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Gender and climate change

In-session workshop on progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the gender action plan and on future work to be undertaken on gender and climate change

Summary report by the secretariat

Summary

This report provides an overview of the proceedings of the workshop that took place during the sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to discuss the synthesis report on progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the gender action plan and on future work to be undertaken on gender and climate change, as well as a summary of presentations and reflections at and outputs of the workshop.



Abbreviations and acronyms

COP	Conference of the Parties
GAP	gender action plan
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LWPG	Lima work programme on gender
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. COP 28 requested SBI 60 to initiate the final review of the implementation of the enhanced LWPG and its GAP,¹ identifying progress, challenges, gaps and priorities, with a view to concluding the review at SBI 61.²
2. COP 28 invited Parties, United Nations entities, the UNFCCC constituted bodies and relevant organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities, to submit via the submission portal by 31 March 2024 their inputs on progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the GAP, categorized by deliverable or output for each activity under the GAP, and on future work to be undertaken on gender and climate change, with a view to the submissions informing the review referred to in paragraph 1 above.³
3. It encouraged the SBI to take into account submissions made after the deadline of 31 March 2024 during relevant discussions at SBI 60 and 61.⁴
4. COP 28 requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report⁵ on the submissions referred to in paragraph 2 above in advance of SBI 60, to hold at that session a workshop to discuss the synthesis report, with focused regional- and global-level discussions, and to prepare a summary report reflecting the discussions held at the workshop.⁶

B. Scope

5. This report provides an overview of the proceedings of the in-session workshop referred to in paragraph 4 above and summarizes participants' presentations and reflections on progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the GAP and on future work to be undertaken on gender and climate change.

II. Proceedings

6. The workshop on progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the GAP and on future work to be undertaken on gender and climate change took place from 3 to 5 June 2024 during SBI 60. It was open to Parties and observers, webcast live and held in English with whispering interpretation in French and Spanish.
7. After the opening by the SBSTA Vice-Chair, the moderator of the workshop introduced its structure, objectives and expected outputs and the secretariat made a scene-setting presentation. Then the participating Party delegates split into breakout groups to reflect at the regional level.⁷
8. Sessions for all workshop participants followed to discuss the content of the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 4 above and consider progress in implementing the GAP and what is needed to enhance implementation at the international, regional and national level, comprising:

- (a) Reflections on progress and future work across the GAP priority areas:

¹ Decision 3/CP.25, annex. The amendments to the GAP are contained in the annex to decision 24/CP.27.

² Decision 15/CP.28, para. 1.

³ Decision 15/CP.28, para. 2. The submissions are available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (in the search field, type "gender action plan").

⁴ Decision 15/CP.28, para. 3.

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2024/11.

⁶ Decision 15/CP.28, para. 4.

⁷ There was no reporting back on the Party-only discussions.

- (i) Capacity-building, knowledge management and communication (priority area A); gender-balance, participation and women's leadership (priority area B); monitoring and reporting (priority area E);
- (ii) Coherence (priority area C); and gender-responsive implementation and gender-responsive means of implementation (priority area D);
- (b) Reflections on future work on gender and climate change, covering:
 - (i) Linkages and complementarities within and outside the UNFCCC process relevant to supporting achievement of the objectives of the GAP;
 - (ii) The role of the stakeholders mentioned in the GAP;
 - (iii) Looking back in order to chart a way forward.

9. Each session encompassed a presentation by the secretariat and reflections from stakeholders mentioned in the GAP, followed by group work in world café format. The world café discussions were supported by six facilitators, who were assigned a GAP priority area (priority area D was split in two). A Party delegate was appointed as rapporteur by each group to capture its discussions in a template containing guiding questions. A compilation of the completed templates was made available for participants' consideration during the workshop.⁸ Following the world cafés, the facilitators for each priority area provided reflections on the respective discussions.

10. In addition, an introduction was presented to the theory of change as a tool for reflecting on how and why an intervention is expected to achieve a desired change.

11. The workshop was closed by the SBI Chair. All information relevant to the workshop, including agenda, webcast links, presentations, templates and outputs, is available on the UNFCCC website.⁹

III. Summary

A. Scene-setting

12. The workshop was designed to enhance opportunities for active participation and discussion. The agenda was guided by the mandate referred to in paragraph 4 above and inputs received via the call for submissions referred to in paragraph 2 above, informal virtual meetings held with national gender and climate change focal points between February and April 2024 and a survey conducted at the virtual information session on the review referred to in paragraph 1 above in February 2024.¹⁰

13. The scene-setting presentation by the secretariat provided a historic overview of gender-related work under the UNFCCC, and information on the status of the review referred to in paragraph 1 above, including a summary of insights from the submissions received on progress, challenges, gaps, priorities and future work in relation to gender and climate change, an introduction to the synthesis report on those submissions, and a snapshot of initiatives reported under each GAP priority area.

⁸ The compilation of the templates is available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Gender%20worksho%20SB%2060-Compilation%20of%20templates%20submitted%20by%20groups%201-3%20on%20day%201-2.pdf> and pictures of the flipcharts at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Compilation%20of%20flipcharts%20groups%201%2C%202%20and%203%2C%20day%201%20and%20day%202.pdf>.

⁹ <https://unfccc.int/gender/sb60#In-session-workshop>.

¹⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/gender/final-review#Open-information-session-on-the-review-process-and-submissions>.

B. Progress across the priority areas of the gender action plan

14. Reflections on progress and future work across GAP priority areas were shared by participants across the workshop sessions (see para. 8 above).

15. The secretariat presented each GAP priority area, recalling its objectives, activities and related deliverables, presented data from the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 4 above and summarized key challenges and good practices in implementing the GAP as reflected in the submissions referred to in paragraph 2 above.

16. Presentations by stakeholders mentioned in the GAP included information on their implementation of activities under the respective priority areas and reflections on how gender and climate change features in their work, as summarized below.

17. The IPCC assessment reports provide evidence and promote understanding of the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change and the role of women in addressing climate change. The IPCC gender equality and implementation plan is built on three pillars: enhancing gender equality in IPCC processes, creating a gender-inclusive environment, and training and guidance on gender and gender-related issues. The IPCC has contributed to the implementation of GAP activity A.4 through the SBI–SBSTA event at COP 27 focused on the gender-related aspects of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, and activity C.3 by hosting gender-focused events on Gender Day at sessions of the COP. Consideration of gender and diversity is a priority for the IPCC, including in the context of its current seventh assessment cycle, and opportunities for collaboration between UNFCCC and IPCC focal points were highlighted in its presentation.

18. The Women’s Environment and Development Organization has contributed to the implementation of GAP activity B.1 through the delivery of night schools, aiming to strengthen participants’ capacity to effectively participate in the negotiations in the context of the Women Delegates Fund, and activity B.2 by promoting and administering travel funds for women Party delegates to attend UNFCCC sessions and meetings. It was highlighted that travel support alone was not impactful; it needed to be complemented by capacity-building.

19. UN Women presented the EmPower programme in the Asia-Pacific region, aimed at empowering women to address climate change impacts through gender-responsive decision-making by increasing women’s participation in climate change decision-making and promoting gender-responsive renewable energy initiatives. The outcomes and key lessons from the first phase of the programme informed its second phase, including identifying key linkages with the UNFCCC process in promoting and leveraging the role of national gender and climate change focal points and providing capacity-building for women to engage in climate action and implementation of nationally determined contributions, thus contributing to achieving the objectives of GAP priority area A.

20. The Paris Committee on Capacity-building has contributed to achieving the objectives of GAP priority area C in pursuing its aim to enhance the coherence and coordination of capacity-building efforts under the Convention and has integrated gender considerations into its activities. With a view to aligning its work with the enhanced LWPG and its GAP, the Committee adopted a gender mainstreaming standard. It identified the key challenges in implementing the standard as lack of coordination between gender and climate stakeholders, limited time and resources, and lack of awareness and understanding of gender and climate change among policymakers and practitioners.

21. The Adaptation Fund has been mainstreaming gender in its key operations and instruments since 2014, and in its accreditation and readiness and project funding requirements, as well as knowledge management, since 2016. The enhanced LWPG and its GAP served as a road map and global strategic framework for the Adaptation Fund’s gender-related work and identifying potential areas for further improvement. The Adaptation Fund has implemented initiatives that fall under various GAP priority areas, including capacity-building, knowledge management, provision of finance through grants, and collaboration with other climate funds and international organizations.

22. The United Nations Development Programme’s Climate Promise, through its pillar on lasting inclusivity through whole-of-society engagement, provides a platform for

integrating gender-related goals into climate policies and action at the national level, supporting countries in undertaking systematic gender integration, resulting in tangible outputs. The Climate Promise has contributed to an increase in countries' consideration of gender across their mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as in relation to finance, thus contributing to the objectives of GAP priority area D. Under the Climate Promise, countries have been focusing on increasing women's leadership and decision-making, and improving institutional coordination and strengthening institutional capacity in the area of gender and climate change, not only within government institutions but also among non-State actors.

C. Future work on gender and climate change

23. The secretariat presented key linkages and complementarities within work under the UNFCCC, including in relation to reporting cycles (e.g. the global stocktake, nationally determined contributions and biennial transparency reports) and UNFCCC constituted bodies and work programmes, and with processes outside the UNFCCC relevant to supporting achievement of the objectives of the GAP, as identified in the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 4 above. Subsequently, participants provided reflections on the linkages and complementarities using an interactive online tool.

24. Following a brief presentation on stakeholders mentioned in the enhanced LWPG and its GAP,¹¹ three such stakeholders made interventions on the role and processes of the type of organization they represent and of their specific organization and reflected on the existing language in the GAP inviting their organization to implement activities. A representative of the Adaptation Fund indicated that the enhanced LWPG and its GAP supported consideration of the gender-responsiveness of climate funds' operations. A representative of UN Women highlighted its engagement in international forums to support gender mainstreaming in thematic areas discussed under the UNFCCC and its plans to expand its provision of technical support for gender-responsive climate action to national gender and climate change focal points, government officials and other stakeholders. A representative of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform shared that the Group is currently preparing its 2025–2027 workplan.

25. Using an interactive online tool, participants identified stakeholders that have played a role in delivering on GAP objectives and activities but are not identified in the GAP, as well as identifying potential activities to be implemented by them.

26. Participants engaged in an exercise in which they each indicated their top three priorities for future work on gender and climate change from the compilation of the completed templates mentioned in paragraph 25 above.

27. Finally, participants had an opportunity to consider the structure and content of the enhanced LWPG and whether its elements remain relevant or require adjustment taking into consideration the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 4 above, key priorities and challenges for implementation identified therein and in the regional-level discussions and group work at the workshop, and their reflections on linkages and complementarities. The outputs of these exercises are available on the workshop web page.¹²

¹¹ Parties, UNFCCC constituted bodies and their Chairs, relevant public and private entities, relevant organizations, national gender and climate change focal points, the research community, relevant national finance and budgeting entities, philanthropic financial institutions, Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund and UN Women.

¹² See <https://unfccc.int/gender/sb60#In-session-workshop>.