

**Submission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
To the Decision 23/CP.18**

Jordan heralds the importance of the Decision made by Parties to the UNFCCC at the 18th Conference of Parties (COP18), which called for ***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***, toward the goal of ***informing more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally (Decision 23/CP.18)***.

It is clear that Jordan has taken wide steps during the last years in many achievements on the level of economic and social policies and legislations that contributed in the improvement of the women in Jordan in all fields, specially which are related to the educational achievements with its quantitative dimension as well as its qualitative dimension represented. It is also related to apparent progress in providing the free and comprehensive health care for especially motherhood and childhood; elders and those infected with chronic diseases, or in the field of legislations, its amendments, development, approval of new legislations, adoption of policies guaranteeing meeting women needs and releasing their powers to serve their families, local communities and home country and that enforce, respect and protect their human rights.

National policies during the last years sought to take temporary positive measures and procedures aiming at securing women representation in various positions to achieve the desired rates in all fields. During the last years, the kingdom has witnessed wide movements from organizations concerned with women, which all raised the percentage of women representation in decision making positions whether through quota or gaining seats by competition. This is in addition to seeking behind accessing capabilities and abilities to form pressing force in different councils to protect gains and rights of women and update necessary legislations to achieve more progress to it.

Women participation reached 11.7% in the Upper House and 10.8% in the Parliament. The law of Municipalities was amended to let the women rate become 25% instead of 20%, 12.4% in the Judicial Authority, and 8% in higher class jobs. But it doesn't exceed 1.3% in the chamber of commerce, 8.5% in the chamber of industry, 4.9% in syndicates' councils, and 29.1% in political parties rather than the limited participation for women in cabinet and committees concerned with setting policies in different sectors and fields.

But these achievements are still beyond the national ambition which aims at reaching a percent of women participation in national and local councils and different decision making positions of not less than 30% as a minimum and gradually till the participation be equal between both genders to achieve the constitutional equality principles and Jordan commitment to approved international agreements and resolutions.¹

Gender Balance in bodies and gender-sensitive climate change policies contribute to the broader UN goal of gender equality. Therefore, mainstreaming Gender into climate change in Practice, challenges and needs are the three priorities identified for guidance in this submission:

¹ The National Strategy for Women in Jordan 2012 - 2015

PRACTICE:

In 2010, Jordan became the first country in the Arab region to address the linkages between gender and climate change by creating a **Programme for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change Efforts in Jordan**. Recognizing the need for additional capacity and guidance on the topic, the Government engaged the support of the gender office of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, which had embarked on a process to support countries in formulating climate change and gender action plans. Jordan's strategy and associated plan of action was the first formal national strategy of its kind in the world, and it was approved by the Government and endorsed by the National Women's Committee, guiding future policies and positions of all agencies addressing climate change. The programme's objective is ***"to ensure that national climate change efforts in Jordan mainstream gender considerations so that women and men can have access to, participate in, contribute to and hence optimally benefit from climate change initiatives, programs, policies and funds."***

Jordan being the fourth most water-insecure country in the world played a large part in identifying the four critical sectors of the programme's focus, each of which having specific gender aspects: water, energy, agriculture and food security, and waste reduction and management.

Various activities were identified to implement objectives in each sector.² Many of these activities were generated as a result of women's input: the national multi-stakeholder process to formulate the programme had women's capacity building as a key part of its methodology. As a result of specific training for women on climate change, as well as for national representatives on gender and on gender and climate linkages, women and women's organization representatives, as well as government representatives, engaged more confidently, were able to offer their experience on an equal footing, and were prepared with concrete actions they could implement themselves. This multi-directional capacity building and information sharing was an important foundation for longer-term gender mainstreaming efforts throughout Jordan's climate change plans and actions.

Building on the 2010 programme, as part of the enabling activities for the preparation of Jordan's third National Communication to the UNFCCC in 2011, gender was expressed as a national priority in the context of climate change. This National Communication outlines the need for a comprehensive analysis of the socioeconomic and health impacts of climate change and for mainstreaming gender in the targeted sensitive areas of the country.

The programme likewise had an impact on the National Women's Committee to address climate change issues: The *National Women's Strategy*, launched in 2012, includes a section on women, environment, and climate change and a goal of Jordanian women being active and empowered to maintain and develop natural resources.

Most recently, Jordan integrated gender as a major aspect in its *National Climate Change Policy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 2013-2020*. Among three long-term guiding objectives, the policy specifies a focus on gender, *to build the adaptive capacity of communities and institutions*

² The Jordan Compact aims to increase the supply of water available to households and businesses and to help improve the efficiency of water delivery, wastewater collection and wastewater treatment.

in Jordan, with consideration for gender and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups...
Further, it integrates gender concerns and a gender perspective into a wide range of activities.

CHALLENGES:

1. Financing issues sometimes facing to not have gender balance and inclusion of gender expertise in delegation.
2. Some dominant trends that sees the role of women as unilateral and limited in the scope of family and that doesn't recognize her social role, the matter that hinders continuity and progress in public life activities till decision making positions.

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NEEDS:

1. Enhancing partnership between Jordanian National Commission for Women Affairs and governmental ministries and departments on the base of integrating different concerned authorities and establishing the bases of partnership and active coordination with these institutions
2. Working to approve and recognize "policy of auditing the social gender" as regular and continual governmental policy that the Jordanian National Commission for Women Affairs follows up its implementation as a tool of following-up, control, evaluation and development to merge social gender in the official sector.
3. Enhancing the relationships of networking, backing, and supporting with civil community organizations about issues and priorities of woman.
4. Build capacity at all levels to design and implement gender responsive climate change policies, strategies and programs;
5. Instruct relevant entities to fulfill Jordan's international commitments regarding gender mainstreaming according to the international agreements approved by the country; and
6. Ensure that sector ministries will adopt the Action Plans suggested by the Program for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change Efforts in Jordan, the action plans specified the objectives, the actions and the indicators required. MoEnv and NCCC to monitor and encourage the implementation.

Climate change activities will require combined efforts from different sectors and stakeholders. Therefore there is a need to develop a common understanding on what gender considerations associated with climate change are.

It is highly recommended that provision should be made within the composition of the National Inter-ministerial Committee on Climate Change, to include a permanent gender expert with a dedicated Terms of Reference. The Jordanian National Commission for Women should also play an important role in following and supporting the present Programme.

On the other hands, the National Inter-ministerial Committee on Climate Change, as the main body responsible to provide guidance on initiatives relating to climate change in Jordan, would be the appropriate body to ensure that projects and initiatives under consideration are in line with the principles of this Programme, and furthermore that projects are analysed to ensure that gender considerations are fully integrated.

It is also strongly recommended that a Gender Consultative Support Group to the gender expert in the Inter-ministerial Committee be established.

The vital importance in the capacity building process is the need to build awareness of climate change issues among women's organizations in Jordan. This will allow participating organizations to identify opportunities for their full participation in the processes and implementation of the Convention on Climate Change.