

Key Principles for Incorporating a Gender Dimension into the Green Climate Fund¹

Decision 1/CP.16 provides guiding principles for climate finance under the Convention, including for the Green Climate Fund. Article 7 in the decision acknowledges that gender equality and the effective participation of women are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change. This recognizes that women and men are impacted differently by climate change, largely due to their gender roles and to differing political, social and economic rights and opportunities. Women and men also contribute to climate change responses in different ways and have different capabilities based on their respective knowledge, experiences and expertise to mitigate and adapt.

The Green Climate Fund has an opportunity to distinguish itself from existing funds by being the first to integrate a gender perspective from the outset. This will help ensure that the Fund addresses issues of equity, equality and human rights while simultaneously promoting effective and efficient governance and disbursement of funds. Gender as a cross-cutting issue must guide the Transitional Committee's discussions about the scope, governance and operational guidelines of the Green Climate Fund.

Gender equality as a guiding principle and a cross-cutting issue

- **Gender equality should be a guiding principle** of the Green Climate Fund. While other funds, such as the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria and funds under the Global Environment Facility have recognized the need for gender strategies/gender plans of action in their governance and operationalization, such attention to gender was not incorporated in the design stage and has therefore been slower to take hold. Right now, both the Adaptation Fund and the Climate Investment Funds are strengthening their guidelines and operations to enhance attention to gender considerations. The GCF can set a precedent by learning from these other funds and incorporating guidelines for a gender responsive climate finance mechanism from the outset (workstreams I and II).
- **Gender-responsive funding guidelines and criteria** should be developed for each of the proposed thematic funding windows (possibly on mitigation, adaptation, REDD+), capacity building and technology transfer funding (workstreams I and III).
- **Explicit gender criteria** must be included in performance objectives and criteria to evaluate funding options under the GCF. Criteria should include a mandatory gender analysis of the proposed project or programme, a gender budget and some clear indicators which measure how funded projects and programmes contribute to gender equality objectives (workstreams I and IV).
- The GCF Board, by retaining the flexibility and capacity to add new funding windows, sub-windows or focal areas, should **consider gender equality as focal area or a special women's sub-fund** (workstreams I and III).

Gender-responsive governance

- **Gender-balance in all decision-making bodies** should be guaranteed, including the GCF Board and possible sub-boards for individual funding windows. In addition to gender balance, the GCF board must include gender experts. Members of civil society, including representatives of gender equality and women's rights organizations, should be given opportunities for active participation in the work of the GCF Board and all of its sub-Boards. Active CSO observers should include gender experts and/or women's organizations (workstreams I and II).
- **The GCF Secretariat must include gender expertise** so as to help ensure that principles of gender equality are considered in programme and project review and the monitoring, reporting, verification and evaluation of the funding portfolio, which are among the suggested functions for the GCF Secretariat (workstream II).
- In accordance with decision 1/CP.16, which calls for the design of a mechanism to systematically incorporate the views of stakeholders and beneficiaries, the input and participation of women as stakeholders and beneficiaries must

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be guaranteed at each level of GCF funding (decision-making, programme/project implementation) (workstreams III and IV).

Gender-equitable fund allocation

- **Balanced Fund Allocation:** GCF funding should be allocated in a balanced manner with at least 50 percent funding for adaptation. GCF adaptation funding, which has a clear gender component, should cover the agreed full cost of enhanced adaptation action and should be delivered exclusively in the form of grants. GCF mitigation funding should prioritize renewable energy projects with a direct focus on providing energy access to the poor, many of them women, including decentralized off-grid solutions (workstreams I and III). The GCF must include a regular gender-audit of its funding allocation in its overview and reporting in order to ensure a balanced and gender-responsive delivery (workstreams I and III).
- GCF funding on forest protection should explicitly recognize and incorporate the special role that women and Indigenous Peoples have in forest stewardship in recipient countries (workstreams I and III).
- In order to promote gender equality objectives, capacity building activities should include balanced representation of women and men (workstream III).
- **Direct access** should be the primary access modality to the GCF; recipients should not be only a single, country-designated institution, but should also include sub-national institutions and civil society organizations, such as gender equality organizations and women groups, independently accredited by the GCF. A good practice example can be found in the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which has a dedicated funding reserve that funds proposals focused solely on the needs of the most at-risk populations; GFATM has also established safeguards so that marginalized groups can gain direct access to funding (workstreams I and III).
- Allocation of funding should be coherent and consistent with national development plans and national mitigation and adaptation strategies that have been developed in a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent process. These plans and strategies need to take into account the special needs of vulnerable groups, including women and Indigenous Peoples, local communities and ecosystems and the contributions of traditional and indigenous knowledge (workstreams I and III).
- The GCF must provide resources to enable women's groups and other community and civil-society groups to fully engage in the various stages of the GCF project and program cycles (workstream III).
- The GCF must include gender expertise in all external advisory and relevant technical groups, including relevant bodies established under the Convention; it should also consider the establishment of an external gender advisory group to the GCF (workstream III).

Gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation

- The GCF must develop a robust set of social and environmental safeguards and guidelines for their implementation that guarantee gender equality, women's rights and women's full participation in the GCF. These safeguards and guidelines need to be developed with stakeholder input and participation, including from women's groups across the globe, and comply with and support existing international obligations, including on human and women's rights, labor standards and environmental law (workstream IV).
- The GCF must establish a clear **framework** for measuring and reporting results to guide evaluation and monitoring, which should include indicators on gender equality and women's empowerment. Monitoring of gender indicators must be part of the implementation process (workstream IV).
- The GCF should establish **an independent evaluation and recourse mechanism** and regular reporting requirements which should also address if and how GCF funding activities are promoting gender equality. Groups affected by GCF funding, including gender equality organizations and women's group, should be able to address their grievances with the GCF (workstreams I and IV).