

Submission by the Group of 77 and China

On

Elements and Guiding Principles for the Advancement of the Lima Work Program on Gender and Climate Change

1.1. Preamble

Noting that the social consequences of climate change are not gender neutral, due to social inequalities, women and men are affected differently by climate change impacts. Persons in vulnerable situations, such as youth, children, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples are also affected in a differentiated manner. The Group of 77 and China welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on possible elements for the extension of the Lima Work Program on Gender. The Group of 77 and China believes that gender is one of the key crosscutting issues that affects response to climate change and sustainable development. Therefore, Gender responsiveness is very critical with regards to the global quest for sustainable and inclusive development in the context of climate change, hence, the need to mainstream gender in all the processes of climate change.

1.2. Vulnerability

Climate change and current economic growth trajectories deepen and widen existing gender inequalities. Women, particular in Developing countries, and especially poor women, face higher risks of inequality as they tend to live in vulnerable environments. On the other hand, the impacts of climate change affect the ability to provide for livelihoods in the most vulnerable areas where they inhabit.

Limited access to capacity enhancement programs, social services and support further exacerbate their risks and vulnerabilities. Consequently the effects of climate change are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations. For women living in rural areas and belonging to indigenous peoples, the disadvantages derived from the impacts and effects of climate change, on account of natural disasters, are greater, as they are more dependent on the natural and environmental goods and services, which is important to know about when generating knowledge through ancestral knowledge in women.

Noting that the drivers and consequences of climate change are not gender neutral, defining the roles of women and men as distinct carriers, providers and users of climate information is important. Socially based roles and responsibilities of men and women often influence the extent of vulnerability as well as how the communities will cope with the impact of a hazard or disaster.

Women play a unique role in the management of natural resources and support to households and communities. With their knowledge that can shape adaptive mechanisms in vulnerable areas, women can play a fundamental role as agents of change. It is therefore vital that considerations of gender equality, as well as men and women different needs, perspectives and knowledge should be considered in planning activities community-based adaptation.

The importance of gender mainstreaming in environment, poverty eradication and sustainable development has been recognized in the CEDAW, Agenda 21, the MDGs, the UNCBD and the UNCCD and recently the 2030 SDGs. SDG number 5 emphasizes that empowering women and promoting gender equality is crucial to accelerating sustainable development.

Recently, the UNFCCC has seen recognition of gender in a number of stand-alone gender decisions including the Lima Work Program on Gender. The Lima Work Program on Gender aims to advance implementation of gender-responsive climate policies, strategies and plans across all areas under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement, which, *inter alia* acknowledges that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems. As such, means of implementation that takes into account gender -based budgeting should be provided to developing countries as the global community operationalises the Paris Agreement.

The Lima Work Program on Gender has provided Parties and observer organizations an opportunity for understanding the role of gender integration in the UNFCCC process. Continued engagement on gender and climate change in the UNFCCC is still required as well as putting in place mechanisms to ensure monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming in climate change are put in place.

1.3. Possible elements for the decision on gender and climate change in Marrakesh

The Group of 77 and China recommends that the longer term work program on gender to enhance the work that is ongoing should include the following; where appropriate:

1. Continue to support women participation to achieve the global goal of gender balance and increase their representation at all levels including negotiating groups, delegations, bodies and institutional arrangements. 23/CP.18 (para. 5);

2. In coordination with UN Women, discuss and agree on a Glossary of gender related terms and guiding principles in order to use the terms in a more meaningful way (gender sensitive vs. gender responsive);
3. In coordination with UN Women, commission a gender action plan with the goal of focussed strategic guidance for ensuring gender balance, gender integration, gender responsive climate policies and women empowerment in all programs and actions of the Convention and associated work by the UNFCCC Secretariat, Parties and Observer Organizations;
4. Scale up financing to support the development and implementation of gender responsive climate policy, planning, and implementation at all levels (subnational, national, regional, International);
5. Scale up and decentralize capacity building on training and awareness-raising for women and men negotiators, gender climate champions, women leaders and policy makers at national and regional levels;
6. Promote gender responsive technologies; and ensure gender mainstreaming in adaptation and mitigation activities and programmes and appoint a Gender Focal Point in the UNFCCC that will ensure the conscious application of critical gender analysis by all units in the UNFCCC at all levels; and
7. Promote gender disaggregated data and integration of gender indicators in the MRV systems for effective mainstreaming of gender in climate change.