

# **Canada's submission on possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the work programme on gender and on Canada's progress made in meeting the goals of achieving gender balance and gender-responsive climate policy**

## **Introduction**

Canada welcomes the opportunity to submit the following:

1. Views on possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the work programme on gender, as requested at SBI 44 (FCCC/SBI/2016/L.16 paragraph 5).
2. Progress made in meeting the goals of achieving gender balance and gender-responsive climate policy (FCCC/SBI/2016/L.16 paragraph 6).

## **Views on possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the work programme on gender**

### *Guiding Principles and views for the work programme*

Canada recognizes the importance of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women as part of global efforts to address climate change under the UNFCCC. While there is still a need to advance gender equality within the UNFCCC context, Canada is pleased and encouraged by the support expressed by Parties in Bonn, at SBI 44, for the continuation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender, given its important role of extending the place of gender in the climate change negotiations by encouraging gender-responsive climate action.

It is important to build on the momentum created by the Paris Agreement which emphasizes the importance of gender equality in climate change actions, and includes a reference to gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity in the preamble. Canada acknowledges the progress made by Parties in advancing gender balance and gender equality in the context of climate change policies, as well as the progress made by the Lima Work Programme and the support provided by the Secretariat. Notwithstanding we need to enhance our effort.

Canada is of the view that a COP22 decision should promote the objectives to advance gender balance, promote gender sensitivity in developing and implementing climate policy, and encourage gender-responsive climate policy in all relevant activities under the Convention. A COP22 decision should also extend the work programme for two years in order to continue its important work, with a review at COP24. Additionally, we would support a decision that would encourage and invite Parties to create an enabling environment to encourage gender balance in policy making at all levels.

### *In-Session Workshop*

Canada would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the successful organization of the in-session workshops on gender and climate change held at SBI42 and SBI44. These activities result in valuable and constructive exchanges of experiences, needs, and views on future steps to integrate gender considerations in climate actions, and best practices in this area. In that respect, Canada would like to see the continuation of annual in-session workshops on gender-responsive climate policy at Bonn SBI

sessions under the renewed work programme, taking into account recommendations and insights resulting from the previous workshops and other activities completed.

To support the continued annual in-session workshops the following topics could be considered for upcoming workshops:

- Experience and good practices to enable the participation of local women leaders in decision-making for climate action, and good practices in the integration of indigenous and traditional knowledge, including south-south cooperation
- Experience in using the guidelines and existing tools to integrate gender considerations into climate change policy<sup>1</sup>
- Best practices and experiences on how to increase the integration of formal and non-formal education opportunities on gender-responsive climate change policies
- Experience and good practices to generate and measure sex-disaggregated data and mechanisms to inform and support gender sensitivity in climate actions

### **Summary of Canada's progress made in meeting the goals of achieving gender balance and gender-responsive climate policy**

#### *Gender balance under the UNFCCC*

Canada encourages the achievement of gender balance in delegations and across the bodies under the UNFCCC. Canada also supports enhancing women's participation in decision-making and intergovernmental processes on climate change. Achieving gender-balance in decision-making bodies starts with a representative workforce that is the result of a work environment and a corporate culture that is welcoming to women. Canada's Employment Equity Policy is an example of a policy which seeks to achieve equality across a workforce, specifically the Federal Public Service. Under this policy, the Federal Public Service has the obligation of conducting surveys on employment systems, removing barriers, developing strategies to address under-representation, consulting and collaborating with employee representatives and of designated groups, and maintaining records on women representation as one of the designated groups.

At the sub-national level, Canada's provincial and territorial governments also support policies and practices to achieve a gender-balanced workforce. Such measures contribute to an environment that encourages women to participate actively in policy, facilitates having equally-qualified women and men in the work force, and results indirectly in equally represented delegations.

Internationally, Canada is supportive and engages in platforms that encourage participation of women in climate change action. For example, our Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Ms. Catherine McKenna, joined the Troika+ of Women Leaders on Gender and Climate Change this year.

#### *Gender responsiveness- Domestic*

Ensuring the integration of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across Canada's climate action and sustainable development agenda is a priority for the Government of Canada. Global Affairs Canada's Policy on Gender Equality for international development requires that all initiatives contribute to gender equality results. Canada is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of our

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/TP/2016/2

international assistance, engaging stakeholders and partners at home and abroad. We are awaiting the outcome of these consultations, but it is clear that our government is putting the empowerment of women and girls and the protection and promotion of their rights at the heart of our development efforts, including within climate change initiatives.

Gender-responsiveness is also addressed across the Government of Canada's activities. For example, to support Government decision making, each Government of Canada department or agency is required to conduct gender-based analysis to assess the potential impacts of policies, programs or initiatives on diverse groups of women and men, girls and boys, in order to advance gender equality in Canada and in its action internationally

Promoting women in leadership and decision-making roles is also a priority for the Government of Canada. The Government of Canada, through Status of Women Canada, supports projects that foster women's active participation in leadership and the advancement of women in democracy at the local, regional and national level. For instance, the Government is providing funding to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for a project aimed at increasing the diversity of women engaged in local government.

#### *Gender responsiveness- International*

Canada takes action to address climate change multilaterally, including gender responsiveness, in climate policies. For example, as part of the *North American Climate, Clean Energy, and Environment Partnership Action Plan* adopted on June 29, 2016, Canada committed to cooperate on domestic climate adaptation planning and action, involving the most vulnerable communities and employing an approach that is gender-responsive and respectful of human rights. We also committed to foster the incorporation of traditional knowledge and gender responsiveness in decision-making.

Through its international cooperation, Canada also supports gender-responsive climate change initiatives. For example, the Canada-United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Climate Change Adaptation Facility (CCAF)<sup>2</sup> established in 2014, provided funding for six national projects to test new approaches for more gender-responsive adaptation in different contexts and a follow-up study on lessons learned. As a result, CCAF led to the emergence of a new body of knowledge and experience on how to integrate gender equality into adaptation practices, both at community and institutional levels.

Canada also provided support to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to establish the Canadian Climate Fund for the private sector in the Americas (C2F), which catalyzes private investment in climate change, with a focus on gender equality. In this regard, the fund is committed to including gender equality criteria in its investments to create better social and economic opportunities for men and women in the face of climate change and ensure the engagement of men and women in finding solutions and knowledge transfer. Many of the C2F's projects are in first generation renewable energy initiatives; therefore the fund has emphasized developing solutions to create employment and career opportunities for women in design, engineering, development disciplines as well as in the construction trades. These efforts tackle unconscious biases, break down stereotypes and reduce occupational sex-segregation in industries important to addressing climate change. C2F also promotes the UN Women's Empowerment Principles and encourages companies to sign its CEO Statement of Support.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.undp-alm.org/projects/ccaf](http://www.undp-alm.org/projects/ccaf)

Thank you for this opportunity to provide the views of the Canada on these important matters. We remain committed to engage in actions that will support continuous efforts to improve gender equality and gender responsiveness across all climate issues.