



Challenges for Incorporating a Gender Approach in Environmental and Climate Action

Date: Thursday, August 17th

Time: 9:00-10:30 Panamá (UTC-5)

Language: Spanish

Organizers: UNEP, UN Women and WFP

Format: Live transmission via YouTube

Link for panellists: TBD

Registration link for participants: TBD

Session Objectives:

- Improve knowledge about the gender approach and its contributions in the context of national and subnational instruments (NDCs, NAPs, National Plans). This includes exploring how gender considerations can be integrated into these instruments to ensure more effective and equitable climate action at various levels of governance.
- Discuss elements and necessary conditions for the development of gender-sensitive instruments and tools through examples of successful practices, challenges, and lessons learned, so that participants obtain practical information on strategies to incorporate gender considerations into climate policies, plans, and initiatives.
- Highlight the region's progress in mainstreaming gender and identify its needs and challenges for the future.

Background and relevance:

An increasingly recognized and vital aspect in the global effort to combat climate change, is the intersection of gender equality and environmental sustainability. Within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) is a fundamental platform for negotiations and international agreements. Over the years, discussions have evolved to incorporate the gender dimension, acknowledging the differential impacts of climate change on women and the need for gender-sensitive solutions, as well as recognizing solutions originating, particularly, from rural and indigenous women.

At COP23 in 2017, the adoption of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) marked a significant milestone in the region. The GAP provides a roadmap for integrating gender considerations into all aspects of climate policy and action. It emphasizes the importance of gender-



responsive adaptation and mitigation measures, capacity-building for women, and the active participation of women in decision-making processes. This historic achievement has paved the way for increased awareness and action on gender and climate change.

Since then, countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have made notable progress in incorporating gender perspectives into their climate strategies. Many have developed National Gender and Climate Change Action Plans, which outline specific measures to address gender inequalities and to empower women within the context of climate change. Additionally, different regional platforms and initiatives have emerged, including UNEP's Regional Gender and Environment Group, the intergovernmental work done at CSW66 together with UN Women, and the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Coalition (FACJ) within the framework of the global initiative Generation Equality (a regional and global platform led by UN Women) to facilitate knowledge exchange, capacity-building, resource mobilization, and collaboration in climate action with a gender perspective.

Furthermore, the Escazú Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, which aims to combat inequality and discrimination and ensure the rights of all people to a healthy environment and sustainable development, with special attention to vulnerable individuals and groups, places equality at the center of sustainable development. It lays the groundwork for an institutional support structure and offers tools to improve policy formulation and decision-making.

Despite these advances, challenges persist. Limited access to resources, cultural norms, and unequal power relations hinder the full integration of gender considerations into climate policies and practices. As we look ahead to COP28 in Dubai later this year, this event between UNEP, UN Women, and the World Food Programme provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made, recognize the unique needs of the region, and address remaining challenges. By showcasing practical examples and experiences, the event aims to inspire and inform further progress in climate action with a gender perspective in Latin America and the Caribbean, ultimately fostering more inclusive and practical approaches for addressing the urgent challenges of climate change in the region.

Agenda

Video to be transmitted before the start of the event: “*Despertemos Humanidad, ya no hay tiempo*” launched in the context of COP2 of Escazú – UN Women

Hour	Session	Panellists
9.00-9.10	Opening words and Presentation of the Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Rivas (UNEP)- Welcoming Remarks • Cecilia Alemany (UN Women) – Opening words for the event
9.10-9.12	<i>Presentation of Panellists and First Section</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Rivas
9.12.-9.20 [~8min]	Introductory Presentation – UN Women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to gender • Presentation of the gender mainstreaming model for environmental policy (UN Women) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nidya Pesántez – Gender, Green Economies and Finance (UN Women)
9.20-9.50 [~30min]	Part I – From Theory to Action: Presentation of Projects, Tools, and Methodologies <i>Format: Discussion with moderator</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences of practitioners for developing gender inclusive methodologies (CBIT experts, other projects) • Interagency experiences (UN Women – WFP) 	Moderator: Cecilia Rocatto – PMA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Javier Rojas y María Falconi, FORECCSA Project • Josefina Tamanyo – Climate risk management experience – Guatemala (WFP) • Jessica Huertas – CBIT Project Perú
9.50-9.55	<i>Questions from participants</i>	
9.55-10.00	<i>Presentation of Panellists and Second Section</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Rivas
10.00-10.25 [~25min]	Part II – Grounding in national realities <i>Format: Discussion with moderator</i>	Moderator: María Jimena Jurado – UNEP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angélica Ponce – Authority of the <i>Madre Tierra</i> of Bolivia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National progress and challenges for the future. - What is needed for the incorporation of gender in national plans? - Establishing of a regional vision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • María José Lubertino – PhD in Ecofeminist Law. Coordinator of the Network of Defenders of the Environment and Good Living. President of the Civil Association for Human Rights. Professor at the Faculty of Law, UBA, Argentina. • Natalie Flores – Director of Climate Change of the Dominican Republic.
10.25-10.30	<i>Closure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nidya Pesántez – Concluding remarks (UN Women) • Daniel Rivas – Closure

Expected Results

- The event will foster an open and inclusive political dialogue among key stakeholders, including government officials, experts, civil society organizations, feminists, environmental defenders, and representatives from international institutions. Panelists will exchange knowledge, perspectives, and innovative ideas on gender integration in climate policies. This will generate new insights to inform future policy formulation processes, leading to more informed and effective decisions.
- It will provide a platform for collaboration among participants from diverse backgrounds. By bringing together experts and professionals in the fields of climate change and gender, the event will facilitate the establishment of new collaborations. Strengthened relationships between stakeholders will enable sharing of experiences, resources, and knowledge, fostering joint efforts to address climate change challenges with a gender equality focus.
- The event will serve as a platform for disseminating knowledge and best practices on climate action with a gender perspective. By sharing experiences, success stories, and lessons learned, the event will build a comprehensive knowledge base that can inform and inspire future initiatives. Participants will leave the event equipped with practical knowledge and resources they can share within their networks, amplifying the impact and reach of gender-responsive climate change approaches.