

# **Gender-Responsive Climate Policy: Mitigation Action and Technology Development and Transfer**

## **Analysis of Submissions by Parties and Observers**

*Prepared by Collective Working Group on Gender*

At COP20, Parties adopted Decision 18/CP.20, the [Lima Work Programme on Gender](#), which aims to advance implementation of existing gender mandates across all areas of the climate negotiations. As part of this decision, on 18 February 2015, Parties and Observers were invited to submit views on matters to be addressed at an in-session workshop on gender-responsive climate policy related to mitigation action and technology development and transfer, scheduled during the forty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (June 2015).

In total 18 submissions were received. These include 6 submissions from Parties and groups of Parties and 12 from Observers, including 3 intergovernmental organizations. With two submissions from groups of Parties, representing 76 countries, the submissions represent the views of 92 Parties and Observers.

In the following, this outline provides a brief analysis across five sections of some of the common threads among those submissions. You can find a synthesis of particular submission proposals in the ANNEX.

### **1) Views on the Scope / Outcome of the Workshop**

Overall, in terms of basic structure, Party and Observer submissions largely agreed that the workshop should be held within the 2nd week of SB42. There was common view that the workshop should encompass a diverse learning approach with panel discussions, question and answer opportunities, technical gender expert presentations, and national experiences in an informal setting that encourages participation from all stakeholders at all levels. An overwhelming recommendation was to have presentations of best practices and case studies from both parties and civil society organizations. There was also a suggestion to find opportunities for remote participation of women's groups who will not be in Bonn.

The submissions were very rich in terms of the themes/ scope of the workshop, and overall centered around three areas:

- **The need to explore, define and develop basic concepts around the links between gender and climate change**, *including a common understanding of gender-responsive climate policy/practice for informing both ADP negotiations and future implementation initiatives*
- **The importance of highlighting concrete examples, best practice and key challenges to implementing gender-responsive mitigation and technology transfer**- *particularly related to key areas such as, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable forestry, agriculture, transport, solid waste and water management, and issues such as access to finance and control of natural resources*
- **The need to explore current gender mandates for institutional mechanisms under the UNFCCC and opportunities for better coordination and synergy** – *particularly in relation to mitigation, technology and financial mechanisms*

From this, the submissions highlighted a wide-range of anticipated outcomes of the workshop, including awareness raising of Parties and stakeholders of the need to consider gender issues in the design of all climate actions, particularly in relation to mitigation and technology. Submissions also called for concrete recommendations to the further implementation of the Lima Work Programme, as well as recommendations for the design of Technical Expert Meetings (TEMs) and the creation of guidelines for gender-responsive mitigations initiatives, including Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and ensuring the application of existing tools in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

## **2) Defining 'Gender-Responsive Mitigation Action and Technology Transfer**

While many submissions highlighted the need to develop a common understanding of gender concepts, some did share definitions, among which there were many similarities. Overall, submissions understand gender-responsive policies to be designed in line with gender equality, in a participatory and equitable manner, with the perspectives of women and men, taking into account differences due to gender, such as social roles in the community and household, in relation to labor and access to finances and credit, in land ownership and management/ control of natural resources, and responding to these differences to ensure women and men equally benefit from and contribute to the project, program or policy. Other definitions around gender-mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting were also shared.

## **3) Best Practice**

Both parties and observer submissions called for presentations of current best practices that successfully development and implement gender responsive mitigation action, technology development and transfer. Sharing national experiences, explicit examples from relevant case studies, and even addressing practices that have not proven useful and why were thought to be of high value. In particular, interest was strongly indicated around capacity building programmes for decision-makers, implementers and practitioners as well as how to mainstream gender in policies, laws, and frameworks with a view toward Technology Needs Assessments (TNA) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action plan (NAMA).

Examples of best practices and case studies also revolved around women's leadership in the renewable energy sector, advancements in energy access, gender equality in sustainable agriculture and forest management and training for women engineers, and the role gender analysis plays in the design of efficient public transport systems.

## **4) Key Challenges**

Overwhelmingly, parties and observers cited an overall lack of knowledge and understanding around gender and climate change concepts as the key challenge. Closely following are current cultural attitudes and practices in regards to women and climate change coupled with a broad lack of means, including: non-enabling environments, lack of access to resources for women, and the near absence of monitoring, evaluation, and reporting tools such as gender-sensitive funds and budgets. The political environment and fundamental structural causes of gender inequality were also cited with specific focus on lack of political will, lack of gender integration into policies and programmes, and the lack of participation by women in negotiation and decision-making processes.

## **5) Effective Means of Implementation**

In order to respond to these challenges, submissions overwhelming called for more training and awareness raising with policy makers and stakeholders about the important links between gender and climate change, the need for all climate actions to be gender-responsive and the tools with which to implement gender-responsive actions. This also requires a shift in the way technologies are developed, to be driven and designed by the people and communities whom they most impact, and to ensure the equal participation of women and men in that process. Submissions reflect that implementing these actions will require effective and equitable access to climate finance, including dedicated funding streams for women, and gender considerations in all levels of design and implementation of climate finance funding mechanisms.

## **Summary Conclusion**

The submissions highlight a very comprehensive picture of the common best practices, effective tools and remaining challenges to the effective implementation of gender-responsive mitigation action and technology transfer. The opportunity to dialogue in depth on this issue should garner substantial gains in awareness raising and capacity building and offer the opportunity for several concrete recommendations at several levels to emerge.

## Specific Proposals / Perspectives from Party and Observer Submissions

### Views on the Scope / Outcome of the Workshop

#### **Structure:**

- Several proposals suggested a workshop in the second week, including *International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)* and the *European Union (EU)*
- *Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF)* proposed a panel of gender experts from different stakeholder groups, making keynote presentations around key themes, with Q&A questions
- The *South Centre* suggested room for a few short videos to highlight / frame the workshop, and the opportunity for virtual engagement by women's groups via Skype to share their questions and feedback
- *Angola on behalf of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)* called for an informal environment focused on sharing case studies, lessons and best practices

#### **Themes:**

- Several proposals, including from *UN Women, Gender CC, Sudan* identified the need to develop a common understanding of the meanings behind the terminology of gender-responsive climate policy/practice and gender mainstreaming
- Several proposals, including the *EU, LDCs, IUCN, WECF* and the *Women's Environment and Development Organization & Heinrich Boell Foundation (WEDO/HBF)* proposed a session highlighting best practice and concrete examples
- Many proposals also requested to consider how current institutional mechanisms under the UNFCCC could be more gender-responsive including, *Sudan, WEDO/HBF*
- And, proposals also shared key areas which should be covered such as: 1) Promoting renewable energy and increasing energy saving and efficiency (*EU, Nigeria, AIWC*); 2) Sustainable Forestry (*EU, Nigeria, LDCs*); 3) Technology for agriculture, energy and transport (*LDCs*); 4) *Solid waste management (Peru) and water management (Nepal)*
- *UN Women* proposed to start by exploring the linkages between gender equality, women's empowerment, and realization of their human rights and climate change mitigation and technology development and transfer
- The *South Centre* and *WEDO/HBF* proposed to highlight the specific link to effective means of implementation and particularly, mitigation finance
- *Nepal* proposed a review of gender-responsive budgeting (GRB)
- *ETC* highlighted the need to consider women's specific roles with relation to technology, including specific risks posed to women and potential livelihood displacement
- The *All India Women's Conference (AIWC)* proposed consideration of access to safe and affordable technology solutions, and clean energy for households

#### **Outcomes:**

- Several submissions presented capacity building outcomes such as: 1) greater recognition of women as key agents of change (*AIWC*); 2) Greater awareness among Parties and stakeholders of the need to mainstream gender in mitigation actions (*WECF*); 3) Clarification in terms related to gender-responsive policies (*Gender CC, EU, Mozambique*)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many submissions suggested an explicit guidance and recommendation to the work of the Technical Expert Meetings (TEMs) including <i>Sudan, Nepal, Peru, IFAD</i> and <i>WEDO/HBF</i></li> <li>- <i>UN Women, EU</i> and <i>LDCs</i> suggested the conclusions should recommend concrete action on the further implementation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender</li> <li>- Additionally, <i>WEDO/HBF, Peru, Sudan</i> and <i>IFAD</i> recommended some guidelines for gender mainstreaming into NAMAs, and <i>WECF</i> provided an example of this in their submission.</li> </ul>
<p>Defining 'Gender-Responsive' Mitigation and Technology Transfer</p>	<p>Some submissions provided initial definitions of gender terminology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>UN Women</i> provided that gender mainstreaming is defined as “the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area at all levels.”</li> <li>- <i>Nepal</i> submitted that a gender-responsive mitigation action or policy recognizes several important differences (in areas of social cultural environment, life circumstances, and their dependency on climate sensitive natural resources especially the forest and biodiversity resources) between female and male, and takes these into account when designing climate change interventions in order to produce gender responsive outcomes</li> <li>- <i>Gender CC</i> provided that gender responsiveness means reacting to differences between men and women’s social roles, which are based on pervasive gender inequalities in all parts of life and in all parts of the world, these differences are taken into account in order to bring more justice into climate change policy and its implementation</li> <li>- <i>LDCs</i> shared an explanation of gender analysis as “Women and men experience and respond to climate change in distinct ways. Due to gender-based division of labour, and gender inequalities related to land-ownership and rights, access to and control over physical, social and financial resources, and decision-making, among others, they are exposed to differing risks and opportunities in the face of climate change impacts. At the same time, climate change often also exacerbates these inequalities.”</li> <li>- <i>Indonesia</i> submitted that ‘gender-responsive climate policy’ is a principle that predicates the need to be responsive to the gender construction that differentiates social roles and responsibilities amongst women and men in the community, by taking special measures to ensure that women are the subjects of each and every process of decision-making and that women’s views, knowledge, and experiences become the basis of decision-making with the full involvement and participation of women. Their submission also covered terminology such as ‘gender-sensitive’ and ‘gender-inclusive’</li> <li>- <i>IFAD</i> shared that gender-responsive action focuses on equal economic empowerment, equal voice in decision-making at all levels and equitable workloads/ benefit-sharing</li> </ul>
<p>Best Practice</p>	<p>There were many case studies and best practice examples put forward in the submissions:</p> <p><i>Projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>AIWC</i> shared the example of Technology Informatics Design Endeavours (TIDE) organization, engaging women in low carbon actions such as: construction of smokeless stoves, on farm drying of fruits, vegetables and marine product using biomass and solar dryers, women delivering an energy service like sale of solar lights, use of fuel efficient, smokeless wood burning stoves</li> </ul>

for women's enterprises (tea stalls, canteens, cooking in schools for mid-day meals, preparation of sweets and snacks for sale), value added products from locally grown millets etc., leaf plate making and cashew processing

- The **Women's Environmental Programme (WEP)** shared best practice of working with women farmers in rural communities in Benue and Kebbi States on knowledge dissemination and innovative farming practices, as well as capacity building on fuel efficient wood stoves and solar dryers
- **WECF** highlighted a gender-responsive National Appropriate Mitigation Activity (NAMA) for the energy sector in Georgia
- **UN Women** submitted several examples: 1) One Million Women, Australia: change consumption patterns; 2) Barefoot College, training on renewable energy technology; 3) AMADER, Mali: implemented "Energy for the reduction of gender inequality"
- **South Centre** shared experiences of clean cookstoves, solar lighting and solar powered water pumps
- **IFAD** the example of the Kirehe Community-based Watershed Management Project, Rwanda: household-focused methodology enabling both women and men to negotiate needs and interests in finding gender-equitable solutions for livelihood planning
- **WEDO/HBF** shared the Upesi Cook Stoves Project in Kenya and Grameen Shakti which trains female engineers.
- **IUCN** provided many examples of gender responsive projects, such as the Mozambique Ministry of Energy – women's solar panel construction and maintenance program, ENATREL (Nicaragua) – achieving gender equality through national electrification programmes, Semilla de Sol –supporting rural women to become solar engineers and the implementation of decentralized rural electrification projects with a social and gender inclusion approach, and the Climate Change National Directorate and Climate Change Division (Uruguay) –energy policies as tools for reducing gender inequalities and vulnerabilities through NAMA design

#### **Policies**

- In **Sudan**, gender issues are considered throughout all its activities of forest management, mainly in Sudan's REDD+, as well as in projects design and implementation in the Technology Needs Assessment (TNA). Additionally, Sudan highlighted the importance of "participatory relationships between government and non-governmental institutions", "establishment of gender focal points in several Ministries and Departments", and an active gender and climate change network of experts at government and civil society levels.
- **Nepal** highlighted that gender is considered in their Technology Needs Assessment (TNA), the Biogas Support Program run under AEPC, which has a strong gender component and a tool for gender-responsive budgeting (GRB)
- **UN Women** shared examples of best practice in policy design and implementation: 1) The Green Climate Fund's (GCF) governing instrument has institutionalized the consideration of gender equality issues from its inception; 2) Global Environment Facility's (GEF) policy on Gender Mainstreaming requires all interventions to demonstrate gender analysis; 3) Indonesia institutionalized a framework to promote gender equality
- **IUCN** shared the development of more than twelve national and one regional gender and climate change action plans covering a range of topics including transport; renewable energy; forestry, land use and agriculture; and solid waste management.
- **LDCs** shared four concrete national examples (Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania and Sudan), for example, Lesotho empowering women in rural areas through introduction of fuel efficient cook stoves and solar lights

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Nigeria</i> shared experience of the Renewable Energy Programme Office of the Federal Ministry of Environment which hosts a Rural Women’s Energy Security (RUWES) initiative with three elements: 1) National Clean Cooking, 2) Rural Energy Access Project and 3) Training Schools.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Challenges</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Both <i>AIWC</i> and <i>Sudan</i> highlighted that as mitigation policies, as well as clean technology development are largely led from a technical, often male-dominant, perspective, women’s energy needs and socio-economic development are not adequately understood and do not consider the possible negative consequences of policies on women</li> <li>- <i>AIWC, WEP, Sudan</i> highlighted a lack of funding to implement projects</li> <li>- <i>WEP, Nepal, Gender CC, and Sudan</i> highlighted a lack of technical understanding of basic gender concepts as well as of implementing gender-sensitive policies at national level</li> <li>- <i>LDCs</i> highlighted certain structural barriers such as women being seen as beneficiaries, passive and marginalised actors rather than as decision makers influencing climate change mitigation and adaptation action</li> <li>- Several submissions highlighted poor coordination between the different institutions at ministerial levels, NGOs and local communities</li> <li>- <i>South Centre, IFAD and WEDO/HBF</i> highlighted several specific challenges for women, such as issues with rights and land tenure, the ability to access upfront and operational finance and risk insurance, the privatization of communal lands, overall access to political power, economic resources, legal rights, and technical training</li> <li>- <i>WECF</i> and <i>ETC</i> highlight challenges around the top-down approach to technological innovation and assumptions/subjective interpretations of what will be “good” for people, and good for women, without engaging them in the process</li> <li>- <i>Peru</i> sites a lack of evidence that GHG mitigation policies improve when they are gender responsive and inadequate gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation system</li> <li>- <i>Mozambique</i> highlighted a lack of sex-disaggregated data</li> </ul>
<p><b>Effective Means of Implementation</b></p>	<p>The most common suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Effective and equitable access to climate finance, including dedicated funding streams for women and gender considerations in all levels of design and implementation of climate finance funding mechanisms, including strong indicators</li> <li>- Mapping of existing and traditional knowledge of adaption strategies in developing countries for knowledge transfer</li> <li>- Gender specific tools to ensure compliance, monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>- Training for climate policy-makers on gender-responsive design and implementation</li> <li>- Development of systems and capacities to enable the collection and management of sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators</li> <li>- Special IPCC Report on gender and climate policy</li> <li>- Strong coordination among UNFCCC mechanisms, such as the TNAs, NAMAs and the TEMs, on coordinated gender-responsive tools and methodologies</li> </ul>