

Gender and Climate Change

Item.16: Gender & Climate Change. Views on possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the work programme

The Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) expresses its appreciation for the opportunity to submit its views on possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the Lima Work Programme (LWP), taking into account recommendations and insights resulting from activities already completed under the Work Programme.

The EIG and its member countries acknowledge the importance of the Lima Work Programme on Gender, strongly support its renewal at the COP22, and look forward to working with all the Parties of the Convention in an effort to further promote gender mainstreaming within all bodies of the Convention.

The EIG appreciates the work of the Secretariat of the UNFCCC and its continued support, as evidenced on its website http://unfccc.int/gender_and_climate_change/items/7516.php and, among others, the Technical paper “Guidelines or other tools for integrating gender considerations into climate change related activities under the Convention” [FCCC/TP/2016/2].

Renewal of the Lima Work Programme on Gender

In previous submissions, the EIG has spoken out for the correct reflection of gender equality. It will therefore not come as a surprise that the EIG strongly supports the Lima Work Programme on Gender and equally strongly supports its renewal.

Further and in view of its renewal, the EIG considers that the Work Programme on Gender should be enhanced and—in addition to its current content— address, inter alia, the following:

- a) Reinforcement of **gender balance** policies in the delegations and within the bodies of the Convention. In order to attain an equitable and visible participation of women in its organization and decision-making processes, we suggest that the bodies under the Convention promote practices and work structures that enhance gender balance.

- b) Organization of **capacity-building workshops** on gender issues for Party delegates and other experts participating in meetings convened under the Convention to foster negotiators' literacy on the topic.
- c) Provision of guidance on how to **incorporate women in decision-making**, by ensuring their effective and meaningful participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of climate change policies. Women are often particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. At the same time, women are first and foremost important actors of change – and thus well placed to contribute to and to define and implement climate solutions.
- d) Provision of guidance for the incorporation of the gender perspective in **pre-2020** actions, in particular regarding capacity building, adaptation and mitigation.
- e) Promotion of a consistent integration of gender perspectives in actions, programs and policies under the **Paris Agreement**, in particular those regarding mitigation, adaptation, climate finance, technology development and transfer.
- f) Provision of guidance on how to include—as part of the adaptation component of **National Communications to the UNFCCC**—concrete results of gender-relevant changes in practices, policies and structures.

We refer to changes that are driven by a gender-responsive perspective, which are directed towards reducing inequality gaps. They draw from lessons that promote an effective, iterative process that is at the same time cross-cutting and gender-responsive.

- g) Provision of guidance about the methods and tools used for **monitoring and evaluating** if **gender-responsive actions, plans and programmes** do indeed reach their goal.
- h) Collection and the making available of **good practice examples** on the integration of the gender-perspective in climate actions.
- i) Continued organization of dedicated **workshops on gender and climate change** at the meetings of the **Subsidiary Bodies**.
- j) Promotion of **gender champions**, both women and men, within the realm of the UNFCCC.

The EIG likes to further stress additional aspects that shall be reflected in the renewed Work Programme on Gender:

Gender Action Plan (GAP)

The EIG believes that an effective way to further enhance the renewed Work Programme on Gender would be to develop a Gender Action Plan (GAP) that addresses the needs of both women and men. This GAP, to be elaborated with the various bodies under the Convention, could identify key priority actions to improve the gender-responsiveness of all climate actions, and then provide guidance and tools in this regard.

Gender Hot Spots

The EIG further believes that there is a need to provide relevant information and develop tools and methods that allow Parties to detect, prevent and fight the occurrence of regional and national “hot spots”, where inequalities risk to further worsen, rather than decrease, under climate change conditions. The Technical Expert Meetings on mitigation and adaptation (TEMs) could contribute to develop the necessary detection, prevention and action tools and methods.

To close, the EIG likes to reiterate its position on the Paris Agreement:

Paris Agreement

Already in its submission of March 2014, the EIG stated the importance of the gender equality agenda in the Paris Agreement. After its adoption, the EIG emphasizes the need to translate the commitments made in the Paris Agreement into action.

We refer in particular to the affirmations that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights as well as gender equality, that adaptation should follow a gender-responsive approach, and that capacity-building should be gender-responsive.