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Gender and climate change

Good practices for integrating gender into the work of the constituted bodies

Compilation and synthesis report by the secretariat

Summary

This report compiles and synthesizes the good practices and lessons learned from the reporting by constituted bodies on the progress towards integrating gender into their work in 2017–2021. It includes information on the ways that constituted bodies have approached gender integration and their collaboration on these efforts.



Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
AFB	Adaptation Fund Board
CDM	clean development mechanism
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts
COP	Conference of the Parties
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KCI	Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
TEC	Technology Executive Committee
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

I. Background

A. Mandate

1. COP 22 requested that:

(a) All constituted bodies under the UNFCCC process include in their regular reports information on progress made towards integrating a gender perspective in their processes;¹

(b) The secretariat prepare biennial synthesis reports on the information contained in the reports referred to in paragraph 1(a) above for consideration by the COP.²

2. COP 23 adopted a gender action plan to support the implementation of gender-related decisions and mandates under the UNFCCC process.³ It included a priority area on coherence that sought to strengthen the integration of gender considerations within the work of UNFCCC constituted bodies, the secretariat and other United Nations entities and stakeholders towards the consistent implementation of gender-related mandates and activities.⁴ The coherence priority area was maintained in the gender action plan under the enhanced Lima work programme on gender, which was adopted at COP 25.⁵

3. COP 25 took note of the first report on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes,⁶ which indicated that an increasing number of UNFCCC constituted bodies were reporting on gender and encouraged constituted bodies to continue strengthening their efforts in this area.⁷ It requested all constituted bodies to continue to include in their regular reports information on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into their processes⁸ and the secretariat to continue preparing biennial synthesis reports on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes.⁹

4. Under the gender action plan, activity C.2 aims to facilitate the exchange of views between the Chairs of the constituted bodies on how to strengthen the integration of the gender perspective into their work, including the consideration of good practices.¹⁰ In accordance with this activity, the Chairs are to select a topic for the dialogue to be held between them at the fifty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies (June 2023).

B. Objective

5. The objective of this report is to provide the Chairs of UNFCCC constituted bodies with good practice examples of integrating gender into their work, which the Chairs may wish to consider when determining the topics for the dialogue referred to in paragraph 4 above.

¹ Decision 21/CP.22, para. 14.

² Decision 21/CP.22, para. 15.

³ Decision 3/CP.23.

⁴ Decision 3/CP.23, annex, para. 9.

⁵ Decision 3/CP.25, annex, para. 6.

⁶ FCCC/CP/2019/8.

⁷ Decision 3/CP.25, para. 3.

⁸ Decision 3/CP.25, para. 12.

⁹ Decision 3/CP.25, para. 15(b).

¹⁰ Decision 3/CP.25, annex, table 3.

C. Scope

6. To identify good practices, the secretariat analysed the regular reports of the 15 constituted bodies¹¹ covered by the 2019 and 2021 synthesis reports¹² on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes and sought inputs from the secretariat teams that support the relevant constituted bodies.

II. Good practices for integrating gender

A. Overview

7. The review and analysis of the relevant constituted body reports revealed good practices that fall within the following broad categories:

- (a) Applying a systematic approach to integrating gender;
- (b) Providing capacity-building activities and resources for members and stakeholders;
- (c) Collaborating with other constituted bodies;
- (d) Engaging and building partnerships with gender experts;
- (e) Including gender indicators in monitoring and evaluation frameworks and gender- and sex-disaggregated data in technical work;
- (f) Gender focal points and champions.

B. Good practices

1. Systematic approach to integrating gender

8. Some constituted bodies, including the KCI, the PCCB and the TEC, have documented and adopted a systematic approach to integrating gender considerations into their respective workstreams.¹³ While each of those bodies has adopted an approach that is specific to its work, the approaches share the following elements:

- (a) Integration of gender as a cross-cutting consideration in all activities of the body, including technical and policy products, training and events;
- (b) The appointment of gender focal points or working groups who champion and monitor the integration of gender into the work of the constituted body;
- (c) Gender-sensitive and -inclusive communication, including the use of inclusive language and images in material produced by the constituted body;
- (d) The engagement of relevant organizations or individuals with gender expertise as part of observer, stakeholder or technical working groups that contribute to the activities of the constituted body;
- (e) Gender balance as a criterion in the selection of speakers and experts and as a consideration for the nomination of participants to events organized by the constituted body or by others as part of the constituted body's workplan.

¹¹ AC, AFB, CDM Executive Board, CGE, CTCN Advisory Board, Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee, KCI, Kyoto Protocol Compliance Committee, LEG, Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee, PCCB, SCF, TEC and WIM Executive Committee.

¹² FCCC/CP/2019/8 and FCCC/CP/2021/5.

¹³ FCCC/CP/2021/5, paras. 53–56, 69 and 85, respectively.

9. Other bodies, including the AC, the AFB, the LEG and the WIM Executive Committee, have identified gender as a cross-cutting issue for their workplans, including some or all of the elements referred to in paragraph 8 above.¹⁴

10. The impacts of developing and adopting a systematic approach to gender have been highlighted in the 2021 synthesis report on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes.¹⁵ Those constituted bodies that have adopted such an approach are demonstrating progress year on year in integrating gender into a growing number of activities and products. A structured and systematic approach is likely to help sustain these efforts.

2. Capacity-building activities and resources for members and stakeholders

11. Many constituted bodies, including the AC, the AFB, the CDM Executive Board, the CTCN, the LEG, the PCCB, the SCF and the TEC, have sought to raise awareness and build the capacity of their members and stakeholders for understanding the linkages between gender and their respective areas of work, as well as for strengthening implementation of gender-responsive climate policy and action.

12. Efforts have included training workshops and webinars to educate stakeholders on sectoral perspectives on gender and climate change,¹⁶ as well as on the role of gender in efficiently and effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting and building resilience to climate change.¹⁷ In the case of the CTCN, capacity-building has extended to training sessions on scaling up gender-just climate solutions and integrating responses to COVID-19 into existing initiatives such as resources on the CTCN gender hub.¹⁸

13. The most recent reports of constituted bodies indicate a stronger emphasis on virtual capacity-building webinars and e-learning courses in response to constraints on in-person events owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁹

14. Resources developed or collated by constituted bodies to strengthen the understanding and implementation of gender-responsive climate policy and action related to their work include a gender-responsive toolkit for the national adaptation plan process;²⁰ a gender hub on the CTCN website,²¹ which contains more than 630 resources related to gender and climate, including a guide on how to incorporate important gender elements into project development;²² guidance on gender mainstreaming in technology needs assessment;²³ and a gender mainstreaming approach first documented by the PCCB in a standard²⁴ and subsequently documented by other bodies, including the KCI and the TEC.

15. Ensuring that policymakers and other constituted body stakeholders first gain an understanding of the linkages between gender and the work of the constituted body will enhance the effectiveness and acceptance of products the constituted body subsequently develops that integrate gender.

¹⁴ FCCC/CP/2021/5, paras. 14(c), 27(f), 59(c) and 94 respectively.

¹⁵ FCCC/CP/2021/5.

¹⁶ See, for example, gender sessions during national adaptation plan expos in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans-naps/nap-expo-0>.

¹⁷ FCCC/CP/2019/10–FCCC/PA/CMA/2019/3, paras. 31–33.

¹⁸ See <https://www.ctc-n.org/technology-sectors/gender>.

¹⁹ See, for example, FCCC/SBI/2020/13, para 43.

²⁰ NAP Global Network and UNFCCC. 2019. *Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)*. A Dazé and C Church (eds.). Winnipeg, Canada: International Institute for Sustainable Development. Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Documents/Supplements/NAPGenderToolkit2019.pdf>.

²¹ See <https://www.ctc-n.org/technology-sectors/gender>.

²² See <https://www.ctc-n.org/technologies/ctcn-gender-mainstreaming-tool-response-plan-development>.

²³ FCCC/SB/2019/4, paras. 106–109.

²⁴ FCCC/SBI/2019/13, annex.

3. Collaboration with other constituted bodies

16. Most constituted bodies are collaborating with at least one other constituted body on gender integration. Collaboration extends to developing joint products, such as toolkits, guidelines and training;²⁵ holding meetings to share experience with the aim of identifying gaps in and solutions for integrating gender into related areas of work; and hosting joint events.²⁶

17. The gender focal points of the TEC initiated an ad hoc virtual meeting of all gender focal points appointed by constituted bodies as an informal way to identify possible areas for collaboration and share experience, challenges and success stories in integrating gender into their respective areas of work.

18. Some constituted bodies, including the CGE, the CTCN and the KCI, have also drawn on the experience of other constituted bodies when determining if and how they would integrate gender into their work. For example, the KCI requested the secretariat to present the concept note prepared for the TEC²⁷ and any lessons learned by the TEC in implementing a systematic approach to integrating gender, before subsequently adopting a similar approach adapted to its own circumstances.²⁸

19. The benefits of collaboration include avoiding duplication of efforts, delivering more robust and comprehensive products and learning from the challenges and success stories of other constituted bodies in integrating a gender perspective.

4. Engagement and building of partnerships with gender experts

20. Many constituted bodies, including the CTCN, the LEG, the SCF, the TEC and the WIM Executive Committee, have expanded their stakeholder engagement or pool of experts to include experts in gender and climate. In some cases, this was an element of a mainstreaming strategy, whereas for other constituted bodies this addressed needs related to specific products or activities.

21. Engagement with gender and climate experts has included offering a place to the women and gender constituency as an official observer to contribute during meetings and through participation in working groups,²⁹ requesting organizers of events to include experts in gender and climate and engaging in targeted outreach to these experts to contribute to specific products or activities.³⁰

22. The CTCN and the TEC, in collaboration with other constituted bodies and supported by the secretariat, have initiated the development of a roster of experts in gender and climate as well as female climate experts, to call upon for various events, workshops and activities, and for consultation during technical assistance implementation.³¹

23. Gender expertise is essential for the successful integration of gender into the work of constituted bodies. Engaging and building partnerships with relevant gender experts will ensure that constituted bodies are able to sustain their gender integration efforts irrespective of changes in membership of the constituted body.

²⁵ See, for example, <https://unfccc.int/ttclear/tec/techandndc.html> and NAP Global Network and UNFCCC. 2019. *Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)*. A Dazé and C Church (eds.). Winnipeg, Canada: International Institute for Sustainable Development. Available at

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Documents/Supplements/NAPGenderToolkit2019.pdf>.

²⁶ See, for example, https://unfccc.int/pccb/CB_Hub_3.

²⁷ TEC document TEC/2019/19/10, available at <https://unfccc.int/ttclear/tec/meetings.html>.

²⁸ KCI/2021/5/10, para. 19; available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/KCI/documents>.

²⁹ See, for example, FCCC/SB/2020/4, para. 102, and decision 10/CP.26, annex, para. 1(g).

³⁰ See, for example, <https://www.ctc-n.org/about-ctcn/knowledge-partners/network-african-women-environmentalists-nawe>.

³¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 69.

5. Gender indicators and gender- and sex-disaggregated data in monitoring, reporting and evaluation frameworks and technical work

24. Some constituted bodies, including the CTCN, the LEG and the TEC, have included gender indicators in the frameworks they use to monitor and evaluate workplans or in technical work.³²

25. Indicators used by constituted bodies to measure progress through workplan monitoring and evaluation frameworks include the number of experts trained by gender, the percentage of women speakers, and the number of knowledge products that refer to gender.

26. Gender- and sex-disaggregated data are critical for gender analysis and for developing indicators that can monitor the impact of technical work. Examples related to the technical work of constituted bodies include consideration of gender-disaggregated information on the needs of developing countries in existing reports and how it could be incorporated into a finance needs report;³³ a gender scorecard at the project finance portfolio level to track, aggregate and report on efforts to integrate gender at the project proposal development stage and on gender outcomes at project completion;³⁴ and gender-disaggregated data in factsheets providing an annual overview of global disaster displacement.³⁵

27. Reporting on gender integration in their regular reports to the governing bodies is an important way for constituted bodies to track and communicate thereon. Constituted bodies can ensure that the reporting is effective and meaningful by avoiding vague formulations, unsubstantiated statements or general descriptions of efforts; providing context; identifying areas for improvement or where positive changes could not be sustained; and avoiding exclusively and selectively highlighting success stories.

28. Appropriate indicators are useful in measuring progress in integrating gender into the work of constituted bodies. Furthermore, as gaps remain in gender- and sex-disaggregated data in the context of climate policy and action, constituted bodies can play an important role in bridging those gaps in the context of their work by identifying opportunities to include data-informed indicators and gender- and sex-disaggregated data in their knowledge and technical products.

6. Gender focal points and champions

29. Many constituted bodies have appointed a gender focal point or have members who champion gender integration. The appointment of a gender focal point signals that a constituted body recognizes the need to dedicate time and effort to the topic of gender and climate change. Some constituted bodies also have members, including Chairs, who champion gender considerations although not appointed as the gender focal point. This good practice helps to ensure more diversity and that the responsibility for integrating gender does not fall only to the gender focal point.

C. Conclusion

30. The IPCC recently reconfirmed that the impacts of climate change are differentiated owing to the interaction and intersection of discrimination on the basis of social factors such as gender, ethnicity, age, class or (dis)ability.³⁶ The IPCC also identified that structural factors of national circumstances and capabilities, including gender considerations, affect the breadth and depth of climate governance. Mitigation options that align with prevalent values and beliefs are more easily adopted and implemented. Furthermore, integrated policy

³² FCCC/SB/2019/4, chap. IV, FCCC/CP/2021/5, para. 57, and TEC document TEC/2020/21/15, para. 28, available at <https://unfccc.int/ttclear/tec/meetings.html>, respectively.

³³ FCCC/CP/2020/4–FCCC/PA/CMA/2020/3, para. 36.

³⁴ FCCC/CP/2021/5, para. 27(f)(ii).

³⁵ FCCC/CP/2021/5, para. 92.

³⁶ IPCC. 2022. *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. H Pörtner, D Roberts, M Tignor, et al. (eds.). Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press. Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>.

packages developed to achieve ambitious mitigation pathways can improve the ability to integrate considerations of equity, gender equality and justice.³⁷

31. This compilation and synthesis report of good practices demonstrates that constituted bodies are progressing in the integration of gender considerations in their respective workstreams. An understanding of how gender applies in the different workstreams appears to have evolved beyond a focus on women and gender balance to the causes of inequality, including unequal access to and control over power, resources, human rights and institutions, and how constituted bodies can address these inequalities in their work to achieve better climate outcomes.

³⁷ IPCC. 2022. Summary for Policymakers. In: PR Shukla, J Skea, R Slade, et al. (eds.). *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press. Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/>.