Shaping the policies while changing the discourses – gendered environmental discourses at the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Climate change – how is it presented?

‘The climate is the same for males and females, so far as I know. When it rains we all get wet’

MEP Marina Yannakoudakis, 2012
Historical outline

International women's meeting

The gender coalition was formed to advocate for gender awareness

Workshops on gender balance and gender equality took place

Paris Agreement – gender in capacity building and adaptation

More than 20% of female ministers were present

Bali Road Map - emphasizing the importance of women for sustainability in energy and food production

Gender day organized, nine out of 200 side events focused on gender

Lima work programme on gender has been adopted

Formation of the 1st Gender Action Plan

Formation of the 2nd Gender Action Plan, valid for the next 5 years

COP1

COP6

COP11

COP13

COP19

COP20

COP21

COP22

COP23

COP24

COP25

COP26
“Women are more vulnerable to climate change and biodiversity loss and they still have to face discrimination and gaps. However, that is the reason why women can be also agents of change. For decades we have been fought against social and cultural barriers asking for equal rights and we won many battles, therefore we are a transformative power.”

Carolina Schmidt
COP25 President

Gendered environmental discourses

Women as ‘victims’

Women as ‘changemakers’
Discourses on vulnerability and changemaking character of women are limiting as they do not focus on the social and gender inequalities that have put them in the precarious position in the time of climate change such as land ownership, education, lack of access to financing etc.

Discourses homogenize women into one category, disregarding the differences based on race, class, geographical location, cultural factors, age.

The discourses of vulnerability and changemaking character of women take it as given that food work is women's work, therefore they are reproducing the gendered perceptions of care work.
Ideas on how to dive in into the topic of gendered climate change

- **Intersectionality** – different social factors influencing the position of women vis-à-vis climate change

- **Case study research** – recognizing the specifics of local issues and needs
THANK YOU