



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
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Who Cares About Gender?

A comparative analysis of gender-sensitivity in the UN climate regime.

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The hypotheses:

- **We hypothesized that Parties that demonstrate ambition on one pillar of the gender equity agenda (representation) would also demonstrate ambition on the other (action).**
- **We assumed that a Party's level of female participation would be indicative of its commitment to gender equality, and that this commitment should also be reflected in policy.**
- **Given that existing research reveals a North-South gap in gender representation (developed countries perform better than developing countries), we expected to see this reflected in NDCs.**
- **To test these hypotheses, we conducted a mixed-method study combining statistical analysis and qualitative content analysis.**



The study:

- **Gender Responsive Index (five indicators total)**
- **Two Gender Responsive dimensions: recognition + action**
- **Ten Gender Responsive Index labels (two per indicator)**
- **150+ NDCs analyzed (from 2019 to 2023)**
- **250+ Hours of content analysis performed**
- **150+ Delegations analyzed (from 2019 to 2023)**

Dimension of Gender Responsiveness	Indicator	Label 1	Label 2
Recognition	Gender disaggregated data	Gender vulnerabilities and disparities faced by women in climate change	Risks and impacts differentiated by gender
Recognition	Technical capacities for gender responsiveness	Creation of gender-sensitive training and technical competencies	Implementation of climate policies with gender experts
Action	Gender budget	Creation of a gender responsive budget	Allocation of budgetary resources for gender responsive policies
Action	Integration of gender into climate governance mechanisms	Integration of gender within existing climate governance mechanisms	Creation of proposals or new mechanisms for gender responsive climate policy
Action	Women representative institutions	Participation of women during the development of climate policy	Participation of women advocacy bodies during the development of climate policy

The results

- Female participation in Party delegations is not a predictor of the gender responsiveness of NDCs.
- **Developed countries have a higher percentage of women in their delegations, but gender-responsive NDCs are much more common among developing countries than developed countries.**
- The relevance of gender equality for climate policy in developed countries NDCs appears to be overlooked.
- Developing countries' higher degree of gender responsiveness may reflect the influence of external support initiatives and a widespread (but mistaken) perception that gender inequality is relevant for developing countries but not developed countries.

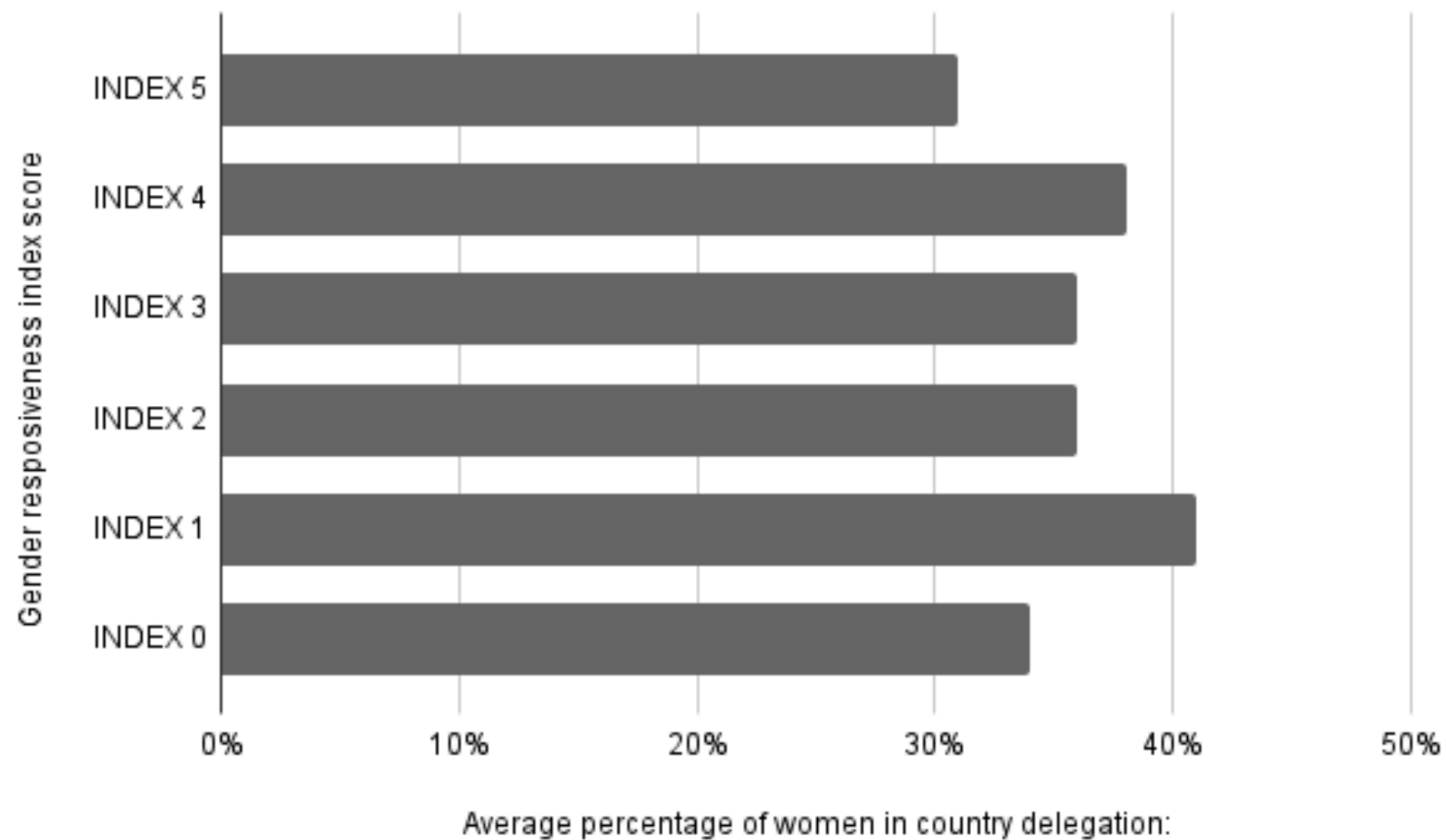


Figure 1: Relationship between gender responsive of NDCs and percentage of female delegates

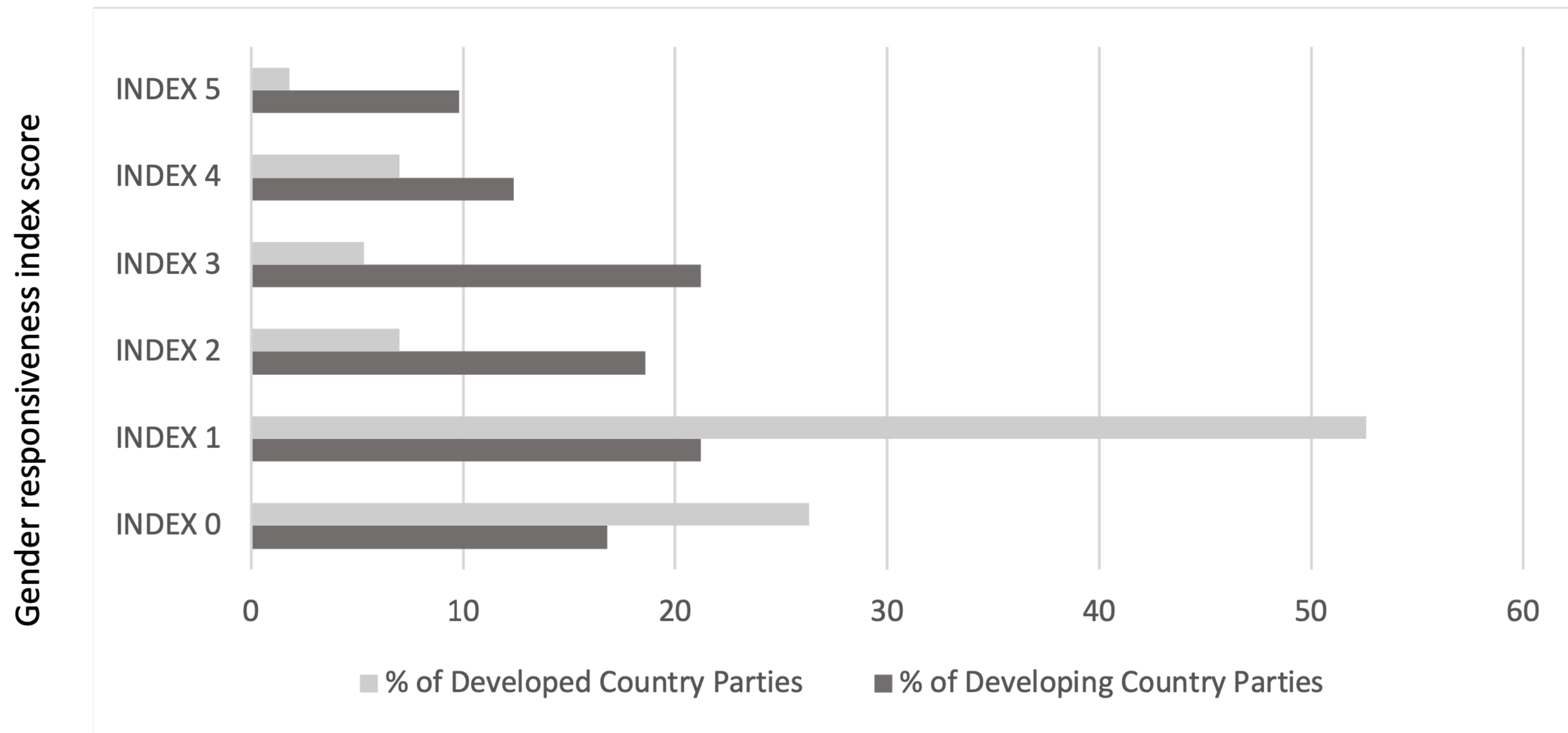


Figure 2: NDC gender responsiveness scores for developing and developed country Parties

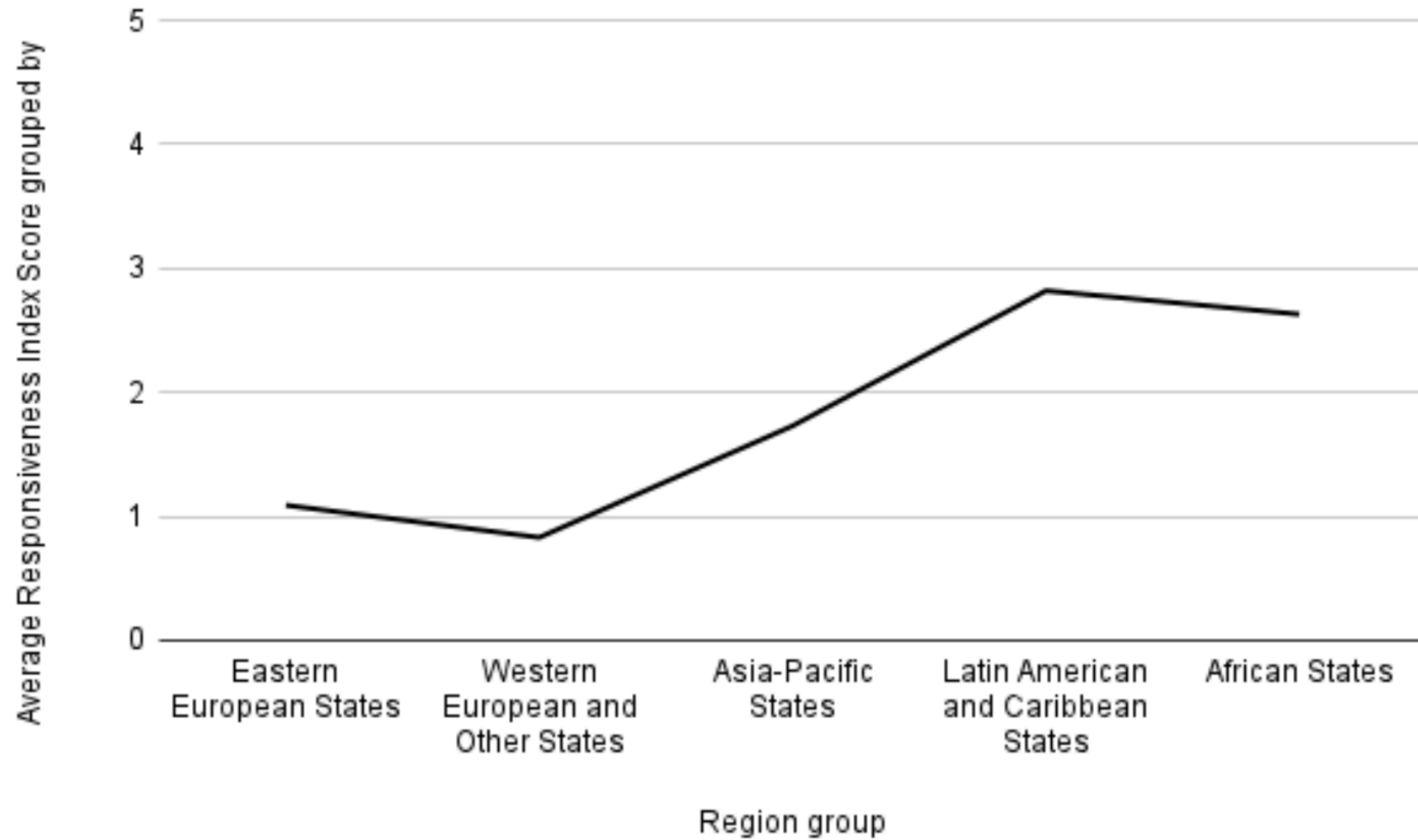


Figure 3: Average GRI scores by regional group

Further questions:

- **Does Gender Responsiveness mean the same to all Parties?**
- **Who are Parties speaking to in their NDCs?**
- **Does the gender content in NDCs complement gender policies at a domestic level?**
- **Do we need to think about gender in climate policy as a continuum?**





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Thank you!