

Session 2

Gender-sensitive Climate Governance: Capacity Building and Institutional Arrangements

September 5, 2021

Key Messages Report

Background

This session focuses on actions to strengthen gender-sensitive climate governance, in particular on capacity building and institutional arrangements. Thus, the objective of the session is to share experiences on institutional arrangements to strengthen the capacities of national teams in order to implement the principles stipulated in the Paris Agreement in conjunction with the different UNFCCC communications agreements. In today's session, experiences on institutional arrangements that have been developed in countries such as Chile, Peru and Ecuador were presented.

The session was moderated by Teresa Aguilar, Climate Change Technical Specialist for the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policy (FIIAPP) in Spain, one of the 7 implementing agencies of the EUROCLIMA+ Program. Teresa stressed the importance of institutional arrangements, highlighting that they are key spaces between different institutions to define priorities and anchor gender in climate change policies and institutions, equality, as well as other institutions. This, with the objective of making gender a cross-cutting component in all national public management.

Then, Lorena Aguilar, Environment and Gender Specialist of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), made a presentation on promising practices that promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the response to climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean. This was followed by a recorded message from Bianca Dager Jervis Vice Minister of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador where she shared the experience of the Gender and Climate Change Roundtable.

Continuing with the experiences, Johanna Arriagada, focal point for gender and climate change before the UNFCCC and part of the Climate Change Office of the Ministry of Environment of Chile, together with Jessica Huertas, from the General Directorate of Climate Change and Desertification of Peru, presented experiences on the institutional

arrangements that exist in their countries and how they have been key to mainstream the gender approach in climate change policies.

The main messages of the session are summarized below.

Key messages on institutional arrangements:

- There are key inter-institutional spaces to define priorities and anchor gender in climate change policies and institutions, equality, as well as to other institutions in a progressive manner, with the objective of making gender a cross-cutting component in all national public management.
- They are instances that can represent the women affected by climate impacts.
- They are also articulating spaces that manage to link different agencies, such as the National Commission on Climate Change, or other spaces at the regional or supranational level.
- In addition, these spaces generate an exchange of knowledge and experiences on climate change adaptation and mitigation actions from a gender lens, which can be replicated from one place to another. In this sense, these spaces contribute to the construction of a more refined understanding of gender-differentiated climate impacts. Adaptation and mitigation of these impacts will be more effective to the extent that the gender approach is incorporated, integrating the experience of women as active agents of this ecological transition at the global level.
- In these institutional spaces, the vision of numerous state and non-state actors representing women in their plurality and diversity at different levels: national, regional and local, is gathered and embodied. Some of these organizations that make up the women and climate change committees are women's organizations, rural women, indigenous women, workers, women environmental defenders, student associations, among others, which show the diversity and plurality of women.
- The action of the ministries and institutions involved in environment and equality should be oriented to the support, creation and development of these spaces and instances, providing them with technical, legal and social accompaniment so that they become part of climate governance at the national and/or subnational level.

On promising practices that promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the response to climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- After 30 years since the 1992 Rio Convention and two decades of trying to incorporate the gender approach in different Conventions, the great challenge is to be able to move on to implementation and learn about the practices that are being carried out in the region.
- More than 38 promising practices have been analyzed in the following seven topics: regulatory frameworks, capacity building, field actions, transition to a fair and inclusive green economy, research, data and statistics, and financing.

Promising practices on the normative framework:

- After 25 years of Beijing there are varied Multilateral Agreements that have incorporated the gender issue.
- By 2021 we have 81 mandates before COP26.
- For the first time all financing mechanisms have a gender mandate.
- At the regional level there is the Montevideo Strategy and especially the Santiago Commitment that raises the importance of linking gender and climate change.
- Progress:
 - Several countries have developed Gender and Climate Change Plans (ccGAP): Peru, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Cuba.
 - New countries are developing ccGAP- Guatemala.
 - Progress has also been made in incorporating gender in NDCs. In the first contribution 15 out of 33 countries mention gender. By 2021 all NDCs (17) submitted mention the topic.
 - Establishment of Gender and Climate Change Roundtables in Ecuador, Chile, Mexico.
 - Eight of the Equality Plans include climate change as an axis and objective.

Actions needed to strengthen regulatory frameworks:

- Support the Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (MAMs in spanish) and that national equality plans can be reviewed and renewed.
- Analyze in depth the mandates and the two GAPs agreed at the UNFCCC.
- Study gender GAPs of the CBD, the UNCCD and others such as AMUMAS.
- Publicize country commitments related to GAP implementation and integrate these elements into mitigation and adaptation actions.
- Harmonize national climate change policy frameworks with gender mandates.

- Regional M&E system where data on NDC implementation, gender-related, and project impacts are reported.

On promising practices for capacity building:

- The transition to a development style that seeks a balance with the planet. In a fairer world, new knowledge, theoretical and methodological approaches are required.
- The generation of specialized knowledge - urbanism, integrated forest management, energy and emissions reduction - is imperative.
- "Tailor-made" training processes that respond to the specific needs of the sector are required.

Actions needed are:

- Invest in the development of specific training modules on gender and climate change, for the different sectors.
- Promote MAMs and women's groups to increase their knowledge on gender and climate change.
- Having a roster of gender experts to work on climate change issues.
- South-South cooperation, such as practical clinics.

On promising practices on Field Actions

- There are promising practices on Nature-based Solutions and/or Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), Landscape Restoration, Emission Reductions (GHG), Energy Transition - Renewables, which recognize women's leadership.
- These practices have an impact on emissions reduction or do not generate new emissions, but are also inclusive, innovative, seek improvements in quality of life and increase sustainability, driving transformational changes.
- The actions carried out are:
 - Restoring coastal ecosystems: coral reefs, mangroves, dune systems and marshes-tropical storms.
 - Management of wetlands and floodplains, preventing flooding and maintaining water quality and flow considering changes in rainfall patterns.
 - Conservation and restoration of forests to stabilize slopes, prevent landslides and regulate water flow to prevent flash floods.
 - Establish healthy and diverse agroforestry systems considering increasingly variable climatic conditions.

On the transition to a fair and inclusive green economy.

- Renewable energy adoption could drive an increase of US\$98 trillion in cumulative global GDP gains by 2050.
- Jobs would quadruple to 42 million, and energy efficiency employment would expand to 21 million.
- Women make up to 32% of renewable energy workers - 10 points higher than in traditional energy industries.

Climate change action can reinforce or exacerbate inequalities, or intentionally aims to overcome them and accelerate the transition towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

The transition to a green, decarbonized economy as the basis for climate change efforts does not automatically mean that it is fair and inclusive without a gender equality approach.

- As policy, physical, economic and socio-cultural structures are examined in response to climate change, long-standing gender inequalities must be identified and addressed.
- For example, according to data from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the International Labor Organization (ILO), more than 80% of the new jobs created by the decarbonization agenda will be in sectors that are today dominated by men and only 20% of these new jobs will be created in sectors where women are in the majority.
- This means that women will not benefit from job creation unless their participation in the labor market in sectors that are most relevant to decarbonization, such as energy, agriculture, construction and waste management, is effectively addressed.

Therefore, to achieve an effective green transition it is necessary to:

- Create criteria for what we are going to understand by "fair and inclusive".
- Identify processes of change, virtuous circles, new digital technologies and global knowledge networks.
- Determine scientific advances and positive changes to build better options.
- Promote the Paris Agreement Principles and gender equality in economic stimulus packages. According to the latest GEF data, 70% of new economic stimulus packages worldwide neither not incorporate environmental issues, nor gender consideration.

On promising practices in research, data and statistics.

- Challenges: generation, availability and gender statistics in the environmental sector.
 - Statistical systems are not designed to capture the complexities of socioeconomic and environmental interactions in territories. As a result, there is a lack of quality data.
 - Data is not used and their dissemination is limited.

- Environmental indicators are not included in the main global gender indicators.

There are promising practices on the subject:

- The National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) not only looks at the gender component, but also at other intersectional identities such as age, ethnicity, geographic location, income or education.
- Initiative "Mitigation of Emissions in the Transport Sector (MiTransporte)" GIZ in Costa Rica, implemented research that generates data and information on the uses, realities and differentiated needs of women and men regarding the promotion of public transport - similar in several countries.

- **Sector-specific data: first studies on gender and energy in Argentina.**

Actions needed to address data gaps

- Generating data in relation to gender and climate change is much broader and goes beyond land tenure. Data needs to be generated on access, use and control of natural resources and biodiversity, women's participation in environment-related management bodies and committees, access to energy, differentiated impacts of disasters (indirect impacts of climate change, impact of people with disabilities and LGBTIQ+), impacts of climate change, and impacts on time use.
- Create partnerships with think tanks, NGOs and academia to:
 - Identify and address knowledge gaps in the gender and climate change interlinkages.
 - Strengthen the evidence base and understanding of the differentiated impacts of climate change.
 - Undertake research on the connections between gender and environmental factors such as GHG emissions, land degradation, biodiversity loss.
 - Collect gender and variables associated with intersectionality and interculturality in administrative data sources related to the environment.
 - Use of data to generate policies, strategies, measures and actions with a gender perspective to tackle climate change.

On promising practices related to financing

- All financing mechanisms associated with climate change have mandates in the form of gender policies or action plans.

The climate finance architecture has not been designed to engage small grassroots organizations. Funds channel resources through "implementing agencies".

- The transition to the green or blue economy is an opportunity for a shift to transformative recovery with equity and sustainability.

On inspiring practices it is necessary to:

- Understand the financial interweaving associated with climate change at the national level, it is important to know the national focal points, as well as the implementing agencies of the different Funds in the countries.
- The Ministries should support procedures that guarantee the operationalization of the mandates of the Funds for the formulation of gender-responsive projects or initiatives.
- Support direct access to financial resources for women's organizations and groups.

Key message:

- **Climate change action can reinforce or exacerbate inequalities, or intentionally aim to overcome them and accelerate the move towards gender equality and women's empowerment.**
- **As policy, physical, economic and socio-cultural structures are examined in response to climate change, long-standing gender inequalities must be identified and addressed.**

Johanna Arriagada, Focal Point for Gender and Climate Change at the UNFCCC and part of the Climate Change Office of the Ministry of Environment of Chile, commented on Chile's Gender and Climate Change Roundtable.

Characteristics of the Roundtable.

- With the support of UNDP and NDC Partnership in 2017, the work began on how to integrate the gender approach in climate change in Chile. Then in 2019 a diagnosis for the integration of gender in climate change management instruments was conducted, and that same year a New Gender Action Plan was approved under the UNFCCC (COP 25).
- There are three key factors that drove these advances: political will on the part of Minister Schmidt, in addition, the social crisis of October 2019 showed the great inequalities in the country which prompted the generation of a Gender Roundtable, this was established in 2020. Finally, in 2020 the NDC was updated with gender sensitive

considerations.. It included a social pillar with eight criteria that permeate adaptation and mitigation goals and others must include gender equity and equality considerations.

- With regard to the Mesa and its successes, it was possible to build a team work that has managed to maintain its operation over time. This continuous interministerial work allowed the preparation of the Checklist for incorporating the gender perspective in Climate Change instruments, which guides constant training, reflection on the conceptual framework and the establishment of lines of work connected with UNFCCC GAP.

The Mesa's shortcomings are: greater anticipation of the NDC updating process, initial diagnosis that is not very specific, lack of continuity of the teams/ongoing advisorslack of follow-up/monitoring system.

Lessons learned and good practices of the Gender Roundtable:

- Involve climate change and gender specialists, to promote learning between Ministries.
- Connect national, international, sectoral and local challenges.
- Identify a clear objective and achievable targets.
- Generate recommendations to different sectors on how to advance gender mainstreaming.
- Periodical gatherings, with informative sessions and workshops.
- Exchange experiences with other sectors, countries and regions.

Barriers:

- Scarce training and experience of climate change professionals in matters related to the gender approach and vice versa.
- Lack of literature and information to support with data the relationship between gender and Climate Change in Chile.
- Heterogeneity of advances in gender and Climate Change in the sectors and institutions in Chile.
- Insufficient funding sources to plan a permanent work.
- Chile is a developing country, but with high levels of inequality what permeates the diagnosis on gender gaps.
- Gender issues are not a priority in the design of public policies, there is a wide gap in knowledge and awareness among public officials and citizens.
- Chile does not have a Gender and Climate Change action Plan but is organizing the work of the Mesa based on the lines of work of the Gender Action Plan (UNFCCC). The Checklist is being applied in the instruments of the sectors, to advance in gender mainstreaming. Information is being managed and generated from existing national and regional statistics.

- The Bureau is not institutionalized yet, the only instances are the Interministerial Technical Team on Climate Change and the Scientific Committee and the Regional Climate Change Committees. However, this provides flexibility to incorporate other civil society actors.

Jessica Huertas told about the National Committee on Women and Climate Change and its roadmap.

Context

- When a country chooses to set up a Roundtable or Committee, the complete governance framework must work in it. The gender approach must be based on an intersectional approach where the intercultural and intergenerational issues intersect.
- International agreements have been a great trigger for incorporating gender policies. Our policy is to respond to the gender equality policies issued by the governing body.

Objective

Effectively implement gender mainstreaming in integrated climate change management.

Integrated climate change management has three dimensions that are concatenated and work as a gear:

- Regulatory and institutional framework. Documents related to climate change incorporate cross-cutting approaches, including participatory processes.
- Operationalization in the NDCs.
 - Articulate policies.
 - Review of measures and technical assistance to sectors.
 - Generation of capacities.
 - Generate feedback tool.
- Articulation spaces.
 - Guarantee the presence of women, youth, Afro-Peruvian people, indigenous or native peoples in climate governance.
 - Establish a roadmap showing existing training needs, their interests and actions to respond to climate change.

Milestones:

- Since 2014 a positive environment has been developed to generate documents such as the Gender and Climate Change Plan where there are key guidelines on how to incorporate the gender approach in 8 thematic areas.

- Only in 2016 they start their NDC and incorporate gender in their 157 measures.
- In 2018 the Climate Change Framework law was presented and we started a constructive participation process. In this context, women's organizations requested to be part of climate governance.
- 2019 incorporation of approaches, where the Regulation of the CC Framework Law (RLMCC) has more detail on this.
- Varied spaces are presented to work with different civil society groups: women, Afro-Peruvians, youth.

Results:

- Normative and institutional framework.
 - The RLMCC incorporates the gender approach throughout the text.
 - National Adaptation Plan makes differentiated vulnerabilities visible for each of the vulnerable groups, which allows public policies to permeate.
- Spaces for articulation : National Committee on Women and Climate Change installed:
 - With representation in the National Commission on Climate Change.
 - With roadmap being implemented.
 - Made up of 36 organizations at the national level.
 - Follow-up on gender mainstreaming in climate action.
- Operationalization in the NDCs
 - State of the art of mainstreaming in termination actions.
 - Development of tools: communication guidelines and water primer.
 - Capacity building of implementing sectors.

We have a wide digital divide between women in rural and urban areas.

Lessons learned.

- Climate governance involves much more than participation. Gender approaches need to be mainstreamed into all elements of governance.
- Budgets must respond to closing gaps and implementing affirmative actions, addressing their particularities of stakeholders.
- Gender does not equal women, Intercultural does not equal indigenous peoples, Intergenerational does not equal youth.
- The participation of the gender lead agency is indispensable, but not all the work can be done here
- The application of the approach requires multisectoral work.

Conclusions of the day

To address the climate crisis, gender mainstreaming must be a cross-cutting component in all national public management. In this line, institutional arrangements with a gender approach can guide us towards an improvement of capacities as well as a just transition towards sustainability. Effective climate governance must be inclusive, intercultural and intergenerational.