



Advancing Climate Justice, Human Rights, and Economic Equity in Tanzania




As a climate justice advocate and human rights lawyer, I have had the privilege of working at the intersection of climate action, gender justice, and access to justice in Tanzania. Over the years, I have seen how economic policies, taxation systems, and public investments create opportunities for communities particularly women and girls - who play a crucial role in sustaining both the care economy and climate resilience efforts. There is great potential to enhance gender-transformative policies, progressive taxation, and investment in care systems to build a more just and sustainable future for all.

Progressive taxation presents an opportunity to strengthen public financing and support key sectors that contribute to economic transformation. By ensuring that revenue generation strategies are equitable and gender-responsive, there is potential to create fiscal policies that prioritize care work, climate adaptation, and social services all fundamental to building resilient communities. A tax system that is inclusive and considers the needs of all, including women in both the formal and informal economies, can play a transformative role in financing sustainable development initiatives.

The discussions around the UN Tax Convention also offer a valuable platform for enhancing international cooperation on tax governance. Strengthening mechanisms that enable more effective domestic resource mobilization opens the door to expanded investments in gender-transformative climate action, ensuring that all communities benefit from economic progress.

One of the most promising areas for economic growth and social transformation lies in public investment in care systems. Care work, including childcare, eldercare, healthcare, and other social services - is essential for human well-being and economic productivity. Expanding public infrastructure and support for care services would create employment opportunities, enable greater workforce participation, and contribute to an inclusive economy where no one is left behind.



By recognizing the economic value of care work and designing innovative financing solutions, we can create an environment where women, who traditionally bear a disproportionate share of unpaid care responsibilities, have greater access to economic opportunities. Investing in social protection, childcare centers, and community-based support systems will not only uplift families but also contribute to broader economic growth and gender equality.

Unpaid care work remains a critical but often invisible driver of economic and social development. Across Tanzania, women dedicate a significant amount of time to caring for children, the elderly, and their communities. By integrating time-use surveys and gender-responsive budgeting, there is an opportunity to make this work more visible and ensure that it is considered in economic planning and policy development.

Efforts to incorporate gender-sensitive fiscal policies can enable a more inclusive economy that provides both women and men with the opportunity to engage fully in economic, social, and political life. Ensuring that unpaid care work is valued and supported is a key step toward achieving a more balanced and equitable economic system.

Taxation and public services are powerful tools for advancing social and economic equity. By continuing to refine tax policies to ensure that they are inclusive, fair, and supportive of economic participation for all, we can create a system that enhances access to quality public services while driving national development. There are opportunities to further explore ways in which tax policies can be structured to support small businesses, women entrepreneurs, and climate adaptation efforts—all of which are essential for a sustainable and resilient economy.

As Tanzania continues to navigate the evolving landscape of climate resilience, gender equality, and economic development, there is a strong foundation upon which to build. By investing in public care systems, strengthening progressive taxation, and recognizing unpaid care work, we can unlock new opportunities for inclusive growth and foster a future where social and economic justice go hand in hand.

There is immense potential to create a gender-responsive, climate-resilient, and rights-based economy that uplifts communities and drives national progress. By working collaboratively across sectors and ensuring inclusive policy frameworks, we can ensure that economic development is not only sustainable but also just, leaving no one behind.

By Maria Matui

