

**Submission of the United States of America on the
Continuation and Enhancement of the Lima Work Programme on Gender**
15 September 2016

Introduction

The United States welcomes the implementation of the Lima work programme on Gender (decision 18/CP.20), including the in-session workshops on gender-responsive climate policy at SBI-42 and SBI-44. The full and active engagement of women both within domestic climate change policy and the UNFCCC serves to improve the effectiveness of efforts to address climate change. The United States fully recognizes the important role of gender equality in mobilizing stronger and more ambitious climate action. In line with the Lima work programme, the United States has sought to achieve significant progress in advancing women in capacity-building efforts, integrating women into energy sector activities, and promoting female-led innovation ventures, among other efforts. These efforts are detailed further in the U.S. submissions to SBI-42 and SBI-44, pursuant to FCCC/SBI/2014/L.43/Rev.1.

SBI-44 expressed its support for the continuation and enhancement of the Lima work programme and decided to continue consideration of the matter at the SBI-45 session. The United States is supportive of continuing and enhancing the work programme and looks forward to developing a draft decision for consideration and adoption by the Conference of Parties (COP) at its twenty-second session in November 2016.

SBI-44 invited Parties and observer organizations to submit their views on possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the work programme. We are pleased to submit our input on possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the gender work programme.

Possible elements for enhancing the work programme

In-session workshops

The in-session workshops at SBI-42 and SBI-44 proved to be a valuable experience for all participants. We suggest the enhanced work programme include in-session workshops at the annual meetings of the subsidiary bodies, launching at SBI-46. The workshops could be enhanced by developing proposed conclusions and possible policy recommendations for consideration and adoption by the twenty-fifth session of the COP in November 2019.

We propose the following topics to be considered during the three-year work programme:

- Gender-responsive capacity-building efforts and policies;
- Gender-responsive adaptation planning and implementation; and,
- Collecting and using disaggregated gender data.

Increasing the effective participation of women in the UNFCCC

The United States is supportive of training and awareness-raising for female and male delegates on issues related to gender balance and climate change. We acknowledge the value of these trainings conducted under the Lima work programme on gender and want to highlight the importance of continuing such training, subject to available resources.

Additionally important is building the skills and capacity of female delegates to effectively participate in UNFCCC meetings. The United States looks forward to supporting the continued training of female delegates at in-session meetings. We encourage all interested Parties and relevant organization to support these training and capacity-building efforts.

Increasing the representation of women in the UNFCCC

The Lima work programme on gender emboldened significant efforts to increase the representation of women in the UNFCCC and its related bodies. The United States believes in the continued importance of continued efforts by Parties to increase the ratio of women on delegations and in Convention bodies, as well as those women's ability to meaningfully participate in negotiations at all levels, in line with decision 23/CP.18 and decision 18/CP.20. The Secretariat should continue to support these efforts, including by monitoring the gender composition of delegations and bodies.

Continued review of the work programme on gender

As set forth by decision 18/CP.20, we request that the enhanced three-year work programme on gender undergo a review at the twenty-fifth session of the COP (November 2019) to evaluate our progress and further enhance the work programme on gender.

Promoting gender equality under the Paris Agreement

Gender equality and the empowerment of women are highlighted in the Paris Agreement that the world adopted in December 2015. The Agreement acknowledges that adaptation action and capacity-building activities should be gender-responsive. The best way to move forward on these common aims is to share best practices and learn from each other. We thus recommend the work program provide the space for this important dialogue.

Guiding principles for enhancing the work programme

The United States believes the three-year work programme should be guided by considering gender in all components of climate action. The U.S. is actively integrating gender equality into its climate change efforts. A central component of the United States' efforts to integrate gender into its climate action is grounded in Secretary of State John Kerry's policy guidance on combating climate change, which calls upon offices across the U.S. Department of State to promote women's participation in climate change and energy programs.

Another central component is the U.S. Agency for International Development's 2012 Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy, which integrates gender into other policy documents, including USAID's 2012-2016 Global Climate Change and Development Strategy. To that end, all USAID development programming must analyze and address gender-related concerns and opportunities, from the initial stages of project development through the monitoring and evaluation process. Our experience has shown the importance of considering gender in all parts of the project cycle: scoping, assessment, procurement, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. The enhanced work programme should also be guided by this consideration.

Conclusion

We acknowledge the value of the Lima Work Programme and support launching a new work programme on gender at the upcoming SBI session this fall to enhance this important work at the UNFCCC. The United States looks forward to working with others to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and to promote gender-responsive climate policies.