

SUBMISSION BY INDIA

Views from the Government of India on possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the two-year Lima Work Programme on gender, under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation Agenda Item no. 16 – Gender and Climate Change

The Government of India is pleased to submit its views on possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the two-year Lima work programme on gender, under the SBI Agenda item 16 – Gender and Climate Change.

I. The Issue

Women and men have unequal access to resources. Often, their needs are different and competitive. Men, most often being in control of budgets, may not value women's concerns, and cultural barriers may prevent women from asserting their demands effectively. As a result, programmes that are designed without consideration of women's specific needs and their due participation are often found to yield inequitable outputs.

In this context, the crucial role of gender considerations as key agents of change in implementing strategies related to low carbon solutions and climate change adaptation initiatives is being increasingly recognized. However, governments in developing countries have often been found to be limited by social fabric existing at the community level, strongly held together by long standing traditions and social structures. Efforts that penetrate into this structure to build opportunities for a re-allocation of power and resources amongst different groups of people is required in order to engage women effectively at all key stages of the programme.

For India, a major hindrance for adopting a gender approach could be the lack of gender-segregated data. This would limit quantitative demonstration of the existing gender gap, and the impacts of the implemented initiatives in reducing this gap during the monitoring phase. Lack of knowledge and availability of approaches or toolkits to incorporate gender perspectives into national developmental policies could be another potential challenge.

II. India's Priorities

India remains committed to inclusive development. Although incorporation of gender approach is relevant to all sectors, the following sectors are of priority to India in respect of implementing gender responsive climate programmes:

- a) Energy: New, affordable, cleaner and innovative energy to women, especially rural women
- b) Water, Health and Sanitation: Drinking water, domestic water, indoor air pollution, nutrition, emerging pandemics, hygiene behavior etc.

- c) Forestry, Agriculture and Livelihoods: Forest restoration, Joint Forest Management, aquaculture, REDD/REDD+, Afforestation, Agro-forestry, improved access to extension services, modernization of agriculture and farm/forest management practices, post-harvest storage and management, conservation of traditional knowledge, protection of indigenous rights etc.
- d) Disaster Risk Reduction: Implementation of early-warning systems, resilience building, enhancing adaptive capacity, development of climate resilient infrastructure etc.

III. Elements and Guiding Principles of the Lima Work Programme on Gender

Acknowledging that women's participation and empowerment mutually reinforce each other, following steps may be considered for enhancing the participation of women and promoting gender balance at national and international fora.

- Enhancing participatory governance approach in all key sectors.
- Assessment of gender related vulnerability, including energy-use and access, transport, land use, agriculture, forestry, reproductive health, and water and sanitation, and designing adaptation measures against climate change induced hazards such as floods, draught, diseases and other environmental disasters, taking into consideration the best practices and lessons learned on such gender responsive climate actions.
- Recognition and strengthening of specialised skills and capacities of women in different spheres of livelihood system and natural resource management and involving them in the process of developing adaptation and mitigation measures against climate change.
- Training of the delegates on gender and gender issues, involving participants ranging from programme developers to decision makers.
- Putting gender responsive budgeting and planning as part of gender mainstreaming.
- Balancing allocation of funds between adaptation and mitigation.
- Funding for gender-specific climate finance in relation to strategic guidance, policy implementation, local training, monitoring progress and evaluation of programs.
- Identification of gaps at implementation level, establishing a coordination mechanism between ministries/government agencies about the status, role and opportunity for women in terms of climate change vulnerability, resilience and capacity.
- Efforts for creation of enabling environment for participation of women in climate change related discourses through capacity building and sensitization of decision-makers.
- Periodic monitoring, evaluation and reporting on all climate-responsive programmes using gender responsive indicators and involving gender experts.
- Providing feedback to policy making, planning, budgeting and implementation through review mechanism of climate change responsive programmes so that the lessons learnt could be used for improving further the effectiveness of the programme.

- Involving all stakeholders in the review process, particularly women, to allow mid-term course correction of the programme implementation
- Acknowledging presence of intra-gender differences rather than considering women as a homogenous group, i.e acknowledging that different groups of women have different needs, and that generalizing their interests is not always an effective approach for planning developmental initiatives.
- Not limiting the scope of the Lima Work Programme to only identifying the desired results at the policy level, but also providing guidance and support for execution of gender-sensitive interventions.
- Enhancing women's access to productive resources and financial services which may work to introduce technology solutions that ease women's work and improve their access to services like health, education, transportation, IT, skill development and livelihoods, and increase their adaptive capacity.
- Promoting inclusion of women in decision-making and acknowledging that women are both contributors to and beneficiaries of climate change responsive programmes. The Lima Work Programme may also provide Parties the requisite financial, technical and capacity-building support for furthering the integration of gender concerns into the national developmental programmes.
- Facilitating establishment of a formal workstream for capacity-building of delegations from the Parties to the Convention (and the bodies established under it) on the inter-linkages between gender and climate change.
- The work programme may work with the stakeholders for facilitating creation of an enabling environment for civil society organizations involved in improving gender balance to access the available multi-lateral funds.

India reserves the right to make additional submissions and present further views on the relevant issues connected with gender balance in bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, in order to improve women's participation and inform more effective climate change.