

## **Submission by India on SBI Agenda item 20: Gender and Climate Change**

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The Lima Work Programme on Gender was established at the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP-20), held at Lima, Peru in December, 2014, through its Decision 18. The programme aimed at promoting gender balance and gender equality in the context of climate change policies. The Paris Agreement, adopted in COP-21 held in Paris in December, 2015, acknowledges promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.

The Government of India welcomes the adoption of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) under the Lima Work Programme on Gender, by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) in its 47<sup>th</sup> Session, in order to advance women's full, equal and meaningful participation and promote gender-responsive climate policy and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Convention and the work of Parties, the secretariat, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels.

India acknowledges the priority areas, key activities, timelines for implementation, responsible actors and indicative resource requirements for each activity identified under the GAP and welcomes the call for submissions by the SBI in its 47<sup>th</sup> Session on the following topics:

A.2 Systematic integration of gender-sensitive and participatory education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information from national to local level into all mitigation and adaptation activities implemented under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including into the implementation of NDCs and the formulation of long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies

E.1 Sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis, where applicable:

- (a) Information on the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men, with special attention paid to local communities and indigenous peoples;
- (b) Integration of gender considerations into adaptation, mitigation, capacity-building, Action for Climate Empowerment, technology and finance policies, plans and actions;
- (c) Policies and plans for and progress made in enhancing gender balance in national climate delegations.

India reiterates that women are more at risk to the effects of climate change than men, as their needs are different and competitive. They face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change in situation of poverty. Consequently, programmes that are designed without considering women's specific needs and their due participation are often found to yield inequitable output.

India recognises that women's participation and empowerment mutually reinforce each other. A number of initiatives, systematically integrating gender considerations, are being implemented in the country to strengthen specialised skills and capacities of women in different spheres of livelihood systems.

One of the most significant gender sensitive programmes of the Government of India is the Prime Minister's scheme, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna (PMUY), which aims to safeguard the health of women and children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel - LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) so that their health is not compromised due to burning and collection of firewood. Under the scheme, 50 million LPG connections will be provided to families below poverty line. Ensuring women's empowerment, especially in rural India, the connections are being issued in the name of women of the households.

Government of India is in the process of developing its National REDD+ strategy, and while moving forward towards its implementation, it aims at ensuring participation of local communities with compulsory representation of women as the central theme.

Another scheme, being implemented by the Government of India is 'Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women' (STEP) which aims to provide skills that give employability to women and provide competencies that enable them to become self-employed/entrepreneurs in sectors including but not limited to Agriculture, Horticulture, Food Processing, Handlooms, Tailoring, Stitching, Embroidery, Handicrafts, Computer & IT enabled services etc.

Government of India is also coming up with a new scheme namely, 'Mahila Shakti Kendra' to empower rural women through community participation and to create an environment in which they realize their full potential. It aims at providing an interface for rural women to approach the government for availing their entitlements and empowering them through training and capacity building.

The Government of India is also encouraging gender-responsive budgeting in the country through various measures including setting up Gender Budgeting Cells in the Ministries and Departments with the following objectives: organising workshops to facilitate capacity building and training for various stakeholders; providing assistance to develop training modules/packages, training material and information booklets and manuals for gender budgeting; to provide assistance to support research studies, surveys, etc to Research Institutes, NGOs for gender budgeting; piloting action on gender sensitive review of national policies such as fiscal, monetary, environment, trade etc.; piloting action on gender review and gender audit of important legislations; undertaking collection of gender-disaggregated data; conducting gender based impact analysis, beneficiary needs assessment and beneficiary incidence analysis etc.

The national as well as the international climate delegation of India is considerably represented by women delegates.

**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.**