



SUBMISSION BY COSTA RICA ON BEHALF OF THE AILAC GROUP OF COUNTRIES COMPOSED BY CHILE, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, HONDURAS, GUATEMALA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY AND PERU ON ITEM 16 OF THE SBI AGENDA: GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Views on Possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the Lima Work Programme on Gender, taking into account recommendations and insights resulting from activities already completed under the work programme; and, Information on progress made in meeting the goals of achieving gender balance and gender-responsive climate policy.

Background elements

At its 44th session the SBI invited Parties and observer organizations to submit their views on possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the Lima Work Programme on Gender. Following this invitation, AILAC countries hereby propose some elements to be included in the decision to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 22nd Session in Marrakesh, Morocco on November 2016.

In accordance with the Paris Agreement (preamble paragraph 11) and Decision 1/CP.21 (preamble paragraph 7), and building on the previous decisions taken by the UNFCCC on the issue of Gender and Climate Change, Parties should consider gender equality when taking action to address climate change. The continuation and enhancement of the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) is coherent with this mandate, with a view to advance and mainstream gender considerations in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Elements for a Decision on Gender and Climate Change by COP22

Framing Considerations

AILAC considers that the mainstreaming of gender considerations in taking action to address climate change is an important element in the effective and efficient implementation of the Paris Agreement as well as the fulfilment of the commitments under the Convention. Gender equality should be underpinned in these as a developmental concern and a matter of human rights, and as such, further decisions on Gender and Climate Change by the COP and -when the time comes- the CMA, should aim at operationalizing the mainstreaming of gender considerations in a manner that effectively fulfils the preamble of the Paris Agreement and Decision 1/CP.21.

In this context, AILAC supports that the following elements are included in the preamble of the Decision on Gender and Climate Change that is to be adopted by COP 22:

- Recognition of the elements within decision 1/CP. 21 and the Paris Agreement that establish that Parties should consider gender equality when taking action to address climate change.
- Underscoring the importance of coherence between gender-responsive climate policies and balanced participation of women and men in the formulation of these policies, including also, the UNFCCC process, and other international instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as was contained in the preamble paragraph 2 of the decision 18/CP.20;

- Recognition that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in its paragraph 20 establishes that realizing “gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets”, and that “the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Agenda is crucial”
- Recollection of SDG Goal 13 that calls to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” and its related target 13.b, which aims to “promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management (...), including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities”;
- Acknowledgement of the progress made in mainstreaming gender and achieving gender equality within the context of climate change policies, including under the UNFCCC and the progress achieved in the context of furthering the implementation of Decision 18/CP. 20 so as to mainstream gender considerations into all elements of climate action, including in particular, adaptation and capacity building, and for all sectors, in particular, agriculture, health, forestry, waste, and energy.
- Acknowledgement of the contribution of the Lima Work Programme on Gender and Decision 23/CP.18 on improving women’s participation in broadening the understanding of gender issues and their linkages in the various thematic areas of work of the UNFCCC.
- Recognition of the efforts made by Parties in the implementation of the LWPG, and the support received by the Secretariat, relevant international organizations and other non-state actors.
- Consideration that further progress is needed in achieving the goal of gender balance, in particular the aim of a gradual but significant increase in the participation of women towards achieving this goal, as called for in Decision 23/CP.18 mindful of the efforts that have been undertaken in capacity building of negotiators and in particular female delegates.
- Emphasizing the remaining gaps and challenges for mainstreaming gender considerations into climate change – related actions, in particular those related to gender-responsive climate policy and the mainstreaming of gender considerations as appropriate in the thematic areas of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement which still require further strengthening in all activities related to adaptation and mitigation as well as decision-making on the implementation of climate policies.

Advancing Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Action

The SBI 44 expressed its support for the continuation and enhancement of the LWPG and also agreed to continue the discussion on this item at SBI 45. In this regard, AILAC is proposing some concrete ideas and suggestions to enhance the LWPG and to strengthen its implementation, with a view to mainstream gender equality in the different areas of climate action as developed under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement:

- (i) *Advancing the Lima Work Programme on Gender*

AILAC suggests that COP22 adopts a decision for a standing Lima Work Programme on Gender, establishing a multi-year mandate, to be revised every four years, which addresses, amongst others, the following elements:

- (i) Facilitation of information and expertise sharing, to promote better and common understanding of gender-responsive: policies, adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer, capacity-building and finance;
- (ii) Strengthening of cooperation and partnerships within the UN System, and with other relevant international organizations, academic, research, scientific community, private sector, and non-governmental actors;
- (iii) Formulating a Gender Action Plan and a multi-year gender work programme, to guide the work of the Secretariat on these matters.

For this purpose, Parties, the financial mechanism and its operating entities, as well as relevant organizations are to be invited to provide the necessary means for implementing gender-related activities within the LWPG, in particular to support action by highly vulnerable countries, such as the AILAC Countries.

- (ii) Regarding instruments to advance the mainstreaming of gender considerations into all elements of climate action and policy instruments

Amongst the activities to be undertaken in the context of the LWPG aimed at advancing gender equality in the different elements of climate action, AILAC suggests the realization of annual in-session workshops with focus on the mainstreaming gender equality issues within a specific area of climate action to review progress during SBs (first semester of the year), in the context of the UNFCCC and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Such workshops should allow for the sharing of good practices, lessons learned, traditional knowledge held by women, case studies in integrating gender and climate change and gender-responsiveness, bearing in mind the context of preparation and implementation of NDCs, including, as appropriate, mitigation and adaptation efforts. This approach could follow the formats of previous UNFCCC workshops developed under the Lima Work Programme and produce conclusions and recommendations to be considered by the SBI.

Further to this, targeted in-session workshops may address, amongst others, the following issues:

- a. Development of gender responsive policies
- b. Gender perspective in the context of the financial mechanism, in particular the GEF, GCF and for the provision and mobilization of climate finance;
- c. Preparation of national communications; preparation and implementation of NDCs, technology development and needs assessment; National Adaptation Plans;
- d. Regional NDCs workshops, to mainstream gender approach on the different elements of climate action.
- e. Dedicated training for delegates on negotiating skills, with particular attention given to the participation of female delegates, before each session.
- f. Permanent online workshop on gender-responsiveness to climate change

When organizing these and other workshops, it is important to consider, incorporate, and highlight linkages between gender and climate change, preparing technical papers, or other documents, in any area under the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement,

taking in consideration the results and recommendations from in-session workshops and the Secretariat's technical paper on gender prepared under the Lima Work Programme on Gender.

Following this approach, a gender perspective should also be taken into consideration in the organization of the TEMS on mitigation and adaptation, according the mandate contained in paragraphs 111 and 129 of the decision 1/CP.21.

A systematic consideration of gender issues in the activities and work of the UNFCCC is needed in line with decision 1/CP.21 and the Paris Agreement. In assisting this task, the Secretariat can be requested to maintain a repository of information and analysis, existing tools, expertise, gaps in data and analysis.

A Decision by COP22 should encourage Parties to take advantage of existing tools and guidelines for mainstreaming gender as part of National Communications, the NAP process, the TNA process, REDD-plus, National Climate Policies and Programmes as well as the gender policies and gender equality action plans of the GEF and the GCF. National guidelines and methodologies should also be encouraged so as to implement actions that reduce vulnerability of rural populations, particularly women.

Further to this, support should be made available for Parties in their efforts to mainstream gender equality in all the processes under the UNFCCC, including the preparation, revision, reporting and implementation of the NDCs, NAPs, national communications, as well as in the technology framework and the capacity-building framework. As such, capacity building and technical support on gender issues, should be provided at regional and national meetings and trainings in particular on the preparation, revision and implementation of NDCs, NAPs and national communications. So as to better focus support, Parties should be requested to Inform of gender-responsive priorities and needs to capacity building programmes under the UNFCCC

Work should be advanced on mainstreaming gender considerations in the preparation and implementation of NDCs so as to enable gender responsiveness for climate change. The Decision by COP 22 should therefore include an invitation to Parties that have included gender issues in their INDCs to share their experiences and lessons learned and to ensure that the implementation of NDCs under the Paris Agreement in general is gender-responsive. As such, it is important that the mainstreaming of gender considerations in the policies that are prioritized under the NDCs are upheld and prioritized in their implementation processes.

In this context, Parties, Observers and other international organizations may be invited to provide technical and financial support to the Secretariat, including strengthening the understanding of and capacity on gender terminology and gender-responsive policy for coherence and implementation across all processes and frameworks.

Also, the UNFCCC should request the IPCC to strengthen inclusion of gender and climate change experts into the panel and to improve its consideration of studies and data sets on the gender dimension of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The decision should also reiterate the need to follow gender responsiveness to climate finance entities. As such, it should reiterate and stress the mandate given to the GEF and GCF and all other operating entities of the financial mechanism to be aware of and implement their gender-responsive guidelines and that from now on they promote grassroots work on gender and climate change in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

As such, the decision should request the financial mechanism and its operating entities to specifically address and highlight gender-responsive policy and project/programme

implementation in their annual reporting to the COP and work with recipient countries in readiness and technical support to increase national climate-and-gender capacity.

(iii) *Regarding the improvement of gender balance and strengthening participation in negotiations and policy formulation:*

A decision by COP 22 should recognize that additional efforts need to be made by Parties to improve the participation of women in their delegations and in all of the bodies established under the Convention, as stipulated in decisions 36/CP.7 and 23/CP.18. Parties should therefore be invited to improve gender balance in their delegations.

It may also include a recommendation for the UNFCCC Secretariat to continue to include in their participation statistics as part of the Lists of Participants, indicators to assess progress and trends regarding gender balance, as well as overall analysis of gender balance in UNFCCC constituted bodies. For this purpose, it is suggested that the Secretariat requests Parties to indicate as part of the accreditation process whether participants are men or female, to enhance gender statistics.

Further to this, and in an effort to advance gender balance in the more substantive work under the Convention, the decision can also request the UNFCCC Secretariat to have their technical experts to systematically seek inputs from the women and gender constituency, interested UN entities and related organizations when they are requested to prepare technical papers, and reports.

Final Considerations

Gender consideration is a development issue and should be addressed in the context of enhanced action under the Convention and the Paris Agreement as an opportunity to ensure that climate action is consistent with full respect to human rights. The enhancement of gender mainstreaming and gender equality should also be advanced so as to improve coherence between gender related actions across the UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD in order to have a coherent approach to this issue. AILAC is encouraged by the discussions held at the 44th Session of the SBI and looks forward to continue this exchange at COP 22 in Marrakech in order to advance the agenda on gender and climate change.