



# Women's Environment & Development Organization

In Decision 1/CP.16 para 12 Parties affirm *“that enhanced action on adaptation should be undertaken in accordance with the Convention, should follow a country-driven, **gender-sensitive**, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional and indigenous knowledge, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate;”* The decision also establishes an Adaptation Framework, a part of which is a process to enable LDCs to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), as well as guidelines and modalities for LDCs and other developing countries to develop medium and long term adaptation plans. The following are suggestions for the process, the guidelines and modalities of NAPs, and for the implementation phase that will help to ensure that enhanced action on adaptation fulfills the affirmations of Parties in para 12 of 1/CP.16.

Drawing upon lessons learned from the experience of the LDCs with NAPAs, NAPs must:

- Be guided by gender equality principles (be gender sensitive):
  - Experience from the NAPAs demonstrates that having gender equality principles as part of the guidelines for countries encourage countries to consider gender differences for adapting to climate change.
  - Gender sensitive guidelines open opportunities for women and men to both be full participants in adaptation processes and for their different capacities to be considered in countries' adaptation plans.
- Continually consider, assess and analyze women's and men's different vulnerabilities in relation to climate change as well as women's and men's different coping abilities, capacities to adapt and different resiliencies to climate change:
  - While gender equality is a guiding principle in the NAPAs, it has been clearly shown that this does not always translate into comprehensive, effective planning, budgeting or implementing of adaptation plans or activities. Therefore, it is important that financial and technical modalities for NAPs explicitly integrate and mainstream gender.
  - Mainstreaming gender into the technical modalities can occur through clearly indicating a relationship with other bodies that contribute to capacity building for adaptation, i.e. the LEG and NWP, which also have gender-sensitive mandates.

- Mainstreaming gender in NAP modalities can also be aided by working with the Consultative Group of Experts in encouraging developing countries to collect sex-disaggregated data and report on gender-sensitive issues in the CGE's review of the NAI NATCOMs.
  - When considering financial modalities, lessons can be learned from the experience of the GEF in implementing the LDCF and in the AF; both funds have revised their guidelines to be more gender sensitive to encourage better participation of women stakeholders in adaptation plans and decision-making. Financial modalities for adaptation must consider gender so that women and men are equal participants in adaptation planning and decision-making.
- Create synergies between NAPs and gender in national development plans:
    - Most developing countries have considered the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in their national development plans, within which gender equality (MDG 3) and sustainable development (MDG 7) are cross-cutting and complementary goals among all 8 MDGs. As countries create synergies between their NAPs and national development plans, they must consider the cross-cutting goals of the MDGs, especially gender equality, which is an important element in effective adaptation and a pre-requisite for sustainable development.
  - Promote synergies with countries' international commitments and agreements outside of the UNFCCC, including those pertaining to sustainable development, gender equality and women's empowerment (i.e. CEDAW, Hyogo Framework for Action, CBD, UNCCD):
    - Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)<sup>1</sup>: Signed and/or ratified by 186 countries, this legally binding Convention has many principles pertaining to ending discrimination against women (Article 2), improving women's political participation (Article 7), consideration of rural women's particular circumstances (Article 14), increasing women's economic and social life (Article 11), women's health needs and access to family planning (Article 12.1), and women's equal access to education and information (Article 10), which are necessary to be considered in the guidelines of the NAPs.
    - Hyogo Framework for Action (HFfA)<sup>2</sup>: A framework for building resilience of nations and communities to disasters, the HFfA promotes: a gender perspective that is integrated into disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes (Article III.A.13 (d)); people centered early warning systems, which takes into account demographic, gender, cultural and livelihood characteristics of target audiences (Article III.B.17 (ii)(d)); equal access to training and educational opportunities for women and vulnerable constituencies as well

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/1037>

as gender and cultural sensitivity training as integral components of education and training for DRR (Article III.B.18 (ii)(m)). These actions have worked well for DRR strategies and can also be applied to NAP strategies.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)<sup>3</sup>: the CBD's preamble recognizes the role of women in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the need for full participation of women at all levels of policy-making; in 2008 Parties to the CBD adopted a Gender Plan of Action and in 2010 a guide to gender mainstreaming NBSAPs (National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans) was developed and Parties were encouraged to make use of this guide with help from the gender focal point of the CBD Secretariat in the COP-10 Decisions. It is important for UNFCCC NAPs to find synergies with NBSAPs to complement and enhance the work of both Conventions in national processes.
  - Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)<sup>4</sup>: This Convention stresses the role of women in areas affected by desertification and drought, particularly rural women, and participation of women and men at all levels in programs to combat desertification and mitigate drought effects. The UNCCD and UNFCCC have already begun to create synergies between the UNFCCC NAPAs and UNCCD NAPs. Such collaboration should continue as the UNFCCC creates its NAPs and should integrate gender equality principles throughout these processes.
- Ensure a participatory approach throughout the process, consistently working with stakeholders and civil society, including women's groups and gender-focused organizations.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/convention/text/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.unccd.int/convention/text/convention.php>