



## Canada's Submission on SBI48 Item #19: Gender Action Plan

April, 2018

Canada has been and will continue to be a champion of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), greater equality in the UNFCCC process, and gender-responsive climate policies, including development assistance. We were proud to have been involved in the establishment of the GAP and are committed to its implementation to ensure that women can be a part of climate change decisions, and to raise the profile of gender and climate change issues.

We respectfully submit the following considerations on the integration of gender-sensitive policies in the context of the technical paper and the in-session workshop at SBI 48, and on sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis (Activity E.1). Canada looks forward to participating in the workshop on Gender and Climate Change and the Gender Dialogue at SBI 48, with the aim of enhancing the impact of the GAP.

### *Providing means of implementation for the GAP*

Canada recognizes that climate action is most effective when issues of gender inequality are addressed and women and girls can realize their full potential, which is why Canada contributed to enhancing the participation of women in the UNFCCC. We view the gender focal point position as an integral part of the gender action plan and necessary for enhancing gender responsive climate change policies. As such, Canada was pleased to provide support for the gender focal point position through a contribution to the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities and encourage others to follow our lead.

### *Training more women in enhanced negotiation skills*

In partnership with the Women's Environment Development Organization (WEDO) Canada held a four-day UNFCCC training session for 20 new female negotiators from 12 countries in Caribbean region in October 2017. The training focused on strengthening the participants' capacity to participate effectively in the international climate change negotiation processes. Canada also supported the Women Delegates Fund, which sponsored two women from developing countries to attend COP23. Canada believes that in training women, we are empowering them to be full participants in the UNFCCC process.

*Including women in decision making and ensuring equal representation in all aspects of the UNFCCC*

Canada encourages the achievement of gender balance in delegations and the equal representation of women across the bodies under the UNFCCC. At COP23 women made up 55 per cent of Canada's federal delegation, with women occupying senior roles including Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Chief Negotiator, and Deputy Chief Negotiator. Canada also invited National Indigenous Organizations to participate at COP23, which included representatives from the Native Women's Association of Canada. Indigenous women, in particular, have been experiencing the impacts of climate change for generations, and have been leaders in environment conservation for even longer. Their knowledge systems and unique experiences in addressing climate change make them well-placed to provide crucial solutions to community-based adaptation and mitigation actions. Recognizing their contribution, we encourage the participation of grassroots and Indigenous women in the UNFCCC process, whenever possible.

*Removing barriers and creating an enabling environment for gender equality*

The Government of Canada is also taking action on gender and climate change at home. In February 2018 the government introduced the first intersectional gender budget in its history to address systemic barriers to gender equality. This includes a number of domestic and international initiatives such as:

- Investing in early learning and childcare, housing, women entrepreneurs and poverty reduction, while encouraging women and girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields in order to close the gender wage gap;
- Advocating for gender-related considerations in trade agreements;
- Launching a new action plan on women, peace and security, with \$2 billion in international development assistance, in addition to \$650 million in sexual and reproductive health and rights as part of our feminist foreign policy.

Example of best practice-Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)

GBA+ is an analytical tool used to assess how diverse groups of women, men and gender-diverse people may experience policies, programs and initiatives. The "plus" in GBA+ acknowledges that GBA goes beyond biological (sex) and socio-cultural (gender) differences. GBA+ also considers many other identity factors, like race, ethnicity, religion, age, and mental or physical disability. Canada incorporates GBA+ in multiple aspects of decision making to ensure the diverse needs of all Canadians are taken into consideration.

Building on existing policies, Canada's 2018 Federal Budget included a commitment to improve and expand the application of the GBA+ framework. Going forward, this will mean that Canada's domestic and international climate change policies and programs will be required to integrate high-quality GBA+ analysis.

The Government of Canada offers a GBA+ training course free of charge on its website: <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/gba-acsc/course-cours-en.html>

In June 2017, Canada adopted a new Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP), which puts gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the heart of its international assistance efforts. The policy views women and girls as powerful agents of change to advance action on climate change, environmental degradation, pollution and other environmental concerns. It recognizes that our actions will be most effective when women and girls play an active role in designing and developing strategic responses to climate change and environmental issues. Canada's feminist approach to environment and climate action will focus on:

- supporting women's leadership and decision-making in all aspects of climate change mitigation and sustainable natural resource management;
- ensuring climate-related planning, policy-making and financing address the particular needs and challenges of women and girls; and,
- supporting employment and business opportunities for women in the renewable energy sector.

Canada is also working to implement the FIAP in its provision of climate finance, through collaboration with bilateral and multilateral partners to ensure that gender-responsive indicators and the tracking of sex-disaggregated data is incorporated into all results frameworks.

### *Supporting women as climate leaders*

As part of Canada's focus on climate action and gender in the G7 and in recognition of the key contributions of women in taking climate action, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, will host the Women Leaders Kicking It on Climate Summit on May 17, 2018. The Summit will focus on climate change actions, including those stemming from the Paris Agreement, which can contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Canada looks forward to sharing the outcomes of the Summit with UNFCCC Parties and observers.

As we move forward on GAP implementation, Canada is hopeful that progress will be collectively demonstrated on GAP priorities areas including on equal participation, women's leadership, capacity-building, and knowledge sharing. Canada will do its part to support these goals, ensure the conversation on gender equality in climate change action continues, and that momentum is maintained.