

Sudan submission to the UNFCCC decision 23/cp.18: Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women

Sudan welcomes the opportunity to share its views on promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in the UNFCCC process. Sudan supports the UNFCCC decision 23/cp.18: Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in the UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol

The 18th Conference of Parties of UNFCCC adopted the COP18 decision entitled: 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 (Decision 23/CP.18).

Paragraph 11 of the decision requests Parties and observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, their views on options and ways to advance the goal set out in paragraph 2: *(E)nhance 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.*

As an important step, all Parties should consider gender balance in their national delegates during the climate change negotiation.

Sudan would like to see the important actions undertaken by the UNFCCC

- Sudan believes that participation of 50% of world society in the climate change negotiation while ignoring the other 50% will not lead to the achievement of a positive agreement or democratic participation in the international climate change negotiations.
- Sudan finds that such an approach is both an important and a crucial element for enhancing gender equity and increasing the participation of women during the climate change negotiations in implementation all adaptation (NAP and NAPA) and mitigation (as CDM and REDD+) actions.
- UNFCCC should integrate gender equity within all programmes, negotiations and as a crosscutting issue to implement within adaptation and mitigation activities;
- UNFCCC should designate a special body to examine and rate gender balance in all climate change activities.
- Sudan considers Consistency and sustainability as crucial key factor for efforts towards ensuring gender balance and gender-sensitive climate policies and actions.

Sudan's examples and actions on gender balance include:

- During COP 18 in Doha talk, the number of women exceeded men in the Sudanese delegation (12 women and 11 men), demonstrating the significant level of interest of women to participate and express their views during the climate change negotiations.

Moreover, most of the female participants were self-funded or partially funded from embassies and private sectors;

- During the process of developing Sudan's REDD+ Readiness Preparation proposal (RPP), the Sudan national REDD+ committee addressed gender issues during consultations with local communities on creating social and environmental safeguards;
- Sudan has more than 2 million households dependent upon the forest (Gum Arabic), most of whom are women; and
- The Government of Sudan and UNEP are currently planning and proposing the creation of a gender strategy to address climate change and environmental issues in Sudan (2014-2018).
- Sudan, as an LDC country party has implemented a NAPA and NAP (for 18 states) on Climate Change where gender and participation is the one of its guiding principles.

Sudan challenges in promoting gender balance include:

- Limited financial and funded resources;
- Lack of capacity building and sensitization on integrating gender issues in the programming and projects of climate changes.

Sudan sees the need to promote gender issues, including:

- Special support to enhance women's capacities in climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- Trainings and technical support to assist and sensitize all Parties/delegates;
- Special financial resources targeted towards women to enhance their capacity at negotiations and trainings;
- Gender trainings targeting youth (women and men); and
- Issues related to gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting and gender analysis, gender in climate change negotiations.