

SUMMARY OF PLENARY SESSION 1

MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

1. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

1.1. Gender-based differential Impacts of climate change

- Women portrayed as victims rather than powerful agents of change
- Women and men face different vulnerabilities due to their gender condition
- Women have less assets, making them more vulnerable (Vulnerability and capacity of social groups to adapt to or change highly depends on their **assets**)
- Women and men have different strategies and play different roles while coping with climate change

1.2. Roles women can play in defining actions for climate change adaptation

- Women from indigenous and local communities, based on their traditional knowledge possess repertoires for coping strategies
- Few NAPAs target women as actors in adaptation activities
- Gender blind frameworks, mechanisms and reports: UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol
- Lack of gender specific capacity of UNFCCC Secretariat (more relevant to the Bali Road Map, decisions on the post-Kyoto regime to be taken up at next COP 14 in Pozna (Polen), Dec 2008 and at COP15 in Copenhagen next year; learn lessons from gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction work and from scientific programs
- Limited participation of women in official delegations

2. LEGISLATIONS

2.1 Legislature measures

- Construct a legal regime that safeguards the security of women affected by climate change, including mechanisms to review land-use planning and infrastructure work
- Ensure that governmental policies and programmes on human rights, women's rights (including CEDAW) and climate change are coherent and reinforce each other
- Incorporate climate change in discussions on women's rights and related interventions, which often focus on political, social and economic empowerment and protection in a non-disaster context

3. ACTIONS

Actions required to address gender issues

INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

- Improve the understanding of gender and climate change
- Support participatory research to explore gender aspects of climate change and related policies and actions. Include the outcomes of such research in forthcoming studies of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Conduct gender impact analyses to identify gender-specific needs and protection measures related to floods, droughts, and other climate change related disasters
- Vulnerability assessments have to be made gender specific, and should apply gender analyses

PLANNING AND POLICY MAKING

- Develop a gender strategy and action plan for gender mainstreaming in climate change institutions at all levels
- Develop effective international and **legal instruments**, so that they can contribute as guiding principles that could mitigate effects of climate change in more equitable conditions among human beings
- Mainstream gender in National Adaptation and Plans of Action (NAPAs) and National Communications
 - Integrate a gender approach and enhance women's human security in all NAPAs
 - Develop gender-sensitive criteria for use by governments in national reports to UNFCCC and related policies and mechanisms
- Integrate gender into energy planning, decision making, management and implementation
 - Use gender audits and needs assessments to ensure that energy policies focus more on demand-side considerations, in order to better reflect the needs of women and poor households
 - The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) should fund projects that make renewable energy technologies available to women and meet their needs
- Encourage gender sensitive financial mechanisms and instruments
 - Adaptation funds should be gender sensitive and should prioritize local women's needs and priorities; gender budgeting should be applied

- Market-based mechanism such as Clean Development Mechanism should be made accessible to both women and men and ensure equitable benefits

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Enhance institutional capacity to mainstream gender in global and national climate change and disaster risk reduction policies and operations, strengthening gender awareness and mechanisms
- Enhance the roles and status of women, as participants and agents of change
 - Build on and strengthen women's experiences, knowledge and coping capacity, including strengthening of women's capacity in climate change early warning
 - Ensure women's access to climate change (risk) information
 - Explicitly involve men in these efforts
 - Strengthen poor women's livelihood opportunities, including ecological resilience
 - Strengthen women's access to assets
 - Ensure access to land and other natural resources
 - Ensure that women's needs are considered in livelihood adaptation strategies
 - Ensure women's access to clean and effective technologies

ENHANCE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

- Promote the active participation of women organizations and ensure their participation in decisions relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Promote participatory approaches in cc adaptation and mitigation, develop adaptation plans that recognize women's abilities and include them in disaster relief efforts
- Take advantage of women's knowledge and skills in natural resource management and conflict prevention
- Involve women in climate change risk assessment and monitoring, and include women in all stages of afforestation, reforestation and conservation projects

At NATIONAL LEVEL

- Translate international agreements (treaties, agreements, conferences, declaration and resolutions) to their internal policy
- Develop strategies to improve and guarantee women's access to and control over their resources
- Use the specialized knowledge and skills of women in the strategies for survival and adaptation to disasters

- Create opportunities for the education and training of women on climate change
- Provide measures for capacity building and technology transfer
- Assign specific resources to secure women's equal participation of the benefits and opportunities of the mitigation and adaptation measures
- State Parties should:
 - take necessary measures for the UNFCCC to abide by human rights frameworks with special attention to CEDAW of the recommendations of the Experts Committee of the CEDAW
 - Seek for mechanism that could guarantee the participation of women and gender experts during the preparation of national and international reports
 - Ensure representation in the national and international meetings of the UNFCCC

AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- Initiate a process to develop and adopt a Decision at UNFCCC COP14 and /or COP15 regarding gender mainstreaming in climate change mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and funding; ensuring in particular:
 - Incorporation of gender equality principles in climate change policies at all level
 - Participation and representation of women and gender expertise in delegations and in the UNFCCC Secretariat
 - Gender balance in UNFCCC bureau, panels, delegations
 - That women participate in decisions relating to climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - Strengthening of gender awareness and mechanisms in institutions dealing with climate change and risk reduction
 - Gender analysis of UNFCCC targets and mechanism (including clean development mechanism, carbon funds and credits, adaptation funds)
 - That human security is integrated in climate change funding mechanisms
 - Reporting on the implementation of the decision at next COP(s) and integration of these measures in the post-Kyoto regime
- UNFCCC should:
 - incorporate the principles of gender equity and equality throughout all its stages, especially after the year 2012;
 - develop a gender strategy and invest in specialized research on gender and climate change (e.g. patterns of use and specific resources by gender, climate change effects by gender; gender

aspects of mitigation and adaptation; women's capacity to cope with climate change, vulnerability and its gender patterns, among others)

- o establish a system of gender-sensitive indicators for the national reports presented to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, for the planning of the adaptation strategies or projects under Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)