

Gender Mainstreaming to address Loss and Damage Associated with the Adverse Effects of Climate Change¹

In Parties' consideration of a decision on an international mechanism for Loss and Damage, they should incorporate gender mainstreaming as an approach that will enhance efforts to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change through:

- 1) ensuring women's equitable participation in decision-making and L&D activities,
- 2) assessing gender-differentiated vulnerability and prioritized needs
- 3) integrating women's particular vulnerability in the L&D accounting processes
- 4) providing gender-sensitive training, education and creating immediate and urgent actions to address L&D that are inclusive of vulnerable constituencies, particularly vulnerable women.

In order to achieve these objectives Parties must consider broader concepts and objectives, as well as a full range of approaches and tools of a L&D mechanism that enables the synergies of global actions under the Hyogo Framework for Action and adaptation and mitigation decisions under the UNFCCC. Such decisions include especially those related to enhancing financing for climate change adaptation and consequent L&D needs under the Cancun Adaptation Framework established in decision 1/CP.16.

The L&D mechanism should not be limited by a specific end-point as it should encompass immediate and urgent L&D actions to address the associated risks and long-term mechanisms to develop adaptive capacity for slow onset events, in order to build immediate and long-term resilience of vulnerable ecosystems and populations.

1) Ensuring women's equitable participation in decision-making and L&D activities

In the draft conclusions on Loss and Damage of SBI 36 (FCCC/SBI/2012/L.12), Parties drew conclusions from the first expert meeting on Loss and Damage with addressed issues related to assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. In para 3(c) the draft conclusion states "*gaps in the assessment of the risk of loss and damage for vulnerable communities and populations, including women and children, can be addressed by involving these communities and populations in risk assessment processes*". Therefore, equitable participation of vulnerable persons, particularly women, in risk assessment processes is already recognized. However, such participation needs to go beyond risk assessment but must be mainstreamed throughout the entire L&D decision-making processes at all levels. Having equitable participation of vulnerable populations will allow those most impacted by loss and damage to be a part of decisions that will help them to be more resilient to such impacts. The mandate for the L&D work programme includes engagement with stakeholders with relevant expertise but does not have a safeguard to include stakeholders of affected groups. In the L&D mechanism affected groups, including women, should be prioritized for meaningful engagement and input at all levels.

2) Assessing gender-differentiated vulnerability and prioritized needs

The future mechanism on Loss and Damage should assess and prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations. A 2012 UNDP report on integrating gender in disaster risk management in small island developing states reflects that collection of baseline data, including sex-disaggregated data, and gender analyses help to identify the different activities, conditions, needs, control over resources and access to development benefits and decision-making between men and women. Within this analysis, a division of labor, division of resources and needs must be assessed to determine

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differentiated vulnerabilities among men, women, boys and girls. Such data collection, assessments and analyses must be carried out in countries most vulnerable to the impacts of loss and damage so that this knowledge base brings clarity towards addressing loss and damage under the UNFCCC.

3) Integrating women's particular vulnerability in the L&D accounting processes

In the current state of understanding, gender-responsive views and compassionate approaches are largely missing. The L&D mechanism is to be envisaged as an ongoing global effort, with the blessings of the COP decisions. Constructive debates towards integrating women's particular concerns in the L&D accounting processes will provide clear understanding on 'deficits' in adaptation (for delayed actions) and adaptation financing and consequent L&D needs in, particularly, LDCs, SIDS, and Vulnerable African Countries, with particular focus on women.

4) Providing gender-sensitive training, education and creating immediate and urgent actions to address L&D that are inclusive of vulnerable constituencies, particularly vulnerable women.

An L&D mechanism should build upon lessons learned from other frameworks that have begun to take gender-sensitive actions to address disaster risk reduction. An example of such a framework is the Hyogo Framework for Action, adopted in 2005. One priority for action in its first 10 years of implementation the HFFA includes integrating a gender perspective "into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management, and education and training". As a result, throughout its programming activities, the HFFA has integrated gender sensitivity as a cross-cutting issue in all areas of its work. The L&D mechanism can learn from this process by including gender equality as a cross-cutting issue to ensure that actions undertaken are inclusive and addressing those most vulnerable to the impacts of L&D. Synergies among other global actions, like the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), can help in this process.

As Parties consider a range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events, Parties should ensure that gender is included as a cross-cutting issue and mainstreamed throughout all programmes, policies and activities related to Loss and Damage.

References:

- Submission on Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change. GenderCC-Women for Climate Justice (September 2012)
- Letter to Parties on Loss and Damage. Women's Environment and Development Organization (August 2012)
- *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters* A/CONF.206/6 (2005).
- *Integrating Gender in Disaster Management in Small Island Developing States: A Guide*. Caribbean Risk Management Initiative and UNDP (2012)