

The Women and Gender Constituency

Submission to TD.1.3 Adaptation, Loss, and Damage

Summary submission - 08th June 2023.

Co-facilitators

Having read the reflections report of Technical Dialogue 1 and 2 and proposed key messages, the Women and Gender Constituency emphasizes the need to centre **gender equality and human rights** in the GST outcomes. Gender inequalities undermine adaptation actions. *For example, the reflections section on adaptation/loss and damage (summarizing the first and the second TD) does not mention human rights explicitly even once. Rights based approach and gender equality need to be at the heart of all actions on adaptation/resilience building actions.*

The mention of “inadequacy of adaptation finance support” (adaptation gap) in the report is welcomed, but there is no reference to indebtedness which should translate to the need for primary public finance in form of grant support to give countries the fiscal space they need to build system wide resilience, address impacts/loss and damage. It is important to also recognize women’s groups and organizations, communities and countries in the global south are already spending constrained resources they have, to adapt to climate change.

The role of public finance is critical in adaptation. In most communities and governments, adaptation actions translate to **protecting people’s dignity, saving people from abject poverty or in some instances saving life**. These actions cannot be market led or be at the mercy of innovative finance. Public funding, which is new, additional, adequate, and predictable needs to be committed. A clear message to that effect needs to come out of GST. Loans will not build resilience.

Equally, the report refers to comprehensive risk management approaches and some insurance programs but does not highlight the role of state-sponsored (public) social protection systems in building and maintaining resilience and dealing with the loss and damage.

As noted in the report, the impact of the climate crisis will worsen with temperature increase, as the adaptation and loss and damage costs which will soon be unmanageable if mitigation actions will not be implemented in the scale and pace required by science. Mitigation inaction and insufficient adaptation finance simply means condemning communities and frontline countries into an endless cycle of vulnerability, poverty, and injustices.

Lastly, we welcome the mention of **locally led adaptation efforts**, however we need to ensure procedural and outcome equity. This should mean, recognizing and emphasizing equitable engagement in the entire adaptation project cycle and, gender-responsive adaptation and loss and damage outcomes.