

Programme Action - Asia Cluster

Action to
Combat
Climate Change



Introduced by
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Women inspiring action,
transforming lives 

Good afternoon everyone. It is wonderful to be here with you in Belfast. It is my great honour as your Assistant Programme Director for Peace to introduce to you how soroptimist clubs across our Asia Cluster are embedding Programme Action in combating climate change.

Sustainable Development Goals 16 for Peace and 17 for partnerships are the foundation stones on which to achieve success in the others.



13 CLIMATE ACTION

What's the goal?

Taking urgent action to tackle climate change and its impacts.



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



What's the goal?

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

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With that in mind there have been some recent announcements that in my mind highlight how climate change and peace are interlinked.

Climate impacts are heading into 'uncharted territories of destruction', according to the UN's secretary general António Guterres at the annual '[United In Science report](#)' which was released last month and which set out the scale of the climate crisis.

Climate change has forced people to leave their

homes and become migrants - immediately placing them at greater risk.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) now estimates that **50 million people** - or one out of every 150 people alive - are trapped in forced labour or forced marriages according to their report, which was published last month. It highlighted that this is an increase of nearly **10 million** on its numbers from five years ago.

Reasons whyThe Covid-19 pandemic, for example, caused major disruption to people's income, leading to more debt - which could be leveraged into forced labour in some cases. The ILO says the pandemic has led to an increase in "extreme global poverty" for the first time in 20 years.

War and armed conflict, e.g. Ukraine, likewise lead to dire circumstances, or the recruitment of children to work or serve as child soldiers.

Anti-Slavery International state that 'Climate change and modern slavery are inextricably linked.' They highlight that as climate change threatens the **very foundations** of our society, we are beginning to see that the heightened vulnerabilities that people experience as they are faced with losing their livelihoods and contemplating migration are

making them even more at risk of exploitation. They are clear that **climate change** and modern slavery form a vicious circle in which the **climate crisis** forces many people into work that actively contributes to environmental harm. They have been working in [partnership with](#) the International Institute for Environment & Development and I wish to mention a few of their findings

- In the aftermath of devastating sudden events such the floods in Pakistan, local people are vulnerable to traffickers and can be driven into forced labour
- Slow onset climate change events, such as increasing temperatures and unusual rainfall, frequently lead to drought, crop failures and food shortages. Extreme events due to climate change are causing shocks within local communities and affecting livelihoods in ways that can push people to migrate and heighten the risks of slavery and exploitation

This confirms the golden thread of SDGs and I hope you will now sit back and enjoy our session as we bring to life the work that has been achieved across our Asia Cluster to support our communities

and address climate change

Thank you and over to Anitha , our APD for Planet.....