**Submission on Gender and Climate Change**

**Share experiences on dimensions and examples of the gender differentiated impacts of climate change, the role of women as agents of change and opportunities for women (Table 1, A.4, Annex to 3/CP.25)**

When discussing the gender-differentiated impact of climate change, the different workshops done based on active listening provided information that helped to raised a participatory diagnosis for the different sectors and were reflected in the final NDC1 report of the 10 sectors identified, each of which yielded information that was the basis for the National Plan for Gender and Climate Change of Panama

Certainly, events related to climate change, such as rising temperatures, rising sea levels, and droughts, and their consequences, do not affect women in the same way, especially those who live in rural areas, located at long distances, who do not have access to electricity, roads, water, and other basic needs, leaving them unprotected and vulnerable in comparison to men, who are usually the ones who work outside the home and manage to access a salary for the services they provide.

The woman, as the administrator of the home, is the one who bears the responsibility of taking care of her children, collecting water and firewood, also by making the best use of the resources she can get. If we incorporate the climate variable into these characteristics, there is no doubt about the high vulnerability that women and girls have to the impacts of climate change, especially because they lack of access to resources that will allow them to increase their resilience.

Looking from the ground, we see that women in remote areas have little or no access to basic services such as drinking water, electricity, health centers, infrastructure, and road structure, which has a significant impact on their adaptive capacity and thus increases their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Understanding the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and girls requires an understanding of the social characteristics of the most remote communities.

Through the Gender Plan for Climate Action, the Ministry of Environment proposes the development of capacities, tools, and concrete actions that generate extensive and multisectoral solutions, with the inclusion of the perspective of gender equality and women's empowerment in strategies and policies that facilitate the achievement of sustainable development.

We are currently in the process of lifting the Proposal, which will allow us to identify gender gaps throughout coastal marine areas of the country while also proposing actions to counteract or reduce them. Indeed, climate change contributes to the increase in inequalities because the effects are not perceived in the same way by men and women, and similarly, these changes do not affect developed countries in the same way as developing countries, with the latter suffering the most economically, socially, and environmentally.

Inequality manifests itself when observing the impact of climate change events in areas or regions with limited access to basic services; for example, a drought or flood can result in significant losses in a remote community's livelihood due to its high vulnerability to climate change.

Climate change has a different impact on women and girls, so preparing them with tools that ensure their effective resilience and the implementation of gender-sensitive measures should be encouraged.

In Panama, the role of women has been reflected in the NDC1's ten sectors, allowing us to see that there is a great need to strengthen women's participation in climate change management spaces, ensuring women's inclusion in all response planning processes, allowing for a sustained and transformational empowerment that translates into tangible and recognizable actions seeking economic, social, and environmental benefits, in addition to ensuring resilience.

Looking for opportunities for women

It has been considered extremely important to maximize in the different initiatives carried out by the Ministry of Environment in each of its National Directorates the climate change programs and projects that involve the active participation of men, women and young people, who are part of the activities at the local level and who have been working hand in hand with *“MiAmbiente”* and other government ministries supported by cooperating agencies giving rise to the inclusion of the gender component for projects, giving us opportunities to address climate change on the one hand, and to make visible the effects that occur locally to both women and men; these learnings will allow us to obtain experiences, and we are presented with the need to be able to achieve systematized documents that are useful to us and that serve as the foundation for us to achieve an orientation of the work to be developed.

Synergies between agencies, agencies and ministries.

We are currently developing joint work with other agencies in order to achieve a work route that directs our lines of action in the ten sectors prioritized for our NDCs, entails the accompaniment of other instances of the country, and will contribute future advances in the fulfillment of our commitments working in a coordinated manner between all sectors and in an inter-institutional way that allows us to reach that development sustenance.