

**Lima Work Programme on Gender**  
**In-Session Workshop on Gender-Responsive Climate Policy,**  
**with a Focus on Adaptation and Capacity-Building**  
**Submission by Switzerland**

This Swiss submission responds to the request of the Conference of the Parties in decision 18/CP.20 para.13 to submit their views on the matters to be addressed at the in-session workshop referred above.

Switzerland would like to refer to the side event *“From global commitments to local solutions: integrating gender equality in climate change action”* that took place on 3 December 2015 at COP21 in Paris, organized by OECD (OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality, GENDERNET), France, Morocco, Peru and Switzerland. It is envisaged that the same coalition of Members, together with Italy and the OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality, GENDERNET, will co-host a side-event on 14 March 2016, entitled *“From Paris to Marrakech: translating political commitments into effective gender-responsive climate solutions”*, at the upcoming 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60). The outcomes of the event will be submitted at a later stage.

Switzerland stresses that whilst gender is certainly a vulnerability factor regarding climate change, women and girls are to be considered as agents of change and leaders in developing effective coping strategies, building resilience, and putting effective climate responses into practice.

Therefore, women must be equally represented in decision-making on climate change at all levels: from global negotiations down to the community level.

At the global level, more female negotiators as well as gender balance in national delegations to the COPs are critical priorities. At the local level, women are already on the frontline and are a key resource for effective policy making and practice. Effective climate responses should be informed by and responsive to the knowledge, experiences and priorities of women at the grassroots.

***Switzerland suggests that the following aspects are explored in the course of the workshop:***

More evidence of the work that women are doing at the local level to respond to climate change is needed through better documentation of these efforts. Further, more data on gender-responsiveness of climate finance will be crucial, including whether funding reaches women at the local levels.

Priorities for accelerating the integration of gender equality across climate change action include:

- the need to better take into account women’s knowledge, experiences and priorities in decision-making on climate change at all levels.
- the importance for gender-responsive climate-finance and the systematic gender-mainstreaming of all funds serving the Paris Agreement to ensure that climate financing instruments are responsive to women’s needs and interests.
- the importance of ensuring that gender equality is adequately mainstreamed across all climate change policies and programmes.

With regard to capacity-building efforts, Switzerland considers it necessary to ensure that training is available for delegates at national and international level. In particular, more synergies are needed to foster collaboration between implementing agencies as well as to ensure linkages between the gender equality agenda and the climate change agenda in order to avoid institutional fragmentation.

Thematic issues for discussion during the workshop should be identified in relation to adaptation and capacity building to ensure a clear scope and facilitate a determined outcome. Issues to be addressed could link gender with various specific topics which particularly affect women, such as energy-use and access, transport, agriculture, land use, water and sanitation.

Switzerland is very much looking forward to further discuss the important topic of gender-responsive climate policy at the upcoming in-session workshop at SBI44 in May 2016. It will feed in issues discussed at the side-event on the occasion of CSW60 such as follows:

- Stocktaking of implications of the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement for gender and climate change.
- Experiences from actors who are at the forefront of efforts to implement gender-responsive climate change solutions at the global, national and local level.
- Action-oriented recommendations to ensure that women's needs are systematically taken into account in responses to climate change and to promote their active participation in all aspects of climate policy and finance.
- Options to improve the gender-responsiveness of all funds serving the Paris Agreement.

Attachments:

Concept Note: "From Paris to Marrakech: translating political commitments into effective gender-responsive climate solutions", High-level side event at the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, Monday 14 March 2016.

Key messages from the Side-event at COP21 "From global commitments to local solutions: Integrating gender equality in climate change action" OECD Pavilion, 3 December 2015

## ***DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE***

### **“From Paris to Marrakech: translating political commitments into effective gender-responsive climate solutions”**

**High-level side-event at the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women**

**Monday 14 March 2016, 11:30 am – 13:00 pm (TBC)**

**Organisers:** OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET), Switzerland, France, Italy, Peru (TBC), Morocco (TBC)

**Date/Time:** Monday 14 March 2016, 11:30 am – 13:00 pm (TBC)

**Venue:** ECOSOC Room, UN Headquarters, New York

### ***Background***

Leaders and actors from around the world actively mobilised ahead of and during the COP21 (December 2015) in support of the full and effective integration of gender equality into all aspects of climate change action. The adoption of the landmark Paris Agreement marked an important step forward by recognising Parties’ responsibility to respect and promote their human rights obligations through climate change action – including gender equality and women’s empowerment – and by calling for gender-responsive adaptation measures and capacity-building activities. The centrality of gender equality and women’s empowerment for realising sustainable development was also recognised in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through the presence of gender-specific targets in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on climate change and in many of the other climate-related SDGs. By recognising the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and their key contribution to developing effective and locally appropriate climate solutions, these agreements provide a mandate for advancing gender equality across all areas of climate change action.

Yet, the real litmus test will lie in how well these political commitments translate into progress towards gender-responsive climate solutions on the ground. Clear priorities for accelerating the integration of gender equality across climate change action include:

- the need to better take into account women’s knowledge, experiences and priorities in decision-making on climate change at all levels;
- the importance of scaling-up gender-responsive climate finance to ensure that climate financing instruments are responsive to women’s needs and interests; and
- the importance of ensuring that gender equality is adequately mainstreamed across all climate change policies and programmes.

The 60<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2016, with its priority theme on “*Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development*”, will provide a critical opportunity to keep mobilising support and generating innovative ideas for gender-responsive climate solutions. This high-level side-event will build on the successful event organised at COP21 by the OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) and the governments of France, Switzerland, Morocco and Peru. By bringing together a wide coalition of partners, this event will provide a crucial opportunity to reflect on the implications of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement for gender and climate change; be inspired by actors who are at the forefront of efforts to implement gender-responsive climate solutions; identify concrete actions to improve the gender-responsiveness of climate change responses at all levels; and maintain the momentum in support of gender-responsive climate action in the lead up to the COP22 in Marrakech.

## ***Objectives of the side-event***

This high-level side-event will aim to:

- Take stock of the implications of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement for gender and climate change.
- Hear from actors who are at the forefront of efforts to implement gender-responsive climate change solutions at the global, national and local level.
- Develop action-oriented recommendations to ensure that women's needs are systematically taken into account in responses to climate change and to promote their active participation in all aspects of climate policy and finance.
- Propose options to improve the gender-responsiveness of climate financing.
- Continue to mobilise political support in the lead-up to COP22 in Marrakech and discuss options for a successor plan to the two-year Lima Work Programme on Gender due to expire in 2016.

## ***Speakers***

**Moderator:** OECD

### **Opening remarks**

- **Italy** (TBC)

### **Interactive expert dialogue**

- **H.E. Pascale Boistard**, Minister of State for Women's Rights, France. *The road from Paris to Marrakech: how can we ensure that the COP21 commitments are effectively fleshed out?*
- **Liane Schalatek**, Heinrich Böll Stiftung. *Key actions to make climate-financing instruments more responsive to women's needs and interests* (TBC). [OR] **Representative from the Green Climate Fund**. *To talk about how the GCF has integrated gender equality in its governance and operational modalities, including in its funding objectives and guiding principles* (TBC).
- **H.E. Hakima El Haite**, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Energy, Mining, Water and Environment in Charge of Environment, Morocco (TBC). [OR] **H.E. Bassima Hakkaoui**, Minister for Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development, Morocco (TBC).
- **Noelene Nabulivou** (DAWN, Fidji). *What are local women's priorities and how can we best support their efforts to combat climate change at the community level?*
- **Country case study: Representative from Peru**. *To present Peru's new gender-responsive climate change action plan*. [OR] **Representative from Mexico City**. *To present Mexico City's climate action program which integrates a gender perspective in its mitigation and adaptation actions, as well as a human rights protection focus*.
- **Hon. Mary Robinson**, President of the Mary Robinson Foundation-Climate Justice, and UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Change (TBC). *What are the implications of the Paris Agreement for climate justice and what should we focus on now?*

**+ 3 minutes interventions from the floor:** UN Women and others.

### **Closing remarks**

- **Mr. Benno Böttig**, Secretary-General of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland.

**Side-event at COP21**  
***“From global commitments to local solutions:  
Integrating gender equality in climate change action”***  
**OECD Pavilion, 3 December 2015**

**Key messages**



The OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) and the governments of Switzerland, France, Morocco and Peru co-organised a successful high-level side-event on gender and climate change at the COP21 on Thursday 3 December. The event brought together inspiring actors who are driving gender-responsive climate action from the local to the global level to identify priorities for accelerating the effective integration of gender equality across the whole range of climate actions.

The side-event was moderated by Brenda Killen (OECD). Panellists included: Mary Robinson, Pascale Boistard (French Minister for Women's Rights), Manuel Pulgar Vidal (Minister of Environment of Peru), Hakima El Haite (Minister Delegate in Charge of Environment of Morocco), Ambassador Ulrich Lehner (Switzerland), civil society activists Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim from Chad and Thilmeeza Hussain from the Maldives, Rupa Mukerji from HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, and Christine Albanel, Executive Director for Corporate Social Responsibility at Orange.

Participants underlined the need to stay mobilised after the COP21 in the lead-up to the COP22 in Marrakech to ensure that gender equality and climate change stays high on the agenda and to turn commitments into action on the ground.

The following key messages/priorities for action emerged from the discussions:

- **Vulnerability to climate change has a female face.** At the same time, women and girls are leaders and innovators in developing effective coping strategies, building resilience, and putting effective climate responses into practice.
- **Women must be equally represented in decision-making on climate change at all levels:** from global negotiations right down to the community level.

- **At the global level**, more female negotiators and gender balance on national delegations to the COPs are critical priorities.
- **At the local level**, women are already on the frontline and are a key resource for effective policy making and practice. Effective climate responses should be informed by and responsive to the knowledge, experiences and priorities of women at the grassroots.
- **More evidence of the work that women are doing at the local level** to respond to climate change is needed through better documentation of these efforts.
- **All climate-related projects** should start with a gender analysis and remove the obstacles to women's full participation in order to be effective and inclusive.
- **All climate financing mechanisms** must systematically integrate gender equality, building on good practices such as the Green Climate Fund. A new study just published by the OECD reveals that only 29% of ODA to climate change was gender-responsive in 2013.
- **More data on the gender-responsiveness of climate finance** will be crucial, including whether funding reaches women at the local levels
- **The private sector** can play an important role in promoting gender-responsive climate solutions including through philanthropy and public-private partnerships for climate change projects that incorporate and respond to women's specific priorities and concerns.
- **Building alliances** and bringing men and boys into this work as partners is critical to deliver gender just climate responses.
- **SDG13** is a critical hook for taking forward the gender and climate agenda: we must build on this.
- **Operative language on gender and human rights needs to be maintained in the COP21 outcome document.** Ministers should call on their negotiators and insist that this language is maintained to ensure an ambitious and inclusive new climate agreement. Work is also needed to address gaps in language on gender equality in the current text, for example in the area of technology.