

**SUBMISSION BY THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
ON
BEHALF OF THE LEAST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GROUP
ON
THE MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED AT AN IN-SESSION WORKSHOP ON GENDER-
RESPONSIVE CLIMATE POLICY WITH A FOCUS ON ADAPTATION AND CAPACITY-
BUILDING, AND TRAINING FOR DELEGATES ON GENDER ISSUES**

The LDC Group welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the matters to be addressed at an in-session workshop on gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on adaptation and capacity-building, and training for delegates on gender issues

Least developing countries have contributed negligibly to the present climate change problem but are the most vulnerable to its negative effects, bearing 70–80 per cent of the costs of environmental damage. Developing countries need to pursue a path that achieves harmony between economic development and environmental conservation. However, even when the developing countries have the necessary financial and technological resources, LDCs lack the capacity to effectively manage the risks and impacts. Capacity building for developing countries is essential to enable them to participate fully in climate change actions

Capacity constraints in LDCs are a serious impediment to the pursuit of low-carbon development. These countries need effective individuals, organizations, and political and economic systems that enable them to make more effective use of resources. By providing training, education, incentive structures, and resources foreign aid can play a role in strengthening capacities in developing countries.

In addition, the IPCC highlights that climate change impacts men and women differently and that they respond to impacts and risks differently. However 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. Current economic growth trajectories deepen and widen existing gender inequalities. Women in LDCs, particularly poor women face higher risks of inequality as they tend to live in secure environments and have responsibility for children and family in times of crisis. On the other hand, 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 risks and vulnerabilities. Consequently the effects of climate change are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations

Furthermore, discrimination towards women causes them to have lower levels of education, skills and knowledge than men, which limits their productive capacity and potential income. Women's productive activities are also hindered by reproductive roles and the healthcare issues surrounding it, and by traditional gender roles that tie women to unpaid domestic work.

However as much as women have been historically marginalized and seen as vulnerable members, women have the potential to act as agents of change in responding to climate change. By involving both women and men and drawing on their gender-based experiences in the formal and informal work force, in communities and households, climate responses can be made more effective and sustainable. The empowerment of women will significantly enhance the efficiency of adaptation and mitigation efforts at all levels. Therefore, investing in women's capacity as part of climate responses can lead to greater returns in climate action, across the SDGs and broader development objectives.

Parties to the convention through various decisions recognize the following

- The importance of taking into account gender aspects and acknowledging the role and needs of youth and persons with disabilities in capacity building activities, dec.1 cp17
- Implementation of capacity-building actions should be a continuous, progressive and iterative process that is participatory, country-driven and consistent with national priorities and circumstances, effectively their commitments under, the Convention,
- That capacity-building is cross-cutting in nature and an integral part of enhanced action on mitigation, adaptation, technology development and transfer, and access to financial resources
- And also encourages the relevant bodies established under the Convention, including, inter alia, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the Global Environment Facility as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, to continue to elaborate and carry out work on capacity-building in an integrated manner, as appropriate, within their respective mandates

Among others

Proposed Approach

- Through showcasing best practices and case studies on gender-responsive climate action at institutional level, national level and local level;
- Evaluating how current institutional mechanisms under the UNFCCC, KP and its bodies, could be more gender-responsive
- Adopt the format of the previous workshop at SBI44, have two sessions each half day. The first half of the capacity building session would look at national/local level best practices, and challenges. The second half of the capacity building session would look at strategic and international level institutional challenges and opportunities in advancing the goal of gender balance, gender equality and gender responsive climate policy

The Content and Possible areas of focus

Capacity building in gender mainstreaming is critical to support gender responsive climate actions. Some of the gender mainstreaming strategies that are successfully applied in many areas of development can also be applied for climate action. Knowledge sharing on gender mainstreaming can provide practical guidance on how to analyze climate change thematic areas in context in an in-depth way and could also serve as effective options for integration of gender considerations and mainstreaming

1. Based on the priority areas for capacity-building in developing countries, as listed in decision 2/CP.7, the LDC Group proposes that the workshop on gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on adaptation and capacity-building, and training for delegates on gender issues, should address the role of gender and capacity building in some of the following:
 - Institutional capacity building, including the strengthening or establishment, as appropriate, of national climate change secretariats or national focal points
 - Conduct gender institutionalization in different spheres and structures related to the fight against climate change

- Enhancement and/or creation of an enabling environment
 - National communications
 - National climate change programs
 - Greenhouse gas inventories, emission database management, and systems for collecting, managing and utilizing activity data and emission factors
 - Vulnerability and adaptation assessment
 - Capacity building for implementation of adaptation measures
 - Assessment for implementation of mitigation options: including REDD + and CDM
 - Research and systematic observation, including meteorological,
 - hydrological and climatological services
 - Development and transfer of technology, TNAs
 - Improved decision-making, including assistance for participation in international negotiations
 - Clean development mechanism
 - Needs arising out of the implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention Education, training and public awareness
 - Information and networking, including the establishment of databases
2. The financial mechanism, to report on its progress in support of the implementation of the capacity building framework and challenges faced in pursuing a gender responsive approach
 3. Explore ways of formalizing constitution of gender expert group for systematic provision of technical expertise, the development of technical guide for gender mainstreaming and provision of adequate resources to gender mainstreaming guidance, we need to identify resource persons, experts or trainers with skills in gender mainstreaming, at all LDCs levels: local, national, sub regional, regional and international.

How to advance the Lima Work Program on Gender

The workshop should provide a platform for sharing lessons from Parties and observer organizations on

- additional efforts made by Parties to improve the participation of women in their delegations and in all of the bodies established under the Convention, as stipulated in decisions 36/CP.7 and 23/CP.18;
- progress made in meeting the goals of achieving gender balance and gender-responsive climate policy and increasing the representation of women and active participation of women in the bodies established under the Convention;
- general progress, achievements and milestones of the Lima Work Program on Gender and provide recommendation on moving forward beyond 2016
- Not only identify good practices but also proceed with the institutionalization of the gender approach by providing some tools for gender analysis
- Workshop report accompanied by draft conclusions should be compiled by the secretariat and be discussed by parties at SBI45 session to support drawing of action oriented proposals towards furthering work on gender responsive climate policy for capacity building, adaptation and training of female delegates

