



Rome, 25 January 2017

Submission on possible elements of a Gender Action Plan under the Lima Work Programme on Gender of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

FAO welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on possible matters to be addressed at an in-session workshop during the forty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Bodies to develop elements of the gender action plan under the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG).

In the **Marrakech decision on Gender** and climate change, the COP requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to develop a **gender action plan** in order to support the implementation of gender-related decisions and mandates under the UNFCCC process, which may include **priority areas, key activities and indicators, timelines for implementation, the responsible and key actors and indicative resource requirements for each activity, and further elaborate its process of review and monitoring**¹. This decision also explicitly requests that that a gender perspective be considered in the organization of the *technical expert meetings on mitigation and adaptation*.

FAO supports the UNFCCC's continued dedication to promoting gender equality, women's empowerment and gender-responsive climate policies, including in the context of the implementation of the Paris Agreement. FAO further acknowledges with appreciation that to date, more than 50 gender-related decisions have been adopted within the UNFCCC processes.²

FAO is ready to enhance its partnership with the UNFCCC, as both a source of technical support on gender, agriculture³ and climate change and by supporting gender mainstreaming efforts.

Proposed priority area: The climate, agriculture and gender equality nexus

The impacts of climate change and the stresses and risks arising from increasingly variable weather patterns are particularly felt in the **agricultural and broader natural resource management sectors**. Evidence clearly demonstrates that climate change has gender-differentiated impacts, and intensifies the constraints that already place women who are reliant on agriculture and natural resources for

¹ Paragraph 27 of the Decision on Gender and Climate Change at COP 22

² http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/GCC_DRC_2015_1.pdf

Notably, in 2014 the decision SB40 FCCC/ SBSTA/2014/L.14 SBSTA agreed to undertake scientific and technical work in the identification of adaptation measures, taking into account the diversity of the agricultural systems, indigenous knowledge systems and the differences in scale as well as possible co-benefits and sharing experiences in research and development and on the ground activities, including socioeconomic, environmental and gender aspects. FAO's submission on the topic can be found here: http://unfccc.int/files/documentation/submissions_from_non-party_stakeholders/application/pdf/595.2.pdf Decision 13/CP.17 on Capacity-building under the Convention (2011, COP17) reaffirms the importance of taking into account gender aspects and FCCC/SBI/2014/L.13 (2014, SB40) considers the effectiveness of capacity-building interventions concerning adaptation, disaster risk management, gender, REDD-plus, agriculture, access to finance and dissemination of information and knowledge.

³ FAO understands the terms 'agriculture' and 'agricultural sectors' to encompass crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, as well as forestry.

their livelihoods at a disadvantage. Social dynamics such as male migration – in part as a response to climate change impacts – are also contributing to this trend.

In general, women tend to rely more on climate sensitive resources and technologies, which is also influenced by the gendered nature of resource entitlements, such as access to land or to the credit market. In addition, many **adaptation** practices require investments in cash, time or labour and thus are costly for households with limited access to credit and with few, mostly female working-age adults. Gender and social differences between men and women may also affect investment needs and access to weather and climate information and services. Growing competition over natural resources in situations of weak governance can lead to the rural poor, often women, being dispossessed of the natural resources upon which they base their livelihoods. Consequently, the role of improved governance will be central to avoiding marginalization of the poor who lack the political force to influence decisions.

As for climate change **mitigation** efforts, they often come as a co-benefit of activities enhancing productivity and reducing waste and losses along the agri-food value chain. However, women and men are often in different starting positions to take up mitigation practices. It has been widely documented that some practices, like improved cooking stoves, biomass for energy and biogas may be very attractive to women and can constitute a successful mitigation strategy, while other practices may require further incentives and accompanying measures to be viable, due to for example gendered differences in tenure rights, access to hired labour, credit and so forth.

The climate-change-agriculture-gender therefore is complex, and interventions need to be aligned to manage trade-offs that may result from potential policy contradictions. As climate shocks and climate variability are expected to become unpredictable, coordination and alignment among institutions and institutional arrangements will become even more important. The UNFCCC umbrella is well placed to provide policy and technical guidance that strikes a balance across this complex landscape.

Gender and agriculture in the NDCs – an opportunity and an obligation

In countries' climate commitments formulated in the **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, the wider agricultural sectors⁴ are seen as providing the most opportunities for adaptation-mitigation synergies, as well as socio-economic and environmental co-benefits.

More than 40 percent of the NDC submissions mention gender-related issues⁵, at least 65 countries have considered gender as part of their national priorities either within the adaptation and/or mitigation areas of work. These are most often associated with adaptation goals, capacity building, or mainstreaming gender consideration into policies and plans.

Going forward, it is important therefore to dedicate special attention to gender implications of the broader agriculture sector in the context of climate change. With regard to gender equality, agriculture is a sector which – more than any other – provides diverse opportunities for empowering women⁶ as well as reducing their vulnerability to climate change.

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5687e.pdf>,
http://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/WEDO_GenderINDCAnalysis-1.pdf

⁶ FAO, 2010-11. *The State of Food and Agriculture – Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development*. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf>

Possible matters to be considered by the in-session workshop and FAO's contribution

While at the national and international levels, governments and development partners often endorse and subscribe to over-arching commitments and conventions for gender equality, in practice, the realization of these intentions often remain **uncoordinated and lacking resources, capacities and monitoring mechanisms to ensure successful implementation.**

- A well-elaborated UNFCCC Gender Action Plan can remedy these standard shortcomings by **formulating tangible and measurable objectives and ensuring dedicated human and financial resources and cross-sectoral collaboration.**

The LWPG provides the necessary visibility and legitimacy for gender-responsive climate policies, however the envisaged UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP) should avoid considering gender as an *isolated* workstream.

- **It is advised that that specific targets and recommended actions for gender integration are inserted systematically into the various work programs and thematic areas and their respective bodies under the UNFCCC**, such as adaptation, mitigation, climate finance, technology, capacity-building, and in the work of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA).

Such an integrated approach will improve effectiveness and enhance gender-awareness as well as the capacity and understanding of thematic experts, negotiators and other stakeholders instead of isolating discussions on gender and climate change within a limited group of participants.

As countries move forward with the process of operationalizing their NDCs and prepare for implementation of their commitments, they will need constructive guidance in the development of strategies and mechanisms to implement gender-responsive policies and investments. In this context, there is an opportunity in strengthening the GCF Readiness Program with additional gender considerations. These could aim to strengthen gender capacities of NDAs and Focal Points (under "*Establishing and strengthening national designated authorities or focal points*" window) and elaborating gender-related opportunities for in-country investment planning (under "*Strategic frameworks, including the preparation of country programmes*" window).

- **Efforts to increase awareness and access to information and knowledge about gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture options** will lead to greater uptake of these technologies and practices and enhance the resilience of households, communities and food systems to climate-related shocks and changes.

As enshrined in its corporate Climate Change Strategy, FAO itself is committed to mainstreaming gender equality, equity and social inclusiveness into climate-related planning processes.

From its engagement in the Nairobi Work Programme and participation as an Observer at key meetings, to technical outputs such as the forthcoming NAPs Guidelines for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, FAO has been an active partner on activities at the intersection of agriculture and climate change under the UNFCCC. At the same time, FAO has been at the forefront of developing the knowledge base on the links between gender, agriculture and climate change as well as in providing support to countries in the context of projects and planning.

Some of the most recent knowledge products developed by FAO include a training manual on conducting gender-sensitive climate and agriculture research (with CCAFS) and a Module of the

Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook on Climate Smart Agriculture (with the World Bank and IFAD). Currently, under the collaborative FAO-UNDP “Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans Programme (NAP-Ag) Programme , FAO has developed capacity development approaches and materials on integrating gender into adaptation planning in the agriculture sectors. This work is contributing to the UNFCCC workstream on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and will be flagged at the NAP-Expo and global and regional training activities. It also serves as inputs to the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG).

FAO therefore stands ready to be a partner in the important endeavour of UNFCCC of developing and implementing an effective Gender Action Plan under the Lima Work Programme on Gender and contribute to the efforts of its meaningful implementation in a host of relevant technical areas within its mandate.

In this effort, specific joint interventions can be identified to support UNFCCC in promoting innovative, gender-responsive technologies and sustainable agricultural practices, and facilitating the right policy environment, through technical support and capacity development to enhance the Parties’ potential to effectively manage climate related-risks and vulnerabilities.