

## **In-session workshop on gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on mitigation action and technology development and transfer**

### **Introduction:**

WECF welcomes the opportunity to provide its views and suggestions for the **in-session workshop on gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on mitigation action and technology development and transfer** according to the **Lima Work Programme on Gender**, paragraphs 11 and 13:

*„11. Requests the secretariat to organize an in-session workshop on gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on mitigation action and technology development and transfer during the forty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (June 2015) and prepare a report on the workshop for consideration at its forty-third session (November–December 2015);*

*13. Invites Parties and admitted observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 18 February 2015 and 3 February 2016, respectively, their views on the matters to be addressed at the in-session workshops referred to in paragraphs 11 and 12 above”.<sup>1</sup>*

We see this workshop as a chance to raise awareness about the gender<sup>2</sup> dimension of mitigation activities and technologies, which is so far neglected.

We would like to see as an outcome of the workshop an increased awareness of parties about the necessity of gender-mainstreaming<sup>3</sup> for all mitigation activities, especially for the transfer of technology. Secondly, identified ways of implementation to ensure gender equality<sup>4</sup>, especially how to cover women’s mitigation and technology needs and priorities in all mitigation and technology policies, instruments and bodies of the UNFCCC.

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<sup>1</sup> UN FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.3, Decision 18/CP.20, Lima Work programme on gender

<sup>2</sup> „**Gender:** refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context/ time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context. Other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis include class, race, poverty level, ethnic group and age.“, UN Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>, last retrieved 18. Feb. 2015

<sup>3</sup> „**Mainstreaming a gender perspective** is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.” I Concepts and Principles, A. Definition of the concept of gender mainstreaming, UN Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC 1997/2

<sup>4</sup> „**Equality between women and men (gender equality):** refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women’s and men’s rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a women’s issue but should concern and fully engage men as well as women. Equality between women and men is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centered development.“ UN Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>, last retrieved 18. Feb. 2015

### **Background:**

Mitigation is a crucial element of climate protection, and technologies are a crucial means of implementation. Bringing mitigation activities and technologies in relation to gender, means to look at the realities of women and men in their daily lives and their needs, perspectives and responsibilities in their social, cultural, environmental and economic context.

We note that choices of mitigation activities and technologies are political choices, since resources are limited. Choosing one type of technology will bind resources and capital, which might not be available for other types of technologies. We have seen in the past that priorities have often been given to centralized, capital intensive large scale solutions which often do not equally benefit the whole population; they might not have equal benefits for men and women, for the rich and the poor. Women priorities for climate mitigation and technology, are often not at the forefront of political decision. No country has achieved gender equality and women and girls experience increased vulnerability and marginalization; women often do not have equal choice, access and control over resources and policy decisions.

Taking a closer look at the issue of energy as a crucial aspect of climate mitigation and technology transfer it is obvious that this provides a good example for the importance to integrate gender mainstreaming. Women's energy needs, priorities, knowledge and contributions are often not recognized, nor taken into account for policy shaping and implementation. This is mainly related to the gender roles in many societies, which do not provide women and men with equal opportunities and choices. 70% of the poor people in the world are women. Women's work is still mostly accomplished in and around the household, in the informal economy and predominately lower paid in the formal economy. Women carry a greater burden of unpaid domestic and care work, men are more often employed in the formal economy. This gendered task division often leads to a lack of recognition of women's work because it is not attached to an economic revenue (e.g. the collection of firewood, their time needed to fulfil the household duties in relation to energy).<sup>5</sup> This situation puts women in a disadvantaged position in terms of their energy needs as they are often restricted by legal aspects (lack of access to financial means – either credit or income) as well as lack of the right to own land and property. Women are therefore more often limited in their opportunities to improve their working conditions by investing in safe and appropriate technologies or to utilize the potential of renewable energies as solar, wind, biomass or water as all these energy sources are connected to land or finances. Another factor is that in many countries women are still the majority of the illiterate and have less opportunities for education. The gender inequality in access to and control over energy are linked to inequalities in education, land tenure and access to finances. Women's priorities and their mitigation technology needs and solutions are not equally recognized. The benefits of mitigation and technology not equally shared, leading to gender inequalities in the energy sector.

Women's priorities and solutions are important for a climate deal. Not only because the potential of all people is needed to achieve the transition to safe and sustainable societies, but also because research and case studies show that due to different gender roles, women and children benefit more from safe, appropriate and decentralized mitigation technologies and finally everybody. Technologies which are low risk, and socially, economically and environmentally sound. Safe mitigation, sustainable development and women's empowerment can all be achieved at the same time through gender-equitable mitigation and technology programs.

That is why we would suggest following focus and set-up:

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<sup>5</sup> See e.g. Danielsen, K. „Gender equality, women's rights and access to energy services. An inspiration paper in the run-up to Rio + 20“, p. v, February 2012, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

## Suggestion for the concept of the workshop:

### Objectives:

- Raise awareness about the status quo of gender inequalities in terms of priorities, access, control and benefitting of mitigation and technology transfer
- Give recommendations to include women’s mitigation and technology needs, priorities in the process and the implementation structures of the UNFCCC.

### Method:

- Key note speeches, panel presentations/discussions, Q& A session
- Panellists should be gender experts from different stakeholder groups, e.g. as indicated in the Lima Call for Climate Action in paragraph 19 (a) (iv) in regard to the TEMs *(...) effective engagement of experts from Parties, relevant international organizations, civil society, indigenous peoples, women, youth, academic institutions, the private sector, and subnational authorities (...)*<sup>6</sup>

Special emphasise should be on the women’s perspective as so far this perspective is missing.

### In-session workshop:

- **Key note speeches:** Gender inequalities in terms of needs, priorities, access, control and benefit of mitigation activities and technology transfer, with a focus on energy and land use as two crucial and connected ways forward
  - 1 key note from the Southern perspective
  - 1 key note from the Northern perspective
- **Panel 1 – Status Quo:**  
Voices from communities – negative and positive examples of mitigation activities and technology transfer in regard to gender equality and lessons learned/recommendations (see as an example the case study of “A gender-responsive National Appropriate Mitigation Activity (NAMA) for the energy sector in Georgia”)
- **Panel 2 – Recommendations for change:**  
Policy recommendations on how to ensure gender equality, especially how to cover women’s mitigation and technology needs and priorities in all mitigation and technology policies, instruments and bodies of the UNFCCC.

### Outcome:

- Awareness of parties has increased about the necessity of gender-mainstreaming in all mitigation activities
- Ways of implementation to ensure gender equality, especially how to cover women’s mitigation and technology needs and priorities in all mitigation and technology policies, instruments and bodies of the UNFCCC, have been identified.

### Possible example for Panel 1 - case study:

**Equitable, Climate Proof and Sustainable - a gender-responsive National Appropriate Mitigation Activity (NAMA) for the energy sector in Georgia<sup>7</sup>**

<sup>6</sup> UN FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.1, Decision 1/CP.20, Lima Call for Climate Action, paragraph 19 (a) (iv)

<sup>7</sup> this description is based on: WECF, Samwel, A.: “Proposal for Equitable, Climate Proof and Sustainable Development: A gender-sensitive National Appropriate Mitigation Activity (NAMA) for the energy sector in Georgia“, November 2014, the summary will also be published as an article in the upcoming Watch This – Newsletter of Carbon Market Watch, spring 2015

### **Summary:**

The gender sensitive NAMA foresees the installation of 10.000 energy efficient stoves and 10.000 solar water heaters in order to reduce rural energy poverty and unsustainable logging and decrease CO2 emissions. Equal involvement of community women and men in project planning, capacity building and implementation ensures sustainability and local ownership of the NAMA.

### **The NAMA activity:**

The majority of the rural population in Georgia uses wood to heat their houses and water. Rural households spend around 25 -35% of their income on energy. Usually only one room in the house is heated by a stove, on which water is heated and food is cooked.

Especially women suffer from the lack of hot water in the household. They spend a lot of time heating water, but don't meet their energy needs, doing many chores with cold water. This, as well as indoor air pollution caused by the stove has an adverse effect on their health. Women also carry the burden of collecting and carrying firewood. Some **6500 ha of forest** are annually depleted by unsustainable logging. This triggers environmental calamities, which most severely impact the poor, who are relying on natural resources for their livelihoods.

In order to actively cope with these challenges, men and women from local communities in cooperation with a coalition of NGOs have developed accessible and cost effective solutions that can provide access to safe and affordable energy and reduce the negative impacts on the environment. **The gender sensitive NAMA foresees the installation of 10.000 energy efficient stoves and 10.000 solar water heaters** in 5 rural areas of Georgia, which have a potential of saving **48.000 tons of CO2** per year.

20.000 families will have **access** to affordable renewable energy and energy efficient systems, **save costs** for heating water and heating their houses, **increase their quality of living** through improved access to heat and hot water. The **labour burden will be reduced for women and men** by reducing the need for heating water, chopping and carrying fire wood. Firewood consumption will be decreased, **saving over 1000 ha of forest p/year**.

**Energy efficient stoves** use up to 50% less wood than conventional stoves. The **Solar water heater** provides hot water for free, almost year round. Both technologies are made with **local materials** by trained craftspeople, and are monitored and used by women. They are easy to operate and maintain. If needed, repairs can be carried out by local people.

In order to implement the technologies, five Regional, Community Based Technology Cooperation Centres will be set up as commercial, non-profit entities. The centres will be responsible for the supply chain management, construction, installation, maintenance and guarantee of EE stoves and solar collectors, and provide access to information.

The technologies pay back in 1-3 years, but the initial investment sum is too big to be paid for by poorer households. To ensure access for all, financing mechanisms with a special window for people living in vulnerable situations, esp. women, will be launched.

Involvement of both women and men is crucial for the sustainability of the action. WECF and partners have built capacity of local women and men who are involved in the project; women are mostly involved in monitoring (MRV), use, maintenance, financing and spreading information, while men mostly work in construction and installation of technologies.

*This preparatory project is implemented by the NGO Greens Movement of Georgia in cooperation with the international network WECF, 3 Georgian CSOs and the Georgian Ministry of Environment and Natural Protection*

**References:**

- Danielsen, K. „*Gender equality, women’s rights and access to energy services. An inspiration paper in the run-up to Rio + 20*“, February 2012, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
- UN Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC 1997/2
- UNFCCC documents 2014:
  - UN FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.1, Decision 1/CP.20, Lima Call for Climate Action
  - UN FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.3, Decision 18/CP.20, Lima Work programme on gender
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- WECF, Samwel, A.: “*Proposal for Equitable, Climate Proof and Sustainable Development: A gender-sensitive National Appropriate Mitigation Activity*“, November 2014