



Gender and Climate Change Brief for the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

The UNFCCC secretariat (secretariat) provides constituted body members with a package of information briefs about gender integration under the UNFCCC process. They include an introduction to the mandates, an explanation of gender and commonly used terminology, as well as the gender and climate change nexus, and an annex of relevant resources. This brief describes how the **Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform** takes gender into account.

GENDER AND THE ROLE OF CONSTITUTED BODIES

Integrating gender considerations - understanding and considering differing needs, priorities, access to resources, roles and power - and engaging women and men equally at all levels of climate planning and implementation can ensure **more effective mitigation and adaptation outcomes**. It also ensures that women and men have **equal opportunities** to contribute to and benefit from climate action.



ALL CONSTITUTED BODIES ARE REQUESTED TO include in their **regular reports** information on **progress towards integrating a gender perspective** into their respective processes (decision 3/CP.25, para 12) and the secretariat is requested to produce a biennial synthesis report on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes (decision 3/CP.25, para 15(b)).

How are constituted bodies **supported** in progressing in integrating a gender perspective?

1. Technical paper ([FCCC/TP/2018/1](#)) provides information on entry points for integrating gender considerations into UNFCCC workstreams.
2. The secretariat provides **capacity-building** support to constituted bodies and secretariat staff in integrating a gender perspective into their respective areas of work in collaboration with relevant organizations, as appropriate (3/CP.25, para 15(c)).
3. The secretariat ensures that members of constituted bodies are introduced to gender-related mandates and to the relevance of gender in the context of their work in a consistent and systematic manner (3/CP.25 GAP, activity C.1).

GENDER AND THE ROLE OF CONSTITUTED BODIES

The **PARIS AGREEMENT** acknowledges in its preamble that “climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity”. There are also references to gender-responsive adaptation action (Art. 7) and capacity-building (Art. 11).

The **KATOWICE CLIMATE PACKAGE** includes multiple references to gender/women/social (impacts, consequences)

Topic	Decision	Decision description	Gender or social references
Mitigation	4/CMA.1	Further guidance in relation to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21 (para 7, annex para 4)	Gender-responsive (information on the planning of NDCs)
Adaptation	9/CMA.1	Elements of an adaptation communication	An adaptation communication may include information on gender-responsive adaptation action
Climate finance	12/CMA.1	Identification of the information to be provided by Parties in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement	Gender responsiveness (developed country biennial communication; information on policies and priorities)
Technology	15/CMA.1	Technology framework under Article 10, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement	Multiple references: gender, socially sound, gender-responsiveness and gender perspective

Transparency	18/CMA.1	Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement	Social consequences, social impacts, social vulnerabilities, gender perspectives, gender balance
Global Stocktake	19/CMA.1	Matters relating to Article 14 of the Paris Agreement and paragraphs 99-101 of decision 1/CP.21	Social impacts (response measures)
Committee to facilitate implementation and promote compliance	20/CMA.1	Modalities and procedures for the effective operation of the committee referred to in Article 15, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement	Gender balance (committee)

GENDER UNDER THE CONVENTION – GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA ITEM

The principal decision for gender under the Convention is the **enhanced Lima work programme on gender (LWPG) and its gender action plan (GAP)** (decision [3/CP.25](#)), which builds on the previous LWPG (decision 18/CP.20 and 21/CP.22) and the first GAP (decision 3/CP.23).

The LWPG and GAP support the achievement of gender-responsive climate policy and action at all levels and gender balance within the UNFCCC process. The LWPG and GAP further acknowledge the continuing need for gender **mainstreaming through all relevant targets and goals in activities under the Convention** as an important contribution to increasing their **effectiveness, fairness and sustainability**.

LWPG

- Long term, open-ended action
- Secretariat regular functions
- Gender action plan as an annex
- Review of progress/ further work to be undertaken in November 2024

GAP

- 5 Priority areas with objectives
- 20 activities
- 35 outputs
- Intermediate review of implementation in June 2022



PRIORITY AREA A

Capacity-Building, Knowledge Management & Communication



PRIORITY AREA B

Gender Balance, Participation & Women's Leadership



PRIORITY AREA C

Coherence



PRIORITY AREA D

Gender – Responsive Implementation & Means of Implementation



PRIORITY AREA E

Monitoring & Reporting

Gender Action Plan

GENDER UNDER THE CONVENTION – SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES UNDER THE GAP

Activity	Responsibility	Deliverables/outputs and Timeline (timing takes precedence over SB session)
C.2 Facilitate the exchange of views and best practices of the Chairs of constituted bodies on how to strengthen the integration of the gender perspective into their work, taking into account the synthesis reports on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes referred to in paragraph 15(b) of this decision	Leading: Chairs of constituted bodies Contributing: secretariat	Selection of topics for dialogue SB 56 (2022)
	Leading: secretariat Contributing: relevant organizations	Compilation of good practices for integrating gender into the work of the constituted bodies SB 56 (2022)
	Leading: Chairs of constituted bodies Contributing: secretariat	Dialogue SB 58 (2023)
	Secretariat	Dialogue report SB 59 (2023)
C.3 Strengthen coordination between the work on gender considerations of the subsidiary bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and other relevant United Nations entities and processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as applicable	Leading: secretariat Contributing: Parties, constituted bodies, relevant organizations	In-session dialogue on Gender Day focused on one thematic area relevant to the Convention and the Paris Agreement to promote coherence reflecting multidimensional factors
D.3 Promote the deployment of gender-responsive technological solutions to address climate change, including strengthening, protecting and preserving local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors and for improving climate resilience, and by fostering women's and girls' full participation and leadership in science, technology, research and development	Leading: Parties, relevant organizations, constituted bodies Contributing: secretariat	Workshops, capacity-building initiatives, webinars

GENDER TERMINOLOGY

Sex refers to the **biological** difference between women and men.

Gender refers to the **social** attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys and amongst them. These attributes, opportunities, and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through the socialization process. Gender is a relevant point of analysis for developing and implementing climate policy and action.

Gender-responsive (climate policies, programmes, projects, action, etc.) are nondiscriminatory, equally benefit women, men, girls and boys and aim to address gender inequalities through design and implementation.

Gender balance refers to the ratio of women to men in any given situation.

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change impacts often differ between women and men, including in relation to vulnerabilities, the benefits flowing from responses to climate change, and who is participating in decision-making on the climate emergency.

A report prepared by the secretariat in 2019 highlighted that differences were due to existing gender inequalities caused by unequal power relations, unequal access to and control of resources and discriminatory laws and customs, rather than any inherent qualities of women and men. It recognized that differences also arise from other, intersecting inequalities, such as age, ethnicity, (dis)ability or socio-economic status.

As gender is socially constructed, the laws, norms, and customs that are associated with each gender vary between communities and contexts. It also means that these laws, norms and customs can be changed to ensure that women, men, girls and boys are equally empowered to respond to and act on climate change.

Some illustrative examples¹:

1. Women and girls are not inherently more vulnerable than men. Rather vulnerability to different climate events results from the social and gender norms which affect people's access to resources and information, inclusion/exclusion from participation and receiving services, agency, learned survival skills, and behavioral choices. The 90% female fatalities during Hurricane Gorky resulted from societal expectations of Bangladeshi women to remain at home, which both excluded them from accessing information and made them less likely to evacuate without a male relative. Furthermore, few women in Bangladesh are taught how to swim. In other instances, men have been shown to be more likely to die during natural disaster as for example during some hurricanes and storms in the US and during fires in Australia. This disparity can be explained through higher representation of men in emergency response jobs and higher engagement in risky behavior such as driving in flood water or not evacuating to protect property. Not all women and all men are the same. After Hurricane Katrina, black women were shown to be at the highest risk for psychosocial distress or depression, mental, and physical impairment.
2. A case example of a REDD+ programme in Viet Nam, which showed that a lack of understanding of what it meant to achieve meaningful participation (rendering it tokenistic), and gender relations and power dynamics not sufficiently being reflected and addressed, resulted in equal benefit sharing not being achieved and/or that gender and social inequalities were exacerbated.
3. Some studies have shown that women tend to be more concerned than men about the environment and effects of climate change and are therefore often early adopters and more likely to support mitigation actions. Policy needs to consider that behaviour is linked to people's self-conception and that specific polluting or sustainable behaviours being perceived as feminine or masculine will influence how likely people are to engage or disengage in them. Some examples include meat consumption in men, driving at high speed, transportation mode choice in general. In a world where femininity is devalued it was shown that some men actively avoid sustainable choices as environmental concern and sustainable choices were perceived as female.
4. Understanding travel behaviour is central to an effective transition to low-carbon transport infrastructure and services, since such modes of transport, including public transport, cycling and walking, may not meet the complex needs and preferences of everyone. Currently women's transportation needs, which differ from men's largely due to the gender division in formal and informal work as well as security concerns and other social restrictions, are not adequately addressed. Taking gender into account is crucial to ensure the uptake of sustainable transportation modes – as well as any other technology or behaviour change – and ultimately its effectiveness for addressing the climate crises.
5. Men are likely to be affected during the transition to a low-carbon economy due to their overrepresentation in carbon-intensive sectors. Specifically, those in low-paid jobs are vulnerable to these changes. A just transition would mean that pre-existing and historical inequalities on the basis of gender but also class, ethnicity, etc., would be considered. For a rapid transition to new sustainable and low-carbon systems it is essential that the required skills and human capital are available. Women are vastly underrepresented in these sectors and job profiles: the share of women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) jobs in renewable energy is 28%. Investing in women's and girl's education and removing barriers to their entry of the job market as well as career development are thus essential for addressing the climate crisis.

THE FWG'S WORK ON GENDER – FURTHER MANDATES RELEVANT TO THE LCIPP AND FWG

The [PARIS AGREEMENT](#) refers to the rights of indigenous peoples and local as well as gender equality, empowerment of women in its preamble. Further, Parties acknowledge that “**adaptation action** should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach...” (Art. 7) and that “**Capacity-building** should be guided by lessons learned, including those from capacity building activities under the Convention, and should be an effective, iterative process that is participatory, cross-cutting and gender-responsive.” (Art. 11)

The Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan further include numerous references to local communities and indigenous peoples.

3/CP.25 – Lima Work Programme on Gender

Recognizing with concern that climate change impacts on women and men can often differ owing to historical and current gender inequalities and multidimensional factors and can be more pronounced in developing countries and for local communities and indigenous peoples

3/CP.25 – GAP Activity	Responsibility	Deliverables/outputs and Timeline
B.3 Invite the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group to collaborate and co-	Invite to collaborate: Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group , secretariat	Dialogue at SB 57 (2022)

¹ References can be found in the Annex.

<p>host a dialogue to discuss advancing the leadership and highlighting the solutions of local communities and indigenous women and ways of enhancing their effective participation in climate policy and action, to the extent that it is consistent with the workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group and within existing resources</p>	<p>Contributing: Parties, relevant organizations</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>Leading: secretariat, Parties Contributing: Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, private sector, philanthropic financial institutions, other relevant organizations</p>	<p>Dialogues report at SB 58 (2023) Webinars, communication materials, in-session workshops Ongoing to COP 30 (2024)</p>

BACKGROUND TO THE FWG'S ENGAGEMENT ON GENDER

The FWG participated in a gender capacity building at its second meeting (FWG 2) held in Madrid in 2019, and subsequently included a commitment to mainstreaming gender in its workplan.

For Party representatives the ratio of men to women was 6/1. For indigenous peoples representatives the ratio was 3/4.

The FWG's workplan states that election and rotation of the co-Chairs and vice-co-Chairs among the regional groups aim to achieve regional balance and gender balance.

GENDER AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Indigenous women and men of local communities are differently impacted by climate change and differently positioned to respond to the climate crisis. This is due to differing roles and responsibilities, the division of labour, access to resources, and decision-making power. The interplay of gender, ethnicity and indigenous status, yielding a unique set of norms as well as discrimination patterns, is highly relevant for indigenous people and local communities.

In the context of indigenous peoples and for some local communities both the coloniality of current gender norms and of climate related issues faced today needs to be acknowledged. Gender differs between contexts and there is great diversity in indigenous and local communities' gender regimes today. It must be noted that for most communities their gender regimes prior to colonialization differed significantly from the (predominantly binary) western construction of gender. This means that any discussion about gender is part of the complex and difficult contemplation and reckoning with cultural and societal identity that follows foreign domination.

Gender must be considered to ensure most effective adaptation of indigenous peoples and local communities to climate change. A key aspect of this is indigenous women's and men's meaningful participation from the local to the international level.

Some illustrative examples of the relevance of gender in the context of indigenous peoples and local communities:

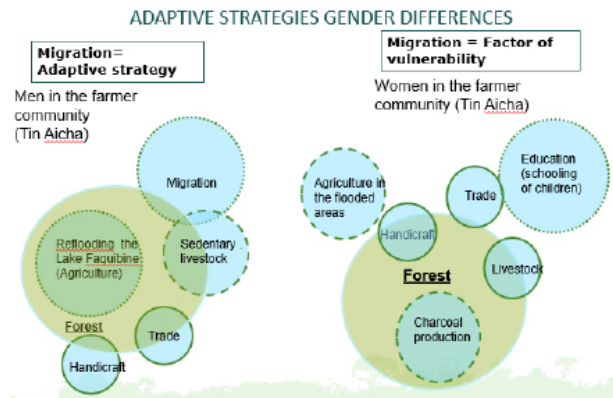
- In many communities, women have been custodians over specific traditional knowledge, often related to botany and natural resource management. It was also shown that in some cases where women led projects (e.g. on forest conservation) these had better outcomes than projects led by men.² It is thus clear that women's involvement in natural resource management, allowing them to share their knowledge and define priorities, is key to ensuring greater climate outcomes. A study of 290 forest groups in Bolivia, Kenya, Mexico, and Uganda found that women-dominated forest groups collected more fuel and less timber and were less likely to exclude people from using the forest.² Further recognizing their know-how and skill can contribute to their (economic) empowerment.
- Despite their knowledge and expertise (e.g. in forest management and agriculture) women remain largely excluded from decision-making processes. A study on REDD+ sites showed that women's meaningful involvement in decision-making was limited and that they were often less informed than men which may result in them not being able to communicate their preferred benefits and their individual welfare deteriorating, for example.²

² Synthesis report on differentiated impacts of climate change including information provided by ILO, CIFOR and ITF [FCCC/SBI/2019/INF.8](https://www.fccc.org/eb/2019/inf8)

- Women's and men's differing roles in their community and family also mean that they will be differently affected by environmental changes and resource depletion due to climate change. Rural and indigenous women are more reliant on climate-vulnerable biomass industries for their livelihoods than men, which renders them particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.¹ However, this is based and dependent on the given gender regime as well as climate factors. For climate action to be effective, vulnerabilities and gender norms must not be assumed but understood. In the Northern territories of Canada for instance Inuit women are facing reduced income opportunities from berry picking while men are facing difficulties in hunting.²
- Women's access to land is both a critical factor for their empowerment and impacts the effectiveness and sustainability with which land is managed. For local populations and indigenous women and men access and right to land can be restrained through laws and regulations. Furthermore, the danger of land grabbing or intrusion through e.g. energy related projects such as fossil fuel extraction or hydro projects have been

shown to increase the already disproportionate risk of indigenous people, especially women, to experience violence.³

- Gender also influences which adaptation strategies are available to or favored by people. The below example of Tin Aicha, Mali, highlights the importance of considering gender as it intersects with other identify and social factors.⁴

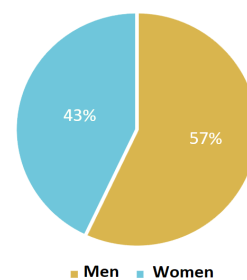


Source: CIFOR presentation

EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN THE FWG

The COP adopted a **goal of gender balance** in decision 23/CP.18 and highlighted the importance of women's equal and meaningful participation in decision 3/CP.25. (Groups of) Parties are therefore encouraged to seek balanced representation. Constituted bodies have an important role to play in championing women's equal participation and leadership' through:

- Electing female Chairs
- Ensuring gender balance in panels/working groups
- Members championing gender balance in their role as member or Chair within their delegation and regional group.



In 2020, **43% of FWG members were women and 57% men.**

³ IUCN (2020) [Gender-based violence and environment linkages](#)

⁴ Presentation from the capacity building on gender by [CIFOR](#)

References for the illustrative examples of the Gender and Climate Change and Gender and Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples in the context of Climate Change Section:

- Synthesis report on differentiated impacts of climate change including information provided by ILO, CIFOR and ITF [FCCC/SBI/2019/INF.8](#)
- WEDO (2020) [Gender and Climate Change in the United States: A Reading of Existing Research](#)
- IRENA (2019) [Renewable Energy: A Gender Perspective](#)
- Articles on behavioral preferences in [The Guardian](#) and [The Conversation](#) and on bias in [The Guardian](#).
- IUCN (2020) [Gender-based violence and environment linkages](#)
- Santisteban (2020) [Indigenous women & climate change](#)
- Presentations from the capacity building on gender by [ONAMIAP](#) and [CIFOR](#)
- Open Online Course on Gender and Climate Change by [UN CC:Learn](#)
- ILO publications on gendered aspects of indigenous people and work (2019) [Implementing the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169 – Towards an inclusive, sustainable and just future \(2017\)](#) [Indigenous peoples and climate change – From victims to change agents through decent work](#)
- An example of working towards indigenous women's and men's equal participation from Peru and the [National Organization of Andean and Amazonian Women of Peru \(ONAMIAP\)](#)
- Technical paper on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change [FCCC/TP/2013/11](#)

Other useful resources including reports, portals, networks and key partners: