

August 31<sup>st</sup> 2019

## **Support to developing Countries in integrating gender considerations into the climate change transparency framework**

In 2014, the Lima Work Programme on Gender <sup>1</sup>(18/CP.20) has been adopted by COP 20 as a stand-alone gender decision. The Lima decision enhances previous UNFCCC efforts on gender, which had mainly focused on increasing women's participation in the negotiations, by inviting parties to "advance gender balance, promote gender sensitivity in developing and implementing climate policy, and achieve gender responsive climate policy in all relevant activities under the Convention" (UNFCCC 2015).

In 2016, with the adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP21, the gender equality norms were further advanced through the Preamble, Articles 7 and 11 and Decision 1. Article 11 (paragraph 2) was dedicated specifically to capacity building: "Capacity-building should be country-driven, based on and responsive to national needs, and foster country ownership of Parties, in particular, for developing country Parties, including at the national, subnational and local levels. Capacity building should be guided by lessons learned, including those from capacity-building activities under the Convention, and should be an effective, iterative process that is participatory, cross-cutting and gender-responsive."

In 2017, at COP23, UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (UNFCCC GAP) <sup>2</sup> has been adopted in order to enhance implementation of Lima Work Program. AP sets priorities, activities, responsibilities, timeline and deliverables, as follows:

- A: Capacity-building, knowledge sharing and communication
- B: Gender balance, participation and women's leadership
- C: Coherence (within the UNFCCC bodies)
- D: Gender responsive implementation and means of implementation
- E: Monitoring and reporting

### **Global work**

In 2015, UNDP/UNEP Global Support Program (from now on, the GSP) published a "Gender responsive National Communications Toolkit" that offered a well-structured guidance to countries on how to integrate gender issues in National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Updated Reports (BURs). The Toolkit sets down instructions of the main gender considerations integration like gender balanced decision making, gender-differentiated risks and the types of support men and women need to influence climate adaptation, mitigation, policymaking and reporting.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/decisions?search2=&page=12>

<sup>2</sup> <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/cop23/eng/11a01.pdf#page=15>

Further since 2016 UNDP - while assisting developing countries in accessing GEF funding for NCs and BURs – has been working with national counterparts to include the elaboration of gender analysis and components as part of their climate reporting efforts, thus enhancing the mainstreaming of gender considerations into national climate policies and actions.

Similarly, since the start of the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) in 2016, UNDP has been encouraging countries to include specific gender activities in their projects, with the objective of strengthening the integration of gender considerations into the new enhanced transparency framework, enhancing the elaboration of gender-climate change indicators, capacity building opportunities and institutional arrangements, among others.

## **Regional work**

### Western Balkans and Lebanon

In 2017, the UNDP/UNEP Global Support Program (from now on, the GSP) organized- in collaboration with the Government of North Macedonia- “The First Regional Workshop on Supporting the Integration of Gender Considerations into MRV/transparency Processes in the Western Balkan Countries and Lebanon”, in order to share initial country experiences on the topic and to provide guidance on how to mainstream gender equality into the development process of NC and BUR, also in the light of the enhanced transparency framework established by the Paris Agreement and CBIT. The event gathered representatives of national institutions entrusted with climate change reporting as well as representatives of national gender equality mechanisms from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. Using the methodology presented in the **“Gender responsive Change National Communication Toolkit”**, the countries were encouraged to develop draft action plans that would guide them in including gender into their NCs BURs and CBITs.

In 2018, the GSP hired a gender consultant to assist Western Balkans countries and Lebanon to further enhance gender responsiveness of NC, BUR and CBIT in line with Lima Work Program and Gender Action Plan.

In November of the same year, the GSP organized a Second Regional Workshop on Gender and Climate Change in Belgrade, Serbia, targeting both climate change governmental officials as well as professionals entrusted with gender mainstreaming. UNDP and international experts also participated at the event. The workshop was aimed at further facilitating an updated understanding of gender dimensions of climate change - and vice versa- as well as at strengthening regional collaboration through experience sharing on the status of climate/gender action plans, also by openly discussing expectations and achievements. Based on what countries had elaborated the previous year, country representatives were assisted to further develop those plans and set tentative timelines for their implementation.

Finally, a Third Final Regional Workshop on Gender and Climate Change is expected to be organized in the fourth quarter of 2019, probably in Montenegro, to discuss progress and updates from each country, as well as to exchange information and experiences on the mainstreaming of gender dimensions in revised NDCs and into climate financing.

## Other Regions

In 2020, the GSP is planning to replicate the work done in the Western Balkans into other regions, starting initially from Latin America.

The GSP will also continue to coordinate with other regional climate change transparency projects and initiatives in supporting an effective implementation of gender dimensions into climate transparency and reporting.

### **Future support from 2020**

In a new funding proposal recently submitted to GEF, known as “Global CBIT Platform Phase II: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement”, additional assistance is expected to be provided to developing countries in integrating the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan into the enhanced transparency framework, in the period from 2020 to 2023. While the Paris Agreement has highlighted gender equality and women’s empowerment as a guiding principle, countries require further assistance to operationalize these principles in their transparency activities. Thus, this initiative aims to:

- Provide and coordinate reviews of national reports and supporting documentation by gender experts in response to country requests;
- Provide updated guidance on integrating the Gender Action Plan into national transparency frameworks, reflecting current UNFCCC guidance and COP decisions;
- Collect and analyse country reporting with regards to gender mainstreaming and integration of the Gender Action Plan.

In particular, this initiative will also:

- Monitor gender participation in training activities related to CBIT;
- Ensure knowledge products on the Paris Rulebook - developed under this initiative- mainstream gender;
- Ensure climate national reports are integrating gender dimensions;
- Update the Gender Responsive National Communications toolkit in light of new COP requirements and lessons learnt;
- Support developing Countries in increasing the nomination of UNFCCC gender focal points;
- Conduct capacity building on gender mainstreaming in climate change activities;
- Ensure data collection and analysis on gender mainstreaming in climate transparency.