

# Call to Action on Gender and Climate Change to Governments and International Organizations Proposed by Global Gender and Climate Alliance\*

*On the Occasion of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)  
March 2009, United Nations, New York*

- 1. Incorporate gender considerations in the new agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, the outcome of the December 2009 Conference of Parties in Copenhagen, in line with existing agreements on gender equality, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Agenda 21, the Beijing Platform for Action, Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, ECOSOC Resolution 2005/31, the Millennium Development Goals, and the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- 2. Request the UNFCCC Secretariat to undertake a gender mainstreaming process** that is fully integrated in the Secretariat's programmes, assistance to the Parties, and cooperation with financing mechanisms;
- 3. Ensure that national climate change and disaster risk reduction measures, such as the National Adaptation Programmes of Action, are gender responsive** and comply with international human rights frameworks;
- 4. Enable the participation and voice of women leaders, gender experts, women from local and indigenous communities, and women's affairs ministries** in climate change and related decision-making processes, programmes and projects at community, national, regional and international levels, including the Conference of Parties and subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC;
- 5. Integrate gender-sensitive criteria in financial mechanisms** supporting climate change adaptation, mitigation, capacity-building, technology transfer, and disaster risk reduction measures, and prioritize the funding of women's entrepreneurial activities and innovations that advance gender equality and women's empowerment;
- 6. Allocate sufficient resources to enhance the capacity of women at all levels**, especially the poorest and most disadvantaged, to incorporate their contributions to mitigation and adaptation activities and foster their resilience to climate change and disasters; and
- 7. Ensure that data collected by governments, international organizations, and financial institutions are sex-disaggregated** in relevant sectors related to climate change and made available to all stakeholders.

## ***Why gender and climate change?***

Women are indispensable agents of change, active innovators, and leaders in climate change adaptation and mitigation, yet **women and gender equality have not been adequately included in the negotiations of the UNFCCC or other climate change debates**. In developing countries, women are the primary users and managers of natural resources, make up the majority of small farm laborers, and increasingly act as heads of household. Restricted access to resources, information, and decision-making power, combined with higher levels of poverty and increased responsibilities for securing resources needed for economic livelihood and survival, result in heavier burdens for women and is exacerbated by natural hazards including drought, desertification, and erratic rainfall. When faced with natural disasters, men and women face different risks. The climate crisis will only be solved through a gender-sensitive approach—responding to the most vulnerable populations and building on the knowledge, participation and leadership of women and gender experts at all levels of policy and decision-making.

# Securing a Place for Gender Equality in Copenhagen's Outcome

Gender considerations and women's leadership will be integral to the achievement of the Bali Action Plan areas of mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology. In this year's critical UNFCCC climate change negotiations, concluding in December at the Copenhagen COP, governments must incorporate gender into the outcome agreements. As part of this process over the course of 2009, the UNFCCC's Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) will set the framework for the post-Kyoto agreement, and while a handful of gender aspects have already been submitted (primarily by civil society) for consideration, advocacy efforts must continue to ensure these text submissions remain throughout the negotiating process and in the final UNFCCC agreement.

## ***The Evidence is Clear...***

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that climate change impacts will vary among regions, generations, ages, classes, income groups, occupations and gender, and that the most marginalized will be disproportionately affected
- 2007 Human Development Report stated that "climate change is likely to magnify existing patterns of gender disadvantage"
- UN General Assembly Resolution of November 2008 recognizes "women as key actors in the strive towards sustainable development" and that "a gender perspective can contribute to efforts to address climate change"

## ***What You Can Do...***

### Government Representatives:

- Ensure that position papers and statements on climate change reference gender equality and women's leadership
- Ask to serve as the gender/women's representative on your country's UNFCCC Delegation
- Submit and support language in national, regional and UNFCCC processes that incorporates a gender perspective in policies and financing (*please contact the GGCA to support the text we have submitted to the negotiations or for guidance in drafting new text*)
- Ensure that financing mechanisms for climate change, including funds for adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and disaster risk reduction, integrate gender-sensitive criteria, enabling long-term and significant impact on women's lives as they cope with climate change

### Civil Society:

- Contact the Ministry(s) in your country that works on climate change and ask for gender to be included in their position for UNFCCC negotiations. These are commonly the Ministries of Environment, but may also include representatives from Ministries related to energy, transportation, industry and finance
- Ask to be included in your country's UNFCCC delegation and request gender parity on the delegation
- Contact the GGCA Secretariat to get involved in the GGCA advocacy team at UNFCCC meetings
- Advocate in the media and among your partners in government and international organizations for gender to be included in all climate-related decision-making processes, as well as financing and implementation of climate change measures in your country and region, and participate in meetings that make these decisions

## ***\*Who We Are...***

The Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) is a group of 25 UN agencies and international civil society organizations working together to ensure that climate change policies, decision-making processes, and initiatives at all levels are gender responsive. This document draws on the original drafts of the *Manila Declaration on Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction* and the *Poznan Declaration* of the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment, the drafting of which were also supported by the GGCA.

**For information, guidance, or technical advice, contact the GGCA Secretariat:**

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