

Submission of the Afghanistan Islamic Republic on

Decision 23/CP.18

Decision 23/CP.18: Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol

Gender safeguards

The Afghanistan Islamic Republic State supports women empowerment and integrates gender in the programs of all economic sectors; National Environment protection Agency supports gender equality as well. It is worth mentioning that NEPA has gender department; the gender department has already held 12 workshops in 2012 on International treaties, climate change, natural heritage, civil law, Environment law, EIA, ozone, and Violence Against Women Act. 100 women and 262 men have participated in those workshops. In 2013 in the last 6 months gender department has held 6 workshops in different sectors to improve gender equality and enhance women's capacity.

Ministry of Women Affairs

The Afghanistan Islamic Republic government has Ministry of Women Affairs that was established since 2002 This Ministry has national action plan for women of Afghanistan. Ministry of Women Affairs has nine central divisions and 34 sub- provincial offices, and 830 staff at present. This ministry also has 22 priority programs in all of Afghanistan for devolving human sources at present and in future. The programs, designed to support the Afghan government's commitment to achieve gender equality, which aims to accelerate the implementation of the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan or NPVA, have been launched.

The above programs were designed to promote gender mainstreaming in national priority programs or clusters of other elements within the governance and the rule of law, to support development economic and infrastructure, agricultural, rural development, health and security.

Vision

The overall objectives of the national priority programs and implementation, which were connected with six component parts, will be implemented and will be achieved. The program is working to address the problem of lack of capacity to gender address issues in government, clarify the appropriate role of women in society. The overall objectives are summarized in the following four objectives:

- Capacity
- Raising awareness about the concept of gender equality.
- Template methods for including gender in policies and programs of each cycle;
- Establish effective mechanisms, to monitor process of "NPVA" in the government departments

Output

The national priority programs of the Ministry of Women's Affairs will be implemented in the next future. It will be useful for the Afghanistan Islamic Republic government. The result of implementation the above projects consist of the following:

- Increasing capacity building
- Implementation of NPVA
- Approach for including gender programs in policies, strategies of the relevant government departments
- Developing gender programs
- Monitoring

CHALLENGES

Whereas climate change is a global phenomenon, the effects are local. Although the specific physical impacts of climate change are determined by geography and micro level interactions between global warming and existing weather patterns, in Afghanistan, the impacts of climate change are likely to be particularly severe due to the arid/ semi-arid nature of the country, the importance of natural resources for rural livelihoods and the extreme poverty within which a large proportion of the Afghan population lives. Concretely, the adverse impacts of climate change imply a whole range of serious problems. The pressing issues of desertification, biodiversity loss and climate change threaten the very foundations of rural livelihoods in Afghanistan. Drought and mismanagement of water resources affect agricultural productivity, desertification is reducing the carrying capacity of the land and the unsustainable harvesting of forest resources marks the loss of a national treasure. It is in this context that Afghanistan urgently needs a comprehensive international supports. The Afghanistan women have participated actively in climate change and adaptation workshops, to understand climate change knowledge, mitigate and climate change impacts in different sectors. Women faced in climate change challenges such as flood, drought, rainfall, snowfall, poverty, air pollution and environmental impacts, budget and others climate change problems; however the main climate change challenges are the following:

- Public awareness
- Lack of international support
- Climate Change budget
- Training programs
- Technology transfer
- Adaption and mitigation strategy and policy
- Capacity building

NEEDS -

What kind of support gender needs at the present and in future? To access climate change knowledge, and improve adaptation and mitigation plans in the futures to overall Afghanistan, gender need national and international support. The subjects which are very important as the following:

- Training programs
- International cooperation
- Climate Change budget
- Long and short term training programs
- Public awareness
- Adaptation and mitigation new approaches
- International support
- Long and short training on abroad
- Technical Workshops and training courses
- Capacity building