

**SUBMISSION BY THE WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION (WEDO) ON BEHALF OF THE GLOBAL GENDER AND CLIMATE
ALLIANCE (GGCA)**

AWG-LCA (FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/16)

RECALLING UN General Assembly Resolution of November 2008 that recognizes "women as key actors in the strive towards sustainable development and recognizing that a gender perspective can contribute to efforts to address climate change"

UNDERLINING the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 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;

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) proposes the following paragraphs for inclusion in the assembly document (FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/16):

II. A shared vision for long-term cooperative action

On para. 17:

On principles for a shared vision, WEDO proposes that long-term cooperative action should be guided by:

(j) Social and gender considerations as laid out by CEDAW and ECOSOC 205/31.

IV. Enhanced action on adaptation

On para. 97:

On vulnerability and adaptation assessments to support adaptation planning and implementation, WEDO proposes the following: a) Considerations of the following elements in order to ensure the effectiveness of the assessment process:

vii. Gender analysis and sex-disaggregated data.

On para. 100:

WEDO proposes that financial support be directed at:

Adaptation initiatives and national policies and programs that prioritize women and other vulnerable populations.

JUSTIFICATION

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2005/31

"all entities of the United Nations system, including United Nations agencies, funds and programs, to intensify efforts to address the challenges involving the integration of gender perspectives into policies and programs, including:

- Developing action plans with clear guidelines on the practical implementation of gender mainstreaming;
- Fully incorporating a gender perspective into program budgets;
- Ensuring continuous awareness raising and training on gender issues for all staff;
- Requiring gender analysis for both policy formulation and programmatic work;
- Ensuring commitment by senior management to gender mainstreaming;
- Strengthening accountability systems for gender mainstreaming;
- Incorporating a gender perspective into operational mechanisms, such as those relating to the implementation of Millennium Development Goals;
- Continuing to support governments and to work with civil society in their efforts to implement the Beijing Platform for Action;
- Development and institutionalization of monitoring and evaluation tools and gender impact analysis methodologies, promoting the collection, compilation and analysis of sex-disaggregated data;
- Promoting mainstreaming of gender perspectives into key macroeconomic and social development policies and national development programs."

BACKGROUND

Women are indispensable agents of change and innovators in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation, yet women and gender equality have not been reflected in the negotiations or work plan of the UNFCCC. In developing countries, women are natural resource managers, make up the majority of farm laborers, and increasingly serve as heads of household.

Although climate change impacts will affect all countries, its impacts will be differently distributed among different regions, generations, age classes, income groups, occupations and genders (IPCC, 2007). The poor (of which 70% are women), primarily but by no means exclusively in developing countries, will be disproportionately affected (Drexhage, 2006).

According to the 2007 Human Development Report, "climate change is likely to magnify existing patterns of gender disadvantage." In the major disasters of the past two decades, the female mortality rate has reached 55-90% of total deaths, and in others cases more men have died while taking risks to save their families. Restricted access to resources, information, and decision-making, result in heavier burdens for women during and after natural disasters.

Drought, desertification, and erratic rainfall result in women having to work harder to secure food, water and energy resources, leaving them with less time to earn income, get an education, or provide care to their families.

However, women are not just helpless victims of climate change - women are powerful agents of change and their leadership is critical. Women can help or hinder in dealing with issues such as energy consumption, deforestation, burning of vegetation, population growth and economic growth, development of scientific research and technologies, policy making, among many others.

In order to take advantage of women's leadership and respond to the most vulnerable populations, incorporating gender equality in the work of the UNFCCC is critical to solving the climate crisis.