



Submission by Mexico regarding the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and the review of the Lima Work Program.

Introduction

Mexico thanks the Secretariat for the opportunity to contribute to the next review of the Lima Work Program on Gender (LWP) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP).

Climate change is intrinsically both an environmental and a social challenge. Governments cannot foster ambitious climate action without also ensuring the protection of human rights. Consequently, it is the Parties' responsibility to simultaneously guarantee the right to a healthy environment and the right to development, prioritizing attention to the most vulnerable communities without any-type of discrimination.

Regardless of our significant progress within the UNFCCC process, women and girls continue to be among the most vulnerable social groups to the adverse effects of climate change. In developing countries, women are generally responsible of delivering basic supplies to their homes, such as water, food and fuel. Different impacts of climate change, such as droughts and the reduction of agricultural productivity, hinder these tasks, increasing the time, effort and resources that women must invest in performing them. In addition, women have less access to productive activities that allow them to generate their own income, and less control over productive resources (such as land tenure), which limits their ability to diversify their livelihoods as an adaptation strategy.

Women also tend to be the majority among the fatal victims of natural disasters. This is linked, among other things, to their role as caregivers for children, the elderly and sick people (mostly unpaid), which reduces their ability to react promptly and flexibly to threats. It is also related to less access to relevant information and to disadvantages in terms of adaptive capacities in relation to men. Other gender roles, and the social dynamics in which they are inserted (e.g. migration induced by the effects of climate change is mostly male), result in increased vulnerability. In these contexts, gender inequality is reinforced by others, such as class and ethnic inequalities.



Despite this, women continue to be a minority in decision making spaces. The growing number of policies that are designed, implemented and evaluated with gender perspective have not necessarily translated into greater equality in representation, nor in effective measures to move towards parity. Symptomatically, only 33% of Nationally Determined Contributions presented within the first two years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement explicitly mentioned the gender dimension in climate action. Mexico's NDC deliberately included the commitment to implement all measures under a human rights approach and with gender perspective, and our National Climate Change Law sets out gender equality, women's empowerment, and intergenerational justice as basic principles.

Moreover, mitigation and adaptation efforts, as well as their means of implementation, must always consider safeguards. In the absence of systematic considerations of gender inequality, climate policy can have the opposite effect to women's empowerment, reinforcing or exacerbating roles and circumstances that amplify their vulnerability. This can be avoided with the early inclusion of gender criteria in the design of policies and programs to combat climate change.

However, gender mainstreaming must go beyond considering and reducing women's vulnerability. It must actively incorporate them as drivers of change, capable of enhancing climate action and resilience. A deliberate design of adaptation measures as tools for women's empowerment can increase their effectiveness in reducing vulnerability. Different case studies show that improving women's access to productive resources, education, financial services and markets can have a positive multiplier effect on the adaptive capacity of their communities. Similarly, the effective participation of women in mitigation action has a positive effect on their degree of success and long-term sustainability.

Taking this into account, the ongoing review of the LWP and its GAP acquires greater importance, as it provides the opportunity to rectify and enhance the guidelines for gender-sensitive climate action, and to move from commitment to implementation.



General suggestions

- Support Parties in the integration of gender perspective in their 2020 NDC review, including through measures specifically aimed at promoting women's empowerment in climate action.
- Establish periodical reviews of the LWP and its GAP every 5 years, in line with the NDC review process, as well as a mid-term stocktaking process.
- Request an IPCC Special Report on gender and climate change, in order to base future decisions on the best available science.
- Consider a just transition based on gender and social justice as a basis to advance towards a low carbon economy and eradicate poverty. Mexico appreciates the support of the International Labor Organization, and proposes that the UNFCCC works with them to strengthen the capacities of developing countries on this matter.
- Strengthen the linkages between Parties' NDCs and the 2030 Agenda, in addition to other initiatives within the United Nations system, including but not limited to, #HeforShe, Free and Equal, Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls.

LWP-GAP priority areas:

A) Capacity-Building, knowledge sharing and communication

- Reinforce capacity building efforts to incorporate gender perspective in public policy design, and to implement gender-sensitive development plans and budgets at all levels of government, with a special focus on the sub-national level.
 - Building awareness of the importance of building synergies between women's empowerment and climate action.
 - Promoting the equal participation of women and men.
 - Supporting socialization efforts regarding the multiple links between gender and climate change.



- Strengthening the capacities of decision makers and scientists dedicated to the integration of gender and adaptation to climate change from a national perspective.

B) Gender balance, participation and women's leadership

- Remove existing cultural, legal and institutional barriers that prevent women from accessing productive resources, particularly land tenure.
- Ensure the full participation of women in decision-making processes.
- Encourage the Parties to have gender-balanced representation in country delegations. Additionally, recognize women's leadership by appointing female heads of delegation. We believe that the UNFCCC Secretariat has an important role in supporting this recommendation, as one of the main sponsors for national participants to attend climate negotiations.

C) Coherence

- Recognize the importance of gender mainstreaming in international, national and local climate policy instruments, as well as the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men.

D) Gender responsive implementation and means of implementation

- Integrate a crosscutting gender-sensitive approach to the implementation of Parties' NDCs, focusing on the particularities of each local community.

E) Monitoring and reporting

- Build and strengthen capacities to produce data disaggregated by sex, to make gender disparities visible in monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes.