



# The Climate Connection

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# Green careers guide

**Meruyert Syzdykbekova**  
Kazakhstan



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## Kazakhstan



### **My name is Meruyert Syzdykbekova and I am an Environment and Climate Change Specialist at UN Women Europe & Central Asia Regional Office.**

I graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2016 where I pursued my Master's degree in International Relations. I had a unique opportunity to study a broad range of issues, including the foreign policy analysis, conflict and post-conflict peace-making, relations between states and governments as well as gender and international organisations. My education has therefore equipped me with comprehensive knowledge and expertise in world affairs, international relations and development. Through exposure to other cultures I have acquired much more cultural sensitivity and inter-personal skills which is a must have for a dynamic and multicultural environment such as the United Nations.

Climate change is the most urgent existential threat that we are facing today. Not only climate change poses a threat to international peace and security by creating new challenges but also serves as the 'threat multiplier' by exacerbating the already existing number of complex multi-dimensional issues across the globe.

Up until recently climate change has been perceived as mainly a scientific or environmental issue. While this has been true, today we have also realized that climate change has, among other things, human rights and equity dimensions. And far too little attention has been paid to the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change and multiple risks associated with it. As an Environment and Climate Change Specialist I try to fill this gap. Evidence from the ground suggests that while climate change is non-

discriminatory and affects everyone, women and men, due to different gender norms, roles, responsibilities, and behaviors, may experience the impacts of climate change differently, with women often disproportionately affected.

Let's take just one example. Natural disasters on average kill more women than men or kill women at an earlier age than men. In other words, this means that gender-related norms and expectations along with inequalities in access to resources, capabilities and opportunities often put women at greater risk of disaster mortality.

Thus my main responsibility is to analyze and monitor gender specific implications around environmental and climate change trends as well as contribute to the development of regional and country programming that seek to address interlinked gender, natural resource, climate and peacebuilding issues. We can't have effective climate action unless we make sure that everyone's needs and interests are taken into consideration. It is essential that climate initiatives at all levels – designing, planning, implementing and evaluating – pay particular attention to the linkages between gender and climate change. It is also important to make sure that women are engaged at all levels of the decision-making process since they have unique skills and knowledge that can help make the responses and policies to climate change more sustainable and effective.

For those who are looking to pursue a career in climate-related sector, I would suggest to explore this area from various perspectives and actively engage in raising awareness about climate change and its differentiated impacts on various groups of people.

