



The UNFCCC secretariat (secretariat) provides constituted body members with a package of information briefs about gender integration under the UNFCCC process. They include an introduction to the mandates, an explanation of gender and commonly used terminology, as well as the gender and climate change nexus, and an annex of relevant resources. This brief describes how the **Adaptation Fund Board (AFB)** takes gender into account.

GENDER AND THE ROLE OF CONSTITUTED BODIES

Integrating gender considerations - understanding and considering differing needs, priorities, access to resources, roles and power - and engaging women and men equally at all levels of climate planning and implementation can ensure **more effective mitigation and adaptation outcomes**. It also ensures that women and men have **equal opportunities** to contribute to and benefit from climate action.



ALL CONSTITUTED BODIES ARE REQUESTED TO include in their **regular reports** information on **progress towards integrating a gender perspective** into their respective processes (decision 3/CP.25, para 12) and the secretariat is requested to produce a biennial synthesis report on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes (decision 3/CP.25, para 15(b)).

How are constituted bodies **supported** in progressing in integrating a gender perspective?

1. Technical paper ([FCCC/TP/2018/1](#)) provides information on entry points for integrating gender considerations into UNFCCC workstreams.
2. The secretariat provides **capacity-building** support to constituted bodies and secretariat staff in integrating a gender perspective into their respective areas of work in collaboration with relevant organizations, as appropriate (3/CP.25, para 15(c)).
3. The secretariat ensures that members of constituted bodies are introduced to gender-related mandates and to the relevance of gender in the context of their work in a consistent and systematic manner (3/CP.25, GAP activity C.1).

GENDER UNDER THE UNFCCC – GENERAL CONTEXT

The **PARIS AGREEMENT** acknowledges in its preamble that “climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity”. There are also references to gender-responsive adaptation action (Art. 7) and capacity-building (Art. 11).

The **KATOWICE CLIMATE PACKAGE** includes multiple references to gender/women/social (impacts, consequences)

Topic	Decision	Decision description	Gender or social references
Mitigation	4/CMA.1	Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21 (para 7, annex para 4)	Gender-responsive (information on the planning of NDCs)
Adaptation	9/CMA.1	Elements of an adaptation communication	An adaptation communication may include information on gender-responsive adaptation action
Climate finance	12/CMA.1	Identification of the information to be provided by Parties in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement	Gender responsiveness (developed country biennial communication; information on policies and priorities)
Technology	15/CMA.1	Technology framework under Article 10, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement	Multiple references: gender, socially sound, gender-responsiveness and gender perspective

Transparency	18/CMA.1	Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement	Social consequences, social impacts, social vulnerabilities, gender perspectives, gender balance
Global Stocktake	19/CMA.1	Matters relating to Article 14 of the Paris Agreement and paragraphs 99-101 of decision 1/CP.21	Social impacts (response measures)
Committee to facilitate implementation and promote compliance	20/CMA.1	Modalities and procedures for the effective operation of the committee referred to in Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement	Gender balance (committee)

GENDER UNDER THE CONVENTION – GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA ITEM

The principal decision for gender under the Convention is the **enhanced Lima work programme on gender (LWPG) and its gender action plan (GAP)** (decision [3/CP.25](#)), which builds on the previous LWPG (decision 18/CP.20 and 21/CP.22) and the first GAP (decision 3/CP.23).

The LWPG and GAP support the achievement of gender-responsive climate policy and action at all levels and gender balance within the UNFCCC process. The LWPG and GAP further acknowledge the continuing need for gender **mainstreaming through all relevant targets and goals in activities under the Convention** as an important contribution to increasing their **effectiveness, fairness and sustainability**.

LWPG

- Long term, open-ended action
- Secretariat regular functions
- Gender action plan as an annex
- Review of progress/ further work to be undertaken in November 2024

GAP

- 5 Priority areas with objectives
- 20 activities
- 35 outputs
- Intermediate review of implementation in June 2022



PRIORITY AREA A

Capacity-Building, Knowledge Management & Communication



PRIORITY AREA B

Gender Balance, Participation & Women's Leadership



PRIORITY AREA C

Coherence



PRIORITY AREA D

Gender – Responsive Implementation & Means of Implementation



PRIORITY AREA E

Monitoring & Reporting

Gender Action Plan

GENDER UNDER THE CONVENTION – SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES UNDER THE GAP

Activity	Responsibility	Deliverables/outputs and Timeline (timing takes precedence over SB session)
C.2 Facilitate the exchange of views and best practices of the Chairs of constituted bodies on how to strengthen the integration of the gender perspective into their work, taking into account the synthesis reports on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes referred to in paragraph 15(b) of this decision	Leading: Chairs of constituted bodies Contributing: secretariat	Selection of topics for dialogue SB 56 (2022)
	Leading: secretariat Contributing: relevant organizations	Compilation of good practices for integrating gender into the work of the constituted bodies SB 56 (2022)
	Leading: Chairs of constituted bodies Contributing: secretariat	Dialogue SB 58 (2023)
	Secretariat	Dialogue report SB 59 (2023)
C.3 Strengthen coordination between the work on gender considerations of the subsidiary bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and other relevant United Nations entities and processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as applicable	Leading: secretariat Contributing: Parties, constituted bodies, relevant organizations	In-session dialogue on Gender Day focused on one thematic area relevant to the Convention and the Paris Agreement to promote coherence reflecting multidimensional factors
D.3 Promote the deployment of gender-responsive technological solutions to address climate change, including strengthening, protecting and preserving local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors and for improving climate resilience, and by fostering women's and girls' full participation and leadership in science, technology, research and development	Leading: Parties, relevant organizations, constituted bodies Contributing: secretariat	Workshops, capacity-building initiatives, webinars

GENDER TERMINOLOGY

Sex refers to the **biological** difference between women and men.

Gender refers to the **social** attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys and amongst them. These attributes, opportunities, and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through the socialization process. Gender is a relevant point of analysis for developing and implementing climate policy and action.

Gender-responsive (climate policies, programmes, projects, action, etc.) are nondiscriminatory, equally benefit women, men, girls and boys and aim to address gender inequalities through design and implementation.

Gender balance refers to the ratio of women to men in any given situation.

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change impacts often differ between women and men, including in relation to vulnerabilities, the benefits flowing from responses to climate change, and who is participating in decision-making on the climate emergency.

A report prepared by the secretariat in 2019 highlighted that differences were due to existing gender inequalities caused by unequal power relations, unequal access to and control of resources and discriminatory laws and customs, rather than any inherent qualities of women and men. It recognized that differences also arise from other, intersecting inequalities, such as age, ethnicity, (dis)ability or socio-economic status.

As gender is socially constructed, the laws, norms, and customs that are associated with each gender vary between communities and contexts. It also means that these laws, norms and customs can be changed to ensure that women, men, girls and boys are equally empowered to respond to and act on climate change.

Some illustrative examples¹:

1. Women and girls are not inherently more vulnerable than men. Rather vulnerability to different climate events results from the social and gender norms which affect people's access to resources and information, inclusion/exclusion from participation and receiving services, agency, learned survival skills, and behavioral choices. The 90% female fatalities during Hurricane Gorky resulted from societal expectations of Bangladeshi women to remain at home, which both excluded them from accessing information and made them less likely to evacuate without a male relative. Furthermore, few women in Bangladesh are taught how to swim. In other instances, men have been shown to be more likely to die during natural disaster as for example during some hurricanes and storms in the US and during fires in Australia. This disparity can be explained through higher representation of men in emergency response jobs and higher engagement in risky behavior such as driving in flood water or not evacuating to protect property. Not all women and all men are the same. After Hurricane Katrina, black women were shown to be at the highest risk for psychosocial distress or depression, mental, and physical impairment.
2. A case example of a REDD+ programme in Viet Nam, which showed that a lack of understanding of what it meant to achieve meaningful participation (rendering it tokenistic), and gender relations and power dynamics not sufficiently being reflected and addressed, resulted in equal benefit sharing not being achieved and/or that gender and social inequalities were exacerbated.
3. Some studies have shown that women tend to be more concerned than men about the environment and effects of climate change and are therefore often early adopters and more likely to support mitigation actions. Policy needs to take into account that behaviour is linked to people's self-conception and that specific polluting or sustainable behaviours being perceived as feminine or masculine will influence how likely people are to engage or disengage in them. Some examples include meat consumption in men, driving at high speed, transportation mode choice in general. In a world where femininity is devalued it was shown that some men actively avoid sustainable choices as environmental concern and sustainable choices were perceived as female.
4. Understanding travel behaviour is central to an effective transition to low-carbon transport infrastructure and services, since such modes of transport, including public transport, cycling and walking, may not meet the complex needs and preferences of everyone. Currently women's transportation needs, which differ from men's largely due to the gender division in formal and informal work as well as security concerns and other social restrictions, are not adequately addressed. Taking gender into account is crucial to ensure the uptake of sustainable transportation modes – as well as any other technology or behaviour change – and ultimately its effectiveness for addressing the climate crises.
5. Men are likely to be affected during the transition to a low-carbon economy due to their overrepresentation in carbon-intensive sectors. Specifically, those in low-paid jobs are vulnerable to these changes. A just transition would mean that pre-existing and historical inequalities on the basis of gender but also class, ethnicity, etc., would be considered. For a rapid transition to new sustainable and low-carbon systems it is essential that the required skills and human capital are available. Women are vastly underrepresented in these sectors and job profiles: the share of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) jobs in renewable energy is 28%. Investing in women's and girl's education and removing barriers to their entry of the job market as well as career development are thus essential for addressing the climate crisis.

THE AFB'S WORK ON GENDER – FURTHER MANDATES RELEVANT TO THE ADAPTATION FUND

DECISION 3/CP.25 highlights the importance of climate finance in the context of gender-responsive climate action in the preambular text as well as under priority area D on implementation and means of implementation.

3/CP.25 - Lima Work Programme on Gender

14. Also invites relevant **public and private entities** to increase the **gender-responsiveness of climate finance** with a view to strengthening the capacity of women.

16. Invites Parties to **provide support for developing country Parties to address gender-related action** under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including in relation to the UNFCCC gender action plan;

3/CP.25 - GAP Activity

D.2 Raise awareness of the **financial and technical support** available for promoting the strengthening of gender integration into climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate, including good practices to facilitate **access to climate finance** for grassroots women's organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities

Responsibility

Leading: secretariat, Parties
Contributing: **Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, private sector, philanthropic financial institutions, other relevant organizations**

Deliverables/outputs and Timeline

Webinars, communication materials, in-session workshops
Ongoing to COP 30 (2024)

¹ References can be found in the Annex

We recall that the **KATOWICE CLIMATE PACKAGE** includes a reference to gender in the context of finance: information on policies and priorities, including regions and geography, recipient countries, beneficiaries, targeted groups, sectors and gender responsiveness should be included in developed country biennial communication.

The **ADAPTATION FUND'S [Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan \(2017-2019\)](#)** were approved in March 2016 (Decision B.27/28) and the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat plays a key role in coordinating it in close collaboration with the implementing entities. The Fund's gender policy highlights the principle of gender equality and women's empowerment as the goal that the Fund strives to attain through its processes. It also systematically integrates key principles elaborated in the Fund's own environmental and social policy, especially the principles on access and equity, on consideration of marginalized and vulnerable groups, and of human rights.

[The Assessment Report on Progress in the Implementation of the Adaptation Fund's Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan](#), is the outcome document of participatory assessment of the Policy and Action Plan and focused on lessons learned, good practices, ongoing challenges, gap areas and progress.

The **ADAPTATION FUND'S [Medium-Term Strategy](#)** and Implementation Plan (2018-2022) recognizes that 'advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls' is a cross-cutting theme and it's part of the Board's mission.

Since 2019, the projects funded by the Adaptation Fund require to complete the [project performance reporting](#) including the provision of information on gender equality at the inception, implementation, and final stages of each projects.

The updated [Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan](#) of the AF has been approved on the 16th of March 2021 (GP and GAP are contained in Annex I and Annex II respectively). The update of GP and GAP has been a multi-step and multi-stakeholder engaging process which elevated goals and ambitions of the AF. The update will hopefully lead the AF, and its major actors and stakeholders to accelerate and strengthen their concerted efforts for enhanced gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

BACKGROUND TO THE AFB'S ENGAGEMENT ON GENDER

Some of the steps to integrate gender into AFB's work²:

- Approval of technical assistance grants for the environmental and social safeguards policy and the gender policy;
- Participation of the secretariat in the gender dialogue on behalf of the AFB;
- Creation of a new brochure on gender;
- Delivery of a webinar in 2018 on mainstreaming environmental, social, and gender issues in adaptation projects and programmes;
- Approval of one technical assistance grant to support the National Implementing Entity (NIE) in strengthening its capability to address and manage, inter alia, gender considerations in adaptation projects and programmes and at the institutional level.

GENDER AND FINANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

As climate finance essentially is the provision of resources to address climate change, its design and allocation has great implications on the gender-responsiveness of climate action. There are two key questions on climate finance and gender: 1. Is the form/framework of financing ensuring that the supported policies, plans, and projects are gender-responsive? 2. Is unbiased and equal access to finance ensured?

As shown under the Gender and Climate Change section there are significant differences in how women and men are affected by climate change and empowered or enabled to contribute to solutions. Climate finance is a powerful and key vehicle through which this, as well as underlying inequalities, can be addressed to achieve better climate **adaptation outcomes**.

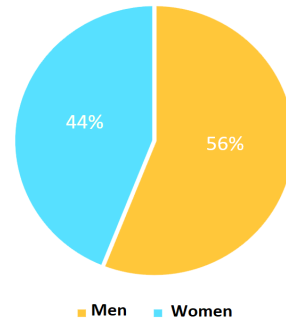
Some examples of how gender plays out with respects to finance:

- The flow of climate funds to the local level between 2003-2006 was estimated to have been less than 10%;
- Only 1% of aid focused on gender equality and women's empowerment goes to women's organizations;
- Financial exclusion remains a major constraint for women;
- Gender bias/discrimination leads to women being disadvantaged e.g. in securing investments or accessing finance.

EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN THE AFB

The COP adopted a **goal of gender balance** in decision 23/CP.18 and highlighted the importance of women's equal and meaningful participation in decision 3/CP.25. (Groups of) Parties are therefore encouraged to seek balanced representation. Constituted bodies have an important role to play in championing women's equal participation and leadership' through:

- Electing female Chairs
- Ensuring gender balance in panels/working groups
- Members championing gender balance in their role as member or Chair within their delegation and regional group.



In 2020, 44% of the AFB members were women and 56% men.

References for the illustrative examples of the Gender and Climate Change and Gender and Finance in the Context of Climate Change Section:

- Synthesis report on differentiated impacts of climate change including information provided by ILO, CIFOR and ITF [FCCC/SBI/2019/INF.8](#)
- WEDO (2020) [Gender and Climate Change in the United States: A Reading of Existing Research](#)
- IRENA (2019) [Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective](#)
- Articles on behavioral preferences in [The Guardian](#) and [The Conversation](#) and on bias in [The Guardian](#).
- UN Women (2016) [Leveraging Co-Benefits and Climate Action for sustainable development](#) includes a chapter on climate finance examining public and private finance, including gender lens investing, vertical funds and innovative finance
- GGCA and UNDP (2016) [Gender and Climate Finance Policy Brief](#)
- Webinar: [Mainstreaming Gender in NDCs: Gender in Adaptation Planning](#) (UNDP NDC Support Programme, 2020)
- Toolkit: [Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans \(NAPs\)](#) (IISD, 2019)
- OECD (2016) [Making climate finance work for women: Overview of bilateral ODA to gender and climate change](#)

Other useful resources including reports, portals, networks and key partners:

- UNFCCC webpage on [Gender and adaptation](#)
- [Adaptation Knowledge Portal](#) – Nairobi Work Programme
- [NAP Global Network](#)
- Adaptation fund – [Gender knowledge](#)
- [Assessment Report on Progress in the Implementation of the Adaptation Fund's Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan - Adaptation Fund Board](#)
- Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung and ODI (2019) [Climate Funds Update on Gender and Climate Finance](#)
- Presentations by WEDO and South Centre during the [capacity building webinar](#)
- IUCN (2015) [Gender and Climate Finance: New Data on Women in Decision-Making Positions](#)
- Explainer Video on Gender Responsive Climate Finance by [Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung](#)
- Open Online Course on Gender and Climate Change by [UN CC:Learn](#)
- Recording of a public webinar on Gender and Climate Change by [UNFCCC, GCF, GEF, AF](#)