

**GENDER EQUALITY AND THE UNITED  
NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION  
ON CLIMATE CHANGE:  
A COMPILATION OF DECISION TEXT**



# FOREWORD

Gender equality continues to be increasingly recognized as a critical crosscutting issue in major multilateral environmental agreements. In 1992, Agenda 21 set the stage with Chapter 24, stating: “Women have considerable knowledge and experience in managing and conserving natural resources.” By 2013, many legal instruments and norm-setting agreements integrate text that promotes gender equality and women’s rights, including across the three key United Nations environmental agreements: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

From preamble and shared vision text, to actionable language for programming and finance, this policy language recognizes that the integration of women’s rights and gender equality issues into the mitigation of biodiversity loss, desertification, and climate change is not only essential, but maximizes the efficacy of interventions, programs and resources. The three Conventions have incorporated gender equality at different paces and in different manners. Over the past several years due to increased outreach, knowledge, capacity building and advocacy on the linkages, there has been an exceptional increase in gender-sensitive decisions coming out of the UNFCCC. This reference tool, for policy-makers and practitioners, compiles these women’s rights and gender equality provisions.

In 2001, Parties to the UNFCCC agreed on the first text on gender equality and women’s participation, adopting two decisions at the seventh Conference of Parties in Marrakesh. Nine years later, in 2010, Parties stated that gender equality and women’s participation are necessary for effective action on all aspects of climate change. Since then, UNFCCC Parties, supported by civil society organizations and UN agencies have included gender equality issues in adopted decisions on nearly every UNFCCC thematic area, including the 2012 Decision 23/CP.18 on gender balance and women’s participation.

Words on paper are crucial, but mitigating and adapting to climate change in a gender transformative manner requires that the full and appropriate implementation of these policies is realized. Governments, practitioners, gender experts and other partners have a unique opportunity to start implementing these policies appropriately and fully - taking strides towards changing paradigms that set us a step closer to living in a just world that promotes and protects human rights, gender equality and the integrity of the environment.

The Women’s Environment and Development Organization, a women’s global advocacy organization, in partnership with the Global Gender and Climate Alliance and the UNFCCC Secretariat, hopes that this text compilation serves as a useful tool, to remind all stakeholders of the strong foundation upon which to continue working towards truly sustainable development.

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# UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

## CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP) DECISIONS

### FCCC/CP/2001/13/ADD.4

#### Decision 28/CP.7 Guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action

##### Annex Guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action. D. Guiding elements

7. The preparation of NAPAs will be guided by the following:

*(e) Gender equality;*

#### Decision 36/CP.7 Improving the participation of women in the representation of Parties in bodies established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or the Kyoto Protocol

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the *Beijing Declaration of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women* which recognizes that *women's empowerment and their full participation* on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in decision-making processes and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace,

Recalling further that the Beijing Declaration called on governments, the United Nations system and regional and international institutions to *contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action*,

Noting that improvement in the *gender balance* of officers elected to the bodies established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol would be one such contribution to the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action,

Having considered the need for Parties to take into account the need for more equitable representation of female and male officers elected to the bodies established under the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol,

Urging Parties to take the measures necessary to enable **women** to participate fully in all levels of decision making relevant to climate change,

1. Invites Parties to give active consideration to the nomination of **women** for elective posts in any body established under the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol;
2. Requests the secretariat to bring this decision to the attention of Parties whenever a vacancy arises for any elective post in any body established under the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol;
3. Further requests the secretariat to maintain information on the **gender composition** of each body with elective posts established under the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol, and to bring this information to the attention of the Parties whenever such a vacancy occurs.



## **Decision 1/CP.16 The Cancun Agreements: Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention**

**Preamble** Noting resolution 10/4 of the United Nations Human Rights Council on human rights and climate change, which recognizes that the adverse effects of climate change have a range of direct and indirect implications for the effective enjoyment of human rights and that the effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, *gender*, age, indigenous or minority status, or disability,

### **I. A shared vision for long-term cooperative action**

7. Recognizes the need to engage a broad range of stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels, be they government, including subnational and local government, private business or civil society, including the youth and persons with disability, and that *gender equality* and the *effective participation of women* and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change;

### **II. Enhanced action on adaptation**

12. Affirms that enhanced action on adaptation should be undertaken in accordance with the Convention; follow a country-driven, *gender-sensitive*, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems; and be based on and guided by the best available science, and as appropriate traditional knowledge; with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate;

### **III. Enhanced action on mitigation**

**C. Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries**

72. Also requests developing country Parties, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plan, to address, inter alia, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, *gender considerations* and the safeguards identified in paragraph 2 of Annex 1 to this decision, ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia, indigenous peoples and local communities;

### **E. Economic and social consequences of response measures**

**Preamble** Affirming that responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner, with a view to avoiding adverse impacts on the latter, taking fully into account the legitimate priority needs of developing country Parties for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty, and the consequences for vulnerable groups, in particular *women* and children

## IV. Finance, technology and capacity-building

### C. Capacity-building

**130.** Decides that capacity-building support to developing country Parties should be enhanced with a view to strengthening endogenous capacities at the subnational, national or regional levels, as appropriate, taking into account *gender aspects*, to contribute to the achievement of the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention, by, inter alia: (...)

### Appendix IV

#### Composition and mandate of the Technology Executive Committee

**3.** Parties are encouraged to nominate senior expert with a view to achieving, within the membership of the Technology Executive Committee, an appropriate balance of technical, legal, policy, social development and financial expertise relevant to the development and transfer of technology for adaptation and mitigation, taking into account the need to *achieve gender balance in accordance with decision 36/CP.7*;



## FCCC /CP/2010/7/ADD.2

### Decision 6/CP.16 Extension of the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

2. Also decides that the Least Developed Countries Expert Group should be mandated to provide technical guidance and advice on:

(c) Strengthening *gender-related considerations* and considerations regarding vulnerable communities within least developed country Parties;

### Decision 7/CP.16 Progress in, and ways to enhance, the implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the Convention

2. Invites Parties, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the amended New Delhi work programme:

(c) To enhance efforts to elaborate national strategies and action plans on Article 6 of the Convention, including climate change communication strategies, taking into account, inter alia, *the gender perspective*;

(e) To foster the participation of *women*, youth, indigenous peoples, civil society groups and relevant stakeholders in decision-making on climate change at the national level and their attendance at intergovernmental meetings, including sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the subsidiary bodies;





# FCCC /CP/2011/9/ADD.1

## Decision 2/CP.17 Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention

### II. Enhanced action on mitigation

#### *F. Economic and social consequences of response measures*

90. Further urges Parties to give full consideration to the positive and negative impacts of the implementation of response measures to mitigate climate change on society and on all vulnerable groups, in particular *women* and children;

### III. Enhanced action on adaptation

103. Encourages Parties to nominate experts to the Adaptation Committee with a diversity of experience and knowledge relevant to adaptation to climate change, while also taking into account the need to achieve *gender balance* in accordance with decision 36/CP.7;

### VI. Capacity-building

**Preamble** Further reaffirming the importance of taking into account *gender aspects* and acknowledging the role and needs of youth and persons with disabilities in capacity building activities,

### Annex VI Composition and working modalities of the Standing Committee

2. The Standing Committee shall be composed of members nominated by Parties for approval by the Conference of the Parties, who shall have the necessary experience and skills, notably in the areas of climate change, development and finance, taking into account the need to achieve *gender balance* in accordance with decision 36/CP.7.

### Annex VII Terms of reference of the Climate Technology Centre and Network

#### I. Mission

1. The mission of the Climate Technology Centre and Network is to stimulate technology cooperation and to enhance the development and transfer of technologies and to assist developing country Parties at their request, consistent with their respective capabilities and national circumstances and priorities, in order to build or strengthen their capacity to identify technology needs, to facilitate the preparation and implementation of technology projects and strategies taking into account *gender considerations* to support action on mitigation and adaptation and enhance low emissions and climate-resilient development.

## **Annex VIII Criteria to be used to evaluate and select the host of the Climate Technology Centre and Network and information required to be included in the proposals**

### **I. Criteria to be used to evaluate and select the host of the Climate Technology Centre**

#### ***C. Existing governance and management structures***

4. The prospective host's existing governance and management structures will be scored based on the following sub criteria, which are of equal importance:

(c) Effectiveness of the current management structure of the host organization to ensure **gender sensitivity**, transparency, responsiveness, flexibility, financial management, auditing and reporting functions, and the ability to provide high-quality administrative, infrastructural and logistic arrangements, and accessibility to developing country Parties, including the least developed country Parties;

### **Decision 3/CP.17 Launching the Green Climate Fund**

#### **Annex Governing instrument for the Green Climate Fund**

##### **I. Objectives and guiding principles**

3. (...) The Fund will strive to maximize the impact of its funding for adaptation and mitigation, and seek a balance between the two, while promoting environmental, social, economic and development co-benefits and taking a **gender-sensitive approach**.

##### **II. Governance and institutional arrangements**

###### ***C. Rules of procedure of the Board***

###### **2. Selection of Board members**

11. The members of the Board and their alternates will be selected by their respective constituency or regional group within a constituency. Members of the Board will have the necessary experience and skills, notably in the areas of climate change and development finance, with due consideration given to **gender balance**.

###### ***E. Secretariat***

21. The secretariat will be staffed with professional staff with relevant experience. The staff selection will be managed by the Executive Director and will be open, transparent and based on merit, taking into account geographical and **gender balance**.

##### **V. Operational modalities**

31. The Fund will provide simplified and improved access to funding, including direct access, basing its activities on a country-driven approach and will encourage the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including vulnerable groups and addressing **gender aspects**.

### XIII. Stakeholder input and participation

71. The Board will develop mechanisms to promote the input and participation of stakeholders, including private-sector actors, civil society organizations, vulnerable groups, *women* and indigenous peoples, in the design, development and implementation of the strategies and activities to be financed by the Fund.

#### Decision 5/CP.17 National adaptation plans

##### I. Framing national adaptation plans

3. Further agrees that enhanced action on adaptation should be undertaken in accordance with the Convention, should follow a country-driven, *gender-sensitive*, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional and indigenous knowledge, and by *gender-sensitive approaches*, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate;

#### Annex Initial guidelines for the formulation of national adaptation plans by least developed country Parties

##### II. Elements of national adaptation plans

###### B. Preparatory elements

3. In developing NAPs, consideration would be given to identifying specific needs, options and priorities on a country-driven basis, utilizing the services of national and, where appropriate, regional institutions, and to the effective and continued promotion of participatory and *gender-sensitive approaches* coordinated with sustainable development objectives, policies, plans and programmes. Activities may include the following: (...)



## FCCC /CP/2011/9/ADD.2

### **Decision 6/CP.17 Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change**

4. Also requests the secretariat to organize, in collaboration with Nairobi work programme partner organizations and other relevant organizations, the following workshops, informed by the information contained in annex I to the report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its thirty-fourth session and subsequent views of Parties, and to include indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation and *gender-sensitive* tools and approaches as cross-cutting issues: (...)

### **Decision 12/CP.17 Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected and modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels as referred to in decision 1/CP.16**

#### **1. Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected**

2. Agrees that systems for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected should, taking into account national circumstances and respective capabilities, and recognizing national sovereignty and legislation, and relevant international obligations and agreements, and respecting *gender considerations*: (...)

### **Decision 13/CP.17 Capacity-building under the Convention**

**Preamble** Also reaffirming the importance of taking into account *gender aspects* and acknowledging the role and needs of youth and persons with disabilities in capacity building activities,



## FCCC/CP/2012/8/ADD.1

### Decision 3/CP.18 Approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to enhance adaptive capacity

7. Acknowledges the further work to advance the understanding of and expertise on loss and damage, which includes, inter alia, the following:

(a) *Enhancing the understanding of:* (iii) How loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change affects those segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, *gender*, age, indigenous or minority status, or disability, and how the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage can benefit those segments of the population;

(b) Strengthening and supporting the collection and management of relevant data, including *gender-disaggregated data*, for assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;



# FCCC/CP/2012/8/ADD.2

## Decision 12/CP.18 National adaptation plans

**Preamble** Underlining that the national adaptation plan process should build on and complement existing adaptation planning, should not be prescriptive and should facilitate country-driven, *gender-sensitive*, participatory action, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems,

## Decision 14/CP.18 Arrangements to make the Climate Technology Centre and Network fully operational

### Annex I Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Environment Programme regarding the hosting of the Climate Technology Centre

**Preamble** Whereas the mission of the CTCN is to stimulate technology cooperation and to enhance the development and transfer of technologies and to assist developing country Parties at their request, consistent with their respective capabilities and national circumstances and priorities, in order to build or strengthen their capacity to identify technology needs, to facilitate the preparation and implementation of technology projects and strategies, taking into account *gender considerations* to support action on mitigation and adaptation and enhance low-emission and climate-resilient development,

### Annex II Constitution of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network

4. Government representatives shall be nominated by their respective groups or constituencies and elected by the Conference of the Parties (COP). Groups or constituencies are encouraged to nominate the government representatives to the Advisory Board, with a view to achieving an appropriate balance of expertise relevant to the development and transfer of technologies for adaptation and mitigation, taking into account the need to achieve *gender balance in accordance with decisions 36/CP.7 and 23/CP.18*.

## Decision 15/CP.18 Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention

**Preamble** Also recognizing that a goal of education is to promote changes in lifestyles, attitudes and behaviour needed to foster sustainable development and to prepare children, youth, *women*, persons with disabilities and grass-root communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change,

**Preamble** Also reaffirming the importance of taking into account *gender aspects* and the need to promote the effective engagement of children, youth, the elderly, *women*, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, local communities and non-governmental organizations in activities related to Article 6 of the Convention,

## Annex Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention

### I. Observations

8. **Gender** is a cross-cutting issue in all six elements of Article 6 of the Convention.

9. Implementation of Article 6 of the Convention has a broad range of stakeholders, including, governments, the private sector, IGOs, NGOs and others international organizations, decision makers, scientists, the media, teachers, the general public, youth, **women**, people with disabilities and indigenous peoples among others.

### II. Purposes and guiding principles

14. The Doha work programme shall be guided by:

(d) **Gender** and an intergenerational approach;

### III. Scope of the Doha work programme

#### A. Education

16. Cooperate in, promote, facilitate, develop and implement formal and non-formal education and training programmes focused on climate change at all levels, targeting **women** and youth in particular, and including the exchange or secondment of personnel to train experts.



## IV. Implementation

### A. Parties Tools and activities

(i) Seek input and public participation, including participation by youth, **women**, civil society organizations and other groups, in the formulation and implementation of efforts to address climate change, and also in relation to the preparation of national communications, and encourage the involvement and participation of representatives of all stakeholders and major groups in the climate change negotiation process;

(k) Foster the participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and invite them to report on the implementation of activities. In particular, enhance the active participation of youth, **women**, civil society organizations and the media;

### D. Non-governmental organizations

26. NGOs are invited to foster the participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and to encourage them to report on the implementation of their activities. In particular, NGOs are invited to enhance the active participation of youth, **women**, civil society organizations and the media in climate change activities.





## FCCC/CP/2012/8/ADD.3

### Decision 23/CP.18 Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 36/CP.7 on improving the participation of *women* in the representation of Parties in bodies established under the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol,

Acknowledging the recent progress made under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol in advancing *gender balance* and *women's empowerment* in international climate change policy under the guidance of decision 1/CP.13 (Bali Action Plan) and decisions taken at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions,<sup>1</sup> as well as in various bodies and programmes under the Convention,

Noting that notwithstanding the efforts made by Parties to implement decision 36/CP.7, *women* continue to be underrepresented in bodies established under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol,

Recognizing the need for *women* to be represented in all aspects of the UNFCCC process, including through membership of their national delegations and the chairing and facilitation of formal and informal negotiating groups, in order to inform *gender-responsive* climate policy,

Also recognizing the importance of a balanced representation of *women* from developing and developed country Parties in the UNFCCC process so that *gender-responsive* climate policy responds to the differing needs of men and *women* in national and local contexts,

Considering the importance of ensuring coherence between the participation of *women* in the UNFCCC process and the principles and objectives of international instruments and relevant multilateral processes, such as the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* and the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, which recognize the importance of *women's empowerment and their full participation* on equal terms with men in all spheres of society, including participation in decision-making processes and access to power,

Acknowledging the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in particular the recognition of *women's leadership* and their vital role in achieving sustainable development and the emphasis on the impact of setting specific targets and implementing temporary measures, as appropriate, for substantially increasing the number of *women* in leadership positions, with the aim of achieving *gender parity*,<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Including for example, decisions 1/CP.16, 6/CP.16, 7/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 3/CP.17, 5/CP.17, 6/CP.17, 12/CP.17 and 13/CP.17.

<sup>2</sup> *The Future We Want*, outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, adopted on 21 June 2012 (United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/66/288, para. 237).

Recognizing the advances made by Parties in the promotion of *gender balance and the empowerment of women*,

1. Agrees that additional efforts need to be made by all Parties to improve the participation of *women* in bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol as envisaged in decision 36/CP.7;
2. Decides to enhance decision 36/CP.7 by adopting a goal of *gender balance* in bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, in order to improve *women's participation* and inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of *women* and men equally;
3. Invites current and future chairs of such bodies to be guided by the goal of *gender balance* when setting up informal negotiating groups and consultation mechanisms, such as contact groups, spin-off groups and panels, and nominating their facilitators and chairs;
4. Also invites other institutions established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol to be guided by the goal of *gender balance*, with the aim of a gradual but significant increase in the participation of *women* towards achieving this goal and review progress made at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties;
5. Further invites Parties to commit to meeting the goal of *gender balance* by, inter alia, nominating women to bodies established under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol with the aim of a gradual but significant increase in the participation of women towards achieving this goal, and review progress made at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties;
6. Invites Parties to encourage more *women* to be candidates for positions within bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and to give due consideration to nominating female representatives to these bodies;
7. Also invites Parties to strive for *gender balance* in their delegations to sessions under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol;
8. Requests the secretariat to maintain information on the *gender composition* of constituted bodies established under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, including information on the representation of women from regional groups, to gather information on the *gender composition* of delegations to sessions under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and to report this information to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration on an annual basis, in order to enable the tracking of progress made towards the goal of *gender balance* in advancing *gender-sensitive* climate policy;
9. Decides to add the issue of *gender* and climate change as a standing item on the agenda of sessions of the Conference of the Parties to allow the Conference of the Parties to consider the information referred to in paragraph 8 above;
10. Requests the secretariat to organize, in conjunction with the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, an in-session workshop on *gender balance* in the UNFCCC process, *gender-sensitive* climate policy and capacity-building activities to promote the greater participation of *women* in the UNFCCC process;

11. Also requests Parties and observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 2 September 2013, their views on options and ways to advance the goal referred to in paragraph 2 above;
12. Further requests the secretariat to compile those submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth session;
13. Takes note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat pursuant to the provisions contained in paragraphs 8, 10 and 12 above;
14. Requests that the actions of the secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources;
15. Invites the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to endorse this decision.

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## DECISION LINKS

### **FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.4**

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/cop7/13a04.pdf>

### **FCCC /CP/2010/7/Add.1**

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf>

### **FCCC /CP/2010/7/Add.2**

<http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-05>

### **UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20 (2002)**

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a02.pdf>

### **FCCC /CP/2011/9/Add.1**

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf>

### **FCCC /CP/2011/9/Add.2**

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a02.pdf>

### **FCCC/CP/2012/8/Add.1**

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/cop18/eng/08a01.pdf>

### **FCCC/CP/2012/8/Add.2**

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/cop18/eng/08a02.pdf>

### **FCCC/CP/2012/8/Add.3**

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/cop18/eng/08a03.pdf>





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