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Submission by the United Nations Development Programme to Respond to Activity E.1, under Priority Area E: monitoring and reporting, of UNFCCC Gender Action Plan

I. Background

1. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to address practical suggestions on the organization, as well as, sharing experiences at the global, national and local levels, best practices and policy implementation gaps, which could inform the Activity E.1, under Priority Area E: Monitoring and Reporting, of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan.
2. As the UN's global development network, UNDP works with countries to achieve their own solutions to global and national development challenges in the face of a changing climate. We are one of the largest service providers in the UN system on climate change and our \$3 billion climate change portfolio of mitigation and adaptation projects supports over 140 countries to transition toward low-emission and climate-resilient sustainable development. This extensive portfolio contributes directly to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, through supporting countries' efforts to design and implement ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), while also helping to accelerate the 2030 Agenda and achievement of the SDGs. The work builds on decades of experience and has been undertaken in partnership with the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, multilateral organizations, bilateral partners, private sector, civil society and others. Our climate change portfolio focuses on integrated climate strategies, gender-responsive solutions, cross-sectoral climate resilient livelihoods, promoting access to clean and affordable energy services, promoting low emission and climate resilient urban and transport infrastructure and access to new finance mechanisms.
3. UNDP has both a global and bottom-up approach to addressing climate change. We provide on-the-ground technical assistance through all of the mechanisms of the UNFCCC as well as support to global dialogues that address climate change issues. Recognizing the significant challenge that climate change presents to developing countries, UNDP has placed climate change at the heart of its 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, helping developing countries to implement action on the ground that tackles climate change, advances poverty reduction and promotes sustainable development, in line with advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.
4. UNDP puts specific emphasis on utilizing a multi-pronged approach in its climate change and environment work to promote gender parity, women's empowerment and gender responsive policy and programming at all levels. At the global level, UNDP along with its partners from the UNFCCC Secretariat, has been providing technical assistance to support the integration of gender equality in the climate negotiations processes and in the policy and governance structures of key climate finance mechanisms. At the national level, UNDP supports governments to integrate gender responsive and



women's empowerment considerations into decision making and policy. At the local level, UNDP is also engaging directly with communities to reduce vulnerabilities of women and empower them as agents of change. Many lessons are emerging from our work, across several regions and in different contexts, of effective approaches and valuable results achieved when engaging women's groups. In this regard, UNDP along with its national counterparts has collected relevant experiences that could provide a significant reference to inform how the work happening at the national level on climate plans relates to the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and Gender Action Plan (GAP).

5. This submission draws upon concrete, replicable examples and practical tools that have been leveraged through UNDP at all levels, to actively incorporate gender equality considerations in climate change policies and actions. It should be noted, the ideas and proposals contained in this submission are open to be explored, refined and broadened so as to make them universally beneficial towards the goal of advancing gender responsive climate action.

II. Responding to the invitation for information on the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men, with special attention paid to local communities and indigenous peoples;

6. At the national level, UNDP's NDC Support Programme is working with countries to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) planning and implementation process. Through multidimensional approaches at the national level, the programme is ensuring that gender equality aspects, and the role of women as critical actors contributing to the Paris Agreement, are factored into the governance, planning and policy instruments of the NDC process. Using the NDCs as a platform for coordinating and connecting the interlinked processes of climate change and gender equality, will promote inclusive and successful outcomes not only for achieving gender equality and climate change objectives, but also for accelerating sustainable development goals overall. As part of preliminary activities under the programme, countries have been conducting gender analyses in order to better understand the gender differentiated impacts of climate change within key climate related sectors. This process also helps to identify where inequalities and gender gaps exist, as well as to engage different stakeholders who can utilize the information for decision-making process to inform or influence climate policies. For instance, the analysis in Ghana found that the effect of unpredictable rainfall in areas in the north of the country, which practice rain-fed agriculture, has put pressure on the young and mobile populations to migrate to cities, many of them young women who make a precarious living as porters.
7. At the global level, in 2018, the Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans Programme (NAP-Ag) produced a briefing note, [Promoting gender-responsive adaptation in the agriculture sectors: Entry points within National Adaptation Plans](#). This note uses the National Adaptation Plans (NAP) process to frame an overview of key gender issues and entry points for gender mainstreaming in the development of NAPs for the agriculture sector. The NAP-Ag also prepared a case study sharing Uruguay's recent experiences collecting and analyzing sex-disaggregated data relevant to adaptation planning in the agriculture sector (forthcoming).

III. Responding to the invitation for information on the integration of gender considerations into adaptation, mitigation, capacity-building, Action for Climate Empowerment, technology and finance policies, plans and actions

8. UNDP supports a large portfolio of nearly 500 climate projects currently under implementation in 140 countries financed by the Global Environment Facility (including Least Developed Countries Fund and



Special Climate Change Fund), the Green Climate Fund, and the Adaptation Fund. UNDP's portfolio of climate projects are designed to be gender responsive.

9. For example, a number of countries, through support provided by the Green Climate Fund and in collaboration with UNDP, have been integrating gender considerations into their climate action as an opportunity to achieve: women's economic empowerment, gender responsive policies, and close gender gaps in natural resource management and climate-resilient governance. Specifically, in 2018, UNDP secured nearly US\$25 million in grant funding from the Green Climate Fund in support of **Bangladesh's** efforts to build the adaptive capacities of vulnerable coastal communities with a focus on women and girls as 'change-agents' to plan, implement, and manage climate-resilient solutions. The project is led by Bangladesh's Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs. In **Zambia**, where approximately 70 percent of the workforce is dependent on rain-fed agriculture, much of the country highly vulnerable to climate shocks. UNDP, with US\$32 million grant financing from the Green Climate Fund and US\$125 million in co-financing, is working with the Zambian Ministry of Agriculture to support smallholder farmers to increase resilience and economic opportunities through a value chain approach. Given the prominent role of women in agriculture and food provisioning, and their particular vulnerabilities to climate change, there will be dedicated efforts on building climate resilience for female-headed houses and rural enterprises. In **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, through the GCF-financed project on *De-Risking and Scaling-up Investment in Energy Efficient Building Retrofits*, gender considerations are integrated into planned municipal level Sustainable Energy Climate Action Plans which track mitigation actions in the public sector and will include gender dimensions to prioritize local climate actions that support women and promote gender equality. In **Viet Nam**, the country's first GCF-financed project, supported by UNDP, is working with the 14 million-member strong Viet Nam Women's Union to carry out community-based disaster risk assessments. The project has developed an upgraded gender action plan which includes clear targets including that commune level community-based disaster risk management advisory groups must comprise at least 30% women including in decision making positions. Data from 2018 suggests that in 2018 this figure was 35%, and that other key gender targets are on-track to being met.
10. In rural settings women are highly dependent on natural resources — indeed, women are most often the primary providers of water, food and energy at the household and community level — yet they are often excluded from local and national environmental governing bodies, such as land and water use committees. Many projects in UNDP's climate portfolio set specific targets or requirements for women in decision-making roles. For example, in **Sierra Leone**, a UNDP supported project financed by the Least Developed Countries Fund, has ensured that women are the predominate members of local WASH Committees as they are largely responsible, along with girls, for water collection. The project reports that, "The women involved in this project, especially the WASH committees, have played a strong role in deciding the location of the solar source, spreading knowledge about climate change effect on access to and availability of safe drinking water, and reporting risk, sharing and verifying information for appropriate actions to be taken. Insights from these women have formed the basis of the risk mitigation activities, enhanced self-reliance and ownership of outcomes."
11. At the national level, in 2018, the UNDP Climate and Forests Team supported countries across Africa, Latin America and Asia-Pacific to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment principles into national and sub-national REDD+ action. Through finance from the Green Climate Fund, UN-REDD Programme, and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, this support has included integrating gender considerations into the REDD+ results-based payment programme in [Brazil](#), REDD+ implementation efforts in [Ecuador](#), Chile and [Viet Nam](#), the REDD+ Investment Plan in Republic of Congo as well as assisting Honduras to elaborate, validate and launch the Institutional Gender Strategy of the Ministry of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment, and Mines. It has also included undertaking



gender-specific and/or gender-sensitive REDD+ analyses in Bangladesh, Cambodia, [Colombia](#), Mexico, Mongolia and Myanmar. Financed through the Governors' Climate & Forest Task Force, UNDP has also provided support in mainstreaming gender in project activities, monitoring frameworks, budgets and risk assessments of [34 nationally aligned jurisdictional REDD+ approaches](#). Furthermore, based on data from 60 UN-REDD organized/supported capacity and policy-dialogue workshops held worldwide¹, women represented on average 38% of participants.

12. Since 2015, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have been working with Colombia, the Gambia, Guatemala, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, Viet Nam, and Zambia under the [Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans Programme \(NAP-Ag\)](#) to identify and integrate climate adaptation into adaptation planning in the agriculture sectors (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries). The NAP-Ag has piloted a gender mainstreaming approach to program design and implementation linked to the overall NAP process. This approach is in line with international commitments, including the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and the Koronivia joint work on agriculture.
13. With the support of the NAP-Ag, Uganda developed a gender-responsive [National Adaptation Plan for the Agriculture Sector](#) which was launched in 2018 and includes a specific action area on gender. The process of developing this plan and the gender-related capacity development is documented in a 2017 [NAP-Ag case study](#). Launched in 2018 and developed with NAP-Ag support, Kenya's [Climate Smart Agriculture Implementation Framework](#) recognizes the importance of having a gender-responsive and socially inclusive Climate Smart Agriculture capacity building approach and plan for the sector, including disaggregated data in monitoring and reporting.
14. Also, in 2018, the NAP-Ag organized a [two-day workshop in the Gambia](#) to raise awareness on the gender dimensions of adaptation among key actors from the nonprofit, academic, UN, and government sectors. In the Philippines, the NAP-Ag carried out a gender needs assessment and organized a gender mainstreaming training workshop in adaptation planning in agriculture for national-level stakeholders. These trainings follow on similar NAP-Ag gender and adaptation trainings held in 2017 in [Colombia](#), [Zambia](#), [Uganda](#), and [Nepal](#) and in 2016 in [Kenya](#).
15. Furthermore, the toolkit, *Integrating Climate Resilience and Gender Responsiveness in Value Chains and Market Development; Modules for Training* was developed in 2018 (and tested in Zambia) to help countries select and analyze value chains for opportunities to improve climate change resilience and reduce gender inequalities. The video, [Addressing gender and climate change adaptation in Viet Nam's agriculture sectors](#), produced in the same year, explores the role of gender in addressing climate change adaptation in Viet Nam's agriculture sector. Another video, [Addressing gender in climate change policies for agriculture](#), focuses on three of the NAP-Ag supported countries - Colombia, Uganda and Viet Nam - and illustrates how gender considerations are integrated into policies covering the agriculture sectors.
16. In addition, the UNDP NDC Support Programme is also supporting countries in integrating gender considerations within their enabling environments to strengthen NDC implementation. For example, to better respond to their national climate strategies/actions and help implement their NDCs, countries are building their institutional capacities on climate change and gender equality. In this regard, the

¹ Countries where workshops were held include the following: Argentina, Bangladesh, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Kenya, Laos, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Peru, Thailand and Viet Nam



Philippines has formalized an agreement between the Climate Change Commission and the Philippines Commission on Women to ensure a continued collaboration to better articulate the work to advance gender equality and enhance NDC implementation. Coordination mechanisms among institutions, particularly Ministries of Environment and gender machineries, to integrate gender equality in a systematic way requires strengthened and inclusive governance frameworks within the NDC process. Effective coordination among public institutions allows for integrated approaches to tackle legal and cultural barriers, patriarchal systems and women's low economic status which refrain women from actively participating in and benefitting from climate change decision-making processes. In this regard, in Chile, the Ministry of Gender has formalized its participation in the Climate Change Inter-ministerial technical team of the NDC process.

17. The integration of gender equality considerations at various levels of the planning and policy processes, national, sub-national and local, can better identify and address women's needs and opportunities to enhance not only climate outcomes but also to close gender gaps. In collaboration with the NDC Support Programme, **Ghana** has incorporated gender equality considerations within its NDC implementation plan to increase resilience among vulnerable groups through the institutionalization of capacities to respond and adapt to climate change. In addition, **Kenya** has included a gender equality approach to climate technologies and innovation in the private sector, targeting women and youth to support them to commercialize clean technology businesses as part of its National Climate Change Action Plan. Lastly, **Ecuador** has integrated gender equality considerations within its NDC, particularly within actions for the energy sector.
18. At the regional level, UNDP's NDC Support Programme in collaboration with UNFCCC, has supported the organization of NDC Regional Dialogues in the [Pacific](#), [Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia](#), [Caribbean](#), [Africa](#) and [Asia & the Arab States](#). Since 2017 the NDC Regional Dialogues have integrated gender equality aspects through standalone sessions on gender and by bringing "gender voices" throughout the dialogue's sessions, ensuring the agenda addresses integrating gender equality into the specific areas of governance, planning, finance and reporting among others related to the NDC planning and implementation process. There has been an increase in female participation in these dialogues from 37% in 2017 to 49% in 2018.
19. Similarly, in 2017 the UNDP/UNEP Global Support Program for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports (GSP) organized "[The First Regional Workshop on Supporting the Integration of Gender Considerations into MRV/transparency Processes in the Western Balkan Countries and Lebanon](#)" in order to "share initial lessons learned and to continue enhancing national efforts to mainstream gender equality into the development process of NC and BUR to the UNFCCC, also in light of the enhanced transparency framework established by the Paris Agreement and the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)". The event was held in Skopje and gathered representatives of national institutions responsible for climate change reporting, representatives of national gender equality mechanisms and experts from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, FRY of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Using the methodology presented in the Gender and Climate Change National Communication Toolkit, the countries were asked to develop draft action plans that would guide them in drafting NCs, BURs and CBITs proposals.
20. A year later, the GSP convened a [Second Regional Workshop on Gender and Climate Change](#) in Belgrade, targeting both governmental officials responsible for development and submission of reports to the UNFCCC (NCs and BURs) as well as professionals entrusted with gender mainstreaming. UNDP Country offices' experts also participated at the event. The workshop was aimed at further capacity building of countries in terms of an updated understanding of gender dimensions of climate change and vice versa. The workshop was also an opportunity to strengthen collaboration among countries



through experiences sharing on the status of climate/gender action, and to openly discuss expectations and results of respective countries in gender and climate change. Based on what countries previously elaborated at the Skopje workshop on their draft gender action plans, country representatives were asked to further develop the APs based on new inputs and lessons learnt generated in this workshop and in line with priorities set under the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan from 2017.

21. Also, UNDP's work on Strengthening the Governance of Climate Change Finance (GCCF) has led to development of climate financing and budgeting solutions for countries throughout Asia Pacific along with analytical work that shares knowledge and practices globally. GCCF aims to support climate actions in terms of gender equality, poverty reduction and respect for human rights, such as by building the capacity of regional and national institutions to promote climate responsive budgets that are gender responsive, benefit the poor and enhance human rights. The GCCF team organized, in collaboration with Action on Climate Today (ACT), DFID and SIDA, a [Regional Dialogue on the Role of Climate Proofing Growth and Development to Achieve the SDGs](#) in March 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. The event focused on achievements of the Climate Proofing Growth and Development (CPGD) programme and lessons learnt for promoting climate action in the context of the achievement of the SDGs. There was one session, "[Gender and Social Inclusion for Climate Proofing Growth and Development](#)" which explored how results achieved to date under the CPGD programme have had a positive impact on gender equality, human rights and conflict prevention focusing on inclusion, voice and participation.
22. Finally, at the global level, the UNDP NDC Support Programme has been hosting a [webinar series on mainstreaming gender equality within NDCs](#). The objective of the series is to provide government representatives, project implementers and climate change technical experts more background on how they can utilize the entry points and associated tools, such as a gender analysis, gender data and indicators and gender-responsive budgeting and climate finance, to more comprehensively integrate gender equality considerations within their national climate actions, particularly the NDC process.
23. At COP 24, the NAP-Ag hosted a [side event](#), "Gender Transformative Adaptation in Agriculture," which provided insights on mainstreaming gender in adaptation for the agriculture sectors based on experiences in Fiji, Guyana, Kenya, Uruguay, and Vietnam.

IV. Suggestions for next steps

24. The above are just a few examples drawing on UNDP's vast climate change portfolio, providing support at the national level for enhanced and inclusive climate action, while also increasing learning among actors and promoting peer-to-peer exchange at the regional and global level. This support can act as an important source of technical guidance and advice on good practice in integrating gender equality and women's empowerment considerations into climate action and implementation of NDCs, as well as guidance on potential entry points and opportunities for scaled up gender-responsive climate action. UNDP will continue to strengthen the range and depth of gender responsive policy making processes through its ongoing and future planned climate change action measures.
25. Some specific activities undertaken and planned in 2019 include a global gender workshop on the NDC process which UNDP's NDC Support Programme recently organized in April in Nairobi, Kenya. This event has gathered the countries that are mainstreaming gender equality in their national climate actions and strategies through the Programme. The participatory and interactive workshop provided an opportunity for sharing of experiences, lessons learned and ways forward on gender-responsive NDC planning and implementation. Government representatives from the Ministries of Environment and Ministries of Gender and a representative from the project unit from 17 countries participated.



The countries include: Bhutan, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote D'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia. The workshop supports meeting the goals of UNDP by providing ways for countries to actively incorporate gender equality in climate change policies and actions to contribute to larger development outcomes.

26. As agreed with participants of the [Second Regional Workshop on Gender and Climate Change](#) workshop, UNDP/ UNEP Global Support Program support to countries in 2019 will include further technical assistance to countries in implementation of national action plans and other consultancy support related to integration of gender considerations within NCs, BURs and CBITs. The workshop contributes to the overall UNDP agenda by supporting countries to implement actions on the ground which tackle climate change and advance gender equality.
27. Through this extensive experience, the vast tools and guidance developed, and our rich knowledge base in implementing gender responsive climate change activities, UNDP hopes to serve as a resource, supporting Parties to the Convention and the UNFCCC Secretariat in its implementation of the Gender Action Plan.
28. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) thanks the Conference of the Parties and the Secretariat for the opportunity to provide information to inform how the work happening at the national level on climate plans relates to the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and Gender Action Plan (GAP) and congratulates the UNFCCC for advancing gender-responsive climate actions.