



**Recent developments on empowering women and integrating gender considerations
in climate policy and action under the UNFCCC
ADB/NDF/IGES/SNV Workshop, 19 – 20 December 2016**

Understanding of the importance of gender-responsive climate policy and the need to increase the representation and effective participation of women in international climate negotiations has evolved over the past 15 years since the first decision on increasing the participation of women in UNFCCC processes was adopted in Marrakech in 2001. In particular, the past four years have seen a relatively rapid transition from the concepts identified in the 2012 ‘Doha miracle’ decision¹ to the most recent decision under the Gender and Climate Change agenda item adopted by Parties at COP 22 in Marrakech in November this year.²

The latest decision is firmly focused on implementation, impact and accountability. It provides a three-year work programme that has the potential to further develop the capacity of countries to implement climate change policies that respond to the needs of women and men, girls and boys equally, while addressing existing gender inequalities to ensure that women and girls are able to fully contribute to, and benefit from, the transition to low-carbon, climate resilient economies and societies.

The enhanced work programme reflects the evolution in understanding of Parties that has occurred as a result of the implementation of the two-year work programme on gender that was adopted in 2014 in Lima.³ The so-called Lima work programme on gender (LWPG) provided Parties and non-Party stakeholders with the opportunity to explore which aspects of climate change policy needed particular focus and prioritization. In this regard, the first workshop held under the LWPG focussed on how mitigation and technology development and transfer policy and action could be developed in a gender-responsive manner.⁴

The workshop – which was the first time the topic of gender and mitigation and technology development and transfer had been officially considered under the process - was very well attended, with the only criticism of the event being the lack of time available to have in-depth discussions following the presentations by experts and Parties on a wide-range of relevant topics. In response to the desire for more in-depth discussion on the topic of gender-responsive mitigation and technology development and transfer, UN Women, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the secretariat held an Expert Group Meeting in October 2015 on the implementation of gender-responsive climate action in the context of sustainable development. The experts produced a set of comprehensive recommendations in relation to mainstreaming gender in climate policy and action, including mitigation and technology development and transfer, and ensuring that climate finance also integrates gender considerations.⁵

Another important fact-finding element of the LWPG was the technical paper on guidelines or other tools for integrating gender considerations into climate change related activities under the Convention.⁶ A key finding of the technical paper is that there is already a wealth of information from which to draw to identify entry points for integrating gender in various climate change related processes under the Convention, including mitigation and climate finance, supported by examples of good practices and case studies that make strong arguments for the efficacy of the recommended actions. In addition, the

¹ [Decision 23/CP.18](#)

² [Decision -/CP.22](#)

³ [Decision 18/CP.20](#)

⁴ The [workshop report](#), presentations and webcast of the workshop can be found at http://unfccc.int/gender_and_climate_change/items/9043.php

⁵ The expert group meeting report, including the recommendations, is available at http://unfccc.int/files/gender_and_climate_change/application/pdf/egmreport.pdf

⁶ Document [FCCC/TP/2016/2](#). Links to the guidelines and tools reviewed for the purpose of preparing the technical paper are available at http://unfccc.int/gender_and_climate_change/items/9510.php



technical paper identified five steps and/or actions where gender considerations need to be included to ensure effective gender mainstreaming that are common across the tools and guidelines, thereby providing a common mainstreaming framework that could be adapted to any policy or project.

Based on all the exchange of knowledge, sharing of experiences and fact-finding that was undertaken during the two-year LWPG, Parties are continuing the LWPG for three years and taking time in 2017 to consider and elaborate a gender action plan, as well as the topics for workshops to be held in 2018 and 2019.⁷

The Conference of the Parties (COP) has requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to develop the gender action plan with the expectation that Parties and non-Party stakeholders⁸ will contribute to the design and implementation of the plan. There are several ways that non-Party stakeholders can contribute to designing the gender action plan:

1. By meeting with Parties and other non-Party stakeholders prior to the next negotiating session (SBI 46 in Bonn from 8 - 18 May 2017) to discuss and identify possible elements of the gender action plan;
2. By making a submission to the call for submissions to SBI 46 on 'possible elements of the gender action plan to be developed under the Lima work programme on gender'⁹ – submissions should be sent to secretariat@unfccc.int clearly identifying that the submission is in relation to the call on the gender action plan. Submissions are published on the respective web pages for [Parties](#) and [non-Party stakeholders](#) for the relevant body (in this case the SBI);
3. By participating in the workshop to be organized by the secretariat, in cooperation with Parties and interested non-Party stakeholders, during SBI 46 (exact date and time to be confirmed¹⁰) at which possible elements of the gender action plan will be developed for consideration by the SBI at SBI 47 (November 2017).

Another way that both non-Party stakeholders and Parties can contribute to furthering the work on empowering women and integrating gender considerations under the UNFCCC is through sharing of knowledge resources. The secretariat has developed its web pages on [Gender and Climate Change](#) to include information and links on women's participation in the process and also on how gender-responsive policy and action is being implemented at the local and national levels.

Calls for submissions on topics for the workshops to be held in 2018 and 2019 are expected to be launched following COP 23 in November 2017. Calls for submissions are important as they help shape the format and content of the workshops and enable the secretariat to identify those organizations and experts who could contribute their expertise in developing the programme for the workshops and contributing through presentations and/or papers at the workshops.

You can contact the secretariat about any of the information in this note at gender-team@unfccc.int or the Gender Focal Point, Fleur Newman, at fnewman@unfccc.int.

⁷ See paragraphs 27 – 30 of [Decision -/CP.22](#) for information on the development of a gender action plan and paragraphs 11 – 12 for the decision related to the 2018/2019 workshops.

⁸ Under the UNFCCC process, the term 'non-Party stakeholders' is used to refer to people, entities, associations, organizations etc that are not a Party to the Convention and have an interest in participating in the process and/or supporting the aims of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Non-Party stakeholders may be, but are not always, accredited observers to UNFCCC.

⁹ Parties should submit their views via the submission portal at http://unfccc.int/documentation/submissions_from_parties/items/5900.php.

¹⁰ As soon as available, information on workshops and other important aspects of the intergovernmental process related to women and gender are included on the [Gender and Climate Change](#) home page.