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GENDER EQUALITY IN NATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION: PLANNING FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS



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ACRONYMS

Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (AGSDS)

Biennial Update Reports (BURs)

Building Nigeria's Response to Climate Change (BNRCC)

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

Climate Change (CC)

Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Gender Equality (GE)

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)

Kenya Climate Change Action Plan (KCCAP)

Local Adaptation Plans of Action (LAPA)

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Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)

National Climate Change Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

National Communications (NCs)

Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)



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1 GENDER EQUALITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2015, the international community adopted two major Agendas: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which emerged from the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, and the Paris Agreement, adopted in December of the same year. Gender equality and women's concerns are embedded in both agreements.

The 2030 Agenda is intended to shift global development onto a basis of sustainability and resilience. Gender equality is integral to the Agenda, in recognition that it cannot be separated from the challenges of poverty, hunger, poor health and well-being, maternal death, energy and environmental burdens, economic hardships, societal insecurity, and the need for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Women are given a critical role in all of the SDGs, with many targets specifically recognizing gender equality and empowerment as both the objective and part of the solution.¹

Climate change also cuts across all the SDGs, on the recognition that it has the potential to increase resource scarcity, undermine livelihoods, increase pressures for migration and forced displacement, and weaken the

ability of states to provide the conditions necessary for human security, all of which make it more difficult to achieve a sustainable development agenda. Climate change may even reverse existing positive trends, introduce new uncertainties, and increase the costs of building resilience in a country (IPCC, 2014). The importance of taking into account gender equality in climate actions is recognized in the Paris Agreement in the Preamble, as well as in Articles on adaptation action and capacity development.²

At the international level, the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and the commitments for gender equality connected to implementation of the Paris Agreement offer an opportunity for countries to coordinate their actions and promote gender, climate action and social progress in both of these Agendas at the national level.

With the successful adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, countries are now beginning to plan for implementation of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted in the lead-up to the COP21 negotiations. As countries for-

mally join the Paris Agreement, they submit their processes of ratification, accession or approval and begin to implement climate actions. At this point the INDC is converted into a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Countries are subsequently expected to submit an updated NDC every five years, which is intended to demonstrate progression beyond the country's previous NDC.

According to UNDP and the World Resources Institute, a draft framework for NDC implementation consists of key stages through which countries may find themselves navigating over the coming months and years, including building national awareness; strengthening institutional arrangements and technical capacities; identifying information gaps; developing funding strategies to mobilize resources from the public, private and international sectors; implementing mitigation and adaptation measures; developing monitoring systems; and planning for future NDC rounds beginning in 2020 (Comstock, 2016).³

A recent survey by UNDP has found that countries are at different stages in the development of their plans or strategies to guide the national implementation of their NDCs. The survey found that more than two thirds of the responding countries have either not yet started with planning for NDC implementation (34 percent) or are in initial discussions with stakeholders (33 percent) (UNDP, 2016).

As member states prepare to implement the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs and NDCs should become core priorities of national planning. Gender equality is mainstreamed in both agreements, through clear gender agendas and commitments. Both agendas also refer to the importance of connect-

ing sustainable development, climate change, and gender equality (as well as human rights). As a result, coordinating and connecting these interlinked processes at the national level will promote inclusive and successful outcomes, both for gender equality goals as well as for national sustainable development and climate change objectives.

This report provides an assessment of the status of gender equality in national climate policy in light of the Paris Agreement. It also presents a framework for integrating gender equality into NDC planning and implementation.

1 The SDGs consider gender equality to be a fundamental human right in the context of the stand-alone goal SDG5, *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*. Gender equality is also integrated into SDGs related to social development or climate change: SDG2, *End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*; SDG6, *Ensure access to water and sanitation for all*; SDG7, *Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*; and SDG12, *Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*.

2 Gender equality is one of the cross-cutting social development issues listed in the Paris Agreement Preamble. It is also included in Article 7 on adaptation actions and Article 11 on capacity development.

3 UNDP and WRI developed a draft "NDC Implementation Readiness Checklist" to inform discussions at international dialogues in 2016 on NDC implementation. The document can be viewed at the following link: lowemissiondevelopment.org/lecbp/docs/Brussels_2016_/NDC_implementation_handout.pdf. See also "Next Steps toward NDC Implementation" (Presentation, Michael Comstock and Kelly Levin, NDC Regional Dialogue for LAC, Costa Rica, 19–21 July 2016), mitigationpartnership.net/sites/default/files/u2605/michael_comstock_-_kelly_levin_next_steps_toward_indc_implementation.pdf. UNDP is also in the process of developing more comprehensive guidance on NDC implementation with WRI, the UNFCCC Secretariat, and UNEP-DTU. A public draft of the new guidance is expected for approximately February 2017.

2 GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Women play an important role in climate change adaptation and mitigation because of their roles in core climate change sectors: agriculture, livestock management, energy, disaster risk reduction (DRR), forestry, water management and health (Dankelman, 2010; Denton, 2002). They make up two thirds of the world's 600 million small livestock managers (Distefano, 2013); and through their cooking and household tasks as well as transport-related needs and practices, they are important energy users, suppliers and consumers, and household energy managers.

Because of the different roles and responsibilities of women and men, which vary by socioeconomic level as well as by region, there are gender differences in

activities such as funerals, weddings, and administrative support to schools (Grassi et al., 2015).

In relation to climate change and sustainable development, women's local and environmental knowledge and survival strategies are major ingredients for recovery and resilience (UNDP, 2010), and women can be major contributors to adaptation and mitigation in the sectors of water management, food security, agriculture and fisheries, biodiversity and ecosystem services, health, energy and transportation, human settlements, disaster management, and conflict and security (BNRCC, 2011). The World Bank has argued that gender equality (GE) is a core contributor to better development outcomes, including poverty reduction and in-

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