

What should we know about the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan?

What is the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan?

The UNFCCC adopted the enhanced [Lima Work Programme on Gender \(LWPG\) and Gender Action Plan \(GAP\)](#) in December 2019. The enhanced LWPG is a decision¹ made by the Parties of the UNFCCC, and the GAP is contained in the annex.

This GAP is enhanced because it builds upon the LWPG first adopted in 2014 and a two-year GAP adopted in 2017. In addition, it also retains the human rights language as per the Preamble of the Paris Agreement and highlights the need for “a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs.” The enhanced GAP is described as follows:

The enhanced gender action plan sets out objectives and activities under five priority areas that aim to advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the work of Parties, the Secretariat, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels, as well as women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process.

Elements of the enhanced decision express various dimensions of gender equality. The decision “recognizes that the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women in all aspects of the UNFCCC process and in national and local-level climate policy and action is vital for achieving long-term climate goals” and states that “gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation of climate policy and action can enable Parties to raise ambition.” With that confirmation that effective climate action must respect and promote gender equality and women’s rights, Parties are committing to gender equality in their climate action, and the GAP provides a roadmap of activities where that commitment can be demonstrated.

¹ Decisions are a type of formal action taken to record the adoption of a text representing the consensus of the Parties under the three UN climate treaties: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP), the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), and the Paris Agreement (CMA). In the hierarchy of UNFCCC documents, Decisions come behind Treaties and Protocols.

What is new in this Enhanced LWPG and its GAP?



The enhanced GAP is more expansive than the original GAP in its scope. Not only did the new GAP move from a two-year timeline to a five-year timeline (now extended due to the pandemic) and include more activities, but the enhanced GAP activities also have greater breadth and depth. The activities are oriented toward the need for continual processes such as capacity-building compared to single-instance activities—e.g., hosting a dialogue or workshop, yet the greater level of specificity on who should be leading the activities and when they should be completed serves to promote their implementation. The scope of the LWPG has also expanded, from originally focusing on gender balance and training women negotiators, to recognizing the role of women in all climate processes at all levels. The decision text also looks to the institutional support necessary for the implementation of the enhanced LWPG and GAP, including but not limited to maintaining the position of senior gender focal point invited with the first LWPG.



The enhanced LWPG and GAP represent a progression from their first iterations to a more comprehensive, systematic approach to climate change and gender, though the activities do not achieve the level of ambition many advocates feel is necessary, full funding is not guaranteed, and there are no indicators of progress outside of the completion of certain outputs or deliverables.

How Can I Learn More about the GAP

The easiest way to understand the GAP is to [read it!](#)

There are five priority areas in the GAP:

- A. Capacity-building, knowledge management and communication**
- B. Gender balance, participation and women's leadership**
- C. Coherence**
- D. Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation**
- E. Monitoring and reporting**

Each priority has two to seven activities. Each activity lists who is responsible for leading and contributing to the implementation, the timeline, and the nature of the deliverable(s) or output(s). The GAP table also specifies the level of implementation: national, regional, or international. This GAP has activities that last through COP30, which is now anticipated to be held in 2025.

IMPLEMENTATION

Who implements the GAP

Many partners have responsibilities assigned to lead or contribute to activities within the GAP, including the UNFCCC Secretariat, which is also responsible for overall monitoring of the GAP, the UNFCCC constituted bodies, National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points, Parties, and other relevant organizations. Sometimes these organizations are specified, such as the IPCC, Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, and Green Climate Fund, but other times these partners are left open.

Should my country have its own GAP?

Crafting a national level Gender Action Plan may be part of your country's approach to domestic implementation, but the GAP is designed so that all Parties can contribute to its implementation as it is written now. The GAP is not designed as a template for national level action, but contains a series of activities that should be happening at multiple levels with various partners. Domestic activities and regional and international collaborations are each critical to advancing gender equality.

While a separate GAP may not be necessary, having a plan or strategy about the GAP and your contributions would be useful. For instance, Mexico has started inter-ministerial consultation to establish a national strategy and define focus areas for implementation.

How can I contribute?

As you read the GAP, consider the activities to which you or your organization can contribute, as well as which activities you can advocate for your country or other organizations to take up with enthusiasm and dedication. You can see [the annex](#) in this paper for a list of some of the GAP activities and prompts for your potential implementation.

You can then share any activities contributing to the GAP [here](#), on a form created by the UNFCCC to track implementation.

MONITORING

How will we know the GAP is working?

One of the weaknesses of the GAP is that it does not have progress indicators or metrics for success, which is why your advocacy and contribution to the robust and comprehensive implementation of the activities is imperative for the GAP to work to advance gender equality in climate policy and action. As part of the GAP, the UNFCCC Secretariat will also compile a report on gender-responsive climate plans and actions for 2022 and 2025, so this year (2022) feminist groups following SBs and COP can contribute to the first review by:

- ➔ Uploading a submission providing information on the *progress of implementation of the activities contained in the gender action plan, areas for improvement and further work to be undertaken, including, as appropriate, information on the multidimensional impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic on progress, and consideration of other diverse challenges that may impact future implementation of the gender action plan at all levels* (according to decision [FCCC/SBI/2021/L.13 Para.3](#)/ GAP activity E.2)
- ➔ Bringing in advocacy demands for strengthening the GAP and moving the gender action plan from focusing on capacity-building to gender responsive climate action at all levels.

ANNEX

Best Opportunities for Civil Society to Contribute to the GAP

These are the GAP activities that are to be led by “relevant organizations” and are best designed for the contributions of women and gender-focused groups and organizations. Each activity is followed by some prompting questions to consider how you can contribute to the body of work encompassed by each activity. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list; [read the GAP](#) to review all activities and note how you can contribute!

Strengthen Capacity Building for Mainstreaming Gender

A.1 Strengthen capacity-building efforts for governments and other stakeholders in mainstreaming gender in formulating, monitoring, implementing and reviewing, as appropriate, national climate change policies, plans, strategies and action, including nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and national communications.

Have you designed, led, or participated in capacity-building on mainstreaming gender in climate change? Have you observed successful or unsuccessful efforts to integrate gender into institutional approaches or specific policies and plans? What capacity-building resources do you have to offer?

Enhance Capacity Building for Sex-Disaggregated Data

A.3 Enhance capacity-building for governments and other relevant stakeholders to collect, analyse and apply sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis in the context of climate change, where applicable

Have you designed, led, or participated in capacity-building on sex and gender-disaggregated data? Have you used particular resources on collecting this data? Do you have any examples of appropriate use of sex and gender-disaggregated data to share?

Strengthen Evidence and Research on Differentiated Impacts and Women’s Roles

A.4 Strengthen the evidence base and understanding of the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women and the role of women as agents of change and on opportunities for women

What research and evidence are you collecting and compiling? What key evidence do you turn to, or what gaps have you identified that should be addressed?

Communicate about the LWPG and GAP

A.5 Promote the use of social media, web resources and innovative communication tools to effectively communicate to the public, in particular reaching out to women, on the implementation of the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan and on gender equality

How do you communicate about the UNFCCC's work on gender and climate change? What messages and platforms are most useful? Which audiences have been most engaged, or which audiences should be targeted?

Promote Women's Leadership in Negotiation

B.1 Promote initiatives for capacity-building in leadership, negotiation and facilitation of negotiation for women delegates, including through webinars and in-session training to enhance women's participation in the UNFCCC process

Do you lead or participate in efforts to enhance the capacity of women negotiators? What resources are needed to promote the significance of women's participation and leadership in the negotiations?

Collaborate with the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group

B.3 Invite the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group to collaborate and co-host a dialogue to discuss advancing the leadership and highlighting the solutions of local communities and indigenous women and ways of enhancing their effective participation in climate policy and action, to the extent that it is consistent with the workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group and within existing resources

While the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group and UNFCCC Gender Team would lead on this activity, such a dialogue should feature experiences and analysis from indigenous individuals and groups working on gender. Do you have contributions to make to planning this dialogue?

Support Capacity-Building on Gender Budgeting

D.1 Share experience and support capacity-building on gender budgeting, including on the integration of gender-responsive budgeting into national budgets to advance gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate

Have you designed, led, or participated in capacity-building on gender budgeting? Have you used particular resources to learn or teach gender budgeting? Do you have any examples of gender budgeting within climate change to share?

Promote Gender-Responsive Technology

D.3 Promote the deployment of gender-responsive technological solutions to address climate change, including strengthening, protecting and preserving local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in different sectors and for improving climate resilience, and by fostering women's and girls' full participation and leadership in science, technology, research and development

Are there particular gender-responsive technological solutions you have promoted? What initiatives for preserving local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices have been successful? What initiatives for promoting women's and girls' participation and leadership in science and technology have been successful?

Collect Information on Gender and Climate Change Expertise

D.4 Support the collection and consolidation of information and expertise on gender and climate change in sectors and thematic areas as well as identifying experts on gender and climate change, as needed, and enhance knowledge platforms on gender and climate change

What resources do you have about gender and climate change? Are there particular gaps you have identified in seeking resources and materials for your work? What platforms do you use to find and share information? How do you define and demonstrate gender and climate change expertise?

Engage Women's Groups in Climate Policy and Action

D.5 Engage women's groups and national women and gender institutions in the process of developing, implementing and updating climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate, at all levels

Have you been engaged in national, regional, and international climate processes, or have you designed and led inclusive, participatory processes? What have you learned about the best ways of engaging women's groups?

Exchange Information on Parties' Gender and Climate Work

D.6 Exchange information on lessons learned among Parties that have integrated gender into national climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate (e.g. information on results, impacts and main challenges), and on the actions that Parties are taking to mainstream gender in any updates thereto, as appropriate

Have you participated in any processes within your Party, and what was successful and what wasn't successful about those experiences that can help shape future engagement? What do you wish had been done differently? Do you have an analysis to share? Have you heard of other Parties' processes in a positive way and want to know more?

Make Available Sex-Disaggregated Data

D.7 Enhance the availability of sex-disaggregated data for gender analysis, taking into consideration multidimensional factors, to better inform gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate

Do you collect data or work with large institutions that collect data? Can you ensure that sex-disaggregation is part of the data design? Can you share any datasets with policymakers?

The Women and Gender Constituency is one of the nine stakeholder groups of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), consisting currently of 33 women's and environmental civil society organizations and a network of more than 600 individuals and feminist organizations or movements focusing on gender equality and women's human rights to achieve climate justice.

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