

KEY MESSAGES TO COP 26

ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ECONOMIC RECOVERING AFTER COVID-19 PANDEMIC

THE NETWORK OF VIETNAM NGOs AND CLIMATE CHANGE (VNGO&CC)
THE NETWORK OF WOMEN PIONEERS IN RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Joining hands to promote gender equality in responding to climate change and to raise women's voices to COP26, Vietnam NGOs and Climate Change (VNGO&CC) and the Network of Women Pioneers in Responding to Climate Change, Center for Environment and Community Research (CECR), Center for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED) would like to send 6 messages to COP26. These recommendations will be shared at the Virtual Gender Market Place on 9th November 2021 to connect with organizations and individuals in the field of gender and climate change, together contributing to COP26 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, with nature-based solutions (NbS), ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA).

Necessity: Women are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. Women also play an important role in climate change response and disaster risk reduction (DRR). Women's voices, experiences and initiatives need to be recognized and promoted, ensuring gender equality is mainstreamed into climate change response policies, programs, and interventions, ensuring that men and women participate equally and benefit equitably from climate change adaptation initiatives.

Message 2: Collecting and using effectively gender and ethnicity disaggregated data in the process of formulating and implementing policies, plans, monitoring and evaluation in implementation of gender programs, action plans on green growth, climate change response, National Adaptation Plan to climate change, National Action Plan for natural disaster prevention and control.

Necessity: Gender-disaggregated data by gender and ethnicity concretize gender mainstreaming solutions in policy formulation, assessment and reporting, monitoring, and mainstreaming gender policy decision support as well as developing practical measures and criteria specific to gender and specificity by social and ethnic group¹.

Message 3: Investing in women's economic empowerment in region, sectors and industries vulnerable by natural disasters and climate change. Ensuring financial support for gender-responsive program and project, initiated or led by women.

Necessity: Enhancing economic empowerment and providing investment resources for women in regions, sectors, and industries vulnerable to disasters, climate change will create positive changes to people's lives and create more sustainable investment. Ensure women have access to information on climate, markets, capacity building, technology transfer, and access to finance to be self-sufficient in climate change adaptation production chains. Funding is required in programs and projects, ensuring gender equality is considered, mainstreamed and assessed, including gender-priority communication, which is covered in the joint implementation plan.². Prioritize financing activities initiated by women to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change³.

Message 4: Assessing of loss and damage on community-based group effected by climate change, especially in areas vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise. Proposing solutions for mitigate climate risks, reduce loss and damage caused by climate change, especially for women and children. Developing policies and programs to support women affected by natural disasters, epidemics and gender-responsive social security and economic recovery programs.

Necessity: Women and children are the most vulnerable groups to impacts of climate change, disasters and epidemics. Vietnam is one of the countries that suffers a lot of loss and damage due to extreme climate events as well as epidemics, especially in the Mekong Delta, Central Coast, Central Highlands or the Northern Mountains. Around 36% of women work in agriculture⁴, accounting for the majority of the workforce in the sector most vulnerable to climate change. Currently, there are no methods and guidelines for assessing the loss and damage caused by climate change at the community level, therefore, there are no specific policies on climate risk sharing, loss and damage reduction. harm caused by climate change⁵. Post disaster programs are necessary and important to support vulnerable women, for economic recovery and social security, as well as to contribute to the achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs).

Message 5: Priority policies for women in training, recruitment and green occupations, areas that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change, especially in the context of the economy being severely affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Necessity: Many professions find it difficult to recruit women because of factors related to gender stereotypes, while industries with many female workers lack attention and support regarding working conditions. The female workforce makes up more than 80% of waste collection and recycling, both generating income and contributing to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. However, their work has not been recognized and is still subject to many social stigmas and discriminations⁶. Self-employed and migrant workers women are the ones most severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, it is necessary to create more green jobs for women, young people and disadvantaged groups to restore the economy and enhance social security, contribute to environmental protection, and protect the earth's climate system.

Message 6: Strengthening regional and international cooperation, exchange experiences, collective actions to promote gender equality in climate change response, enhancing resilience to climate change, disasters and epidemics.

Necessity: International and regional cooperation is very important in advocating and promoting gender equality issues in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction programs. Development partners and international organizations increase financial support for community initiatives to increase resilience to climate change; Women's organizations need to speak up at international forums on climate change and gender equality, so that women have the opportunity to implement and benefit equally from climate change response initiatives.⁷

¹ Gender disaggregated data are limited and represent the biggest gap in current gender work research, analysis and assessment (UNDP-CCWG-VUFO- NGO: Policy Summary 2017)

² Gender budget flows in climate change activities can be presented as integrated with interventions, or can stand alone for activities that prioritize women, segregate gender, etc. (UNDP- GGCA Report on Gender) Equality in National Climate Action, 2016)

³ The Government has made great efforts to mainstream gender into the NAP 2020 – 2030. Effective NAP implementation helps women demonstrate and promote their role as “agents of change” (UNFCCC/Country Expert Group) Least Developed Countries (LEG): Paper on Strengthening Gender Consideration in Adaptation Planning and Implementation in LDCs”)

⁴ ILO. Research Summary Gender and the labor market in Vietnam

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-hanoi/documents/publication/wcms_774433.pdf

⁵ ISPONRE (2020) Research on theoretical and practical basis, propose methods to assess loss and damage caused by climate change in Vietnam

⁶ Creating a “win-win” model for women: Helping women in the industry access health services, their work is recognized and appreciated, helping them to escape stigma in society festival. (CECR/Canadian Embassy Vietnam: Women Empowerment in Plastic Waste Management, 2019)

⁷ Gender Day at COP26. Recognizing and celebrating gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in climate policy and action, Gender Day will be held on Tuesday 9 November 2021.