



The state of the art on the gender, mitigation and technology development

The Lima Work Programme on Gender has provided us with an important opportunity to move beyond recognising the link between climate change and gender to now start discussions about how to tackle inequity by implementing gender-responsive climate policy and pursuing gender equality in the context of the UNFCCC.

While the In-Session Workshop on Gender and Mitigation has started this discussion, our organisations are concerned that more fundamental questions have not yet been addressed:

Firstly, gender is not so much about individual women and men, it is about “gender systems” that reproduce gender stereotypes, gendered power relations and structural inequalities.

We are asking: When will we be able to talk about these structures that harm societies, nature and the climate system in this process?

Gender disparities continue to exist both in developing and developed countries. In most societies, there is a gender bias in political power and access to climate relevant resources and services. Moreover, policies have different socio-economic impacts on women and men due to their differing economic situation. Yet, the workshop largely addressed mainly developing countries, despite the historical responsibility of developed countries to drastically reduce their emissions.

We are therefore asking: When will we discuss gender responsive mitigation policies in Annex I countries?

There is evidence of gender differences in attitudes and preferences regarding climate change and policy responses. In particular, a significantly higher number of women reject risky technologies and prefer safe options (as a result of socialised roles and responsibilities).

We are asking: Doesn't gender sensitive and gender responsive policies also mean we should give these concerns priority?

Furthermore, there is evidence that women usually have a smaller carbon footprint than men. To lower women's carbon footprint even more – and in general that of poorer populations – would mean to put more burdens on those whose carbon contributions are already low.

Therefore we are asking: When will we be talking about affluence and the need to reduce of excessive carbon lifestyles? When will the driving forces that give rise to emissions be addressed as an essential element of a gender responsive climate strategy?

Even in countries with considerable achievements in terms of gender equality, women still bear the bulk of paid and unpaid care work. This work is not acknowledged because care work is still considered inferior to “productive” work, although it is indispensable for livelihoods and usually less carbon intensive.

We are asking: **What would happen if all individuals would learn to care – for others, for nature, for the climate – and share this responsibility? Wouldn't that make a decisive contribution to solving the problem?**

Case studies on gender and climate policy are definitely valuable and have been utilised for the past ten years.

Today, we are asking: **Haven't we arrived at a point where we need to assess these case studies, identify the entry points for gender equality effectiveness in climate actions, and draw lessons learned in order to give recommendations on how to overcome hierarchical gender structures at all levels?**

Local action – action at the micro level – is also important in terms of implementing gender sensitive mitigation actions, and good practices are highly appreciated, if they are able to reduce emissions and contribute to sustainable development. Yet, gender mainstreaming was introduced by the UN as a top-down strategy, because bottom-up initiatives alone cannot bring about a transformation of gender relation towards gender equality. They need to be complemented by policy instruments, legislation and institutions that will result in structural change, in order to avoid reproducing gender hierarchies.

We are asking: **What will we hear about meso and macro level actions on gender responsive climate policy?**

There are a number of methodologies and tools in place that help to assess mitigation policies and measures according to their impact on gender relations and tailor them to promote gender equality, such as Gender Impact Assessments.

We are asking: **Wouldn't it be useful to report about these methods and tools and to discuss how they could be applied and further developed?**