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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Conference of the Parties

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Item 15 of the provisional agenda

Gender and climate change

Options and ways to advance the gender balance goal

Submissions from Parties and observer organizations

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its eighteenth session, decided to promote gender balance and improve the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, at its eighth session, endorsed that decision.¹
2. The COP invited Parties and observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 2 September 2013, their views on options and ways to advance the goal referred to in paragraph 1 above, in order to improve the participation of women and to inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally.²
3. The secretariat has received 16 such submissions from Parties. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced* in the languages in which they were received and without formal editing.³ In line with established practice, the submissions received from observer organizations have been posted on the UNFCCC website.⁴

¹ FCCC/KP/CMP/2012/13, paragraph 39.

² Decision 23/CP.18, paragraph 11.

* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

³ Also available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/submissions_from_parties/items/5916.php>.

⁴ Available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/submissions_from_observers/items/7647.php>.

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* This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

***Submission of the Afghanistan Islamic Republic on
Decision 23/CP.18***

Decision 23/CP.18: 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

Gender safeguards

The Afghanistan Islamic Republic State supports women empowerment and integrates gender in the programs of all economic sectors; National Environment protection Agency supports gender equality as well. It is worth mentioning that NEPA has gender department; the gender department has already held 12 workshops in 2012 on International treaties, climate change, natural heritage, civil law, Environment law, EIA, ozone, and Violence Against Women Act. 100 women and 262 men have participated in those workshops. In 2013 in the last 6 months gender department has held 6workshops in different sectors to improve gender equality and enhance women's capacity.

Ministry of Women Affairs

The Afghanistan Islamic Republic government has Ministry of Women Affairs that was established since 2002 This Ministry has national action plan for women of Afghanistan. Ministry of Women Affairs has nine central divisions and 34 sub- provincial offices, and 830 staff at present. This ministry also has 22 priority programs in all of Afghanistan for devolving human sources at present and in future. The programs, designed to support the Afghan government's commitment to achieve gender equality, which aims to accelerate the implementation of the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan or NPVA, have been launched.

The above programs were designed to promote gender mainstreaming in national priority programs or clusters of other elements within the governance and the rule of law, to support development economic and infrastructure, agricultural, rural development, health and security.

Vision

The overall objectives of the national priority programs and implementation, which were connected with six component parts, will be implemented and will be achieved. The program is working to address the problem of lack of capacity to gender address issues in government, clarify the appropriate role of women in society. The overall objectives are summarized in the following four objectives:

- Capacity
- Raising awareness about the concept of gender equality.
- Template methods for including gender in policies and programs of each cycle;
- Establish effective mechanisms, to monitor process of "NPVA" in the government departments

Output

The national priority programs of the Ministry of Women's Affairs will be implemented in the next future. It will be useful for the Afghanistan Islamic Republic government. The result of implementation the above projects consist of the following:

- Increasing capacity building
- Implementation of NPVA
- Approach for including gender programs in policies, strategies of the relevant government departments
- Developing gender programs

- Monitoring

CHALLENGES

Whereas climate change is a global phenomenon, the effects are local. Although the specific physical impacts of climate change are determined by geography and micro level interactions between global warming and existing weather patterns, in Afghanistan, the impacts of climate change are likely to be particularly severe due to the arid/ semi-arid nature of the country, the importance of natural resources for rural livelihoods and the extreme poverty within which a large proportion of the Afghan population lives. Concretely, the adverse impacts of climate change imply a whole range of serious problems. The pressing issues of desertification, biodiversity loss and climate change threaten the very foundations of rural livelihoods in Afghanistan. Drought and mismanagement of water resources affect agricultural productivity, desertification is reducing the carrying capacity of the land and the unsustainable harvesting of forest resources marks the loss of a national treasure. It is in this context that Afghanistan urgently needs a comprehensive international supports. The Afghanistan women have participated actively in climate change and adaptation workshops, to understand climate change knowledge, mitigate and climate change impacts in different sectors. Women faced in climate change challenges such as flood, drought, rainfall, snowfall, poverty, air pollution and environmental impacts, budget and others climate change problems; however the main climate change challenges are the following:

- Public awareness
- Lack of international support
- Climate Change budget
- Training programs
- Technology transfer
- Adaption and mitigation strategy and policy
- Capacity building

NEEDS -

What kind of support gender needs at the present and in future? To access climate change knowledge, and improve adaptation and mitigation plans in the futures to overall Afghanistan, gender need national and international support. The subjects which are very important as the following:

- Training programs
- International cooperation
- Climate Change budget
- Long and short term training programs
- Public awareness
- Adaptation and mitigation new approaches
- International support
- Long and short training on abroad
- Technical Workshops and training courses
- Capacity building

PROPOSITIONS DU BURUNDI SUR L'INTEGRATION DU GENRE DANS LA MISE EN APPLICATION DE LA DECISION 23/CP.18 D'UNFCCC.

INTRODUCTION.

1. Le Burundi a ratifié la convention la Convention Cadre des Nations Unies sur le Changement Climatique et le Protocole de Kyoto (CCNUCC, PK) en 1997. Depuis lors, il a entrepris sa mise en œuvre marquée par l'élaboration de quatre documents qui servent d'orientation stratégique et opérationnelle aux politiques, programmes et projets de développement. Il s'agit de : la Communication Nationale Initiale (CNI de 2001), Plan d'Action National d'Adaptation au Changement Climatique (PANA de 2007), Manuel de Formation/Sensibilisation sur le Changement Climatique de 2009, Seconde Communication Nationale sur le Changement Climatique (SCNCC de 2009)., le processus de la Troisième Communication étant en cours la Politique Nationale sur les Changements Climatiques au Burundi, la stratégie nationale sur le changement climatique et son Plan d'Action. En plus de ces outils, d'autres atouts appréciables sont disponibles pour faire face aux changements climatiques.

2. En effet:

- Sur le plan légal : un minimum de 30% de la représentation de la femme est notifié dans la Constitution de la République du Burundi. Des documents de Politique Nationale sur le genre et le changement climatique, leurs stratégies et Plans d'Actions de leur mise en application ont été adoptés (PNCC, SNCC, PACC, PNG et son PANG);
- Sur le plan institutionnel, il existe des ministères en charge du genre et du changement climatique ;
- Partenariat : le Burundi travaille avec les Nations Unies, les Organisations de la Société Civile, les ONGs et les PTF ;Cadre de référence : Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (OMD), Vision Burundi 2025, Cadre Stratégique de Croissance Economique et de Lutte contre la Pauvreté 2^{ème} génération (CSLP II) ;
 - Cadre de mise en œuvre : Plans Communaux de Développement Communautaires (PCDC).

3 En dépit de ces atouts, l'analyse nationale de la situation des changements climatiques au Burundi a permis de constater que les effets de ces derniers sont différemment ressentis par les catégories sociales mais sont plus épineux chez les groupes vulnérables (enfants, jeunes, femmes, hommes, personnes âgées, handicapés, Batwa, etc).

Bien que certaines actions aient été réalisées et d'autres en cours, elles ne tiennent pas suffisamment compte de la dimension genre

Tableau de problèmes et solutions

N°	PROBLEMES IDENTIFIES	SOLUTIONS
1.	Les organisateurs ne tiennent pas compte du genre lors des invitations.	Encourager les pays à faire participer les femmes à travers la notification.
2.	Ignorance du contenu de la convention par la communauté.	Traduire le document de la convention en langue nationale et en faire la vulgarisation à tous les niveaux.
3.	Faible sensibilisation des femmes et des hommes sur les questions relatives à la mise en œuvre de la convention sur les changements climatiques.	Communiquer et disséminer l'information sur le processus de négociation de l'UNFCCC.
4.	Faibles capacités des femmes en techniques de négociation et absence d'une banque de données sur les personnes ressources.	Renforcer les capacités des femmes en techniques de négociation spécifiquement sur le climat et constituer une banque de données des personnes ressources.
5.	Faible participation des femmes aux négociations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appliquer la parité hommes- femmes dans la désignation des membres de la délégation du pays ; • Encourager les partenaires au développement et les Parties à prendre en charge les participants aux négociations ; • Impliquer le Forum National des Femmes dans le processus de négociations.
6.	Faible représentativité des femmes aux comités de la convention et du protocole de Kyoto.	Encourager, préparer et appuyer les candidatures féminines à l'entrée dans les organes de la convention et du protocole de Kyoto.
7.	Faible intégration des questions liées au changement climatique dans les programmes et projets des organisations de la société civile et du secteur privé.	Sensibiliser les organisations de la société civile et du secteur privé à intégrer les questions liées au changement climatique dans leurs programmes et projets.
8.	Faible appui financier à la participation aux négociations sur la convention relative au changement climatique par les décideurs.	Sensibiliser les décideurs nationaux à la création d'une ligne budgétaire destinée au financement de la participation accrue aux négociations.
9.	Manque de données statistiques actualisées sur la vulnérabilité des femmes et des hommes face au changement climatique.	Mener une étude statistique sur la vulnérabilité des femmes, constituer une base de données et l'alimenter régulièrement.
10.	Faible collaboration et coordination des activités relatives à la mise en œuvre de la convention sur le changement climatique entre les intervenants.	Mettre en place et appuyer un cadre d'échange, de suivi-évaluation des activités relatives au changement climatique tenant compte de l'intégration de la dimension genre.

**Decision 23/CP.18
Ghana Submission**

Decision 23/CP.18 calls for the promotion of gender balance and an improvement in the participation of women in UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol negotiations. It also calls for the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol. Paragraph 11 of the same decision invites Parties and Observer organizations to submit their 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 in decision-making more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally.

It has been recognised that there is a direct link between gender and climate change. While climate change impacts affects all, there is a differential impact on women and men, due to their social roles and their livelihood activities. Given these differential impacts, it is important that the perspectives of women and men are equally taken into account in climate change decision-making.

In Ghana, the impacts of climate change are experienced by women and men in climate sensitive sectors including agriculture, water, energy, forestry and fisheries. These impacts include among others increased water scarcity, loss of livelihoods, inadequate access to safe and sustainable energy sources, deforestation, health issues, vulnerability to extreme and slow onset weather events, as well as conflict over natural resources.

Ghana's Vulnerability Assessment considered Climate Change and Women and revealed a number of impacts.

Ghana as a result of this study among other considerations has developed a national climate change adaptation strategy and a national climate change policy both of which include gender perspectives. Additionally, the country has also developed a road map to mainstreaming gender considerations into Ghana's REDD+ process in order to strengthen women's voices in forest resource management and governance and to encourage more equitable benefit distribution throughout the forest landscape.

The effective implementation of this climate policy and the adaptation strategy would contribute immensely to the restoration of fragile and vulnerable ecosystems, improvement of existing infrastructure, development of appropriate technology, securing of land tenure, improved livelihoods and ensure a balanced participation of both women and men in decision-making process and policy dialogue at all levels.

It is crucial to recognize these efforts and also address the challenges to do with the effective implementation of all the policies and strategies and how they relate to the overall

goal addressed in Decision 23/CP.18 which aims to inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally.

The decision calls for gender balance with the view that international climate policy will address the needs of women and men, in order to achieve the goal and specific strategies to enhance gender balance at the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol bodies, as well as developing a mechanism which would facilitate the review of a gender-sensitive climate policy.

An effective implementation of Decision 23/CP.18 that calls for strategies to enhance gender balance in bodies is directly related to strengthening the participation of women in the overall negotiations. Beyond the specific call that UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol bodies be gender balanced, there is a need for similar mandates for gender balance at the regional level. Recommended strategies for advancing this goal are proposed as follows:

- 1.The need to make connections between global, continental and national instruments on the issue of women participation to enable linkages with existing instruments.
- 2.Develop tools, knowledge, research and strategies for implementing gender-sensitive and responsive climate policy at the international, regional and national level.
- 3.Ensure women's participation and representation from developing countries in national delegations at UNFCCC meetings and other relevant forums, particularly from Africa.
- 4.Develop and facilitate capacity building for women delegates already participating in the UNFCCC process to enhance leadership and negotiating skills and knowledge on technical areas such as finance, technology, mitigation, as well as social and development dimensions, including gender; in addition to technical support and opportunities for networking and dialogue.
- 5.Develop general tools and methods to facilitate the assessment of the impacts of climate change and the implementation of climate change policies and actions.
- 6.Need to monitor the effectiveness of advancing the goal of gender balance, beyond the numbers, ensuring qualitative analysis of women and men's leadership roles within the negotiations.

Paper no. 4: Iceland

Decision 23/CP.18
Submission of Iceland

Parties to the UNFCCC took a significant step in Doha towards strengthened gender equality in the UNFCCC regime, by adopting the COP18 decision entitled “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” (Decision 23/CP.18). Operative para 11 of the decision requests Parties and observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, their views on options and ways to advance the goal set out in para 2: “... *(E)nhance decision 36/CP.7 by adopting a 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*”.

It is important to note that by decision 23/CP.18 not only a goal on gender balance in bodies was adopted, but also explicitly connected to “informing more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally”, which for simplification will be referred to hereafter as gender-sensitive climate policy.

Gender balance in bodies and gender-sensitive climate policies contribute to the broader UN goal of gender equality and should be referred to as such. In order to reach the goal set out in the decision, it is necessary to look into both national and collective policies and strategies of parties to the UNFCCC. Three keywords have been identified for guidance in this submission:

- 1. PRACTICE**
- 2. CHALLENGES**
- 3. NEEDS**

1. <u>PRACTICE</u> – Actions currently taken to implement gender equality in climate change policy and practice, including to reach gender balance

- *Gender balance and gender expertise in national delegations and UNFCCC bodies*
- *Formal mechanisms and practices to promote gender balance within decision-making bodies and in the composition of national delegations*
- *Involvement of domestic bodies on gender equality and gender equality experts in formulating climate change policy*
- *Integration of gender equality issues in National Communications and documents on national climate change plans and programmes*

The reason that decision 23/CP.18 was adopted is that mainstreaming of gender equality in the UNFCCC regime is still work in progress, and that gender ratios within UNFCCC bodies as well as among Party delegates are unsatisfactory. Gender balance in decision-making bodies is

fundamental for successfully designing and implementing gender-sensitive policies. It is, however, not sufficient as gender expertise and awareness has to follow suit for female and male representatives alike.

Probably every Party to the UNFCCC is challenged from the gender equality perspective. Despite having been ranked the number one country for gender equality by the World Economic Forum for four consecutive years, Iceland is no exception. As regards national practice, Icelandic gender equality legislation entails that in public committees, councils and boards there has to be a 40% minimum female or male representation when the total number is above three people. Furthermore, upon nominating individuals for a seat in such bodies, public authorities are obliged to nominate both a female and a male in order for the appointing authority to meet the 40% requirement. Even though the legal provision does not extend to delegations of Iceland abroad, this practice has normalized gender balance to some extent. In UNFCCC delegations, males have been in majority but the ratio was 4/3 at COP18 in Doha and 2/1 at COP19 in Durban. The numbers are small as Iceland is a small state and are a good reminder that percentages not always tell the whole story. Regarding gender expertise and awareness, Iceland has for a number of years had gender equality at the heart of its climate policy and consequently it has been ensured that Iceland's UNFCCC delegations are reinforced with gender expertise. Consultative meetings are held regularly with participation from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources, the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA), the United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (GEST) and the Centre for Gender Equality, a national bureau in charge of administering the Act on Equal Status and Equal Rights of Women and Men.

Iceland is an Annex I Party and does not have a NAPA or NAMA, but a National Action Plan on Climate Change from October 2010. The original plan features participation as one of its guiding principles with a specific reference to participation of both women and men and a notion that gender considerations should apply to work on climate change in developing and developed countries alike. In 2012 the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources launched work on a gender analysis of the National Action Plan. A first phase report has been published and a final report on the project, which is based on gender budgeting methodologies, is due for publication in 2014.

Parties are the driving force of UNFCCC and it is the hope of Iceland that domestic experiences of different parties keep informing gender-sensitive climate policy-making on the intergovernmental level. An interesting dialogue on how best to ensure gender balance in UNFCCC bodies is also ahead, as methodology for reaching the set goal has not been agreed upon yet. Domestic experiences can help inform that dialogue. One important venue for parties to cooperate to promote gender equality within the UNFCCC is the upcoming workshop on gender in the UNFCCC process at COP19 in Warsaw later this year.

2. CHALLENGES – Hurdles faced by Parties in pursuing gender balance in the UNFCCC regime and in implementing gender-sensitive climate policy

- *Challenges that prevent the realization of gender balance and the inclusion of gender expertise in delegations, and on expert committees and boards of the UNFCCC*
- *Formal and informal structural barriers that exacerbate gender inequalities and prevent women's participation in decision-making*

Combatting climate change will not be possible without the efforts of all.

Gender equality challenges that Parties need to overcome, both on a national and intergovernmental level, have to do with deep-rooted structural barriers in society on the one hand and on changing the culture and rules of the UNFCCC regime on the other hand.

Structural barriers in society, Icelandic as elsewhere, are widespread and include i.e. unpaid care-work burdens that women shoulder. From the climate change perspective specifically, gender stereotypes and gender-based career choices may add to the problem. The latter at least is one of the first findings of the ongoing work on gender analyzing the Icelandic National Action Plan on climate change. As regards Iceland, it is also a challenge having a small delegation as mentioned earlier. One more challenge is that since negative impacts of climate change can as of yet not be significantly felt in the daily life of Icelanders, it may prove harder to get the general public to relate to climate change activities, including their gender mainstreaming.

3. NEEDS - Tools, resources, or training most valuable to better support and facilitate progress towards gender balance and gender-sensitive climate policy

- *Government-led capacity building activities on gender equality and climate change*
- *Ensuring the sustainability of efforts to mainstream gender into national climate action*
- *Resources, financial and / or expertise, dedicated to gender-sensitive climate policy*
- *Tools found valuable and effective in assessing gender impacts of climate policies, measures and programs*
- *Organizational culture and rules of the UNFCCC regarding gender equality*

Consistency and sustainability are keywords for efforts towards ensuring gender balance and gender-sensitive climate policies. As regards Iceland, it will have to be kept in mind that temporary projects or measures currently being undertaken are certainly of help, but will not be enough without such efforts leading to permanent mainstreaming of gender equality into all policy documents and implementation activities. Importantly, though, Icelandic gender equality legislation has a gender mainstreaming requirement which forms a general basis and has to be followed in all public decision making. That also goes for all development cooperation activities as outlined in the Strategy for Iceland's Development Co-operation, adopted by the Parliament in March 2013.

Apart from specific activities by Icelandic authorities already mentioned, it can be noted that gender and climate issues have been presented and debated through public events, stakeholder consultations and newspaper articles organized by the authorities. Financial resources and gender expertise are necessary to contribute to the realization of gender-sensitive climate policy. For the small administration of Iceland, the need for sufficient time for strained experts to do their work on gender mainstreaming is a real challenge.

Methodology has to be chosen, followed and regularly revised, for which purpose it should be useful to keep close ties between authorities and the academia which has been the case in Iceland. Some examples of tools currently used in Iceland are the aforementioned application of gender budgeting methods. Also, one of the development cooperation projects directly related to gender and climate change that Iceland participates in, is fundamentally about assessing the gender impacts of climate change in Uganda and training relevant leaders to take these into account in policy making and implementation.¹

At the intergovernmental level, as financial contributions to assist developing countries in mitigating and adapting to climate change rise, there is a dire need for both an increased number of women in decision making positions as well as for the implementation of gender-sensitive policies such as within the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Women should benefit from climate finance on equal terms with men. Furthermore, at the intergovernmental level, the organizational culture of the UNFCCC regime still has to develop further towards more systematic inclusion of women in its decision-making and expert bodies. The UNFCCC has had the fortune of lately seeing more women in leading positions. That important achievement should not divert attention from the fact that women are overall significantly underrepresented within UNFCCC bodies. A critical mass of women in senior positions has not yet materialized. The secretariat will play a significant role, i.e. by tracking progress and making information on it publicly available as well as reminding of the goal of gender balance when representatives to bodies are appointed. Parties should seriously discuss whether there is a need for adopting more systematic measures to ensure that the goal of gender balance will be reached. Meanwhile specific rules are not necessary for parties or regional groups to take the initiative of deciding to make sure that women and men are equally represented in UNFCCC bodies and that gender-sensitive climate policies are applied.

¹ See i.e. **External Evaluation: Development of a Short Training Course on Gender and Climate Change.** Uganda 2011-2013. Erla Hlín Hjálmarsdóttir and Elizabeth Kharono. June 2013.

Paper no. 5: India

Submission by India on 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

Government of India welcomes the opportunity to submit inputs/submission in response to the COP decision, 23/CP.18 on the goal of advancing 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 equally the needs of women and men.

This being the first submission, Government of India would like to **present the policies and practices which are in vogue in the country**, to improve women's participation in all fields of activity. In consonance with its National Policy for Empowerment of Women, the Government of India has undertaken various initiatives over the years including policy reforms, programmes and action plans at various levels for empowering women and facilitate their active participation in the social, economic and political life of the country. These interventions envisaged to address gender disparities will also help women to participate equally in the process of climate change negotiations allowing them to voice their perspectives which may result in the formulation of gender responsive climate policy. Some of major policy measures of Government of India include inter alia:

- Institutionalization of Gender budgeting ensuring incorporation of gender perspective at all stages and levels of the budgetary process. It has also led to the setting up of Gender Budget Cells under various Ministries/Departments.
- Reservation of one third to 50% of seats for women in the Local Governments for ensuring equal representation of women and to bring gender parity.
- National Environment Policy (2006) seeks inter alia, elimination of gender disparities
- National Policy on Education (1986) provides for universal access and enrolment
- National scheme of Incentives for girls in Secondary education to improve enrolment of girl in Government schools in India.
- Sakshar Bharat/National Literacy Mission with its objective of extending educational options to those adults who have no access to formal education, targets female literacy as a critical instrument for women's empowerment.
- National Mission for Empowerment of Women 2010 aims to strengthen processes that promote all-round Development of women.

As a way forward, India is of the view that that the following **steps/actions may be needed for improving the participation of women and promote gender balance** at national and international fora.

- 1. Assessment of women's vulnerability in a climate change scenario:** A cross sectoral task force should be established to analyze and identify gender-specific impacts and design adaptation measures against climate change induced hazards such as floods, diseases and other environmental changes and disasters.
- 2. Assessment of gender-specific natural resource use patterns:** In order to ensure that women and poor communities participate in coping with climate change impacts, there is a need for proper understanding of the gender differentiated use of natural resources and develop strategies that will enhance women's access to and control over these resources which may in the long run help in reducing poverty & protect environmental resources.
- 3. Recognition and strengthening of specialised skills and capacities of women:** Government should recognize and strengthen the specialize skills and capacities of women in different spheres of livelihood system and natural resource management. They should also be involved in the process of developing adaptation and mitigation measures against climate change.
- 4. Creation of enabling environment for women's participation in decision-making:** Efforts should be made to create an enabling environment for women to participate in climate change related discourses through capacity building and sensitization of decision-makers.
- 5. Periodic monitoring, evaluation and reporting** on all climate-responsive programmes must be undertaken using gender responsive indicators and involving gender experts.

6. Review mechanism of climate change responsive programmes should provide feedback to policy making, planning, budgeting and implementation so that lessons learnt could be used for improving further the effectiveness of the programme.

7. Review process should involve all stakeholders particularly women and should allow mid-term course correction of the programme implementation.

India reserves the right to make additional submissions and present further views on the relevant issues connected with 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.

**Submission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
To the Decision 23/CP.18**

Jordan heralds the importance of the Decision made by Parties to the UNFCCC at the 18th Conference of Parties (COP18), which called for ***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***, toward the goal of ***informing more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally (Decision 23/CP.18)***.

It is clear that Jordan has taken wide steps during the last years in many achievements on the level of economic and social policies and legislations that contributed in the improvement of the women in Jordan in all fields, specially which are related to the educational achievements with its quantitative dimension as well as its qualitative dimension represented. It is also related to apparent progress in providing the free and comprehensive health care for especially motherhood and childhood; elders and those infected with chronic diseases, or in the field of legislations, its amendments, development, approval of new legislations, adoption of policies guaranteeing meeting women needs and releasing their powers to serve their families, local communities and home country and that enforce, respect and protect their human rights.

National policies during the last years sought to take temporary positive measures and procedures aiming at securing women representation in various positions to achieve the desired rates in all fields. During the last years, the kingdom has witnessed wide movements from organizations concerned with women, which all raised the percentage of women representation in decision making positions whether through quota or gaining seats by competition. This is in addition to seeking behind accessing capabilities and abilities to form pressing force in different councils to protect gains and rights of women and update necessary legislations to achieve more progress to it.

Women participation reached 11.7% in the Upper House and 10.8% in the Parliament. The law of Municipalities was amended to let the women rate become 25% instead of 20%, 12.4% in the Judicial Authority, and 8% in higher class jobs. But it doesn't exceed 1.3% in the chamber of commerce, 8.5% in the chamber of industry, 4.9% in syndicates' councils, and 29.1% in political parties rather than the limited participation for women in cabinet and committees concerned with setting policies in different sectors and fields.

But these achievements are still beyond the national ambition which aims at reaching a percent of women participation in national and local councils and different decision making positions of not less than 30% as a minimum and gradually till the participation be equal between both genders to achieve the constitutional equality principles and Jordan commitment to approved international agreements and resolutions.¹

Gender Balance in bodies and gender-sensitive climate change policies contribute to the broader UN goal of gender equality. Therefore, mainstreaming Gender into climate change in Practice, challenges and needs are the three priorities identified for guidance in this submission:

¹ The National Strategy for Women in Jordan 2012 - 2015

PRACTICE:

In 2010, Jordan became the first country in the Arab region to address the linkages between gender and climate change by creating a **Programme for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change Efforts in Jordan**. Recognizing the need for additional capacity and guidance on the topic, the Government engaged the support of the gender office of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, which had embarked on a process to support countries in formulating climate change and gender action plans. Jordan's strategy and associated plan of action was the first formal national strategy of its kind in the world, and it was approved by the Government and endorsed by the National Women's Committee, guiding future policies and positions of all agencies addressing climate change. The programme's objective is ***"to ensure that national climate change efforts in Jordan mainstream gender considerations so that women and men can have access to, participate in, contribute to and hence optimally benefit from climate change initiatives, programs, policies and funds."***

Jordan being the fourth most water-insecure country in the world played a large part in identifying the four critical sectors of the programme's focus, each of which having specific gender aspects: water, energy, agriculture and food security, and waste reduction and management.

Various activities were identified to implement objectives in each sector.² Many of these activities were generated as a result of women's input: the national multi-stakeholder process to formulate the programme had women's capacity building as a key part of its methodology. As a result of specific training for women on climate change, as well as for national representatives on gender and on gender and climate linkages, women and women's organization representatives, as well as government representatives, engaged more confidently, were able to offer their experience on an equal footing, and were prepared with concrete actions they could implement themselves. This multi-directional capacity building and information sharing was an important foundation for longer-term gender mainstreaming efforts throughout Jordan's climate change plans and actions.

Building on the 2010 programme, as part of the enabling activities for the preparation of Jordan's third National Communication to the UNFCCC in 2011, gender was expressed as a national priority in the context of climate change. This National Communication outlines the need for a comprehensive analysis of the socioeconomic and health impacts of climate change and for mainstreaming gender in the targeted sensitive areas of the country.

The programme likewise had an impact on the National Women's Committee to address climate change issues: The *National Women's Strategy*, launched in 2012, includes a section on women, environment, and climate change and a goal of Jordanian women being active and empowered to maintain and develop natural resources.

Most recently, Jordan integrated gender as a major aspect in its *National Climate Change Policy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan 2013-2020*. Among three long-term guiding objectives, the policy specifies a focus on gender, *to build the adaptive capacity of communities and institutions in Jordan, with consideration for gender and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups...* Further, it integrates gender concerns and a gender perspective into a wide range of activities.

² The Jordan Compact aims to increase the supply of water available to households and businesses and to help improve the efficiency of water delivery, wastewater collection and wastewater treatment.

CHALLENGES:

1. Financing issues sometimes facing to not have gender balance and inclusion of gender expertise in delegation.
2. Some dominant trends that sees the role of women as unilateral and limited in the scope of family and that doesn't recognize her social role, the matter that hinders continuity and progress in public life activities till decision making positions.

National policies during the last years sought to take temporary positive measures and procedures aiming at securing women representation in various positions to achieve the desired rates in all fields. During the last years, the kingdom has witnessed wide movements from organizations concerned with women, which all raised the percentage of women representation in decision making positions whether through quota or gaining seats by competition. This is in addition to seeking behind accessing capabilities and abilities to form pressing force in different councils to protect gains and rights of women and update necessary legislations to achieve more progress to it.

NEEDS:

1. Enhancing partnership between Jordanian National Commission for Women Affairs and governmental ministries and departments on the base of integrating different concerned authorities and establishing the bases of partnership and active coordination with these institutions
2. Working to approve and recognize "policy of auditing the social gender" as regular and continual governmental policy that the Jordanian National Commission for Women Affairs follows up its implementation as a tool of following-up, control, evaluation and development to merge social gender in the official sector.
3. Enhancing the relationships of networking, backing, and supporting with civil community organizations about issues and priorities of woman.
4. Build capacity at all levels to design and implement gender responsive climate change policies, strategies and programs;
5. Instruct relevant entities to fulfill Jordan's international commitments regarding gender mainstreaming according to the international agreements approved by the country; and
6. Ensure that sector ministries will adopt the Action Plans suggested by the Program for Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change Efforts in Jordan, the action plans specified the objectives, the actions and the indicators required. MoEnv and NCCC to monitor and encourage the implementation.

Climate change activities will require combined efforts from different sectors and stakeholders. Therefore there is a need to develop a common understanding on what gender considerations associated with climate change are.

It is highly recommended that provision should be made within the composition of the National Inter-ministerial Committee on Climate Change, to include a permanent gender expert with a dedicated

Terms of Reference. The Jordanian National Commission for Women should also play an important role in following and supporting the present Programme.

On the other hands, the National Inter-ministerial Committee on Climate Change, as the main body responsible to provide guidance on initiatives relating to climate change in Jordan, would be the appropriate body to ensure that projects and initiatives under consideration are in line with the principles of this Programme, and furthermore that projects are analysed to ensure that gender considerations are fully integrated.

It is also strongly recommended that a Gender Consultative Support Group to the gender expert in the Inter-ministerial Committee be established.

The vital importance in the capacity building process is the need to build awareness of climate change issues among women's organizations in Jordan. This will allow participating organizations to identify opportunities for their full participation in the processes and implementation of the Convention on Climate Change.

**Kenya's Submission to the UNFCCC on
Gender Balance Decision 23/CP.18**

In COP18 in Doha, one of the gender milestone decisions in the UNFCCC process was made. This was decision 23/CP.18 entitled *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*. This ushered in purposeful gender balance efforts in the UNFCCC.

Parties and observer organizations are invited to submit to the secretariat, their views on options and ways to advance the goal set out in para 2: (E)nhance decision 36/CP.7 by adopting a 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.

Kenya hereby wishes to submit its contribution to UNFCCC on the gender decision based on the format provided.

Practice

Actions taken to implement gender equality in national climate change policy and practice.

Mainstreaming of gender perspective into overall national policies and practices is mandated by a number of government policies. The National Gender and Development Policy of 2000, proposed mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies to be mainstreamed. The Constitution of Kenya 2010 embraces the gender equality framework and further provides that not more than two thirds of either gender should be represented in either elective or appointive positions. The Constitution provides for the promotion of affirmative action and gender mainstreaming as a means of realizing gender equality. This has increased consciousness among all players to the need to ensure that both women and men are included in all public committees and working groups. The National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) is the principal organ of the State that monitors and ensures compliance with all treaties and conventions ratified by Kenya. The NGEC is an established state body with the mandate to promote gender equality and freedom from discrimination. The Kenya's Vision 2030 Medium Term Plan 2 (MTP2) 2013-2017 review provides a singular opportunity to incorporate climate change and gender concerns into the national development plan.

During the preparation of the National Climate Change Action Plan 2013-2017, there was up to 29% female representation in the National Task Force. At the general decision making level, Kenya has recorded good progress which can further translate to gender responsive climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. The challenge is that of sensitizing political leaders on gender responsive approaches in addressing the challenges of climate change. The increase of women leaders in parliament, senate and county assemblies provides a good opportunity for sensitization on gender and climate change need for related policies¹. Persons with disabilities are

¹ After March 4 2013 elections there are 67 female members of Parliament out of 347, 18 female senators out of 67 and 88 female county assembly ward representatives out of 1450. While there was no woman elected governor at the devolved level, there are 9 female deputies out of 47.

underrepresented in most decision making levels including in the climate change discourse. The lack of participation at that level that has hindered their ability to positively contribute effectively has been tackled with the creating of the National Gender and Equality Commission and its collaborative efforts with stakeholders in the disability area.

Vulnerability to climate change is differentiated by gender, age, physical disabilities, geographical location or income levels to name a few. Further in the different groups inequalities are real and adversely affect one's ability to contribute to the development agenda. It is therefore important that government policy addresses the different levels of vulnerability in developing policies to address climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Kenya has formulated a National Climate Change Response Strategy and an Action Plan to implement the strategy. The Action Plan recognises that pre-existing gender discrimination exposes women to higher rates of poverty and insecurity and has adopted gendered county-level institutional adaptive capacity indicators. A gender and climate change strategy was developed to complement the NCCRS and it is now in final stages of draft.

The Ministry of Environment through the Climate Change Secretariat collaborating with National Gender Equality Commission (NGEC) to actively engage and support and take leadership in the gender component in the climate change discourse in Kenya. Gender and Climate change is therefore a priority in setting the implementation framework by NGEC and will be important in monitoring compliance with the Gender Decision of COP 18. The Government has also established the Women Enterprise Fund and currently is in the process of releasing the "UWEZO" fund to support women and youth especially rural women to engage in the development agenda. It is hoped that the two sources of funds will ensure that women and youth access to resources to enable adaptation to the challenges of climate change. Women will further have an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills to make positive contribution to the climate change debate particularly at the decision making table.

Challenges

Some of the challenges faced in implementing gender-sensitive climate policy and that are likely to emerge in pursuing gender balance in the UNFCCC regime include;

Addressing climate change will require application of an integrated approach that recognises and responds to the gender needs and concerns in the national climate change discourse but also participation of both women and men in decision making thereof. Some of the challenges likely to be faced in this regard include;

- Existing cultural and religious beliefs and attitudes that impede progress towards gender equality. Traditional beliefs and attitudes are entrenched in many African countries and are likely to continue sidelining women in key decision making processes at all levels.
- Insufficient capacity in terms of skills and mechanisms for mainstreaming gender in climate change. Climate change players are mostly scientists with very limited or no gender knowledge and expertise. In addition there are very few gender experts involved in the climate change sector.
- Achieving a gender balance in climate change may also be faced by the inadequate numbers of women in the technical departments dealing with climate change. Changing the status quo may be progressive rather than immediate.

Needs:

Tools, resources, or training would be most valuable to better support and facilitate progress towards gender-sensitive climate policy

Budget allocation for integrating and strengthening gender mainstreaming activities in climate change that includes facilitating increased participation of women; training and capacity building of implementers to undertake gender risk analysis, decision-makers and negotiators in order for them to apply gender mainstreaming in their daily programmes of work /activities.

Green climate fund should create a window targeting most vulnerable people including women, youth, persons with disabilities and the aged noting their critical role as agents of change in climate adaptation and mitigating. Appraisal for funding proposals should be informed by the specific country community needs and priorities in which there is equal representation of women in the related decision making forums because climate adaptation and mitigation efforts are best interpreted at the grassroots where the impacts of climate change threaten existence of communities and are most felt.

Adoption and compliance with an agreed affirmative action in order to advance the goal of gender balance in the formal and informal bodies established pursuant to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. To actualize the Gender Decision, specific targets for achieving gender balance should be adopted in COP 19 and a mechanism to enhance achievement of the set targets.

Promote/strengthen research on gender and climate change geared towards generating factual evidence on differentiated impacts of climate on women and men. As well, meteorological data and information should be strengthened to include a gender perspective so as to better inform the choices of different categories of population (this would go a long way in implementing Article 6 of UNFCCC)

For climate policies to be effective as well as reflect and respond to the needs of the society, women and men must participate on climate change decision making on an equal basis. This will be an important step towards ensuring more effective climate policy that is responsive to the differing needs of men and women at all levels. Towards this end, analysis of existing climate policies from a gender perspective may be necessary so as to identify gaps and opportunities for strengthening them for gender responsiveness.

Monitoring and reporting on gender representation in the COPs, and taking measures to encourage conformity with the gender balance requirement among the parties. . The innovative generation and use of tools to monitor and evaluate progress of gender mainstreaming.

Paper no. 8: Lithuania and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States

This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Vilnius, 12 September 2013

**Subject: Advancing the goal of gender balance in bodies (COP)
Promoting gender equality 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**

General:

The EU welcomes strongly the invitation to submit views on options and ways to advance the goal outlined in the paragraph 2 in decision 23/CP.18. We underline the importance of a balanced representation of women and men that will facilitate a stronger focus on the different dimensions of climate change, noting that climate change and related policies can affect women and men in different ways, and thereby enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Convention. .

For the last ten years, efforts to improve the participation of women in decision making under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol has been guided by a decision taken at COP7 in Marrakech (decision 36/CP.7). This decision invited Parties to the Convention *'to give active consideration to the nomination of women for elective posts in any body established under the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol'*.

There has been demonstrable progress on this issue and in the involvement of women in the UNFCCC over the last five years - notably, the three female Presidents of COP 15, COP 16, COP 17 and Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC since 2010, have all provided leadership on gender issues within the UNFCCC; and evidence shows a modest increase in the number of women participating in the negotiation process. However, a very obvious gender imbalance exists in various bodies of the UNFCCC, with women's representation as low as 10% in some instances.

Brief description of the EU gender equality policy in the field of combating climate change

The European Union's achievements in fostering equality between women and men have helped to change the lives of many European citizens for the better and provide the foundation on which we now can build a genuinely gender-equal society. Inequalities between women and men violate fundamental rights. They also impose a heavy toll on the economy and result in underutilization of talent and experience.

Equality is one of five values on which the Union is founded. It is bound to strive for equality between women and men in all its activities. The Charter of Fundamental Rights provides for such equality and prohibits sex discrimination. In March 2010, to mark the 15th anniversary of the declaration and platform for action adopted at the Beijing UN World Conference on Women and the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the European Commission adopted the Women's Charter, renewing its commitment to gender equality and to strengthening the gender perspective in all its policies. Furthermore, in 2010 the Commission adopted a five-year strategy - the EU Plan of Action 2010-2015 for promoting equality between women and men in Europe. It provides the overall policy framework for the coherent integration of gender equality in all areas of EU policies, including external policies (development cooperation, trade, agriculture, migration, etc.) and encourages the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

The EU Environment Council and General Affairs Councils have since 2009 included gender references in their climate related conclusions, and in June 2012, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)

adopted conclusions¹ calling "on the Member States and the European Commission, in accordance with their respective competences, to take active and specific measures aimed at achieving a balanced representation of women and men in decision-making in the field of climate change mitigation at all levels, including the EU level".

EU Member States are key players in the advancing the issue of integrating gender issues into climate change law and policy. Member States continue to step up activities in promoting gender equality through a variety policy and legislative measures. The EU and its Member States acknowledge that Gender Equality is essential for tackling climate change and reducing poverty.

EU and Member State activities promoting gender equality in climate policies in particular within the UNFCCC

The EU has actively presented and supported decisions on integrating gender considerations in the activities of the UNFCCC. The EU and its Member States have taken the lead in strengthening gender sensitive climate policies and strongly promoted the COP 18 decision on gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC activities.

The EU and its Member States have actively co-operated with the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) and other interested partners. The GGCA has grown since 2008 from a four founding members into a wide alliance of more than 70 international member organizations. EU Member States in particular Finland and Denmark have been the main supporters of the GGCA. The main aim of the activities of the GGCA has been making climate policies gender sensitive and integrating the gender approach in all relevant decisions of the COP and Subsidiary Bodies.

In its work the GGCA has supported and trained women delegates from developing countries to participate in climate change negotiations and conducted capacity development sessions for national delegates, both female and male, on the gender dimensions of climate change. It has produced several publications including a Training Manual and more than 11 country-level gender climate strategies have been prepared.

One of its flagship projects is the Women Delegates Fund (WDF), which provides support to women delegates from developing countries and specifically least developed countries to participate in global climate change negotiations at the UNFCCC. It has successfully built capacity among these women and continues to create supporting networks for them. Since 2008 more than 100 delegate trips have been funded. These women delegates have also made valuable contributions to the integration of gender aspects under various decisions made in the UNFCCC negotiations.

This cooperation has produced excellent results. The COP decisions covering nine new bodies include gender references (inter alia Adaptation Committee, Technology Center and Network, Technology Executive Committee and Advisory Body, Green Climate Fund and Response Measures Forum) on their modalities and composition. Older established bodies including the GEF have adopted gender policies which also impact on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund. Furthermore, the COP decisions on eight work programmes also include gender references (including the LDC programme, guidelines for NAMAS, Article Six Programme, REDD+ Programme including the safeguards, Capacity Building under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol). The decisions on the Shared Vision remain valid and gender related issues have also been raised in the Durban Forum including i.a. changing consumption and production, which will be have a strong gender dimension.

This extensive work during the latest six years paved also the way for the adoption of the decision 23/CP 18 on gender balance.

In addition the EU and Member States have been supporting various activities in their development cooperation in order to strengthen the participation of women in climate related activities and poverty eradication.

¹ Gender equality and the environment: enhanced decision-making, qualifications and competitiveness in the field of climate change mitigation policy in the EU; 11638/12

Gender equality is also a horizontal goal in EU and Member states activities. For example, Finland's most recent Development policy programme has both climate proofing and gender equality as horizontal goal transcending all activities. In addition combating climate change is a specific goal.

Specific examples from some Member States are given below:

Austria

The Austrian Development Agency is supporting several mitigation and adaptation projects in East and Southeast Africa. Given the different needs and responsibilities of women and men in the Climate Change process the projects seek to find effective solutions under the condition of women and men being equal. Two examples:

- Livelihood Improvement through Sustainable Resource Management in North Gondar: The overall objective is the improvement of livelihood opportunities and resilience of selected rural communities in North Gondar through sustainable resource management.
- Projet de consolidation de la gouvernance environnementale locale au Burkina Faso (COGEL): The project seeks to strengthen the capacities of public and private stakeholders at the decentralized level to better manage the risks and opportunities linked to the impact of climate change.

Sweden

- Sweden provides core support, of the budget, for the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) - a member based organisation focusing on women's rights and gender equality. Under their Climate Justice programme they have, for example, conducted research projects documenting climate related impacts on rural women's rights and livelihoods. The results were presented at the COP17 with rural and indigenous women from Asia Pacific taking part as official delegates of the gender constituency. In 2012 the APWLD was active, along with many others, in promoting the COP18 decision which recognised the need for gender balance to improve the participation of women.
- In Cambodia, Sweden supports an NGO-program where women have taken an active role in many of the locally implemented adaptation projects. Women have been involved at the grass root level as leaders in supporting and advocating to the local authorities to improve their natural resources management as a key adaptation measure, e.g. through facilitating the formulation of relevant policies and through providing capacity building and raising awareness on climate change impacts related to the agriculture sector and water resources management.
- Sweden has supported the creation of the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF), which will be instrumental in implementing the country's climate strategy and action plan. Both the strategy and the plan have a strong focus on people living in poverty, women and children will be prioritized in all activities.

Challenges met and ideas for future activities

Lack of information on and awareness of, gender and climate policies might be the biggest challenge in promoting more effective gender integration. The Secretariat needs to be ever conscious of how its actions impact on gender integration. At a minimum the Secretariat needs information, awareness raising and coordinated plans of action for implementing the mandates given by the COPs. Gender expertise of female and male climate experts and staff in UNFCCC institutions should be strengthened. Gender training will be the base of understanding the reasons of gender equality and how to change the situation.

A specific work shop on gender balance, gender sensitive climate policies and capacity building will be organised during COP19. The EU considers that this workshop will be a good opportunity to discuss a range of themes to identify concrete steps for further action. The themes will include: gender balance; gender sensitive climate policies; capacity building. Gender awareness and related training should be part of the capacity building.

Firstly, gender balance could be promoted either by trying to find positive incentives for gender participation or by quota. Further options to promote gender balance could include a strengthened commitment by Parties to set a target for an appropriate gender balance in their delegations and in their nominations of candidates to various bodies.

Further option for consideration might be to recommending the nomination of both genders for funding if the Trust Fund for Participation is funding more than one delegate. Another way could be to earmark some funds in the Trust Fund for female participation for Parties willing to do so.

Keeping in mind paragraphs 2 and 3 of the decision, extra effort should be made in relation to finding female co-chairs/facilitators. The secretariat also has an important role in promoting the balance by proposing to the chairs of the permanent bodies both female and male candidates for chairs or facilitators of the informal bodies.

Secondly, gender sensitive climate policies should be promoted in accordance with the COP decision. Further consideration might be given to the possibility of organising **in-session workshops** during upcoming COPs and Subsidiary Body meetings on specific themes to understand better the relationship between gender and climate change and to develop concrete recommendations. For example, workshops on mitigation and adaptation could be organised in 2014 and workshops on technology and funding in 2015. If the workshops take place in connection with the COP and Subsidiary Body meetings and use available expertise they would result in minimal, if any, extra costs. Other, relevant workshops should also include gender perspectives in an integrated way. In this respect, the EU welcomes the SBSTA 38 conclusions on the Nairobi Work Programme and its expert meeting.

Research on how climate policies and instruments impact, differently on men and women and their ability to cope with climate change, would also be of benefit, including examining how best men and women are able to shift from short term coping mechanisms to resilience.

Thirdly, capacity building of women delegates is an important issue. The secretariat should consider options for arranging some capacity building sessions during group coordination meetings prior to the intercessional and COP meetings. The above mentioned project implemented by the GGCA could share its experiences with the Secretariat.

Fourthly, strengthening of the gender expertise of female and male climate change experts and staff in UNFCCC institutions should be envisaged by offering **gender training**. Gender training is the base of understanding what we are talking about, including the reasons for gender inequality. Gender training should also aim for an overall re-thinking of participants' gendered attitudes and structures.

Paper no. 9: Liberia

Liberia's submission on Decision 23/CP.18

Liberia, a state party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol reaffirms its commitment to decision 36/CP.7 which calls for improving the participation of women in the representation of parties in bodies established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or the Kyoto Protocol and the subsequent gender decision 23/CP.18 which was adopted in Doha at COP 18 for the enhancement of decision 36/CP.7 to promote gender balance and improve women's participation in UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol negotiations, as well as in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol.

As a nation, the issue of gender equality and promotion of women's rights in all facets is considered as critical to the overarching development framework and processes of the country which gains its credence from the various international instruments on gender equality and women's rights.

Hence decision 23/CP.18 is seen as embodying fundamental principles embedded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action, UNSCR 1325 and the Protocol to the African Charter of human and people's rights relating to women, all of which Liberia is signatory to.

Furthermore, the decision reinforces the need for both men and women to participate in decision-making required to adequately combat the negative impacts of climate change by explicitly noting the importance of "informing more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally".

1. PRACTICE- Actions taken by Liberia to implement gender equality in climate change policy and practices.

Actions to ensure gender equality and mainstreaming in climate change policy required the requisite institutional and legal frameworks. Liberia takes seriously her obligation under the UNFCCC and other Rio Conventions like the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and signed onto the UNFCCC and its KP in 2002 and has been active in the Convention and KP process since.

Consequently, initiatives taken by the country are categorized under two themes; institutional arrangement/framework and Legal framework.

A. Institutional

- The Country has a focal point on gender and climate change in addition to the national focal point who are active in ensuring that the Convention's activities are implemented in-country;
- Establishment of the National Climate Change Secretariat, National Climate Change Steering Committee and the REDD Technical Working Group of which have the Ministry of Gender and Development represented;
- Establishment of the Rural Renewable Energy Agency in **January 2010 through Executive order 23 and its follow up Executive order 38 which re-confirming the continuation of the Agency. This Agency** has been collaborating with the Ministry of Gender and Development to ensure that people in the Rural Areas, including women and children have access to sources of alternative power(**Solar power**)

B. Legal Framework

Although the country utilizes international instruments and standards as the foundation of most of its legal framework, the national constitution and other framework like the National Gender Policy, the CEDAW Recommendation, Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS 1&2) the new development agenda for Liberia, the

Agenda for Transformation provide the basic principles for mainstreaming gender equality in all policies and programs, as well as climate change policy.

However, further efforts been made by the government to implement interventions to combat climate change at the national level which have had gender equality perspective mainstreamed .

- In 2008, Liberia completed a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) with funding and technical support from the Global Environmental Facility and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).The NAPA implementation is currently being funded by the Least Developed Countries Fund. Two projects are currently being implemented :

1. Coastal Adaptation: Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Areas to Climate Change Risks in Liberia
2. Agriculture adaptation: Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change by Mainstreaming Adaptation Concerns into Agricultural Sector Development in Liberia

The third project, Strengthening Liberia's Capability to Provide Climate Information and Services to Enhance Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation to Climate Change will shortly commence implementation.

- Finalization of the REDD Preparation Proposal (RPP):
 - Liberia REDD+ Preparation Proposal was approved in June 2012; Grant Agreement signed in March 2013 and first disbursement have been made;
 - Recruitment of the proposal REDD+ Implementation Unit staff and set- up are in process
 - Liberia has established the framework for the use of the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards through the formation of a National Standards Committee and a Facilitation Team;
 - The Strategic Environmental Social Assessment (SESA) term of reference has been developed with gender consideration, and the expression of interest is out for application solicitation;

2. BEST PRACTICES- what has worked well in integrating women's and men unique positions , needs and capacities

The goal as defined by Decision 23/CP.18 to achieve gender balance in bodies and improve women's participation in the UNFCCC negotiations required the collective efforts of all parties. Since 2009, the national delegation of Liberia has been structured as such to ensure that gender representation is included, even though the level may be at the minimum.

In addition , the country has received support for its gender focal point from WEDO, an organization responsible for implementing the Women Delegates Fund (WDF), a GGCA project which is supported by Finland and other governments to supports women negotiators from the global South with travel resources, extensive capacity building and a women delegate community network.

The overarching epithet of best practice in integrating women's and men unique positions needs and capacities was the development of the gender and climate change strategy which was done through the support of IUCN and GGCA. The Strategy is focused on six thematic areas: Energy, Agriculture, coastal, Health, Water and Sanitation and Forestry.

The development of the strategy was characterized by a participatory process: bringing together stakeholders from the board spectrum of the country. A training workshop was first held for training of all gender county coordinators from the 15 counties, gender focal points from line Ministries and Agencies and rural women from the 15 counties in understanding the Concept of Gender and climate change, followed by a validation

and consultation workshop which brought government, non-governmental organizations, media, academia , youth, local authorities ,community leaders, traditional leaders, youth , women organizations and international partners to discuss and present their diverse views on issues relating to gender and climate change with the objective “To ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed into Liberia's climate change policies, programs and interventions so that both men and women have equal opportunities to implement and benefit from mitigation and adaptation initiatives in combating climate change and positively impact on the outcome of “Liberia Rising 2030”.

But it is worth noting that while such interventions may serve as an impetus to achieving gender equality as enshrined in decision 23/CP.18. , the political will must be forthcoming from the decision and policy makers. The country has seen such from the leadership through the Government of the Republic of Liberia. Both the EPA Executive Director and Minister of Gender have demonstrated immense commitment to this process through their engagement during the process, as well of those of the climate change focal point at the EPA and the Gender Focal Point on Climate Change at the Ministry of Gender and Development.

3. CHALLENGES- challenges encountered in the implementation of gender-sensitive climate change policy and pursuing gender-balance in the UNFCCC regime

As a country currently in a transitioning economy and recovering from the ravages of civil conflict, there still exists competing and also lack of adequate resources to fully support a sustained effort in mainstreaming gender into climate change policy, as well as ensuring and pursuing gender-balance in its delegation. Currently supporting the participation the national delegation remains a profound hurdle as is the case with most LDC, African and developing countries. Furthermore, capacity issues and lack of sufficient understanding and knowledge among relevant and key stakeholders with regards to the gender perspective of climate change.

4. NEEDS- Tools , resources, or training most valuable to better support and facilitate progress towards gender balance and gender- sensitive climate change policy.

The country is cognizant that efforts need to be reinforced and redoubled with regards to National government budgetary support to the implementation of gender sensitive climate change policy, as well galvanizing overwhelming support from major government institutions for the implementation of such.

Duly, the establishment of a coordinating division which will encompass of three units tasked with ensuring gender mainstreaming into energy , women’s access to land and Land rights , agriculture and other climate change related areas stands as a priority for the Ministry of Gender and Development.

At the UNFCCC level, while decision 23/CP.18 is a step towards improving women’s participation in the bodies and in the negotiations, additional mechanisms need to be put into place to ensure this goal. Interventions currently undertaken like the WDF funds need to be replicated to ensure the participation of women from LDC and developing countries.

Indeed other factors like financial resources for, and capacity building needed to gender- sensitive implement adaptation and mitigation action s against climate change cannot be overemphasized. For Liberia it is essential that Women from vulnerable countries, particularly the LDCs working both at the national level and participating as delegates be provided with capacity building opportunities required for strengthening of developing their potential to engage at both the national and UNFCCC negotiations.

Malawi Submission on views on options and ways to advance the goal of gender balance in bodies established under 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, pursuant to Decision 23/CP.18.

1.0 Preamble

Malawi welcomes the opportunity to submit its initial views on options and ways to advance the goal of gender balance in bodies established under 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, pursuant to Decision 23/CP.18 and also recalling decision 36/CP.7.

Climate Change impacts everyone, but has greater impact on women and children due to their social roles. Historically and culturally, the unequal relationships between women and girls on one hand and men and boys on the other hand have been exacerbated by the impact of climate change which affects them differently. Given these differential impacts, it is important that the perspectives of both women and men are equally represented in climate change decision-making. The revolution of gender equality is about giving the different gender groups equal opportunity to participate in development. Therefore, the empowerment of women is critical to increase their participation in decision making, inform more effective climate change policy and programmes in order to sustain the environment and contribute positively to the management of climate change.

In Malawi, 51% of the population is women of which over 70% is involved in smallholder farming which is dependent on rain-fed agriculture. The smallholder farmers are the hardest hit by effects of climate change which is further compounded by the fact that women have fewer rights and less power in society. Hence, women are more vulnerable to natural disasters, food insecurity, water shortages, economic shocks which results in limited access to education, increased care roles, limited participation in decision making processes in turn exacerbate gender inequality at household and community levels.

2.0 Challenges and best practices

Malawi recognizes that gender equality is critical in dealing with climate change challenges and reducing the gender gap in decision making at various levels including global, regional and local levels. In pursuant of this, Malawi has ratified several international and regional instruments, such as, The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPA), among others. The Constitution of the Republic of Malawi under section 13 (a) (i) promotes "full participation of women in all spheres of Malawian society on the basis of equality with men". Efforts have also been made in the domestication of international instruments through law reform and the enactment of the Gender Equality Act (2013) and the development and implementation of the National Gender Policy, the Climate Change Policy and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) which have all been engendered to promote women empowerment and participation in decision making processes. Furthermore, the Government created the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Management, which has considered gender issues in its decision-making processes. For example, currently, the Ministry is headed by a female Minister and Permanent Secretary since its creation in April 2012. Malawi has also made efforts to include women and youth participation in the delegation to the COP currently at 20% due to financial constraints. However, the desired target is to achieve 50-50 representation.

3.0 Needs

It is against this background, that Malawi supports the advancement of gender equality and on strengthening women's participation in the different organs of the UNFCCC and associated meetings, consequently, informing more effective climate change policies that address the needs of different gender groups, women in particular. We believe that the following pragmatic steps need to be taken to effect the decisions 23/CP. 18 and 36/CP. 7:

1. Establish a Five Year Programme of Work on Gender and Climate Change:

Since the issue of Gender and Climate Change is very critical in the socio-economic development globally and given that it will be a permanent agenda item in the future conferences of the Parties, it is imperative that a mechanism is put in place that sets out what should be done and achieved through the work of the standing Subsidiary Bodies especially the SBI. This will ensure that SBI conclusions/reports on gender and climate change will be regularly submitted to the COPs for consideration and further direction as may be deemed necessary. It is for this reason that we recommend the establishment of a Five Year Programme of Work on Gender and Climate Change. Some of the aspects that could be addressed under the said PoW include, but not limited to:

- a. In-session and inter-sessional workshops, and ministerial dialogue at future sessions of the COP to raise awareness on Gender and Climate change.
- b. **Conduct research based assessment of challenges of women participation in UNFCCC activities.** There is need to understand the gender dynamics that can be used to address gender challenges, gaps , disparities , inequalities, in order to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of effective, efficient, and equitable evidence based solutions within the UNFCCC processes.
- c. **Funding for Women Participation at UNFCCC:** It is acknowledged from the current statistics that women are the disadvantaged gender in representation in the UNFCCC process. In order to address this gender disparity, there is need for resources to be made available under the Programme of Work to support the participation and representation of women from Malawi as part of national delegates at the UNFCCC meetings, such as, SBs, COPs, etc.
- d. **Increasing gender disaggregated allocation in the existing trust fund** which will ensure more women participation.
- e. **Capacity Building:** To support a comprehensive program on Capacity Building for women on UNFCCC processes including negotiation skills. Under the PoW, the capacity building program would aim at overcoming the prevalent challenge of the capacity of women to effectively participate in the UNFCCC processes.

2. Global policy architecture

Gender and climate change to be embedded in the 2015 agreement and to provide both technical and financial support for mainstreaming gender in all climate change initiatives at national level, such as, NAPAs, NAMAs, NAPs, REDD+, among others. Mainstreaming of gender in these initiatives will address the needs of all the gender groups for sustainable livelihoods.

Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Submission of views on ways and means to improve gender balance and in turn, inform more effective and gender-sensitive climate policy.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands supports Decision 23 from COP 18 entitled “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.” The goal of improving gender balance in UNFCCC negotiations and in representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol is one that the R.M.I. identifies as vital based on its own experiences with gender and climate change.

The RMI recognizes that women bear a disproportionate burden of poverty and hardship arising from the lack of access to information and opportunities among many others, which are being exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. Traditionally, Marshallese women played a variety of functional roles including the gathering of food and water, ensuring that the household is adequately provided for. The impacts of climate change variability, including droughts, sea-level rise events and heavy rainfalls can make it nearly impossible for women to provide for these needs of their families and increases the hardship that comes with executing these duties. Economic barriers also play a limiting factor in the coping mechanisms women need to ensure a healthy household for most women in rural communities. This too is exacerbated by climate impacts through the loss of land, food crops, plants used to create handicrafts, and decrease in safe clean potable water. Opportunities are lost with the loss of land, plant materials, and crops. Climate impacts on natural resources take away the prospects of women to provide wealth and enjoy benefits that alleviate poverty and hardship in the rural communities.

Traditionally women are recognized as leaders in their households and in their respective communities. In today’s societal norms, the recognition of women’s roles as agents of change has been distorted as a direct result of foreign influence on the tradition and culture of the Marshall Islands. Foreign social Patriarchal systems and new systems of social organizations were introduced beginning in pre-World War I era through various occupiers of the Marshall Islands to replace the matrilineal system and distorted the original cultural norms of the people of the Marshall Islands. This brought about many changes, not just in the weakening of the traditional governing systems, but in the traditional roles that women played in their society. It is understood that women traditionally are more knowledgeable when it comes to natural resources, and the surrounding environment. Marshallese women possess vital information and knowledge necessary to advocate and bring forth change.

These vulnerabilities are magnified for women with disabilities. Women with disabilities (WWD) are a sub-group of women who are particularly disadvantaged by both their gender and their disability. Greater gender equality in UNFCCC processes will help ensure that gender and climate change issues are properly addressed, decreasing the vulnerability that all women face as climate change effects are felt. The RMI recalls the COP Decision 23/ CP. 18 paragraph four and also recognized that there is a need for women to be represented in all aspect of the UNFCCC process including through membership of their national delegations and the chairing and facilitation of formal and informal negotiation groups, in order to inform gender-responsive climate policy.

In recognizing the importance of Decision 23/CP. 18, the RMI also notes the significance of providing information on the Marshallese experience of gender and climate change so that as we move forward in incorporating gender equality into UNFCCC activities, it is with a full understanding of the intersection of gender and climate change from around the world. As a country that is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change, the R.M.I. understands that any adaptation measures undertaken must lead to addressing the threats. With this understanding, the R.M.I. enthusiastically takes part in an effort to achieve gender equality in UNFCCC processes.

1. Practice: What actions have you taken to implement gender equality in your national climate change policy and practice?

- Incorporated gender into National Climate Change Policy Framework.
- Incorporated climate change into draft National Gender Policy.
- Addressed climate change at annual women’s conference.

- Community outreach in the outer islands using Reimaanlok and Integrated Household Resource Management (IHRM) approach.
2. Challenges and Best Practices: What challenges have you faced in implementing gender-sensitive climate policy and in pursuing gender balance in the UNFCCC regime? What has worked well in integrating women's and men's unique positions, needs and capacities?
- Isolated outer islands.
 - Lack of funding to consult on and implement National Climate Change Policy Framework and Gender Policy.
 - Success found in bringing together male and female representatives from around the country to discuss climate change issues and develop solutions
 - Involving traditional, CSO and government, youths, women and church leaders at all time
3. Needs: What tools, resources, or training would be most valuable to better support and facilitate your progress towards gender-sensitive climate policy?
- Resources to better engage rural and outer island communities in gender-sensitive climate policy development and implementation.
 - Trainings with communities and develop training manual
 - Technical Assistance to provide a situation analysis and develop data baseline and monitoring
 - Quality communication system to install in gender and development office to reach outer island communities at all time for reporting, monitoring and related matters.

MOZAMBIQUE SUBMISSION ON DECISION 23/CP.18

Introduction

There is no doubt that climate change is happening and that it poses serious global challenges. Climate change is an environmental, social, economic, energy, food, political, ethical and moral challenge. It is a crisis perpetuated and fuelled by the endless pursuit of growth and prosperity.

Ultimately, the world faces not only a climate crisis, but also a crisis of sustainability. The key contributor to climate change is human behavior, including unsustainable economic growth, consumption and production patterns that are exploitative, especially by the global North and the elites in developing countries.

While climate change affects everyone, it does not affect everyone equally. The poor and vulnerable in Africa and other developing countries that have the least responsibility for climate change suffers the most as they experience violence, exclusion and loss over natural resources. Women make up 70% of the world's poor - and this places them on the frontline of coping with climate impacts.

It's also important to understand the human face of climate change not least because climate change has particular gender characteristics. Women suffer more from the impacts of climate change because of their different social roles and status. And yet, women's untapped potential – for example as decision-makers – could help solve the climate crisis, too.

Mozambique has committed to ensuring its climate change plans and actions respond to the real needs and capacities of women and men. Some of its experience implementing and now enhancing its national strategy on gender and climate change are submitted here, toward informing the implementation of Decision 23/CP.18.

UNFCCC Background

The UNFCCC is the most universally recognized treaty, with the objective to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations "at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system." It states that "such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner."

The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994. Today, it has near-universal membership. The 195 countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention.

The UNFCCC is a “Rio Convention”, one of three adopted at the “Rio Earth Summit” in 1992. Its sister Rio Conventions are the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. The three are intrinsically linked. It is in this context that the Joint Liaison Group was set up to boost cooperation among the three Conventions, with the ultimate aim of developing synergies in their activities on issues of mutual concern. It now also incorporates the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Preventing “dangerous” human interference with the climate system is the ultimate aim of the UNFCCC.

Besides the UNFCCC, there are other important treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol updated in 1997 from the original treaty aimed at tackling global warming. It officially entered into force in 2005 and has been signed or ratified by 191 states. Under the Kyoto protocol the worst industrialized global emitters commit themselves to reduce four greenhouse gases carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide and sulphur hexafluoride.

While the UNFCCC itself did not include any reference to gender equality issues, (while the other two Rio Conventions did,) ongoing negotiations have integrated women’s rights and gender equality concerns especially over the last few years into issues like adaptation, finance, capacity building and REDD+. Particularly in the last three COP, COP16 in Cancun, COP17 in Durban and COP18 in Doha, States have agreed decisions that include specific references to gender concerns.

SADC Background

The Southern Africa Region has been experiencing a warming trend over the past few decades. It is now widely accepted that the sub-region’s climate will be hotter and drier in the future than is now. Droughts are expected to increase in frequency and intensity, with especially devastating consequences for the rural poor and in particular for women and their communities. Sectors most likely to be affected are water, agriculture, forest, bio diversity and ecosystems, human health, urban environment and rural livelihood, all these mentioned are the most basic services in which women have no access to or control over them.

In 2008 SADC Heads of State signed the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which is a regional instrument that advances the gender equality and women’s rights. Although the Protocol does not mention climate change specifically, it has progressive provisions that can be used to advance a climate justice agenda. For example the Articles 12-13 concerned governance, in particular representation and participation. These articles provide the equal representation of women in all spheres of decision-making. Current approaches to climate change may worsen existing gender gaps, for example in terms of technical assistance and transfer of technology.

Articles 15-19 concern productive resources and economic development. For instance, one of the critical targets here besides ensuring the equal participation of women and

men in decision-making is the need to adopt policy measures that ease the burden of the multiple roles played by women.

In this context climate change means that gender equality and women's empowerment should drive climate change financing. There must also be easy access and control of resources not least because women's access and control of resources is the basis upon which they can rebuild lives shattered by climate change and climate variability.

To emphasize how relations between gender and climate change are important below are some processes that took place within the SADC region at regional and Country levels.

In August 2009 the CEDAW Committee adopted a Gender and Climate Change Statement, which bemoaned the lack of a gender perspective in the UNFCCC and other initiatives on climate change. It called on all stakeholders to ensure that climate change and disaster reduction measures are gender sensitive. It is in this line that the UNFCCC can only be domesticated through the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development if considers those aspects.

In 2010 as one of the SADC contributions to overcome the challenges above mentioned a campaign on the Climate Change Addendum to the SADC Protocol, was started in March by the SADC Gender Protocol Alliance within the 15 countries.

In June the Mozambique Council of Ministers approved the Gender, Environment and climate Change Strategy and its Action Plan.

At Windhoek meeting in October 2010, gender ministers noted the importance of integrating gender into climate policies.

In February 2013, during the Ordinary Meeting of SADC Ministers Responsible for Gender/ Women's Affairs, Gender Ministers formally backed the proposal of a Climate Change Addendum to the SDAC Protocol at their meeting in Maputo.

Mozambique's commitment to gender and climate change: lessons for informing Decision 23/CP.18

At Doha's COP 18, Parties agreed Decision 23/CP.18: *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.* Parties are currently invited to submit views and information toward informing the goal of improv[ing] women's participation and inform[ing] more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally. This very goal has been a priority of the government of Mozamabique for several years, and the country is currently undergoing a process to enhance its efforts to ensure climate change plans and actions are gender responsive, and thereby more effective.

According to the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), Mozambique is 12th out of 147 countries in numbers of women represented in Parliament. Currently, nearly 40% of Parliament is comprised of women, and the country has mandates to ensure equitable representation of women and men in decision-making processes. Mozambique is committed to ensuring women's participation is promoted in all sectors, including in responding to climate change. However, implementation challenges demand more than equitable participation; resources and capacity must also be invested to ensure gender-responsive action that is effective for all people in particular women.

Wanting to ensure a pathway toward gender-responsive implementation, Mozambique embarked on a process to create a synergistic gender and climate change plan of action in 2010. In June that year, the Council of Ministers approved a Gender, Environment and Climate Change National Strategy, which is specific to the environment sector and aims at developing and integrating the gender perspective throughout the sector, to improve the quality of life in particular for women and communities, through mitigation and adaptation to climate change and the sustainable use of natural resources. Mozambique's was the first national strategy of this kind, pulling together aspects of various climate change plans and programs, such as the NAPA, and providing an opportunity for cross-sectoral engagement on gender and climate change.

The strategy has been designed and implemented in harmony with other major environmental plans and actions, including two important national strategies, the National Strategy for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change and the Plan to Combat Erosion and Bush Fires as well as the Education Program, Communication and Environmental Disclosure (PECODA). Based on the principles of Social Equity, Equality and Sustainability, and Parity and Participation, the strategy is anchored in the recognition of and respect for human rights and the fact that all citizens, regardless of their social status, challenges and opportunities, between men and women, in all spheres of political, social, economic and cultural, are aware of the duty to drive specific actions for mitigation and adaptation to climate change that are sustainable in terms of economic-financial, environmental, and compliance with the socio-cultural diversity that characterizes Mozambican society.

During the past 3 years of implementation of the Gender, Environment and Climate Change National Strategy, various activities targeting women were carried out, most notably the following:

- 12,177 women trained in the design and implementation of projects / programs related to climate change and sustainable use of natural resources in 222 locations;
- 940 awareness campaigns conducted on the promotion of gender equality, environment and climate change across the country;
- 7 sessions conducted to exchange experiences on the sustainable use of natural resources, with a focus on the production, use and dissemination of improved

stoves (wood saves and saves coal), to contribute to reducing the use of fuel wood and indiscriminate slaughter trees;

- 36 communities in 9 locations trained in matters of production of improved stoves, introduction of drought tolerant crops, prevent erosion and fires;
- 131 committees on Natural Resource Management created/strengthened; and
- Information disseminated in 74 locations promoting the construction of houses adapted to climate change with a focus on building gutters and cisterns for storing rainwater, as well as agricultural practices to increase the production and productivity in order to ensure food security and nutrition to sustain the effects of intensive agriculture and prevent soil degradation (conservation agriculture).

After three years of its implementation the Ministry For the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, under the leadership of the Minister Dr. Alcinda António de Abreu, is now revisiting and enhancing the strategy, bringing it more into alignment with the government's current National Strategy for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change and elaborating innovative activities for implementation, in collaboration with a wide range of public and private partners.

With each passing day, women prove to be primarily responsible for the family; because of the diversity of tasks they do and roles they play, a comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing climate change is essential toward safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of families and communities. Women's leadership is critical to environmental management and protection.

Therefore, MICOA champions its priorities of the Gender, Environment and Climate Change National Strategy, now called the Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP), to focus on empowerment of women and communities to ensure gender equity in decision-making processes, plans, policies, strategies and programs budgets, and training and capacity building for access to, control and effective management of natural resources for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

Recommendations:

The implementation of the actions pertaining to gender, environment and climate change also requires the establishment of partnerships with public and private sectors, national and foreign NGOs and other actors in order to stimulate joint views and means for activities.

Mozambique recommends consideration of the following:

- Ensure that all interventions to adapt to and mitigate the effects of Climate Change should integrate the needs of women and their communities
- Put women at the forefront of the implementation of Climate Change strategies and ensure women are able to fully participate in decision making processes
- Ensure women and climate change experts both can inform effective policies on gender equality, as climate change will likewise impact gains made toward gender equality

- Ensure gender-responsive allocation of climate finance, taking into consideration project design and funding allocation that can impact real people's every day lives on the ground
- Mobilize and allocate financial resources at local level, in particular, with the opportunity of special funds for women (which will be key toward NAPA implementation, for example)
- Ensure that women's vulnerability is only one aspect of gender and climate initiatives; women are vital **agents of change**
- Ensure that gender and climate issues are integrated by all stakeholders and within all levels, local, and provincial, national, international and Global and within all sectors of development to ensure that Climate Chance cuts across all relevant sectors.

Sudan submission to the UNFCCC decision 23/cp.18: Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women

Sudan welcomes the opportunity to share its views on promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in the UNFCCC process. Sudan supports the UNFCCC decision 23/cp.18: Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in the UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol

The 18th Conference of Parties of UNFCCC adopted the COP18 decision entitled: 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 (Decision 23/CP.18).

Paragraph 11 of the decision requests Parties and observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, their views on options and ways to advance the goal set out in paragraph 2: *(E)nhance decision 36/CP.7 by adopting a 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.*

As an important step, all Parties should consider gender balance in their national delegates during the climate change negotiation.

Sudan would like to see the important actions undertaken by the UNFCCC

- Sudan believes that participation of 50% of world society in the climate change negotiation while ignoring the other 50% will not lead to the achievement of a positive agreement or democratic participation in the international climate change negotiations.
- Sudan finds that such an approach is both an important and a crucial element for enhancing gender equity and increasing the participation of women during the climate change negotiations in implementation all adaptation (NAP and NAPA) and mitigation (as CDM and REDD+) actions.
- UNFCCC should integrate gender equity within all programmes, negotiations and as a crosscutting issue to implement within adaptation and mitigation activities;
- UNFCCC should designate a special body to examine and rate gender balance in all climate change activities.
- Sudan considers Consistency and sustainability as crucial key factor for efforts towards ensuring gender balance and gender-sensitive climate policies and actions.

Sudan's examples and actions on gender balance include:

- During COP 18 in Doha talk, the number of women exceeded men in the Sudanese delegation (12 women and 11 men), demonstrating the significant level of interest of women to participate and express their views during the climate change negotiations. Moreover, most of the female participants were self-funded or partially funded from embassies and private sectors;

- During the process of developing Sudan's REDD+ Readiness Preparation proposal (RPP), the Sudan national REDD+ committee addressed gender issues during consultations with local communities on creating social and environmental safeguards;
- Sudan has more than 2 million households dependent upon the forest (Gum Arabic), most of whom are women; and
- The Government of Sudan and UNEP are currently planning and proposing the creation of a gender strategy to address climate change and environmental issues in Sudan (2014-2018).
- Sudan, as an LDC country party has implemented a NAPA and NAP (for 18 states) on Climate Change where gender and participation is the one of its guiding principles.

Sudan challenges in promoting gender balance include:

- Limited financial and funded resources;
- Lack of capacity building and sensitization on integrating gender issues in the programming and projects of climate changes.

Sudan sees the need to promote gender issues, including:

- Special support to enhance women's capacities in climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- Trainings and technical support to assist and sensitize all Parties/delegates;
- Special financial resources targeted towards women to enhance their capacity at negotiations and trainings;
- Gender trainings targeting youth (women and men); and
- Issues related to gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting and gender analysis, gender in climate change negotiations.

Paper no. 14: Tajikistan

SUBMISSION
Of the Republic of Tajikistan
Decision 23/CP.18

In response for a Decision 23/CP.18 “*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*” the Republic of Tajikistan is glad to submit its national view on gender and climate change issues.

Tajikistan considers a Decision 23/CP.18 as an important step towards achieving gender equality and ensuring more effective climate change policy.

Gender equality is a fundamental human right, a matter of social justice and it is also crucial for economic and social prosperity. The World could not archive the Millennium Developments Goals without a strong focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Women’s participation in decision-making has been reaffirmed and reinforced in key international agreements, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Greater representation of women in the UNFCCC negotiations and bodies could provide the cross-cutting experiences necessary to ensure that the decisions taken at the national and international levels are more responsive to the differing needs of women and men in the national and local contexts. However, increased participation and representation of women in the UNFCCC process through the adoption of a goal on gender balance should not be viewed as just the end goal. Each Party has own practice, challenges and needs, and it is quite important to analyse and bring all these issues together for more effective climate change policy and its introduction to the sustainable development objectives in developing and developed nations. Gender equality impacts should be considered and implemented in all agenda items under the UNFCCC negotiations, including mitigation and adaptation, technology transfer, climate finance, education, public awareness and capacity building.

Taking into account all above, the Republic of Tajikistan would like to share with all Parties and the Secretariat its national practice, challenges and needs regarding gender and climate change.

PRACTICE

Tajikistan is one of the new independent nations of Central Asia (since 1991 after the collapse of Soviet Union), which is currently engaged in a process of social, economic and political transition. This transition is very specific for several reasons. Firstly, during the Soviet times Tajikistan was one of the most backward states in terms of social and economic development.

Moreover, still in the course of its earliest independent years, the country was dealing with the consequences of the civil war that destroyed the social, economic and political systems of its society. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the civil war has brought Tajikistan to the edge of catastrophe. After signing the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in 1997 the country entered the peace-building process.

The above situation had a strong impact on gender relations in all spheres of Tajik life – economic, political, cultural and family. However, with the introduction of gender studies and investigating these issues by international organizations, Tajikistan is gradually understanding and developing its gender policy. In recent years our country has undertaken a number of positive measures and steps to strengthen women’s role and status in society, promoting equal rights and opportunities for women and men. Tajikistan has developed and started to implement the main directions of state gender policy and created the legal basis of gender equality. Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on “Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities in the Exercise of such Rights” highlights that “State bodies, local government and heads of organisations of all property forms are obliged to ensure equal access for men and women to the economic resources of society, including movable and immovable property, land, financial assets, credits, and also ensuring free enterprise and any other activity that is not prohibited by legislative acts”. During last years a legal framework and main steps on gender equality promotion in Tajikistan were the following:

- 1993 Tajikistan joined the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- 1998 Government approved the National Plan of Action on the Promotion of Status and Role of Women for the years 1998-2005.
- 1999 ‘About democratization of the society’ and ‘Promotion of women in society’.
- 2001 Government adopted the state programme “Main directions of the state policy to ensure equal rights and opportunities for men and women in the Republic of Tajikistan for the years 2001-2010”.
- 2000-2005 Adoption of a number of strategic programmes protecting women’s reproductive rights and health.
- 2001 Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan “About regulation of girls’ access to higher education institutions of the Republic of Tajikistan, in accordance with the President’s quota for 2001-2005”.
- 2003 Creation of the Coordination Council under the Government of the Republic of

Tajikistan headed by the Deputy Prime Minister to support implementation of the UNIFEM “Land rights and economic security of women in Tajikistan” project.

- 2004 Adoption an addition to the state programme “Main directions of the State policy to ensure equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women in the Republic of Tajikistan for the years 2001-2010” “Access of rural women to land”.
- 2005 Adoption of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on “Guarantees of equal rights for men and women and equal opportunities in the exercise of such rights”.
- 2006 Adoption of the state programme “Development of female cadre” for 2007-2011.
- 2007 The first National Report and Shadow Report of NGOs on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are submitted to the CEDAW Committee.

Introducing chapter “Promotion of gender equality” in the National Development Strategy to 2015 and Poverty Reduction Strategy for 2007-2009.

- 2010 Adoption of the National Strategy on Activization of Women’s Role in Tajikistan for 2011-2020.

Tajikistan would like to state that gender issues related trainings on climate change and rising awareness between Tajik women were included for the first time to the National Action Plan under the National Strategy on Activization of Women’s Role in Tajikistan for 2011-2020.

Additionally, the Republic of Tajikistan plans to include 1-2 women in our delegation at COP 19 in Poland from the Committee of Women and Family under the Government of Tajikistan.

CHALLENGES

Gender equality issues should bring together all Parties, observers, UN bodies and civil society to share insights and discuss efforts to achieve gender balance and promote the empowerment of women in the UNFCCC process and advance gender-sensitive climate change policy.

Main challenge for realization of the above activity is existing stereotype and view on roles and responsibilities both women and men. In this respect, gender relations crosscut all social and political institutions, culture and way of thinking.

74% of the population in Tajikistan live in rural areas, where the main barrier to equal opportunities is the traditional stereotypes about female and male roles. Gender as social category of women and men is differently constructed in the cities and villages. There are more opportunities in the city for women to get secondary and professional education, a paid job, to

participate in the decision-making process and to access health services. Many women in Tajikistan are responsible for the food production, water supply and energy for heating and cooking in their communities that depend on availability of natural resources. It directly links women with climate change, climate-resilient development and poverty alleviation that should be address through the Adaptation Fund.

The Republic of Tajikistan would like to state one more challenge is having quite small delegation during the UNFCCC negotiations that mostly connected with availability of financial resources and knowledge on climate change as cross-cutting issue as well as language problem to speak in English during discussions and negotiations.

NEEDS

Tajikistan is a landlocked mountainous country, is highly vulnerable to various impacts of climate change, especially when considering mountainous ecosystems, availability of water resources and food security. Additionally, implementing gender and climate change related activities often face difficulties due to the lack of staff capacity and understanding of these issues, particularly in the rural communities.

The National Action Plan under the National Strategy on Activization of Women's Role in Tajikistan for 2011-2020 includes gender and climate change issues, especially on trainings and rising awareness between Tajik women on climate change that is jointly implementing by the Committee on Women & the Family, Committee of the Emergency Situation & Civil Defence and local regional bodies. However, state financial resources are not always available or quite limited for supporting these activities. The Republic of Tajikistan believes that further priority funding consideration will be given to adaptation programmes and rising awareness on climate change between women and men in rural areas in order to reduce the adverse effects of climate change on vulnerable communities.

There are also additional needs that should be address in Tajikistan and other developing countries, such as gender and climate change awareness training; assistance for gender capacity building within government; and strengthen the capacity of NGOs working on gender. Finally, there is paucity of information on the monitoring and evaluation of interventions by different donors and government from a gender perspective. Such information is crucial, because we can learn "what works" and "what does not"; who has benefited and who has been excluded. It is essential that lessons are learnt from the past experience can ensure success in the future.

The Republic of Tajikistan supports the activity of the UNFCCC secretariat and all Parties on gender balance in the composition of bodies of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol as well as gender balance in the composition of national delegations. Tajikistan also supports a decision to convene an in-session workshop at COP 19 on gender balance in the UNFCCC process, gender-sensitive climate policy and capacity-building activities, and the inclusion of "gender and climate change" as a standing item on the COP agenda.

Tajikistan strongly believes that the actions called for in a Decision 23/CP.18 will be undertaken and supported by financial resources to developing countries depend on their availability.

Paper no. 15: United States of America

Gender and Climate Change Submission of the United States

The United States welcomes the opportunity to present proposals on options and ways to enhance the goal of gender balance, in line with paragraph 11 of decision 23/CP.18 (“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”). Women play a critical role in climate change solutions and addressing gender issues is crucial to the objective of the UNFCCC and to combating climate change globally. The United States is pleased to be a leader in integrating gender issues and promoting women’s empowerment in this regard.

Decision 23/CP.18 addresses several facets of gender issues as they relate to the UNFCCC, namely:

1. Gender balance and related capacity building in the UNFCCC specifically; and
2. The importance of gender-sensitive climate change policies.

This submission proposes a workshop structure that we think will allow for the most fruitful discussions and outlines a few examples of the U.S. experience with gender-sensitive climate policy and programs. We also propose several concrete ways in which we might advance the dual aspects of decision 23/CP.18.

Workshop Structure

Per decision 23/CP.18, the workshop in Warsaw will focus on three elements: Gender balance in the UNFCCC, capacity-building for women in the UNFCCC, and gender-sensitive climate policies. Overall, given the cross-cutting nature of the issue of gender, we believe it is necessary to structure this workshop in a different way than many other UNFCCC workshops have been structured. Although they are highly complementary in their aims and outcomes, we propose to structure the workshop to focus on the issues independently. We think it would make sense to consider the first two elements together in one half of the workshop session, and then consider the last aspect as a standalone piece in the other half.

Specifically, for the second session on gender-sensitive climate policies, we recommend an interactive session, focused around the presentation of a “case study” or two on gender and climate change policy and/or programs that would allow for a focused discussion and a more hands-on approach. The Secretariat would select the case studies to be presented, after which workshop participants would be split into small groups and asked to respond to the presentations. This would allow for workshop participants to engage in a more hands-on and directly relevant way than just a question and answer session and would ideally spark new thinking and action on these issues.

U.S. action to promote women’s leadership in combating climate change and experience with integrating gender considerations in climate change programs

For the last several years, the United States has made a concerted effort to support the critical role of women around the world in combating climate change. Below we briefly highlight a few programs that we think are instructive of the breadth of our work and experience:

- **USAID Gender Integration:** USAID climate change programming aims to empower women as decision makers in their communities, build the leadership skills of women engaged in climate change professions, and foster an enabling environment through policy and institution reform. The USAID Climate Change and Development Strategy (2012) is guided by a principle of gender-sensitive approaches across all of our work. This integrates gender concerns across sectors and projects in a way that is flexible enough to account for the particular circumstances of projects.
- **Gender and Climate Action Plans:** Building on ongoing work on gender and climate change, USAID will be supporting select countries to create national-level gender and climate change action plans or build capacity to address gender issues in climate change programming.
- **LEAF Gender Dimensions:** USAID’s Regional Development Mission in Asia’s (RDMA) project Lowering Emissions in Asia’s Forests (LEAF) is advanced in these integration efforts. LEAF uses gender mainstreaming as a key approach to integrate gender throughout its programming while also building women’s capacity for leadership in REDD+. LEAF and its partner organizations discuss the importance of genuine female participation; equitable distribution of resources, benefits and opportunities between women and men in

the organization; and the importance of increased awareness of the human rights of women by those engaging in climate change mitigation activities. LEAF encourages all partner organizations to consider gender equality in their activities and builds their capacity to do so.

- **Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves:** The U.S. Government is a Founding Partner and strong supporter of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, which includes combating climate change and empowering women as central components of its mission. The Alliance recognizes that women have crucial roles to play across the clean cooking value chain, as well as recognizing the specific benefits to women presented by action on clean cooking, including economic and health aspects. It is undertaking a series of related efforts including: (1) a major research effort to understand the gender impacts when households adopt clean cooking solutions and the impact that women entrepreneurs can have on adoption rates when selling, distributing, producing, and marketing improved cooking solutions; (2) developing tools and building partner capacity to effectively empower women throughout the clean cooking value chain, most recently through its soon to be released report, *Scaling Clean Cooking Solutions through Women's Empowerment: A Resource Guide for Practitioners*; and (3) funding strategic pilots to test innovative approaches for economically empowering women entrepreneurs and for developing consumer finance mechanisms.
- **wPOWER:** The State Department Offices of the Special Envoy for Climate Change and Global Women's Issues formed an exciting public-private partnership called wPOWER (Partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables) to unlock women's potential to increase clean energy access and combat climate change. This effort, announced by former Secretary of State Clinton, currently aims to empower more than 7,000 women clean energy entrepreneurs across India, Nigeria and East Africa to launch small businesses around clean energy technologies including solar lamps and clean cookstoves. It includes collaboration with USAID, the MacArthur Foundation, the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, CARE International, Solar Sister, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, and Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP).
- **Women Climate Leaders Program:** To promote women's leadership on climate issues and build networks of women leaders, the State Department has held a "Women Climate Leaders" Program for the past two years. The program brings policy makers, scientists, and advocates from around the world to the U.S for a study tour focused on issues such as climate change policies, women's empowerment, clean technology and disaster risk management. The 2013 program focused on women in a particularly vulnerable region of the world -- the Pacific Islands-- bringing twelve Pacific women climate leaders together to share their experiences, challenges and best practices with each other and with senior officials at U.S. Federal agencies.

Suggested Concrete Follow-Up Action

The ongoing work of monitoring progress towards gender balance in the UNFCCC through the Secretariat reporting designated in decision 23/CP.18 is the key to progress on this issue. However, there are also other potential avenues for appropriate action and engagement by the UNFCCC to advance this work. Below, we propose consideration of one such action:

- **Creation of an informal "women's caucus" in the UNFCCC:** in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)—an organization that has significant experience addressing gender balance issues-- female delegates informally gathered for coffee to discuss issues of concern, which helped to catalyze action to address issues of gender representation and equality in a way that was separate from intergovernmental negotiations. Parties to the UNFCCC might explore whether a similar space should be created in the UNFCCC. This group would be open to all who are interested in the discussion. Such an endeavor could also serve as a space for addressing capacity-building issues for women in the UNFCCC; it would allow delegates to ask questions and learn from each other in an open and inclusive way. The Secretariat could help to facilitate the initial gathering locations and times to ensure that a space is available and that the invitation and information reaches the widest possible group. Given the strong role that civil society groups have had in the discussions on gender in the UNFCCC, their input in such an informal process would be valuable, and they would also be invited to attend.

We look forward to continuing these important discussions in Warsaw and beyond.

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 the Republic of Vanuatu

1. Welcoming the invitation from decision 23/CP.18 to provide views on options and ways to advance the gender balance goal adopted by the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties in this decision, the Republic of Vanuatu acknowledges the great advancement made by Parties at COP18 on gender by adopting the above mentioned decision stating “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”.
2. Reminding the Parties of the central role played by women in climate change adaptation, mitigation, scientific research, policy and decision making, but also in the pursuit of sustainable development, peace and democracy, the Republic of Vanuatu also recognises the importance of including women in all levels of climate change decisions and frameworks, while ensuring that their voice, views and priorities are taken into account and that gender-sensitive approaches are used to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
3. Underlining that women’s participation has been undermined throughout the history of the UNFCCC and that women continue to be underrepresented in the bodies of the Convention, the Republic of Vanuatu recalls that from 2008 to 2012, the ratios of women in the UNFCCC delegations (30%) and in all bodies and boards of the UNFCCC (10%) have remained steady, highlighting the lack of progress on the issue¹. Even though gender imbalances are common to all countries, significant differences have been identified between Annex I and non Annex I countries. For example, 42% of the national delegations of Eastern and Western Europe are women, whereas in Africa and Asia-Pacific this ratio only reaches 21%². This significant gap between Annex I and Non Annex I countries is a reflection of the difficulty encountered by women in developing countries to break through strong structural and cultural barriers. However, considering the dual status of women, especially in developing countries, as both one of the most vulnerable groups and key actors of change, it is all the more crucial to address gender imbalances and support women in becoming more fairly and equally part of the UNFCCC negotiations.
4. Informing the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Parties of the significant efforts that have been made to place women at the core of the development of the nation, through, for instance, the drafting of a National Gender Policy which is to be completed by September 2013, with extensive consultations throughout the Provinces and with all stakeholders within Government and civil society organisations, the Republic of Vanuatu calls on the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties to consider the following components in their discussions towards gender balance at the 19th session of the Conference of Parties (COP).

1. Substantive Equality Principle in the Processes towards Gender Balance

The Republic of Vanuatu requests more clarity and specificity in the statements made under decision 23/CP.18, adopting the goal of “gender balance”, referring to the participation of women in high-level decision-making processes. Although the Republic of Vanuatu agrees with the vision that is carried by this terminology, the nation suggests that more clarity be brought in regards to the processes and efforts undertaken by Parties on the issue.

The Republic of Vanuatu calls for this commitment to be more specific on its implications. Indeed, adopting the terminology “gender balance” does not imply that Substantive Equality, as defined in the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), referring to the actions taken to provide equal opportunities and to correct the inequality of power between men and women, has been fulfilled. The Republic of Vanuatu therefore

¹ Women’s Participation in UN Climate Negotiations 2008-2012, WEDO – 2013

² The Full View, Advancing the Goal of Gender Balance in Multilateral and Intergovernmental Processes, UN Women & Mary Robinson Foundation – May 2013

suggests that the principle of Substantive Equality be explicitly included in Decision 23/CP.18, emphasizing the two different kinds of efforts that will be needed to achieve gender balance.

Also, considering the contextual differences between Annex I and Non Annex I parties in the achievement of Substantive Equality, and the difficulties faced in the latter to transcend a male-dominated political life and break through heavy cultural barriers, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests that Parties adopt nationally relevant processes to reach gender balance, therefore aligning with the principle of Equality of Results as defined in CEDAW.

2. Using Temporary Special Measures to Reach a “Critical Mass” of Women in the UNFCCC Bodies

Reminding the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties that across the Pacific, excluding Australia and New Zealand, only 3% of the Members of Parliament are women³, the Republic of Vanuatu calls on the Parties to acknowledge the alarming scale of women’s underrepresentation in high level decision making spheres and the need to urgently reverse this current trend. Considering the substantial underrepresentation of women in all bodies of the UNFCCC, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests that Parties take decisive actions to reach a “critical mass” of women in the bodies pursuant to the Convention.

Recalling paragraph 1 of Decision 23/CP.18, stating that “additional efforts need to be made by all Parties to improve the participation of women”, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests that the Parties adopt “temporary special measures” as presented in Article 4.1 of the CEDAW adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and ratified by Vanuatu in 1995. These measures, represented under the terminology “Positive Discrimination”, are part of the legal framework that has already been agreed on by Parties at the seventh session of CEDAW in 1988. Quoting the above mentioned article, the Republic of Vanuatu reminds the Parties that such measures would enable the UNFCCC to “accelerate the improvement of the position of women to achieve their de facto or substantive equality with men”, while simultaneously implementing longer term efforts to ensure sustainable gender balance.

Recalling the General Recommendation No. 5 of the seventh session of CEDAW, the Republic of Vanuatu recommends that Parties use “temporary special measures such as positive action, preferential treatment or quota systems”. Lessons learned on women’s empowerment show that these measures and, more specifically, the use of numerical targets, have a more effective impact on the advancement of gender balance. Therefore, acknowledging that countries should have their own aspirations and common but differentiated processes to achieve gender balance, the Republic of Vanuatu recommends that temporary special measures be adopted by the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties. More specifically, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests that Parties discuss the establishment of a numerical target to be included in Decision 23/CP.18. The Republic of Vanuatu also suggests that an incentive mechanism be put in place to grant bonuses to the Parties that implement and meet such numerical gender targets, whilst taking into consideration national contexts, reminding that achieving modest targets in very patriarchal settings may be much more impressive than achieving close to, or equal gender balance in other countries.

3. Providing an Enabling Environment Leading to Sustainable Gender Balance

The representation and participation of women will not improve as long as the underlying causes of inequality and inequity are not properly addressed. For this reason, the Republic of Vanuatu has identified four main areas on which the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties could focus their efforts to make progress towards gender balance.

A. Education and Capacity Building

Studies on women’s participation in high-level decision-making, such as The Full View published this year by UN Women and Mary Robinson Foundation, added to lessons learned from the experiences of regional actors such as

³ The Full View, Advancing the Goal of Gender Balance in Multilateral and Intergovernmental Processes, UN Women & Mary Robinson Foundation – May 2013

the African Union or the Quito Consensus⁴, reveal that women's empowerment cannot be achieved without capacity-building activities.

The Republic of Vanuatu therefore encourages the UNFCCC to make proactive efforts in supporting women's education and skills building. This could take the form of including gender issues and gender sensitisation in the capacity building training and workshops organised under the UNFCCC, targeting both men and women, and taking measures ensuring that women have every opportunity to play an active role in these sessions.

B. Financial Resources

In Non Annex I countries where financial resources are limited, it is common that opportunities are given to men as they traditionally hold political and economic power. In our efforts towards gender balance, it is crucial to ensure that women are not discriminated against for financial reasons.

Consequently, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests to the UNFCCC Secretariat to consider gender balance in the allocation of funds, especially regarding the delegates attending the Conference of Parties as statistics show that women's participation is lower at these meetings than at others⁵. While acknowledging that governments have sovereignty on the nomination of the attending delegates, the Republic of Vanuatu urges the UNFCCC Secretariat to allocate specific resources to ensure that women have every opportunity to participate in and attend the Conference of Parties every year.

C. Policy and Reporting

Considering the stakes of the UNFCCC negotiations, gender balance cannot be solely considered as an end goal, but rather as a means towards the development of fairer and more comprehensive policies and legal frameworks enabling the Parties to address climate change issues. The Republic of Vanuatu therefore welcomes the paragraph 9 of Decision 23/CP.18 adding "the issue of gender and climate change as a standing item on the agenda of sessions of the Conference of the Parties" and suggests that discussions on gender are included in all panel discussions.

In order to assess and ensure progress of Parties on the issue, the Republic of Vanuatu urges the UNFCCC Secretariat to establish strong monitoring and reporting mechanisms. The Republic of Vanuatu suggests that all reports submitted by Parties to the UNFCCC have a gender section, outlining actions and measures undertaken to reach gender balance and reporting on their progress to date. In return, the Republic of Vanuatu insists that all UNFCCC reports made by Parties contain sex-disaggregated data. The Republic of Vanuatu also suggests that the UNFCCC Secretariat maintain a ranking of countries and regions progressing towards greater gender balance and that this data be made publicly available, therefore encouraging a friendly spirit of competition between Parties.

D. Culture and Sociology

As highlighted in the introduction, one of the strongest structural barriers to overcome in most of Non Annex I countries deals with negative gender-based stereotypes prevalent in the culture and society. Women's empowerment cannot be fully achieved as long as these negative stereotypes persist and until the broader society accepts the role women can play at high decision-making levels.

While welcoming the paragraph 10 of Decision 23/CP.18 and the organisation of an in-session gender workshop, the Republic of Vanuatu suggests that gender equity and the weight of negative gender stereotypes be addressed in the agenda. In addition, given the high number of applications for Side Events at the Conference of Parties this year, and the new selection process established by the Secretariat, the Republic of Vanuatu proposes that, for the 19th session and future Conference of Parties, one of the selection criteria for Side Events include how the proposed side event discusses gender impact or analysis or integration. Finally, the Republic of Vanuatu reminds the Parties of the importance of gender awareness amongst the UNFCCC bodies themselves, and suggests that all UNFCCC staff undergo gender sensitisation training and/or workshops.

Although the Republic of Vanuatu has not yet been able to display high levels of gender balance, the nation is committed to place gender at the core of national development. In June this year, the Vanuatu Government led by the Hon. Prime Minister Moana Carcasses Kalosil after 33 years of independence marked a historical event in unanimously

⁴ The Full View, Advancing the Goal of Gender Balance in Multilateral and Intergovernmental Processes, UN Women & Mary Robinson Foundation – May 2013

⁵ Women's Participation in UN Climate Negotiations 2008-2012, WEDO – 2013

approving the tabling of bills in the next Parliament session to introduce a Temporary Special Measure of a 16-year quota of 30-34% to be allocated for women's seats in all Municipal Councils. This Quota Bill has been passed by Vanuatu Parliament on the 26th August 2013, making of the Port Vila Municipal Council the first to be elected with this quota in place.

The Republic of Vanuatu is also committed to integrating gender into climate change policies, as outlined in the National Priorities and Actions Agenda, National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Land-Based Resources 2012-2022 and in the draft National Climate Change and Disaster Risks Reduction Policy of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risks Reduction (NAB). Beyond the development of a National Gender Policy, the Republic of Vanuatu has taken ambitious measures to make progress on the issue in its approach to the UNFCCC process. This year, the Republic of Vanuatu set up a numerical target for full gender equality, e.g. 50% women, in the composition of the national delegation. It should also be noted that the Republic of Vanuatu entered the process of submissions with this very submission focused on gender balance, reflecting the determination of the country to push the gender agenda at both national and international levels.

In spite of these great efforts to achieve gender balance, the Republic of Vanuatu reminds the UNFCCC Secretariat, Parties and partners that comprehensive support and effective measures will be needed, in particular in Non Annex I countries where structural barriers keep challenging the role of women in political life.
