

Submission the Republic of Sudan on Decision 18/CP.20

Views on Gender-Responsive Climate Policy with a Focus on Mitigation Action and Technology Development and Transfer

The Republic of Sudan welcomes Decision 18/CP.20, the Lima Work Programme on Gender, and its invitation to Parties to communicate views on gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on mitigation action and technology development and transfer. This submission presents: (i) general facts on and selected examples of gender-responsive action and policies in Sudan related to mitigation and technology development and transfer, and (ii) recommendations on the scope and expected outcomes of the in-session workshop to be held in conjunction with the 42nd Session of the Subsidiary Bodies in June 2015.

National Experience and Best Practices in Gender Policies and Actions:

- Sudan has prolonged experience on supporting women and gender mainstreaming since 1956 and has, as one of the first African and Middle Eastern countries initiated laws promoting gender issues;
- Sudan has a unique participatory relationships between government and non-governmental institutions in all environmental actions, policies and strategies;
- Sudan has numerous experts on environmental, climate change and gender issues at governmental and non-governmental levels, particularly with NGOs, universities and local communities;
- Sudan has established gender focal points in several Ministries and Departments;
- Sudan has very active civil society organisations engaged with promoting women's participation, and a long history of women's movements;
- Sudan has a gender and climate change network which includes both governmental and NGOs bodies.

Gender and Climate Change

It has been widely agreed upon that climate change has direct impacts on climate-sensitive sectors such as water, agriculture and food security, as well as many indirect impacts on social sectors such as education and employment. Yet, these impacts are not gender-neutral. Women and men, as well as boys and girls, have specific knowledge of managing natural resources and thus identify different measures to adapt to changes in their natural environment. In countries like Sudan, women play a significant role in securing their and their families' livelihoods that are predominantly dependent on the aforementioned climate-sensitive sectors. In cases where women already face limited access to natural resources or services these will be exacerbated by climate change and the effects thereof. To better understand these implications on the

different gender roles and responsibilities, Sudan advocates ensuring gender-responsive approaches, and strengthening women's participation in decision-making in climate change actions and policies.

There is still relatively little understanding of the indirect human effects of climate change in those areas where gender dimensions appear less obvious, particularly in the wider domain of mitigation. This includes areas such as technologies, infrastructure, transport, energy access, employment and housing. As the pressure increases on developing countries to contribute to international targets on emissions cuts, and the demands to implement low carbon development become more urgent, ensuring gender considerations becomes increasingly important.

In the past, adaptation and mitigation policies were designed from a technical, often male-dominant perspective that did not consider the possible negative consequences of policies on women.

National Experience on Climate Change Mitigation

Mitigation is possibly the most controversial element of climate change policy. Much debate exists around responsibility for emissions and the trade-offs between cutting emissions and maintaining economic growth. In all the discussions of mitigation, however, there has been little mentioning of gender dimensions, and few attempts have been taken to take women specific experiences or needs into account when developing mitigation policies and technology transfer. Sudan is undertaking several mitigation initiatives, most notably Sudan's Technology Needs Assessment, REDD+ and a National Low Carbon Development Strategy, that includes Sudan's Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), thereby ensuring a gender-sensitive approach.

CDM and energy activities and frameworks for addressing GHG emissions and encouraging countries to reduce emissions, are framed at the national level under the umbrella of Sudan's Low Carbon Development Strategy. One aspect thereof are plans called Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs). Although there are no clear guidelines or gender indicators for NAMAs, Sudan has taken efforts to integrate gender-relevant indicators in the development of its NAMA.

As part of Sudan's mitigation activities in the forest sector, gender issues are considered throughout all its activities of forest management, mainly in Sudan's REDD+. To strengthen women's participation in forest management and conservation they are organized in gum Arabic associations, and ensured ownership of gum gardens. In Sudan women participate in forest activities such as

- Rearing the seedlings and all activities in the nurseries;
- Planting trees;
- Collecting gum;
- Producing and marketing non-wood forest products.

During the development of Sudan's Readiness Preparation Proposal as part of REDD+, Sudan aimed to maintain a gender balance in the National REDD+ Committee, and all relevant committees, stakeholder consultations, task forces and focal points. Special consideration was

given to women's roles in forest management and conservation; their needs, the challenges they are facing and their recommendations.

National Experience on Technology Development and Transfer

Gender dimensions have been considered in projects design and implementation in Sudan's Technology Needs Assessment (TNA). Gender, for example, will be adopted throughout the different levels of the TNA implementation namely in:

1. Working teams, where a target of gender equity will be set. The formation process of the different working teams including project officers, consultants and stakeholder groups will be required to attain such a target to ensure equal participation of women and men, and
2. Technical studies, where consideration of the gender perspectives when designing technical studies concerning climate change, specifically in relation to mitigation options. This should be more clearly considered when it comes to issues such as household or rural sectors.

Key Challenges

Sudan faces challenges in strengthening gender-responsive mitigation and technology development and transfer actions, due to:

1. Lack of development of gender-responsive mitigation and technology development and transfer actions and policies: There is a need for gender mainstreaming during recruitment of climate change project staffing, implementing climate change mitigation activities, case studies, needs assessments, research, reporting, monitoring and evaluation and selection of target groups;
2. Limited funds and financial resources to empower women, ensure women's participation and support gender mainstreaming: There is a need to increase women's capacities and participation in all climate change meetings and workshops, as well as increased access to funds and finance to ensure gender considerations and gender budgeting throughout all climate change activities;
3. Limited capacities and sensitivity of integrating gender issues in climate change programmes and projects, including:
 1. Conceptual Challenge: There is lack of awareness of and trainings on concepts such as gender-responsiveness, gender-sensitivity, gender equality and gender budgeting, and their differences in order to create a common understanding of what is desirable at which level, as well as their meanings, opportunities and limitations;
 2. Structural challenges: Women are seen as beneficiaries, passive and marginalised actors rather than as decision makers influencing climate change mitigation and adaptation action. Empowering women can help to eliminate mal-perceptions formal and informal structural barriers such as unpaid work, lack of access to education, limited capacities and financial resources.

4. Poor coordination between the different institutions at ministerial levels, NGOs and local communities (federal and state levels): Gender-responsive policy requires full participation of men, women, boys, girls and marginalized groups at all levels of climate actions.

Scope and outcomes- Organization of the Workshop

Sudan supports discussions on mitigation and technology development and transfer including gender in relation to use and access to energy, forestry, agriculture, land use, water and sanitation.

In particular, it encourages the workshop to focus on the following:

1. Share lessons learned and best practises from developing countries on gender-responsive activities and policies on mitigation and technology development and transfer through presentations and discussions;
2. Discuss the importance of linking adaptation and mitigation activities at all levels as mutual climate change accumulated outcomes, and identify entry points to ensure gender-responsive action on the ground in this respect;
3. Evaluating how current institutional mechanisms under the UNFCCC could be more gender-responsive (i.e. gender-responsive NAMAs, National Communications, REDD+, TNAs, CDM) and provide recommendations if necessary;
4. Identifying means of support to ensure gender-responsive climate actions in mitigation and technology development and transfer;
5. Seek clarity of different gender related concepts such as gender-sensitive, gender-responsive, gender equality, gender equity, gender budgeting, and discuss their suitability in different contexts.

The ramifications of the workshop should accentuate further guidance to gender-related activities of the UNFCCC Secretariat as well as in the Technical Expert Meetings (TEMs) and under the ADP.

In order to ensure the successful implementation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender, Sudan recommends to also discuss and take forward the following:

- Creating gender responsive focal points –a body under the UNFCCC to facilitate and review gender-responsive climate change actions that works closely with, coordinates and advises existing institutional arrangements such as the TEC MECH, NAMAs, LEDS, etc.;
- The UNFCCC should provide financial and technical support to the gender-responsive body in order to work effectively Sudan welcomes to share its best practices and lessons learned regarding mainstreaming gender and gender-responsive mitigation activities such as REDD+, TNA, or the CDM by anticipating its best practices during the workshop.