

WOMEN GENDER CONSTITUENCY

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Women and Gender Constituency¹: Position Paper on the 2015 New Climate Agreement

Overview

A just and gender-responsive climate agreement can take different forms, but fundamentally it will; respect and promote human rights and gender equality; ensure sustainable development and environmental integrity; require fair, equitable, ambitious and binding mitigation commitments in line with the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR); call for urgent and prioritized adaptation action and resources that respond to the most vulnerable countries, communities and populations; demand a sustainable energy paradigm that prioritizes safe, decentralized renewable energy systems that benefit people and communities; ensure adequate, new, additional and predictable climate finance for developing countries; provide resources to reconcile loss and damage already incurred from climate inaction; and, ensure full, inclusive and gender-equitable public participation in decision-making, with increased mandatory ex-ante and periodic human rights and gender equality impact assessments. It must ensure that gender equality, equal access to decision making, and benefit sharing are integrated into all its provisions, including through gender-responsive means of implementation. Sex and gender disaggregated data and analysis of the underlying causes of any gender disparities must be mainstreamed in all information, communication and reporting systems.

Part C. General/Objective

For the Women and Gender Constituency the objective of the 2015 climate agreement is an ambitious global partnership among countries, committing to the highest level of emission reductions needed to match what scientific research says is needed to prevent catastrophic climate change, working together within the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibility, to protect, respect and fulfill human rights for all, to support adaptation to already

¹ The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is one of the nine stakeholder groups of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](http://unfccc.org)). Established in 2009, the WGC now consists of 15 women's and environmental civil society organizations and networks, and hosts an advocacy list of over 100 women activists and gender experts who reviewed and contributed to this position. Visit www.womengenderclimate.org for more information.

incurring climatic shifts, to respond to the loss and damage already suffered, and to create a just and sustainable future for all.

Part C. should therefore ensure agreement to:

- Keep global temperature rise well below 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels;
- Uphold the Principles of the Convention, ensuring equity and CBDR;
- Ensure all climate change related actions respect, protect, promote, and fulfill human rights for all;
- Ensure gender equality and the full and equal participation of women in all climate actions and decision-making processes;
- Ensure that climate policies and actions establish a just transition of the workforce that creates quality jobs and guarantees decent work standards for all;
- Protect and fulfill the rights of indigenous peoples;
- Establish a binding agreement with a strong and effective compliance mechanism to ensure accountability for and fulfillment of Parties' obligations;
- Ensure that all climate change related actions respect and protect biodiversity and nature

Of particular importance is the precedential paragraph 15, recognizing for the first time that all climate actions under the UNFCCC must respect human rights, the rights of indigenous peoples and gender equality.

15. bis [All Parties [and stakeholders] shall [ensure respect for human rights and gender equality in the implementation of the provisions of this agreement] [, in all climate change related actions, respect, protect, promote, and fulfil human rights for all. All Parties shall be guided by gender equality and ensure the full and equal participation of women in all climate actions and decision-making processes. All Parties should consider in their climate policies and actions a just transition of the workforce that creates decent work and quality jobs.]] [All Parties shall implement this agreement, in line with the mandate, principles and provisions of the UNFCCC, to protect the integrity of Mother Earth, respect and promote human rights, the right to development and the rights of indigenous peoples.]

Part D. Mitigation

The WGC calls Parties to uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), in line with the principles of the Convention. Any proposal on burden sharing in mitigation should be assessed based on the historical responsibility of developed countries.

The Paris agreement needs a clear and consistent articulation by all Parties of an emissions pathway to keep warming well under 1.5 degrees. It is of utmost importance that Parties agree to

emission reduction targets that are highly ambitious and measurable in order to reach this long-term goal.

The WGC demands that no market based mechanisms be included in the new climate agreement, particularly in relation to the land sector. Private funds, investments and markets are driven by the goal of larger returns, and thus invariably favor measures, programs and projects that may result in high emissions reductions, but which fail to create long-term, sustainable benefits for people, often prioritize profit over human rights, and threaten to harm local communities and their livelihoods where women in particular are most negatively affected.

All mitigation actions agreed under this agreement should ensure a gender-responsive approach and strive to maximize effective and equitable implementation and ensure sustainable development.

Mitigation measures must also ensure ecological sustainability, food sovereignty, decent work and people's empowerment.

Part D. should therefore ensure agreement to:

- Establish a clear and consistent pathway to emissions reductions by all Parties to keep global warming well under 1.5 degrees, in the context of equitable access to sustainable development, with substantially more ambitious emissions reductions than any previous commitment;
- Developing countries must receive timely, adequate means of implementation from developed countries in order for them to achieve their mitigation emissions reductions targets;
- Uphold the principle of CBDR, in line with the provisions of the Convention;
- Ensure that mitigation commitments are quantifiable and consistent with IPCC principles of transparency, accuracy, completeness and comparability, (including in the planning of NAMAs/DEMAS, INDCs) identified in a participatory manner, allowing for full and effective contributions from all constituencies of civil society;
- Provide a clear timeframe for implementation, information, communication and a reporting framework that includes socioeconomic and gender impacts and benefits;
- Prohibit existing market based mechanisms such as the CDM and REDD+, in this agreement, as well as proposals for new market based mechanisms, including in relation to the land use sector.
- Prohibit false solutions constituted by high-risk technologies, such as nuclear, shale gas, CCS, geo-engineering, synthetic biology or the like, and promote instead a sustainable energy paradigm, prioritizing safe, clean, decentralized renewable energy systems--

focusing on bottom-up approaches that benefit people and communities, such as community based decentralised energy supply solutions;

- o Recognize and promote the use of traditional knowledge and indigenous practices in equal measure as scientific knowledge in mitigation actions and plans;
- o Ensure that mitigation strategies rely not only on technologies and markets, but rather include wide-ranging structural and lifestyle changes;
- o Ensure all measures and mechanisms are assessed from a gender perspective to avoid contradictory impacts on gender relations, as part of regular country reporting to the UNFCCC;
- o Promote research on climate policy that looks more into the social and gender dimensions of mitigation.

Part E. Adaptation and Loss and Damage

Actions that address adaptation and engage in loss and damage initiatives should be area-specific, ecosystem based and participatory. They must take into account traditional approaches, as well as the differentiated knowledge and skills of women and men of a particular community. Women must be recognized as agents of change and as key actors in the fight against climate change. As loss and damage poses an existential threat, funding for adaptation and loss and damage must be new, sustainable and transparent. National adaptation plans must be country and demand driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent.

Part E. should therefore ensure agreement to:

- o Recognize the need for urgent and prioritized action which responds to the needs of the most vulnerable countries, communities and populations;
- o Ensure a shift towards a sustainable economy, understood in the context of “sustainable development”- social equity and economic sufficiency as a framework within which to pursue more sustainable production and consumption patterns;
- o Ensure a gender-responsive approach of all adaptation actions;
- o Establish a separate chapter on loss and damage that should clearly include information on gender disaggregated data based on the impacts of climate change. Data collection should be done onsite with the participation of all women from affected communities and not only by formal leaders;
- o Women, especially the most affected, should be included in the loss and damage mechanism processes, including for compensation that must be granted without gender discrimination.

Part F. Finance

Provision of climate finance is a legal obligation of the developed countries under the UNFCCC and in line with the principle of CBDR that encompasses the costs of adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage, technology transfer and capacity building in developing countries. This fundamental tenet of international climate finance has to be reiterated in the new global climate agreement.

Climate finance should be drawn from public sources in the form of grants. Leveraging private sector finance to avoid state responsibility as well as false solutions based on offsetting should be excluded from the new agreement. Instead, cancellation of developing countries' debt and incentive finance mechanisms such as a global financial transaction tax must be enshrined in the new agreement.

Climate finance should pursue a gender-responsive and country driven approach that ensures inclusive decision-making processes with the participation of affected communities, including women, at all levels. In the context of climate finance, country ownership must be redefined beyond "government-owned" to mean citizen ownership, guaranteeing that the needs and priorities of all community stakeholders, particularly women, serve as the basis for climate finance decision-making in recipient countries.

Part F. should therefore ensure agreement to:

- o Ensure climate finance commitments from developed countries are new, adequate, legally-binding, quantified, measurable, reportable and verifiable;
- o Ensure that these financial commitments are based on the needs of developing countries and scientific requirements to limit global warming well under 1.5 degrees, with US\$100bn by 2020 as the starting point for scaling up climate finance through a road map with time-bound quantified targets of public assessed budget contributions of developed countries;
- o Ensure that no less than 50 percent of climate finance be committed to adaptation; financing under loss & damage must be provided on top of adaptation financing;
- o Prohibit the provision of developed countries' finance obligations through loans, export credits, private climate investments or market mechanisms;
- o Support the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms, such as a global financial speculation/transaction tax;
- o Ensure that all climate finance funded projects fully respect human and women's rights, are gender-responsive and explicitly exclude all approaches or technologies that harm people and the environment in the name of emissions reductions;

- Prioritize financing small-scale, technologically appropriate and locally driven projects with direct multiple social, economic and environmental benefits that allow for recognition of traditional knowledge and the active participation of women at all levels.
- Prioritize a country driven approach that allows for direct access and provides readiness support in recipient countries, particularly for enhancing the capacity of civil society to monitor and report on the transparency and inclusiveness of climate finance, and hold to account their own governments as well as contributing countries and the international community.
- In implementing the new agreement, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) should:
 - Be supported as the primary operating entity under the Financial Mechanism of the 2015 agreement, through which the majority of funding obligations under the new agreement should be channeled;
 - Be funded mainly from assessed public budgetary grant contributions of developed countries as part of regular replenishment cycles;
 - Operate in a transformative way independently of existing international financial institutions under the guidance of and fully accountable to the Parties to the Convention that prioritizes the needs of the most affected and vulnerable countries and local communities, including women, and ensures their equitable participation in GCF decision-making.

Part G. Technology Transfer and Development

A gender-sensitive approach to mitigation and climate-related technology policies and projects requires a paradigm shift that recognizes women's human rights and their contributions to climate change responses, as well as promotes the development of new opportunities for women in the mitigation and technology sectors. Women have a right to be active participants in the value chain of climate responsive technologies and beneficiaries of economic opportunities that may arise from enhanced mitigation initiatives.

In order to facilitate women's engagement in the sector, it is necessary that technology transfer and development ensure greater skill-sharing and knowledge opportunities for all women. It also demands greater recognition and integration of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of women in mitigation and adaptation actions and policies.

As currently stated into the Convention, it is the legal obligation of developed countries to undertake practical steps to promote, facilitate and finance the transfer of, or access to, environmentally, socially and economically sound technologies and know-how to developing countries to enable them to adapt and to mitigate climate change. Developed countries are called upon to support the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities and technologies. However, current guidelines available which aim to help countries to conduct a technology needs

assessment (TNA), such as those published by UNDP/GEF or UNEP, fail to properly address gender differentiated needs (if they do so at all).

The technology transfer, capacity building and financing provisions of climate agreements and response plans must recognize the indigenous and traditional knowledge women possess as well as respect the wide array of community based coping strategies of indigenous people. These provisions must be inclusive and equitable, so that both women and men can have access to, and benefit from the development and transfer of new energy technologies.

Part G. should therefore ensure agreement to:

- o Ensure safe, appropriate, environmentally, socially and economically sound and safe technologies;
- o Uphold the application of the precautionary principle as well as other safeguards of human rights and the environment;
- o Ensure that Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) methodology adequately assess and recognize gender differentiated needs. Technology assessments must take place with civil society participation, including women, to ensure the technology transfer is based on the needs of communities, in particular those of the most vulnerable and poor, and to integrate a multilateral, independent, participatory evaluation of technology mechanisms for their potential social, economic, environmental and health impacts;
- o Take into account and support women's traditional knowledge, adaptive measures, and practices, including indigenous knowledge
- o Ensure fair and equitable access to safe technology and support to overcome intellectual property barriers so developing countries are able to build and develop their own technological base. Technology should be appropriate and assessed for its level of accessibility and particularized benefits to a community. It should be implemented at affordable costs and introduced in a clear and simple manner which enables communities to take ownership and adapt the technology in order to ensure effectiveness;
- o Ensure the exclusion of inefficient approaches to climate change mitigation that have proven to be inequitable, ineffective, dangerous and otherwise unsustainable like: large-scale bioenergy production, large dams, and forest carbon offsets including REDD+.
- o Ensure that all technologies transferred under the protocols of the UNFCCC cause no harm to either the environment or the human communities to whom such technology is transferred. No technology that might reasonably be considered high risk should be permitted to be transferred, including inter alia geo-engineering and nuclear energy. Human rights and environmental conservation, in the light of gender equity, must be the minimum standards applied to all technology transfers;
- o Require gender balance on management boards, expert panels and advisory groups for international, national and local climate response planning, energy technology transfer

and dissemination, and carbon financing, with sufficient methods and means for capacity building of women to ensure effective participation;

- Support training of women on the use, development, production and marketing of low-carbon energy technologies, and opportunities to share that knowledge with other women;
- Set targets for women's participation in projects and programs designed to expand energy access, including as designers, managers and entrepreneurs and respond to their respective needs;
- Establish programs and centers focused on capacity building for women on clean energy business initiatives and opportunities;
- Create financing mechanisms for making access to climate finance easier for smaller projects;
- Engage gender and energy experts to apply a gender analysis in the development of climate and energy policies and projects.
- Engage social educators, scientists and development workers as well as civil society and social movement advocates in Technology Needs Assessments and policy development related to climate change and sustainable development, and ensure ways to generate community-based dialogue between diverse and heterodox "experts", including consistent communication and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) dialogues with indigenous people and local communities;
- Encourage countries to enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing; promote development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms.

Part H. Capacity Building

Capacity building efforts should be carefully structured, so that initiatives are clear, predictable, effective, coordinated, demand-driven and country driven. Initiatives should be sustainable with appropriate means of implementation to ensure that impacts are long term. Capacity building initiatives should ensure gender equality and should take into account the differentiated roles and needs of men and women.

Part H. should therefore ensure agreement to:

- Ensure the full participation of women in all projects and programs that are designed to enhance the ability of individuals in implementing ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Women must be involved throughout all stages of capacity building initiatives;
- Ensure that all capacity building initiatives are inclusive and equitable so that both women and men can access and benefit from the initiatives;

- o Recognize that the inclusion of women in national climate change delegations and as negotiators is vital in closing the already existing gender gap during negotiations and will result in strengthened gender language in the climate change negotiations;
- o Build the capacity of women and men for collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of gender and sex disaggregated data on climate change;
- o Ensure that capacity building efforts are carefully designed with a gendered lens of analysis for the initiatives to be effective. Capacity building should be guided by an effective, coordinated, continuous, transparent, progressive and iterative process that is participatory, country demand driven and gender responsive with a long term vision for sustainable development;
- o Enhance capacity-building through public public partnership engagement;
- o Recognize that public-public partnerships provide access, availability, affordability and sustainability of public utilities to women, the poor and marginalized groups.
- o Strengthen and support the traditional and indigenous knowledge systems for adaptation including those of women, indigenous peoples and local communities and learning from existing best practices and projects under implementation.