

Women's autonomy and gender equality at the center of climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean

Reference document

Special session of regional consultation prior to CSW66

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I. Introduction

- Highly vulnerable, especially the Caribbean and Central America, to the effects of climate change, accounting for less than 10% of global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions
- Our region continues to be the most unequal in the world and has been the region whose development has been most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic
- The only region with more than four decades of promoting a deep, ambitious and comprehensive Regional Gender Agenda



II. Structural challenges of gender inequality and climate change

- Unequal impacts of climate change linked to inequality and persistent poverty in the context of growth that is exclusionary and unsustainable
- Patriarchal cultural patterns tend to exclude and ignore Women's knowledge, especially of rural, indigenous and Afro-descendant women
- Effects of climate change may deepen existing gender inequalities
- Domestic and care work is intensified in environmental crises and disasters



III. International policy framework

- Gender in the Environmental Sector- UNCED, MEAs
- Fourth World Conference on Women - objective K
- The UNFCCC is created without mention of gender equality /2008 paradigm shift
- As of 2021 UNFCCC has 87 gender mandates
- Six pivotal decisions:
 - Cancun- REDD+ mitigation
 - Creation of Green Climate Fund
 - Doha- Gender becomes permanent item in COP Agenda
 - Lima Work Programme on Gender
 - Guiding principle in the Paris Agreement
 - The two GAPs of the UNFCCC





IV. Progress at the regional level

- Brasilia Consensus
- Montevideo Strategy and the Santiago Commitment
- Escazú Agreement
- Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development
- XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (2021)
- Central American Integration System (SICA) Regional Strategy on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Strategy
- Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway)



Women environmental defenders

- According to Global Witness data (2021), of the 10 countries in the world with the highest number of registered attacks against human rights defenders, 7 are in Latin America
- More exposed to gender-based violence, they challenge patriarchal culture and gender stereotypes
- Risks are heightened by misogyny and attacks against them are underestimated in formal records, especially in remote and rural areas
- The Escazú Agreement establishes legally binding commitments to protect environmental defenders in the region, the first agreement worldwide to include such a commitment - 24 signatories and 12 ratifications

V. Progress at the national level

- The ccGAPs
- National gender and CC strategies
- National gender equality plans
- Gender in environmental regulations
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)



Priority areas for regional action

- A.** Coherence between international, regional and national policy frameworks
- B.** Capacity building and development
- C.** Equal representation and participation
- D.** Production of knowledge, data, and statistics
- E.** Financial flows

A. REGIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK



Actions

- Conduct an analysis of coherence at both the international and regional levels - inform and strategically target actions in the región
- Design an advocacy strategy to ensure that the needs and priorities identified in the regional agenda are reflected in international decision-making spaces
 - The next two years are of vital importance as the process of identifying the impact of the second GAP and defining the third UNFCCC GAP will begin
- Develop a calendar with the dates and deadlines for country reports to the UNFCCC and establish institutional mechanisms to strengthen the participation of the MAWs in the preparation of these documents

A. NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK



- In reviewing and renewing national equality plans reflect and implement mandates at the international, regional and national levels
 - In-depth analysis of the mandates and the two UNFCCC GAPs
 - Examine the GAPs from other environmental conventions
 - Consider actions and commitments - Generation Equality Forum
 - Study the latest NDC
- Integrate a gender perspective in environmental, adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction policies, initiatives and programs

Actions



Actions

National and sub-national

- Promote the protection of the rights of all women human rights defenders, particularly those working on issues related to the environment, land and natural resources;
- Adopt measures to integrate a gender perspective in the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defense of human rights, to prevent discrimination and violence against women defenders and to combat impunity by adopting measures to investigate human rights violations committed against them and guarantee their access to justice
- Promote essential infrastructure and services ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services



B. Capacity building

- The transition to a development style that seeks a balance with the planet in a fairer world requires new knowledge and theoretical and methodological approaches
- The generation of specialized knowledge (urban planning, integrated forest management, energy and emissions reduction) is imperative.
- “Tailor-made” training processes that respond to the specific needs of the sector are required

B. CAPACITY BUILDING



- Develop specific training modules for different sectors
- Encourage the participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant women, both to strengthen their capacities and to promote the exchange of their ancestral knowledge on adaptation and mitigation
- Strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of women, adolescents and girls to respond to the adverse effects of climate change and disasters, environmental degradation and environmental pollution in cities and rural areas
- Encourage research and academic training through partnerships with universities and think tanks and promote diploma courses or certifications with different emphases and for different sectors (forestry, maritime-coastal, agriculture, energy)

Actions



C. Representation and participation

At the UNFCCC

- 2008 women in delegations 32% and 2020 reached 40%
- At COP25 in 2019 women in LAC delegations was 42.4%
- Heads of delegation COP15 - 19 of 193 countries are women - COP25 - 41 of 196 countries with women heads of delegation
- Distribution of women's participation by regional group in technical bodies, LAC and Asia-Pacific are the regions that have appointed the fewest women

C. REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION - INTERNATIONAL



Actions

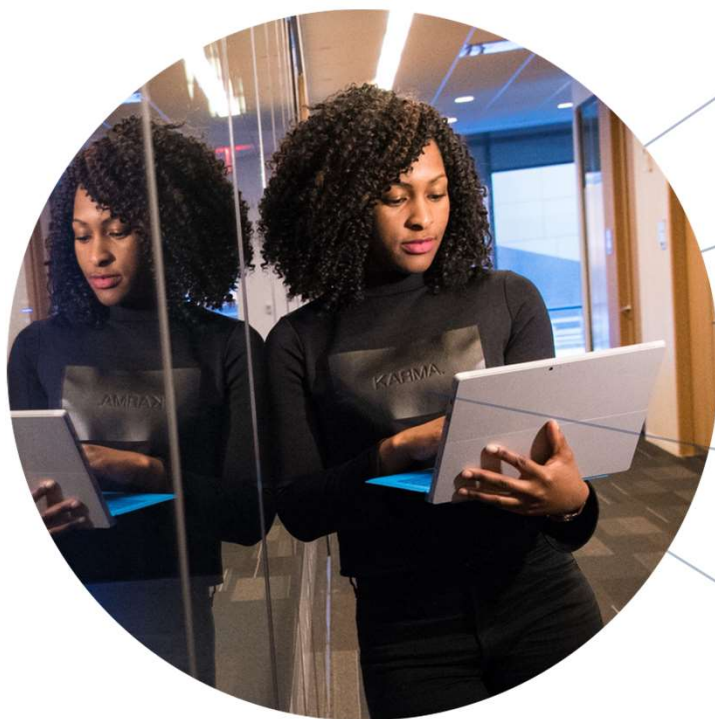
- Request the State entity that represents the country at the UNFCCC to include MAW and women's groups from diverse groups in the official delegation
- Ensure that the country's position considers the differentiated impacts and needs of indigenous and Afro-descendant women and men
- Facilitate the participation of women, in all their diversity in climate change decision-making spaces
- Promote specific, innovative and transformative projects designed by and for women in the area of gender and climate change that can make an impact in reducing gender gaps and support women's autonomy in all their diversity

D. Knowledge, research, data

- Challenges in creation, availability, **gender statistics in the environmental sector**
 - Lack of awareness of the value of sex-disaggregated data
 - Systems are not designed to capture the complexities of socioeconomic and environmental interactions in the territories.
 - Quality data
 - They are not used and their dissemination is limited.
- **Environmental indicators** are not included in the main **global gender indexes**.



D. KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH, DATA



Actions

- Strengthen the evidence base and undertake research on the connections between gender and environmental factors (GHG emissions, land degradation, biodiversity loss)
- Collect sex and variables associated with intersectionality and interculturality in administrative data sources related to the environment
- Use of data to inform gender-sensitive policies, strategies, measures and actions to address climate change
- Take advantage of spaces for dialogue and regional agreements to identify and promote promising practices to advance an agenda of statistical strengthening for the production of indicators
- Promote the development of a system for monitoring and reporting on NDC gender commitments at national and regional levels



E. Financing

- All funding mechanisms associated with climate change have mandates such as gender policies or action plans
- Funding for climate change adaptation is an opportunity to promote human rights and gender equality
- The architecture of climate finance has not been designed to involve small grassroots organizations. Funds channel resources through "implementing agencies".
- Opportunity -transition to a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability

E. FINANCING



Actions

- Understand the financial architecture associated with climate change at the national level
- Define procedures that guarantee operationalization of the mandates of the Funds for the development of gender-responsive initiatives
- Guarantee direct access to financial resources for women's organizations and groups
- Develop and support the implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment criteria in policies and initiatives related to the green transition
- Prioritize investment in the care economy, recognizing it as a dynamic sector



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