

**SUBMISSION BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN  
GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS (AGN)**

**ON**

**INPUTS ON PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, GAPS, AND PRIORITIES IN  
IMPLEMENTING THE GENDER ACTION PLAN, CATEGORIZED BY  
DELIVERABLE OR OUTPUT FOR EACH ACTIVITY UNDER THE GENDER  
ACTION PLAN, AND ON FUTURE WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON GENDER AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE**

**UNFCCC Open Call for submissions directly related to the implementation of the Gender  
Action Plan**

**Introduction**

The African Group, in response to the invitation by COP 28, welcomes the opportunity to provide its views regarding information of Parties, United Nations entities, the UNFCCC constituted bodies and relevant organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities, to submit via the submission portal by 31 March 2024 their inputs on progress, challenges, gaps, and priorities in implementing the gender action plan, categorized by deliverable or output for each activity under the gender action plan, and on future work to be undertaken on gender and climate change, with a view to the submissions informing the review referred to in paragraph below;

- Request the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to initiate the final review of the implementation of the enhanced Lima work programmed on gender and its gender action plan at its sixtieth session (June 2024), identifying progress, challenges, gaps and priorities, with a view to concluding the review at its sixty-first session (November 2024);

The UNFCCC adopted the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Plan of Action in 2019. The Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) was launched in 2014. In 2016, the LWPG was extended for three years, and a two-year Gender Action Plan (GAP) was adopted in 2017. In 2019, the implementation of the LWPG and GAP was reviewed, and a five-year Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan 3 (Decision 3/CP.25) was adopted at COP25. In 2022, the Parties to the UNFCCC concluded the review of the Action Plan, where some of the priority areas were strengthened (Decision 24/CP.27). The revision included amendments to some deliverables and three new activities in priority areas B, C and E (Decision 24/CP.27). LWPG GAP Priority Areas The current Gender Action Plan has 5 priority areas, 24 activities and 40 expected results.

The priority areas are: (i) Capacity building, knowledge management and communication; (ii) Gender balance, participation and women's leadership; (iii) Coherence; (iv) Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation; and (v) Monitoring and reporting. Countries agreed to submit information on efforts and measures taken to implement the enhanced version of the Lima Gender Work Programme and its Plan of Action in their national reports submitted in the context of the UNFCCC process.

At COP27, Parties adopted the mid-term review of the implementation of the five-year Gender Action Plan (GAP), including amendments to its activities (see Decision 24/CP.27, paragraph 20). It is expected that Parties will be able to agree on a new Gender at COP29 in 2024, building on the version decided in 2022. As part of the preparatory efforts, the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2023 (SB58) considers the synthesis report on the "Joint dialogue on advancing the leadership and highlighting the solutions of local communities and indigenous women in climate policy and action". It holds an expert meeting to share experiences and support capacity building on gender-responsive budgeting, including the integration of gender-responsive budgeting into national budgets to promote gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and actions, as appropriate. During the recent COP 28 in Dubai, at the SBI, 59 parties requested the Subsidiary Body to initiate the final review of the implementation of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan at its 60th session (June 2024), identifying progress, challenges, gaps and priorities, to conclude the review at its 61st session (November 2024).

The African Group takes cognizance of the Gender Action Plan and recommends financing its remaining activities to achieve equity and inclusion by implementing gender-sensitive climate action activities that address the priorities of indigenous people's rights and local communities. The implementation of the GAP should help achieve a just transition by advocating for the rights of women and girls in climate action efforts, which will ensure their full participation and leadership.

### **Recommendations for the priority areas of the GAP;**

African Group requests financial and technical resources for the implementation of activities **A.1**, **2 3** as well as **5** for relevant partners and organization and the UNFCCC Secretariat to link AGN and individual parties both at the regional and national level in implementing such activities. The African Group also requests by COP 30 to assess and determine implementation gaps if any; this would further inform the next steps during the final review of the GAP.

**A.2** and **A.5** relevant organizations are leading, and the secretarial and gender focal points are contributors. The implementation includes the international level, the African Group requests funding agencies of the UNFCCC and all other funds, as well as multilateral and bi-lateral agencies.

**B.2** is key for the African Group as Gender focal points do not always have access to sustainable funding to attend UNFCCC negotiating processes which is an important component to increase women's participation at International, regional, national levels. The Group requests the provision of financial and technical support to enable the implementation of this activity.

**C.1** is important for women's participation at SBs and COPs; therefore, more emphasis on the implementation of B.2 and all other priority areas listed above is essential.

**D.2** Raising awareness is of paramount importance because before individuals practice and carryout activities of the GAP they must be aware of the importance of those activities. Public awareness entails broad consultations for better coverage from policy and decision-makers to the grassroots level. The African Group requests financial and technical support to enable the implementation of this important activity. The integration of gender into various administrative levels at the national and regional levels would raise awareness at local, sub-regional and national levels and will further enhance transparency on why and what is being negotiated under the process.

**D.3** would promote the deployment gender sensitive technologies, taking into account indigenous knowledge and other traditions at local levels. The Group requests technical support from the secretariat to consult and collaborate with relevant organizations, organize at the local, national, grassroots and regional levels, and gain first-hand information on what is available and the gaps that need to be filled. This will promote the development of the required gender-sensitive technologies.

**D.4** Roster of Gender experts is key and required at all levels. The African Group with support from financial institutions both at the multilateral and bi-lateral levels and in collaboration with relevant organizations; the organize and enumerate gender experts and involve them in ongoing activities of the GAP. This will bring in new expertise and different ideas and perspectives as we are in a global setting. The AGN's gender experts should be part of resources for workshops and dialogues identified in the GAP

**D.5** Engaging women's groups in various administrative bureaucracy is important for the African Group , and when women's voices are heard the better their problems will be understood and solved, There are financial implications in all particularly this process. Therefore, the AGN will implement this activity conditioned to the financial commitment from the various funds under the UNFCCC and other relevant organizations. The AGN requests the provision of financial and technical support to enable the implementation of this activity

**D.6** Information exchange and lessons learnt among parties in integrating gender in all administrative processes would benefit the Group. Since any inclusion in the administrative process should be budgeted and resources allocated. As a developing continent to the UNFCCC process, and considering Article 9 of the Paris Agreement, commitment of financial and technical resources is required.

**D.7** The Group reiterates the importance of complete and authentic data and disaggregated data to achieve both quantitative and qualitative data for many different interventions and would inform decision-making in many areas. Data collection, assessment, and analysis are both financial and technical resources that are required and time-consuming. Relevant organizations and parties are taking the lead in this activity, and the implementation of this activity is conditional on the availability of financial resources from the SBI and relevant organizations.

The African Group requests the COP & CMA to reach a decision that requests the UNFCCC Secretariat to consider continuing to implement every decision that has been adopted on gender starting from the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995); 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development; At COP21; COP22; as well as gender equality and climate change in decisions and conclusions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; COP7, decision 36/CP.7 (2001), COP16, decision 1/CP.16 (2010); COP18, decision 23/CP.18 (2012); COP20, decision 18/CP.20; COP21 Paris Agreement (2015). It is imperative to consider trends in gender-responsive climate finance and make efforts to commit finances to gender activities to improve the gender-responsiveness of climate action in accordance with the expected progressive climate ambition.

The adverse effects of climate change require both mitigation activities to reduce greenhouse gases causing climate change and adaptation activities to create resilience and build adaptive capacity to the adverse effects. Women and youth require adaptation measures as they are affected by climate change impacts differently in the continent. Integrating gender perspective in adaptation activities is critical, particularly through the Global Goal for Adaptation (GGA), given that the adverse effects of climate change disproportionately impact African women and can play a crucial role in adaptation efforts.

It is also essential to ensure that interventions respond to the gender-specific needs of African women and girls, do not exacerbate inequalities, and should contribute to empowering women to drive change at all levels of the adaptation process.

The AGN further acknowledges that data is critical in implementing the gender agenda in the UNFCCC processes and outcomes. Gender and sex-disaggregated data and capacity building for members of constituted bodies are very critical to ensure the implementation of gender-related mandates and integration of gender throughout their work.

## **Challenges**

The African Group confirming its participation in the UNFCCC process reminds the Gender constituency mandates of all the paragraphs of Article 4 of the convention and all paragraphs of Article 9 of the Paris Agreement, considering that the Paris Agreement enhances the Convention. In this regard, developed countries must take the lead in providing financial and technical resources for the full implementation of the activities contained in the GAP before the agreement on the next implementation of gender.

The Group takes into account Articles 4.1 paragraph (e) and 4.8 paragraphs (a through i); and Article 4.4 of the Convention. The vulnerabilities of Africa cannot be over emphasized; therefore, we are calling Annex II and Annex Parties to provide the required resources for the effective and efficient implementation of the remaining activities of the GAP and beyond. The interpretation of including Gender in National plans, strategies and policies without financial resources have effects on African countries as it implies that Africa would be funding its own activities, thus shifting resources meant for developmental purposes to climate change and gender as opposed to Developed countries taking the lead as contained both the Paris Agreement and the Convention. The continent will be burdened as most resources prioritize other sectors like health, education, water, agriculture, and the list continues. The African Continent does not have enough resources, both financial and technical, to fully implement activities of the GAP, including relevant expertise and capacity in various ministries and institutions for the analysis of gender, which is minimal and or lacking.

**D.2** To implement this activity, there is limited knowledge on advocacy of gender mainstreaming approaches, and gender-responsive laws, policies, guidelines, plans, and programmes are inconsistent. Domestic budgets are expected to allocate funds. However, the sources of those budgets are not specified.

**B.2** Africa 's Gender focal points are not fully supported financially and technically by the UNFCCC to participate in SBs and COPs, and there is limited or lack of financial support to implement activities as mandated in the Lima Work Programme on Gender.

### **Recommendations for the Next Gender**

The African Group, with experience from GAP, have had enough workshops and dialogues without recommendations for implementation and the provision of financial and technical resources. The GAP has 40 activities with timelines and responsible entities; what is lacking in the GAP is how they will be implemented.

Therefore, the next gender must be implemented, and action must be taken on gender and not a plan. Provision of financial and technical support to implement the remaining activities that were not implemented in the GAP, as well as implementing the following for more inclusive, transparent and effective gender climate action, is crucial;

- **Support** the AGN national focal points and other stakeholders by their building capacities; sharing best practices with other parties; knowledge sharing at all levels; technology transfer; tools on design; women participation in technology transfer in the formulation of project/programmes design and implementation; establish differentiated adverse negative impacts between men and women; gender focal points and others are encouraged and supported to attend regional and international meetings; African women and youths to implement gender-responsive climate actions at the national levels; development of guidelines and tools for the inclusion of gender perspectives at different and various levels; domestication of the next gender after being agreed since many African countries are struggling to domesticate the current GAP.
- Effective coordination among relevant stakeholders is needed, particularly when organizing and implementing dialogue and workshops; the African group requests to be consulted and include African gender experts by informing on the calls in the selection of resource persons.
- Request that the LWPG and the next gender provide resources to document and provide evidence of the measures countries have taken to include gender and social inclusion in climate agendas.

- Request the LWPG and the next gender to encourage countries to harmonize/articulate between climate instruments (e.g. NDC, national adaptation plans, long-term strategies) as well as provide financial resources to implement sustained inclusion.
- Request that the LWPG and GAP include activities that support the implementation of national gender and climate change commitments.

The African Group takes note of the efforts and actions to increase the representation of women in the UNFCCC conferences and negotiations. It calls for consistent tracking and disaggregation of delegations' officials' and UNFCCC staff data alongside efforts towards inclusivity across the board.

The Group calls for enhanced gender-responsive budgeting in climate policies and actions. Further, AGN supports capacity building of women from local communities and indigenous women in regard to national, regional, continental, and international negotiations and representation as appropriate. The AGN would like to adopt concrete targets for dedicated funding for gender and climate change alongside gender mainstreaming, which requires finances to be committed to for effective climate action.

Effective accountability and transparency of climate finance tracking gender-responsiveness funding must be implemented and measured through regular UNFCCC/PA reporting processes. These measures would ensure women's effective and meaningful participation at all levels of decision-making on climate change, at the local, national, regional, and global levels. Indigenous (local) knowledge is important and should be considered and mainstreamed in national policies and local-level decision-making to build trust with women and girls.

In addition, incorporating indigenous knowledge in national policies helps to strengthen and develop climate change resilience and adaptive capacity. Women's chores within the household are immense and time-consuming; therefore, providing environmentally friendly, safe and accessible technologies using, where possible, affordable renewable energies. It is also important to ensure that there is an increase in women's participation and capacity (education, awareness, and training) at all levels to ensure that gender-inclusive policies are implemented.

## **Gaps in the GAP**

The GAP does not consider how and by whom its 40 activities will be funded. This is a big gap that should be considered in the next gender and addressed.

The several dialogues and workshops implemented by other organizations without consultation with the African Group on the topics, selected resource persons and the inclusion of relevant stakeholders in the region. Results of these dialogues and workshops are not implemented due to lack of consultation.