

Thank you Chair,

Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

My name is Rachel Harris from the Women's Environment and Development Organization and I speak on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

In regards to SBI 34 agenda item 4(a) on the Work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, we encourage Parties to provide financial resources to enable the Consultative Group of Experts to plan any future activities. These resources will especially be helpful in the CGE's revision of the guidelines on National Communications from non-Annex I Parties to the Convention.

Providing adequate financial resources for the CGE activities is crucial to assist developing countries in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention as stated in articles' 4 and 12.

The Women and Gender Constituency also foresees the opportunity to revise the guidelines for Non-Annex I national communications as an open window to support countries' better understanding of the gender dimension associated to climate change.

Despite clear evidence of the gender differentiated impacts of climate change, especially in developing countries, vulnerability assessments and adaptation studies do not reflect such differentiation and thus limit the efficiency of such analyses for appropriate gender sensitive adaptation measures. The review of the guidelines could provide several opportunities for countries to do so. Therefore, in vulnerability assessments and adaptation studies Parties should include gender analyses and gender-related information, as relevant. In describing national circumstances Parties should account for gender considerations by using sex-disaggregated data when relevant, especially in research related to programs on adaptation and mitigation to climate change. In providing information on technology transfer it is important that Parties include information regarding women's and men's different uses, accountability and development of different technologies and account for gender considerations when providing information on country and regional technology needs and assistance. Parties should also consider paragraphs 2(c) and 2(e) of Decision 7/CP.16 in taking into account the gender perspective and fostering participation of women stakeholders to elaborate national strategies on Article 6 of the Convention, which is related to education, training and public awareness. Finally, Parties should consider gender when reporting on capacity building, with the guidance of paragraph 130 of Decision 1/CP.16, which decides that gender aspects are taken into account, as appropriate, with enhanced support to Parties for capacity building.

Therefore, we strongly encourage Parties with the ability to do so, to provide financial resources to enable the CGE to support and enable non-Annex I Parties to include comprehensive gender perspectives in their national communications. We also encourage the CGE to explore further possibilities to support countries to integrate gender in their reporting as well as associate gender experts and more women in the expert teams at country level.