



Session 3

Climate coherence in public policies

September 9, 2021

Key Message Report

Introduction

The objective of the session was to reflect on and present experiences aimed at mainstreaming a gender perspective in the instruments and means of implementation of climate policy that are being developed and/or approved in Latin America and the Caribbean. In today's session, experiences on institutional arrangements that have been developed in countries such as Guatemala, Colombia and Uruguay were presented.

This session was moderated by Claudia Britto, Gender and Social and Institutional Systems expert from the FAO regional office. Claudia mentioned some of the instruments related to climate action at the global level. Then, Verania Chao from UNDP made a presentation on the Climate Promise and Gender in Latin America and the Caribbean initiative. This was followed by a recorded message from Angel Lavarreda, Vice-Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala, who referred to the Strategy to integrate gender considerations in the NDC.

Continuing with the experiences, Juan Andrés Casas, from the Directorate of Climate Change and Risk Management of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, commented on the Gender and Climate Change Toolbox and the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan of Colombia (PAGCC). On the other hand, Laura Marrero, consultant on gender and climate change in support of the National Directorate of Climate Change of Uruguay, shared the case of the recently approved Gender and Climate Change Action Plan of Uruguay (PAG Uy).

The main messages of the session are summarized below. [Link to the live broadcast](#)

Key messages

The instruments considered for their relevance to climate action are the:

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Long Term Strategies (LTS).
- Gender Action Plans (GAP)

In terms of reporting, they are:

- Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and the BURs are the first of a series of
- National Communications (NC).

About UNDP's Climate Promise Initiative

- UNDP has developed an approach and methodology for integrating gender into NDCs that is multidimensional and integrated. It seeks to invest in enabling conditions, while also addressing operational and ecosystemic barriers. It is an approach that encompasses three areas: governance, policy and planning.
- In all countries dual leadership of the Ministry of Environment has been established, being in charge of the development of NDCs and the National Gender Institution.
- UNDP has supported work plans with 119 countries. It constitutes an offer of assistance for the enhancement of climate commitments of the larger countries. The offer of support focused on the process of updating the NDCs and integrating the gender dimension.
- It provides support in five broad technical areas to help countries implement bold actions to reduce emissions, build resilience to climate impacts, and contribute to sustainable development priorities:
 - Build political will and social ownership at national and sub-national levels.
 - Review, align and update existing objectives, policies and measures.
 - Incorporate new sectors, and/or greenhouse gases.
 - Access cost and investment opportunities.
 - Monitor progress and strengthen transparency.
- 25 countries in the region are participating in the Climate Promise and have integrated gender into the NDC framework. The first entry point has been the Gender Analysis and this is a cyclical effort of improvement.

- There are several **milestones of actions related to governance and institutional strengthening**: seven countries have included the Women's Mechanism as a key actor, thirteen countries have developed gender capacities of government institutions, five countries have established a new coordinating body/committee for climate and gender work, 17 countries have ensured the participation of women/women's organizations in consultations.
- There are several **milestones of actions related to gender and CC planning**: seven countries have conducted a gender analysis, five countries have developed/strengthened national action plan on gender and climate change, six countries have integrated gender in sectoral plans, nine countries have strengthened the gender approach in the MRV system, five countries have strengthened the gender approach in climate finance/budgeting systems, 16 countries have an updated NDC that integrates gender.

Evolution of gender commitments in the new generation of NDCs:

- There has been significant progress in mainstreaming gender in NDCs: in 2015, only 45% (15/33) of the countries have gender references in their I/NDCs. Currently, 100% have incorporated it.
- How has gender been mainstreamed in the NDCs from 2015 to the present: the number of countries that have integrated gender in their NDCs has doubled; mentions in the general context, adaptation and mitigation have tripled; recognition of women as a vulnerable group and as an agent of change has tripled; and actions to empower women are mentioned six times more.
- This evolution is related to the increased understanding of the role of women, and the involvement of civil society and grassroots women's groups. There is greater information, understanding and also knowledge of the different areas of NDCs.
- In what areas is progress being made? Considering the different gender dimensions (vision, policies, governance, capacity development, planning instruments, financing, information and data, MRV, actions, targets and indicators), progress has been made from planning to action. Goals have been connected to existing policies, coordination mechanisms, institutional arrangements and financing, there is greater articulation for better implementation, there are areas of opportunity with respect to financing and MRV. These aspects increase ambition and make gender a core rather than a side issue.
- **Emerging issues**: 11 countries have made mention of gender equality policies as part of the policy framework guiding the NDCs. Five countries have included GAM, six have incorporated information systems, five countries have developed mechanisms for

technology transfer to women, nine countries have included climate targets to reduce inequalities. Two countries explicitly include the need for gender-responsive financing and budgeting.

- **With regard to sectors**, gender equality is taken into account in various sectors. From agriculture, work is done in sectors such as energy, infrastructure and solid waste.
- **The NDC processes are a unique opportunity to ensure gender mainstreaming in countries, as measures defined in NDCs and sectors can be economy-wide rather than focusing on single projects or isolated policies.**

Experiences and good practices in promoting gender equality from the Climate Promise countries

- **Ecuador**, when it presents its first NDC, takes advantage of this planning process to incorporate the gender perspective and start with it from the beginning. This has generated very different results from the other countries where the gender approach was addressed in the NDC update. There are a number of gender-related elements considered in the different areas of the NDC. From the governance point of view, they integrated a very broad, multi-stakeholder consultation process, with strong participation of the population and emphasis on capacity building.
- **St. Lucia**, the revised NDC makes reference to its gender equality policy and allows the APRM to be well entrenched in the process.
- **Honduras**, gender was incorporated in the first NDCs, but there is significant progress in funding, specific targets and the articulation of implementation areas.
- **Panama and Paraguay**, the gender approach was included in the first NDC but there is also significant progress, as in the first NDC there was a focus on participation and then in the update a greater focus on generating data and MRV.
- **Paraguay**, it is included in the second NDC as a guiding principle and there is significant participation of women's groups and targets have been set for adaptation and mitigation.
- **This is a nurturing process, it must be systematic and well articulated. They are robust NDCs that started with a gender analysis, included in their planning instruments, that laid their foundations in governance aspects and are well prepared for implementation.**
- **To ensure responsive gender action it is necessary to understand what is happening (through gender analysis, for example), to generate specific concrete actions and to have implementation.**

Ángel Lavarreda, Vice-Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala

Strategy for integrating gender considerations into the NDC

- To regulate vulnerability reduction, mandatory adaptation to the effects of climate change and GHG mitigation, the principle of integrality is considered, which refers to the need to consider cultural and ethnic relevance, as well as the gender perspective in any plan, program or action.
- Women possess applicable knowledge in areas such as agriculture, forestry, coastal marine areas, forest management, food preparation, administration and management of water and forest resources, among others. This makes them potential agents of change.
- Guatemala is in the process of updating the NDC, which incorporates gender considerations through a participatory process so that the goals promote the equal participation of men and women in all areas, identifying the contributions of women in mitigation and adaptation.
- The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala supports gender equality, and has several instruments in this regard: the environmental gender policy; the Gender and Climate Change strategy in support of the NDC; the REDD+ gender work route; and projects that include Action Plans for the full participation of women.

Juan Andres Casas, Directorate of Climate Change and Risk Management of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia.

Gender and CC Toolkit and the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan of Colombia (PAGCC)

It is a young and recent experience in the integration of the gender approach to climate change, a product of a series of actions promoted by Colombia in this area.

Towards a country vision on gender and climate change: background information

- In 2012, a public policy on Gender Equity was established that mentions that climate change will affect a significant proportion of women food producers.
- By introducing the first NDC in 2015, it is gender blind. The Climate Change Act published in 2018 was also gender blind.

- In the second Biennial Update Report (BUR2) of 2018, it was a turning point, as *"For the first time, Colombia's Biennial Update Report explores the link between climate change and gender issues."*
- The Colombian Low Carbon Development Strategy has also played a fundamental role.
- The Strategy has great potential, as it is an intersectoral team of men and women who feed the Ministry of Environment to drive the strategies forward. In the second phase, the gender approach began to be integrated, asking why, what for, what is this, and how? The initial idea was to hold training workshops for technical personnel.

Capacity-Building	Programme:	key	results
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- The Gy CC Capacity Building Program (2019-2020) was conducted to raise awareness and position the issue, an 18-month process with women's organizations in the country, with men and women officials, which had the task of updating the NDC with the key objective of building the country's vision on gender and climate change.
- At that same time there were the following opportunities: the updating of the NDC and the formulation of the Long Term Climate Strategy for 2050. In addition, there were different entry points: Sectoral Gender and Climate Change Plans (PIGCCS: Agro), where the country's climate change teams and technicians are, collect their needs and formulate specific guidelines for each sector to integrate the gender approach.
- International cooperation played a fundamental role in the process: NDC Partnership, UNDP and WRI, thanks to them, positioning, increased ambition, experiences of developing and developed countries were achieved.
- More than 200 women and more than 200 men sensitized and trained: in basic gender concepts, gender and climate change and gender mainstreaming in climate change management.
- Impact on public policies, positioning, institutional arrangements and installed capacity:
 - Mining and energy sector gender policy and sectoral committee.
 - Sectoral Gender Committee of the Transport Sector, professional in charge of gender and climate change issues.
 - Country position on Gender and Climate Change at COP25 as negotiating party.

- Nomination of the National Focal Point for Gender and Climate Change before the UNFCCC, to lower the lines from the Convention and accompany the needs of the country, generating processes of permanent dialogue with the citizenship.
- PIGGCS with a gender focus: transport, agriculture, CIT, environment.
- Gender-sensitive Voluntary Climate Agreements, which resulted in the development of the Gender and Climate Change Box, an NDC that has key guidelines in the second phase and the governing under the PLWPG-GAP guidelines.

Gender and Climate Change Action Plan of Colombia

- At the moment, 18 regional dialogues are being held throughout the country with representative women's organizations working for the environment in Colombia. The objective is to position the reality and needs of all regions.

Participatory:

- Women's Org.
- LGBTIQ+ Org.
- Ministerial sectors
- International experiences

Consistency

- Objectives and priority areas of the enhanced version of the LWPG-GAP

Route

- Diagnosis - March 2022
- Roadmap - August 2022
- Formulation - September 2023
- Implementation - 2024

Participation and monitoring

- The Gender and Climate Change Roundtable, which will start to operate from March 2022 and will be a permanent space for participation of government, civil society and anyone who wants to participate. The six sectoral guides and the Toolbox will be key in the whole process.

Laura Marrero, Gender and climate change consultant in support of the National Directorate of Climate Change of Uruguay.

Gender and Climate Change Action Plan of Uruguay

Timeline

- In 2019, Uruguay presents its [Gender and CC Strategy](#), which is based on drawing a roadmap for planning, mainstreaming gender and defining the key elements of climate policy, where the gender approach should be included. The NDC, National Adaptation Plans, National Communications and BURs, GHG reporting and the Long Term Strategy were identified, which is consistent with this process.
- The MRV plan is first elaborated, which includes a definition with goals, indicators and actions that are proposed in the NDC, which consider gender issues. It focuses on categorizing the NDC measures, prioritizing and defining actions to reduce gaps.
- An effective Plan is defined for 2020 that will integrate commitments and actions for a period of 2024.
- In 2021, the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan is approved.

The Gender and Climate Change Plan takes the priority areas according to the CMCCC GAP

- Capacity Building, Knowledge Management and Communication
- Gender balance, participation, women's leadership
- Gender-sensitive implementation
- Gender mainstreaming in the instruments of the National Climate Change Policy.

There are three key components of the PAG and CC Uy:

1. Identification of emerging cross-sectoral initiatives for gender equality in climate change: tourism, energy.
2. Continuity of the definitions established in the National Gender and Climate Change Strategy. Development of synergies and improvements in the coordination of the activities of the agencies that are part of the sNRCC.
3. New lines of action arising from this climate change response system for this period.

The Gender and Climate Change Plan includes a line of work on the following issues:

- NDC and gender-sensitive MRV

- National Adaptation Plans
- Gender Analysis at INGEI

The priority areas for this period are:

- Capacity building with a specific focus on target groups and specific training needs.
- Improve access to finance for women-led climate action organizations.
- Strengthen the involvement of the National Gender Council in the national climate agenda.

Challenges:

- **Strengthening capacities and knowledge with triple crosscutting:** climate change, intersectional gender, sector and territorial scale. International cooperation has been key to generate capacities and advance knowledge.
- **Institutionalize the participation of key stakeholders:** appraisal, analysis, follow-up and monitoring. It seeks the incorporation of local stakeholders for gender-based appraisals through knowledge management. Work is being done to systematize a methodology to make the voice heard.
- **Strengthening the gender and climate change framework in the public policy agenda:** The creation of the Ministries of Women's Affairs and Equality is key.
- **Effective measurement of results.** Institutionalize Monitoring and Tracking: measuring results of gender gap reduction.

Lessons learned:

- The GAP as a new opportunity to move from enabling conditions to effective commitments to equality, monitored and evaluated.

Claudia Britto's final words

1. Importance of political will to carry out these efforts.
2. Permanent capacity building.
3. There is urgency in prioritizing the development of gender and climate change data, we must find ways to close the information gap that will improve implementation processes that will give scale and replication in other countries.
4. The issue of funding is crucial, as it is international, and there is an absence of national budgets for gender-responsive actions.
5. Women's participation and leadership in all its diversity must be strengthened.

6. Multisectoral coordination is key to a more comprehensive approach to the efforts being made by the countries.