

**SUBMISSION**  
**Of the Republic of Tajikistan**  
*Decision 23/CP.18*

In response for a 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*” the Republic of Tajikistan is glad to submit its national view on gender and climate change issues.

Tajikistan considers a Decision 23/CP.18 as an important step towards achieving gender equality and ensuring more effective climate change policy.

Gender equality is a fundamental human right, a matter of social justice and it is also crucial for economic and social prosperity. The World could not archive the Millennium Developments Goals without a strong focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Women’s participation in decision-making has been reaffirmed and reinforced in key international agreements, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Greater representation of women in the UNFCCC negotiations and bodies could provide the cross-cutting experiences necessary to ensure that the decisions taken at the national and international levels are more responsive to the differing needs of women and men in the national and local contexts. However, increased participation and representation of women in the UNFCCC process through the adoption of a goal on gender balance should not be viewed as just the end goal. Each Party has own practice, challenges and needs, and it is quite important to analyse and bring all these issues together for more effective climate change policy and its introduction to the sustainable development objectives in developing and developed nations. Gender equality impacts should be considered and implemented in all agenda items under the UNFCCC negotiations, including mitigation and adaptation, technology transfer, climate finance, education, public awareness and capacity building.

Taking into account all above, the Republic of Tajikistan would like to share with all Parties and the Secretariat its national practice, challenges and needs regarding gender and climate change.

## PRACTICE

Tajikistan is one of the new independent nations of Central Asia (since 1991 after the collapse of Soviet Union), which is currently engaged in a process of social, economic and political transition. This transition is very specific for several reasons. Firstly, during the Soviet times Tajikistan was one of the most backward states in terms of social and economic development. Moreover, still in the course of its earliest independent years, the country was dealing with the consequences of the civil war that destroyed the social, economic and political systems of its society. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the civil war has brought Tajikistan to the edge of catastrophe. After signing the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in 1997 the country entered the peace-building process.

The above situation had a strong impact on gender relations in all spheres of Tajik life – economic, political, cultural and family. However, with the introduction of gender studies and investigating these issues by international organizations, Tajikistan is gradually understanding and developing its gender policy. In recent years our country has undertaken a number of positive measures and steps to strengthen women's role and status in society, promoting equal rights and opportunities for women and men. Tajikistan has developed and started to implement the main directions of state gender policy and created the legal basis of gender equality. Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on "Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities in the Exercise of such Rights" highlights that "State bodies, local government and heads of organisations of all property forms are obliged to ensure equal access for men and women to the economic resources of society, including movable and immovable property, land, financial assets, credits, and also ensuring free enterprise and any other activity that is not prohibited by legislative acts". During last years a legal framework and main steps on gender equality promotion in Tajikistan were the following:

- 1993 Tajikistan joined the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- 1998 Government approved the National Plan of Action on the Promotion of Status and Role of Women for the years 1998-2005.
- 1999 "About democratization of the society" and "Promotion of women in society".
- 2001 Government adopted the state programme "Main directions of the state policy to ensure equal rights and opportunities for men and women in the Republic of Tajikistan for the years 2001-2010".
- 2000-2005 Adoption of a number of strategic programmes protecting women's reproductive rights and health.

- 2001 Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “About regulation of girls’ access to higher education institutions of the Republic of Tajikistan, in accordance with the President’s quota for 2001-2005”.
- 2003 Creation of the Coordination Council under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan headed by the Deputy Prime Minister to support implementation of the UNIFEM “Land rights and economic security of women in Tajikistan” project.
- 2004 Adoption an addition to the state programme “Main directions of the State policy to ensure equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women in the Republic of Tajikistan for the years 2001-2010” “Access of rural women to land”.
- 2005 Adoption of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on “Guarantees of equal rights for men and women and equal opportunities in the exercise of such rights”.
- 2006 Adoption of the state programme “Development of female cadre” for 2007-2011.
- 2007 The first National Report and Shadow Report of NGOs on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are submitted to the CEDAW Committee.  
  
Introducing chapter “Promotion of gender equality” in the National Development Strategy to 2015 and Poverty Reduction Strategy for 2007-2009.
- 2010 Adoption of the National Strategy on Activization of Women’s Role in Tajikistan for 2011-2020.

Tajikistan would like to state that gender issues related trainings on climate change and rising awareness between Tajik women were included for the first time to the National Action Plan under the National Strategy on Activization of Women’s Role in Tajikistan for 2011-2020.

Additionally, the Republic of Tajikistan plans to include 1-2 women in our delegation at COP 19 in Poland from the Committee of Women and Family under the Government of Tajikistan.

## **CHALLENGES**

Gender equality issues should bring together all Parties, observers, UN bodies and civil society to share insights and discuss efforts to achieve gender balance and promote the empowerment of women in the UNFCCC process and advance gender-sensitive climate change policy.

Main challenge for realization of the above activity is existing stereotype and view on roles and responsibilities both women and men. In this respect, gender relations crosscut all social and political institutions, culture and way of thinking.

74% of the population in Tajikistan live in rural areas, where the main barrier to equal opportunities is the traditional stereotypes about female and male roles. Gender as social category of women and men is differently constructed in the cities and villages. There are more opportunities in the city for women to get secondary and professional education, a paid job, to participate in the decision-making process and to access health services. Many women in Tajikistan are responsible for the food production, water supply and energy for heating and cooking in their communities that depend on availability of natural resources. It directly links women with climate change, climate-resilient development and poverty alleviation that should be address through the Adaptation Fund.

The Republic of Tajikistan would like to state one more challenge is having quite small delegation during the UNFCCC negotiations that mostly connected with availability of financial resources and knowledge on climate change as cross-cutting issue as well as language problem to speak in English during discussions and negotiations.

## **NEEDS**

Tajikistan is a landlocked mountainous country, is highly vulnerable to various impacts of climate change, especially when considering mountainous ecosystems, availability of water resources and food security. Additionally, implementing gender and climate change related activities often face difficulties due to the lack of staff capacity and understanding of these issues, particularly in the rural communities.

The National Action Plan under the National Strategy on Activization of Women's Role in Tajikistan for 2011-2020 includes gender and climate change issues, especially on trainings and rising awareness between Tajik women on climate change that is jointly implementing by the Committee on Women & the Family, Committee of the Emergency Situation & Civil Defence and local regional bodies. However, state financial resources are not always available or quite limited for supporting these activities. The Republic of Tajikistan believes that further priority funding consideration will be given to adaptation programmes and rising awareness on climate change between women and men in rural areas in order to reduce the adverse effects of climate change on vulnerable communities.

There are also additional needs that should be address in Tajikistan and other developing countries, such as gender and climate change awareness training; assistance for gender capacity building within government; and strengthen the capacity of NGOs working on gender. Finally, there is

paucity of information on the monitoring and evaluation of interventions by different donors and government from a gender perspective. Such information is crucial, because we can learn “what works” and “what does not”; who has benefited and who has been excluded. It is essential that lessons are learnt from the past experience can ensure success in the future.

The Republic of Tajikistan supports the activity of the UNFCCC secretariat and all Parties on gender balance in the composition of bodies of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol as well as gender balance in the composition of national delegations. Tajikistan also supports a decision to convene an in-session workshop at COP 19 on gender balance in the UNFCCC process, gender-sensitive climate policy and capacity-building activities, and the inclusion of “gender and climate change” as a standing item on the COP agenda.

Tajikistan strongly believes that the actions called for in a Decision 23/CP.18 will be undertaken and supported by financial resources to developing countries depend on their availability.