

DRAFT CHARTER

Principles and Criteria for Participation in a Women's and Gender Constituency under the UNFCCC

Introductory note:

In early 2009, GenderCC – a network whose members have long been involved in the climate change negotiations process – submitted an application to form a gender/women's constituency under the UNFCCC. During the "Bonn-II" negotiation session of the UNFCCC, the women's caucus participants agreed to form a working group who would make recommendations on the goal, principles and criteria for participation in this potential constituency. Representatives from five active women's organizations, WECF, ENERGIA, GenderCC, LIFE and WEDO, have held meetings by phone and in person for the last 2 months to address major questions concerning the constituency and its representation. The following is a draft compilation of inputs for wide consideration and feedback.

*Kindly submit comments to one of the following email addresses by **October 23rd, 2009**. If your organization would like to be involved and/or has a potential interest to become a member of this constituency, please also send an expression of interest. This will help us secure a timely approval of the application for constituency status.*

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I. Goal

The goal of the Women's and Gender Constituency is to formalize the voice of the women's and gender civil society organizations present and regularly active in UNFCCC processes, and to debate, streamline and strengthen the positions which these organizations put forth. The Constituency aims to bring together as many groups as possible to democratically contribute to its goals.

The Constituency draws upon global commitments to gender equality and women's rights, especially as they relate to climate change, and toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and related commitments and Conventions. The Constituency works to ensure human rights and a gender perspective is incorporated into UNFCCC negotiations, plans and actions.

II. Principles

- Democratic and participatory governance
- Participatory and respectful (between members and of diverging positions)
- Transparent procedures and clear, timely and flexible communication
- Wide and inclusive membership
- Equitable (in terms of representation, affiliation, age, and ability)
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- Building on history (collectively and individually)
- Mentoring (of younger generations and other newcomers)

WORKING DRAFT – 13th October, 2009

Jointly disseminated for feedback by members of Energia, WECF, WEDO, GenderCC and LIFE

- Goal-oriented
- Provide a platform for women's leadership with broad and participatory access.

III. Constituency responsibilities

a. Objectives

- to regularly review developments in the climate change discourse within and around the official negotiations
- to ensure representation of women's voices, experiences, needs and capacities and to ensure a gender perspective in all discussions
- to feed women and gender sensitive perspectives and situations into the discourse
- to help foster communication between women and gender organizations/actions and national- or global-level negotiations
- to support and contribute to the women's and gender caucus(es) –which are daily coordination meetings- during formal meetings
- to liaise with other caucuses and constituencies, especially to identify common ground
- to work toward collective funding for the running and maintenance of the constituency (and toward joint training and advocacy opportunities)

b. Issues

Priority issues may include:

- Adaptation – equitable actions to urgently respond to those most in need (prioritizing actions, funds, etc, for those countries, communities and populations most vulnerable)
- Mitigation – upholding the principles of common but differentiated, historical responsibilities; pushing for a sustainable energy paradigm, (eg. de-centralizing energy, opposing fossil fuel-based and nuclear energies), and the recognition of women's role as efficient and capable energy managers.
- Sustainability – going beyond the focus on carbon to look toward other issues of environmental, social, or economic relevance
- Participation – fostering the wide participation of women and women's issues in these processes and supporting their views and perspectives
- MDGS – ensure climate change policies are in line with global commitments such as sustainable development and poverty eradication

Issues in focus would be regularly re-evaluated in light of current negotiations.

c. Working Groups

Working groups/thematic groups (eg. for Adaptation, Mitigation, Technology, Finance, or KP, LCA, SBs, etc.) would be organized to generate and facilitate substantive contributions to the UNFCCC processes. A coordinator for each group would abide by a Memorandum of Understanding for Working Groups, and coordinators would regularly facilitate communication

among members, between each other, and from/to the Focal Point¹. Coordinators for groups will rotate among the membership; coordinators will represent global South and North.

IV. Membership

a. About the members

The membership of the Constituency will be comprised of women's civil society organizations and NGOs working on gender issues.

Criteria for member organizations will include:

- Commitment to gender equality and women's issues as they relate to climate change, and the key positions and principles mentioned above
- Leadership in mobilizing other new members to strengthen the team
- Regular participation in UNFCCC and related meetings
- Capacity for regular involvement and advocacy/training/research/etc. on the issues
- Women spokesperson(s)
- Members of women's and gender civil society organizations and movements
- Ability to participate in substantive working groups

b. Establishing and Joining the Constituency

A continuous open membership process should foster wide dissemination of information and provide opportunities to join and/or participate as members of the Constituency. Information on the process of development of the Constituency will be shared over existing listservs, databases, websites, etc., during the provisional constituency period. The Focal Point will receive the applications for membership and maintain a public record of members, member applications and their status.

After the Constituency is formalized, a separate Constituency listserv will be established by the Focal Point to communicate with the member organizations. The listserv will serve as the forum for information-sharing specific to the Constituency, positions, speaking opportunities, requests, etc. New members will be able to apply and join the constituency after the formalization process. Their contact information will be included in the main public record and they will be included in the Constituency's listserve.

V. Governance structure

The constituency will adjust its governance structure to best meet the demands of its membership and ensure proper international and regional coordination and guidance. The bodies which constitute the governance structure are accountable to the members. The constituency will establish appropriate transparency and accountability mechanisms through its Operational Guidelines, including the use of performance assessments and conflict resolution mechanisms.

¹ Please note that the role of the Focal Point for Constituencies under the UNFCCC have specific responsibilities and opportunities. Guidelines for the Women's/Gender Constituency Focal Point, the constituency procedures, and the Caucus Meetings will be included in the Operational Guidelines and disseminated separately from this document.