study on Land Rights and Climate Change completed by NUST and UEL in 2021. This study provided a rapid evidence review of more than 120 academic and policy documents, yielding eight case studies and four main thematic findings. This set the scene for discussion: land use changes significantly impact climate change and women's land rights, while land tenure insecurity is both a cause and consequence of climate change, affecting women's abilities to mitigate climate risks. Effective program interventions should begin with assessing women's specific climate vulnerabilities and stressors, ensuring gender-responsive, evidence-based objectives aligned with global frameworks. Utilizing land tools can enhance sustainable development and women's management of climate risks, particularly when targeting development needs to reinforce women-led climate initiatives. Strengthening women's climate resilience and land tenure security necessitates localized capacity development, recognizing the direct influence of local context on women's land tenure status and governance alongside climate policy. Land tools must assess climate hazards, women's vulnerability, and adaptive capacity, emphasizing effective communication to enable the success of women-led climate initiatives, while prioritizing local women's knowledge, priorities, and resources.

The **plenary discussion** revolved around preparedness and coping strategies in the face of climate change-induced migrations, both voluntary and involuntary, with potential conflict ramifications. It was emphasized that preserving and restoring natural resources can alleviate pressure caused by population displacement. Resilience in food, health, and water access is crucial for rural communities, necessitating investments in land tenure security and housing for disaster response capabilities. It is important for rural communities, geared on smallholder production towards food security, to have secure land tenure. Actions to be pursued include: (1) protecting and conserving agricultural lands to ensure food supply and security, (2) lobbying governments to institute responsible land use planning and management, (3) integrating land rights in national action plans on food security and climate change, and (4) reviewing and strengthening land tools to address food security and climate change.

On the other hand, socio-economic empowerment for women and girls, particularly regarding land rights, requires addressing social norms and bureaucratic barriers, along with promoting joint land ownership. To provide the help that will be useful for communities on-the-ground, it is important to understand national budget allocations for disaster response and how these will be implemented at various community levels; otherwise, empowerment and preparedness for women and girls cannot be meaningfully achieved.



Communities also face many uncertainties surrounding future climate impacts and the need to make decisions amidst limited information, meaning that there is a strong need for better awareness-building and knowledge dissemination that is graphical and in local languages. A barrier that was discussed to economic empowerment of girls and women in many rural areas is the growing trends of commercialized agriculture and emergence of costly technologies, which makes it hard for many grassroots women to continue farming. Enhancing representation of women and girls in land governance and climate policy processes requires navigating existing social norms and incorporating women into land valuation discussions through relevant tools, such as STDM, which can be updated to include climate variables.