

MOZAMBIQUE SUBMISSION ON DECISION 23/CP.18

Introduction

There is no doubt that climate change is happening and that it poses serious global challenges. Climate change is an environmental, social, economic, energy, food, political, ethical and moral challenge. It is a crisis perpetuated and fuelled by the endless pursuit of growth and prosperity.

Ultimately, the world faces not only a climate crisis, but also a crisis of sustainability. The key contributor to climate change is human behavior, including unsustainable economic growth, consumption and production patterns that are exploitative, especially by the global North and the elites in developing countries.

While climate change affects everyone, it does not affect everyone equally. The poor and vulnerable in Africa and other developing countries that have the least responsibility for climate change suffers the most as they experience violence, exclusion and loss over natural resources. Women make up 70% of the world's poor - and this places them on the frontline of coping with climate impacts.

It's also important to understand the human face of climate change not least because climate change has particular gender characteristics. Women suffer more from the impacts of climate change because of their different social roles and status. And yet, women's untapped potential – for example as decision-makers – could help solve the climate crisis, too.

Mozambique has committed to ensuring its climate change plans and actions respond to the real needs and capacities of women and men. Some of its experience implementing and now enhancing its national strategy on gender and climate change are submitted here, toward informing the implementation of Decision 23/CP.18.

UNFCCC Background

The UNFCCC is the most universally recognized treaty, with the objective to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system." It states that "such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."

The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994. Today, it has near-universal membership. The 195 countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention.

The UNFCCC is a “Rio Convention”, one of three adopted at the “Rio Earth Summit” in 1992. Its sister Rio Conventions are the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. The three are intrinsically linked. It is in this context that the Joint Liaison Group was set up to boost cooperation among the three Conventions, with the ultimate aim of developing synergies in their activities on issues of mutual concern. It now also incorporates the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.

Besides the UNFCCC, there are other important treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol updated in 1997 from the original treaty aimed at tackling global warming. It officially entered into force in 2005 and has been signed or ratified by 191 states. Under the Kyoto protocol the worst industrialized global emitters commit themselves to reduce four greenhouse gases carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide and sulphur hexafluoride.

While the UNFCCC itself did not include any reference to gender equality issues, (while the other two Rio Conventions did,) ongoing negotiations have integrated women’s rights and gender equality concerns especially over the last few years into issues like adaptation, finance, capacity building and REDD+. Particularly in the last three COP, COP16 in Cancun, COP17 in Durban and COP18 in Doha, States have agreed decisions that include specific references to gender concerns.

SADC Background

The Southern Africa Region has been experiencing a warming trend over the past few decades. It is now widely accepted that the sub-region’s climate will be hotter and drier in the future than it is now. Droughts are expected to increase in frequency and intensity, with especially devastating consequences for the rural poor and in particular for women and their communities. Sectors most likely to be affected are water, agriculture, forest, bio diversity and ecosystems, human health, urban environment and rural livelihood, all these mentioned are the most basic services in which women have no access to or control over them.

In 2008 SADC Heads of State signed the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which is a regional instrument that advances the gender equality and women’s rights. Although the Protocol does not mention climate change specifically, it has progressive provisions that can be used to advance a climate justice agenda. For example the Articles 12-13 concerned governance, in particular representation and participation. These articles provide the equal representation of women in all spheres of decision-making.

Current approaches to climate change may worsen existing gender gaps, for example in terms of technical assistance and transfer of technology.

Articles 15-19 concern productive resources and economic development. For instance, one of the critical targets here besides ensuring the equal participation of women and men in decision-making is the need to adopt policy measures that ease the burden of the multiple roles played by women.

In this context climate change means that gender equality and women's empowerment should drive climate change financing. There must also be easy access and control of resources not least because women's access and control of resources is the basis upon which they can rebuild lives shattered by climate change and climate variability.

To emphasize how relations between gender and climate change are important below are some processes that took place within the SADC region at regional and Country levels.

In August 2009 the CEDAW Committee adopted a Gender and Climate Change Statement, which bemoaned the lack of a gender perspective in the UNFCCC and other initiatives on climate change. It called on all stakeholders to ensure that climate change and disaster reduction measures are gender sensitive. It is in this line that the UNFCCC can only be domesticated through the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development if considers those aspects.

In 2010 as one of the SADC contributions to overcome the challenges above mentioned a campaign on the Climate Change Addendum to the SADC Protocol, was started in March by the SADC Gender Protocol Alliance within the 15 countries.

In June the Mozambique Council of Ministers approved the Gender, Environment and climate Change Strategy and its Action Plan.

At Windhoek meeting in October 2010, gender ministers noted the importance of integrating gender into climate policies.

In February 2013, during the Ordinary Meeting of SADC Ministers Responsible for Gender/ Women's Affairs, Gender Ministers formally backed the proposal of a Climate Change Addendum to the SDAC Protocol at their meeting in Maputo.

Mozambique's commitment to gender and climate change: lessons for informing Decision 23/CP.18

At Doha's COP 18, Parties agreed 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*. Parties are currently invited to submit views and information toward informing the goal of improv[ing] women's participation and inform[ing] more effective climate change policy that

addresses the needs of women and men equally. This very goal has been a priority of the government of Mozambique for several years, and the country is currently undergoing a process to enhance its efforts to ensure climate change plans and actions are gender responsive, and thereby more effective.

According to the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), Mozambique is 12th out of 147 countries in numbers of women represented in Parliament. Currently, nearly 40% of Parliament is comprised of women, and the country has mandates to ensure equitable representation of women and men in decision-making processes. Mozambique is committed to ensuring women's participation is promoted in all sectors, including in responding to climate change. However, implementation challenges demand more than equitable participation; resources and capacity must also be invested to ensure gender-responsive action that is effective for all people in particular women.

Wanting to ensure a pathway toward gender-responsive implementation, Mozambique embarked on a process to create a synergistic gender and climate change plan of action in 2010. In June that year, the Council of Ministers approved a Gender, Environment and Climate Change National Strategy, which is specific to the environment sector and aims at developing and integrating the gender perspective throughout the sector, to improve the quality of life in particular for women and communities, through mitigation and adaptation to climate change and the sustainable use of natural resources. Mozambique's was the first national strategy of this kind, pulling together aspects of various climate change plans and programs, such as the NAPA, and providing an opportunity for cross-sectoral engagement on gender and climate change.

The strategy has been designed and implemented in harmony with other major environmental plans and actions, including two important national strategies, the National Strategy for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change and the Plan to Combat Erosion and Bush Fires as well as the Education Program, Communication and Environmental Disclosure (PECODA). Based on the principles of Social Equity, Equality and Sustainability, and Parity and Participation, the strategy is anchored in the recognition of and respect for human rights and the fact that all citizens, regardless of their social status, challenges and opportunities, between men and women, in all spheres of political, social, economic and cultural, are aware of the duty to drive specific actions for mitigation and adaptation to climate change that are sustainable in terms of economic-financial, environmental, and compliance with the socio-cultural diversity that characterizes Mozambican society.

During the past 3 years of implementation of the Gender, Environment and Climate Change National Strategy, various activities targeting women were carried out, most notably the following:

- 12,177 women trained in the design and implementation of projects / programs related to climate change and sustainable use of natural resources in 222 locations;
- 940 awareness campaigns conducted on the promotion of gender equality, environment and climate change across the country;
- 7 sessions conducted to exchange experiences on the sustainable use of natural resources, with a focus on the production, use and dissemination of improved stoves (wood saves and saves coal), to contribute to reducing the use of fuel wood and indiscriminate slaughter trees;
- 36 communities in 9 locations trained in matters of production of improved stoves, introduction of drought tolerant crops, prevent erosion and fires;
- 131 committees on Natural Resource Management created/strengthened; and
- Information disseminated in 74 locations promoting the construction of houses adapted to climate change with a focus on building gutters and cisterns for storing rainwater, as well as agricultural practices to increase the production and productivity in order to ensure food security and nutrition to sustain the effects of intensive agriculture and prevent soil degradation (conservation agriculture).

After three years of its implementation the Ministry For the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, under the leadership of the Minister Dr. Alcinda António de Abreu, is now revisiting and enhancing the strategy, bringing it more into alignment with the government's current National Strategy for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change and elaborating innovative activities for implementation, in collaboration with a wide range of public and private partners.

With each passing day, women prove to be primarily responsible for the family; because of the diversity of tasks they do and roles they play, a comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing climate change is essential toward safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of families and communities. Women's leadership is critical to environmental management and protection.

Therefore, MICOA champions its priorities of the Gender, Environment and Climate Change National Strategy, now called the Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP), to focus on empowerment of women and communities to ensure gender equity in decision-making processes, plans, policies, strategies and programs budgets, and training and capacity building for access to, control and effective management of natural resources for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

Recommendations:

The implementation of the actions pertaining to gender, environment and climate change also requires the establishment of partnerships with public and

private sectors, national and foreign NGOs and other actors in order to stimulate joint views and means for activities.

Mozambique recommends consideration of the following:

- Ensure that all interventions to adapt to and mitigate the effects of Climate Change should integrate the needs of women and their communities
- Put women at the forefront of the implementation of Climate Change strategies and ensure women are able to fully participate in decision making processes
- Ensure women and climate change experts both can inform effective policies on gender equality, as climate change will likewise impact gains made toward gender equality
- Ensure gender-responsive allocation of climate finance, taking into consideration project design and funding allocation that can impact real people's every day lives on the ground
- Mobilize and allocate financial resources at local level, in particular, with the opportunity of special funds for women (which will be key toward NAPA implementation, for example)
- Ensure that women's vulnerability is only one aspect of gender and climate initiatives; women are vital **agents of change**
- Ensure that gender and climate issues are integrated by all stakeholders and within all levels, local, and provincial, national, international and Global and within all sectors of development to ensure that Climate Change cuts across all relevant sectors.