

Dear Madame Michelle Bachelet,

We, the members of the Women and Gender Constituency to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), write to you as the Under-Secretary-General of UN Women to ask that UN Women takes a more prominent advocacy role in the UNFCCC negotiations. Because of gender discrimination, gendered roles and the feminization of poverty, climate change has different impacts on women and men, and women and men adapt to and mitigate climate change differently. While climate change impacts often exacerbate existing gender inequalities, the members of the Women and Gender Constituency want to ensure that global policies on climate change do not contribute to widening the gender gap but instead address gender inequalities and women's rights while lessening the impacts of climate change. If climate change policies are gender blind then adaptation to and mitigation of climate change will not be effective.

Currently Parties of a Transitional Committee (TC) are negotiating the design of a new Green Climate Fund (GCF). Although it has now been recognized in several funding mechanisms (including the Global Fund for Fighting AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization; the Adaptation Fund; and the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund) that there is a need for gender policies, plans of action and/or gender guidelines, the negotiations for the design of the GCF have yet to take on a stronger gender position than to aim for gender balance. The GCF, as potentially the largest fund for climate change financing, can be a great opportunity to increase women's economic empowerment, if, in its design, gender equality principles are fully integrated. The GCF could be one of the first global funds to integrate a comprehensive gender perspective from its inception.

Over the past few months, since the TC has been meeting, members of the Women and Gender Constituency and several 'friends of gender' from other organizations, as well as Iceland and Malawi, have made submissions, statements, presentations and interventions highlighting the importance of integrating gender in the design of the GCF. However, much of the substantive input has not been reflected in the scoping documents produced by the TC Secretariat. We implore UN Women to take a more proactive role in the negotiations on the design of the GCF by supporting statements and submissions of the Women and Gender Constituency, as well as by making its own submissions and statements in support of integrating a gender perspective in the GCF. UN Women has the opportunity to make a powerful impact on women's (economic) empowerment by advocating for the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment in the GCF.

Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to supporting UN Women's work in this area.

Sincerely,

Members of the Women and Gender Constituency to the UNFCCC

CC: Assistant Secretary General Lakshmi Puri, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnership