



## Concept Note:

<b>Title:</b>	Equality in Climate Action: Planning for a gender inclusive future in Africa.
<b>Executing Agencies:</b>	UN Women (lead), UNFCCC, UNDP
<b>Geographical coverage:</b>	Sub-Saharan Africa
<b>Date:</b>	16-18 April 2024
<b>Location:</b>	UNON Complex, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya

### Background

The Africa region suffers from the effects and consequences of numerous climate change impacts despite very minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) compared to developed countries. Such impacts include increased average temperatures, recurrent droughts, and floods landslides in parts of the continent, rising sea-levels, decreased precipitation leading to desertification, deforestation, and accelerated land degradation and desertification, reduced agricultural productivity, increase of food insecurity and poverty, and aggravation of conflict over natural resources and climate-induced migration, among other things.

Climate change in East and Southern Africa has accelerated and intensified into widespread and interlinked environmental, social, and economic crises such as biodiversity loss and ecosystems degradation, loss of lives and livelihoods, migration, natural resource-based conflicts. Climate change drivers and impacts are not gender neutral.<sup>1</sup> UN Women's studies underscore that women are not only affected by climate change differently than men, but they can contribute to climate change action in a different manner. The various reproductive and productive responsibilities that women undertake at both household and community levels, such as their roles in agriculture, energy provision, cooking, and the management of water, sanitation, and waste, increase their susceptibility to the effects of climate change. During extreme weather events, the labour responsibilities – usually unpaid - of rural women exceed that of men, women as primary producers and agricultural workers work harder to secure income forcing girls to leave school to help with chores<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, women are frequently tasked with ensuring the food security of their families, a challenge that becomes more demanding in regions prone to drought.

Climate change as a “threat multiplier” also escalates social, political, and economic tensions in fragile and conflict-affected settings. In times of food scarcity, decisions regarding who produces, provides, and consumes food, and who has a voice in shaping food policies and food systems are based on prevailing gender inequalities that overwhelmingly disadvantage women and girls<sup>3</sup>. The depletion of natural resources caused by climate change necessitates that women and girls cover greater distances to gather fuel, wood and water, as well as explore new farmlands<sup>4</sup>. This heightened exposure places them at an

<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBI/2022/7. [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2022\\_07.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2022_07.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Gender-responsive climate change actions in Africa Technical Paper

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.care-international.org/files/files/LeftOutandLeftBehind.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378015000825>



increased risk of experiencing various forms of sexual violence and abuse, including the potential coercion into engaging in transactional sex for food and other forms of violence<sup>5</sup>. Gender blind climate policies and programming is one of the leading causes for the inability of women and girls to access the full benefits of climate adaptation and mitigation opportunities to support their upward social mobility and reduce the gender gap. Strengthening gender considerations in policymaking targeting agriculture, natural resource management, climate adaptation and mitigation is crucial.

To address the necessary conditions supporting gender-responsive climate action, a technical paper was developed on gender-responsive climate change actions in Africa<sup>6</sup>, that explores gender commitments pertinent to African nations, the necessary conditions supporting gender-responsive climate actions, and the implementation of gender responsive adaptation and mitigation measures across various sectors. It underscores the capacity strengthening of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) members, identifies areas of opportunity, and showcases examples of gender-responsive climate actions undertaken by 13 African countries.

## Rationale

### ***Gender-responsive climate action with gender equality and women's rights, resilience, leadership, and livelihoods at the centre***

Despite women and girls taking climate and environmental action everywhere, their voice, agency, and participation are under-supported, under-resourced, under-valued and under-recognized. Women's – and especially young women's and girls' – organizations face multiple barriers, from shrinking democratic space and diminishing funding to threats to physical security including for women living with disabilities. Low awareness of the multiple benefits resulting from women's participation and leadership for climate and environmental justice reinforces their under-representation in governance and decision-making at all levels. The capacity of women and girls to act and build a resilient future depends on removing structural barriers and gender gaps. Gender-responsive planning and policy making recognizes and seeks to address disparities by incorporating differentiated needs, perspectives, and contributions, of women and men in all their diversity and ensures effective mitigation and adaptation action. Countries are formulating their commitments, strategies and plans to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate in the form of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS). At the continental level, the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022 – 2032) aims at promoting Africa's growth and economic development by championing citizen inclusion and increased cooperation and integration. With the AU and her Member States taking leadership in the development of these regional and national policies in accordance with their priorities, international and regional obligations, and commitments to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, there is an opportunity for various stakeholders to provide technical assistance in the development and implementation of these policies

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<sup>5</sup> The climate-care nexus: addressing the linkages between climate change and women's and girls' unpaid care, domestic and communal work

<sup>6</sup> [https://climatepromise.undp.org/sites/default/files/research\\_report\\_document/UNDP technical paper - EN Final - web.pdf](https://climatepromise.undp.org/sites/default/files/research_report_document/UNDP%20technical%20paper%20-%20EN%20Final%20-%20web.pdf)



and priorities. For example, since the adoption of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015, only 24 per cent of 120 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) identified national gender equality institutions as part of climate change governance and only 27 per cent noted the importance of women's participation in climate decision making.<sup>7</sup> The development and subsequent implementation of gender-responsive climate and environmental policies, strategies and actions are severely constrained by the limited resources (both financial and human) and by the dearth of gender statistics including lack of sex- and age-disaggregation. There is a need for adequate consideration of the diverse needs of women and girls in the design and implementation of and distribution of the benefits from policies and programs related to climate change, disasters, and risk reduction at global, regional, and national levels. Furthermore, the leadership and participation of women and girls in climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction will strengthen the resilience of communities.

To support countries to integrate gender equality objectives and gender analysis into the design and implementation of Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), a technical guidance was developed<sup>8</sup>. It presents guiding questions, case examples, data sources and proposed recommendations for major stakeholders to strengthen gender integration at each stage of the process. By aligning the INFF with the NDC Financing Framework developed during the NDC revision process, countries can strategically channel financial resources towards gender-responsive initiatives. The INFF serves as a comprehensive approach, offering a structured mechanism to link financial planning, implementation, and monitoring across various sectors. This synergy enables countries to identify and address gender disparities in climate action while ensuring that funding for NDCs is efficiently utilized.

Women's knowledge, capacity and leadership are crucial in accessing, utilizing, and reporting on the various forms of climate finance. Thus, a gender perspective needs to be considered when developing INFFs and NDC FFs and application of the various climate finance instruments and mechanisms. For instance, in March 2023, UNDP and the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN) collaborated to organize a two-day capacity-building workshop to strengthen climate actions and gender priorities on the African continent. The workshop aimed to empower and enhance the capabilities of 41 junior and new women negotiators from Africa in various aspects of UNFCCC processes, particularly focusing on gender in climate change processes. This unique opportunity allowed junior women negotiators to significantly expand their knowledge and skills in the field of gender and climate change negotiations. The training provided participants with valuable insights and equipped them with essential skills that will enable them to actively engage in future discussions on this crucial topic.

Women's meaningful participation in the NDC revision process which starts in 2024 with broad-based consultations is important to ensure that women's issues, priorities, and concerns are incorporated into the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation NDCs due for submission to UNFCCC in 2025. Use of tools to integrate gender in NDCs

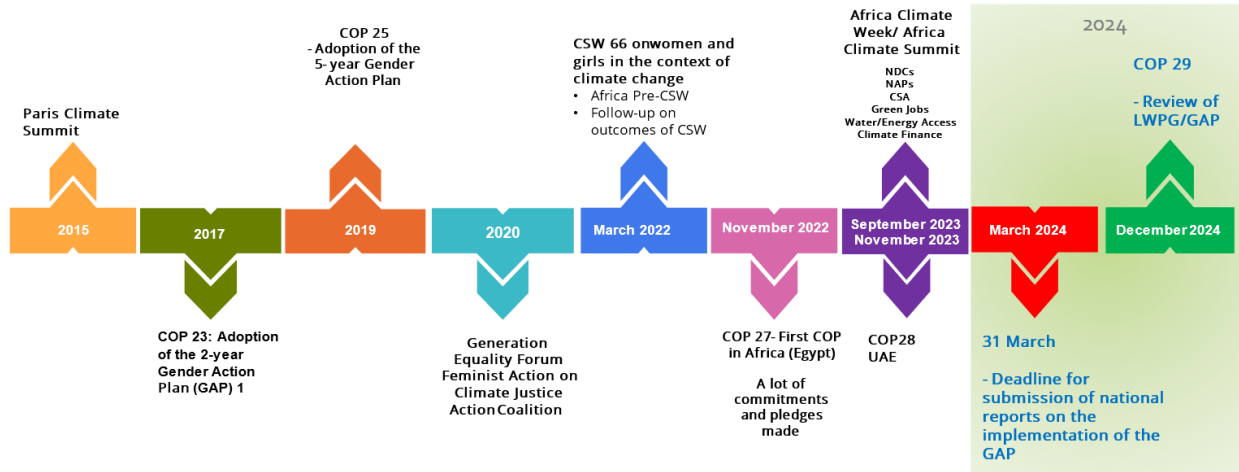
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<sup>7</sup> UNDP, 2021. [The State of Climate Ambition. Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDC\) Global Outlook Report 2021.](#)

<sup>8</sup> <https://gender-financing.unwomen.org/en/resources/t/e/c/technical-guidance-note>

such as UNDP guidance on gender analysis and NDCs<sup>9</sup>, WRI and NDC Partnership gender assessment of NDCs<sup>10</sup> and others can help support women's voice and participation and gender mainstreaming in NDC priority sectors.

## Evolution of the Gender and Climate Discourse



### *The review of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its Gender Action Plan*

The five-year enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP)<sup>11</sup> aims to advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the work of Parties, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels, as well as women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process. With its adoption, Parties acknowledged 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 and the important role of the LWPG and GAP in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the UNFCCC process.

<sup>9</sup> [https://climatepromise.undp.org/sites/default/files/research\\_report\\_document/undp-ndcsp-gender-analysis-ndcs-short-guidance.pdf](https://climatepromise.undp.org/sites/default/files/research_report_document/undp-ndcsp-gender-analysis-ndcs-short-guidance.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/EH%2020\\_7\\_World%20Resources%20Institute.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/EH%2020_7_World%20Resources%20Institute.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> 3/CP.25 [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2019\\_13a01E.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2019_13a01E.pdf)



The review of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan will be initiated during the 60<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation in June 2024 and will conclude at its 61<sup>st</sup> meeting during COP 29. The review will comprise a reflection on progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the gender action plan as well as future work to be undertaken on gender and climate change.

The **Regional Workshop** presents an opportunity to share concrete experiences and good practices, promote peer-to-peer learning and build capacity on the work done in East and Southern Africa and identify priorities and common elements across countries for the review of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan.

**The regional workshop will strengthen participants' understanding on:**

- The entry points and opportunities to integrate gender considerations into the Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, National Gender and Climate Action Plans, instruments, and processes to ensure gender-responsive climate action. Countries will share their experiences in their processes.
- Accessing climate finance by facilitating knowledge-sharing on successes and challenges in securing funding for gender-responsive climate initiatives. The importance of sex disaggregated data and gender statistics for planning and policymaking.
- Women engagement and leadership at global and national levels: NDC revision processes and global climate negotiations
- Macro level investments for climate adaptation and mitigation and gender and climate finance
- The synergies between the climate change discourse and care, peace, and security, DRR This will include an elevator pitch to introduce the interlinkages, and then open for reflections and potential entry points.
- South-south learning, including experience from Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific for insights on ongoing processes and programmes.

UN Women, RCC East and Southern Africa, and UNDP are organizing a Regional workshop to allow stakeholders to engage and discuss to further the climate change conversation and build into the climate change engagements, share their experience in the NDCs, NAPs, National Gender and Climate Change Action Plans with an aim to build the ESAR capacity and allow countries to engage better with the ministries for follow-up in-country discussions so as to develop a roadmap for the development of the national policies.

### **Objectives**

UN Women, RCC East and Southern Africa, and UNDP will host a three-day regional workshop to inform national and global level planning processes on the climate agenda. This workshop aims to bring together UNFCCC National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points<sup>12</sup> and key government actors from East and

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<sup>12</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/resources/list-of-gender-focal-points-under-the-unfccc>



Southern African as well as some members of civil society organizations to exchange best practices and strategies for integrating gender considerations into climate action initiatives. The three-day capacity development, sharing and learning event will provide opportunity to engage and discuss with stakeholders to further the climate change conversation, build to the climate change engagements, share their experiences on NDCs, NAPs, gender and climate finance, National Gender and Climate Change Action Plans, global climate negotiations and national preparatory processes to allow countries to engage better with the ministries for follow-up during in-country discussions. The event will also facilitate a long-term collaboration amongst regional stakeholders with the aim of identifying problems, using data and predictive methods. The main expected outcome is agreed on a way forward on what future GAP activities could look like to support national level implementation so as to guide their prioritization at the national levels.

The Regional workshop is aimed at:

1) **Facilitating:**

- The engagement of the national gender and climate change focal points and key gender actors in a strategic roadmap outlining actionable steps to be taken leading up to COP 29
- The necessary coordination and drafting of national gender and climate change action plans by reflecting on individual country submissions, circumstances, and priorities.
- Reflections and discussions on by analysing submissions from participating countries and allow for the identification of commonalities. Identify common discussions among national gender and climate change focal points and key gender actors about future work on gender and climate change under the UNFCCC.

2) **Supporting the review of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its GAP:** Enabling regional-level discussions and reflections on the implementation of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its GAP, individual country submissions made on the review, national circumstances, and priorities, allowing for the identification of commonalities, and discussions about future work on gender and climate change under the UNFCCC, including how it can support national level implementation.

3) **Strengthening multi-sectoral dialogue and institutional arrangements:**

- Provide a platform bringing together key climate change experts, gender, and related ministries, institutions, and actors to support gender responsive climate policy making and action at all levels.
- Bring government stakeholders, especially NGCCFPs, together with development partners, civil society, academic, research institutions and private sector actors to strengthen the regional capacity on the climate agenda.

4) **Promoting solution-oriented south-south collaboration:** showcasing and discussing best practices and strategies to ensure gender-responsive climate policy and enhance equal and



meaningful participation of women in climate change policy making and implementation at national, regional, and international levels including on gender and climate finance.

- 5) **Ensuring coherence and engagement of women and young women's associations in the climate agenda:** Contribute to the engagement of women's groups and national women and gender institutions in the process of developing, implementing, and updating climate policies, plans, strategies and action (GAP activity D.5).