

# **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**

## **SUBMISSION OF MEXICO**

In line with the provisions of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Mexico is committed to combating climate change and its effects, recognizing the need for gender-sensitive climate action that addresses differentiated impacts, and includes the needs, perspectives and ideas of women and girls to deliver fair, effective and sustainable solutions.

Mexico took part in the negotiations of the 25<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP25), particularly those relating to the review of the Lima Work Program and its Gender Action Plan (GAP), with the following priorities:

- Mainstreaming gender equality in all actions to combat climate change, considering its differentiated impacts on women and girls.
- Emphasizing the importance of the human rights approach in combating climate change, bearing in mind its impacts on various basic rights including the right to life, the right to food, the right to enjoy the highest standard of physical and mental health, and the right to live in a healthy environment, among others.
- Highlighting the need for an intersectional approach, considering that the effects of climate change on women can vary in severity for those in already vulnerable situations, particularly for indigenous women and women who live in poverty.
- Securing a gender-sensitive and just transition of the work force.

The review of the Lima Work Program and the adoption of a new GAP was a success, bringing forward the concerns raised by women's organizations and other key stakeholders. However, there is still need for substantial efforts to mainstream gender into climate change policies, at the international and national levels.

Having recently adopted its Feminist Foreign Policy, the Mexican Government presents this submission on lessons learned in the integration of gender in climate policy and actions taken at the national level in this regard.

## **A. Lessons learned among Parties that have integrated gender into national climate policies, plans, strategies and action**

There are four main lessons learned from Mexico's experience.

First, mainstreaming gender in all national climate policies and actions requires coordinated efforts aimed at reducing structural inequalities, including through capacity building to **promote the articulation of development and climate change priorities in national planning instruments**. Mexico's Nationally Determined Contribution, submitted in 2015, recognizes the need for all measures to be designed and implemented with a gender focus. This mandate is being reinforced in the NDC update process, to be concluded in 2020, and has been a key consideration in other instruments such as our first National Adaptation Plan, currently under development. However, it is not enough to introduce a gender perspective into climate policies: consideration of the differentiated impacts of climate change on women must also be mainstreamed into instruments aimed at promoting gender equality, including those developed in compliance with other international agendas and mechanisms, such as the 2030 Agenda, the Expert Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and, in the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Agenda on Gender.

Second, the **differentiated impacts of climate change on women of diverse social groups and identities must be tackled through tailored and culturally appropriate solutions**. An example of this can be found in the Program for the Economic Strengthening of Indigenous Peoples and Communities (PROECI), which has an action track on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Through this program, the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI) supports projects that promote indigenous and Afro-Mexican women's economic diversification and empowerment by harnessing their traditional knowledge. Projects provide capacity building and support for traditional productive activities such as cultivation of native trees combined with traditional crops for carbon capture, adoption of more resilient agricultural practices (e.g. *milpa* intercropped with fruit trees, coffee shade management, improvement of the traditional cornfield, etc.), planting of traditional species of plants that serve as natural barriers to climate hazards, reforestation and mangrove conservation, among others.

Third, despite our efforts, there is still a significant gap to **ensure women's full participation in the design and implementation of development and climate policy**, particularly for women who belong to

traditionally marginalized communities. This gap must be addressed deliberately through affirmative action. According to 2019 data collected by the INPI, only 38 percent of the total participants in climate change related projects in Mexico were indigenous women. The projects in which women participated the most were those related to the restoration of land, conservation of wild fauna, and reforestation, with 52, 45 and 43 percent respectively. As a result, the PROCEI operating rules for 2020 now require the participation of indigenous and Afro-Mexican women in a minimum of 51 percent of the total number of beneficiaries.

Fourth, **an intersectional approach is also key for monitoring and evaluation**, to visualize the differentiated impacts of climate policy on men and women. Since climate change frequently exacerbates social, economic, gender, and access inequalities, monitoring mechanisms and indicators must be calibrated to produce disaggregated data that incorporates social, economic, political and cultural factors, which in turn allow for a more comprehensive analysis of how various climate hazards affect women in different circumstances as well as gender relations.

### **B. Actions that Parties are taking to mainstream gender in any updates thereto**

Mexico has adopted measures to face the differentiated effects of climate change and has implemented gender-sensitive actions in these strategies. The **national programmatic and regulatory framework** provides a solid basis, as it mandates the following:

- The National Development Plan (2019-2024) includes a crosscutting pillar on achieving substantive equality between women and men, with a focus on equality and non-discrimination.
- The Program for Equality between Women and Men (PROIGUALDAD 2019-2024) recognizes climate change as a threat that increases gendered risks, as well as the key role of mitigation and adaptation action in building safe and peaceful environments for women and girls.
- The National Energy Strategy (2014-2028) establishes the need to provide the population, especially those in a vulnerable situation, with modern energy in line with, among others, the principles of gender equality.

The PROIGUALDAD, in particular, contains a number of measures for women's empowerment that are relevant for climate action, including:

- Promotion of credits, financing, subsidies and international cooperation aimed at supporting female agricultural producers, with an emphasis on indigenous, Afro-Mexican, and rural women in conditions of vulnerability to climate change.
- Mainstreaming gender perspective in the calls for projects of the Mexican Climate Change Fund, with a focus on projects that harness traditional and scientific knowledge of indigenous, rural and Afro-Mexican women in the management and conservation of natural environments.
- Advancement of studies and research with a gender and intersectional focus on issues of environmental degradation and climate change, that improve identification of the risk factors that affect women.
- Support for capacity development, organization and leadership of women to build community processes for peace, environmental sustainability and risk management in towns and communities, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable population groups.
- Promotion of a culture of peace, environmental sustainability, and gender equality through dialogue spaces and cultural projects, prioritizing areas with high rates of vulnerability to climate change.

**Climate change planning and regulatory instruments** have also deliberately incorporated gender considerations:

- The National Climate Change Law, published in 2012, promotes the incorporation of gender perspective in the programs and projects of the Federal Entities. Article 26 stipulates that human rights, as well as gender equality, the empowerment of women and intergenerational equity, must be respected without restriction in complying with this Law.
- The National Climate Change Strategy includes an action line aimed at promoting gender sensitive policy design.
- The National REDD+ Strategy includes a Gender Action Plan, targeting women as priority beneficiaries of the REDD+ program,

recognizing the existing gender gap in the rural and forestry sectors, particularly when it comes to land tenure.

Likewise, **tools** have been created to strengthen and accelerate gender-sensitive climate action, such as the **National Atlas of Vulnerability to Climate Change in Mexico**<sup>1</sup>, which shows gender gaps based on variables disaggregated by sex at the municipal level. The Atlas provides an overview of the conditions that heighten vulnerability to climate change in women and men, namely their health, education, economic income and amounts of unpaid work that they perform. This information allows for more precise analysis of how climate-induced disasters affect women in particular (e.g. damaged houses can represent the loss of income for women whose livelihood is based on housework), and provides insights for better informed policy-making (e.g. post-disaster periods have been identified as critical in terms of spikes of violence against women, so they require reinforcement of protective measures).

Most importantly, the Mexican Government has began inter-ministerial consultations to develop a **national strategy for the implementation of the Lima Work Program and its Gender Action Plan**, adopted during the 25th Conference of the Parties. The development of this strategy is led by the Mexican Ministry for Foreign Affairs and is in an initial stage of diagnosis. The attached matrix shows an initial mapping of the competent bodies and national actions (programmatic and normative) that Mexico carries out according to the new GAP, in particular, to the priority areas on capacity development (priority area A) and implementation (priority area D).

At this initial stage, the main focus is to reinforce the commitment of the relevant bodies and instances in the matter. In the following stages, consultations with various national stakeholders, including civil society organizations and academia, will be celebrated in order to integrate the diverse needs and voices of women in national actions related to climate change.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at:

<https://atlasvulnerabilidad.inecc.gob.mx/page/index.html#zoom=undefined&lat=23.5000&lon=-101.9000&layers=1>