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**COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND
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Regional Meeting on Gender and Climate Change

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
17-19 July 2013

REPORT OF REGIONAL MEETING ON GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

2013 (MP/cmm)

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Regional Meeting on Gender and Climate was held at the Intercontinental Addis Ababa Hotel, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 17 – 19 July, 2013.

B. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by gender experts and climate change negotiators from, Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. It was also attended by representatives from regional and international organisations such as African Women Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF), Association for Strengthening Agriculture Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA), Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Women's Environment in Development Organisation (WEDO), ABANTU for Development, Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (RESAKSS) and PanAfrican Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA). The list of participants appears as Annex I to the main report.

Opening of the meeting

3. The meeting was officially opened by Her Excellency, State Minister Frenesh Mekuira, State Ministry of Women's, Children and Youth Affairs in Ethiopia. She welcomed the delegates to the Regional Meeting on Gender and Climate Change and wished them a comfortable and pleasant stay in the country. She also extended her thanks to all the people and organizations, especially the cooperating partners such as Norway, DFID and EU, who contributed to the convening of the meeting.

4. State Minister Frenesh stated that the detrimental effects of climate change are already being felt in the short-term through natural hazards, such as landslides, floods and hurricanes; and in the long-term, through more gradual degradation of the environment. The adverse effects of these events are being experienced in most areas, including in relation to, inter alia, agriculture and food security; biodiversity and ecosystems; water resources; human health; human settlements and migration patterns; and energy, transport and industry

5. The State Minister noted that, Women and men in rural areas in developing countries are especially vulnerable since they are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood. In most of such contexts, women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men, primarily as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change. Furthermore, women face social, economic and political barriers that limit their coping capacity.

6. She pointed out that consultations with and participation of women in climate change initiatives must be ensured, and the role of women's groups and networks strengthened. In addition, she stated that currently women are underrepresented in the decision-making processes of environmental governance.

7. The State Minister again observed that the gender decision adopted at COP-18 in Doha, Qatar, in December 2012 was an important milestone on the journey towards equality, as it calls for increased women's participation in UNFCCC negotiations and bodies. The decision also,

positions for the first time the issue of gender and climate change as a standing item on the agenda of sessions of the COP.

8. Her Excellency, State Minister Frenesh, further pointed out that the COP 18 decision draws the continent closer to the realization of MDG 3; **Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women**, and enabling equal representation of men and women in Conference of Parties decision-making structures.

9. The State Minister reiterated the main objective of the meeting, as being to facilitate the joint drafting of the submission in response to the UNFCCC call. The draft will be used by the Member States to customize their own submissions, for submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat by 2nd September 2013, and in accordance with decision 23/CP.18.

10. In concluding her address, the State Minister, declared the meeting officially open and wished delegate to the Regional Meeting on Gender and Climate Change success in their deliberations.

11. The COMESA Secretary General, Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya, in a speech read on his behalf by The Director of Gender and Social Affairs, Mrs. Emiliana Tembo, also welcomed the participants to the meeting and paid special tribute to the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, for the warm hospitality extended to the delegates since their arrival in the country. He also extended special thanks to cooperating partners for financial support which had made it possible for the meeting to take place.

12. Mr. Ngwenya highlighted the fact that the 18th Conference of the Parties (COP-18) to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC) held in Doha, Qatar adopted a decision for "Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol," which aims at increasing the number of female delegates involved in the UNFCCC process at all levels. He noted that the with the adoption of "Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations," countries have signed up to the following key goals; 1) *Improving the participation of women in the bodies of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol (paragraph 1) and striving for a gender balance in these bodies (paragraph 2); 2) Striving for gender balance in country delegations (paragraph 7); and 3) Conducting a workshop on gender balance and gender-sensitive climate policy and capacity building at the next COP in Warsaw at the end of 2013 (paragraph 10).*,

13. The Secretary General further stated that the decision invites current and future chairs of such bodies to be guided by the goal of gender balance when setting up informal negotiating groups and consultation mechanisms, including in their selection of facilitators and chairs . Parties to the Convention are also encouraged to include more women as candidates for positions within these bodies and to strive for gender balance in the delegations participating in meetings under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. The Secretary General added that It is within the aforementioned context that COMESA has spearheaded the facilitation of this Regional Meeting on Gender and Climate Change, in response to the UNFCCC's call for early submission of information and views. For instance, COMESA has requested for views from Parties and observer organizations on options and ways to advance the goal of gender balance in bodies. Parties are requested to make the submissions to be done by the 2nd September, 2013 to the UNFCCC

14. Mr. Ngwenya concluded by stating that COMESA strongly believes that, It is only through increased and concerted efforts that we can deliver a position that will enable our partner/member states and region to meet the challenges and exploit the opportunities that climate change presents, by promoting the balanced participation of women in parties and bodies to the UNFCCC deliberation. He also wished the Meeting success in its deliberations.

15. The Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Forest of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Director General for the Environmental Protection Authority, Dr. Tewolde stated that women constitute half of humanity, and that not affording women the same rights that men have, is thus disadvantaging half of humanity.

16. Dr. Tewolde also pointed out that denying equal rights to women was merely reducing the productivity of the countries by half. He stated that men and women should enjoy the same rights both for emotional and for economic reasons. Dr. Tewolde further added that from biological, emotional and economic considerations, the series of conundrums that would be faced if women continue to be inferior to men can only disappear by eliminating the imbued values of inequality and by treating both men and women as equal and fully functional beings.

17. In conclusion, the Advisor to the Minister stated that the climate change forum becomes a venue for declaring gender equality as a prerequisite for survival, and the composition of its participants must reflect gender equality. He stated that he fully supports the decision of the 18th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and would have gone further to demand an immediate equal representation of men and women in the negotiation forum. Dr. Tewolde also stated that Africa is a late starter in forwarding the agenda for increasing participation of women, hence the need for increased commitment to reflect higher numbers of women negotiators on teams.

C. MEETING OBJECTIVES

18. The main objective of the Regional Meeting on Gender and Climate Change is to bring together policy makers, gender practitioners and negotiators to discuss the status of gender and climate change in Africa with a view to identifying options and ways to advance the goal of gender balance from Africa's perspective. Specifically, the meeting was to :

- (a) Unpack gender and climate change dimension in African context and;
- (b) Prepare a submission to UNFCCC

19. In addition, the meeting was to identify a strategy to continually guide Africa in efforts to attain the long term goal of gender mainstreaming in the climate change processes, in relation to the UNFCCC decision.

D. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

(i) Panel Discussion

20. A panel discussion was organized, consisting of delegates from Mozambique, Kenya, Cameroon, Liberia and IGAD. Mozambique highlighted that it has existing policies such as NAPA and Gender and Climate Change Strategy. It has action plans on Empowerment of the Community, Adaptation, Mitigation, Sustainable Use of Natural resources. In addition, the

delegate from Liberia informed the meeting that Liberia has since submitted REDD document to UNFCCC. The process for REDD has gone far in terms of documentation and REDD Strategy is in place. However, she pointed out that despite the passing of the decision of COP to increase women's participation, the challenge remains in the limited dissemination of the decision to the populace. Cameroun, through REFACOF, stated that the country experiences droughts and heavy rains, over-flooding, forest degradation. In all these, the gender aspects need to be addressed, since women participation is limited in any interventions undertaken in these areas. She informed the meeting that with regards to COP 18 decision on gender, Cameroun has faced challenges with information dissemination, communication of the same decision at national level. The Kenyan delegate reported that currently Kenya is addressing issues of access and control, specifically to land. The government was further extending credit to women, under the Women Enterprises Development Fund, targeting rural women and has established Community Forest Management groups that include women.

21. **IGAD** informed the meeting that the objective of IGAD was to combat drought and desertification, and has recently included other sectors such as economic integration and peace and security. It highlighted an existing IGAD Drought Resilience Initiative, that has six areas of focus, which include access to natural resources, access to water and land, in order to build resilience of communities; access to trade and natural resources – infrastructure (build required infrastructure to promote trade); access to financial facilities – addressing the issue of livelihood support, access to social services (customary livelihood, livestock, health and diseases, and employment opportunities, dry land products and marketing, access to education, water, health); knowledge management and technology transfer; disaster risk management, addressing the issue of droughts and floods, focusing on vulnerabilities; Conflict, addresses peace and security component; and Coordination and partnership, joint planning an programming.

22. A representative from South Sudan (SS) also contributed to the discussions and stated that the main challenge in SS is that of flooding, which causes massive displacement of communities. However, limited action has been undertaken in response to the challenge. Nonetheless, the government is attempting to address the issues of gender in these disasters. COMESA Secretariat also made contributions and highlighted the efforts that have been on-going in relation to gender and climate change. It stated that progress realised so far has been the identification of a Gender and CC Expert, development of a Regional Strategy and Strategic Action Plan on Mainstreaming Gender in Agriculture and Climate Change (RESTRAP). The Secretariat has also conducted capacity building of technical officers at both national and regional level. It is currently in the process of developing a monitoring and evaluation tool on the same.

DISCUSSIONS

23. The presentations generated very interesting contributions. Some key points are highlighted as follows:

- (a) The need to identify interventions that will address all the existing inequalities, even applying the strategies put in place in 21 countries within the continent;
- (b) National strategies on climate change should adequately address the issue of gender, in response to the COP 18 decision;

- (c) The need for communication and information dissemination on UNFCCC processes and decisions on gender and climate change at national level; stakeholder participation that extends to government and CSOs, especially in creation of mechanism and tools for capacity and communication;
- (d) The need for CSOs to closely monitor development of national action plans and strategies, to promote inclusion of gender concerns.

24. The meeting further observed other key issues highlighted as follows:

- (i) Policy should address inequalities, reforms in development processes should address existing inequalities in CC, as majority of national gender policies barely address the issue of inequalities;
- (ii) Need to strengthen relationships with Parliamentarians to forward the gender agenda in signed MOUs on CC at national level, regarding reforms issues on REDD, CC and land tenure;
- (iii) RECs are to align policies to AUC, and Member States are to align policies to those of the RECs. AUC should be made aware of the gender and climate change dimension, and all continental efforts on the same should be coordinated by AUC. AUC needs to facilitate mechanisms on this issue, and monitor efforts by RECs;
- (iv) COMESA needs to address gender concerns not in isolation, but rather in tandem with other existing inequalities. There is also need to compile national data on women and agriculture and climate change vulnerabilities. Submission to the UNFCCC has to be evidence-based data, in order to be convincing.

(ii) Presentation on priority setting (Ghana-ABANTU and PACJA)

25. The meeting heard other presentations from representatives from ABANTU for Development, Dr. Rose Mensah-Kutin, Director and Mr. Samson S. Ogallah, Programme Manager of PanAfrican Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA). Key priority areas were highlighted in line with the COP 18 decisions and goals. In summary, the presenters mentioned several issues. For example, it was observed that African's position on CC was located on key principles of UNFCCC of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR). The Principle recognises inequality as central, and gender is seen as key area for experience on inequality. In all UNFCCC processes, African countries have been quite active, acknowledging that the Doha Miracle was quite critical. However, if not strategic, Africa might limit the decision on gender to basic numbers. Therefore, the language in the Doha Miracle was deemed as inadequate to capture all challenges in response to gender inequalities. There was also need for extensive understanding on the actual impact and contribution of men and women in relation to CC. As African societies, the impact of CC is quite diverse, hence the need for coordinated approaches to addressing the negative impacts.

26. With regard to mitigation, actions on the ground would entail the need to apply market-based approaches. These approaches could include acknowledging gender dimensions in energy saving technologies and clean energy mechanisms. Gender and CC as a whole, reflect that women constitute the majority of the vulnerable, e.g. REDD processes. Gender dimension of climate change, with regard to impact and contribution, should be thoroughly reviewed. Empowerment of women in all aspects such as, information, skills, capacity building is essential.

Key recommendations

27. The meeting made the following recommendations:

- (i) The contribution of women to the use and management of natural resources at national, regional and international levels, should be fully acknowledged.*
- (ii) Women's rights in climate change mitigation and adaptation, including their rights to information, knowledge, skills, resources and participation in decision-making should be guaranteed.*
- (iii) Women's full participation and contribution to decision-making and leadership in climate-change processes and actions, including adaptation and mitigation actions should be promoted.*
- (iv) Awareness and understanding on adaptation issues and concerns at the global, national, and most importantly, at the local levels, among the poor and vulnerable should be increased.*
- (v) Timely information and adequate services and resources to women and vulnerable communities to enable them make timely decisions and take appropriate actions, including taking effective adaptation measures should be provided.*
- (vi) Women's experiences, knowledge and coping capacities in adaptation policies should be strengthened. Women's needs should also be considered in livelihood adaptation strategies. This should include the provision of training to women's organizations, networks and support groups, as well as opportunities to share experiences;*
- (vii) The use of gender analysis to understand the different roles and responsibilities of women and men in natural resource use and management, in order to make interventions equally relevant for women and men should be conducted.*
- (viii) Programmes for the empowerment of women to enable them acquire, invest in and deploy technologies that contribute to mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as to enable them effectively mobilize for action should be promoted.*
- (ix) Binding commitments from developed country parties to the UNFCCC to mitigate GHG emissions that would be detrimental to the climate system and increase the burden on the poor and vulnerable should be solicited and secured;*
- (x) Actions of parties to the UNFCCC in reducing the vulnerability of the poor to climate change impacts should be transparent and parties should also be accountable to their constituents.*

(xi) Greater collaboration between civil society and state agencies in Africa on climate change should be strengthened.

(xii) Engagement of more gender experts needed, adequate resources should be guaranteed, and use of local expertise is critical and should be promoted.

(xiii) Promote Africa to be a source of leadership for deepening understanding and addressing gender issues in climate change for sustainable development

28. The following general comments were made during the meeting:

- (a) With regard to gender analysis and data collection, caution should be applied when applying this approach, so as to avoid dwelling on ancient and static baseline data;
- (b) ASARECA member countries have been requested to commission independent studies on the issue of gender and CC;
- (c) The issue of tailor-made technology transfer should be considered, and access to land, information in rural areas should also be given a priority.

(iii) Presentations by Women Environmental and Development Organization (WEDO)

29. Bridget Burns of Women Environmental and Development Organization (WEDO) also made a presentation during the Meeting, outlining some key concepts and issues in terms of work on gender equality within the field of climate change. The presentation included some of the main links between climate impacts and the potential exacerbation of gender inequalities due to environmental degradation. The presentation also outlined the history of gender language and text in the UNFCCC negotiations and current data on women's participation on UNFCCC national delegations and on boards and bodies under the Convention. In addition she highlighted specific work being done at the international and national level to develop tools, knowledge, research and strategies for implementing gender-sensitive climate policy along with sharing experiences of WEDO's administration of the Women Delegates Fund (WDF) and lessons learned for strategies to enhance and strengthen women's participation in climate decision-making processes.

Discussions

30. The highlights of the discussions are summarized below:

- (a) The need to make connection between global, continental and national instruments on the issue of women participation, to enable linkages with existing instruments.
- (b) Existing approaches on customizing the gender policies in other ministries at national level need to be identified.
- (c) Identify gender focal points in various ministries to ensure gender disaggregated interventions in Climate Change programmes.

- (d) Need to analyse the basis and variables applied when generating the decision on gender balance, and whether it responds to the national concerns on gender balance.
- (e) CSOs should develop workplace policies in gender.

Presentation from African Women Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)

31. The presentation highlighted a brief history of the African Women Network for Community Management of Forest (REFACOF) and their position on Women's tenure rights in the world and in Africa. REFACOF mission is to 'Promote women's rights in Africa and influence policy to achieve gender equity in land and forest tenure. The situation facing women in Africa and how this has affected their involvement and participation in the governance of natural resources and why is it important to take a gender perspective in climate change programs and policies with specific emphasis on women. The presentation concluded with the proposals of criteria for the selection of champion for gender issues. Globally, REFACOF stresses that:

- (i) For sustainable and effective Climate Change programs, Gender needs to be "the start point, not an afterthought"!**;
- (ii) For sustainable and effective Climate Change programs / initiatives, Women's tenure and property rights should be a prerequisite!**

KEY ISSUES

32. A concern was raised regarding the engagement of the African Group of Negotiators on the draft decision, for submission to the UNFCCC.

33. The meeting was informed that COMESA is playing a facilitative role, which should translate into engagement with the AGN, and explained that the following key approaches will be adopted;

- (a) National representatives will need to process and domesticate the draft submission at national level for submission to UNFCCC;
- (b) Request meeting organizers to submit draft to the AGN Chair for adoption as AGN position on gender to UNFCCC;
- (c) COMESA, as an accredited observer, will share the submission with the AUC and submit directly to UNFCCC to be reflected as reference material on the website.

34. During the second and third days of the meeting delegates developed an action plan and a draft submission text in line with the main objectives of the meeting to:

- (a) Unpack gender and climate change dimension in the African context and;
- (b) Prepare a submission to the UNFCCC

35. Afterwards, delegates adopted the texts as working documents. The documents appear as Annex II and Annex III to the main report.

The two documents were discussed thoroughly in plenary.

36. Following the extensive discussions, delegates agreed to the following steps, as a way forward:

Way forward

- (a) COMESA, as facilitator, should circulate the draft submission to sister RECs, for further circulation and internalization by relevant Member States;
- (b) Lead agencies on identified action plan will need to generate Concept notes on their specific interventions;
- (c) Lead agencies on the specific action plans are required to submit their Concept papers by 31st August, 2013 to the COMESA Secretariat;

E. Closure of the meeting (*Agenda Item 10*)

37. The meeting was closed by the Director for Gender and Social Affairs, Mrs. Emiliana Tembo, on behalf of the COMESA Secretary General, Mr. Sindiso Ngwenya. In his closing remarks, the Secretary General thanked the delegates for the tireless efforts in contributing towards the meeting outcomes. The SG stated that COMESA will continue to take lead in the issues of gender and climate change, and will ensure that contributions are communicated into the UNFCCC process. Mr. Ngwenya also thanked the delegates for their commitment and passion with regard to gender issues as evidenced through the presentations and the discussion to generate the action plan and draft submission to the UNFCCC. The meeting was a great success in the sense that it achieved its objectives. In conclusion Mrs. Tembo thanked all the delegates and wished them safe a journey t back home and declared the meeting officially closed.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE DIMENSION IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT **Addis Ababa, July 17-19, 2013**

Introduction

The term Gender refers to the social difference between females and males through out the life cycle that are learned and though deeply rooted in every culture are changeable over time and have wide variations both within and between cultures (IASC 2007).

In Africa, the term gender commonly refers to the socially constructed roles, relationships and processes that affect women and men in society. This includes power relations, property rights, ownership and access to, and control of productive resources. These roles, relationships and processes have been changing over time in specific contexts, with differential consequences for different individuals and groups.

Furthermore, gender relations have developed over time in different historical circumstances, creating unequal relationships between different groups of women and men, girls and boys and undermining their rights in social, economic, political and environmental situations.

The international community including African countries has demonstrated political commitment to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment by adopting various policy and legal framework at the global, regional and national levels. Such policy and legal framework include Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPA) and The African Women Protocol. Furthermore, the international community has affirmed the recognition between gender inequalities as climate change issues through the various decisions at the UNFCCC. The African perspective on gender and climate change has arisen by the unequal experiences of climate impacts on different women and men in different countries of the continent. Gender and climate change concerns arise due to inequality and discriminatory practices in different socio-economic and environmental contexts which leads to differentiated impacts on individuals or groups of women and men and, climate change aggravates it.

Disparities in the effect of climate change on women arise due to the social position of women in the family and community since climate change affects the factors most essential to women in managing the subsistence needs of their households and communities including the provision of food, water and energy. Climate change also alters the allocation of tasks and time for women and men especially during extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. Female headed households and women in disaster situations are particularly affected.

Women's unequal access to and control of resources and services is evident in areas such as land, agricultural production, forests, markets, credit schemes, infrastructure and energy. Women also lack agricultural inputs, info as well as education and training. An estimated 70% sub-Saharan Africa populations rely on subsistence rain fed agriculture (AfDB; 2000) and women produce 80% of Africa's food and are key to food security; yet they own just around 2% of agriculture land (Centre of Public Health; 2011). Women are the primary users of the forest with valuable and indigenous knowledge and skills of the environment, yet they do not have security of access to and control of land and natural resources generally.

Given the gender differences in terms of access and control of resources therefore, men and women often experience the effects of climate change differently in different contexts. Women also experience inequalities in the area of decision-making,. Although some African states have made progress in the promotion of women's participation and representation in decision making at all levels, others countries continue to grapple with the issue. Women therefore have limited possibilities in actively participating in critical decisions on climate change.

In light of the above, it is important to ensure that gender concerns are addressed in all issues of climate change. For Africa, the promotion of gender in climate change is more than just numbers; it is also about acting in a concrete way on the gendered experiences of climate change in relation to commitments made by African Governments at international and regional levels.

Priority issues

Africa as the most affected continent by Climate Change

Africa contributes only 4% of the global greenhouse gas emissions (IPCC; 2007); yet it is the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to multiple stresses and low adaptive capacities. The existing gender disparities in Africa continue to be aggravated by climate change, with women being the most disadvantaged. Thus the gendered experiences of climate change need to be taken into account in the efforts to meet the food security, MDGs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) beyond 2015.

Position of Gender in International, Regional and National Policies relating to Climate Change

African countries are signatories to the UNFCCC. Although efforts have been made at the international level to mainstream gender into the UNFCCC however resulting in fragmented decisions. In responding to climate change, some African countries have formulated relevant policies, strategies and action plans. However, gender has only been treated tangentially with as yet, no coherence in responding to the gender dimension of climate change at international, regional and national levels.

Promote Education, Training and Awareness

The understanding by various actors on the links between gender and climate change is limited. In order to build a critical mass of African women and men who can act decisively in addressing issues of climate change from a gender perspective, there is the need to promote education, training and capacity building on a continuous basis. There is also a need to address the communication gap on decisions made at different levels.

Capacity Building

Capacity building is one of the priorities for Africa in climate change negotiations. In the current negotiations, there is limited number of women participating in the UNFCCC due to lack of capacity in terms of climate change negotiations. In order to address this, there is a need of technical transfer of skills to women who will represent their respective countries in their capacity as experts during the negotiations and ensure proper training on negotiating skills.

Knowledge Management and Information Dissemination

Knowledge including indigenous knowledge has already been created in Africa on the links between gender and climate change. However much of this knowledge is either fragmented or not easily accessible. In most instances, such data is not disaggregated by sex. The need for a comprehensive gender and climate change knowledge management and information dissemination system is therefore an urgent one.

Promote Equitable Access , ownership and Control of Productive Resources

Although much effort has been made to promote gender equality in Africa, there are still challenges in ensuring equitable access to and control of resources such as land, information, water, energy, forest products, technology and finance. This has dire consequences on women in poor rural and urban households in their efforts to providing the survival needs of children and families. Climate change initiatives on productive resources in Africa must therefore ensure women's equal participation and benefit.

Actions

The following actions are therefore proposed:

- Engage with Policy Makers, Parliamentarians, Civil Societies, Community leaders, traditional Authorities, Academia, private sectors and other actors on Gender and Climate Change
- Provide Support to countries to develop Gender and Climate Change policies, strategies and plan of action
- Advocacy and lobbying on gender and climate change
- Promote Education, Training and Awareness on gender and climate change
- Provide capacity building to countries particularly to women on climate change issues on gender and Climate Change
- Promote and support community and livelihood initiatives on gender and climate change resilience
- Documentation of best practices
- Support and strengthen knowledge management, information dissemination and networks on Gender and Climate change
- Promote and support research on Gender and Climate change

Next Steps

In terms of next steps, the following are proposed:

- Hold Consultations on gender and climate change with the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) (**COMESA**, EAC,SADC,ECA,IGAD,REFACOF)

- Identify and promote a Gender and Climate Change Champion (COMESA, ABANTU, **IGAD**)
- Undertake baseline study on gender and climate change (COMESA, REFACOF, EAC, SADC, IGAD, ABANTU, **ASARECA**, FAO)
- Support community and livelihood initiatives on gender and climate change resilience (COMESA, EAC, SADC, IGAD, REFACOF, **FAO**, ABANTU)
- Coordinate networking and coalition building efforts on gender and climate change (WEDO,GGCA,IGAD,COMESA, **ABANTU/ PACJA**)
- Develop relevant tools and methodologies to facilitate the development of gender and climate change policies (**ECA**, REFACOF, WEDO, ABANTU, FAO, COMESA, IGAD, EAC, SADC)
- Develop a framework for education, training and awareness (REFACOF,ECA/**ACPC**)
- Develop a framework for capacity building (**ECA**,GGCA)

Deadline for the generation of concept notes; August 31,2013

ANNEX III

SUBMISSION DRAFT (Addis, Ababa- July 17-19)

African Submission from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and supported by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on views on options and ways to advance the goal of gender balance in bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, in order to improve women's participation and inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally, pursuant to Decision 23/CP.18.

Preamble:

Observer Organisations COMESA, IGAD, EAC, SADC in Africa welcome the opportunity to submit its initial *views on options and ways to advance the goal of gender balance in bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, in order to improve women's participation and inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally*, pursuant to Decision 23/CP.18.

Decision 23/CP.18 calls for the promotion of gender balance and an improvement in the participation of women in UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol negotiations as well as in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol. Paragraph 11 of the same decision invites submissions from Parties and observer organizations to submit views on options and ways to advance to advance the goal of gender balance in bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, in order to improve women's participation and inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally.

It is in response to this invitation that the submission from COMESA, SADC, EAC and IGAD is offered. Together, the four regional economic communities make up a representation of 28 African countries with a population of about 500 million citizens.

Introduction:

The four African observer organisations recognize that there is an inextricable link between gender and climate change. Although, climate change impacts everyone, it has been now established that there is a differential impact on women and men, due to their social roles. In Africa, the impacts of climate change are felt on a daily basis by women and men, boys and girls. These impacts include among other; increased water scarcity, inadequate access to safe and sustainable energy sources and deforestation, vulnerability to natural disasters and conflict over natural resources. The lack of enabling and effective climate policy has also contributed to fragile and vulnerable

infrastructure, inappropriate technology, uncertain land and forest tenure and imbalances in participation and decision-making.

Given these differential impacts, it is important that the perspectives of women and men are equally represented in climate change decision-making. However, we note that women's participation in UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol bodies is only about 10%, while on national delegations African women in particular make up around only 21% of delegates and have the lowest representation across all the regions.

Increasingly African countries are recognizing this importance and some initiatives are being undertaken to address gender issues. For example, in 2001, the African Union (AU) adopted a 50/50 Parity Principle, working towards the enhanced participation of women in all Member State activities. The AU Constitutive Act of 2002 provides for 50/50 gender parity in representation at the level of the AU Commission. Furthermore, the Solomon Declaration on Gender Equality (SDGE-2004) requires Member States to ensure 50/50 representation of women and men at all levels of decision making. Additionally, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) made a commitment to achieve a 50% target of women in political and decision-making structures. Similarly, a number of African countries have developed Gender and Climate Change National Strategies, as well as worked to mainstream gender issues across National Development Plans and Programs, particularly in the area of climate change. It is crucial to recognize these efforts but also to address the challenges in effective implementation and how this relates to the overall goal addressed in Decision 23/CP.18 which aims to inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally.

While the decision implicitly calls for gender balance with the trust that in this way the international climate policy will address the needs of women and men, to truly advance towards this goal and in addition to specific strategies to enhance gender balance at the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol bodies, there is also a need for strategies to ensure, implement and review gender-sensitive climate policy.

In this regard, this submission reviews the goal addressed in Decision 23/CP.18 to both highlight ways and strategies to enhance gender balance and strengthen women's participation in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention of the Kyoto Protocol.

This submission tenders recommendations for a more holistic approach to effective implementation of existing decisions on gender and is offered in two parts: Part I talks to the issue of gender balance in the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol Bodies while Part II addresses the issues relating to climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally.

Part I:
Submission on Views on options and ways to advance to advance the goal of gender balance in bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol in order to improve women's participation

Women currently make up around 10% of members of UNFCCC boards and bodies, from bodies making crucial decisions on access to finance and technology, to bodies address the science of climate change, it is crucial the diverse perspectives of men and women are represented in these discussions.

Transforming this representation requires both long-term and short-term strategies. In Africa, it is noted that values, norms and traditions which inform stereotypical roles of men and women can often create barriers which inhibit women's participation in leadership roles. Changing these norms requires education, training and awareness raising at multiple levels. There is also a need to enhance the role of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), requiring enhancements in education and access to information.

An effective implementation of Decision 23/CP.18 calls for strategies to enhance gender balance on bodies is directly related to strengthening the participation of women in the overall negotiations, on national delegations. Beyond the specific call that UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol bodies be gender balanced, there is a need for similar mandates for gender balance at the regional level. Recommended strategies for advancing this goal are proposed as follows:

1. **Ensure Women's Participation-** A fund to support the participation and representation of women from developing countries in national delegations at UNFCCC meetings and other relevant forums, particularly from Africa.
2. **Capacity Building** – Develop and facilitate capacity building for women delegates already participating in the UNFCCC process to enhance leadership and negotiating skills and knowledge on technical areas such as finance, technology, mitigation, as well as social and development dimensions, including gender; in addition to technical support and opportunities for networking and dialogue. Initiatives to enhance knowledge and capacity of women across other Ministries at the national level on climate change issues should also be explored.
3. **Targets-** Set a gender “representation target” not less than 40% and not more than 60% of women/men representatives. From an African context, despite the AU 50/50 Parity Principle, women's participation is still low. Setting a minimum target will ensure that Parties take effective measures to advance the goal of gender balance.

4. **Monitoring-** There is a need to monitor the effectiveness of advancing the goal of gender balance, beyond the numbers, ensuring qualitative analysis of women and men's leadership roles within the negotiations. This could include, setting timelines, for example 5 years, where delegations with consistent gender imbalance should be asked to report on the challenges for effective implementation of the goal.

In order to implement the above strategies and activities, secure resources will be needed. In Africa, resource constraints make gender balance and diverse participation on delegations challenging to effectively implement. Often, decisions on participation are limited to those located within particular Ministries and to the resources (normally support for two people) that are provided by the Secretariat.

This submission therefore call for an establishment of a specific fund, established under the Convention which Annex 1 Parties will be invited to contribute to, that prioritizes consistency in participation and capacity building. The Special Fund should aim to create more opportunities for women's participation and create a critical mass that should help achieve the goal of gender balance.

Part II:

Submission on views and opinions on actions... *to inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally*

The strategies espoused under Part I above should advance the goal of gender balance, which is an important step forward for more equitable decision-making. The link between gender and climate change is crucial for understanding the real impacts of climate change in Africa. It is additionally important to aim to develop a strategy beyond gender balance; a holistic strategy that will aim to inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally.

There is already a foundation that exists across the UNFCCC decision text, in adaptation, mitigation, technology, finance and capacity building, and across the programs under the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC Convention. However, we see that there is inadequate implementation of these policies and lack of a holistic approach to their implementation, monitoring and review.

This approach must include putting in place a framework for action under the UNFCCC on gender. The framework should enable effective implementation and review of gender-sensitive climate policies in order to inform more effective climate change policies that address the needs of women and men equally. This includes ensuring adequate mandates and support for gender-disaggregated data and research.

In particular for Africa, gender-sensitive climate change policy must address the following priority areas such as: Land and forest tenure, water, conflict over natural resources, access and ownership in relation to: natural resources, finances, safe and sustainable energy sources and technologies, knowledge, education and capacity building, in addition to investment in early warning systems and disaster risk reduction, and enhanced participation in decision making.