

Thank you Chair.

My name is Rachel Harris from WEDO and today I speak to you on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

The Women and Gender Constituency expresses the critical necessity of gender mainstreaming the guidelines, formulation and implementation of the National Adaptation Plans. We recall the decisions and conclusions of the Cancun Agreements and SBI 34 that enable Least Developed Country Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, building upon LDCs' experiences in preparing and implementing NAPAs, as well as benefitting from the extended mandate and work of LEG and on gender. From the NAPAs we note that although gender has been identified as a guiding principle, few projects have integrated gender issues. Therefore, Parties can improve NAPs by learning from the experience of the NAPAs with the understanding that only including gender as a guiding principle for the NAPs will not be enough. Instead Parties should take appropriate actions to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all the phases of the NAPs process including the formulation and implementation phases. This can be done by including women's groups in capacity building on NAPs; gender experts in the teams involved in the NAPs process; and, within vulnerability assessments, Parties should include gender analyses regarding adaptation and vulnerability to climate change and capture gender-related information in their evaluations of adaptation strategies and measures; all of which can be enabled by ensuring that appropriate funding will be allocated for such processes.

Currently, gender is well-acknowledged as an essential factor to mainstream in adaptation measures as the impacts of and responses to climate change are differentiated among women and men due to gender inequalities. Therefore gender is a necessary and fundamental element to be integrated into all the processes of the NAPs.

The Women and Gender Constituency encourages the SBI to take a decision that provides clear guidance to formulate gender-sensitive NAPs, encourage women's participation, streamline the inputs of both women and men and to provide financial, technical and human resources for such actions to occur.