

Analysis of Gender References in UNFCCC COP 17 & CMP 7 texts

Overview on the status of gender references post-COP 17

The references to gender in the COP 17 decision texts can be viewed as a positive outcome that builds on the good foundation achieved in the Cancun Agreements last year. There are increasing references to gender and the need for gender equality in the UNFCCC texts. The Decision text on the Green Climate Fund has strong references to gender. This is an important outcome from Durban, given the crucial role that finance plays in helping developing countries address climate change. The decision text on NAPs highlights a gender-sensitive and participatory approach. These and other key references are detailed below.

While the UNFCCC decision texts are becoming gender-aware, there is still more that needs to be achieved. Some aspects of the climate negotiations are still gender blind. For example, there is no reference to gender in the AWGLCA Outcome Decision relating to mitigation and there is no reference to gender in the CMP 7 texts. While [decision 36/CP.7](#) (*Improving the participation of women in the representation of Parties in bodies established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or the Kyoto Protocol*) is referenced twice in the AWGLCA Outcome decision, the language of decision 36/CP.7 is weak and needs to be strengthened. MRFCJ believes that there is an opportunity to do so between now and COP 18.

There are also other questions to be addressed. For example, is there a role for institutions under the Convention to monitor how parties and institutions implement gender-related decisions? Could the LEG or Adaptation Committee monitor how NAPs address gender or is this a role for an institution at a country level and if so, who? How can we improve the availability of sex-disaggregated data? Most importantly, how can the references to gender translate into meaningful action on the ground, from the international to the national level? In order to build upon and strengthen the achievements to date, there is still more work to be done.

AWGLCA Outcome Decision

The [LCA document](#) contains six references to gender and women:

- The Standing Committee should take into account “the need to achieve gender balance in accordance with decision 36/CP.7” (Annex VI paragraph 2).

- Parties are encouraged to nominate experts to the Adaptation Committee taking into account “the need to achieve gender balance in accordance with decision 36/CP.7” (paragraph 97).
- Capacity building: the preamble to Section VI further reaffirms “the importance of taking into account gender aspects ... in capacity building” (this reflects paragraph 130 of CP.16). The text also reaffirms that the process should be participatory.
- Economic and social consequences of response measures: urges parties to give full consideration to the positive and negative impacts of the implementation of response measures on all vulnerable groups, in particular women and children” (paragraph 84).
- Terms of reference of the Climate Technology Centre and Network: the mission states that part of the mission is “to facilitate the preparation and implementation of technology projects and strategies taking into account gender considerations” (Annex VII paragraph 1).
- Criteria to evaluate and select the host of the CTCN: a sub-criteria is that the “effectiveness of the current management of the host organisation to ensure gender sensitivity” (Annex VII paragraph 4).

In the draft decision text of the AWGLCA Enhanced Action on Adaptation Agenda item 3.3 relating to the Adaptation Committee (Bonn Intersessional meetings June 2001), there were three references to gender: enhanced action should follow a gender-sensitive approach, the work of the Adaptation Committee should take into account gender perspectives and gender balance should be achieved in accordance with decision 36/CP.7. Only the reference to decision 36/CP.7 is included in the Durban LCA text.

Decision on the Green Climate Fund – report of the Transitional Committee

The [Green Climate Fund – report of the Transitional Committee](#) contains five references to gender:

- Objectives and principles: states that the Fund take a “gender sensitive approach” (Annex I paragraph 3).
- Selection of board members will give “due consideration” to gender balance (Annex II paragraph 11).
- Establishment of the Secretariat will take into account gender balance (Annex II paragraph 21).
- Operational modalities will address gender aspects (Annex III paragraph 31).
- Stakeholder input and participation: “The Board will develop mechanisms to promote the input and participation of stakeholders, including women” (Annex XIII).

These references remained intact from the earlier Report of the Transitional Committee in October 2011.

The text relating to the role and functions of the Board includes a requirement to “develop environmental and social safeguards” that are internationally accepted. Paragraph 40 states that the fund will provide resources for activities including the strengthening of capacities at a country level for social safeguards. Social safeguards provide an opportunity to ensure gender equality is addressed in the operation of the fund.

SBI National adaptation plans

There are two main references to gender in the [National adaptation plans text](#):

- Framing national adaptation plans: enhanced action on adaptation should follow a “gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach” and should be guided by “gender sensitive approaches” (paragraph 3).
- Annex B on Elements of national adaptation plans states that consideration should be given to “continued promotion of participatory and gender-sensitive approaches”.

The Draft initial guidelines include participatory stakeholder consultations as one of the preparatory elements of developing NAPs. When implemented by Parties, this should include equal participation by women and men, resulting in gender informed NAPs. The implementation strategies of the draft guidelines give consideration of “other relevant multilateral frameworks and international programmes and initiatives”. This could allow for linkages with other processes and activities in country, e.g. CEDAW, CSW, MDGs.

SBI Approaches to address loss and damage – activities to be undertaken under the work programme

There are no references to gender in the [six pages of text on loss and damage](#). The draft decision calls for a Work programme on loss and damage, with a focus on three thematic areas: assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change and the current knowledge on the same; a range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events, taking into consideration experience at all levels; the role of the Convention in enhancing the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

There are opportunities for influencing the implementation of the work programme. Paragraph 3 invites civil society (as well as other groups) to provide information “including lessons learned and good practices from the implementation of existing risk assessment and risk management options”. This could include experiences with gender differentiated risk assessment and gender sensitive risk management.

SBSTA Methodological guidance for activities relating to REDD+

There is one reference to gender in the [draft decision on how safeguards are addressed](#).

- Systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed should respect gender considerations (paragraph 2).

The text also states that relevant international obligations and agreements should be taken into account. This could include CEDAW, CSW, MDGs, UNCCD, thereby enhancing the gender aspects of safeguards.

SBSTA Nairobi Work Programme

The [Nairobi Work Programme text](#) (paragraph 4) requests the secretariat to organize two technical workshops (water and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies, ecosystem-based approaches to climate change) and to include gender-sensitive tools and approaches as cross-cutting issues in these technical workshops.

SBI Capacity building under the Convention

The [text on Capacity building](#) reaffirms “the importance of taking into account gender aspects” in capacity building activities.