

**Submission by the Democratic Republic of Congo on behalf of the Least  
Developed Countries Group**

**On**

**Elements for the Advancement of the Lima Work Programme on Gender**

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The LDC Group welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on possible elements for the extension of the Lima Work Program on Gender as per Para 5 of SBI 44 conclusion: that invites Parties and observer organizations to submit their views on possible elements and guiding principles for continuing and enhancing the work programme, by 29 August 2016, taking into account recommendations and insights resulting from activities already completed under the work programme. The LDC group believes that gender is one of the key crosscutting issues that affects response to climate change and achievement of sustainable development goals

The importance of gender mainstreaming in environment, poverty eradication and sustainable development has been recognized in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), United Nations Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention on Combating Desertification and recently the Global Goals: the Sustainable Development Goals. Recently, as well in the UNFCCC we have seen recognition of gender in a number of stand-alone gender decisions including the Lima Work Program on Gender, and gender related decisions and conclusions in the thematic areas of adaptation, finance, and capacity building and in the Paris Agreement.

The Goal 5 of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasizes that empowering women and promoting gender equality is crucial to accelerating sustainable development.

It is well established that the effects of climate change are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations and these in many cases are women. For example, the IPCC highlights that due to historical inequalities, women around the world suffer disproportionately from a number of critical economic challenges. The UNDP adds that it is the social norms that impede women's movements outside of the family sphere leave them with fewer opportunities and a more limited scope of economic independence. In particular poor women in LDCs, face higher risks of inequality as they tend to live in insecure environments and have responsibility for children and family in times of crisis. At the same time, men become powerless since their capacity to provide for family is affected. Limited access to capacity enhancement programs, social services and support further exacerbate their particular vulnerabilities and undermine their agency and resilience in the face of climate change

Since Lima, two year work program on gender has provided parties and observer organizations an opportunity for understanding the integration of gender considerations into climate change related activities under the Convention.

Continued engagement on gender and climate change in the UNFCCC is still required. The LDC Group believes in the need for a longer term work programme on gender mainstreaming, gender integration, gender enhancement to augment the work that is underway that would include the following

1. Add value to the follow up to Lima Work Programme on gender by developing a gender action plan with reporting and monitoring system with the goal of focussed strategic guidance for ensuring gender balance and equality, gender responsive climate policies and women empowerment in relevant programs and actions of the Convention and associated work by the UNFCCC Secretariat, Parties and Observer Organizations.

2. Creation of platform for Gender with a view to sharing their experiences and exchanging ideas, best practices and lessons learned and to further enhance the monitoring and review of the effectiveness of gender and climate change work
3. Continued work on promotion of gender balance in participation of women in delegation, and nominating women to bodies established under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol as per Decision 23/CP.18 (para. 5); for effective participation of women in climate change decision making and participation in UNFCCC. There is need for further capacity building activities, including training especially for delegates and negotiators from LDCs
4. Continued awareness on the importance and linkage of gender in climate change through a series of regional workshops and technical papers.
5. To scale up capacity building on training female and male negotiators, male gender climate champions, women leaders and policy makers at regional levels
6. Integration of gender perspective into decisions on adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer, capacity building and finance, including agriculture, food security, water and energy security. We have to focus on the nexus rather than considering gender as a separate issue by ensuring that gender is mainstreamed across all areas. The proposed platform will be the means of
7. Explore further ways and means to integrate gender-responsiveness into the work of the Technology Mechanism and technology needs assessments in order to enhance their implementation. Gender in adaptation is gaining visibility and has clear linkages, we need to build the capacity of understanding in mitigation and technology transfer and development. The CTCN and the Secretariat should run workshops on gender integration to allow gender experts to engage with TEC and CTCN.
8. Awareness raising programs and activities for all delegates including high level delegates organised by the Secretariat through series of side events at COPs and SB meeting on gender responsive climate policies