



## NEW ZEALAND

### Submission to the SBI on the implementation of the gender action plan

September 2019

#### Context

New Zealand recognises that climate change has differentiated impacts on women and men, girls and boys, and that women and girls are particularly vulnerable. New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to submit views on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and Lima Work Programme and to share views ahead of its review at COP25.

2 The GAP seeks to “advance women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in, and promote gender-responsive climate policy, and mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation”<sup>1</sup> of work across the UNFCCC. A review of implementation of the GAP and identification of areas for future work and improvement was mandated in the original decision adopting the GAP (3/CP.23), with the review to take place at COP25.

3 New Zealand is a champion for gender equality internationally and strongly supports the integration of gender perspectives and mainstreaming across all levels of climate change work. We are proud to have contributed to the development and implementation of the original GAP.

#### Areas of progress under the GAP

4 The introduction of the GAP was in and of itself an indication of progress under the Lima Work Programme on Gender. The GAP has increased the visibility of gender issues in the development and implementation of climate change policy and action, and has established concrete actions to address inequalities and imbalances.

5 Since 2013, sex-disaggregated data has been collated regularly on the membership of UNFCCC bureau, constituted bodies and national delegations and this information has been used to identify gender disparities and trigger efforts to address gender equality within the UNFCCC. One year into implementation of the GAP, for the first time, half of the constituted bodies had female representation of 38 per cent or more, and three constituted bodies had an equal number (48 or 50 per cent) of female and male members.

---

<sup>1</sup> UNFCCC Gender Action Plan, para 2  
POLI-386-3577

6 As a result of the GAP, training has been delivered across the UNFCCC to constituted bodies and Secretariat staff to ensure a coherent approach in integrating gender considerations into their work. Subsequently, information exchange on gender-responsive climate policy has continued through a range of mechanisms including online webinars and courses and in-session workshops during meetings, including Gender Day events and informal dialogues.

7 The collection of data on gender representation and the delivery of in-session workshops and other knowledge sharing platforms must continue to receive attention in the revised GAP to ensure ongoing progress.

### **New Zealand response to the GAP**

8 Gender balance is a traditional hallmark of New Zealand's UNFCCC delegations. At COP24, women made up 50% of NZ's delegation – officials and non-officials (compared to the average 37% in COP23 delegations), including the Head of Delegation who was also APA co-Chair, and a senior indigenous woman. The high level of representation of women on New Zealand's negotiating team illustrates structural gender equality.

9 New Zealand currently has gender relevant work programmes in a wide range of work related to climate change policy across central government, including:

- Strengthening gender-responsive policy making across government through a new gender analysis tool applicable to all new government policies, including climate policies
- Collecting more robust sex-disaggregated data by refining national guidelines that provide for non-binary and gender fluid people
- Actively supporting better engagement by women with science and technology through a new directory that promotes initiatives, programmes and associations through which young girls and women can "connect, discover and learn" about science, technology and engineering
- Investigating options for improving gender-responsive urban design, specifically low-carbon forms of transport
- Strengthening consideration of policy initiatives and programmes on rural communities, including acknowledging disproportionate impacts felt by rural women
- Considering how gender analysis can be more effectively incorporated in the design and delivery of New Zealand's climate-related support in the Pacific, in existing projects and specifically in recently announced new funding<sup>2</sup>
- Introduction of a progressive Trade For All Agenda which seeks to use trade policy to maximise opportunities and minimise risks for addressing global issues including climate change and gender equity.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/nz-boosts-support-climate-action-across-pacific>  
POLI-386-3577

**Areas for improvement for the GAP**

10 In addition to the focus on gender and climate change within the UNFCCC, the revised GAP should take into account gender and climate change work across other spheres of the UN and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a view to achieving greater coherence.

12 Priority areas under the revised GAP and the activities that sit under those priorities should be streamlined to ensure there is no duplication of activities across the plan. Greater streamlining will strengthen coherence of the GAP and will enable Parties to better demonstrate implementation. Given the strong linkages between capacity building and gender-responsive implementation, these priority areas in particular could be streamlined and activities across both could be integrated.

13 We support the suggestion in the co-facilitators' informal note that each priority area include a short explanation to enhance clarity and make the plan easier to understand for external audiences. If the plan is written in such a way as to be easily understood by external audiences, it will also be easier for Parties to interpret and use the plan themselves.

14 Activities outlined in the GAP should be designed to be specific and achievable, with actors and timeframes indicated where possible, to ensure that implementation is effective and able to be monitored.

15 We also support the suggestion put forward in the co-facilitators' informal note to extend the timeframe of the GAP to five years - achieving genuine and deep improvement in gender responsiveness takes time, as does monitoring the impacts of action plans. We see usefulness in the Secretariat producing, upon availability of resources, biannual reports on the implementation of the updated GAP.

**Areas for further work**

16 In addition to a focus on increasing gender balance through representation of women in constituted bodies and on national delegations, the revised GAP could also consider equality and empowerment in women's leadership, decision making, influence and voice across the UNFCCC. Efforts to improve gender balance could also encourage increased participation and training for men in UNFCCC gender work. Now that training has been delivered and there is a greater level of awareness on how to address gender inequities within climate change work, constituted bodies could work towards integrating gender-responsiveness across all their work.

17 The activities in the revised GAP should draw on principles enshrined in the Paris Agreement and in its work programme, and could also take further steps to support Parties in sharing knowledge and experience on gender-responsive implementation of the Paris Agreement, including specifically on:

- using gender-responsive policies to raise ambition of NDCs
- incorporating gender-responsive policies in the formulation of net-zero 2050 LT-LEDS
- adopting gender-responsive means of adaptation planning and implementation.

18 Specific attention should be given to links between fossil-fuel subsidy reform and gender-responsive climate action. Elimination of fossil fuel subsidies and adequate taxation of fossil fuels

would generate savings and revenues (at least US\$400 billion) that could be invested in domains that build resilience through gender empowerment. Further, redirection of fossil fuel subsidies into clean energy would have positive impacts on women's health issues associated with cooking fuels. We propose including in the revised GAP a reference to phasing out of fossil fuels and the reallocation of funding to support gender responsive climate action.

19 The revised GAP also should include a section on integrating a gender perspective into work towards just transition to low emissions economies and as well as on work being done with local communities and indigenous peoples.

### **Conclusion**

20 Parties should be pleased with the momentum and the increase in profile the GAP has achieved since its introduction. New Zealand looks forward to building on this positive progress. The revised GAP offers an opportunity to ensure continuation of the many valuable areas of work already established, and to complement this activity with further development and alignment to enhance gender-responsive implementation of the Paris Agreement.

21 We look forward to further discussions with Parties and observers at COP25 to ensure the GAP remains effective and continues to deliver positive change.