

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

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 36/CP.7 on improving the participation of women in the representation of Parties in bodies established under the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol,

Acknowledging the recent progress made under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol in advancing gender balance and women's empowerment in international climate change policy under the guidance of decision 1/CP.13 (Bali Action Plan) and decisions taken at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions,¹ as well as in various bodies and programmes under the Convention,

Noting that notwithstanding the efforts made by Parties to implement decision 36/CP.7, women continue to be underrepresented in bodies established under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol,

Recognizing the need for women to be represented in all aspects of the UNFCCC process, including through membership of their national delegations and the chairing and facilitation of formal and informal negotiating groups, in order to inform gender-responsive climate policy,

Also recognizing the importance of a balanced representation of women from developing and developed country Parties in the UNFCCC process so that gender-responsive climate policy responds to the differing needs of men and women in national and local contexts,

Considering the importance of ensuring coherence between the participation of women in the UNFCCC process and the principles and objectives of international instruments and relevant multilateral processes, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which recognize the importance of women's empowerment and their full participation on equal terms with men in all spheres of society, including participation in decision-making processes and access to power,

Acknowledging the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in particular the recognition of women's leadership and their vital role in achieving sustainable development and the emphasis on the impact of setting specific targets and implementing temporary measures, as appropriate, for substantially increasing the number of women in leadership positions, with the aim of achieving gender parity,²

Recognizing the advances made by Parties in the promotion of gender balance and the empowerment of women,

¹ Including for example, decisions 1/CP.16, 6/CP.16, 7/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 3/CP.17, 5/CP.17, 6/CP.17, 12/CP.17 and 13/CP.17.

² *The Future We Want*, outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, adopted on 21 June 2012 (United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/66/288, para. 237).

1. *Agrees* that additional efforts need to be made by all Parties to improve the participation of women in bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol as envisaged in decision 36/CP.7;
2. *Decides* to enhance decision 36/CP.7 by adopting a 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;
3. *Invites* current and future chairs of such bodies to be guided by the goal of gender balance when setting up informal negotiating groups and consultation mechanisms, such as contact groups, spin-off groups and panels, and nominating their facilitators and chairs;
4. *Also invites* other institutions established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol to be guided by the goal of gender balance, with the aim of a gradual but significant increase in the participation of women towards achieving this goal and review progress made at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties;
5. *Further invites* Parties to commit to meeting the goal of gender balance by, inter alia, nominating women to bodies established under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol with the aim of a gradual but significant increase in the participation of women towards achieving this goal, and review progress made at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties;
6. *Invites* Parties to encourage more women to be candidates for positions within bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and to give due consideration to nominating female representatives to these bodies;
7. *Also invites* Parties to strive for gender balance in their delegations to sessions under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol;
8. *Requests* the secretariat to maintain information on the gender composition of constituted bodies established under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, including information on the representation of women from regional groups, to gather information on the gender composition of delegations to sessions under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and to report this information to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration on an annual basis, in order to enable the tracking of progress made towards the goal of gender balance in advancing gender-sensitive climate policy;
9. *Decides* to add the issue of gender and climate change as a standing item on the agenda of sessions of the Conference of the Parties to allow the Conference of the Parties to consider the information referred to in paragraph 8 above;
10. *Requests* the secretariat to organize, in conjunction with the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, an 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;
11. *Also requests* Parties and observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 2 September 2013, their views on options and ways to advance the goal referred to in paragraph 2 above;
12. *Further requests* the secretariat to compile those submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth session;
13. *Takes note* of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat pursuant to the provisions contained in paragraphs 8, 10 and 12 above;
14. *Requests* that the actions of the secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources;

15. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to endorse this decision.

*9th plenary meeting
7 December 2012*