

A6.4-SB006-AA-A13

Concept note

Consideration of the gender action plan

Version 01.0



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

1. Procedural background

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), through its decision 3/CMA.3, paragraph 5(i), requested the Supervisory Body of the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement (Article 6.4 mechanism) to consider the gender action plan and the incorporation of relevant actions into the work of the Supervisory Body.¹

2. Purpose

2. This concept note aims to support the Supervisory Body in considering the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan,² and incorporating relevant actions into its work.

3. Key considerations for incorporating the gender action plan into the work of the Supervisory Body

3.1. General

3. In its Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report,³ the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) noted that there is a growing scientific consensus that the impacts of climate change are differentiated owing to the interaction and intersection of discrimination on the basis of gender, and other social factors such as ethnicity, age, class or (dis)ability. Mitigation efforts embedded within the wider development context can increase the pace, depth, and breadth of emission reductions. Equity, inclusion, and broad and meaningful participation of all relevant actors in decision-making at all scales, could accelerate these efforts, and climate action more broadly.
4. Supporting sustainable development is one of the aims of the Article 6.4 mechanism.⁴ Indeed, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is an integral component of sustainable development. The Rules of Procedure⁵ for the Supervisory Body also reflect this aim, for example, through:
 - (a) The application of robust social and environmental safeguards;
 - (b) The development of tools and approaches for assessing and reporting information on how each activity fosters sustainable development, while acknowledging that the consideration of sustainable development is a national prerogative; and

¹ Decision 3/CMA.3, paragraph 5(i), as contained in document FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/10/Add.1 available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_10_add1_adv.pdf#page=25.

² Decision 3/CP.25, as contained in document FCCC/CP/2019/13/Add.1 available at: <https://unfccc.int/documents/210471>.

³ IPCC 2023. Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). Available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/>.

⁴ Article 6, paragraph 4(a) of the Paris Agreement, as contained in document FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, annex, available at: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf#page=25>.

⁵ See annex to decision 3/CMA.3.

- (c) Ensuring that the mechanism facilitates the achievement of the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

3.2. Enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan

5. The Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan, agreed at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25),⁶ set out objectives and activities under five priority areas that aim to advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This includes the work of the constituted bodies, as well as women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process.
6. The enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan include specific mandates related to the work of the constituted bodies and to the secretariat's support for constituted bodies, as described in detail in appendix I. The mandates include, among other, provisions that:
 - (a) Encourage constituted bodies to continue strengthening their efforts in integrating a gender perspective into their processes;
 - (b) Request that constituted bodies continue to include in their regular reports information on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into their processes;
 - (c) Encourage constituted bodies, in line with their respective mandates, to support the action and implementation of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan;
 - (d) Request the secretariat to introduce members of constituted bodies to gender-related mandates and to the relevance of gender in the context of their work in a consistent and systematic manner; and to provide capacity-building support to constituted bodies and secretariat staff in integrating a gender perspective into their work.
7. The secretariat issued a report compiling and synthesizing good practices for integrating gender into the work of the constituted bodies.⁷ Some constituted bodies, including the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures, the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building, and the Technology Executive Committee, have documented and adopted tailored systematic approaches to integrating gender considerations into their respective workstream, as follows:
 - (a) Integration of gender as a cross-cutting consideration in all activities of the body, including technical and policy products, training, and events;

⁶ Decision 3/CP.25, as contained in document FCCC/CP/2019/13/Add.1 available at: <https://unfccc.int/documents/210471>. COP 27, through decision 24/CP.27, as contained in document FCCC/CP/2022/10/Add.3 available at: <https://unfccc.int/documents/626564>, adopted the intermediate review of the implementation of the gender action, including new activities and deliverables to the plan

⁷ See document FCCC/SBI/2022/INF.5 available at : https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2022_inf05.pdf.

- (b) The nomination of gender focal point/s or informal working groups from among its members/alternate members who champion and monitor the integration of gender into the work of the constituted body;
 - (c) Gender-sensitive and -inclusive communication, including the use of inclusive language and images in material produced by the constituted body;
 - (d) The engagement of relevant organizations or individuals with gender expertise as part of observer, stakeholder, or technical working groups that contribute to the activities of the constituted body;
 - (e) Gender balance as a criterion in the selection of speakers and experts, and as a consideration for the nomination of participants to events organized by the constituted body or by others as part of the constituted body's workplan.
8. The report also identified other good practices, adopted by the abovementioned and other constituted bodies, such as:
- (a) Establishment of gender indicators and gender- and sex-disaggregated data in monitoring, reporting and evaluation frameworks and technical work;
 - (b) Provision of capacity-building activities and resources for members of the body and its stakeholders;
 - (c) Collaboration with other constituted bodies to exchange experiences, challenges, and successes in integrating gender into their respective areas of work.

3.3. Integrating gender considerations in the work of the Supervisory Body and the Article 6.4 mechanism

9. When considering the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan and identifying ways to incorporate relevant actions into its work, the Supervisory Body may consider the good practices for integrating gender in the work of other constituted bodies. It adopt a systematic approach to integrating a gender perspective into its work, including the elements referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 above.⁸ This may include the following principles:
- (a) Gender-balanced representation;
 - (b) Gender-sensitive and -inclusive communication;
 - (c) Gender-responsiveness throughout the activity cycle (mainstreaming gender considerations); and
 - (d) Monitoring the integration of gender considerations in the work of the Supervisory Body.

3.3.1. Gender-balanced representation

10. Gender-balanced representation has been enshrined in the rules of procedure of the Supervisory Body. For instance, the rules mandate that each year the Supervisory Body shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among its members, taking fully into account the

⁸ FCCC/SBI/2022/INF.5.

consideration of regional and gender balance.⁹ To enhance the achievement of gender balance, including as set out in these mandates, the Supervisory Body could consider:

- (a) Gender balance when establishing any technical or expert groups or rosters;
- (b) Gender balance as a key consideration in the selection of speakers and experts, and in the nomination of participants for events organized by the Supervisory Body;
- (c) Collaborating with other constituted bodies to exchange experiences, challenges, and successes in integrating gender considerations in their work, including in achieving gender-balanced representation.

3.3.2. Gender-sensitive and -inclusive communication

- 11. Another way that the Supervisory Body could integrate the gender action plan in its work is by including gender-sensitive and -inclusive communication as a principle in the Supervisory Body's communications strategy and its engagement plan, for example, through the use of inclusive language and imagery in materials produced by the Supervisory Body.

3.3.3. Ensuring gender-responsiveness throughout the activity cycle (mainstreaming gender considerations)

- 12. A systematic approach to mainstreaming gender considerations into the work of the Supervisory Body could foster gender-responsiveness throughout the activity cycle. The Supervisory Body could identify how gender considerations apply in the context of its work with support from knowledge partners. This approach could encompass the inclusion of gender considerations when establishing the requirements and processes necessary to operate the mechanism (as listed in decision 3/CMA.3, annex, paragraph 24), which includes:
 - (a) The accreditation of operational entities as designated operational entities;
 - (b) The development and/or approval of methodologies and standardized baselines for Article 6.4 activities;
 - (c) The approval and supervision of host Party national arrangements for the accreditation of operational entities and the development of mechanism methodologies, including the application of baselines and other methodological requirements;
 - (d) The application of robust social and environmental safeguards;
 - (e) The development of tools and approaches for assessing and reporting information on how each activity is fostering sustainable development, while acknowledging that the consideration of sustainable development is a national prerogative;
 - (f) Facilitating dialogue with host Parties and other stakeholders in the mechanism.

⁹ Ibid, para 32.

13. The Supervisory Body could nominate gender focal point/s within the Supervisory Body to assist the body in gender-related matters, including to champion the integration of gender in the Supervisory Body's work.

3.3.4. Monitoring the integration of gender considerations in the work of the Supervisory Body

14. The Supervisory Body could adopt a structure for monitoring progress in the integration of gender considerations, including gender-balanced representation into its work and report to the CMA through its annual report.

4. Subsequent work and timelines

15. Further work will be undertaken as agreed upon by the Supervisory Body to incorporate relevant actions into its workplan, as necessary.

5. Recommendations to the Supervisory Body

16. The secretariat recommends that the Supervisory Body consider the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan and provide guidance on how to incorporate relevant actions into the work of the Supervisory Body.
17. The secretariat further recommends that the Supervisory Body report on how it has addressed this mandate from the CMA in its next annual report to the CMA.

Appendix. Relevant UNFCCC mandates

1. Tables 1 and 2 below detail the mandates under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that are relevant for supporting the Supervisory Body of the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement in its consideration of the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan.

Table 1. Mandates directly or indirectly linked to gender equality relating to the Article 6.4 mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement

Mandates on gender equality, human rights, social safeguards and sustainable development relating to the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement (Article 6.4 mechanism)			
Document/decision	Area	Mandate	Text
Paris Agreement	Human rights obligations, including gender equality and the empowerment of women	Preambular para. 11	Acknowledging 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
	Objectives of the Article 6.4 mechanism	Paragraph 6.4 (a)	A mechanism to contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and support sustainable development is hereby established under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement for use by Parties on a voluntary basis. It shall be supervised by a body designated by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement, and shall aim to promote the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions while fostering sustainable development
Rules, modalities and procedures for the Article 6.4 mechanism (decision 3/CMA.3)	Human rights obligations, including gender equality and the empowerment of women	Decision 3/CMA.3, preambular para. 3	Further recalling the eleventh preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement, acknowledging 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
	Sustainable development tool	Decision 3/CMA.3, para. 5 (c)	Requests the Supervisory Body to review the sustainable development tool in use for the clean development mechanism and other tools and safeguard systems in use in existing market-based mechanisms to promote sustainable development with a view to developing similar tools for the mechanism by the end of 2023
	Support to the KCI on addressing negative social and economic impacts	Decision 3/CMA.3, para. 12	Requests the Supervisory Body to support the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures (referred to in para. 33 of decision 1/CP.21) in considering ways to address any negative social or economic impacts, especially those on developing country Parties, resulting from Article 6, paragraph 4, activities, as requested by the forum

Table 2. Mandates on gender and climate change

Gender and climate change mandates			
Documents	Documents	Documents	Documents
Lima work programme and its gender action plan (decision 3/CP.25), including amendments to the gender action plan ¹ (decision 24/CP.27)	Lima work programme and its gender action plan (decision 3/CP.25), including amendments to the gender action plan ² (decision 24/CP.27)	Lima work programme and its gender action plan (decision 3/CP.25), including amendments to the gender action plan ³ (decision 24/CP.27)	Lima work programme and its gender action plan (decision 3/CP.25), including amendments to the gender action plan ⁴ (decision 24/CP.27)
	Differentiated impacts of climate change	Decision 3/CP 25, preambular para. 5	Recognizing with concern that climate change impacts on women and men can often differ owing to historical and current gender inequalities and multidimensional factors and can be more pronounced in developing countries and for local communities and indigenous peoples.
	Women's participation vital for long-term climate goals	Decision 3/CP 25, para. 7	Recognizes that the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women in all aspects of the UNFCCC process and in national- and local-level climate policy an action is vital for achieving long-term climate goals.
	Gender-responsive implementation can raise climate ambition	Decision 3/CP 25, para. 9	Notes that gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation of climate policy and action can enable Parties to raise ambition, as well as enhance gender equality, and just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities.
	Coherence with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Decision 3/CP 25, para. 8	Acknowledges that coherence with relevant United Nations processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as applicable, and within national implementation will contribute to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of efforts to integrate gender considerations into climate action;
	Work of constituted bodies	Decision 3/CP 25, para. 2	Takes note of the report on the gender composition of Party delegations and constituted bodies, which highlights the persistent lack of progress in and the urgent need for improving the representation of women in Party delegations and constituted bodies;
		Decision 3/CP 25, para. 3	Also takes note of the report on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes, which indicates that an increasing number of constituted bodies are reporting on gender, and encourages constituted bodies to continue strengthening their efforts in this area;

¹ Available at: <https://unfccc.int/documents/627886>.

² Available at: <https://unfccc.int/documents/627886>.

³ Available at: <https://unfccc.int/documents/627886>.

⁴ Available at: <https://unfccc.int/documents/627886>.

Gender and climate change mandates			
Documents	Documents	Documents	Documents
		Decision 3/CP 25, para. 12	Requests all constituted bodies to continue to include in their regular reports information on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into their processes
	GAP priority area C: Coherence	Annex to decision 3/CP 25, para. 6	To strengthen the integration of gender considerations within the work of UNFCCC constituted bodies, the secretariat and other United Nations entities and stakeholders towards the consistent implementation of gender-related mandates and activities
		Activity C.1	Ensure 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.
		Activity 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
		Activity C.4	Encourage Parties and relevant UNFCCC constituted bodies, in line with their respective mandates, to support action and implementation of the enhanced LWPG and GAP.
	Secretariat's work with Constituted Bodies	Decision 3/CP 25, para. 15 (b)	Requests the secretariat to continue to prepare an annual gender composition report and a biennial synthesis report on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes.
Decision 3/CP 25, para. 15 (c)		Requests the secretariat to continue to provide 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.	
Intermediate review of the implementation of the gender action plan (decision 24/CP.27)	Intermediate review of the implementation of the gender action plan (decision 24/CP.27)	Intermediate review of the implementation of the gender action plan (decision 24/CP.27)	Intermediate review of the implementation of the gender action plan (decision 24/CP.27)
	Welcomes AR6 report	Decision 24/CP. 27, para. 8	Welcomes the contributions related to gender of Working Group II and Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
	Gender-balanced events	Decision 24/CP. 27, para. 7 (c)	Underscores the need to promote efforts towards gender balance and improve inclusivity in the UNFCCC process by inviting the secretariat, relevant presiding officers and event organizers to promote gender-balanced events
	Constituted bodies to enhance implementation of the GAP	Decision 24/CP. 27, para. 17	Invites Parties, United Nations entities, constituted bodies, implementing entities and other relevant stakeholders to enhance implementation of the gender action plan, including the amendments contained in the annex
Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (decision 1/CP.27)	Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (decision 1/CP.27)	Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (decision 1/CP.27)	Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (decision 1/CP.27)

Gender and climate change mandates			
Documents	Documents	Documents	Documents
	Parties to fully implement the GAP to raise climate ambition and achieve climate goals	Decision 1/CP.27, para. 57	Encourages Parties to increase the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in climate action and to ensure gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation, including by fully implementing the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan, to raise climate ambition and achieve climate goals.
	Support to developing countries in implementing the GAP	Decision 1/CP.27, para. 58	Invites Parties to provide support to developing countries for undertaking gender-related action and implementing the gender action plan.

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