

Key messages for COP 22

Towards implementing a gender-responsive Paris Agreement and gender-responsive climate actions at all levels

With the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22) is a historic moment with the convening of the First session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1).

- **The Paris Agreement presents a strong mandate for the full, equal and effective participation of women in shaping climate policies and actions; as well as for the systematic integration of a gender perspective in the work under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.**
 - For UN Women and all advocates of gender mainstreaming in climate change policies and responses, the commitment of **Parties in the Paris Agreement to promote and consider their obligations on gender equality and the empowerment of women when addressing climate change** is a call to action. The Paris Agreement also emphasized the intrinsic relationship that climate change actions, responses and impacts have on the realization of sustainable development in its three dimensions – social, economic and environmental. It must be recalled that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to the realization of the 2030 Agenda and called for the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Agenda.
 - The implementation of the two-year Lima Work Programme on Gender under the UNFCCC brought together stakeholders in an unprecedented manner around a common commitment: better and more results-oriented action that benefits fully from women’s leadership and responds effectively to the differential impact of climate change. Working together, actors gained **enhanced understanding** of the impact of gender equality and the empowerment of women in mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity-building. **Capacities of women negotiators were strengthened** to make a difference in negotiated outcomes. **Knowledge products were created, and an online platform** on gender-responsive climate change is now accessible to all. **Partnerships were enhanced**, facilitating a **stronger and more systematic collaboration** among Parties, the UNFCCC secretariat, UN system entities including UN Women, the financial mechanisms such the GCF and the GEF as well as climate change

advocates led by women organizations working together for the strengthened integration of gender equality and women's empowerment in climate change discourse and policy.

- **COP 22 is the right moment for Parties to adopt a comprehensive and enhanced work programme on gender that will ensure strengthened understanding and the systematic integration of a gender perspective in climate policies and actions; and the full, equal and effective participation of women in climate policy making and programme implementation at all levels.** The new work programme should build on the successes of the past years and provide a strong basis for tackling gaps and challenges.

- UN Women calls for **the Parties' decision on an enhanced work programme on gender** to mandate the following:
 - **development and adoption by Parties, at COP 23, of a gender equality and women's empowerment policy, and a comprehensive, multi-year work programme on gender.** The gender policy should serve as the framework for a gender-responsive approach to climate change, with the Paris Agreement as its foundation. The comprehensive, multi-year work programme should identify priority action areas, timelines, key indicators of achievement, responsible actors and monitoring and review mechanisms. The gender policy and comprehensive, multi-year work programme should be developed through a consultative process and with the engagement of experts and stakeholders.

 - **continuation, until COP 23, of the work started by the Lima Work Programme on Gender,** including the following activities:
 - a. *capacity-building and awareness-raising for women and men delegates* on gender-responsive climate policy;
 - b. *in-session workshops in 2017, to focus on:*
 - i. entry points for the integration of a gender perspective in the formulation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans (NAPs) and national communications (NC), as well as related activities to implement the Paris Agreement;
 - ii. good practices and challenges in advancing the goal of gender balance.

 - **systematic inclusion of a gender perspective in reports** or information notes regularly prepared by constituted bodies and in the reports of all financial mechanism under the COP and their operating entities.

 - **concrete steps towards the achievement of the goal of gender balance,** through Parties' setting an initial quota of 30 per cent women with a view to achieve equal representation in their official delegation to UNFCCC meetings.

- **provision of dedicated and predictable funds**, including the allocation of dedicated travel and capacity-building funding for women delegates, for example through the Trust Fund for Participation under the UNFCCC.
- **support to the UNFCCC secretariat to enable it to fully support the implementation of the comprehensive, multi-year work programme on gender equality and women’s empowerment.**

UN Women’s support for a gender-responsive implementation of the Paris Agreement

UN Women works to support the full, equal and effective participation of women in climate policy and decision-making processes at all levels, and the engagement of women and girls as actors and beneficiaries in all climate actions and responses. UN Women advocates for and provides evidence, strengthens the knowledge base and offers technical inputs on the gender perspectives of climate policies and actions.

At the global level, UN Women works with Parties, the UNFCCC secretariat and other UN entities and operating entities of climate finance mechanisms, the Women and Gender Constituency and other stakeholders **to ensure the systematic integration of gender equality considerations across the various work areas mandated by the Convention and the Paris Agreement.** The Entity: convenes multi-stakeholder dialogues and expert group meetings, including with the UNFCCC secretariat, to develop recommendations and strategies for action in the integration of gender perspectives in selected thematic areas of work of the Convention and the Paris Agreement; organizes or participates in high-level events to raise commitment for gender issues in climate change fora; prepares knowledge products to support the work of Parties and deliberations in expert group meetings; prepares submissions to inform in-session workshops; works with women community leaders and with young women to bring their experiences and challenges to the attention of the global community.

From a programmatic perspective, UN Women has launched a set of **Flagship programme initiatives** in the areas of **climate-smart agriculture; access to decentralized renewable energy; and on the gender inequality of risk** that aim to leverage co-benefits between gender equality and climate action for sustainable development.

- While the gender-differentiated impact of climate change on women is well understood and recognized in both the climate literature and increasingly in the safeguard arrangements of climate investments, the contributions of women as agents of change in scaling up climate action are often overlooked.
- Women’s participation and leadership in accelerating the adoption of renewable energy technologies and climate-smart agricultural practices, promoting sustainable transport and urban development, and acting to reduce and respond to climate-related disaster risks are being brought to the forefront through these flagship programmes.

Leveraging co-benefits between gender equality and climate action therefore requires a paradigm shift that puts gender equality considerations and the voice and agency of women and girls at the center of climate management efforts and investments.

- To seize these opportunities, practitioners and stakeholders need to mainstream gender perspectives into climate action generally, and with a strong focus on climate investment decision-making processes.
- Gender mainstreaming requires an approach to climate and development interventions so that they benefit men and women equally by transforming social, economic and institutional structures to further gender equality and women's empowerment in climate action and resilience building.

At COP22 UN Women will host a series of side events to showcase its work in these areas.