



**Continuing and Enhancing Gender-responsive Climate Change Action
under the Lima Work Programme on Gender:**

Possible Elements for a New Decision

A submission from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to the UNFCCC

At COP20 in Lima, Peru, building on the momentum of previous decisions, Parties agreed to establish the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG), which mandated a two-year work programme for promoting gender balance and achieving gender-responsive climate policy. That programme is due to come to a close at COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco. However, during its 44th session, recognizing that the ultimate goals of the LWPG have not yet been met, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) invited Parties and Observer Organizations to submit their views on possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the work programme.¹

IUCN is therefore pleased to propose possible elements in this regard for the consideration of a follow-up decision to help continue and enhance this important effort.

The LWPG made important progress in building shared understanding and capacity across the stakeholders of the UNFCCC, including by organizing in-session workshops on the themes of gender and mitigation and adaptation. IUCN notes the success of these workshops, particularly reflected in the well-attended and fruitful discussions of the most recent workshop.² IUCN was encouraged by the participation and engagement of a wide range of Parties, Observers, and representatives from across the UN system expressing support from the floor for the need for sustained and strategic action to promote women's rights and resilience in the context of climate change, and to ensure gender-responsive adaptation and mitigation planning across all levels.

A possible next decision, in our view, should build on the progress made under the LWPG, acknowledging, for example, its role in improving coherence with the normative framework globally agreed to advance women's rights and gender equality, and to protect women against discrimination via, especially, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action; fulfilling UN system-wide mandates for gender mainstreaming; embracing the synergy in meeting SDG 5 (on advancing gender equality) and 13 (on combatting climate change); and recalling previous UNFCCC decisions to promote gender balance and gender-responsive climate policymaking and planning, across the programmes and bodies of the UNFCCC.

The preambular portion of the next decision might further recall and acknowledge the various contributions made by a range of stakeholders over the lifespan of the LWPG to advance its objectives—for example the common advocacy, awareness raising and capacity building efforts of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance; the support for women's participation in UNFCCC processes via the Women Delegates Fund; the creation of national multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral gender-responsive Climate Change Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs) in 20 countries; the coordinated messaging and mutual capacity building of the Women and Gender Constituency; the commitment by the donor community and the climate finance mechanisms to ensure an institutional gender-responsive approach; and the technical coordination, information sharing and reporting of the UNFCCC gender focal point and support staff, without whom the accomplishments of these processes at international level would be impossible.

The next decision might also benefit from considering how tools can be created and disseminated that can help Parties and Observers alike to recognize, plan for and implement gender-responsive actions in a simple yet impactful way. IUCN noted that various interventions, especially from Parties during the SBI-44

¹ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/l16.pdf>, para. 5

² http://unfccc.int/files/gender_and_climate_change/application/pdf/sbi44_ws_gender_provprog12may.pdf

in-session gender workshop, emphasized that the importance of gender-responsive climate policy and action has been well established — but the “how to” for action to create real change remains piecemeal, organization- or sector-specific, or otherwise often elusive. The next decision to extend and strengthen the LWPG, we suggest, should focus on answering this call.

The next decision, in our view, would also benefit from establishing a more permanent work programme on gender, reviewable, for example, every four years, bearing in mind that a systemic consideration of gender issues in the activities and work of the UNFCCC is in line with Decision 1/CP.21. It could take up the invitation from SBI-44 that Parties further enhance their participation in the work programme and define specific ways to engage Parties and Observers alike to increase understanding, and offer tools, that support gender mainstreaming across the programmes and bodies of the UNFCCC. In this regard, a decision adopted at COP22, could invite Parties and relevant organizations to provide the means for implementing all gender-related activities within and as relevant to the LWPG.

Specifically, and in addition, IUCN submits the following elements for consideration as part of the extended LWPG:

To facilitate sharing of information and expertise to promote better and common understanding of gender-responsive adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer, capacity-building, and finance, through biannual voluntary presentations—during intersessionals and at the COP;

To request the UNFCCC Secretariat technical experts to systematically seek gender-responsive inputs from the Women and Gender Constituency, interested UN entities and related organizations when they are requested to prepare technical papers, reports, issues papers, etc.;

To promote or strengthen mechanism(s) for cooperation and partnerships across the UN System, international organizations, NGOs, academia, research, scientific community, private sector, foundations; and

To request the Secretariat to maintain a repository of information and analysis, existing tools, expertise, and gaps in data and analysis on gender and climate change linkages, lessons learned and best practices.

Possible mandates for the Secretariat

To consider, incorporate, and highlight linkages between gender and climate change when organizing workshops, preparing technical papers or other documents in any area under the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol, taking into consideration the results and recommendations from in-session workshops and the Secretariat’s technical paper on gender prepared under the Lima Work Programme on Gender.

To support Parties in their efforts to mainstream gender equality in all the processes and frameworks under the UNFCCC, including the preparation, revision, reporting and implementation of the, for e.g., NDCs, NAPs, NAMAs, LEDS, national communications, as well as in the technology framework and the capacity-building framework.

To provide capacity building and technical support on gender issues at regional and national meetings and trainings, in particular for the preparation, revision and implementation of gender-responsive plans and programmes, e.g., NDCs, NAPs, and national communications.

To organize targeted in-session workshops on priority issues, including for example:

- a. The development of gender-responsive policies and action plans;
- b. Gender and climate finance, particularly implementation of the gender mandates of the

financial mechanisms, including the GEF and GCF, and as relates to the CIF, to increase access and availability/funds for women and women's organizations throughout the global climate finance landscape;

- c. National communications; review and preparation for implementation of NDCs; technology needs assessment and development; and National Adaptation Plans;
- d. Mainstreaming gender equality issues across the work and bodies of the UNFCCC focusing particularly on the implications for the Paris Agreement.

To take into consideration a gender perspective in the organization of the TEMs on mitigation and adaptation according to the mandate contained in paragraphs 111 and 129 of the decision 1/CP.21.

To formulate a Gender Action Plan and a multi-year gender work programme, to be consistent with UN SWAP (UN System-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women).

Possible suggestions for Parties and other relevant stakeholders on capacity building

To request that technical support and capacity building on gender-responsive climate policy is included in upcoming regional and national meetings around the planning and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national communications, and ensures the full and effective participation of women in these processes;

To invite Parties, Observers and other international organizations to provide technical and financial support to the Secretariat, including to strengthen understanding of and capacity on gender terminology, gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive policy for coherence and implementation across all processes and frameworks.

Possible mandates for other entities

To request the IPCC, where relevant, to strengthen inclusion of gender and climate change experts into the panel and to improve its consideration and inclusion of studies and data sets on the gender issues of climate change adaptation and mitigation;

To request the financial mechanisms, (e.g., the GEF, GCF, CDM, AF) to specifically address and highlight gender-responsive policy and project/programme implementation in their annual reporting to the COP and work with recipient countries in readiness and technical support to increase national climate-and-gender capacity;

Invites Parties, Observers and other international organizations, including UN Women, UNDP, IUCN, [and women's organizations], to cooperate in and support the implementation of the gender programme and the gender mandates across all previous decisions within the UNFCCC.

For additional information, please contact:

Ms. Lorena Aguilar
Global Senior Gender Adviser
Global Gender Office, IUCN
Email: lorena.aguilar@iucn.org