



Submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in relation to the Implementation of the Gender Action Plan mandated under FCCC/SBI/2018/L.22, paragraph 6

Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) reaffirms its commitment to its Policy on Gender Equality¹, which mandates the mainstreaming of gender into all areas of its work. FAO has been supporting the implementation of the activities of the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP) and welcomes the opportunity to submit its views in relation to the implementation of the GAP as referred to under FCCC/SBI/2018/L.22, paragraph 6. FAO welcomes the synthesis report produced by the Secretariat² for consideration by Parties in the review of the LWPG and its GAP, including the acknowledgement of FAO's work on gender-sensitive approaches in areas including agriculture, livestock management, fisheries and aquaculture, natural resource management, water resource use and management, and weather and climate services. This submission builds on previous FAO submissions³ and will provide information, specifically on areas of progress, proposed improvements to the priority areas of the GAP and areas for further work to be considered in future gender action plans.

A. Areas of Progress

FAO acknowledges the good progress made by LWPG and the GAP in advancing gender balance, efforts to achieve gender-responsive climate policy, improving the participation and engagement of women in the UNFCCC negotiations and in the bodies established under the Convention. FAO continues to support countries in advancing the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) and ensuring that gender considerations are addressed.⁴ It continues to advocate for a gender-balanced representation and facilitates gender mainstreaming in climate policies and planning in agriculture, and will continue to support women delegates and young farmers to attend the negotiations on agriculture and to participate in various climate change related activities.

B. Proposed Areas for Improvements

Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG)

While high-visibility advocacy opportunities, such as high-level networking event on gender during the Conference of the Parties (COP) is very useful, similar efforts could be made to include high-level engagement from outside the climate change and environment ministries. The KJWA provides an entry point under the UNFCCC for a high level discussion on the nexuses of gender, climate change and agriculture. FAO proposes:

- A gender high level advocacy event organized by the Secretariat with the support of FAO and others on the nexuses of gender, climate change and agriculture during the COP. The event should include women ministers,

¹ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3205e/i3205e.pdf>

² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2019_inf8.pdf

³ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/201803281733---FAO%20Submission%20on%20E1%20Monitoring%20and%20Reporting.pdf>;
[https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/201811271847---FAO-Submission-D.2-Gender%20Responsive%20Technology%20Needs%20Assessment-Gender%20Day%20\(003\).pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/201811271847---FAO-Submission-D.2-Gender%20Responsive%20Technology%20Needs%20Assessment-Gender%20Day%20(003).pdf);
[https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/201811271847---FAO-Submission-D.2-Gender%20Responsive%20Technology%20Needs%20Assessment-Gender%20Day%20\(003\).pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/201811271847---FAO-Submission-D.2-Gender%20Responsive%20Technology%20Needs%20Assessment-Gender%20Day%20(003).pdf)

⁴ FAO's dedication stems from its corporate Climate Change Strategy (2017) explicitly considers gender-specific vulnerabilities and needs along with opportunities and capabilities with regard to climate change commits to mainstreaming gender equality into climate-related planning processes and to the promoting socially and environmentally sound technologies and practices and gender-sensitive capacity development approaches.

parliamentarians and male champions from other sectors, especially sectors that have potential for empowering women and closing the gender gap;

- Build the gender high level advocacy on the nexus of gender and climate change into existing regional and national platforms, such as regional climate change weeks and weeks of agriculture that FAO co-organises in some regions.

Gender Action Plan (GAP)

1. Priority areas

- Priority areas of the GAP should be retained with capacity building established as a distinct priority area that is separate from knowledge sharing and communication. This is to reflect the importance of capacity building to women's empowerment and as an element of the means of implementation.

2. Knowledge sharing and communication

FAO proposes the following activities:

- Consider building the knowledge gap in relation to women's participation in decision making in rural institutions; in shaping laws, policies and programmes; women's access to agriculture development and markets; and reducing women's work burden in agriculture in light of the impacts of climate change. These are FAO's area of expertise and can support the Secretariat in delivering and organizing workshops on gender mainstreaming tools and good practices on gender-responsive climate smart agriculture policies, projects, programmes and technology;
- Built gender-sensitive climate change knowledge sharing into existing regional and national platforms such as those mentioned under the LWPG and encourage the participation of National Gender Focal Points in those platforms;
- Develop a global special report or technical paper on the nexuses of gender, climate change, food security and poverty and to collect information on gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, empirical evidence on solutions in terms of gender-responsive policies and actions. The paper should build on previous gender submissions, technical papers and IPCC reports and include recommendations for policymakers or a summary of policy approaches that promote gender equality and women's empowerment. This could be requested for the IPCC to develop or for the Secretariat to commission;
- Enhance inter-agency linkages of relevant knowledge hubs through a call for submission on existing gender responsive knowledge hubs, building on those created by FAO, other UN agencies and stakeholders. A synthesis report of all submissions could be presented in a joint event with the Nairobi Work Programme and the Adaptation Committee during the Gender Day.

3. Capacity building

Capacity building under the GAP should be expanded to encompass efforts to improve gender capacities at organizational level, in addition to building up work that has taken place at individual level. FAO proposes:

- A workshop to consider findings of the special/technical report mentioned earlier. The workshop could consider targeted areas such as on climate change and agriculture to build women negotiators' capacity in terms of participating confidently in the negotiations of KJWA and on other issues;
- Training of trainers on gender and climate change to empower women to fully participate in the UNFCCC processes and to become advocates through sharing information and delivering trainings to a broader audience at the national level. This could be part of the expanded role of the National Gender Focal Points network under the UNFCCC. FAO works closely with other UN Agencies to deliver training of trainers targeted at the empowerment of women in agriculture and can provide technical support to the delivery of proposed trainings.

4. Gender balance, participation and women's leadership

It is the role of Parties to nominate experts for delegation and members of the Constituted Bodies of the Convention. Parties should consider gender balance nominations and to include women from other sectorial ministries, such as women from the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture. FAO proposes:

- Linking activities under this priority area with those under the LWPA and organise a joint high-level event as proposed earlier on gender balance, participation and women's leadership, including emphasis on the diversity of national delegation in including women from other ministries;
- Invited countries to provide a brief report highlighting successes and challenges, drawing on their specific sector or area;

- Present findings of the special report or technical paper mentioned earlier during this high-level event.

5. Gender responsive implementation and means of implementation

GAP activities should focus on gender-responsive implementation within the Convention and also on the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Adaptation Plans (NAP) and other climate policies. For those reasons FAO proposes:

- Call for submissions on gender responsive technology and successful technological approaches, tools, practices and lessons in the empowerment of women, including on adaptation and mitigation;
- Secretariat to organise an event with the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) to share the synthesis report of the submissions and invite Party's, UN Agencies and other to present on the basis of their submission.

6. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

FAO proposes the following activities to address monitoring and reporting of gender aspects in national climate change policies and programmes:

- A summary report to be prepared by the Secretariat with the assistance of FAO, UN agencies and others on gender in countries' current NDCs building on synthesis already conducted by FAO and others;
- Call for submission on gender responsive NDC, particularly on what countries are doing to mainstream gender into their current NDCs and future plans to do so in their revised NDC;
- A synthesis report of all submissions to be prepared by the Secretariat and a workshop organised to present the synthesis report of the submissions. The workshop could identify needs and areas for further support to countries in ensuring a gender-responsive NDC.

C. Areas for Further Work

FAO suggests the following areas for consideration in future activities of the gender action plan:

1. Gender Focal Points

The UNFCCC Gender Focal Points⁵ provide a useful entry point for bridging the gap between the UNFCCC process and national level in terms of sharing information and knowledge, implementation, monitoring and reporting at different levels. FAO therefore proposes:

- Broadening the roles and responsibilities of the National Gender Focal Points to include knowledge sharing, monitoring, reporting and training of trainers to enhance the implementation of the GAP at the national level;
- Appointing Gender Focal Points for each of the Constituted Bodies under the Convention to provide monitoring and reporting on gender mainstreaming in the work of each body.

2. Scope of Gender Action Plan

The GAP is treated as cross cutting in all areas of work under the Convention and currently it is not sector specific. The GAP should:

- Broaden its scope to include sector specific focus and activities. The KJWA (decision 4/CP.23), topics 2a to 2f provides an opportunity for the specificity of the Gender-Agriculture agenda. This also applies to broadening gender participation and leadership to include women from Ministries of Agriculture and Women's Affairs in the UNFCCC process. FAO is already providing technical support to countries in the KJWA negotiations, including in country gender-responsive climate change policies, projects and programs in agriculture.

Agriculture has enormous potential in advancing both climate and gender equality and it plays a key role in the implementation of the GAP. FAO is at the forefront of the discussions on the nexuses of gender, climate change, agriculture, food security and poverty, with extensive expertise and experience to offer in this area. FAO confirms its commitment to gender equality and looks forward to working closely with others in the review and further implementation of the GAP.

⁵ Decision 21/CP.22, paragraph 22 "Invites Parties to appoint and provide support for a national gender focal point for climate negotiations, implementation and monitoring".