



Women's Environment & Development Organization

In this voluntary submission the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)¹ submits its views on the development of further guidelines for the fifth review of the financial mechanism (FCCC/SBI/2012/L.45, paragraph 4).

With the additional guidelines on gender equality that have been agreed in several climate finance mechanisms over the past few years, it will be important for the guidelines of the fifth review of the financial mechanism of the Convention to assess how these guidelines have been implemented, particularly in the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) adopted a policy on gender mainstreaming, which calls on the GEF and its partner agencies to mainstream gender into GEF operations in May 2011². In 2015 the policy will be reviewed. As the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, the GEF can, with this new policy, influence the LDCF and SCCF to be more gender-sensitive in their programs, policies and practices. Therefore, it will be important in the fifth review of the financial mechanism that guidelines are in place that will encourage a gender assessment and reveal how the GEF's gender policy has influenced the operations of the funds.

Such an assessment can also be an example for the other funds under the UNFCCC, including the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund. After the GEF adopted its gender policy in May 2011, the Adaptation Fund Board also adopted new guidelines³ in September 2011 in the fund's operational policies and guidelines. In December 2011 the governing document of the Green Climate Fund was adopted by the UNFCCC's 17th Conference of Parties and included 5 gender references in the objectives and guiding principles, governance and institutional arrangements, operational modalities and stakeholder input and participation⁴; it is the first climate finance mechanism to include gender equality issues at its inception. In all of these mechanisms it is necessary to monitor how well these policies are implemented. By having guidelines that explicitly request a gender assessment in the 5th review of the financial mechanism, it can set the stage for other climate finance mechanisms to do similar assessments.

¹ For more information, please contact WEDO Advocacy Coordinator, Rachel Harris, at rachel@wedo.org.

² <http://www.thegef.org/gef/policy/gender>

³ <http://www.wedo.org/news/progress-on-gender-in-the-adaptation-fund>

⁴ <http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/Gender-Equality-Language-in-Durban-Outcomes1.pdf> (page 2)