**NIGERIA’S SUBMISSION ON THE GAP TO THE UNFCCC GENDER TEAM**

**Brief History**

This submission highlights Nigeria’s journey towards the development of its Gender Action Plan (GAP). To demonstrate Nigeria’s concern for the issues of Gender and Climate Change, a National Consultative workshop on Gender and Climate Change took place in 2016 and this kick-started the development of our roadmap towards addressing Gender concerns in Climate Change. The objective of the workshop was to create a network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Nigeria working with gender related issues to interface with Government and generate clear network for gender participation in Climate Change. Another objective was to develop a National Work plan for gender mainstreaming which would guide actions on gender and climate change by the Federal Ministry of Environment, National Assembly, Development Partners and other Line Ministries.

The workshop generated a work plan document which was gradually enhanced through various technical reviews until the adoption of the Gender Action Plan at the UNFCCC’s COP 23. Following this adoption, it was discovered that there was a need to harmonize the National workplan document to mainstream gender into climate change concerns and the newly adopted international Gender Action Plan which was to serve as a guide for countries under the UNFCCC.

**Approach**

The approach used to create this holistic document was participatory, where relevant stakeholders from Government, Academia, CSOs, NGOS etc. were invited to attend a technical review workshops to harmonize and further enhance the document. Further reviews were done in small groups with representatives from each sector. This was done to ensure that each sector was well informed about the roles they had to play in addressing gender issues in climate change.

**Consultant Engagement**

There was also the engagement of a consultant who worked to get every group’s view and ensure that it was well captured in the document. The consultant also did research on the background information and history of the GAP. Working with the consultant further enhanced the document and lead to more stakeholder’s participation.

**Stakeholders participation**

Nigeria consists more than 400 ethnic groups speaking about 450 languages and is divided into 6 geo-political zones. The geo-political zones consist of the Federal Capital Territory and 36 states. The zones are North-Central, North-West, North-East, South-south, South-East and South-West.

Workshops on the National GAP document were carried out in each geo-political zone to benefit from further input through the active participation of states and also to foster ownership and acceptance of the document as a National tool in addressing gender concerns. This approach was beneficial because it gave stakeholders from states an avenue to lend their voices to the gender process. It also exposed areas that had not been covered previously in the draft document and afforded the opportunity to include those areas into the document.

**Challenges**

Numerous challenged came up during the course of developing the GAP document. They include;

1. Sharing responsibilities stated in the action plan itself for implementation proved to be an issue because of the individual mandate and schedule of duties of the stakeholders.
2. Communication and response time between the Government and the other sectors was also a challenge. The other sectors expected immediate response to some issues raised which was not possible due to the approvals protocols required on the side of government.
3. National socio-economic plans are expected to streamline with the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) alongside other national development blueprints. The ERGP is a medium term plan (2017-2020 and currently being renewed) developed for the purpose of restoring economic growth while leveraging the ingenuity and resilience of the Nigerian people.
4. The need to mainstream gender in Nigeria’s current five priority Nationally determined Contributions (NDC) sectors alongside the expected additional sectors for the next NDC.
5. Identifying and engaging a sound consultant who is a Gender Expert with a vast knowledge about Climate Change.
6. Funding for the various activities that were required to birth the document was difficult. An NGO, Women Environment Programme had to facilitate sourcing funds.

**Lessons Learnt**

1. Early Consultant Engagement: - The consultant was brought into the process at the mid-way. Early consultant engagement would have led to proper co-ordination during stakeholder’s engagement and this would have reduced the frequency of review meetings.
2. Harmonization of other Gender Policies: - Careful analysis and review of other gender policies related to the GAP before commencing the preparing of the GAP document is important so as to avoid duplication of policies.
3. Clearly defined budgetary allocation for preparing the GAP: - The unavailability of dedicated funds for preparing the GAP hindered the smooth running of meetings and workshops and this caused certain delays with timelines.
4. Need for dedicated international fund for countries to develop GAPs and for its implementation.

**National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change for Nigeria**

Presently the document is complete and undergoing final approval process from government approval authorities. This is to be followed by the document being published, domesticated and commencement of implementation of the Action Plan.

The implementation of the Action Plan will be governed by a participatory approach involving the governments at all levels, academic, and research institutions, CSOs, particularly women groups, private sector and non-state actors as well as development partners.

The priority sectors covered by the Action Plan include: Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use; Food Security and Health; Energy and Transport; Waste Management; Water and Sanitation. The Action Plan covers the period 2020-2025.