

# United Nations Framework for Climate Change

## Gender Action Plan



Written submission of the  
Republic of the Marshall Islands

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## Introduction

1. Pursuant to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan for the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), this document serves to outline the strategic approaches and mechanisms adopted to integrate gender considerations into climate policies, strategies, and actions.
2. We have comprehensively reviewed the policies in place in RMI that aim at ensuring that gender equality and human rights are at the core of climate action within the RMI. This has involved an extensive analysis of existing climate strategies, policies, and the National Adaptation Plan (2023), “the Coordinated Approach to Mainstreaming Gender into Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Interventions” (2023), alongside the following documents: “RMI Gender and Human Rights Analysis: Ensuring a gender-responsive National Adaptation Plan in the Republic” (2021), 2020-2030 National Strategic Plan (2021), the “Gender Equality Act” (2019), and Tile Til Eo 2050 Climate Strategy “Lighting the Way” (2018), Ministry of Environment Act (2018).
3. These initiatives have been bolstered by a comprehensive capacity-building effort that sought to leverage local, national, and regional expertise, incorporating local input. This has been done through various online training sessions on understanding gender equity and social inclusion with practical examples suitable to RMI context for key stakeholders and Tile Til Eo Working Group members. The aim of the training has been to apply global principles on gender to the local context, including by ensuring that RMI has used appropriate consultative methodologies in engaging vulnerable groups in providing input into NAP planning and implementation.
4. These efforts are informed by a recognition of the critical role that gender-responsive measures play in enhancing the effectiveness and inclusivity of climate action in the Republic of Marshall Islands. Through this submission, RMI reaffirms its commitment to advancing gender-responsive climate policies, thereby contributing to the sustainable development goals and the broader objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The following sections provide specific recommendations and objectives that RMI aims to implement in its climate policy.

### **I. Strengthening efforts of the government in mainstreaming gender across policies, strategies and action (A.1, A.2).**

5. Building on its 2015 National Gender Mainstreaming Policy (2015), Tile Til Eo 2050 Climate Strategy “Lighting the Way” (2018) and the Gender Equality Act (2019), the RMI redefined its approach to increase its emphasis on gender mainstreaming and human rights

integration within its national climate strategies, including the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and other key policy frameworks.

6. In 2021, RMI began to reassess its institutional arrangements for climate governance, particularly focusing on the structure and mandate of the Tile Til Eo Committee (TTEC). This reevaluation aimed to enhance the collaboration between high-level stakeholders and on-the-ground experts in climate, gender, and human rights, facilitated by various official working groups. These groups were instrumental in mobilizing resources and technical assistance for implementing climate priorities that are sensitive to gender and human rights considerations.
7. The RMI government, through the NDC Partnership, sought to enhance gender and human rights considerations within its climate mitigation strategies. Recommendations included establishing linkages with relevant ministries, improving policymakers' capacity to integrate gender and human rights, and ensuring adequate budget allocations for gender and human rights activities. This initiative was complemented by policy recommendations based on the analysis of the strengths and challenges, highlighting the achievements in participatory approaches and the continued integration of gender equality policies in climate mitigation efforts, identified by the NDC Partnership.
8. The stakeholder engagement strategy for the NAP emphasized the need for high-level political support and the inclusion of gender experts to ensure the findings informed gender-responsive NAP activities. The invitation to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group to collaborate and co-host a dialogue marked a critical step towards advancing the leadership of local communities and women in climate policy and action. This dialogue was aimed at not only showcasing the solutions pioneered by these communities but also exploring avenues to enhance their effective participation within the climate change discourse.
9. Recommendations stemming from the Gender and Human Rights Assessment of RMI's Climate Change Mitigation Policy and Planning Instruments led to NGOs and grassroots organizations to engage in decision-making processes and enabled the collection of disaggregated data. NGOs and grassroots organizations coordinated with the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MOCIA), the Human Rights Committee (HRC), and Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI), establishing gender-balanced participatory mechanisms and inclusive policies.

## **II. Evidence based and sex-disaggregated data for gender sensitive policies and climate action (A.3, A.4)**

10. The recommendations arising from the Gender and Human Rights Assessment of RMI's Climate Change Mitigation Policy and Planning Instruments underscored the need for an enhanced focus on the collection and utilization of sex-disaggregated data and gender analyses. This focus was crucial for informing policy planning and implementation, ensuring that climate actions are both equitable and effective.
11. The publication of RMI's Adaptation Communication at the end of 2020 marked a significant step in updating the understanding of the national policy and institutional landscape regarding climate action. This document, along with key policy instruments like the National Gender Mainstreaming Policy and the Tile Til Eo 2050 Climate Strategy, set a precedent for incorporating gender responsiveness and human rights as foundational elements in climate action. These policies advocated for an inclusive approach to climate strategy, promoting gender equality and ensuring that women have equal opportunities in the design and implementation of climate-related initiatives.
12. Strengthening the evidence base and understanding of the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women, alongside recognizing the pivotal role of women as agents of change, is essential for RMI. This is reflected in a gender-responsive NAP that acknowledges gender differences in adaptation needs, ensures equitable participation in decision-making processes, and calls for equal access to financial resources and benefits from adaptation investments. Tools such as the Toolkit for a Gender Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement NAPs offered guidance, emphasizing the importance of inclusive vulnerability assessments and the active involvement of diverse social groups in the NAP process.
13. As facilitated by the International Organization of Migration (IOM), the NAP included the Community Consultations, partnered with WUTMI, and had a WUTMI representative at the community consultations to meet with women's groups. This furthered the integration of women's perspectives in the development of gender policies.
14. While the National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2030 did not have specific focus on Gender; it captured gender analysis under Pillar 1: Social and Culture and Target Area 3: Social Justice and Inclusion. The NSP also called to integrate gender and human rights considerations into activities such as the development, adoption, review, and implementation of laws, policies, and climate change projects. Additionally, the strategy committed to conducting additional analysis to enhance data collection, monitoring, and evaluation related to these issues and to establish a strategy for improvement.
15. Operationalizing these policies through the NDC Partnership Plan, which was strategically aligned with RMI's climate and gender objectives, highlighted the importance of focusing

on gender-differentiated impacts and human rights in the adaptation process. This approach was critical in a country facing unique challenges due to its historical background, where the remnants of war and ongoing military activities disproportionately affect women.

### **III. Empowerment and capacity building for the participation of women delegates and youth (A.5, B.1)**

16. Training sessions on gender, aimed at enhancing the capacity of Working Groups (WGs) involved in the development of the NAP and broader climate initiatives, represented a step toward building a more gender-responsive climate action framework. Establishing a dedicated fund for the training of women officials, through advanced degrees or internships in international organizations, was proposed as a strategy to embed gender considerations deeply within climate policies and practices, highlighting the tangible benefits of a gender-responsive approach, such as increased effectiveness of climate actions and potential socio-economic gains for households, can further motivate stakeholders to adopt and champion gender-sensitive strategies. However, implementation of gender sensitive policies and empowerment programmes remain contingent on international financial support
17. In recent years, RMI representatives have attended capacity building sessions at the Conference of the Parties (COP) and through the UNFCCC. They collaborated with the Women’s Environment and Development Organization to facilitate training sessions for their team members, as well as participated in the Climate Youth Negotiator’s Program. Additionally, they coordinated a separate training with Jo-Jikum, a Marshallese youth climate NGO, for youth representatives ahead of COP28 in the United Arab Emirates.

### **VI. Financial support and gender-responsive budgeting to advance gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action (D.1).**

18. Raising awareness about the financial and technical support available for strengthening gender integration into climate policies, plans, strategies, and actions is critical. This awareness should highlight good practices to facilitate access to climate finance for grassroots women’s organizations, indigenous peoples, and local communities. Creating a fund to train Marshallese officials, potentially through advanced degrees or internships in international organizations, could be beneficial in the medium term. However, without adequate financial and technical support, policy efforts will not translate into concrete action to alleviate the vulnerability of women and girls in the RMI.

19. The financial capability to execute RMI's adaptation strategy significantly relies on funding from international donors, with a strategic focus on addressing RMI's priorities on gender equality and human rights to secure long-term commitments. The NDC Partnership Plan exemplifies a structured approach to implementing climate goals, emphasizing mitigation, adaptation, and the crucial cross-cutting area of Gender and Human Rights. Enhancing the collection and use of disaggregated data in climate mitigation sectors will inform policy planning and implementation, ensuring gender equity and human rights outcomes, on the condition that they be adequately funded.