

WOMEN GENDER CONSTITUENCY

Bonn, 2016, SBSTA Closing (Shaila Shadid)

We appreciate the SBSTA inputs on agriculture as the Parties have agreed on an ambitious and transformational development agenda through the adoption of Paris Agreement. The crucial part of what makes the Paris Agreement so ambitious, the objective of achieving Gender Equality particularly to ensure food security in a changing climate and water access target. Globally women and girls make up more than half the world's population and they are always on the frontlines of fighting poverty but often severely impacted by adverse climate impacts, poverty, water scarcity, food insecurity, lack of healthcare, and global economic crises.

Therefore, their capacity building, contributions, and leadership are central to finding a solution to achieve the principles of Paris Agreement. In order to bring about a paradigm shift towards climate resilient development pathways, globally and in individual countries, all climate change mitigation, loss & damage and adaptation actions need to also pursue broader environmental, social, economic, and development benefits in a gender-responsive way. A clear understanding of gender roles, norms and unequal power relations and how they can be addressed at all phases of water, agriculture and environmental management requires broader attention.

Mr. Chair, we call upon the Parties to acknowledge and ensure:

The role of local women's groups and collectives in building community resilience, agricultural adaptation & informing political decision-making:

- Effective financing for gender-responsive adaptation measures to access market value chain, inputs, loan/credits related to agriculture;
- Capacity development and involvement of women on alternative technologies for example bio-fertilizer; climate resilient cropping, saline resistant vegetables, etc.; fisheries culture & management (e.g. coastal area); homestead gardening, technology for micro-nutrient rich food, where appropriate, is critical;
- Knowledge and skills development of agricultural extension workers, both female and male, on climate resistant cropping practices.
- Women's capacity building and empowerment in agriculture sector for equal wage distribution and land ownership;

Rights matter. The Right to Food is not an abstract commitment. It is fact of life and something we are committed to providing for every woman, man and child on the planet. We can no longer treat it as an aspiration. We need to act now. Thank you Chair.