

Submission on possible elements and guiding principles for the continuation of Lima Work Program on Gender by Nigerian Government

1.0 Introduction

The Lima work program on gender is no doubt a welcomed step in the right direction towards the actualization and implementation of a gender responsive climate policy and balanced participation of women in UNFCCC processes.

The Lima work program was initiated with the aims of advancing the implementation of gender-responsive climate policies and mandates across all areas of the negotiations

Taking the Lima work program forward through identifying possible elements and guiding principles is very critical in achieving gender equality outcomes in climate change negotiations, policy and in catalyzing action plans for the implementation of the Paris agreement.

Nigeria in moving the Lima work on gender forward and solidifying her commitments to gender inclusivity especially in the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), has commenced series of consultations with different stakeholders- Heads of Gender units from MDAs, women organizations, private sector, academicians, people with disabilities, youth organizations, CSOs etc

Based on the consultations, the following are suggested elements /principles that could possibly be taken forward in continuation of the Lima work program on gender;

1.1 Training and Awareness Raising for delegates

Article 6 of the Lima work program (LWP) emphasized the need for training and awareness activities for male and female delegates on

gender balance in the negotiations and gender responsive climate policy. It is recalled that in furtherance of this article two in-session workshops was held in – and --- furtherance, it is expected that training and awareness raising on gender issues should be one of the key elements that should be taken forward in continuation of the Lima work program. However, there is need for rethinking the mode and format of training and awareness along the following line;

2.0 Gender Workshops

In-session gender workshop has been one way in which training and awareness on gender issues has been implemented. As stated under article 12 “Future work could include in-session workshops on other themes;” such as mitigation, adaption, capacity building, Loss and damage, finance and other themes as necessary.

Majority of the gender activists at the national and African regions do not have the resources to participate at the global meetings hence, the in-session workshops during COPs, hence it is suggested that resources should be available for the training of gender negotiators especially at the national and regional levels. The workshops would build the capacity of both men and women negotiators on gender concepts and negotiating skills.

As much as in-session gender workshops have helped to stimulate gender considerations during negotiations, it is desirable also, to have workshops that are not ‘in-session’, that is, workshops that are not tied to Climate change meetings. This is very important to ensure full concentration of participants without the hustle and bustle of the negotiations. This has the potentials of enabling robust discussions, deeper awareness and understanding of gender issues.

Other activities aside from workshops should be explored. Effective communications tools /activities that can foster deeper awareness

and inspire actions for gender responsive climate actions and policy could be considered along this line.

2.1 Target Participants

Gender workshops should target the participation of the leadership of negotiating groups /block such as G77 and china, AILAC, African group of negotiators, Umbrella group etc. The leadership of these groups has strong voice and visibility in the negotiations, thus mobilizing their understanding through participation in gender and climate change workshops can give space to a supportive environment for gender and women's issues to thrive in the negotiations. Influential and strong voices within countries delegations should be specifically targeted for the workshops and other activities. This can strengthen gender responsive policy and actions at the national level.

The LWP targeted training and capacity building for women delegates which is very critical. But it is of crucial importance for future trainings to target male delegates. Gender trainings for male delegates will awaken the consciousness of men to socially constructed roles, relationships, and expectations of women and men and the ways that these could be reinforced within the negotiating processes. The support and understanding of male delegates is central in transforming gender relations and discussions in the negotiations.

3.0 Catalyzing Action Plans on Gender and Climate Change

The Lima work program included action plan which was implemented in the space of two years. It is recommended that another work plan / action plan should be initiated to take the Lima work program. This should be largely based on outcomes of the review of the work program. The action plan should have a timeline of 2 or 3years, objectives and expected outcomes. This should be done in

consultation with the Women and gender constituency, observers and parties. Outcomes of the activities in the action plan should be fed into negotiations and other key climate change discussions as appropriate.

3.1 Gender Balance and Women's Representation

It is recommended that there should be gender disaggregated data by sex and age of delegates participants in the negotiations analyzed and documented towards ensuring that parties keep to gender balance representation in the negotiations.

4.0 Information On Meeting Goals of Gender Balance and Policy

The Lima work program in Article 15" invites Parties and admitted observer organizations to provide information on progress made in meeting the goals of achieving gender balance and gender-responsive climate policy;"

Taking this forward, it may be necessary to develop a reporting template that can give directions / streamline information to be reported. This will assist parties and admitted observers to present their reports in a focused, relevant and appropriate manner.

4.1 Gender Responsive Approach

In order to ensure that no one is left behind and based on the preamble section of the Paris Agreement where the human rights language was retained, it is strongly recommended that, the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) are underlining principles that should guide actions and activities geared towards achieving the gender goals balance in climate negotiations and climate policy. This could mean prioritizing actions that benefit the most vulnerable and those that will suffer disproportionately from the adverse impacts of climate change; and implementation of gender responsive policies and programs.

5.0 Means of Implementation

The Means of Implementation of the Paris Agreement is an important means for realizing and ensuring gender sensitive integration and responsive approaches to climate policies, decisions and programs. The Green Climate Fund is the world's only financial institution devoted solely to climate finance in the developing world, there is an urgent need to do more to devolve power to those it is designed to help; at the moment, we are worried that national governments and local communities aren't being sufficiently involved in decision-making of the fund. There is an urgent need that national governments/parties devote special fund for gender programs including funding for participation as delegates to the UNFCCC conferences and meetings, training and capacity building. Financial institutions such as the GEF, World Bank, African Development Bank are called upon to support the implementation of the gender and climate change initiatives. The national governments are also encouraged to fund gender programs through domestic funds while development partners and donors are called to ensure gender sensitive funding/budgeting while the private sector ensures their corporate social responsibility in all their programs.

6.0 Conclusion

Moving the gender and climate change agenda forward, Parties must commit on ensuring that there is a gender shift in the focus of the agenda item from concepts to implementation in recognition of a gap in information and understanding among Parties about gender-responsive climate policy. Thus, recognizing that the adverse effects of climate change have a range of direct and indirect implications for the effective integration of gender and that the effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, gender, age, indigenous or minority status and disability.

