

Submission of Views on: Mainstreaming Gender Considerations into a National Climate Change Adaptation Framework

The **Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)** and the **Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET)**, as partners and organizers of the **Women in Wind Global Leadership Program**, welcome the opportunity provided by the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee (AC) to submit their views on: "Mainstreaming Gender Considerations into a National Climate Change Adaptation Framework." This priority is an important step in realizing policies which are gender-responsive and ensuring that climate change planning enhances the overall resilience and adaptive capacity of communities.

The Women in Wind program was established as a response to the call for more consideration of gender and climate policy, which has been growing in volume in recent years. Greater gender diversity brings valuable perspectives to social and economic development and – in the landscape of global issues requiring strong leadership and a skilled workforce – few areas are as critical as climate change and the transition to a sustainable, clean energy system.

Our recommendations are provided in Q&A format. We invite the AC to consider these views in its provision of technical support and guidance to Parties to the UNFCCC, and encourage continued engagement between the UNFCCC, its Parties and international organizations.

Questions and Input

What are good examples of lessons learned and best practices in prioritizing / incorporating gender in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans in your country or constituency?

Studies have shown that there are clear gender differentials regarding vulnerability to climate change and access to clean energy. The UNDP has found that [80 per cent](#) of those displaced by climate change are women, and that women lack adequate access to adaptation technologies or funds which can make up for climate change-related losses. They are also disadvantaged in terms of land access, social capital and technology, compared to men.

IRENA's recent study [Renewable energy: a Gender Perspective](#) (2019) concluded that the share of women in renewable energy is 32% - higher than in the conventional oil and gas sector, however still below parity. Furthermore, the study identified policy measures that can help to overcome this gender imbalance.

The 2015 Paris Agreement [contained a provision](#) for empowerment of women, but more can be done at country-level. Adaptation policies should be gender-responsive, including gender criteria for technology and finance – two areas where inequality is particularly significant.

Examples of best practices in mainstreaming gender to national and sub-state adaptation plans include:

- [ECOWAS Policy for Mainstreaming Gender in Energy Access](#). This policy for gender mainstreaming in energy access commits Member States to concrete actions that eliminate inequality in energy production and consumption in the ECOWAS region.
- [Women4Climate's Gender-Inclusive Action for Climate Change in Cities](#). This coalition of female mayors has invested in: mentoring programs for women at the local level; examination of gender responsiveness of municipal policies; and, gender-informed participatory planning for climate change. It has also targeted: collection of gender-disaggregated data to encourage more inclusive climate action; gender-responsive budgeting, particularly in infrastructure investments; and women's safety audits concerning female participation in low-carbon transport solutions.
- [Canada's Gender-Based Policy Analysis Plus Framework](#). This framework identifies the impact of policies and programs on women, with a focus on indigenous women. This domestic framework works in tandem with a gender-balanced cabinet at the highest national level and a Feminist International Assistance Policy which prioritizes women empowerment in international development funding.
- [India's Gender Budgeting Scheme and Gender Budgeting Cells](#). Gender Budgeting is a tool for gender mainstreaming which uses the Budget as an entry point to apply a gender lens to the entire policy process. Adequate monetary allocations, at national, state and local body levels, are equally important for the achievement of desired outcomes in addressing gender disparities.

How can gender best be incorporated into adaptation action?

GWEC and GWNET recommend the following guidance on gender-inclusive approaches for activities under the Cancun Adaptation Framework:

- Advancing women's participation through **awareness initiatives, capacity-building training, community-based dialogues, coaching and mentoring programs**, including indigenous women and grassroots women's groups, with the aim to empower women to contribute rather than ensure participation parity.

- Ensuring **equal access to finance and financial advisory services** for women in climate change, including the incorporation of gender criteria by the Adaptation Fund.
- Incentivising women's engagement through **results-based financing predicated** on women's involvement across the value chain.
- Expanding and **harmonising research on women's impact on climate change outcomes**, including the encouragement of further special reports and events on gender and climate policy by the UNFCCC and the sharing of best practices from National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- **Improving infrastructure for water supply and sanitation**, as well as related services, in communities prone to natural disasters and/or harsh climatic impacts.
- Including **gender-specific questions in national data collection** (data as a driver to unlock policymaking).
- **Continuous monitoring and assessment** of the impacts of gender-related programs, and the extent to which gender issues and gaps have been mitigated.

More broadly, increasing the **presence of women in senior political leadership** is vital to introducing gender-responsive adaptation policy into national frameworks. One [study](#) has found that parliaments with a higher proportion of women are more likely to ratify international environmental protection treaties. At the national level, women representation is key to ensuring a gender focal point for climate change policies – a [priority](#) which only one-third of environmental ministries currently have.

In your experience, what are the remaining gaps related to incorporating gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation?

GWEC and GWNET identify the following gaps in gender considerations for climate change adaptation:

- **Cultural and language barriers** between international institutions and women's networks in developing countries, which hinder women's participation in planning and implementation initiatives.
- **Challenges in collating data** on women's impact on climate change outcomes, due to divergent impact reporting methods as well as duplication of efforts.
- **Existing inequalities in female participation of STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields around the world, even in countries which score high on gender equality benchmarks. The continued underrepresentation of women in these fields, in the context of climate change framed as a problem to be solved by STEM solutions, places women at a disadvantage for policymaking and implementation.

- **Integrating environmental conservation strategies into women's health programs**, including guidelines for female sanitation products, reproductive health and family planning.
- **Building up the asset base held by women**, which is a significant determinant of the degree to which people are impacted by climate change and can respond to its adverse effects. This includes both income-generating (productivity) and family-planning (reproductive resources) considerations, such as land, access to credit, access to education and, as above, ability to move into the STEM fields.

In light of the above items, we echo [GenderCC's previous call](#) on the **IPCC to issue a specific report or AR6 chapter on the intersection of gender and climate policy**, in order to collate the currently fragmented body of work on gender and climate change adaptation strategies and approaches. This work may possibly take place under the aegis of the newly formed IPCC Gender Task Group, which was established in recognition of the gender imbalance in climate research and IPCC report authorship.

What are useful sources relevant to this topic?

The needs and contributions of women must be integrated into the planning, implementation and execution cycles of climate change policies and NAPs. By mainstreaming gender considerations into these areas, this will deliver greater progress towards SDG 5 (gender equality and the empowerment of women), SDG 7 (access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all) and SDG 13 (urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts).

The following resources provide further resources on this topic:

- [From Advocacy to Action: Toolkit on Gender Advocacy in Clean Energy](#) (2018) - The Partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables (wPOWER Hub)
- [Best Practices in Monitoring Indicators: Standardization of Methodologies](#) (2018) - The Partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables (wPOWER Hub)
- [Best Practices for Education and Training to Advance Women's Energy Entrepreneurship](#) (2018) - The Partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables (wPOWER Hub)
- [Best Practices in Accelerating Access to Clean Household Energy](#) (2018) - The Partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables (wPOWER Hub)
- [Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report 2019](#) (2019) – IEA, IRENA, UN, World Bank, World Health Organization

- [Gender in the transition to energy for all: From evidence to inclusive policies \(2019\)](#) – ENERGIA
- [Harnessing the Power of Data for Gender Equality \(2019\)](#) - Equal Measures 2030
- [Women and Climate Change: Impact and Agency in Human Rights, Security and Economic Development \(2015\)](#) - Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security
- [Roots for the Future: The Landscape and Way Forward on Gender and Climate Change \(2015\)](#) - IUCN Global Gender Office
- [Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective \(2019\)](#) – IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency)
- [Women Deliver Global Advocacy Organization](#)

More information about the **Women in Wind Global Leadership Program**:

<https://gwec.net/women-in-wind/about-the-program/>.

[Global Wind Energy Council \(GWEC\)](#) was established in 2005 to provide a credible and representative forum for the entire wind energy sector at an international level. GWEC works at the highest international political level to create a better policy environment for wind power. Working with the UNFCCC, REN21, the IEA, international financial institutions, the IPCC and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), GWEC and its members are active all over the world, educating local and national governments and international agencies about the benefits of wind power.

[Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition \(GWNET\)](#) is an international organisation that empowers women in energy through interdisciplinary networking, advocacy, training, coaching and mentoring, and services related to projects and financing. GWNET seeks to address the current gender imbalances in the energy sector and to promote gender sensitive action around the energy transition, in both industrialised and emerging economies.