



Submission of views on options and ways to advance the goal of gender balance

in bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, in order to improve women's participation and inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally

The Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice (the Foundation) welcomes the opportunity provided by Decision 23/CP.18 (*'Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol'*) to submit views on options and ways to advance the goal of gender balance in bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, in order to improve women's participation and inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally.

In June 2013, the Foundation and UN Women launched a publication entitled *The Full View: Advancing the goal of gender balance in multilateral and intergovernmental processes*. This research report was developed specifically to serve as a resource for Parties and observers to the UNFCCC preparing their submissions to the UNFCCC secretariat on options and ways to advance the goal of gender balance. The publication is available on the Foundation's website through the following link: <http://www.mrfcj.org/pdf/2013-06-13-The-Full-View.pdf>. It outlines how gender balance is promoted in normative frameworks, what actions have been taken to implement gender balance in international, regional, national and local government contexts as well as private sector initiatives, and the challenges faced in pursuing gender balance. The publication also includes recommendations for promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in the UNFCCC.

The recommendations from the publication are summarised on pages 2 and 3 of this submission. We invite Parties to the UNFCCC to use these recommendations to inform their discussions at the in-session workshop on gender balance in the UNFCCC process, gender-

sensitive climate policy, and capacity-building activities to promote the greater participation of women in the UNFCCC process, to be held at COP19 in Warsaw.

To achieve gender balance in the composition of bodies of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol enforcement mechanisms:

- Affirmative action measures should be taken in order to advance the goal of gender balance in formal and informal bodies established pursuant to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.
- A target on gender balance should be set for both existing and new subsidiary bodies. A possible target is to ensure that not less than 40% and no more than 60% of representatives are men or women.
- Measures should be in place to ensure that women and men are represented equally at all levels and that women should not only serve as deputies or alternates but as principals and in senior posts.
- A specific numerical target for achieving gender balance and a mechanism to sanction non-compliance with the decision should be established at the review of Decision 23/CP.18.

To enforce gender balance in the composition of national delegations:

- Parties to the UNFCCC should be encouraged to adopt temporary special measures in their delegations as the most effective means to ensure a ‘critical mass’ of women in the composition of their delegations and in negotiations.
- Consideration should be made on the creation of a fund to support women delegates’ participation in the UNFCCC negotiations.
- Delegations with less than the 40-60% gender balance threshold after three years may be requested to provide an explanation of the barriers they face in reaching this target.

To review implementation, monitoring and reporting:

To review implementation, monitoring and reporting, the following actions for the UNFCCC secretariat are key:

- Ensuring that robust monitoring and reporting to track and accelerate progress are implemented.
- Maintaining a publicly available and regularly updated online database of women's and men's participation in UNFCCC processes including for informal bodies and groups, disaggregated by regional grouping or constituency and presenting the data in ranking tables to allow for comparison.
- Engaging actively with Parties to ensure that officers responsible for establishing informal bodies and groups are aware of the need for gender balance at the time of the establishment and convening of these bodies.

On other complementary initiatives:

- When Chairs of relevant bodies convene in-session workshops and roundtables, explicit guidance should be provided to them by the secretariat to consider including women as panellists as well as integrating gender issues in panels.
- Capacity building efforts such as targeted training and general awareness-raising on issues surrounding gender equality are needed to complement other measures to increase women's participation and representation.