



United Nations  
Climate Change Secretariat



## **Lunchtime event: Promoting gender balance and the empowerment of women in the UNFCCC process**

June 7, 2013; 13:15—14:45

Solar (MoE); Bonn

Organized by: UN Women, MRFCJ, GGCA, UNFCCC secretariat

### **Background:**

A significant outcome of the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Doha, Qatar, from 26 November to 8 December 2012 was the adoption of Decision 23/CP.18 on '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'.

This decision marks an important step forward in advancing gender-sensitive climate policy by ensuring that women's voices are represented in the global discussion on climate change. It does this by adopting a goal of gender balance and inviting Parties to strive for this goal in bodies of the Convention and in the composition of the delegations. It also incorporates a reporting mechanism to track the progress made towards this goal, and more importantly, it adds the issue of 'gender and climate change' as a standing item on the agenda of the COP.

The next steps include an in-session workshop at the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties in Warsaw, Poland (11-22 November 2013) 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.

### **Objectives:**

The lunchtime event will bring together Parties, observers, UN System entities, experts, civil society representatives and other stakeholders to share insights and discuss efforts to achieve gender balance and promote the empowerment of women in the UNFCCC process, and advance gender-sensitive climate policy.

Key recommendations of the desk research on "*Achieving gender balance in multilateral and intergovernmental processes*" by UN Women and the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice will be presented and inform the discussions.

The event will focus on two themes:

### 1) Options and ways to advance the goal of gender balance

Experts and representatives will be invited to present best practices and highlight gaps, challenges and opportunities from their own research or experience, such as legislation or policy that promote gender balance, for example, in parliaments, sub-national and national governments as well as experiences at the regional level, and in other intergovernmental processes. Lessons drawn from the experiences of private sector and civil society organisations could also be shared.

### 2) Exchange of views on gender-sensitive climate policy

The participants will be invited to share insights on how to promote gender-sensitive climate policy at all levels of decision-making that is responsive to the different needs of women and men. Other enabling mechanisms that will help ensure the promotion of gender-sensitive climate policy, including enhanced capacity-building, education and training, will also be explored.

#### Format and Draft Programme:

The event will consist of a moderated, interactive dialogue opened by a keynote speaker and followed by short presentations by two experts.

- **Key note speech by Christiana Figueres**, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC Secretariat (5 mins) (TBC)
- **Brief overview** by the Moderator on the format of the event and introduction of experts (5 mins)
- **Presentation** of MRFCJ and UN Women publication *Achieving gender balance in multilateral and intergovernmental processes* (3 mins)
  - Speaker (TBC)
- **Expert presentation: Advancing the goal of gender balance** (5 mins)
  - Prof. Drude Dahlerup, Stockholm University (TBC)
- **Expert presentation on gender-sensitive climate policy** (5 mins)
  - Lorena Aguilar, International Union on the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- **Open dialogue** (60 minutes)
  - Interactive exchange on best practices, gaps, opportunities and challenges in advancing the goal of gender balance and on how to promote gender-sensitive climate policy
  - Moderator may pose questions to guide the discussions
- **Summary and closing by the moderator** (7 mins).