

THE WOMEN AND GENDER CONSTITUENCY



INTRODUCTION

In contrast to other international treaties such as Agenda 21, CBD and UNCCD, the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol do not refer to women, neither as a vulnerable group, nor as crucial actors to mitigate, and adapt to, climate change.

Drawing upon global commitments to gender equality and women's rights and the Millennium Development Goals, the members of Women and Gender Constituency work to ensure human rights and the gender dimension are incorporated into UNFCCC negotiations, agreements, plans and actions.

Since November 2009, civil society organisations working on women and gender issues have been granted constituency status by the UNFCCC Secretariat on a provisional basis. The constituency currently comprises of eight observer NGOs to the UNFCCC, some of whom are networks. Individuals and organisations engaged in women and gender issues who are not accredited to the UNFCCC are encouraged to work through accredited members of the constituency. Thus, we represent several hundred grassroots groups, national and international organisations and networks.

We seek to ensure the representation of women's voices, experiences, needs and capacities, as women are still underrepresented in planning and decision-making at all levels, including Parties and observer organisations to the UNFCCC.

After several years of awareness-raising on the gender aspects of climate change, constituency members are now providing recommendations to delegates on how to include the gender dimension in negotiation texts. Beyond working on gender language, we re-appraise the substance of existing and proposed provisions as to whether they respond to women's needs, perspectives and preferences.

Due to the cross-cutting nature of women and gender, the Constituency needs to follow a large number of issues, and link up with various other groups who are members of other constituencies. On many issues, we share the positions of other observer constituencies such as Environmental NGOs, Indigenous Peoples' Organisations, Trade Unions, and Youth, and seek close collaboration.

However, even if the gender dimension is recognised, gender equality and gender justice are often seen as an "add-on" and tend to be lost during bustling negotiations or in the process of translating general principles into action. Therefore, our members are essential to advocate for the full consideration of the gender dimension at all stages of the process, and in all issues under negotiation.

As for our interventions and submissions, we strive for joint positions, but at the same time respect the diversity of opinions and approaches of the various members. Hence, some interventions have been held on behalf of the constituency, and others on behalf of one member organisation only.

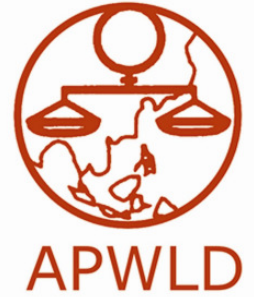
Daily meetings of the constituency during sessions (women's caucus) are open to anybody engaged for women and gender, and so is the list serve we are maintaining to share debates, results and expectations. We arrange for joint actions such as the "Gender Champion" which was awarded to outstanding efforts of Parties to promote women and gender issues.

I want to express our gratitude to our allies among Parties and Observers in this process, and to the UNFCCC Observer Liaison for their tireless support, and invite everyone to join us in our efforts for climate justice and gender justice within an equitable and effective climate regime.

Gotelind Alber, g.alber@gendercc.net

Focal Point of the Women and Gender Constituency

CURRENT MEMBERS
OF THE
WOMEN AND GENDER
CONSTITUENCY



APWLD is the region's leading network of feminist organisations and women. Our 180 members represent groups of diverse women from 25 countries in the region. We have been active for nearly 25 years. APWLD is a grassroots-centred organisation. APWLD has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN. We are an independent, non-government, non-profit organisation.

Research on Climate and Gender Justice

Voices of rural and indigenous women from the global south are barely audible in climate debates. To ensure women who are most affected by global warming are active agents in policy debates APWLD members are undertaking research in their local communities. The research is being undertaken by members in six areas in five countries: Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the Cordillera region and Rizal provinces in the Philippines.

The research will document the obstacles encountered by rural and indigenous women in achieving climate justice, the efforts of women to address global warming at local levels, and the role of climate in exacerbating existing inequalities and gender relations.

The research will also identify practices and initiatives in empowering women which serve as adaptation and mitigation measures (in the area of agriculture, fisheries and natural resource management) and propose good practices in sustainable development.

Rural and Indigenous Women's Statement on Climate Change

A Submission to the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

The statement was co-authored by APWLD, Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC), Asian Peasant Women's Network (APWN), Asian Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN), Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), and People's Action on Climate Change (PACC). The statement was supported by 145 individuals, national, regional and international organisations and networks and submitted to the UNFCCC at the COP15, 2009.

The statement calls on governments who are Parties to the UNFCCC to:

Collect disaggregated data and ensure all policies and measures with regards to climate change, sustainable development, environment and natural resource management and disaster risk management and reconstruction strategies are gender responsive.

Create an enabling environment for the full and effective participation of women, especially rural and indigenous women, in decision-making processes for all related policies and measures.

Provide sufficient funds and technical assistance directly to rural and indigenous women to build and strengthen their capacity to address the negative impacts of climate change. (Full statement is available on the APWLD website)

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ETC Foundation – ENERGIA



ETC Foundation is a Dutch NGO which devotes its resources to support change through capacity development in civil society, governmental institutions and the private sector in developing countries. This way ETC is supporting a country's own development of food security, water and energy supply, health care and education.

ETC Foundation is the host to ENERGIA, the International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy. ENERGIA takes the view that projects, programs and policies that explicitly address gender and energy issues will result in better outcomes in terms of the sustainability of energy services as well as the human development opportunities for women and men. The network has a direct presence in 22 countries in Africa and Asia working through its member organizations from NGOs, government, academia and the private sector.

ENERGIA has developed a series of tools for gender mainstreaming in energy policies, programs and projects, and is working with partners to identify how gender-responsive technologies combined with local innovations and ownership can be upscaled to provide locally-appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions.

For more information, go to www.energia.org or www.etc-international.org or contact Ana Rojas at a.rojas@etcnl.nl or energia@etcnl.nl

GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice

GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice is a global network of women's organisations and networks, and gender activists and experts from all world regions working for women's rights, gender and climate justice.



GenderCC relies on the work of its Focal Points in Asia, Africa, the Pacific, Latin America, and North America. The Focal Points are supported by the International Secretariat based in Germany. GenderCC is directed and run collaboratively by an international Steering Committee. GenderCC collaborates with a wider group of women and gender networks in areas related to climate change.

General aim

GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice aims to integrate gender justice in climate change policy at local, national and international levels. The change we envision is fundamental. GenderCC believes that in order to achieve women's rights, gender justice and climate justice, fundamental changes are necessary to overcome the existing systems of power, politics, and economics.

Scope

GenderCC is engaged in improving the integration of women's perspectives and gender aspects into climate change policies at national, regional and international levels, including in particular the UNFCCC process. In order to reach this goal, GenderCC is currently focusing on:

- ▶ Developing joint strategies and positions that are rooted in local realities for national, regional and international advocacy activities by strengthening South-South and South-North exchange of experiences and collective learning;
- ▶ Raising awareness at all levels through capacity building for relevant audiences and by providing information about climate change, particularly to women, including how to get involved in developing adaptation, low-carbon development and mitigation policies and strategies;
- ▶ Strengthening the advocacy basis for gender issues in climate policy through building and maintaining a global network of interested organisations and individuals within trade unions, women's, indigenous peoples', and youth movements;
- ▶ Helping to expand the knowledge base on gender aspects of climate change by linking to a growing network of researchers working on gender and related areas and by providing information (e.g. publications and case studies) via our internet platform.

Key objectives and messages in UNFCCC negotiations

- ▶ The full integration of gender perspectives is an essential precondition to effective action on all aspects of climate change, including adaptation, mitigation, technology sharing, financing, and capacity building.
- ▶ The advancement of women, their leadership and meaningful participation as equal stakeholders in all climate related processes and implementation must be guaranteed.

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The Huairou Commission

Established in 1995 at the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, the Huairou Commission is a global membership and partnership coalition of women's networks, non-governmental and grassroots women's organizations in 54 countries. The Huairou Commission empowers grassroots women's organizations to enhance their community development practice and to exercise collective political power at the global level. Our vision is a world transformed through balanced power relations and sustainable, resilient communities, with grassroots women leaders and their groups at the center of decision-making processes.

The majority of the Huairou Commission's work takes place through four campaigns: AIDS, Community Resilience, Governance and Land & Housing. Campaign priorities are identified in a bottom-up way from the work and interest of grassroots women's organizations in our membership. GROOTS International leads the Community Resilience Campaign.



Key objectives and messages in the UNFCCC negotiations

The Huairou Commission, with member network GROOTS International, representing communities all over the world presses for a poor, grassroots women driven framework at UNFCCC negotiations to ensure that climate change programs/ policies are inextricably linked to human development, and that community voices are not only represented, but accounted for.

Grassroots women are at the forefront of building climate resilient adaptation, and must be positioned as an important constituency representing a plethora of poverty eradication practices that reduce communities' vulnerabilities and contributes to sustainable development.

By acting locally with their knowledge grassroots women make significant contributions to the protection of the global environment through sustainable management of biodiversity, water, soil and energy resources, as such, Huairou Commission, in collaboration with GROOTS International, works with grassroots women's organizations in urban and rural communities on issues of natural resource management -- sustainable agriculture, food security, and environmental degradation-- in climate change adaptation.

The Huairou Commission and Recommendations:

- ▶ FORMALIZE the involvement of grassroots women in the design, implementation and formalized decision making processes for policy and implementation. The knowledge of grassroots women should inform the current policy discourse in climate change.
- ▶ DIRECT a fixed proportion of adaptation funds towards community based organizations and grassroots women's groups to invest in their adaptive capacity and reduce vulnerabilities from the hazards of climate change.
- ▶ SCALE up localized pro-poor grassroots women's practices; cross fertilize strategies; and mainstream lessons learned into national programming.

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ICAE

Profile, general aims & scope, membership

ICAE, formed in 1973, is the main global network promoting Youth and Adult Education and doing advocacy for the right to learn of young people and adults. It represents more than 800 organisations in 70 countries working on the promotion of the right to learn, literacy, youth and adult education and socioenvironmental education.



ICAE's mission is to promote Lifelong Learning (LLL) as a necessary component for people to contribute creatively to their communities and to live in independent and democratic societies. Adult Education and LLL are linked to social, economic and political justice; equality of gender relations; the universal right to learn; living in harmony with the environment; respect for human rights; recognition of cultural diversity; peace; and the active involvement of women and men in decisions affecting their lives.

ICAE's **Gender and Education Office (GEO)** formed in 1997 monitors and follows up international agreements on gender and education in several areas; mainstreams gender in global and regional spaces; implements an approach to education for inclusion from a gender perspective. GEO has also coordinated the Feminist Task Force (FTF) of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) since 2005 bringing together gender, poverty eradication, environment and education. A significant instrument has been the tribunals on gender and climate change organised in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

ICAE's **Environmental Education and Climate Change Team** provides a space for analysing the links between climate change, gender and adult education, identifying areas where adult education can contribute to adaptation and mitigation of climate change and highlighting the centrality of sustainable patterns of life, production and consumption. ICAE has been active in the field of environmental education (EE) for a long time. In the context of Rio 92 it co-organized the "International Journey on Environmental Education" which led to the approval by consensus of the *Treaty on Environmental Education for Sustainable Societies and Global Responsibility*. Currently ICAE is partner in the Second International Journey towards 2012 with the aim of placing EE at the centre of environmental management, including gender equity in socio-environmental responsibility for sustainable relations with mother earth and all beings.

Key objectives and messages in the UNFCCC negotiations

- ▶ To advocate for the recognition of the centrality of LLL for Sustainable Societies and Global Responsibility in the construction of sustainable ways of living informed by the diversity of environments, peoples, their knowledges and practices. From this point of view ICAE calls for a shift from the technocratic capacity building approaches dominant in the negotiations to democratic LLL *for Sustainable Societies and Global Responsibility* approaches.
- ▶ To prepare and make visible proposals about LLL for Sustainable Societies and Global Responsibility mainstreamed by gender equity.
- ▶ To share recommendations of women's perspectives on gender relations and climate change and the construction of sustainable societies resulting from tribunals on women and climate gender held in several countries.

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LIFE



EDUCATION • ENVIRONMENT • EQUALITY

LIFE's Aims and Activities

LIFE e.V. is a non profit organization registered in 1988. Since then, LIFE e.V. offers services in the field of education and training, consulting and networking. LIFE e.V. is working on the local, regional, national and European level. The main aims and areas of activity, with climate change and climate protection being a cross-cutting issue in all of them, are:

- ▶ Promotion of sustainable development and equal opportunities for women and men in science and technology.
- ▶ Vocational training, development and evaluation of learning material to implement climate change and sustainable development in education
- ▶ Development of gender and diversity sensitive training methodologies, communication and e-learning content
- ▶ Advisory service in mainstreaming gender into environment and climate change policies and measures
- ▶ Research on gender aspects in energy and climate change policy
- ▶ Organization of networks to promote equal opportunities in the educational and labour market related to environment and climate protection.

LIFE has actually 45 staff members, 30 free lancer and about 3.500 children and young people and 800 adult participants a year in courses and further education seminars.

LIFE in the UNFCCC meetings

LIFE is registered observer organisation to the UNFCCC since 2003, although LIFE was represented at the UNFCCC since the very beginning (1995). In 2003 LIFE's Focal Point Gender, Environment, Sustainability (**genanet**) started to build a network on gender and climate change experts involved in the negotiations, aiming to introduce gender issues in the negotiations, to discuss entry points for gender and common positions.

While LIFE is strongly supporting gender issues in adaptation in developing countries, it's main focus of work is on gender issues in mitigation and low/zero carbon development, in particular in AnnexI-countries. Our main message is, that if gender is not integrated properly in climate change policy, it will fail to meet the deep cuts in emission reductions, will most likely put emphasis on unsustainable markets and technologies, harming people in general, local communities and women in particular, and may loose the innovative potential and ideas of more of half of the population.

Contact details

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Population Action International

Population Action International (PAI) uses research and advocacy to improve access to family planning and reproductive health care across the world so women and families can prosper and live in balance with the earth. By ensuring couples are able to determine the size of their families, poverty and the depletion of natural resources are reduced, improving the lives of millions across the world. Established in 1965, Population Action International is a 501(c)(3) organization based in Washington, DC.

PAI's Climate Change Initiative uses research, advocacy, and communications to explain the critical relationships between population, reproductive health, gender, and climate change. PAI has joined with multiple collaborators in a multidisciplinary effort to:

- ▶ Highlight the influence of population on greenhouse gas emissions and explain how demographic variables, gender, and reproductive health impact people's climate change vulnerability and resilience.
- ▶ Demonstrate that family planning/reproductive health programs should be a component of U.S. and international responses to climate change.
- ▶ Strengthen climate change adaptation frameworks and programs by incorporating lessons learned from integrated population, health, and environment projects.

In the context of UNFCCC processes, PAI has joined with partners in the women and gender constituency to highlight the need to integrate gender considerations in responding to climate change. As an observer organization with membership in the environmental constituency, PAI works to ensure coordination and harmonization of efforts to achieve common goals shared between the constituencies. As a partner in the Nairobi Work Programme, PAI advances approaches to adaptation that incorporate gender analysis and responsiveness.

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WECF

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) is an international network of over 100 women's, environmental and health organisations. WECF's overall goal "Achieving a healthy environment and sustainable development for all" can only be reached by integrating human rights and gender perspectives into all policies. We strive for balancing environment, health and economy. We enable women and men to participate at local and global level in policy processes for sustainable development. Our network's activities are based on our partners' own visions and needs. WECF implements solutions locally in 40 countries and influences policy internationally.

WECF is active in a number of civil society climate advocacy networks including Climate Action Network (CAN), Climate Justice Now, RAC –F (Réseau action climat France), the German Climate Alliance and the tcktcktck campaign, to spread and benefit from capacity building and joint project and advocacy work.

WECF sees that climate change governance needs to take into account the perspective of the most vulnerable countries and peoples to obviate being a threat to democratic social development and therefore brings its vital experience, expertise, information and perspectives into the process to generate new insights and approaches. WECF facilitates and coordinates participation of member and partner organisations in the global climate change policy process under the UNFCCC.

WECF promotes poverty eradication through empowering, effective, equitable solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation. WECF advocates for innovative and replicable solutions for households and communities.

WECF advocates and promotes the switch from fossil fuels and nuclear energy towards sustainable and decentralised alternatives, documenting the damage of the former and the benefits of the latter. It works on keeping unsustainable energy sources out of global financial mechanisms, and on making the financial mechanisms CDM accessible for household and community projects (and women's projects). WECF advocates for mitigation and adaptation funds to be accessible to women and poor communities and value low carbon, low emission development. WECF provides input to the project-based mechanisms [CDM, JI] and on technology transfer [TT: CLEAR] based on its network expertise on energy and housing.

WECF advocates for an ambitious and equitable gender sensitive approach of climate policies. It is essential that the global policy process includes the participation of affected peoples and is based on local evidence and knowledge of climate, development and structural poverty elimination. Women are not only more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men but they are also effective agents of change in relation to both mitigation and adaptation.

Article 6 of the Convention calls on governments to promote education, training and public awareness on climate change. WECF works as a founding member within the Women and Gender constituency and cooperates closely with YOUNGO on this subject to ensure education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international cooperation are effective and improve capacity building.

WECF builds on many years of experience in effectively bringing evidence-based local knowledge on climate and development and structural poverty elimination into global policy processes through participation of affected peoples. WECF helps enable civil society to function as a watchdog, to monitor changes in the environment and climate by using new technologies and evaluate the impacts of actions by governments and private sector.

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The **Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)** is a women's international advocacy organization working on sustainable development, women's empowerment and leadership, and global governance and finance. Headquartered near the UN in New York, with staff in West Africa and Latin America, its mission is to empower women as decision makers to achieve economic and social justice, a healthy and peaceful planet and human rights for all. Focused on climate change as an urgent priority for more than five years, WEDO became an official Observer to the UNFCCC in 2008 at Poznan COP-14. WEDO is an NGO that does not have direct members or affiliates but regularly plays the convening and organizing role among its partners and colleagues, accrediting anywhere between 5 and 50 other organizations on its delegation lists.

Our objectives

As an Observer to the UNFCCC, and now as a member of the Women and Gender Constituency, WEDO's objectives are to effectively integrate key gender equality language in global negotiations and outcomes, as well as plans and programmes of implementation and finance, by providing targeted technical support to Parties. As part of its mission to empower women as decision-makers, WEDO also facilitates women's direct access to these negotiating spheres, supporting both NGO and government representatives. To facilitate meaningful participation and multi-directional exchanges of information, WEDO organizes various trainings, networking and capacity building activities on relevant topics.

Our activities

At the UNFCCC meetings, WEDO facilitates two major activities: an advocacy team and a Women Delegates Fund (WDF). The advocacy team is comprised of women from around the world with diverse expertise who closely follow the ongoing negotiations toward a global agreement; the WDF supports women from the global South to be part of their national negotiating teams. Both of these projects are facilitated on behalf of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) (www.gender-climate.org). In addition, WEDO collaborates with a wide range of partners – civil society, UN and government actors alike – on various side events, campaigns and other awareness raising activities.

Contacts

For more information on goals and projects, please visit www.wedo.org.

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WOMEN

AND GENDER

INTERVENTIONS

AND

SUBMISSIONS

Interventions

COP 15 Copenhagen, December 2009

Opening plenary of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), 07 December 2009, GenderCC on behalf of the constituency, see

http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/UNFCCC_conferences/COP15/gendercc-statement-lca-12-07.doc

CMP plenary, 09 December 2009, GenderCC, see

http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/UNFCCC_conferences/COP15/Intervention-gendercc-cmp_9-12-09.doc

SBSTA Plenary Session, December 12 2009, WEDO, see

<http://www.wedo.org/themes/sustainable-development-themes/climatechange/statement-by-ms-meena-kunwar-on-gender-considerations>

Closing Plenary of AWG-KP, 15 December 2009, GenderCC on behalf of the constituency

http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/UNFCCC_conferences/COP15/gendercc-InterventionAWG-KP09.pdf

Closing Session, 18 December 2009, LIFE, see http://cop15.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/cop15/templ/play.php?id_kongresssession=2745&theme=unfccc#

AWG-KP 11 & AWG-LCA 9, Bonn, April 2010

Ad hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action, April 9 2010, WEDO, see

<http://www.wedo.org/themes/sustainable-development-themes/climatechange/wedo-delivers-intervention-for-gender-constituency-at-bonn-climate-change-talks>

UN Climate Change Conference, Bonn, June 2010

Opening session of the Convention, on Article 6, 31 May 2010, LIFE, see

http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/UNFCCC_conferences/Road_to_Cancun/Intervention_LIFE_article_6.pdf

Opening session of the AWG-LCA on 'Financing', 01 June 2010, GenderCC on behalf of the constituency, see

http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/UNFCCC_conferences/Road_to_Cancun/Intervention-gendercc-lca_01.06.10.pdf

Opening of the AWG-KP, 1 June 2010, WECF, on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency, see

http://www.wecf.eu/download/2010/06/final_Women_and_Gender_intervention_AWG_KP_June.pdf

Joint Intervention by ENGO, WOMEN and GENDER, IPO, LGMA, TUNGO, YOUTH, 3 June 2010, held by TUNGO, see <http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/SBI-JointIntervention.pdf>

SBSTA dialogue on the development in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention, 03 June 2010, GenderCC on behalf of the constituency, see

http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/UNFCCC_conferences/Road_to_Cancun/Intervention-Research03.06.pdf

SBSTA Closing Session, on REDD+, June 8 2010, WEDO on behalf of the constituency, see http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/Intervention_REDD-statement_SBSTA_8-June.pdf

UN Climate Change Conference, Bonn, August 2010

Opening session of the AWG-LCA, 02 August 2010, WEDO on behalf of the constituency, see http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/W+G_Constituency_intervention_LCA_Opening_2Aug2010_final.pdf

Closing session AWG-KP, 6 August 2010, WECF on behalf of the constituency, see http://www.wecf.eu/download/2010/08/Women_gender_KP_intervention.pdf

AWG-KP 14 & AWG-LCA 12, Tianjin, October 2010

Opening session of the AWG-LCA, 04 October 2010, GenderCC, see http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/UNFCCC_conferences/Road_to_Cancun/Intervention-gendercc-AWG-LCA_10_2010.pdf

Submissions

Joint Submission

Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings. Submission to the SBI: Ways to Enhance the Engagement of Observer Organisations, submitted by GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice on behalf of LIFE e.V., Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), and Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO), 9 September 2010, available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/smsn/ngo/207.pdf> (Annex 10)

APWLD

Rural and Indigenous Women's Statement on Climate Change: A Submission to the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (submitted 9 November 2009 for COP15), available at http://www.apwld.org/rural_indigenous11192010.html

GenderCC

Possible further actions on the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Convention and decisions 5/CP.7 and 1/CP.10. Joint Submission with LIFE on Matters relating to Article 4, paragraph 8 and 9, of the Convention: Progress on the implementation of decision 1/CP.10 (SBI) (submitted 28 September 2009), available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/smsn/ngo/172.pdf> (Annex 8)

Effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in fulfilling its objective, expected outcome, scope of work and modalities. Submission to the SBSTA: Views and information on the effectiveness of the Nairobi Work Programme (submitted 16 August 2010), available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/smsn/ngo/189.pdf> (Annex 9)

LIFE

Submission to the SBI on the implementation of the amended New Delhi Work Programme and on remaining barriers to the effective implementation of Article 6 of the Convention (submitted 16 August 2010), together with GenderCC, available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/smsn/ngo/215.pdf> (Annex 11)

WECF

Joint submission with atmosfair on simplified modalities for demonstrating additionality of small scale renewable energy and energy efficiency project activities (submitted 12 April 2010), available at http://cdm.unfccc.int/public_inputs/2010/additionality_ren_nrj/index.html (under Florian Zerkawy)

DRAFT CHARTER OF THE WOMEN'S AND GENDER CONSTITUENCY

Goal

The goal of the Women's and Gender Constituency is to formalize the voice of the women's and gender civil society organizations present and regularly active in UNFCCC processes, and to debate, streamline and strengthen the positions which these organizations put forth. The Constituency aims to bring together as many NGO observer accredited to the UNFCCC as possible to democratically contribute to its goals. Individuals and organizations who are not accredited to the UNFCCC are encouraged to work through those accredited members.

The Constituency draws upon global commitments to gender equality and women's rights, especially as they relate to climate change, and toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and related commitments and Conventions. The Constituency works to ensure human rights and a gender perspective is incorporated into UNFCCC negotiations, plans and actions.

Principles

- Democratic and participatory governance
- Participatory and respectful (between members and of diverging positions)
- Wide and inclusive membership of registered NGO observers to the UNFCCC
- Equitable (in terms of representation, affiliation, age, and ability)
- Encouraging of regional balance in its membership, participation processes and structures
- Transparent procedures and clear, timely and flexible communication
- Ensure working methodologies allow for effective participation of members from all regions
- Building on history (collectively and individually)
- Mentoring (of younger generations and other newcomers)
- Goal-oriented
- Provide a platform for women's leadership with broad and participatory access.

Constituency responsibilities

Objectives

- to regularly review developments in the climate change discourse within and around the official negotiations
- to ensure representation of women's voices, experiences, needs and capacities and to ensure a gender perspective in all discussions
- to feed women and gender sensitive perspectives and situations into the discourse
- to help foster communication between women and gender organizations/actions and national- or global-level negotiations
- to support and contribute to the women's and gender caucus(es) –which are daily coordination meetings- during formal meetings
- to liaise with other caucuses and constituencies, especially to identify common ground

Issues

Priority issues may include:

- Adaptation – equitable actions to urgently respond to those most in need (prioritizing actions, funds, etc, for those countries, communities and populations most vulnerable)
- Mitigation – upholding the principles of common but differentiated, historical responsibilities; pushing for a sustainable energy paradigm and the recognition of women’s role as efficient and capable energy managers.
- Sustainability – going beyond the focus on carbon to look toward other issues of environmental, social, or economic relevance
- Participation – fostering the wide participation of women and women’s issues in these processes and supporting their views and perspectives
- MDGS – ensure climate change policies are in line with global commitments such as sustainable development and poverty eradication

Issues in focus would be regularly re-evaluated in light of current negotiations.

Working Groups

Working groups/thematic groups (eg. for Adaptation, Mitigation, Technology, Finance, or KP, LCA, SBs, etc.) would be organized to generate and facilitate substantive contributions to the UNFCCC processes. Each working group should elect a coordinator who would regularly facilitate communication among members, between each other, and from/to the Focal Point¹. Coordinators for groups will rotate among the membership; coordinators will represent global South and North.

Membership

Participation in a particular constituency is the choice of an individual organization, and is neither official nor binding. It does not preclude direct communication with the Secretariat by any observer organization, nor does it imply any ‘sovereignty’ over the constituency on the part of the focal point organization.

Governance structure

The constituency will adjust its governance structure to best meet the demands of its membership and ensure proper international and regional coordination and guidance. The bodies which constitute the governance structure are accountable to the members. The constituency will establish appropriate transparency and accountability mechanisms through its Operational Guidelines, including the use of performance assessments and conflict resolution mechanisms.

The Constituency listserv has been established by the Focal Point to communicate with the member organizations. The list serves as the forum for information-sharing specific to the Constituency, positions, speaking opportunities, requests, etc. The list and contact information of the Constituency members are made public and available to the members electronically. All members of the Constituency are included in the Constituency’s list serve.

¹ Please note that the role of the Focal Point for Constituencies under the UNFCCC have specific responsibilities and opportunities. Guidelines for the Women’s/Gender Constituency Focal Point, the constituency procedures, and the Caucus Meetings are included in the draft Operational Guidelines and available separately from this document.

