

WOMEN & GENDER CONSTITUENCY

Submission to the UAE – Belém work programme

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Submission Request: *Parties and observers to submit views on: a) Matters relating to the UAE – Belém work programme on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards the targets of the framework, with a view to identifying and as needed, developing indicators and potential quantified elements for those targets, and b) Modalities of the UAE – Belém work programme, including organization of work, timelines, inputs, outputs, and involvement of stakeholders.*

Mandate: FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.18 para. 41

Introduction

The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) welcomes the opportunity to present our views on the upcoming UAE-Belém Work Programme on indicators. We welcome this next phase of the Global Goal on Adaptation, recognizing the important work and stakeholder engagement that went into the two years of the Glasgow-Sharm el Sheikh (GlaSS) work programme, which concluded in December 2023. We stress the importance of both parties and observers building on the challenges, successes, and lessons learned from the GlaSS work programme, avoiding delays due to minor procedural disagreements, and proceeding in a collaborative spirit to ensure the work programme delivers for the most vulnerable.

For the remainder of this submission, we will focus primarily on the ***Modalities of the UAE-Belém work programme***. The WGC is strongly committed to ensuring the voices and experiences of women, girls, and gender-diverse peoples are considered throughout every UNFCCC process, especially processes related to adaptation and resilience. The success of the majority of adaptation interventions across the world depends on meaningful engagement with women-led and gender just initiatives.

On the modalities of the UAE-Belém Work Programme

Participation and inclusion of non-party stakeholders

- We invite Parties to make quick and efficient progress on decisions regarding the operationalization of the work programme and ensure the incorporation of recommendations and inputs from non-party stakeholders, including civil society, academia, and national and subnational level experts. Methodologies on the thorough integration of local and Indigenous knowledges should be established as an essential component across all parts of the work programme. To achieve this, local organisations and actors' participation via their national governments should be ensured with respect to their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) from the initial planning stage through to implementation.

- The Work Programme should conduct systemic sourcing and utilisation of gender-disaggregated data when determining each level of the framework, including the experiences of LGBTIQIA+ and gender-diverse communities, recognising their lived experience as relevant forms of knowledge.
- Bottom-up approaches that are based on engaging stakeholders at the level where adaptation measures are implemented for the most vulnerable should be prioritized.
- The Work Programme should offer meetings and consultations in multiple formats, including, but not limited to, in-person consultations, surveys, and virtual consultations (in all six UN operating languages where possible).

Transparency

- We invite Parties and the joint SBI/SBSTA chairs to conduct the Work Programme with utmost transparency and inclusion throughout the process, considering our recommendations above regarding the inclusion of various stakeholders and welcoming their inputs and engagements at every step. Parties with established national processes for effective stakeholder engagement could bring the lessons learned to enable better, more inclusive and transparent decision-making.

Timeline

- We strongly urge Parties to come to an agreement on the modalities and agenda of the Work Programme as soon as possible. Building effective adaptation and resilience are of utmost importance and urgency to many vulnerable communities across the world, emphasizing the importance of making progress on the global goal without further delays.

Gender-responsive indicators:

- The Work Programme should ensure that the cross-cutting areas identified under decision 2/CMA.5 paragraphs 13 and 14, especially those pertaining to gender-responsive and intersectional approaches, participatory and fully transparent approaches, the integration of traditional and Indigenous Peoples' knowledges, locally led and community-based adaptation, and intergenerational equity and social justice, should guide the establishment of indicators. They should be treated as integral components instead of optional considerations.

Conclusion

The Women and Gender Constituency recognizes the importance and urgency of making progress on the global goal on adaptation to attain the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement. We stress that true and effective progress in this regard can only be made through genuine collaboration among Parties and the meaningful and thorough incorporation of civil society actors' recommendations and lived experience from the ground. The WGC membership base comprises of practitioners, academics, local actors, Indigenous women and girls, and those with technical expertise on adaptation metrics and indicators. We invite Parties and the Secretariat to engage all non-party stakeholders who wish to contribute to this process with their experience and expertise and make space for their equitable participation in safe and collaborative spaces. We look forward to actively participating in the UAE-Belém Work Programme to deliver for those who are experiencing the first and worst impacts of climate change everywhere.

About the Women and Gender Constituency:

The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is one of the nine stakeholder constituencies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Established in 2009, the WGC now consists of 44 members (women's and environmental civil society organizations accredited to the UNFCCC framework), and an advocacy listserv with more than 600 advocates. The Constituency works to ensure that human rights and gender equality are firmly anchored in all climate actions under the UNFCCC and to challenge the extractive, exploitative and patriarchal economic model which has resulted in the climate crisis.