

CTCN Gender Policy and Action Plan

2019-2022

Summary

This document presents the first Gender Policy and Action Plan of the Climate Technology Centre & Network. The development of such as document follows the CTCN mission from Decision 2/CP.17 to facilitate the preparation and implementation of technology projects and strategies taking into account gender considerations to support action on mitigation and adaptation. It also responds to the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (Decision 3/CP.23) and the increasingly acknowledged and important linkages between gender and climate, and thus applies to the full range of CTCN activities including technical assistance, capacity building, networking, communication, knowledge sharing, monitoring and evaluation.

The policy was developed in a collaboration between gender experts and the CTCN secretariat. The CTCN also acknowledges the valuable inputs provided by representatives from the UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency. Recognizing the need for review of the Gender Policy and Action Plan based on reported outcomes, new learnings and future mandates, the CTCN will review the policy every two years.

Contents

1. CTCN Gender Policy	4
1.1. Background.....	4
1.2. Rationale	5
1.3. Objectives.....	5
1.4. Principles	6
1.4.1. Commitment	6
1.4.2. Comprehensiveness.....	6
1.4.3. Accountability	6
1.4.4. Country ownership	7
1.4.5. Resource allocation.....	7
1.4.6. Review.....	7
2. CTCN Gender Action Plan 2019-2022	8
2.1. Governance and institutional structure	8
2.1.1. Gender balance in CTCN Governance.....	8
2.2. CTCN operations.....	8
2.2.1. Technical Assistance	8
2.2.2. Capacity Building.....	9
2.2.3. Network	10
2.2.4. Knowledge Sharing and Communication.....	10
2.3. Monitoring & evaluation	11
Annex I – Key concepts	12
Annex II – CTCN role in UNFCCC Gender Action Plan.....	13

1. CTCN Gender Policy

1.1. Background

- a. Over the past 20 years, a number of UNFCCC decisions have addressed the important linkages between gender and climate change. Gender equality and gender mainstreaming (see Annex I for key concepts) are increasingly recognized as imperative for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, which acknowledges that Parties in their climate actions should be guided by respect for human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women. Most recently, a new UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (Decision 3/CP.23) was negotiated at COP23, in which the Climate Technology Center & Network has a role.
- b. Gender considerations are referenced in numerous Conference of Parties decisions referring to the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), including in the description of the CTCN's mission from Decision 2/CP.17 – Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention: Annex VII – Terms of reference of the Climate Technology Centre and Network:

*The mission of the Climate Technology Centre and Network is to stimulate technology cooperation and to enhance the development and transfer of technologies and to assist developing country Parties at their request, consistent with their respective capabilities and national circumstances and priorities, in order to build or strengthen their capacity to identify technology needs, **to facilitate the preparation and implementation of technology projects and strategies taking into account gender considerations to support action on mitigation and adaptation and enhance low emissions and climate-resilient development.**¹*

Decision 25/CP.19 - Modalities and procedures of the Climate Technology Centre Network and its Advisory Board:

Requests the Climate Technology Centre and Network, in executing its modalities and procedures, to work in conjunction with the Technology Executive Committee to ensure coherence and synergy within the Technology Mechanism, with the intention of: (a) Accelerating the development and transfer of technology, taking into account gender considerations; (b) Scaling up international collaboration on the development and transfer of technology;

Furthermore, in acknowledgement of its gender work in the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation, the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (Decision 3/CP.23) requests the CTCN to facilitate knowledge sharing on gender and to provide an:

Update report on how the Climate Technology Centre and Network, in executing its modalities and procedures, working in conjunction with the Technology Executive Committee (to ensure coherence and

¹ <https://www.ctc-n.org/sites/www.ctc-n.org/files/09a01.pdf> p.47

synergy within the Technology Mechanism), contributed to the aim of accelerating the development and transfer of technology, taking into account gender considerations. **See Annex II for all references of relevance to the CTCN in the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan.**

- c. The CTCN Gender Policy is human rights-based and acknowledges the centrality of women and gender considerations in development agendas, in agreement with international human rights frameworks such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It supports the equal right of men and women to access and benefit from climate technologies to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts. CTCN also recognizes the importance of balanced participation of women and men in climate processes, governing bodies, decision-making and climate action planning and implementation.

1.2. Rationale

- a. Women, as well as men, significantly contribute to combating climate change, through their activities in the household, food production, natural resource management, energy provision, knowledge sharing and other activities.
- b. Poverty exacerbates exposure to climate-related risks. Climate change increases the vulnerability of people whose livelihoods depend on natural resources, as access to fuel, water, food and sanitation opportunities become less reliable. The impacts often add to the domestic burdens for those responsible for livelihoods and caring roles, who oftentimes are women and girls.
- c. Women are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change due to gender inequalities and social and cultural norms which affect access to and control over resources including technology; institutional structures; finance; social, cultural and formal networks; and decision-making processes.
- d. Through mainstreaming gender considerations in climate policy and action, climate approaches will be more efficient, effective, and equitable by providing broader and shared benefits to address the needs of women and men.
- e. Gender-based differences should therefore be explicitly recognized and addressed in the development, transfer and diffusion of technologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including in the identification and prioritization of technology needs.

1.3. Objectives

- a. Mainstream gender equality principles into CTCN operations, technical assistance, capacity development, network and knowledge sharing, to ensure that the specific needs and capabilities of both women and men are addressed for an efficient, effective and equitable climate mitigation and adaptation.
- b. Ensure CTCN technical assistance considers the needs of both women and men as well as the different impacts and climate-related risks for women and men, to reduce the gender gap in climate change-exacerbated social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.

- c. Increase women and men's access to knowledge, information, training, income and other resources that enable them to increase their resilience to climate change impacts as well as utilize and benefit from appropriate low-carbon climate technologies.
- d. Address the need to increase women's equal participation in decision-making, in all processes and levels, for climate action through targeted efforts and ensuring CTCN's activities provide equal access to all stakeholders, with attention to gender, race/ethnic and regional balance.
- e. Strengthen enhanced gender mainstreaming efforts in climate action by providing capacity building and knowledge to the CTCN Secretariat, key stakeholders, Network members as well as the broader climate community.

1.4. Principles

1.4.1. Commitment

By adopting a gender-responsive approach in its work to stimulate climate technology cooperation and enhance the development and transfer of technologies, CTCN commits to contributing to gender equality, as enshrined in the mandate given to it by the Conference of Parties, and guidance by international agreements, national constitutions, and other gender and human rights agreements².

CTCN thereby also commits to:

- Promote understanding of the factors underlying climate change-exacerbated gender inequality and the contribution of women and men to low-carbon and climate resilient development in developing countries;
- Promote the use of methods and tools to promote gender equality and reduce gender disparities in its activities; and
- Monitor and evaluate, in a gender-responsive manner, the impacts of its activities on women and men's ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change and their contributions to a low-carbon and resilient development.

1.4.2. Comprehensiveness

- a. The CTCN gender policy applies to all CTCN's activities, including technical assistance, capacity building, network engagement, knowledge management and operations.
- b. Gender considerations will be mainstreamed during planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and review of CTCN activities

1.4.3. Accountability

- a. The CTCN accounts to the Advisory Board and the Parties to the United Nations Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) for gender and climate change results and outcomes and reports annually in a transparent manner against quantitative and qualitative outcome indicators and gender impact.
- b. All technical assistance shall follow CTCN gender mainstreaming guidelines, utilize the guidance of a qualified gender expert and report on outcome and impact according to the technical assistance closure reports.

² This approach takes into account equal rights, power, responsibilities and opportunities for women and men, as well as equal consideration of the interests, needs and priorities of women and men.

- c. The CTCN management and staff will be encouraged to promote gender balance in hiring, promotion and procurement of contractors.
- d. Network members and Consortium partners will be encouraged to promote gender, race/ethnic and regional balance in team structures and in CTCN activities proposed for implementation.

1.4.4. Country ownership

- a. The CTCN will build the capacity of national designated entities (NDEs) to produce technical assistance requests which are aligned with the CTCN gender policy, and with national policies and priorities on gender where applicable.
- b. NDEs and Network members shall have access to support from CTCN Secretariat to enhance their capacity to implement the gender policy in the form of knowledge resources, tools and match-making with gender experts.
- c. The CTCN will support the incorporation of gender considerations in Parties' technology needs assessments (TNAs), as congruent with the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan.
- d. CTCN requires that women and men be provided with equitable opportunity to be included in stakeholder consultations and decision-making during project and programme preparation, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

1.4.5. Resource allocation

- a. The CTCN activities to promote low-carbon and resilient development in developing countries will endeavour to support gender equality and women's empowerment. The CTCN seeks to ensure that its assistance supports initiatives addressing the unequal effects of climate change and to provide gender-responsive technology solutions for a resilient and low-carbon development.
- b. As congruent with UN Environment's Gender Policy the CTCN will allocate not less than 1 per cent of its funds to gender mainstreaming activities.

1.4.6. Review

- a. The CTCN acknowledges the need for continuous learning, based on experiences gathered, new emerging knowledge on the topic of gender mainstreaming, and review of CTCN activities based on reported outcome indicators and impact. As a result, the CTCN will review its gender policy every two years.

2. CTCN Gender Action Plan 2019-2022

2.1. Governance and institutional structure

2.1.1. Gender balance in CTCN Governance

COP decision 25/CP.19 - Modalities and procedures of the Climate Technology Centre and Network and its Advisory Board (Annex II Rules of procedure of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network):

Groups or constituencies are encouraged to nominate the government representatives to the Board, with a view to achieving an appropriate balance of expertise relevant to the development and transfer of technologies for adaptation and mitigation, taking into account the need to achieve gender balance in accordance with decisions 36/CP.7 and 23/CP.18).

- a. The CTCN will strive to achieve gender parity in the appointment of its management and staff, including at top managerial levels.³
- b. The CTCN will encourage and generate awareness among CTCN NDEs and Advisory Board members of the COP guidance on the need to achieve gender balance in their Boards in accordance with decisions 36/CP.7 and 23/CP.18 and will report annually on the gender distribution of both the Board and CTCN Secretariat.
- c. The Secretariat also will maintain a gender focal point with competencies in gender and development in order to lead the implementation of the policy. The gender focal point will report to the Director of the Secretariat and will perform their role alongside other responsibilities they are hired to perform. In addition, the Secretariat strives for the relevant gender and climate change competencies to be included among the Secretariat, the NDEs and among the Network at global, regional and national levels.

2.2. CTCN operations

2.2.1. Technical Assistance

- a. Requests
 - CTCN's criteria for prioritization of technical assistance's will continue to reflect if the request for technical assistance promotes and demonstrates gender equality, and empowerment of vulnerable groups, including women and youth.
 - Requests will include a description of anticipated gender and other co-benefits (e.g. biodiversity, economic, social and cultural development) that are likely to be generated as a result of the technical assistance.

³ UN System wide strategy on gender parity launched September 2017:
https://www.un.int/sites/www.un.int/files/Permanent%20Missions/delegate/17-00102b_gender_strategy_report_13_sept_2017.pdf

- CTCN Secretariat will make available examples of best practises on how to integrate gender considerations at the technical assistance request stage.

b. Design and Implementation

- The CTCN will allocate not less than 1 per cent of the budget and resources for technical assistance to explicitly target gender mainstreaming.
- All technical assistances will consult CTCN gender mainstreaming guidelines during response plan design and implementation.
- At the response plan design stage, CTCN experts are required to reflect on gender and co-benefits of the technical assistance as well as make reference to any use of gender experts in the budget section of the response plan.
- Implementers will utilize the guidance of a qualified gender expert to perform a gender analysis and mainstream gender considerations as part of the technical assistance deliverables and final outputs as deemed appropriate.
- CTCN Secretariat will make available best practise examples of how gender integration at the implementation stage could look like.
- CTCN will develop sector specific gender mainstreaming guidelines, e.g. for energy, water, agriculture and waste management sectors.
- A roster of climate technology and gender specialists will be established to support the implementers in identifying new team members with gender expertise

e. Monitoring & evaluation

- Technical assistance implementers will report on gender indicators, outcomes and impacts as well as provide relevant sex-disaggregated data through the CTCN closure reports.
- CTCN Secretariat will assess technical assistance on gender integration upon completion using the UN Environment Gender Marker Tool and the UNIDO Gender Categorization Tool and Gender Marker.⁴
- CTCN Secretariat will make available best practise examples of how gender integration at the monitoring & evaluation stage could look like.

2.2.2. Capacity Building

- a. CTCN will facilitate the provision of training and support to build and/or strengthen the capacity of developing countries to identify gender-responsive technology options, make technology choices and operate, maintain and adapt technologies that increase the adaptation and mitigation capacities of women and men. This support will take the form of:
- Webinars on gender and climate technologies (1-2 per year)
 - Training sessions on specific gender and climate technology issues at regional forums, focal point workshops, COP's and other related events
 - Encouraging the participation of UNFCCC national gender focal points in regional forums to facilitate connections between ministries, policy-makers, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders.

⁴ https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/2015-09/GENDER_CATEGORIZATION_TOOL_FINAL_0.pdf
https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/2015-09/Gender_Marker_User_Guide_-_FINAL_0.pdf

- b. The CTC Network will provide a basis of expertise and resources for capacity building. The CTCN will further increase the number of Network members with specific gender and climate expertise.
- c. CTCN will provide targeted support for capacity building of women professionals, policymakers, researchers, civil society organization leaders and entrepreneurs in climate technology sectors such as energy, transport, water and agriculture to take climate action and take part in decision-making. Support can for example be coordinated with Network members and UNFCCC national gender focal points.
- d. CTCN gender focal point will coordinate the internal capacity building of the CTCN Secretariat and Advisory Board to create a conducive environment for gender equality and support the Secretariats gender mainstreaming efforts.

2.2.3. Network

- a. New Network members will be encouraged to refer to the CTCN Gender Policy to guide their engagement with the Centre. After accreditation, and at the project/programme level, the Network member will be responsible for implementing the Gender Action Plan as it relates to its work with the CTCN.
- b. CTCN will integrate gender equality guidelines into the Network Code of Conduct.⁵ The Network accreditation process recognizes that there is a wide range of types of organizations and institutional capacities.
- c. CTCN will encourage women-led technology companies and gender and climate technology organizations to join the Network in order to engage with CTCN activities such as implementing technical assistance to developing countries; network with national decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders; provide capacity building; and gain greater visibility for events, reports and tools.
- d. The CTCN will keep a roster of gender experts to utilize at various gender-related events, workshops, activities and for consultation during technical assistance implementation.

2.2.4. Knowledge Sharing and Communication

- a. CTCN will facilitate the provision of information to build and/or strengthen the capacity of developing countries to identify gender-responsive technology options, make technology choices and operate, maintain, monitor and adapt technologies that increase the adaptation and mitigation capacity of women and men. This support will take the form of:
 - Gathering, managing and sharing an updated set of online tools and publications on gender and climate change via the CTCN web platform
 - Identification and sharing of best practices on gender and climate-related technologies through CTCN web platform, social media, and events
 - Development of fact sheets, guidelines, manuals, tools and sectoral overviews of gender in climate technology sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, agriculture, water etc.
- b. CTCN will identify gender and climate knowledge gaps and develop content in collaboration with its Knowledge partners, Network members and other experts which often include the private sector, academia and CSOs.

⁵ <https://www.ctc-n.org/network/code-conduct>

- c. Organizations with expertise in gender and climate technology will be encouraged to share their expertise with the Network through the CTCN website, webinars and other capacity development activities.
- d. CTCN will make available useful resources developed by its hosting organizations, UN Environment and UNIDO.
- e. CTCN will host and co-host events with a targeted gender and climate technology component as well as integrate gender awareness into various regional forums, NDE trainings and other events.
- f. CTCN will develop its current climate technology taxonomy by including more gender-related terms
- g. CTCN will seek to ensure a representation of both women and men, with a geographical balance, in its communication and outreach
- h. CTCN will seek to challenge gender stereotypes through the use of gender-inclusive language and images in its communication and outreach

2.3. Monitoring & evaluation

In order to measure its outcomes and impacts related to gender equality and gender mainstreaming the CTCN endeavors to:

- Monitor the status of equal participation of men and women in CTCN activities as well as special measures taken to incentivize gender balance
- Monitor and evaluate gender integration in knowledge generation, management and dissemination
- Monitor the mainstreaming of gender in technical assistance design, implementation, budget, monitoring and evaluation phases as well as in capacity building activities, through the use of the UN Environment Gender Marker Tool and the UNIDO Gender Categorization Tool and Gender Marker.

Annex I – Key concepts

- **Empowerment:** increasing the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and communities in order to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority. It is a complex, long-term process, particularly when it concerns people who have been oppressed and marginalised, and who need to develop capacities and acquire resources.
- **Gender:** Refers to how societies and cultures assign roles, behaviours and attributes to being male or female, in their full diversity, on the basis of their sex. Gender is socially constructed, learned through socializations, and can change over time.
- **Gender equality:** As enshrined in international agreements and national constitutions, refers to equal rights, power, responsibilities and opportunities for all genders; gender equality therefore entails that society equally values each and all and the roles they play;
- **Gender equity:** Refers to the fair allocation of resources, responsibilities and power without discrimination on the basis of sex;
- **Gender sensitivity:** Refers to the understanding of the ways in which people think about gender and the sociocultural factors underlying gender inequality, and how they might be addressed. Gender-sensitive policies/actions take gender-specific differences, needs and interests into account, but do not necessarily seek to transform the underlying gender norms, roles and relations.
- **Gender mainstreaming:** The United Nations defines gender mainstreaming as the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated.
- **Gender-responsiveness:** gender-responsive policies/actions take into account gender-specific differences, needs and interests and aim to transform existing gender norms, roles and relations with the ultimate goal of achieving gender equality.

Annex II – CTCN’s role in the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan

Activity	Activities	Responsible actor	Deliverables
B2	B2: Include in regular notifications to the Parties at the time of nominations to UNFCCC bodies the latest report on the gender composition of the relevant body	UNFCCC Secretariat	Updated information on gender balance at the time of nominations to bodies
C1	C1: At SBI 48 hold a dialogue, open to Parties and observers, with the chairs of UNFCCC constituted bodies to discuss the outcomes of the technical paper on entry points requested in decision 21/CP.22, paragraph 13, and any potential recommendations. Responsible actor: Secretariat.	UNFCCC secretariat	Dialogue
C2	C2: Provide capacity-building to chairs and members of UNFCCC constituted bodies and technical teams of the secretariat on how to integrate gender considerations into their respective areas of work and on meeting the goal of gender balance	The secretariat gender team, United Nations entities, other stakeholders and relevant organizations	Chairs and members of UNFCCC constituted bodies supporting the integration of gender into their work
D2	D2: In cooperation with the UNEP DTU Partnership and the Climate Technology Centre and Network, invite interested stakeholders to share information on the incorporation of gender into technology needs assessments during Gender Day	Parties, UNEP DTU Partnership, CTCN, other relevant stakeholders and secretariat	Submission
E3	E3: Update report on how the Climate Technology Centre and Network, in executing its modalities and procedures, working in conjunction with the Technology Executive Committee (to ensure coherence and synergy within the Technology Mechanism), contributed to the aim of accelerating the development and transfer of technology, taking into account gender considerations.”	CTCN and TEC	Report, with recommendations

The complete Gender Action Plan can be accessed at: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbi/eng/l29.pdf>