



CONCEPT NOTE



MED COP CLIMATE - TANGER 2023

From COP27 to COP 28

MEDCOP driving climate action in the Mediterranean at local and regional levels

Session 2: How to advance gender equality in climate change response

CONTEXT

In the Mediterranean region, the effects of climate change are irreversibly undermining resources and natural biodiversity, and causing desertification to advance. The causes include the population explosion, industry, tourism, agriculture and the intensive exploitation of natural resources, not to mention the large-scale human migration that is currently taking place in this region from south to north and from east to west for economic, political or war-related reasons.

In this context, unlike in other areas, gender inequalities have a disproportionate impact on women. Women are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than men, as they make up the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent on the natural resources that are most threatened by climate change.

Cities are major concentrators of the multidimensional effects of climate change. This underlines the need for local and regional authorities, as the level of governance closest to the people, to play a leading role in climate mitigation and adaptation efforts through an integrated and equitable approach. Thanks to this proximity, local and regional authorities can be more flexible and adaptable in developing policies and programmes to meet the new challenges arising from the evolution of climate change. In fact, LRGs are often the source of innovative solutions to complex problems, particularly in times of crisis such as the COVID-19 epidemic.

Furthermore, the recently published sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on impacts, adaptation and vulnerabilities (2022) stresses that: "focusing on the false assumption that women are intrinsically vulnerable because of their biological sex denies the existence of complex, dynamic and intersecting power relations, as well as other structural causes of gender inequalities". Women's fundamental rights are affected by combined inequalities based on age, ethnicity, social or economic status. The differentiated impacts of the climate crisis are exacerbating all existing inequalities.

The growing proportion of women affected by food insecurity as a result of climate change is an example of global concern. Although it is still difficult to determine the exact percentage, it is clear that to solve this problem, women in the Mediterranean region are demanding recognition for their climate action in all areas, not just adaptation or food production, but also the energy transition, the transformation of modes of transport, which must be "fair", the fight against deforestation, and the proper management of water, land and energy.

In addition to the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and military conflicts are exacerbating systemic gender discrimination on a global scale.

On another level, women and girls can be leaders and agents of change, working effectively and powerfully to adapt to and mitigate climate change. They are involved in sustainable development initiatives around the world, and their participation and leadership translates into more effective climate action. This is why it is essential to explore the opportunities to be exploited, as well as the constraints to be overcome, in the means of action available to women and girls so that they can make their voices heard and play a role in decision-making related to climate change and sustainability.

An intersectional and transformative gender approach is still lacking in national climate roadmaps, even though it is essential for implementing effective responses to the current crises. Climate policies must include gender

equality across the board and at all levels in order to meet the agendas of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, which promise to "leave no one behind".

In 2015, the international community adopted two major agendas: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. Gender equality and gender concerns have been integrated into these two global commitments. Indeed, gender equality is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, in recognition of the fact that it cannot be separated from the challenges of poverty, hunger, health and well-being, maternal mortality, energy and environmental burdens, economic hardship, societal insecurity and the need to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. Women's rights are thus targeted in all the SDGs.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), for its part, has put the Gender Action Plan (GAP), initially known as the Lima Work Program since 2014, on the negotiating agenda at COP23. The last 3 COPs have seen the process accelerated as follows: At COP 25, the Parties agreed on a strengthened 5-year Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan (Decision 3/CP.25).

Following the adoption of the new Gender Action Plan in 2019, the updates to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) demonstrate recent efforts by Countries to strengthen gender-responsive climate policies. However, these efforts are insufficient. Only 21% of updated and/or revised NDCs include a gender analysis, and only 18% of these NDCs identify women as agents of change. Drawing on similar processes, LRGs have also been at the forefront of reporting on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Through the implementation of voluntary local reviews, local and regional authorities have demonstrated a willingness and ability to report on progress towards the SDGs at a local level. Similarly, the relationship between climate change and gender equality was highlighted in UCLG's special report on gender equality (SDG 5).

At COP 26, the Parties adopted Decision 20/CP.26. The decision includes, among other things, aspects of the review of the implementation of the action plan for gender equality.

At COP 27, the Parties concluded the interim review of the implementation of the gender action plan, which began at SB 56 in June 2022. The review included amendments to certain deliverables and three new activities in priority areas C and E (Decision 24/CP.27). It should be noted that 5 priority areas (A-E) had been agreed, and among the stakeholders for implementation, local communities are an important link.

However, according to the communiqué issued by the Women & Gender Constituency, all these negotiations have not made it possible to carry out this detailed examination, and for the moment the proposals for improvement are minimal, failing to consider at all the dramatic impacts of the COVID crisis or the armed conflicts that are causing economic and food crises throughout the world.

Morocco has carried out major reforms to strengthen gender equality in legislation and public policy, and to combat climate change. Its action to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement (2015), and the Lima Work Programme adopted at COP 20, has resulted in appropriate national policies (a strategy for institutionalising gender equality in the field of sustainable development and climate change, a national climate plan, a low-carbon development strategy for 2050, a nationally determined contribution and sectoral strategies promoting a balance between the environmental, economic and social dimensions).

Climate mitigation and adaptation policies can have positive or negative effects on women's living conditions, which have a major impact on the community and its capacity for resilience, and can therefore only be effective if they take account of women's living conditions, practices, needs and motivations.

A just transition requires a conceptual change in current energy and climate policies. There is an urgent need to recognise the gender disparities that exist in all aspects of energy production and consumption. The participation of women in the fast-growing renewable energy sector must be significantly increased. In this key sector of the climate transition, which is still dominated by men, we must ensure that women have access to opportunities to develop energy solutions that meet local needs and are adapted to their needs.

Finally, women's leadership and voice are essential to combating climate change and ensuring a sustainable planet. As leaders, farmers, investors and heads of households, women make decisions and take actions that transform the planet. So, the voice, role and leadership of women in the responses ahead are essential to achieving a sustainable and more egalitarian future.

OBJECTIVES

While Mediterranean countries are developing climate policies at national and sub-national levels, research carried out by UNDP, UN Women, FAO, UCLG and other organisations shows that gender equality is not sufficiently considered and needs to be strengthened. In fact, even when reference is made to gender concerns, the players involved are unable to come up with concrete measures to make these policies operational.

This panel discussion "**Advancing gender equality in the fight against climate change**", organised on the occasion of the MEDCOP Climat Tangiers 2023, on 22 June 2023, will provide an opportunity for an exchange and sharing of experience and good practice, know-how and testimonies, highlighting a number of gender mainstreaming and climate change adaptation initiatives carried out in the Mediterranean region. It will examine how climate change policies managed on a multi-level basis can contribute to the central role played by women in resilience to the effects of climate change.

Its main objectives are to:

- Discuss the modalities and approaches for integrating gender equality into multi-level climate change planning and action, as well as the harmonisation of gender and climate change planning and policies across different ministries and sectors within a country.
- Debate the different opportunities and challenges related to gender equality, the environment and adaptation to climate change.
- Discussing the challenges to gender equality and women's empowerment in southern Mediterranean countries.
- Identify the means needed to overcome climate-related threats and vulnerabilities.
- Highlight innovative initiatives to involve women in climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.
- Propose concrete and effective responses and advocacy for the integration of gender equality in the fight against climate change.
- Propose solutions for taking greater account of gender equality, to be put forward and defended at COP28 in the United Arab Emirates.

The panellists will present their country's experiences of gender mainstreaming in climate policy, and how they have advanced gender equality in the response to climate change, highlighting the main factors influencing these changes and the main lessons and challenges, by answering one or more of the following questions:

- How is gender equality integrated into local, national and global policies (Paris Agreement? NDC?)
- How do climate policies address gender issues? Is progress being made on gender equality and women's empowerment in the Mediterranean region?
- What has been the process of gender mainstreaming? Which departments are involved and what is the coordination and harmonisation structure for gender and climate change within your government? What were the main obstacles encountered?
- What would be some key provisions on gender equality and women's rights that should be reflected in these strategies?
- What gender-specific guidelines would you suggest decision-makers use when designing and implementing physical infrastructure that facilitates climate change adaptation or mitigation? and the implementation of the new loss and damage fund?
- How has the technology used to combat climate change integrated gender concerns?
- What are the key levers for action to ensure women's leadership in the fight against the effects of climate change?
- Examples of how gender can be effectively integrated into national proposals, as well as examples of significant gender outcomes from GCF-funded programmes will be presented.

PARTICIPANTS

- National, regional and local players
- State and non-state bodies.
- Universities,
- Donors working in the field of women's empowerment and human rights in general.
- Mediterranean and international NGOs.
- The private sector

PANNEL 4 : INTERVENANT·E·S - MODERATEURS·TRICES – RAPPORTEURS·TRICES

PANELISTS:

- **Aawatef Hayar**, Minister of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family, Morocco
- **Amal Elidrissi**, UNFPA
- **Maria Caterina Mattiolo**, Strategy Governance and Institutional Relations Officer RES4Africa
- **Belinda Gottardi**, Mayor of Castel Maggiore
- **Aichetou Diallo**, Nouakchott Region
- **Anne Barre**, WECF
- **Ariana Voto**, Television RAI, No women No Panel
- **Anna Dorangricchia**, Expert - Women Empowerment and Gender Equality, UfM
- **Elisa Fornalé**, Professor, International Law, Equality and Climate change
- **Ibtissam Setti**, VP Connecting Group International, Women's Leadership, member of the Association (NGO)
- **Ignacio Martinez Boluda**, General Coordinator Spanish Cooperation
- **Gema Aubarell**, Director of Culture, Gender, and Civil Society IEMed

Moderator: **Meriem Houzir**, Expert