

Gender and Climate Change

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.

Submission by Mexico

Mexico is pleased to submit its views on options and ways to advance the 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 in accordance with Decision 23/CP.18.

1. Practice.

The National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) is in charge of directing the domestic policies towards the achievement of equal opportunities among women and men, by promoting a cross-sectorial approach of the gender perspective.

In 2008 a *Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change* was published by the United Nations Program for Development (UNDP) with the support of the Government of Mexico. The Guide analyzes the links between mitigation and adaptation policies, gender equality and women's empowerment strategies, with the overall objective of providing guidelines for governmental and non-governmental actors alike.

In 2010, as part of COP 16 activities, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the Civil Protection Unit of the Ministry of the Interior (SEGOB), INMUJERES, UNDP, Heinrich Böll Stiftung and the Network for Gender and Environment, established a Local Work Agenda as a follow up of the *Mexican Declaration on Gender and Climate Change*.

In 2012 the General Law on Climate Change entered into force. Article 71 provides that gender issues should be taken into account in the development of local climate change programs. This concept has been reinforced by the National Strategy on Climate Change published in 2013 (Section 5.2 "Policy Pillars and Lines of Actions" under 1.7 and 4.7, as well as in Section 6.2 "Strategic Focus and Lines of Action" under A1.11).

The *Program Towards Gender Equality and Environmental Sustainability* (the acronym in Spanish is PROIGESAM), incorporates guidelines aimed at granting

subsidies to groups of women working on green technologies, sustainable management and conservation of natural resources and climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

The *Program for Integrated Disaster Risk Management from a Gender Perspective* promotes policies, strategies and gender sensitive actions in the areas of risk management and climate change. This Program has carried out workshops and conferences on disaster risk management, civil protection and gender, including specific training for rural women leaders.

The *National Development Plan 2013-2018* incorporates the gender perspective as a cross-sectorial strategy. In doing so, the Plan provides for the inclusion of gender considerations in all governmental actions, taking into account the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) and related international instruments.

In addition, within the framework of the United Nations, Mexico has stressed the need to ensure the effective participation of women in environmental decision-making at all levels. In this regard, Mexico supported the resolution *E/CN.6/2011/L.1 Mainstreaming gender equality and empowerment of women in climate change policies and strategies* of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), and was the main sponsor of *resolution 62/136 Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas* adopted by the UN General Assembly and the resolution *E/CN.6/2012/L.6 Indigenous women: key actors in poverty and hunger eradication* adopted by the CSW.

2. Challenges and needs.

Climate change issues are increasingly adopting gender considerations that recognize the importance of equitable representation and full participation of all segments of society.

In this regard, mainstreaming gender sensitive policies demands a wide range of actions, among them:

- Incorporation of gender issues at all decision-making levels, especially in areas related to policy planning.
- Allocation of resources to ensure a cross-sectorial approach, for instance by establishing Gender Units at all governmental agencies, as well as indicators to measure their impact.
- Fostering of mechanisms that evaluate and monitor public policies, strategies and actions on gender and climate change.

- Improvement of capacity and awareness building on gender issues, including full-fledged training courses and mass media campaigns.
- Provision of adequate financial incentives to projects led by women or projects that take into account gender balance aspects.
- Strengthening of childcare policies, including nurseries and full time schools, that allow working women to keep balance between professional and family responsibilities.
- Support for vulnerable sectors disproportionately affected by climate change, particularly by conditions of gender, age, disabilities, economic status, etc.
- Fostering of international cooperation aimed at sharing experiences, good practices and synergies on gender and climate change.