



Gender Priorities for UNFCCC COP20

20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, Lima, Peru, 1-12 December 2014

Introduction

The 20th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP20) must be a watershed moment in climate negotiations: with only one year left before Paris, negotiators must make significant progress establishing the framework for the post-2015 climate change agreement—while they also must continue to implement commitments already made, including on gender.

Climate change is exacerbating existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, not least for women—but solutions stand to flourish when both women and men are fully engaged, empowered and resilient. The importance of gender considerations in climate change policy-making, programming and finance has gained strong recognition in recent years, and subsequently, decisions of the UNFCCC have included substantive text on gender that primes Parties for gender-responsive action at national level.

COP20 will be a critical opportunity to continue to build enabling elements of a post-2015 agreement that is effective, efficient, and equitable, as well as gender-responsive.

Moreover, negotiators will have the opportunity to explore implementation of the so-called “Gender Decision” (Doha; Decision 23/CP.18), which, among other things, ensured a standing COP agenda item on gender. Preparatory discussions during COP19 positioned Parties to consider a COP20 decision that could strengthen and substantiate progress on gender-responsive climate policy and implementation. A time-bound framework for action can ensure that concrete steps are in place to turn words into action, with impact across all key issues and programs of the UNFCCC.

IUCN Global Gender Office (GGO) is poised to support countries through these processes, both at global and national levels.

As negotiators prepare for and anticipate COP20's influence, the IUCN GGO is prioritizing and lending its support to the following issues and events in Lima:

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1. Securing Gender Equality as Part of the Post-2015 Climate Agreement

Integrating a gender approach in the new climate agreement will be essential to provide the legal basis for promoting gender-responsive climate action at all levels. Women and men alike will need to be positioned as key actors for effective adaptation and mitigation.

Parties and regional groups, including the African Group, the Least Developed Countries, the Environmental Integrity Group, the Latin American and Caribbean group, as well as Mexico, Norway and Iceland, have made proposals for the inclusion of gender in the new agreement during recent meetings of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP). Many submissions and interventions proposed **gender equality as a guiding principle or a crosscutting issue** through all issues of the new agreement, while others proposed **integration of gender in adaptation and means of implementation**. The latest informal paper for discussion by the co-chairs has included gender equality as guiding principle and further integrated it in capacity building.

While the sister Rio Conventions—on Biodiversity and Combating Desertification— included gender provisions from their start, the new agreement of the UNFCCC can take a critical step toward aligning with global mandates on gender and environment and ensuring its efficacy by also providing for substantive gender inclusion.

2. Agreeing on a Roadmap for Action on Gender

Doha COP18's so-called "Gender Decision", Decision 23/CP.18 provided, among other things, that *gender and climate change will now be a standing COP agenda item*.

The Decision provided for the organization of a first-ever in-session workshop on gender and climate change—specifically on increasing women's participation and advancing gender balance in UNFCCC spheres, as well as gender-sensitive climate policy and capacity building—during last year's COP19 in Warsaw. The workshop discussions, together with

submissions from Parties and Observers, led to SBI conclusions¹ adopted by the COP.

In these conclusions, **Parties agreed to consider further ways to strengthen gender balance, gender sensitive climate policy and effective participation of women under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol during COP20**. Delegates to Peru will thus have the important opportunity to provide a **mandate for developing a comprehensive framework including a two-year work programme**, as the COP19 conclusions suggest, for implementation of gender provisions.

The submissions and discussions as reflected in, especially, the COP19 conclusions offer rich material for consideration toward this end. These include, for example:

- ✓ *Strengthening of existing work in the thematic areas of adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology and capacity building, including through in-session workshops;*
- ✓ *Training and awareness rising for male and female delegates on issues related to gender and climate;*
- ✓ *Capacity building for female delegates. Training and capacity building were the most requested activities by developing country Parties overall for promoting gender balance in the UNFCCC;*
- ✓ *Making use of existing, and developing additional, methodologies and tools, knowledge, research and strategies for implementing gender-sensitive and gender-responsive climate policies;*
- ✓ *Development of gender guidelines for the relevant climate activities;*
- ✓ *Reviewing the implementation of the existing COP decisions' gender mandates*

With vast experience facilitating gender-responsive policy and implementation processes across the environmental sector, IUCN GGO is well-positioned and eager to support on many of these potential activities.

¹ [UNFCCC/SBI/2013/L16](http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/sbi/eng/l16.pdf)
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3. Celebrating Global Support for Gender Considerations

As understanding of and support for gender considerations has swelled in recent years, manifesting in both global policy results and national commitments and frameworks² to implement gender-responsive climate action, IUCN GGO has continued to ally with partners at international and national levels to propel policy processes—and ensure words turn to action—to better the lives of women and men in communities all over the world.

IUCN GGO, together with a range of these partners, will host a cocktail reception event as the high-level closing of this year's UNFCCC Gender Day to celebrate progress made on gender and climate change and champion substantial steps on COP20 priorities.

Advancing Gender Equality for Climate Action: A COP20 Delegates Cocktail Reception on the Occasion of Gender Day

will be organized with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment and [Women's Affairs] of Peru; the Governments of Spain, Finland and Mozambique; the UNFCCC Secretariat; UN Women; the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) and Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). A short high-level program will include remarks from the Peruvian Super Minister, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, and many others to be announced.

- ✓ *Tuesday, 9 December 2014, 20:00-22:00, the Peruvian Pavilion*

4. Towards a Gender-Responsive Mitigation Framework: Building on Methodologies and Lessons Learned from the Energy Sector

Will be organized in collaboration with IUCN, ETC Foundation / ENERGIA, WECF, WEDO, Ministry of Energy, Government of Nicaragua, OLADE. This side event will showcase experiences from different regions, including Latin America and Eastern Europe, in order to demonstrate tangible ways in which gender methodologies can contribute to the development of more just energy policies, including mitigation actions such as NAMA's.

² Such as the 14 national **Climate Change and Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs)**, facilitated by IUCN GGO

Moreover, the event showcases the potential for alliances between Party States and Civil Society Organizations and the benefits these can have towards achieving gender equality in the context of climate change mitigation initiatives. Finally, by exploring the integration of gender equality in the energy sector, it is expected this side event will support Parties in the discussion of the challenges, benefits and possibilities of integrating a gender approach in the design of their mitigation initiatives

- ✓ *Wednesday, 10 December 2014, 15:00-16:30, Room Maranga (130) Pentagonit*

5. Momentum for Change –

Momentum for Change: Women for Results – an initiative of the UNFCCC Secretariat – showcases women-led activities that address climate change. These “lighthouse activities” will demonstrate measurable impact on the ground, and the potential for replicability and scalability at the local, national and international levels. IUCN GGO's Global Senior Gender Adviser was appointed Chair of the Women for Results Committee and will be pleased to participate in the high-level event congratulating awardees at a Momentum for Change event on Gender Day (9 December, 2014).

- ✓ *Tuesday, 9 December 2014, 16:45-18:00, MfC 1*