**Gender and Climate Change Submission**

Information on the progress of the implementation of the activities contained in the gender action plan, areas for improvement and further work to be carried out, including, as appropriate, information on the multidimensional impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic on progress and consideration of various other challenges that may affect the future implementation of the gender action plan at all levels. FCCC/SBI/2021/L.13 Paragraph 3.

The National Gender and Climate Change Plan of Panama is currently in the process of being officially launched and presented to all interested parties and actors, with the aim of showing the importance of considering gender in climate actions to achieve a resilient and inclusive society in the fight against climate change.

From the Ministry of the Environment of Panama, we are executing synergies with other actions, programs and projects that have an impact on the different sectors of the National Determined Contributions (NDC), so that the work in the field can be carried out with the support and technical assistance of cooperating organizations. that are constantly searching for strategic alliances to achieve gender mainstreaming.

Within the opportunities for improvement, synergies will be made with other actions that can be executed in the field, since it is the appropriate way to verify and adjust real actions so that mainstreaming and gender perspective take place.

Once presented, as of April 2022 we will begin the execution of our National Gender and Climate Change Plan. As a first step, the Institutionalization of the Plan must be carried out by the Ministry of the Environment through a Ministerial Decree, which governs the climate action agenda at the national level, which is under review.

**Background**

Panama ratified its commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1995 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights before the Convention, where it recognized its fundamental obligations and responsibilities in terms of human rights. On September 12, 2016, Panama ratified the Paris Agreement through Law No. 40 and in compliance with it, presented its update of the Nationally Determined Contribution in December 2020, where relevance is given to the importance of transversally incorporate the gender equality perspective in climate actions.

From the Ministry of the Environment of Panama, the process of preparing the "National Gender and Climate Change Plan" began at the end of December 2020, making effective the mandate within the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC1) in the mainstreaming of the gender equality perspective in the climate commitments proposed within the NDC.

Hence, the Ministry of the Environment has developed joint initiatives with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through technical cooperation, seeking to integrate equality considerations through the National Gender and Climate Change Plan. of gender in each of our future plans, programs and projects, assuming it as our own and working in coordination between all sectors and in an inter-institutional manner to combat climate change and adapt to its effects.

**Process:**

This Plan is the result of a long participatory process with actors in different sectors of society, such as the public and private sectors, civil society and indigenous groups. It had a diagnostic phase of perception and shared analysis, which allowed us to design a consensual action plan to mainstream the gender equality perspective in policies, strategies and programs on climate change at the national level, and in the commitments of Panama through the NDC1.

This Plan seeks to strengthen capacities and develop tools and concrete actions that generate comprehensive and multisectoral solutions with the inclusion of the perspective of gender equality and the empowerment of women in national policies.

The National Gender and Climate Change Plan is articulated with the 10 prioritized sectors in the Updated NDC1, which are: energy; forests; integrated watershed management; coastal marine system; biodiversity; agriculture, livestock and aquaculture; human settlements; public health; sustainable infrastructure and circular economy.

**Achievement:**

The technical team of the Ministry of the Environment of Panama, with technical assistance from UNDP, managed to develop the methodology based on "active listening", a tool that made it possible to identify the needs and interests of men and women in a differentiated manner.

The information collected in each of the workshops was very substantial, which in the end resulted in an inclusive, empowering and resilient Plan.

**Current activities:**

A roadmap has been established that establishes a vision of work and construction for the next 5 years that allows the implementation of key actions in mitigation and adaptation to climate change, complying with the country commitments before the UNFCCC, articulated with the Updated NDC1, while supporting economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key actions for its implementation:

● Institutional commitment

● Inter-institutional and sectoral coordination and cooperation

● Knowledge management

● Monitoring of gender responsive indicators

● Evaluations

● Systematization of experiences and good practices

**Identified opportunities:**

* Create synergies between the different national and international sustainable development programs that address the transition towards sustainable, inclusive, low-carbon and resilient societies.
* Achieve the active participation of men and women in each of the sectors prioritized in the updated NDC1, considering their needs, limitations and strengths, in mitigation and adaptation to climate change, thus allowing them to contribute and be part of sustainable development.

**Challenges:**

* It is necessary to create an interdisciplinary team within the Ministry of the Environment, which must shape the development of the methodology that will be used to influence gender mainstreaming in each of the prioritized sectors within the NDC1, as well as its future updates. These initiatives will seek an impact in relation to women's rights and their inclusion with gender equality, responding to our international commitments acquired before the UNFCCC and the SDGs.

**Opportunities for improvement and work to go:**

Currently, an opportunity for improvement has been identified in the National Gender and Climate Action Plan and it is to determine actions related to the Gender Sensitive Budget (GSB) for each sector of the NDC1, which speaks of the application of tax revenues public to manage the processes and results for gender equality.