



Submission by LIFE e.V. & GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice e.V. to the negotiating text for consideration at the 6th session of the AWG-LCA

Gender Mainstreaming and Beyond - 5 Steps Towards Gender-sensitive Long-term Cooperation

Gender mainstreaming is an important part of involving women and gender aspects actively in climate politics. However, achieving true justice between women and men – including in relation to climate change – will involve more fundamental changes of cultures, structures and institutions, individual capacities and relationships between sectors in society.

We of “GenderCC - Women For Climate Justice”, believe that we need to go beyond gender mainstreaming in order to achieve gender justice as a crucial element of a broader, human-rights based approach to climate change. The issue of mitigation, for example, is still a male-dominated area, where most activity is centered around “talking numbers” (of ppm, degrees warming, and target dates) and considering technologies while disregarding social contexts, consequences, and resources. Based on a precautionary approach, we reject utilizing technologies for the mitigation of climate change that will – or are likely to – create problems for future generations, such as nuclear power, ocean fertilization, or Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). Furthermore, we strongly reject including mono-culture plantations and mono-culture tree plantations in any of the future mechanisms aiming to mitigate climate change.

We suggest the following 5 STEPS for achieving gender sensitive long-term cooperation:

- Step 1:** Increase the participation of women in climate change related processes and implement gender-mainstreaming in all UNFCCC processes.
- Step 2:** Ensure that the UNFCCC processes comply with existing women's rights legislation and best practice, as exemplified in CEDAW (UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), the Millennium Development Goals, and Security Council Resolution 1325.
- Step 3:** Ensure financing of gender-based approaches and specific instruments benefiting women, and start an approach to funding mechanisms that goes beyond market-based solutions.
- Step 4:** Achieve climate justice as a crucial element of a broader, human-rights based approach.
- Step 5:** Go beyond gender mainstreaming and address societal structures and patterns that perpetuate injustices.

In order to achieve these ambitious goals, specific steps will have to be taken in order to implement them. Our suggestions for implementing these 5 steps are the following:

On step 1 - gender-mainstreaming:

- Collect and publish gender-aggregated data taken at every level and wherever possible.
- Invest in gender training to support processes of change towards gender equality, sensitizing both men and women about the importance of a gender analysis in the work they are doing.
- Agree measurable gender related targets and create practical tools that help integrate gender equality in climate protection (e. g. gender checklists).
- Involve women in decision-making processes at all levels and all stages of policies, programs, projects and budgets.
- Capacitate female scientists and encourage the participation of feminist scientists in climate science.

On step 2 - compliance with existing legislation:

- Both climate change and its effects and the mitigation and adaptation proposals and processes so far instituted have been compromising further women's already fragile attainment of rights in many situations. Legal protection mechanisms for women affected by climate change phenomena and by adaptation and mitigation processes at national and international levels, and women's capacities to make effective use of such mechanisms, must be strengthened.
- Where necessary, additional legislation and other protection mechanisms must be incorporated into existing legal frameworks at every level to protect women and women's priorities.
- A legal regime that safeguards the security of women affected by climate change, including mechanisms to review land-use planning and infrastructure work, needs to be put in place.
- Ensure that governmental policies and programs on human rights, women's rights (including CEDAW), Security Council Resolution 1325 and climate change are coherent and reinforce each other.
- Incorporate climate change in discussions on women's rights, which often focus on political, social and economic empowerment in a non-disaster related context. Closely collaborate with the CSW and use the CSW session in 2012 (focusing on climate change) to increase awareness and integration of climate change in the governmental and non-governmental systems working on women's rights and gender issues.

On step 3 - financing alternatives to market-based solutions:

- Recognize the ways in which the economic crisis and the climate crisis are based on the same failures: we consume more than we have at our disposal, we are living in an

unsustainable way that ignores economic, ecological and social limits to growth whilst relegating those elements we need to live a good life to the status of mere “resources”.

Therefore, economic activity has to be transformed and renewed from a “careless” process into a “caring” one. The vantage point for this transformation should be the provision of care and caring, paid or unpaid work that has, up to now, mostly been done by women. The economy, its actors, structures and processes need to adapt to the environment, to the needs of women, indigenous peoples, the socially disadvantaged, not vice versa. This transformation needs additional financing mechanisms, beyond market based mechanisms. Investigation in creating and supporting funding mechanisms that provide an alternative to market-based solutions is essential.

Additionally, all such mechanisms must:

- Ensure gender equity in all phases and aspects of financing: when designing, implementing, evaluating proposals and reporting on programs.
- Ensure prior informed consent to financing options for all programs related to climate change, and ensuring participation of women in any protection mechanisms and measures.
- Be sure to include community-based adaptation programs that incorporate gender sensitive approaches which empower women.
- Earmark no less than 20% of donor funds related to UNFCCC for activities and projects explicitly addressing women, designed and implemented by women and/or gender experts.
- Include the build-up of capacity building, different modalities of reporting and accountability mechanisms in the funding.

On step 4 - broader, human rights based approaches:

- A rights-based approach should be the basis of action at all levels.
- Reject technologies for the mitigation of climate change that will create problems for future generations, such as nuclear power, ocean fertilization, carbon capture and storage (CCS), and replace them with appropriate, decentralized technologies, driven by sustainability criteria.
- Prioritize low carbon structures in urban planning and land use, and mechanisms furthering change in lifestyles and consumption patterns in industrialized countries and fast developing countries.
- Strengthen implementation of climate change mitigation on local levels and build on the experiences of local communities, women and indigenous peoples.

On step 5 - beyond gender mainstreaming

- The “injustices” between women and men cannot be eliminated solely by way of gender mainstreaming, participation and emancipation. It follows from this that the problems of climate change and justice cannot be adequately analyzed without considering the social category of gender and the power relations between both

genders. It is not enough to focus on the “victims” of gender injustice; instead there needs to be a systematic confrontation with the structures that are the source of disadvantages, the “perpetuators” of injustice.

- If the question of justice is posed in a critical feminist setting, it cannot lead to an ideal and perpetual status: justice is not achieved once and for all; instead, it will have to be established again and again in a process where questions about justice will uncover injustices.
- Feminist theory and thought about such issues as sharing and caring, of putting human beings before economic gain in order to achieve sustainable and equitable societies are important for “thinking outside the box” and taking steps toward a rethinking of the way societies and economies can function without leading to climate catastrophe.

We urge parties to take these recommendations into account both in the process and in the contents of all considerations on the issues mentioned in paragraph 1 of the Bali Action Plan. To support and monitor the implementation of the five steps, we

1. Call for a session specifically dedicated to gender in order to discuss the gender dimension in the ongoing negotiations before Copenhagen;
2. Suggest a high level expert advisory group on gender whose findings and recommendations should be considered official inputs in the process.

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