

Submission on

## LOSS AND DAMAGE ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

GenderCC recognizes the COP decision (1/CP16) regarding establishing a “... work programme in order to consider approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.” GenderCC observed the COP17 decision to provide an outline of the organization of the work programme (i.e., L&DWP) into three thematic areas as follows:

1. “Assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change and the current knowledge on the same
2. A range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow-onset events, taking into consideration experience at all levels
3. The role of the Convention in enhancing the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.”

Recommendations on L&D from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation are due at the COP18 in Doha, Qatar. As part of the global effort to bring clarity in common understanding on the important issue, there have been at least three regional expert consultations that took place over the past few months. While we express both UNFCCC and the global experts our gratitude to throw lights on the important issue, we also express our frustration for not creating equitable space for the women and gender NGOs to share their experiences in the discourse.

The COP decisions in both COP16 and COP17 attached the issue of L&D (associated with climate change impacts) with developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change. However, GenderCC identifies the LDCs, the SIDS and the vulnerable African countries generally qualify under the specific category that is enshrined in the COP decisions. More importantly, we recognize the poor communities in those countries are the prime affected groups under any instance of L&D.

Since almost half the global population is women and more than half the poor in the above countries (i.e., LDCs, SIDS, and the Vulnerable African countries) are represented by women, the gender-differentiated vulnerability of women in those countries and the plight of women in the current social, economic and political contexts under loss and damage deserves special care and profound understanding. **In the current state of understanding, unfortunately, gender-responsive views and compassionate approaches seems largely missing.**

GenderCC acknowledges reckless consumption of fossil fuels, particularly in the Annex-1 countries, is the root cause of climate change and **the primary modality to address the issue should begin with reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases in Annex-1 countries.** A greater effort to reduce GHG emissions would drastically reduce the global collective efforts on both adaptation as well as on L&D. Therefore, developed Country Parties (Annex-1) should pay respect to UNFCCC objectives, commit to the Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol and the ambitious emission reduction targets to arrest warming at a minimum within 2°C.

To further strengthen global efforts to reduce GHG load in the atmosphere, GenderCC calls for the rapidly industrializing and high emitting Developing Country Parties (i.e., BASIC) to respect the objective of UNFCCC as well as the CDRRC principle of it and commit to achieve the 2°C goal in light of 1/CP17 (i.e., Durban Platform). **All the Parties should recognize that any delay in committing to the precautionary principle of the UNFCCC and to the 2°C goal would increase the L&D burden on the poor and the women in LDCs, SIDS, and Vulnerable African Countries.**

**GenderCC acknowledges limits to adaptation**, especially in the backdrop of delaying the process to achieve the shared vision under the Bali Action Plan. **We therefore call for committing to immediate and urgent actions in both mitigation and adaptation, simultaneously**, in view of upholding the precautionary principle under the UNFCCC.

Since the COP decisions regarding L&D calls for actions concerning rapid as well as slow onset events, and extreme events which have both immediate adverse effects and long term slow adverse effects on vulnerable men, women and children, **GenderCC emphasizes on a synergy of global actions** under the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) and Durban Platform, supported adequately by the provisions created under the UNFCCC, including that of the Copenhagen Accord.

Since the SBI is entrusted by the COP to develop a Work Plan, GenderCC calls for consideration of the following important aspects.

#### **The L&DWP should**

- ▶ **Prioritize specific needs of, and the risks for, those countries and people which are particularly poor and vulnerable, including women**
- ▶ **Provide clear understanding on shifting timelines for ‘peaking’ and ‘emission targets’ and consequent L&D needs** in LDCs, SIDS, and Vulnerable African Countries, with particular focus on women
- ▶ **Provide clear understanding on ‘deficits’ in adaptation (for delayed actions) and adaptation financing and consequent L&D needs** in LDCs, SIDS, and Vulnerable African Countries, with particular focus on women
- ▶ **Include mechanisms towards carrying out assessments of gender-differentiated vulnerability and adaptation needs** in LDCs, SIDS, and Vulnerable African Countries so that the knowledge base bring clarity towards addressing L&D under the Convention
- ▶ **Create immediate and urgent actions involving communities and in particular, vulnerable women.**

GenderCC recognizes that countries most vulnerable to climate induced loss and damage - mostly the LDCs, SIDS, and the African Countries - are not responsible for climate change. Their populace, particularly the women, is the mere victim of incidences of loss and damage. **The objective of the UNFCCC and the principle 3.1 of the Convention in its uncurtailed essence should be clearly reflected in the expansion of ideas, understanding and work of the L&D Work Programme**, with developed countries taking committed steps to proactively prevent and redress L&D and support approaches to address L&D, including an approach which is based on needs of the vulnerable, including women.

**The L&DWP is envisaged** by GenderCC as an ongoing global effort, with the blessings of the COP decisions, and it should by no means be limited to a specific end-point. To this end, the L&DWP should encompass immediate and urgent L&D actions as well as a long-term rehabilitation mechanism to deal with gradually unfolding contexts of vulnerability faced by the vulnerable, especially women.

**GenderCC attaches high importance on women’s participation** in defining their contexts of vulnerabilities, at all levels, and in all the vulnerable countries across the globe. We welcome constructive debates towards integrating women’s particular vulnerability in the L&D accounting processes and **meaningful and gender just participation in the evolving architecture on the L&D**. GenderCC is prepared to provide advisory assistance to the UNFCCC and related bodies towards integrating gender-responsive concerns into the ongoing discourse on L&D.