



ENHANCED LIMA WORK PROGRAMME ON GENDER AND ITS GENDER ACTION PLAN

*Submission by Canada via the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
(UNFCCC) portal as part of activity A.4*

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The Government of Canada is committed to championing diversity and inclusion in climate policy, both domestically and internationally, and recognizes that climate action is most effective when it also addresses issues of gender equality. This includes paying particular attention to women's rights, ensuring women's meaningful participation in decision-making, and ensuring women's equal access to technological knowledge and investments mobilized in the context of measures aimed at mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects. Canada was pleased to be involved in the adoption of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP) (Decision 3/CP.25) and welcomes continued efforts to mainstream gender equality in the UNFCCC process.

We are pleased to respond to the call for submissions to “share experiences on dimensions and examples of the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, the role of women as agents of change, and opportunities for women.” While not an exhaustive list, the following submission highlights observations on the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change in Canada, as well as Canadian policies that center women in climate action.

What are the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change in Canada?

Canada acknowledges that women, men and gender-diverse people may experience the impact of climate change in different ways. A number of factors may also disproportionately heighten vulnerability to these impacts, including, but not limited to, gender, sex, age, race, ethnicity, mental or physical disability, income, and region of residence.

Indigenous communities and people living in northern and remote areas experience disproportionate impacts from climate change. Multiple hazards overlap, including wildfires, permafrost thaw, changing wildlife patterns, diminishing access to traditional food sources, and flooding, among others. Each of these is already having a direct impact on the social, cultural and economic well-being of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, exacerbating existing challenges and health stressors. These effects are often differentiated based on gender. While Indigenous women most often experience the direct impacts of climate change, they are also leaders in environmental conservation and their knowledge and unique experiences in fighting climate change greatly contribute to adaptation and mitigation actions for their communities. Whereas predominantly male land-based activities are disrupted by the impacts of climate change, social impacts are largely felt and mitigated by women. For example, Indigenous women and girls play a vital role in traditional and non-traditional livelihoods, unpaid care work, and ensuring food security.

The increased frequency of extreme weather events and natural disasters also has gender-differentiated impacts in Canada. For example, women, persons with disabilities and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals are disproportionately more likely to be low-income earners, and/or experience homelessness or vulnerable housing. As such, they are often more exposed to the impact of disasters such as fires and floods, and less likely to have safe access to emergency services.

The gender-differentiated impacts of climate change can also be seen in work environments. Men are more likely to work in industries such as agriculture and construction where outdoor work is common, and may therefore experience more heat-related illnesses as temperatures rise. As women are underrepresented in these sectors due to a number of barriers such as traditional gender roles, they may be marginalized in decision-making. Furthermore, while women may be overrepresented in some sectors, it is often at lower levels where they still face barriers to influencing policy decision-making.

Acknowledging these gender-differentiated impacts, Canada recognizes the need to include gender-responsive¹ measures in all policy planning and climate action.

How is Canada centering women as agents of change and creating opportunities?

Canada recognizes that climate action is most effective when issues of gender inequality are addressed, and where women and girls in all their diversity, and gender diverse people, are meaningfully included in environmental decision-making. We recognize that those most at risk are also active agents of change and contribute vital knowledge, experience and leadership to climate action in Canada. Canada's enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), submitted in July 2021, was prepared in the context of this recognition and a firm commitment to respect, promote and consider Canada's obligations on gender equality, human rights, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other cross-cutting priorities. This was the first time that Canada's NDC included distinctions-based Indigenous annexes that highlight First Nations and Métis climate leadership. The following section will serve to highlight Canadian climate policy that centers women as agents of change, and/or provides opportunities for the equal and meaningful participation of women in all their diversity and gender diverse people.

Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) and Canada's Climate Policy

Canada has formally committed to incorporating GBA+ in all policy development. GBA+ is an analytical tool used to assess how diverse groups of women, men and gender-diverse people may experience policies, programs and initiatives. The "plus" in GBA+ acknowledges that GBA goes beyond biological sex and socio-cultural gender differences. Canada's most recent climate plan, [A Healthy Environment and A Healthy Economy](#), was informed by GBA+ analysis. In line with the GAP, Canada will continue to conduct GBA+ analysis for all climate policies and programs.

¹ Gender-responsive approaches examine and actively address gender norms, roles and inequalities. Gender-responsive approaches go beyond sensitivity to gender differences—they actively seek to promote gender equality and move beyond awareness towards action.

Domestic Climate Policy

In 2018, Canada passed the *Canadian Gender Budgeting Act*, which enshrined the Government's commitment to decision-making that takes into consideration the impacts of policies on all Canadians in a budgetary context. Budget 2021 lays out an expansive recovery plan that includes a number of gender-responsive climate policies. For example, Canada is developing a new Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program, which will help connect Canadians with the training they need to access jobs in sectors such as clean energy and help businesses recruit and retain a diverse and inclusive workforce. In line with the GAP (activity D.3), these programs support gender-responsive technological solutions to climate change and foster women's and girls' full participation in science, technology, research and development.

In support of GAP activity D7, Canada is committed to enhancing the availability of sex-disaggregated data for gender analysis. Budget 2021 proposed \$172 million over five years to Statistics Canada to implement a Disaggregated Data Action Plan to support more representative data collection, enhance statistics on diverse populations, and support efforts to bring fairness and inclusion considerations into decision-making.

Canada recognizes the unique knowledge and role of Indigenous women in environmental decision-making and is committed to the inclusion of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women in the process of developing, implementing and updating climate policies (GAP activity D.5). Consistent with the Paris Agreement's call to respect, promote and consider Indigenous rights when taking action on climate change, the Government of Canada supports without qualification the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the importance of paying special attention to the rights and special needs of Indigenous Elders, women, youth, children, and persons with disabilities.

Canada's national climate plan, *A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy*, released in December 2020, positions Indigenous climate leadership as a cornerstone of Canada's strengthened climate plan. With a diversity of unique experiences and knowledge related to the environment, biodiversity and climate change, the voices of Indigenous women, youth, Elders, 2SLGBTQQIA+, and persons with disabilities are an essential part of this leadership. In practice, supporting Indigenous climate leadership means working closely with Indigenous Peoples to learn from their systems of knowledge, empowering their communities and organizations, and supporting their self-determined climate priorities.

To this end, the plan further commits the Government of Canada to work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to co-develop climate change programs and policies and to support the implementation of Indigenous-led climate strategies such as the National Inuit Climate Change Strategy. The guidance emphasizes the importance of governance structures that are representative and respectful of differences across and within distinctions, as well as of ensuring the intersectional inclusion of Elders, youth, and women.

In addition, the Government of Canada has built relationships with the Native Women's Association of Canada, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak and Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada to support their participation in climate action. Currently, Canada has committed more than \$1.8M over 5 years to support the Native Women's Association of Canada and Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak to engage on climate change. Similarly, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada works collaboratively with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami at the Inuit-Canada Joint Table on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

International Climate Action

Globally, Canada is promoting diversity, inclusion, and gender-responsive climate action. Environment and climate action is a core action area of Canada's new Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), adopted in June 2017. The FIAP places gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the heart of Canada's international assistance efforts, including through its provision of climate finance. This action area focuses on supporting women's leadership and decision-making in all aspects of climate change mitigation and sustainable natural resource management; ensuring climate-related planning, policy-making and financing address the particular needs and challenges of women and girls; and, supporting employment and business opportunities for women in the renewable energy sector. It supports the Sustainable Development Goals through targeted investments, partnerships, innovation and advocacy efforts with the greatest potential to close gender gaps and benefit everyone, including men and boys.

Canada is leading the Equal by 30 Campaign to advance the participation of women in clean energy globally. In June 2021, Canada collaborated with the United States and the European Commission to launch the Empowering People Initiative under the Clean Energy Ministerial, which aims to build diversity and inclusion in the workforce to promote a just and equitable green transition.

As part of its international climate finance envelope, Canada has supported various initiatives to advance women's leadership and gender-equitable access to the benefits of its climate finance investments. For example, as a Board member of the Green Climate Fund, Canada promoted institutional reform, improved governance and deepened engagement on gender equality. Canada is also promoting the financial inclusion of women in various platforms to address gender-specific climate and disaster vulnerabilities. For example, Canada is co-chair of the InsuResilience Global Partnership's (IGP) Gender Working Group, together with CARE International. As part of its engagement with IGP, Canada collaborated with Germany to support the IGP's Gender Centre of Excellence on Gender-Smart Solutions to scale-up its activities and accelerate sector-wide transformation to advance the financial inclusion of women in the Climate and Disaster Risk Insurance and Finance space.

In support of GAP priority area B, Canada encourages the participation of women in the UNFCCC process and climate negotiations whenever possible. For example, Canada has supported the delivery of five capacity-building workshops for women negotiators; one in the Caribbean and four in francophone Africa (two delivered virtually), in partnership with France and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. Canada also provided funding to support

women negotiators' travel and participation in UNFCCC sessions. The Government of Canada is also committed to meaningful representation within its own delegation, prioritizing diversity and inclusion, including of Indigenous Peoples, in the selection of Canadian delegates to the UNFCCC.

Canada is also supporting the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)'s Gender Action Plan. Canada's contribution is helping to integrate gender-transformative approaches within the Convention, with a focus on land tenure and sustainable land management technologies/practices, and to strengthen the design and implementation of gender-responsive interventions in order to effectively address land degradation needs, priorities, and the leadership of women and the most vulnerable groups.

Conclusion

Canada is grateful for the opportunity to share its experiences on this important matter. We remain committed to the implementation of the GAP and look forward to working with Parties, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to continue the advancement of gender equality in climate policy moving forward.