



KEY MESSAGES TO COP 25

ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

THE NETWORK OF VIETNAMESE NGOS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (VGNO&CC)

The UN Climate Change Conference COP 25, to be held on 2 - 13 December in Madrid, Spain will discuss important agendas in which decisions will be made about climate empowerment and gender (remarked by Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, entitled "COP 25 Reflects a New Era of Ambition, May 2019." Gender equality is a necessary condition for countries to implement their NAP and NDC. This is an opportunity for countries to contribute ideas and initiatives to promote gender equality, enhance the role of women in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

It is recognized that this is an opportunity for local civil society organizations to raise their voices to contribute to the goals of COP25, members of the Advisory Group of the Empower – Women for climate resilient-societies Project, Center for Environment and Community Research (CECR), and the Network of Vietnamese NGOs and Climate Change (VGNO&CC), have met, discussed and developed messages and recommendations on gender equality and mainstreaming in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

We would like to send these messages to the representatives of the Government of Vietnam, representatives of international non-governmental organizations and other organizations participating in COP25 to present when given any opportunities to contribute to COP25 decisions on gender equality and climate change.

Message 1: Developing and implementing a Gender Action Plan in response to climate change and disaster reduction for Vietnam

Necessity: To ensure gender equality is integrated into climate change policies, programs, and interventions and that all men and women have equal opportunities in implementation and benefit from adaptation and mitigation initiatives, especially in Vietnam's priority areas such as livelihoods, health, natural resources, agriculture, forests, the sea and water.¹

Message 2: Collecting gender disaggregated data in policies, plans, monitoring and evaluation in implementation of gender programs

Necessity: Gender-disaggregated data helps to specify gender mainstreaming in gender assessment, reporting and monitoring activities, and support for gender-inclusive policy decision making as well as develop practical measures and gender-specific indicators.²

Message 3: Identifying goals and gender-specific indicators in monitoring and evaluation framework relevant to the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in line ministries.

Necessity: To support the design and implementation of programs, projects and interventions for NAP 2020 - 2030 with an effective gender approach.³

Message 4: Enhancing women's economic empowerment in vulnerable sectors and industries due to climate change and disasters

Necessity: Capacity building and empowerment of the economy and resources for women in vulnerable regions and occupations due to climate change and natural disasters will create positive changes for the lives of citizens and create more sustainable effects for investment.⁴

Message 5: Ensuring financial support for gender sensitive programs and projects

Necessity: Budget lines in programs and projects are needed for ensuring gender equality, including communication and various interventions.⁵

Message 6: Financial priority for climate change adaptation programs and projects initiated or led by women

Necessity: There are currently no data on climate change projects and programs initiated and led by women. Data are needed on this and the promotion of women's participation in climate change by direct financing must be considered an indicator of gender equality implementation in the NAP/CC.

Message 7: Raising awareness, knowledge, capacity, and participation of men and children in climate change adaptation projects initiated or led by women⁶

Message 8: Enhancing the leadership capacity of women in social institutions and organizations

Necessity: To support women to participate in decision-making processes, especially be able to make these decisions through gender lenses⁷

Message 9: Increasing the proportion of women in leadership boards at agencies and social organizations working on climate change/disaster prevention

Necessity: It is needed to have specific indicators on women's participation in agencies working on climate change and disaster prevention to ensure the effectiveness of women's contributions.⁸

Message 10: Raising awareness, knowledge and capacity on gender for leaders in agencies and social organizations working on climate change

Necessity: Raising awareness and understanding of gender equality, improving capacity on gender for leaders of organizations to help these agencies and organizations to implement gender mainstreaming more effectively.

Message 11: Making priority policies for women in training, employment in area and jobs that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of climate change and natural disasters

Necessity: Waste that is not properly managed and treated will emit greenhouse gases, cause environmental pollution such as water, air, soil, and resultant health damage. Waste management industry is a sector with many women involved in separation, collection and treatment process (80%). They create jobs, contribute to reduce pollution and greenhouse gases. However, their work has not been recognized properly, they face many social stigma and discrimination.⁹

Message 12: Developing policies, programs to support and compensate women who have suffered trauma from loss after natural disasters

Necessity: The post-disaster clean-up and recovery jobs are largely carried out by women and trauma from loss after natural disasters affects on women is different and longer than men. However, the current compensation has not considered this factor.¹⁰

Message 13: Communication products on climate change and natural disasters must ensure gender equality

Necessity: Communicating messages, information and understanding on gender equality and climate change to stakeholders is essential to ensure meaningful and effective participation in interventions. Communication to ensure gender equality in climate change requires evidence and suitable methods of transmission for each locality and community. Government policies and support for stakeholder engagement are needed.¹¹

REFERENCES

¹ The National Target Program to Response to Climate Change 2008 recognizes the increasing risk of gender inequality due to climate change in the areas of livelihood, health, natural resources, agriculture, forests, sea and water (according to Australian Aid/CARE Policy Brief 2015)

²Gender disaggregation data is limited and is the biggest gap in the research, analysis and evaluation of current gender work (according to UNDP-CCWG-VUFO-NGO Policy Brief 2017)

³ The Government has made great efforts to intergrate gender into NAP 2020 - 2030. The effective implementation of NAP would help women to demonstrate and promote their role as "agents of change". (UNFCCC/The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG): Paper on "Strengthening gender considerations in adaptation planning and implementation in the least developed countries")

⁴ Some projects show that capacity building for the women will make a difference. For example, the project to intergrate gender equality in Climate Smart Agriculture in Binh Thuan province shows that women empowerment activities help them to actively participate in training courses and gain confidence in the application of technical measures. Men are more involved in household chores and are inclined to share decision-making with women. Project of applying slow-release micro-organic fertilizer to cassava planting in Sepon company, located in Quang Tri province, shows that ethnic women are very active in schooling and they have invested their income on children education and sustainable shopping more than men do.

⁵ Gender budget lines in climate change activities can be shown to be integrated with the interventions, or may stand independently for segregated gender or female priority activities, ... (according to UNDP-GGCA Report on Gender Equality in National Climate Action, 2016)

⁶ Need to institutionalize training activities on gender equality (Australian Aid/CARE: Policy brief: Turning words into action: Enhancing gender equality in climate change policy and design in Vietnam)

⁷ UNDP/CCWG/VUFO-NGO: Policy brief on Gender Equality in CCA/DRR in Vietnam 2017

⁸ Promote the potential leadership role of women. (Australian Aid/CARE: Headline books: Turning words into action: Enhancing gender equality in policy and design Climate Change Program in Vietnam)

⁹ Create a win-win model for women: Help the women in the industry to approach health services, their work is recognized and appreciated, helping them escape being stigmatized in society. (CECR/Canadian Embassy Vietnam: Women Empowerment in Plastic Waste Management, 2019)

¹⁰ UNDP/CCWG/VUFO-NGO: Policy Brief on Gender Equality in CCA/DRR in Vietnam 2017

¹¹ Awareness and understanding about gender equality and women remains at a general and limited level at all walks of life, together with social and traditional barriers is the main obstacle in implementation of policies related to gender approach. (CSAGA-OXFAM: Gender-sensitive media: Some suggestions for reporters and journalists, June 2011).