



# Women's Environment & Development Organization

Voluntary submission on *views on the term and mandate of the Consultative Group of Experts and the need for continuation of the group.*

The Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) on National Communications (NAT COMMs) from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, as stated in the COP 17 draft decision, has significantly improved the process of and preparation of NAT COMMs from non-Annex I Parties. This is also demonstrated by other COP17 decisions that have recognized the CGE's role. Such roles include the CGE possibly facilitating technical advice and support for the preparation and submission of the first biennial update report for non-Annex I Parties, the updates of GHG inventories, the information on mitigation actions, and the needs and support received. The CGE is also mentioned as being one of the groups engaging with the Adaptation Committee, attending meetings of the Adaptation Committee as appropriate. As a capacity building body, the CGE is listed as an important body to continue doing so in the COP17 LCA decision on capacity building. Therefore, the continued relevance of the CGE remains clear in the COP17 decisions.

As the CGE reviews its mandate, gender considerations should be one of the issues it decides to include as it contributes to work under enhanced action on mitigation, enhanced action on adaptation and capacity building under the LCA decisions all of which address socio-economic issues, including gender.

- Under enhanced action on mitigation the CGE can contribute to information that will input into the new registry. In para 46(h) of the COP17 LCA decision this registry can include *other co-benefits of sustainable development*. One of the co-benefits of sustainable development is, indeed, gender equality. The CGE can be one of the bodies to help identify these co-benefits and assist Parties in collecting information on gender equality issues to input into the registry.
- Similarly, the Adaptation Committee in para 93(b) of the COP17 LCA decision is tasked with *strengthening, consolidating and enhancing the sharing of relevant information, knowledge, experience and good practices*. The CGE can work with the Adaptation Committee to assist Parties in this information collection, ensuring that gender-related and sex-disaggregated data, proven integral to adaptation measures, are included as well.
- Finally, the preamble of the COP17 LCA decision on capacity building not only acknowledges that it is cross-cutting and integral in mitigation, adaptation, technology development and transfer and access to financial resources but reaffirms that capacity building activities take into account gender aspects. This decision also identifies the CGE as a relevant capacity building body under the Convention, which implies that the activities of the CGE should take into account gender aspects.

These decisions and the other relevant decisions of COP17 and previous COPs recognize the importance and relevance of including gender considerations in the mandates of the CGE. It is important recognize this in submissions to be compiled in a miscellaneous document for SBI36 on the term and mandate and need for continuation of the CGE.