

SUBMISSION BY Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN) ON BEHALF OF THE Latin American Network on Climate Change and Decision Making

Title: Lessons learned among Parties that have integrated gender into national climate policies, plans, strategies and action and on the actions that Parties are taking to mainstream gender in any updates thereto

Issue: Gender and climate change

Mandate: Table 4, D6, Annex to 3/CP.25

Following the invitation of the SBI at its 52nd session, FARN on behalf of the Network on Climate Change and decision making, is pleased to present its contribution with regards to the issue of “Lessons learned among Parties that have integrated gender into national climate policies, plans, strategies and action and on the actions that Parties are taking to mainstream gender in any updates thereto”

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Introduction

Even though gender is part of climate discussions; there is still a long way to go to achieve gender responsive climate policies. Some good practices in Latin America, such as a robust legal framework at the national level regarding women, intersectoral work strategies, articulation with National Institutes or bodies specialized in gender issues at a national level, and a strong commitment of all actors engaged in mainstreaming gender in adaptation and mitigation processes (including full gender responsive capacity at institutional level of the organizations engaged) have shown to be effective.

All of these concepts can be implemented through diverse initiatives, according to the country and the particular context, since evidence shows that each scenario mandates diversity in strategies both developed and implemented.

¹ <https://www.cambioclimaticoydecisiones.org/policy-brief-adaptacion-al-cambio-climatico-con-perspectiva-de-genero/>- March202

In order to address the matter there are two main items to consider:

a) Women are agents of change in climate issues due to their ancestral knowledge in the sustainable management of natural resources². Women should be included in climate issues, not because they are "more vulnerable", but because they have different perspectives and experiences with which they can strongly contribute. However, they are underrepresented in decision-making on relevant aspects related to adaptation and mitigation strategies³. It is necessary to ensure their participation in the decision and implementation processes.

b) The vulnerability of women facing climate change is due to the stereotyped cultural roles of gender, scarcity in exercise of rights, economic autonomy, political participation and access to key financing . Mainstreaming gender perspective in climate policies allows to make a distinction between impacts and take the necessary measures to narrow the gap.

- **Lessons Learned: how to integrate gender into Climate Policies**

1. Promote the designation of a National Gender & Climate Change Focal Point to UNFCCC, in order to ensure the tracking of gender policies under the UNFCCC processes and GAP. This strategic position can help ensuring linkages between different sectors and mainstreaming gender in climate arenas.
2. Engage women groups and organizations in participative processes and ensure appropriate financing for this initiative (transport if necessary to participate in activities, reach out, trainings, creating spaces to build knowledge, developing a variety of toolkits in proper language, among others).
3. Develop accurate Gender Assessment and Analysis in order to provide a correct baseline, tailor-made actions proposed in the context addressed.
4. Identify links that can turn policies into action. This requires knowing the context and fully engaging in the territory, recognizing distinctive features and incorporating them. Also to identify different women's groups (rural, urban, indigenous, among others), as well as their culture.
5. Develop accurate and significant indicators which allow to approach, monitor and evaluate policies and initiatives effectively ensuring gender transformative output.
6. A robust framework of legal security in land tenure, in participation and in capability to exercise women's rights, are some baseline requirements to enhance women's ability as

² <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-equality-in-national-climate-action--planning-for-gender-.html>- March2020

³ http://americatitagenera.org/newsite/images/cdr-documents/publicaciones/desarrollosostenible/h_apg_2012_08_ppt_g_cc.pdf- March 2020.

change makers in order to achieve the ultimate goal, which is to positively contribute to adaptation and mitigation.

7. Ensure exercise of equal rights and opportunities for men and women at national level, since it increases the possibilities and tools for gender-responsive climate policies.

Challenges ahead identified in gender mainstreaming

Many actors engaged in climate policies at different stages (public, private, NGO) do not have enough capacity or tools available, either to lead or fully mainstream gender through the processes.

- Gender is mostly addressed as a secondary matter, not as a fundamental issue to be considered from the beginning in the design of initiatives.
- Scarcity of indicators to measure transformational change and of disaggregated data
- Major cultural barriers still exist as stereotyped gender roles that prevent the engagement of women unless active action is taken in this sense.
- Women's groups in the region do not have enough participation in climate change discussions.

Two examples

Costa Rica: In 2011 the process of gender mainstreaming started with the Action Plan of the National Climate Change Strategy⁴ (abbreviated PAENCC in Spanish). This Action Plan included the active participation of the National Women's Institute and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), who deeply committed to the process. Capacity building of stakeholders was a key part of the strategy, strengthening government institutions and the UNFCCC technical negotiating teams that were representing the country in matters of gender and climate changes⁵. The government has supported gender mainstreaming in climate action throughout various initiatives. The guiding principles of the National Policy of Adaptation to Climate Change include gender equity, it cuts across the document and is expressed as one of the approaches to the adaptation process⁶.

⁴ https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/41101/1/S1700115_es.pdf – March 2020.

⁵ <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2012-086.pdf> – March 2020

⁶ <https://cambioclimatico.go.cr/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/final-politica-adaptacion-24-abril.pdf> - March 2020

Uruguay: The National Strategy for Gender Equality by 2030⁷ cuts across different areas of government, guiding to include gender perspective in the process towards sustainable development.

Within the framework of the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change and Variability for the Agricultural Sector, in 2019, the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay (MGAP in Spanish) conducted a study ⁸, in order to collect information as regards men and women. For example, according to the study, women are more prone to incorporating changes that could improve production and the quality of family life, unlike men.

Both countries, Uruguay and Costa Rica, showed coincidences in action taken: they joined efforts with institutions specializing in gender issues, and during the process they developed synergies with already existing tools.

FINAL REMARKS

Even though some progress has been made in gender-responsive climate policies, barriers still exist both in terms of policy design and implementation. Even when there is political willingness to mainstream gender, information, relevant data and significant indicators are scarce or not accurate to the context. Financial and economic resources, as well as accurate gender sensitive skills among stakeholders, are key clues so unlock potential of women and put them in the frontline of climate change.

The climate change agenda is a challenge, but at the same time offers a unique opportunity to promote commitment to gender-transformational policies that address climate change and gender inequalities in its' action.

⁷ <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-desarrollo-social/node/1941> – March 2020

⁸ <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-ganaderia-agricultura-pesca/datos-y-estadisticas/estadisticas/encuesta-genero-vcc-pna-agro> - March 2020