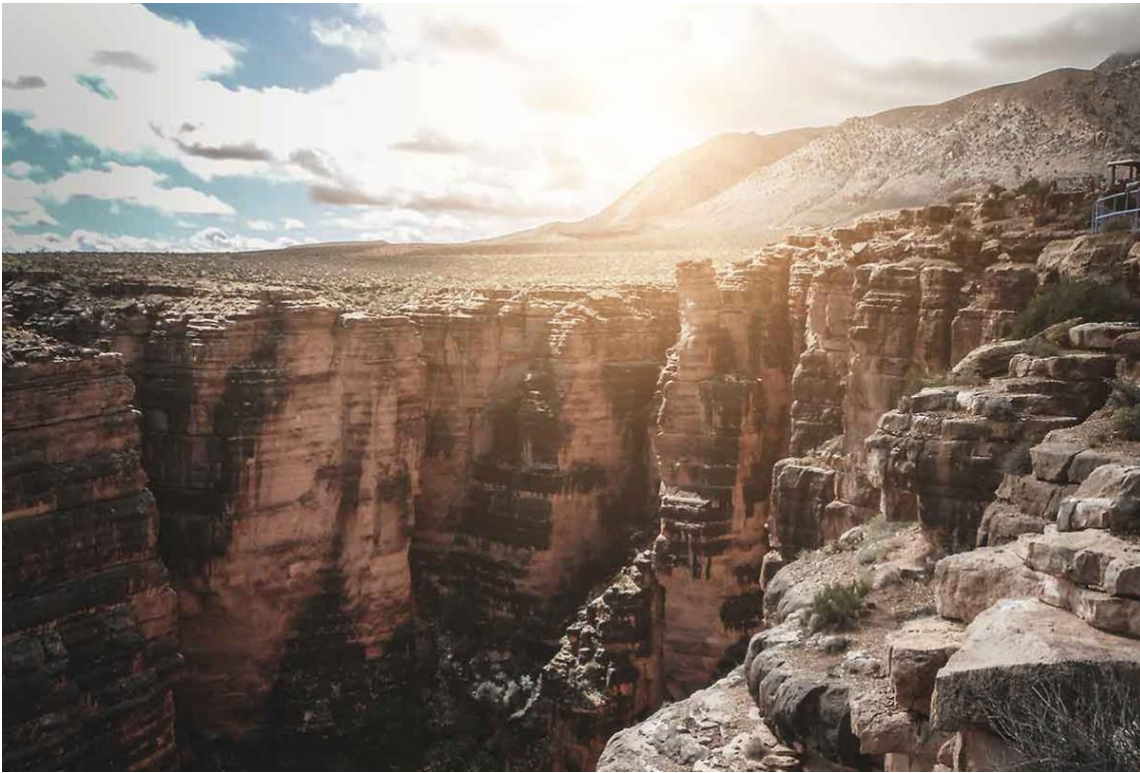


# **GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

## ***EQUITY AND EQUALITY IN CLIMATE ACTION***



***“Everyone has a role to play in climate action, as each one of us gets affected”***

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## Know How and Review of Gender and Climate Action

The impacts of climate action is not bound by gender disparities, but still each one of us is accountable and responsible for its management. Climate action has to be scientific expression of attributes working in synchronously with multi-stakeholders and a common framework or exchange of dialogues. If equity in action is a perspective per se, then equality in gender towards steering it forward is a gender attribute. Women, men, children and other stakeholders are all impacted, and beyond gender bias one has to work on then targets. Women face inequalities and have not been given the key role in decision making, Advancing countries, strong leadership is women's contribution in climate action. As is the case, with equal work force, climate action too needs that, as they are most vulnerable to its impacts in nations where local and indigenous knowledge repository is used for local action by women and their contribution fixes many local issues. Parties to the UNFCCC have recognized the importance of involving women and men equally in UNFCCC processes and in the development and implementation of national climate policies that are gender-responsive by establishing a dedicated agenda item under the Convention addressing issues of gender and climate change and by including overarching text in the Paris Agreement. As per International Union for observation of Nature (IUCN), extreme weather events such as droughts and floods have a greater impact on the poor and most vulnerable – 70% of the world's poor are women. Despite women being disproportionately affected by climate change, they play a crucial role in climate change adaptation and mitigation. Women have the knowledge and understanding of what is needed to adapt to changing environmental conditions and to come up with practical solutions. But they are still a largely untapped resource. Restricted land rights, lack of access to financial resources, training and technology, and limited access to political decision-making spheres often prevent them from playing a full role in tackling climate change and other environmental challenges. As per World Economic Forum, restricted rights, lack of access to financial resources, education, training and technology, and limited access to the forums where political decisions are made, are barriers to many women contributing to climate action. And because of these barriers, women's experience that could help communities adapt to changing environmental conditions often gets ignored. Also noteworthy of mentioning by World Economic Forum is that women have been at the forefront of the demand for reducing packaging and the need for recycling in homes. For example, calls to use refillable systems when buying groceries and household supplies cannot be successful without the primary users of these systems – usually women – championing the concept. Also, it's more important than ever now to engage women with climate science so that best possible clean technologies can be identified and implemented. Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Medicine (STEMM) are not upscaled uniformly and are disjunct and being applied at fewer study scapes – meaning fewer women end up leading climate innovation. The most important aspect of with gender and climate action is : Gender inequality may dramatically limit the resilience and adaptive capacity of women, families and communities. It may also restrict options for climate change mitigation. The OECD database has a applicative gender equality policy marker. The marker is a qualitative

statistical tool to record development activities that target gender equality as a policy objective. The gender equality policy marker is used by DAC (Development Assistance Committee) members as part of the annual reporting of their development activities to the DAC, to indicate for each aid activity whether it targets gender equality as a policy objective.

UNFCCC has the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is one of the nine stakeholder groups of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) formalized a provision within which gender responsive Framework was constituted headed by UNFCCC. A just and gender-responsive climate framework can take different forms, but fundamentally it must: respect and promote human rights and gender equality; ensure sustainable development and environmental integrity; require fair, equitable, ambitious and binding mitigation commitments in line with the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR); call for urgent and prioritized adaptation action and resources that respond to the most vulnerable countries, communities and populations; demand a sustainable energy paradigm that prioritizes safe, decentralized renewable energy systems that benefit people and communities; ensure adequate, new, additional and predictable climate finance for developing countries; provide resources to reconcile loss and damage already incurred from climate inaction; and, ensure full, inclusive and gender-equitable public participation in decision-making, with increased mandatory ex-ante and periodic human rights and gender equality impact assessments.

A peek through into the World Bank repository exemplifies how it is making rapid strides in mainstreaming gender-sensitive approaches to climate action on the ground. Ensuring that men and women have equal access to education, economic opportunities, productive inputs and equal chances to become socially and politically active can generate broad productivity gains, and lead to more inclusive and greener development path for all. For the World Bank, gender analysis is an integral aspect of the upstream social analysis that is required to inform both development policy lending (DPL) and investment lending (IL). It helps identify and suggest ways to mitigate possible risks in terms of exacerbating gender inequality, and highlight opportunities to enhance positive outcomes for gender equality. The entry points for such upstream gender analysis include Poverty and Social Impact Analysis (PSIA) in the case of DPL, climate financing mechanisms are beginning to adopt gender-sensitive approaches in program design and results frameworks, but more needs to be done.

Women with their indigenous knowledge, especially in climate sensitive and vulnerable countries protect forests, work on deforestation and the carbon markets aligned with it, including the REED+ (Reduction in Emission from Degradation and Deforestation) projects and programmes, community afforestation, reforestation and AFLOU projects and programme of activities (PoAs). Aligned designated entities

are made available for them to mainstream local action and activities across wider stakeholder platform and for benefitting.

As on date, global climate action has negotiated, witnessed, aligned, applied and implemented National Action Plans (NAPs) for climate change mitigation and adaptation but none so with regard to multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral with multiple locale, regions and countries applicatives per se in relation to Gender based National Action Plans (GNAP). Ownership rights to the Women for their intellectual and indigenous knowledge on climate action which are being done on ground but not being brought to mainstream.

The recently concluded Conference of Parties (COP26) Glasgow, UK Summit 2021, focused on recognizing and celebrating gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in climate policy and action by dedicating a day on it and aligning all sessions and deliberations to it with a tag ***“Gender Day”***. The COP adopted the decision recommended by the SBI (Statutory Board for Implementation) under the decision of meeting statement document: FCCC/SBI/2021/L.1.

Across the Virtual Gender Market Place- Gender in national Climate policies event at COP it was stream virtually how countries are integrating gender into their national climate plans. Also presented was, findings and reflections on challenges, lessons learned and opportunities. The Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN) and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), together with the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), in collaboration with the UNFCCC and other partners, hosted a technical expert dialogue to discuss the status of women's participation in climate technology development and innovation processes, and to reflect on ways to ensure gender-responsiveness of adaptation and mitigation technologies.

Another event that went on in the chair of sessions mentioned how women and girls, particularly those facing intersecting inequalities, are disproportionately impacted by climate change, but they are also critical leaders at all levels of climate action, from local communities to global forums. Building on the UN Women convened Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice and the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan, the event brought together Ministers, civil society, business leaders and activists, and to drive progress through the announcement of new commitments and policy solutions.

In the in session workshop of National Gender Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFPs), held at COP 25, Parties adopted the 5-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan (Decision 3/CP.25) through which it encourages Parties to appoint and provide support for national gender and climate change focal points (NGCCFP) for climate negotiations, implementation and monitoring. The COP also requested the secretariat, with the contribution of the NGCCFPs, Parties and relevant organizations, to organize an in-session workshop at

SB 52 to discuss and clarify the role and the work of the NGCCFP, that is to lead to the formulation of recommendations on the role (GAP Activity A.2). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, last year these recommendations were only tabled in for discussion virtually in a workshop series way out and got its much needed hearing and due importance of way ahead at the recently concluded COP26. It requested the Parties to reflect, develop on recommendations and share the experiences to inspire the collaborative reflections .

#### Participation of Women in Climate Finance Mechanism Board :

- Global Environment Facility
- Adaptation Fund
- Climate Investment Funds
- Green Climate Funds

The United Nations climate change negotiations, which was null and void with text on gender and climate change, brought through LIMA framework, how gender inequality has a linkage on response to climate action. The framework with set standard policies on implementation included the following mentioning:

- At national and subnational levels - the design and planning of policies, programmes and projects, as well as financing, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Investing in participatory, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral Climate Change Gender Action Plans can help countries to develop comprehensive action plan that integrates gender concerns and builds on women's unique knowledge and perspectives.
- Equal access and participation in climate change decision making and action at all levels.
- Ensuring the representation of women's voices, experiences, needs and capacities in the UNFCCC process and to provide gender perspectives in all related discussions
- Developing and advocating for common positions based on climate justice principles and work together towards achieving shared goals.
- Contributing women and gender-sensitive perspectives and a wider critical analysis of current developments within and around the official negotiations to help foster communication between women and gender organizations and groups, and national- or international forums.
- Facilitating and engaging in the daily women and gender caucus during the negotiations.
- Liaising with other caucuses and constituencies, especially to identify and build upon common ground.
- Collaborating on funding opportunities in a transparent manner and according to agreed guidelines, in order to support the collective work and

diverse representation of the constituency in the UNFCCC process and allow for enhanced capacity building and knowledge sharing.

### **Principles of Women and Gender Constituency:**

The principles of Women and Gender Constituency are based on:

- Democratic and participatory governance
- Respectful and supportive participation
- Wide and inclusive membership of accredited CSO observers, encouraging regional balance
- Transparent procedures and clear, timely and flexible communication
- Participation processes that allow for effective participation of members from all regions and backgrounds
- Building on history (collectively and individually)
- Mentoring (of younger generations and other newcomers)
- A goal-oriented approach
- Providing a platform for women's leadership with broad and participatory access.
- **Suggestive advisory – I :** Non-party stakeholders and not included entities in the processes, be given a open window access to vocal their reflections of work and mainstream it at the revoke, recall of decision of meetings, with aforesaid article 9 and under para 7.1 with inclusion of modalities with gender centric focal point and mapping – that is to say, map all the Women centric and implemented materiality areas and activities.
- **Suggestive advisory – II :** Clean Development Mechanism be revoked with reference to Gender and Climate Action PoA. As such CDM market has been closed after the Kyoto Protocol move ahead due to failure of the carbon markets. As for the advanced and developing countries projects and or programme of activities - Forestry, Biomass based and LULCF, AFLOU, REDD and REDD+ gender equity to act and equality in leadership to implement it, plays a pivotal role as in most of the aforesaid mentioning PoA women contribute maximum to adaptation, mitigation and resilience.
- **Suggestive advisory-III : Gender specific Climate Resilience Policy:** Carbon markets are decisive and their downfall reflects the paucity of trade-offs and offset machinery. As Women are resilient by nature and most often have the knack of saving, minimised resource use, local and indigenous knowledge, maintaining of repositories, good mobilizers and have good capacity building attribute, a policy decision be made to incorporate gender specific resilience.

**Traction and Trajectory- Strained disparities and incompetencies in climate action**

With the likes of institutional support and international market think tank – OECD, UNFCCC, IUCN, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, GRI, SSEs, PRI, UN Global Compact, IISDs, SBIT (Science Based Targets), NBS (Nature Based Solutions) and TCFD, there exist disparities and traction with regard to emission intensity benchmarking, lack of uniform communication and consensus amongst leaders of G7, G20, G9 and BRICS Nations. As, gender inclusiveness differs from think tank or thought leadership, to their level in the board or decision making, what percentage of women force are there at the board or management level, c- suite level, executive level, policy level, non-executive board level and also main is the respective government machinery and political will to work on developing framework and devising gender specific tools to build their capabilities. A blend of expertise and a platform to implement it and allowing women to apply it to wider base and stakeholders shall bring trajectories to a near positive climate compliance.

### **Roll over Spaces and Hubs for Climate Action – *Gender Ripple Effect***

Role play roll over spaces for women where they can incubate climate action in incubation labs, devise methodologies, policies, frameworks, capacity building programmes and digital classrooms including open forum, talkathon, climatethons, boot camps, open schooling narratives and storytelling. Hubs for climate action include cocreation hubs, Public- Private Partnership (PPP) hubs, Climate Village hubs for indigenous and vulnerable communities per se and Climate Hatt – Urban settings. Ripple effect in climate action are referred to as smaller goals which bring about long term commitments and targets to forefront and for mainstreaming.

### **Way Forward**

- ❖ Climate decisive policies with gender responsive agenda.
- ❖ Strengthening gender action plans (GAP).
- ❖ Modalities for gender specific agenda to be included.
- ❖ Strengthening means and ways for future proofing and mainstreaming climate action by giving gender bias a closure , women be given equality in policy making, thought leadership and decision making across all the action plans, including adaptation, mitigation and in processes regard to NDCs and climate assessment reporting.