

Submission by YOUNGO

**Title: Adaptation Committee seeking views on how to mainstream gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation.**

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**What are good examples of lessons learned and best practices in prioritizing/ incorporating gender in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans in your country or constituency?**

In any government procedures in Nepal there is a requirement for 33% of those involved to be women. This practice has enabled women to participate across decision making levels. We believe that this quota would be effective, particularly in LDCs.

Additionally, in Nepal, gender analysis has consistently been included during vulnerability and risk assessments.

## How can gender best be incorporated into adaptation action?

It is critically important that gender is incorporated into adaptation action. YOUNGO believes in a system solution to climate change, one that supports climate justice not just scientific targets. By incorporating gender into adaptation action we have an opportunity to take a step towards gender equality, as well step away from climate catastrophe.

We have listed processes for incorporating gender into adaptation action:

- There should be an intersectional and inclusive approach that simultaneously considers gender with other social factors, such as age, religion, class, caste, disability and ethnicity, and how these factors interact with each other to shape the varied experiences of different people from targeted genders, such as women and girls (as nationally/regionally appropriate).
- Policies and plans ought to simultaneously consider gender inequality with other forms of discrimination and/or social vulnerability which affect the participation of people in adaptation action, such as poverty and the marginalisation of indigenous communities (as nationally/regionally appropriate).
- Gender should be integrated from the initial design of the adaptation plan and not added as an afterthought. This should include consulting grassroots women's groups and ensuring both that the groups of those drafting and those implementing the action plan are gender-balanced. Safe spaces should be created to allow all genders to feed in.
- Women should be treated as agents of social and political change, and not solely referenced in terms of their increased vulnerability to the impacts of climate change in the plan
- Women should not only be considered in the domestic setting but as members of the workforce (even if that work is typically unpaid and undervalued) and active citizens in their communities (in regards to political decision-making and social action).
- Equitable access to resources (both financial and otherwise) should be ensured for all genders.
- An adaptation plan should feature specifically women, girls and gender across all aspects of the adaptation plan; a reference to other frameworks or policies is not an effective substitute.

- Adaptation plans should seek a range of entry points to include rights-based gender-responsive adaptation strategies - for instance, family planning programmes.
- To effectively achieve transformational adaptation, gender action should also follow a structural and systemic approach: wider structures and systems in society that lead to gender inequality should be considered, rather than just the technical aspects and features of stakeholder institutions in adaptation plans.

**In your experience, what are the remaining gaps related to incorporating gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation?**

a) Capacity

To successfully incorporate gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation, there first needs to be sufficient capacity building of those who are involved in planning and implementing adaptation action.

This should include:

- Capacity development of gender experts and those who work in gender ministries in the science of climate change
- Capacity development of environmental experts and ministries on gender - i.e. training on gender mainstreaming
- Capacity building for local communities to ensure that on the ground implementation of adaptation plans is gender sensitive
- Particular capacity building for indigenous communities - with the knowledge that there may be additional social-cultural barriers to be overcome to empower women.

b) Intersections

For gender to be successfully mainstreamed there needs to be more conversations at the national level that bring together all relevant ministries at the beginning of the process (e.g. gender, environment, finance).

It needs to be better understood how gender intersects with other social barriers age/youth.

Currently there is a lack of social and cultural differentiation with gendered solutions that needs to be addressed, currently this leads to the over-simplification of gendered issues and prevents successful solutions.

c) Women's involvement

At present there is a lack of involvement in consultation processes, this is not because women and girls do not have relevant and useful experiences to give to these processes, but rather because the processes are not currently designed in a way that easily enable all genders to contribute. These institutional settings and political contexts do not promote the participation of women and girls and this is a gap to be addressed.

Additionally there is a lack of gender equality in decision making positions both at the national level and local level.

Furthermore there is a lack of awareness that policies which attempt to target and empower women and girls can unwittingly reinforce gender stereotypes if not carefully considered.

d) Data

There is a lack of available gender-disaggregated data to refer to when making plans and monitoring the success of plans. This is a critical gap that prevents analysis of the effectiveness of adaptation actions which do and do not incorporate gender.

e) Finance and Resources

There is a clear lack of adaptation finance in general (i.e. adaptation finance falls behind mitigation finance, which negatively affects Global South countries already being impacted by the effects of climate change).

In addition there is:

- A lack of gender-responsive budgeting

- A lack of well-distributed financial and material resources for grassroots organisations working on adaptation (particularly those led by women and youth)

**What are useful sources relevant to this topic?**

[https://himachal.nic.in/WriteReadData/l892s/15\\_l892s/674934978RBEC\\_GM\\_manual.pdf](https://himachal.nic.in/WriteReadData/l892s/15_l892s/674934978RBEC_GM_manual.pdf)

Positive impacts from incorporating gender perspectives into the substantive work of the United Nations - <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/factsheet4.pdf>

Good Practice in Gender Mainstreaming Example: UNDCP - United Nations International Drug Control Programme: Alternative Development Work in Peru - <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/gmgoodpracexpl.htm>

Gender Mainstreaming: An Overview - <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/e65237.pdf>

Important Concepts underlying Gender Mainstreaming - <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/factsheet2.pdf>

Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines in National Policy Formulation and Implementation - [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/vietnam/docs/Publications/14911\\_20090701\\_Gender\\_Mainstreaming\\_Guidelines\\_Latest\\_EN.pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/vietnam/docs/Publications/14911_20090701_Gender_Mainstreaming_Guidelines_Latest_EN.pdf)