



Session 7

Synergies with other international agendas

September 30, 2021

Key Message Report

Introduction

Today's closing session was generally moderated by Adrian Diaz, from the Directorate of Environment and Ocean Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile.

Then Johanna Arriagada, Gender and Climate Change Focal Point to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and part of the Coordinating Team of the meeting, presented the results and key conclusions learned from the Regional Meeting, which demonstrate the gaps, challenges and also the opportunities to include a gender perspective in climate action in a cross-cutting manner in our region.

Finally, a high-level discussion was held with the participation of Javier Naranjo, Minister(s) of Environment of Chile, together with Carole Dieschbourg, Minister of Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development of Luxembourg. The European Union was represented by Felice Zaccheo, head of the Regional Programmes Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean of International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Union and as special gender envoy for the next COP 26 we were accompanied by Alicia Herbert.

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

Key messages

About the Meeting

- Representatives from government, civil society and key agencies participated in the work required to advance the gender and climate change agenda at the global and regional levels.
- The themes of the strengthened Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Plan of Action (2020 - 2024) adopted at COP25 were addressed.
- A draft Working Document was prepared with the objective of guiding the discussions of the Meeting. This document has the following contents: regulatory frameworks, climate finance, just transition, national and subnational experiences, bi-regional dialogue with the European Union, among others.

Objectives

- To identify, discuss and exchange information, good practices and visions on experiences, challenges and opportunities of LAC countries regarding the integration of the gender approach in the formulation and implementation of national policies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- Strengthen capacities of LAC countries on the linkages between gender and climate change to implement the Lima Work Programme and its enhanced Gender Plan of Action (2020 -2024).
- Promote reflection on new perspectives with a gender perspective on climate change policies and their intersections with public policies in other sectors, in light of the impacts and lessons learned from COVID 19.
- Promote the creation and formalization of a Network for Gender Equality and Climate Change in LAC, with a view to strengthening the active participation of women in decision-making processes at all levels.

Route of the meeting

- When the renewed Gender Action Plan was approved at COP25, the Chilean Presidency decided to hold a Regional Meeting with the objective of advancing the implementation of the new CEP.
- A first draft of the Working Document was shared before the Meeting.
- Thursday 02/09 High Level Opening: *for gender-sensitive climate action*.
- *Conversation "Towards a transformative recovery for sustainability and gender equality"*.
- Tuesday 07/09 *Gender-sensitive Climate Governance: Capacity Building and Institutional Arrangements*

- Thursday 09/09 *Climate Policy Coherence*
- Tuesday 21/09 *Climate finance with a gender approach. Thursday 23/09 Sex-disaggregated data.*
- Tuesday 28/09 *Women as agents of change.*
- Thursday 30/09 *High Level Closing: synergies with other sustainable development agendas.*
- *Meeting of gender and climate change decision-makers.*

Functioning of the Meeting

- It was developed virtually during Tuesdays and Thursdays of September 2021, three hours a day on the Zoom Platform.
- The sessions were divided into open sessions: in webinar format, transmitted via youtube, and then followed by closed working groups, with participatory methodologies with the official delegations by country.

Results achieved

- Trained people from LAC on the linkages between gender and climate change to implement the Lima Work Programme and its strengthened Gender Plan of Action (2020 -2024).
- Identification of synergies and partnerships between LAC and European countries for the implementation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan.
- Participation of 64 people from official delegations and 28 countries of the region.
- Between 260 and 1600 views on YouTube Average number of participants in zoom, 55 people.

Conclusions

- Women and girls are disproportionately more vulnerable to the effects of climate change: their autonomy and adaptive capacity is limited by historical structural inequalities.
- It is essential to promote gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation and mitigation policies in order to advance climate action as well as gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions hardest hit by the pandemic in different dimensions, so it is crucial to advance in a transformative recovery to boost the economy through strategic sectors and improve inclusion and address the climate crisis. To this end, it is imperative to understand the gender-environment nexus.
- The challenge is to implement and accelerate the commitments made under a collaborative, articulated approach, with funding and robust political, economic and fiscal covenants to make equality a central objective.

- Mainstreaming IS NOT ENOUGH, we must make structural changes so that recovery is deep and sustainability is possible.
- It is necessary to promote parity between men and women and commit ourselves to equality. Intersectionality means understanding that there are different levels of discrimination and gaps, bringing to the forefront those who are traditionally left out, such as indigenous peoples, rural communities, Afro-descendants, migrants, etc.
- It is necessary to strengthen the coordinated work between the mechanisms for the advancement of women and other sectors.
- This is the time for action, for results, for counter-cyclical policies, for more key articulations focused on solutions.
- Progress has been made in the region in linking gender and climate change through the development of instruments, which translates into the promotion of different strategies, plans and programmes in the different countries.
- The importance of political will to carry out these efforts is highlighted, where institutional capacity building is fundamental.
- It is evident that women's participation and leadership in all its diversity must be strengthened.
- Multisectoral coordination is key to a more comprehensive approach to the efforts being made by the countries.
- Addressing the climate, inequalities and health crisis caused by COVID-19 requires not only policy redesign, but also technical, human and financial resources, as well as multilateral and inter-country cooperation.
- It is important to achieve a fiscal transition in line with the ecological transition we are undergoing that, in turn, considers the need to mobilize the maximum available resources to ensure women's access to solutions.
- It is necessary to sensitize the national institutions in charge of statistics to promote the generation of sex-disaggregated data, with a focus on climate change management and strategic sectors. Along with periodic updates, in a coordinated manner so as not to repeat efforts.
- As a region, we have the challenge of generating capacities in technical teams at the national and subnational levels in methodologies for the collection, management and analysis of sex-disaggregated data to feed the formulation and updating processes of climate change management instruments.
- **Tackling the climate crisis requires climate actions based on changes in production patterns through the development of new instruments and technological innovations that ensure a just transition towards sustainability and under principles of gender justice.**

- **Achieving gender-responsible and sustainable growth paths with equality requires actions that strengthen the use of strategies based on the bioeconomy; promote sustainable mobility models, suitable for care activities and that ensure women's physical autonomy; promote a circular economy in which women's participation in formal and informal activities is recognized, both in the public and private spheres.**

Expected results

- Guidance document that systematizes the good practices, experiences, challenges and opportunities identified in LAC countries regarding the integration of the gender perspective in the formulation and implementation of national policies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- Creation of a multi-stakeholder network for Latin America and the Caribbean on climate change and gender equality with a view to establishing a road map to promote the incorporation of a gender perspective in climate action by Governments.

Conversation with the authorities

- Question for **Javier Naranjo, Minister(s) of the Environment of Chile**: *What is Chile's commitment to continue with the issue of gender and climate change after handing over the presidency of COP25?*
- Without women there is no climate action and only with gender equality and a more active and equitable participation of women in decision-making will inclusive, sustainable and truly effective climate action be possible in Latin America and the Caribbean,
- It was key for us to incorporate the gender approach at COP 25 and we have worked to approve the Gender Action Plan, and now we are focusing on implementing this Action Plan at the national level and pushing it forward with the Region.
- Together with all the Agencies, and the support of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, we have organized this Regional Meeting, which ends today with more than 20 countries of the region and more than 50 decision makers trained on gender and climate change.
- But, the work does not end here, one of the great contributions of the Meeting is to bring the Gender Action Plan down to earth and to understand how we should focus our efforts to implement and then monitor and evaluate.
- We will also continue to promote the gender perspective in other spaces and different instances of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, as has been the case in the Forum of Ministers of the Region. In the coming year, we will continue to support the implementation of its Work Plan,

which includes issues such as women's participation and environmental decision-making. Along with the integration of a human rights and gender approach in the NDCs. And, actively participated in the negotiation of the Gender Plan for the Post 2020 Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which should be approved at the next COP 15.

- At the national level we will implement national policies that incorporate the gender approach with the formulation of disaggregated data and participatory and representative processes. Our commitment will be reflected in the coherence of our national and local policies with international agendas.
- In particular we want to meet the commitments set out in our NDC and implement our gender-responsive Long Term Strategy that we will be presenting at COP26.
- The Framework Law on Climate Change is expected to be approved soon, and its draft has been designed with a gender perspective.
- Finally, thanks to the support of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the United Nations System in Chile, we are developing a disaggregated data study, which through the Arclim Platform, will make visible the distribution of inequalities of the population in the face of climate change.
- There are still challenges ahead, but we have a strong and clear conviction that with gender equality and a more active and equitable participation of women in decision-making, inclusive, sustainable and truly effective climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean will be possible.

Question for **Minister Carole Dieschbourg, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development of Luxembourg**: *What are the progress and challenges of Luxembourg in terms of cc and gender?*

- We have worked to support climate heroines. We have many strategies and action plans to mainstream this agenda at the national and international level. Our foreign policy is feminist, and this is incorporated at the national policy level. For example, in our government we have a national action plan focused on equity and this is required in all policies and action plans. According to the principle of gender mainstreaming, every time we establish any regulation we have to assess whether there are equal opportunities, we also measure the impact. In turn, we have a Ministry of Equity that is part of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development that ensures a gender approach to all issues. This, in conjunction with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, seeks to ensure social inclusion as women are very important for sustainable development.
- On climate change we have developed a Strategy and the gender approach is included in these decisions and in the programmes we support. In the Strategy that was developed in 2012, we highlight human and gender rights in climate change activities. This is not something that should

be developed only by the Ministry of Environment but we do it with other Ministries to achieve institutional gender mainstreaming.

- We promote the active role that women play in the private and public sector - However, there is still a long way to go, but *"every step, no matter how small, is important to make rapid progress on the issue and involve everyone"*.

Question for Felice Zaccheo, Head of the Regional Programmes Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean of International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Union *What is the European Union's commitment to climate change and gender equality? What potential role could the EUROCLIMA programme play in addressing the challenges presented at the Meeting?*

- The commitment is through two programmes, Eurosocial and Euroclima+, which have also contributed to this event.
- Climate action and gender equality are at the heart of the EU. With the European Green Pact we want to be the first climate-neutral region in the world, reduce pollution and the indiscriminate use of resources to become a clean and circular economy.
- The Gender Strategy wants to ensure that the EU is an area of prosperity for women and girls and that they can participate in the leadership of our society. This is consistent with internal and external policy.
- The EU's Gender Equality Plan (GAP 3) reiterates its commitment to gender equality, where 85% of the external initiatives supported must advance gender equality. The EU maintains gender equality as a guiding principle in its international cooperation.
- Particularly in Latin America, the evidence shown indicates that due to the existing gaps in the region, women are the most vulnerable to climate change. This is due to the lack of rights to land, natural resources and technology, among other multi-related factors. But, also where a powerful shift needs to be made is in the levels of participation. Women's participation is still a minority in decision-making and in the implementation of the solutions that the Latin American and Caribbean region needs to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- The EU's flagship programme, EUROCLIMA+ has provided technical support to the Region to mainstream gender in projects and actions. For example:
 - It provided a virtual window to support processes in the countries of the region, where gender is one of the main issues being discussed.
 - Produced a toolbox proposing concrete and validated instruments for the design, implementation and monitoring of climate projects in the region.

- Established the *Country Roundtables*, which are dialogues with the countries of the region, where countries aim to reduce actions to reduce gender gaps in mitigation and adaptation actions.
- We have a line of action on gender and vulnerable groups that seeks to incorporate these dimensions into instruments, arrangements and other elements.

Alicia Herbert, special gender envoy for COP26, How important are the results of this Latin American dialogue for COP26 in the framework of the implementation of the Gender Action Plan approved at COP25?

- This Gathering is an example of the successful implementation of the Gender Action Plan, sharing experiences and building capacity so that leaders can transform this into action.
- Gender equality will be one of the emphases of the UK's upcoming presidency of the COP26 climate summit, and will be reflected not only in events on the issue, but throughout the conference.
- We are committed to making the voices of women and girls heard at COP 26, especially the most marginalized, who are most impacted by climate change.
- We are collaborating with other countries to be able to hold a series of events to promote gender equality and climate action. This is demonstrated in the COP26 programme.
- Finally, the empowerment of women and girls is key to advancing climate action.

Key messages

Javier Naranjo, Minister(s) of the Environment of Chile

- It is key to be able to advance in the integration of the gender approach in the development of climate and environmental policies. Addressing essential aspects such as data collection, financing and access to it, women's participation in environmental actions, the incorporation of the gender perspective in the NDCs and Long Term Climate Strategies and the promotion of the generation of instances to promote this integration.

Minister Carole Dieschbourg

- Women are very important in climate issues. I think a lot of progress has been made on mainstreaming, but we have to work on the ground, using legislation for this. So the idea is to bring everyone on board and move faster to have an equitable impact related to climate change.

Felice Zaccheo

- LAC and the EU are partners on climate issues of gender equality and we must work together on shared goals: carbon neutrality, progress on the gender agenda. I want to underline the role that Chile has played as the presidency of COP25 for actions and projects such as today's and that we can follow up on them at COP26. The road is long and it will not stop. The Gender and Climate Change Agenda where LAC and Europe can support policies that foster climate resilience and an inclusive, just and environmentally sustainable future.

Alicia Herbert

- I call on all countries to include in their actions on climate change specific activities for gender equity and mainstreaming. For example, to include the GAP and Feminine Action for Climate Justice which gives guidance to countries on how they can address this issue.
- I invite you to generate gender-responsive approaches, such as in climate finance, that empower women and girls.
- Since COP 26 we are working to strengthen our work on the issue, showcasing approaches and case studies and building a coalition of stakeholders to increase ambition.

Final words by Javiera Zárate, Coordinator of the Regional Meeting on Climate Change and Gender Equality:

"I would just like to conclude by saying that this work is just beginning. This time we focused on decision-makers in the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean and we made efforts to integrate part of civil society and academia. But this does not stop here, there is still much to do, and we will continue to promote these spaces. To close the gender gap, first we have to do a self-review of our actions and then encourage the person next to us to understand these inequalities and ideally, to join in the change. We can all work to help close the gender gap with small actions and hopefully one day, sooner rather than later, we will talk about gender inequality in the past.

Many thanks again to all of you who have accompanied us throughout the month of September. We will continue to meet again in a future opportunity in which we will continue to reflect on the important role of women in the search for an inclusive, fair and equitable sustainable development.

No women, no climate action.