

SUBMISSION BY FRANCE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Subject : Submission for the mid-term review of the progress of implementation of the activities contained in the GAP

Paris, 31 March 2022

Summary Box

- The EU and its 27 Member States (MS) are committed to the ongoing implementation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP) and welcome the opportunity to highlight the progress of its MS in this area. We also appreciate the swift adaptation to a virtual mode-of-work by the UNFCCC Secretariat to the COVID-19 pandemic, which began shortly after the adoption of the Gender Action Plan in 2019.
- While the pandemic allowed for greater transboundary collaboration through remote-working across time zones, it exposed a deep digital divide and facilitated the regression of women's and girls' rights through the exacerbation of pre-existing inequalities, increased labour precarity, domestic violence, and caring responsibilities amongst other things. In times of crisis, attention can be taken away from issues deemed less pressing, thus Parties should consider how other unprecedented events like climate extremes might negate their national progress on gender equality in order to avoid what we have witnessed in the past two years.

Stocktake of the implementation by EU MS & notable improvements

Climate finance

- The EU MS and the Commission currently primarily support gender-responsive approaches in climate finance through bilateral partnerships and multilateral platforms like the NDC Partnership or the InsuResilience Initiative, which is captured through national reporting by some MS to bodies such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Progress in MS Implementation

- The approach to gender and climate change varies between MS and by policy type, with activities under area A (gender-mainstreaming, communications, training) most pursued, and activities D.4 (identification and capacity building of gender and climate experts) and D.7 (sex-disaggregated data) identified as the most difficult to implement.
- Czech Republic's 'Gender Equality Strategy' 2021-2030, and Spain's 'Strategic Plan for Men & Women Equality' 2022-2025, highlight successful mainstreaming of the gender-climate nexus through the inclusion of concrete actions and measures on climate change, fulfilling activities A.1, A.3, B.1, D.7.
- Looking beyond national borders, some MS such as Sweden, Denmark, France, Italy, and the Czech Republic have identified ongoing and planned support for the participation of women in decision-making processes such as the UNFCCC through the provision of funding for travel.

- Some EU MS have also utilised innovative communication tools in their implementation of activities A.3 and A.5, such as the publicly available online ‘Gender and Development’ MOOC launched by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in 2021.
- Stakeholder engagement features heavily in EU MS policy research and development, through international initiatives like Germany’s sponsorship of the InsuResilience Centre of Excellence for Gender-smart Solutions, Belgium’s ‘National Energy & Climate Plan’ 2021-2030, and a joint organised strategic dialogue between Sweden’s Gender Equality Agency and Environmental Protection Agency.
- Some MS like Italy and Austria have taken a ground-up approach to knowledge gathering and women’s participation through the promotion of women in STEAM subject areas.

Potential areas for improvement

- The EU and its MS support the continued use of hybrid and virtual meetings, such as the Virtual Market Place platform, which allowed for broader participation, the elimination of language barriers, and reduction in travel related GHG emissions during the pandemic. However, the importance of in-person meetings, remains.
- The ownership of the gender-climate nexus should be broadened, with increased attendance and participation of men in negotiations and high-level events. The EU and its MS also hope for greater gender balance in the nominations of High-Level Champions.
- The EU and its MS strongly urge the maintenance of agreed Paris-language on matters relating to gender across negotiation items.

Further work

- The GAP provides a robust roadmap for implementation. Focus now should be on its swift and complete implementation.
- The EU and its MS would be interested in further work on the following issues: the use of sex-disaggregated data in climate reporting; ensuring climate finance is gender-responsive; exchanges of information on gender-mainstreaming; and the careful management of timelines for meaningful implementation of activities.

We look forward to reading the informal summary report of the meetings held during COP26, and working with the Secretariat and other Parties on progressing gender equality in climate action.

The EU and its Member States (MS) acknowledge the progress accomplished so far under the enhanced Lima Work Programme (LWPG) and the Gender Action Plan (GAP), notwithstanding the pandemic and the delay of SB52-55 and COP26. We consider that following the adoption and implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Katowice Rulebook and the Glasgow Climate Pact there is increased scope for gender-responsive national and sectoral implementation.

The EU and its MS have actively participated in the development and implementation of the LWPG and its GAP, and we are committed to promoting a gender perspective in climate policies both domestically and internationally, and to supporting women’s empowerment and gender equality in international negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

With this submission, the EU responds to the call for submissions from COP26 on the progress of implementation of the activities contained in the GAP, areas for improvement and further work to be undertaken, including, as appropriate, information on the multidimensional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on progress, and consideration of other diverse challenges that may impact future implementation of the GAP at all levels.

1) The progress of implementation of GAP Activities

a) Good progress in mandated activities at the international level & appointment of NGCCFPs

The adoption of the GAP at COP25 was shortly followed by the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding the limitations on in-person meetings, good progress was achieved in activities mandated at international level, in part due to the swift reaction of the UNFCCC Secretariat and the organisation of mandated activities in a virtual mode.

The EU recognises the value of the appointment of National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points (NGCCFPs) by individual Parties as part of the implementation of the GAP, as each Party faces different risks and opportunities in tackling climate change. Moreover, it is a good initiative to bridge the gap between the international discussions and national policies. At the time of writing, 15 MS have appointed a NGCCFP and one EU MS sought a gender balance with the appointment of 2 NGCCFP. The EU and its MS recognise the added value for a NGCCFP to be in charge of other climate items, in that it allows for better outreach and enhanced mainstreaming, especially through the ability to connect with other negotiators and the head of delegation. On the other hand, such a cumulation of tasks and responsibilities often puts the role of NGCCFP to the side of their main occupation, and limits the possible engagement of the NGCCFP.

The EU and its MS wish to underline the progress made at international level on the fulfilment of GAP activity A.2 in particular, regarding the determination of recommended responsibilities for the role of NGCCFP. During the two-day in-session workshops held at COP26, Parties, including many of the EU MS, shared experiences and challenges specific to their contexts as they attempted to appoint and insert NGCCFPs into broader climate policy frameworks, highlighting the importance of the role remaining flexible to Party needs and capacities. We further think it is of interest and relevance to this submission to share some of the challenges identified, especially those which were noted as being shared by most of the Parties, due to majority agreement amongst participants. These challenges included: lack of resources - be it financial, organisational or technical; lack of understanding of the role amongst colleagues and different government ministries; and, lack of training at national level in advance of appointment. We look forward to reading the informal summary report, taking stock of various opportunities for the role and support given to NGCCFP, and hope this will encourage further Parties to nominate NGCCFPs.

The Secretariat has also organised a number of online resources and virtual training webinars which bridge some of these gaps, and the EU is particularly supportive of the approach taken to regional breakdowns in meeting times to ensure full participation in these webinars. The use of the Virtual Market Place online-platform was also welcomed as a valuable tool for NGCCFPs and gender-experts at Party-level to meet and discuss issues relating to the LWPG and the GAP both during and after COP26.

b) Progress on gender equality has been challenged globally by the COVID19 pandemic, including in EU

The EU and its MS are committed to the ongoing implementation of the LWPG and GAP and welcome the opportunity to highlight the progress of its MS in mainstreaming gender and introducing specific gender and climate policies and practices. However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on this progress cannot be underestimated. While it allowed for greater transboundary collaboration through remote-working and virtual conferencing, the digital divide meant that this participation was limited due to economic and geographical reasons beyond an individual's control.

More broadly, progress on achieving gender equality has been challenged globally by the COVID-19 pandemic, as the attention of decision-makers focused on specific public health measures to reduce the spread of the virus. In the background, a regression of women and girls' rights was enabled to spread across the world, including EU MS. Pre-existing inequalities such as wealth and social status were worsened, with women-dominated industries such as health care¹, social care and hospitality hit the hardest by the pandemic and with extended and multiple lockdowns.² Women were also forced to carry-out additional labour in the home due to school closures and

¹ Women represent 76% of total healthcare workers in the EU <https://eige.europa.eu/covid-19-and-gender-equality/essential-workers>

² 53% of hospitality workers are women <https://www.hotrec.eu/facts-figures-2/>

close-contact related absences, exacerbating the existing burden on women to carry-out most household duties alongside labour market participation.³

Despite the role of the home as a place of protection from infection through isolation and remote working, for many women it became a place of increased harm and danger. In the first 2 months of the pandemic as interactions outside the home were severely limited, EU MS which are part of the World Health Organisation reported a 60% increase in emergency calls reporting domestic violence.⁴

The above developments combined further prevented women and girls to fully take part in decision and engage in climate actions and adaptation to climate change. In a time of crisis, public and political attention can be focused on what is perceived to be most pressing issues, with others like gender equality side-lined due to biases and the lack of meaningful participation of women in decision making.⁵

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that gender equality is something that is easily lost if not continuously worked on and maintained and should serve as a warning for the potential impacts of other crises like climate change. Climate extremes can render populations immobile in their homes as they attempt to avoid direct risk from flooding, fires, or landslides, and national resources may be drawn from other services in order to respond.

As Parties continue their implementation of the GAP, it is important to consider how unprecedented events might negate their progress and plan ahead to avoid what we have witnessed in the past two years. This is also of acute relevance in the context of other unforeseen events and emergencies like conflict situations, and in particular the recent unprovoked military aggression by Russia against Ukraine condemned by the EU.

c) Stocktake of the implementation by EU MS Notable improvements in the EU and its MS

i. Gender in EU climate finance

The EU and its MS are one of the biggest donors in climate finance, including bilateral climate cooperation. Thus, the impact of EU and its MS contributions are of great impact for the broader implementation of the GAP. The EU MS and the Commission primarily support **gender-responsive approaches through their programmes for bilateral cooperation or through multilateral platforms** like the NDC-Partnership or the InsuResilience Initiative (Centre of Excellence for Gender-smart solutions). This has been monitored through the incorporation of gender budgeting in the annual reporting of many EU MS to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).⁶ In 2020, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), an autonomous body of the EU established to strengthen gender equality, published a toolkit for MS to incorporate gender-budgeting across their expenditure - including climate finance, on a voluntary basis. Paradoxically technical and financial support seems to be provided more easily outside of the EU than within the national contexts in the EU.

There is increasing awareness that funding and analysis mechanisms must be gender-responsive and inclusive. Since the agreement of the LWPG and GAP, significant efforts to increase gender impact assessments (GIA) and gender budgeting in financial reporting has been made. While GIA is not an institutionalised method, meaning that it is not a binding method for all MS to follow, many MS and the European Commission have incorporated it in their overall impact assessment frameworks and analysis.

<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/en/data-insights/young-people-and-women-hit-hard-by-jobs-crisis>

³ <https://eige.europa.eu/covid-19-and-gender-equality/unpaid-care-and-housework>

⁴ <https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m1872>

⁵ BMJ found 3.5% COVID-19 decision making groups in 87 UN states had gender parity <https://gh.bmj.com/content/5/10/e003549>

⁶ <https://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/gender-budgeting.htm>

ii. MS implementation of the GAP

The approach to gender and climate change varies between MS and by policy type. Gender-mainstreaming is most clearly underway in the planning and implementation of climate policies (contributing mostly to activities of area A), however EU MS are often pursuing gender responsive climate action through external funding partnerships, and sex-disaggregated data is the area where most improvement is required (contributing mostly to activities of area D).

Many MS are integrating gender in the **implementation of climate policies at the domestic level**. Gender responsiveness in EU climate policies is also evident in national plans for the post-COVID-19 recovery and initiatives for a just transition, such as the Just Transition Agreements which are being developed in Spain. The integration of gender analysis and gender responsive approach tends to be more systematic in the design of strategy on adaptation to climate change.

Activity D.7, on the availability of relevant **sex-disaggregated data, was identified as a shared challenge** even though some measures are being launched and implemented. This activity, together with D.4 (see below) are identified as the most difficult to implement in the EU as they require a combination of systemic change, capacity building, and awareness raising on the importance of gender-based analysis and sex-disaggregated data at a large scale. Although we are celebrating some progress the past few years, it remains difficult to implement it in a systematic way and sex-disaggregated data is still lacking in some sectoral areas. The coordination of action and collection of information on ongoing activities however is a burden inherent to successful gender-mainstreaming, where action is taken by multiple and various actors.

On capacity-building (A.3), Belgium and Spain have introduced specific gender-mainstreaming training for government employees and civil servants. Looking beyond national borders, some MS such as Sweden, Denmark, France, Italy, and the Czech Republic have identified ongoing and planned support for the participation of women in decision-making processes such as the UNFCCC through the provision of funding for travel.

Some MS are fulfilling their mandates under multiple activities through ad-hoc processes, with plans to formalise them going forward. This covers: interactions between the NGCCFPs and experts in other relevant ministries and sectors; engagement with stakeholders and civil-society groups; and use of social media and online communication tools.

An overarching gender strategy for gender-policy and human rights based approach appears to be a key lever in this regard. The passing of the EU's new Cohesion Policy Regulation 2021-2027 in 2021 mandates all MS and the European Commission to take into account gender-mainstreaming throughout preparation, implementation, reporting and evaluation of programmes, as a 'horizontal principle'.

Endorsing Presidency of groups like the G20 and the G7 by Germany, France, and Italy has also provided a real opportunity to take leadership for various activities of the GAP (A.5, D.5, D.7), and enabled environments which facilitate the implementation of the GAP. This covers, for example, the awareness raising and ownership of the gender-climate nexus, combatting the perception that gender equality and empowerment of women is a developing country issue, and encouraging states to be accountable for this cross-cutting issue.

Many MS have taken a cross-cutting approach to the GAP, with individual policies fulfilling multiple activities in ongoing and planned actions. A selection of such policies is provided below.

- **Domestic action within the EU implementing activities (A.1, A.3, B.1, D.7) on gender-climate mainstreaming**

'Gender Equality Strategy' 2021-2030, Czech Republic

In 2021 the Czech Republic adopted a new Gender Equality Strategy (2021-2030), which stresses the importance of incorporating the perspective of gender equality into the agenda of environmental protection and transport policy by supporting projects relating to the gender-climate nexus. Gender equality is also now considered a cross-cutting principle in subsidy programmes under the Ministry of the Environment.

Another strategic objective focuses on *'Boosting the capacity and powers of other state authorities and local governments to apply a cross-cutting perspective of gender equality'*, and to achieve this the Czech Government has committed to a comprehensive gender-mainstreaming and capacity building programme across all Ministries – including in the Ministry of the Environment. Alongside regular working group meetings and training on gender-impact assessment methodology, the Government is also engaging with external experts on gender equality.

'Strategic Plan for Men & Women Equality' 2022-2025, Spain

Spain's recently adopted Strategic Plan for Men and Women Equality (2022-2025) includes concrete measures to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed in the formulation of legislation, plans and other strategic documentation across policy items – including climate change and the ecological transition.

Activities in this context include but are not limited to: the elaboration of a periodic publication about women in the ecological transition (including sex-disaggregated data and use of gender indicators); the incorporation of the gender perspectives in the analysis of the impacts of climate change; and the integration of a gender dimension in systems for collecting and analysing information on plans, programmes and projects for the protection and improvement of the environment, climate change adaptation, and the fight against territorial depopulation.

Alongside this Plan, the Institute for Just Transition – with resources provided by the Recovery, Resilience and Transformation Plan of Spain – will provide €45.5 million for the adaptation of infrastructures (especially social, environmental and digital infrastructure) and facilities in areas affected by rural depopulation and just transition. The aim of this project is to facilitate women's effective freedom of residence in the territory, with special attention to guaranteeing co-responsible reconciliation inside and outside the home through the development of the new care economy, and facilitating women's entrepreneurship.

- **Domestic action within the EU implementing activities (A.3, A.5) on capacity building through innovative communications tools**

'MOOC Gender and Development' 2021, France

In 2021, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Expertise France and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs launched the first edition of a specialized *'Gender and Development'* Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). MOOCs are publicly available, online educational courses which allow for the participation of a broader audience than traditional institutional courses.

In its lesson plans and presentations it seeks to promote a gender-mainstreaming approach in the practices of cooperation and development professionals, while devoting a large place to climate-specific policies, programs and issues. The MOOC, based on concrete, evidence-based examples, explores and offers theoretical and practical methods, along with tools for gender mainstreaming in three core areas: organisations, public policies and development projects.

- **Domestic action within the EU implementing activities (A.1, D.4, D.5) on stakeholders key to research and policy development**

'InsuResilience Centre of Excellence for Gender-smart Solutions' planned, Germany

The activities of the German-funded InsuResilience Centre of Excellence for Gender-smart Solutions (CoE) fulfil a number of GAP activities through their planned and ongoing actions. The membership of InsuResilience's overarching Gender Working Group is made up of a variety of stakeholders including women's civil society groups. A key priority area of the CoE is capacity building, which currently includes sponsorship of a leadership program hosted by Women's World Banking, with plans to develop a follow up coaching opportunity and advisory facility in 2022.

The CoE conducts aggregate research and knowledge development through the contributions of the members of the InsuResilience Global Partnership and relevant partners, as well as when commissioned by the InsuResilience Secretariat. In 2023 the CoE will launch an expert directory to aggregate all experts working on the topics of Gender and Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance. A study on understanding poverty-related barriers to access financial mechanism will also be jointly developed with Mahila Housing Trust, a grassroots organization focused on gender equality in the sector.

‘National Energy & Climate Plan’ 2021-2030, Belgium

In the continuous development of Belgium’s recently adopted National Climate and Energy Plan (NECP) (2021-2030), inputs from the Advisory Board on Gender and Development have been gathered to further enhance gender-responsive climate policies, strategies and action. Discussions are currently underway as to how to update the NECP on foot of these inputs.

Internationally, Belgium also provides gender-mainstreaming and inclusion support to the State of Palestine through the NDC Partnership, and in the context of the Sahel Climate Portfolio.

Joint organised strategic dialogue between the Gender Equality Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden

As part of Sweden’s overarching gender-mainstreaming approach to public policy making in government ministries (JiM), collaborative actions are encouraged between ministries and agencies to fully explore the gender-climate nexus and bridge the gap in specific expertises. This has led to, among other things, a joint organised strategic dialogue between the Gender Equality Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency, on gender and climate change and support for gender mainstreaming in the development of Sweden’s national climate action plans.

○ **Domestic action within the EU implementing activities (A.3, D.3) on the ground-up approach to increased knowledge gathering & women’s participation**

Promotion of women in ‘STEAM’ areas (science, technology, engineering, art, maths), Italy

As part of its first National Strategy for Gender Equality, Italy has taken a ground-up approach to the issues of knowledge gathering and women’s participation through their promotion of women and girls in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, maths) subjects across educational levels.

The promotion of a more gender-inclusive participation in these areas not only works to build technical knowledge and capacity building, but also a broader understanding and appreciation of the science and impacts of climate change.

FEMtech initiative, Austria

The Austrian initiative FEMtech supports women in research and technology and promotes equal opportunities in industrial and non-university-research, at universities of applied sciences and in focus areas of research and technology. By increasing the share of women and improving their professional position in these facilities, FEMtech strives to contribute towards the increased realization of female innovative potential and more equal opportunities for women and men in society.

FEMtech supports activities designed to raise awareness and enhance the visibility of women in research and technology. Activities include: FEMtech's database of female experts, FEMtech's female expert of the month, FEMtech's networking meeting, FEMtech knowledge.

iii. EU external action implementing activities A1, A4, D2, D3, D5

The EU’s previous submission on activity A.4⁷ presented progress made through the third Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021–2025 (GAP III) of the EU Commission, welcomed through Presidency Conclusions by 24 Member States. The GAP III centres on five pillars:

1. Introduction of stringent rules for applying and monitoring gender-mainstreaming across all sectors, with 85% of all new actions contributing to gender equality and women’s empowerment;
2. Development of a shared strategic vision and cooperation amongst MS;
3. A focus on key thematic issues in activities with full integration into the green transition, digital transformation, and security frameworks, these issues include: gender-based violence (GBV); healthcare; sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR); education; participation and leadership; and the economic, social, and political empowerment of women and girls;
4. Leading by example through gender-responsive and gender-balanced leadership at top political

⁷ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/202111090956---SI-11-09-2021%20EU%20Submission%20on%20Gender.pdf>

- and management levels;
5. A stronger focus on monitoring and evaluation and measuring results.

As the GAP III is still ongoing, no assessment is available at this point of time. A comprehensive, solutions-based approach to tackling gender inequalities is key to progress, and the EU has sought to achieve this by complementing overarching policies with individual MS actions and activities.

2) Potential areas of improvement in current work

We appreciate the opportunity to reflect on the first two years of the implementation of the GAP, so as to strive for meaningful and outcome oriented implementation of the GAP in the coming years.

a) Consider hybrid and virtual meetings for inclusiveness

The EU and its MS welcome the inclusive approach that the Secretariat has taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, through frequent communications with Parties and NGCCFPs and the organisation of online workshops fulfilling mandated activities. These online workshops allowed for broader participation in GAP activities in comparison to previous years where interactions required attendance in person. We noticed greater diversification in regional representation, and the attendance of multiple ministries from a single Party and stakeholders, which facilitated richer discussions and deeper understandings of the gender-climate nexus.

Thus, this flexibility might be relevant to consider for the implementation of the GAP in the second period of its duration. However, online activities should not substitute in-person meetings, because the access to virtual meeting is technically challenging in some regions.

The EU particularly welcomed the dedicated time to regional meetings of NGCCFPs, and would advocate for their continued use in the implementation of the GAP. Furthermore, the language and travel barriers could be overcome more easily with regional webinars, and the reduction of participant's GHG emissions due to their virtual nature is most welcomed. Regarding the enhanced role of the NGCCFPs, the EU noted that the webinars proposed to support the continued implementation of the GAP during the COVID19 pandemic added some regionalisation of the meetings. These networking opportunities with other NGCCFPs from the same region proved to be very helpful and could be maintained, as Parties often share similar challenges and levers. The Virtual Market Place online platform is a valuable tool that we think should be more broadly and often used in this matter.

b) Broaden ownership of the gender-climate nexus

Gender equality is not an issue which can be solely dealt with by women representatives and policy makers, it requires appreciation across gender lines in order for it to be meaningfully achieved. We reiterate that gender issues do not reflect on nor concern only women and girls, although some still refer to gender as a "women's issue". In the spirit of gender-mainstreaming, the EU and its MS would suggest that the ownership of this issue be broadened, with greater attendance of and participation by men in the gender negotiations and High-Level events at UNFCCC level during Gender Day - in the audience and list of speakers.

By directly interacting with those who may not be as aware of the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and girls, we can prepare for and prevent barriers to further gender-mainstreaming by increasing knowledge and understanding of the urgency of the issue. The EU and its MS hope for further gender balanced nominations of High-Level Champions in the future.

c) Ensure continuous progress of gender equality and empowerment of women in other items

Attempts to regress on both gender equality and women empowerment in other negotiating rooms at COP26 in Glasgow were noted. Maintaining agreed language from the Paris Agreement on these matters should not be a point of discussion and we therefore insist on continuous training of the members of the constituted bodies, to ensure full implementation of the GAP also throughout the works of the Constituted Bodies. We believe that a broader ownership of the Gender Day high-level event could meaningfully alleviate such obstacles.

3) Further work to be undertaken on specific activity areas

The GAP of the LWPG provides a robust roadmap for the period 2019-2024. Thus, the EU and its MS want to strive for the swift and full implementation of the GAP.

On a general point, the EU and its MS notes that different Parties will take different approaches in their efforts to broaden the ownership of the gender issue, and this is clearly demonstrated in recent developments by some Parties in their interpretation of the definition of gender at a national level. Since the beginning of the GAP, some Parties broadened their understanding of gender beyond the binary definition in their submissions. The EU and its MS recognise that effects of climate change and environmental degradation are felt most acutely by women and girls, as well as other segments of the population who contribute the least to them and who are in vulnerable or marginalized situations, owing to intersecting factors such as geography, poverty, age, sexual orientation and gender identity indigenous or minority status, socio-economic or health situation, national or social origin, birth or other status as well as disability.⁸ Policy and action need to consider the importance of integrating a gender perspective in this regard.

There is however a persistent evidence-gap which limits the possibilities of linking the differentiated impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups such as those mentioned above which should be bridged.

a) Which sex-disaggregated data could support better climate reporting?

Activity A.1 of the GAP reads “A.1 Strengthen capacity-building efforts for governments and other stakeholders in mainstreaming gender in formulating, monitoring, implementing and reviewing, as appropriate, national climate change policies, plans, strategies and action, including nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and national communications”. The capacity for governments to integrate gender aspects in the full life cycle of climate policies relies *inter alia* on the availability and efficient use of sex-disaggregated data. The special focus on this issue was previously mentioned in the EU submission from 2019.⁹

The modalities, procedures and guidelines for the Enhanced Transparency Framework were agreed by Parties in COP24 (Katowice) by decision 18/CMA.1. The final operational guidance, including the common reporting tables, common tabular formats and outlines for use in reporting the biennial transparency report (BTR) were agreed at CMA3 (Glasgow). As preparations for the first round of BTRs are about to start, exchanges of best practices and experience on how best integrate gender aspects and reporting of sex-disaggregated data in the BTR and in national communications would be of interest to the EU.

The EU and its MS would further welcome the exploration of how gender could be reflected in the Global Stocktake, as a new reporting process underway since the beginning of this GAP.

b) How to ensure climate finance is gender responsive?

Ensuring the gender-responsiveness of climate finance is another key enabler for efficient climate policies, and thus it featured heavily during the previous round of negotiations at COP26. In keeping with the mandates of the GAP, the EU and its MS think that gender equality and empowerment of women should be mainstreamed in all areas of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, including climate finance.

Thus we think that this important topic, in consideration of the call in decision 13/CP.26 para 13 “Encourages Parties to be more explicit about the gender-responsiveness of climate finance with a view to strengthening the

⁸ Situations of crisis and disaster, exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities and increase multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence against all women and girls in diverse situations and conditions, namely those living in poverty, indigenous women, rural women, women belonging to ethnic, racial and religious minorities, women with disabilities, women refugees and asylum seekers, internally displaced, stateless and migrant women, young and older women and LGBTI women who are often affected disproportionately. The EU recognizes that climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities within and among countries with direct and indirect implications for the human rights and well-being of current and future generations of young persons, in particular girls.

⁹ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/201909061031---FI-09-06%20EU%20submission%20on%20Gender.pdf>

capacity of women and furthering work under the GAP in order to facilitate access to climate finance for grass-roots women's organizations as well as for indigenous peoples and local communities", and encompassed in the activity D.2¹⁰ of the GAP, would benefit from the increased nomination of NGCCFPs, and the close collaboration and exchange of the finance negotiators with their NGCCFP.

c) Exchange on gender-mainstreaming in the implementation of Paris Agreement

Due to significant progress made in recent years, we are now reaching a point where Parties and the Secretariat can implement activity D.6 "Exchange information on lessons learned among Parties that have integrated gender into national climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate (e.g. information on results, impacts and main challenges), and on the actions that Parties are taking to mainstream gender in any updates thereto, as appropriate".

We think the gathering of lessons learnt and critical assessments are now more feasible after domestic planning and implementation of climate policies. Against this background, we would support continued exchanges on gender mainstream in the implementation of climate policies, welcoming the key findings related to gender included in the synthesis report of NDC by the UNFCCC Secretariat¹¹ while looking beyond NDCs to include other policies and sources of information to understand the progress made in this regard.

d) Provide enough time and attention to the choice of timeline for meaningful implementation of a potential future GAP

When the current GAP was discussed, the high expectations and motivation in the discussions resulted in a timeline of activities largely concentrated in the first years of the duration of the GAP. While the eagerness to advance the implementation of the GAP as quick as possible is perfectly understandable, balancing the timeline and ensuring activities throughout the whole duration is better in our view. The effective implementation of the activities and analysis of the domestic depends on timing, especially with the experience of the unprecedented COVID19 pandemic. Therefore, we are of the view that more time should be given in the future on the design of such action plans.

¹⁰ D.2 "Raise awareness of the financial and technical support available for promoting the strengthening of gender integration into climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate, including good practices to facilitate access to climate finance for grass-roots women's organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities."

¹¹ FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/8/Rev.1