



ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES

# SUBMISSION

## INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION ON GENDER

28 MARCH 2022

- Activity A.4 (and [Decision 20/CP.26, para. 9](#)) by 31 March 2022

To strengthen the evidence base and understanding of the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women and the role of women as agents of change and on opportunities for women, parties, relevant organizations and the research community are invited to share submissions on dimensions and examples of the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change; the role of women as agents of change; and opportunities for women.

- [Decision 20/CP.26, para. 3](#) by 31 March 2022

Information on the progress of implementation of the activities contained in the gender action plan, areas for improvement and further work to be undertaken, including, as appropriate, information on the multidimensional impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic on progress, and consideration of other diverse challenges that may impact future implementation of the gender action plan at all levels.

Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS), welcomes the invitation to make a submission on Activity A.4 (and Decision 20/CP.26, para 9) and Decision 20/CP. 26, paragraph 3.

It is well known that the effects of this climate crisis will impact all States but the early effects are being felt most acutely in the SIDS. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's most recent 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability has highlighted that gender and other social inequities compound vulnerability to climate change impacts. Climate adaptation action is critical but should be grounded in local realities and understanding the links between SDG 5 and intentional long-term policy and measures and investments is essential so as not to worsen existing gender inequities. Gender plays a critical role in individual vulnerability, with women typically more likely to be negatively affected by the



impacts of climate change and access to power and resources than men. Women, men, girls and boys are therefore differently affected by, and find different ways of coping with, and adapting to, disaster and climate impacts. (UN Women 2014). Most recently, AOSIS has sought to engage more strongly on gender in the UNFCCC and collaborated with UNDP to produce a Technical Paper on Gender Responsive Climate Actions In Small Island Developing States (SIDS)). It is important to foster inclusive decision-making for climate adaptation.

The NDCs have been one instrumental avenue for communicating climate plans in relation to gender. An analysis conducted by UNDP in 2021 shows that 22 of the AOSIS members have submitted their updated NDC as of Oct. 7, 2021. Most of the countries have included gender considerations (91%) and more than half of the countries have included gender considerations related to mitigation (55%) and adaptation (64%). It is interesting to note that 8 countries have also included specific actions to empowerment women as part of their climate agendas. (UNDP and AOSIS. 2022. Technical Paper on Gender Responsive Climate Actions In Small Island Developing States (SIDS))

In this new generation of NDCs for these States, gender considerations are included in a more comprehensive and ambitious manner. Gender issues have been addressed in multiple sections of the NDC. This means that gender is not only considered as a principle or cross cutting issue in the vision, but these NDC have included actions to promote gender equality in the implementation process of the NDC (i.e., capacity building, planning, finance, and MRV). Countries are also showing greater ambition with regards to promoting gender equality as almost half of the countries have included gender responsive mitigation or adaptation actions. In addition, several countries have included actions to address gender differentiated vulnerabilities and promote gender differentiated contributions. (UNDP and AOSIS. 2022. Technical Paper on Gender Responsive Climate Actions In Small Island Developing States (SIDS))

Examples of actions to promote gender equality that were implemented during the review of the SIDS' NDCs include:

- Undertaking a gender responsive NDC revision process with inclusivity anchored as a cornerstone of its development process. The inclusion of gender and youth considerations represent an expansion in scope relative to the first NDC. (Grenada)
- Undertaking a gender responsive approach in all planning, programming and implementation of its targets, through effective stakeholder engagement. (Papua New Guinea)
- Strengthening its mitigation ambition targets and increase adaptation action for coastline protection and marine protected areas and has integrated perspectives of gender and indigenous people in the revised NDC. (Tonga)
- Gender-responsive Terms of Reference & Scope of Works in the development of the National Adaptation Plan and Long-term strategies (St Lucia)
- the development of the Gender responsive Budgeted (GRB) Sectoral Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans (SASAPs) with specific focus on (Agriculture and Water) led to the development of sector specific gender responsive climate change goals and indicators (St Vincent and the Grenadines). (UNDP and AOSIS. 2022. Technical Paper On Gender Responsive Climate Actions In Small Island Developing States (SIDS))

An analysis conducted by UNDP in 2021 of 22 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of AOSIS members, shows that 14 countries have mentioned gender as a principle, a pillar or crosscutting issue of the NDC. 9 countries recognized national equality policies as part of the



relevant climate policy framework and 5 countries mention the Mechanism for the Advancement of Women (MAW) as part of the climate change governance. Regarding women participation 7 countries recognize the full, genuine and equal participation of women and includes a specific reference participation of women in decision-making around climate action. Regarding capacity building 3 countries mention that it will strengthen institutional capacities in the field of gender and climate change. 8 countries mention if gender is mainstreamed or intended to be mainstreamed into climate change instruments. With regards to finance 6 countries mention gender in relation to climate finance strategies/plans. Lastly, 14 countries include gender considerations in relation to adaptation and 12 related to mitigation. (UNDP and AOSIS. 2022. Technical Paper on Gender Responsive Climate Actions In Small Island Developing States (SIDS))

Some interesting gender-related trends emerged as part of the analysis of the 2021 NDC Synthesis Report. Countries that submitted their enhanced NDCs in 2020/21 highlighted the importance of a) gender analyses or assessments, gender-disaggregated data, gender indicators, and gender responsive budgeting b) gender responsive consultations that recognizing the gender differentiated needs and perspectives of women and men and the gender-differentiated impacts and contributions to climate change and climate action c) incorporating gender responsive climate action in the specific sectors, including energy, agriculture, health, disaster, water, land use and forestry, fisheries, and education and d) providing capacity-building, finance, and technology for gender-specific action and the means of implementation to be gender responsive. (UNDP and AOSIS. 2022. Technical Paper on Gender Responsive Climate Actions In Small Island Developing States (SIDS))

Of the AOSIS member states, 7 countries have a national gender and climate change focal point. (Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, and Sao Tome and Principe).

Following our analysis of climate change and gender in SIDS, we would like to propose the following key elements that future LWPG and its Gap should strengthen:

- Call on the LWPG & new GAP should encourage and provide resources to document and provide evidence of measures that countries have taken to include gender and social inclusion in the climate agenda.
- Call on the LWPG and the GAP to encourage countries to harmonize/articulate gender commitments across all their climate plans (e.g., NDC, National Adaptation Plans, Long Term Strategies).
- Call on the LWPG and the GAP to request the Secretariat to document advancements regarding all of areas of the GAP to monitor the effectiveness of its implementation.

