



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

**Advancing** Free Trade  
for Asia-Pacific **Prosperity**

## **Summary Report**

# **APEC Workshop on Women's Empowerment through Inclusive and Gender-responsive Climate Policymaking**

Ha Noi, Viet Nam | 25-26 April 2023

**APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy**

September 2023





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## INTRODUCTION

On 25 – 26 April 2023, the **APEC Workshop on Women’s Empowerment Through Inclusive and Gender - Responsive Climate Policy Making** was held in hybrid format. The Workshop was co-sponsored by China; Indonesia; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Peru; Chinese Taipei and the United States.

The Workshop was held under APEC Forum Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE) with a view to contributing to the implementation of the 2021 Leaders’ Declaration, which indicates “We commit to leverage APEC’s role as an incubator of ideas and capacity building to tackle climate change. We will further integrate action on climate change across relevant APEC work streams... Recognizing the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on MSMEs, women and others with untapped economic potential, we are also taking action to drive a more inclusive economic recovery... We need to support the wellbeing and security of all our people, and their equitable participation in the economy, so that no one is left behind”. The Workshop also contributes to the implementation of the Aotearoa Plan of Action, cooperate in relevant APEC fora to develop, encourage and exchange best practice policies, and promote capacity building programs, that address all environmental challenges - including climate change - and support sustainable growth. The initiative is also in line with the Implementation Plan of the “La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth” (2019-2030), which focuses on (i) Empowering women through access to capital and markets; (ii) Strengthening women’s labor force participation; (iii) Improving access of women to leadership positions in all levels of decision making; and (iv) Support women’s education, training and skills development and access in a changing world of work. Besides, the Workshop is in line with the Priority theme of the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women: “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs”. The direct beneficiaries of the project will be the participants from APEC member economies, including the public, private and academic sectors.

The Workshop gathered more than 70 participants, both in-person and online platform, including representatives of related ministries, agencies, experts, scholars, enterprises from APEC member economies,

Chair of APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy (PPWE), the U.S. Department of State (on behalf of PPWE Co-chair), UNDP Viet Nam Office, The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UN Women, UN Women Asia and Pacific Regional Office, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), World Resources Institute (Mexico), UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The Workshop was an APEC effort to (i) Share best practices, case studies on the results, impacts and main challenges that economies face in the process of developing gender-responsive climate change policies (ii) Exchange and explore ways of promoting women's economic participation while counteracting climate change, focusing on the ways to promote women's leadership in climate processes and in business, engage women's organization in climate processes; ensure women get decent job in green sector and the transition to net zero; champion women innovators and entrepreneur in the green economy and transition to net zero, etc; (iii) Policy recommendations for individual economies and APEC.

Recommendations will be reported to related sub-foras to contribute to the implementation of the "La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth" (2019-2030) and the Aotearoa Plan of Action.

## SUMMARY OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop was opened by **Mr. Le Khanh Luong, Director General of the Department of Gender Equality, Ministry of Labour – Invalids and Social Affairs of Viet Nam** and **Ms. Tran Bao Ngoc, Director General of the Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam** delivered the opening remarks. According to a UN report, an annual average of over 21 million people are forcibly displaced by weather-related incidents or disproportionate changes. 80% of these climate migrants are women. However, the policy-making process often ignores women as agents of change, especially with regard to climate mitigation and adaptation. Additionally, women are generally outnumbered in positions of power and influence in both public and private sectors. When considerations regarding gender equality are absent from climate plans, regional economic policies tend to be inconsistent and fractious.

The Workshop aims to implement the “La Serena Roadmap for Women and Inclusive Growth” (2019-2030) and the Aotearoa Plan of Action. The three key objectives of the Workshop are to:

- Encourage greater integration of gender equality into climate policies in a comprehensive and collaborative manner.
- Develop the capacity of policymakers to design inclusive and gender-responsive climate policies.
- Support women's leadership in climate-related policymaking and negotiation processes.

It is the opportunity for participants to share their thoughts on topics such as gender-responsive climate policy, challenges, best practices, empowering women in environmental governance, integrating gender equality into climate policy, and policy-making suggestions for more effective responses to gender equality and collaboration.

**Ms. Chantelle Stratford, Co-chair of APEC Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy** expressed the gratitude to Viet Nam for hosting this Workshop. She strongly believed that we must work with urgency to empower women. Discussions at PwC in February highlighted how women and girls suffer disproportionately from gender inequality, including in relation to climate change. The Indigenous Women in Mining and Resources Australia provided powerful firsthand accounts that emphasized



this point. Viet Nam's focus on concrete actions to integrate gender equality into climate policies and ensure women's leadership in negotiations. Empowering women politically, economically, and socially leads to more equitable and sustainable policies. APEC has a responsibility to empower women in Asia-Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific region accounts for 60% of global GDP and is home to over 1 billion women, but also has the largest carbon emissions globally and is home to 13 of the 30 most climate-vulnerable economies. Delegates' deliberations will build on the Bangkok goals and contribute to APEC priorities on improving women's leadership in all levels of decision-making. Let's share best practices and exchange views on promoting women's leadership and climate policymaking. She looks forward to hearing the outcomes and key takeaways of the workshop.

***Mr. Mark Pannell, Senior Advisor and Director of Operations, Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues at the U.S. Department of State (on behalf of PPWE Co-chair)*** reflected on the US APEC host theme, "Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All," and how it relates to tasks under the PPWE on gender equality and climate. He encouraged everyone to participate in the Workshop and thanked Viet Nam for the support on gender-responsive climate policymaking in the Asia-Pacific region. During the Workshop, speakers would share best practices, implementation of Action plans and review the La Serena Roadmap. As an economy of APEC, the United States advocates for women's economic participation as essential to the prosperity, stability, and security of APEC economies. Through the endorsement of the La Serena Roadmap and the implementation of gender equality programs and reforms under the Putrajaya Vision 2040 across APEC economies, the PPWE has advanced economic opportunities for women in the Asia-Pacific region. The United States is committed to advancing women's economic participation in climate policymaking as it will strengthen all our economies. All APEC economies have agreed to address environmental challenges with an inclusive approach that promotes gender equality, as demonstrated by the Bangkok Bio-Circular-Green Economy Goals.

## **SECTION I - INCLUSIVE AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE POLICYMAKING - PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC**

Moderator: *Ms. Bui Viet Hien, Programme Officer on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDP.*

**Ms. Morgane Rivoal, Climate Change and Circular Economy Officer, UNDP Viet Nam Office** had two-part presentation on the work that UNDP has been doing globally, to support the economy in increasing their Climate Commitment and integrating gender equality in the NDC and the work that UNDP has been doing to integrate gender equality in the climate policy in Viet Nam. UNDP Climate Promise Program is a global program supporting more than 120 economies globally. And the main objective of program is really to increase the GHG emission reduction ambition in the NDC. In February 2023, most of the supported economies have indeed increased their ambition and submitted updated robust NDC. Since the first round of NDC and the second one, there was from 50 to more than 100 economies who have now integrate gender quality in NDCs. It is noticeable that there is still a strong potential to integrate gender equality, not only to mention women in such the principal, but also to increase the dimension of gender equality in their access to finance, technology transfer, capacity building program. UNDP has been working on effective governance, so strengthening the government system, between Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment of Viet Nam and other Ministries on women empowerment, integrating policy framework from the central to the local level, and inclusive planning to enhance women participation and to encourage them to share their needs, their thoughts, and their specific vulnerability.

Focusing on Viet Nam experience, there has been huge effort conducted over the recent years. Since the establishment of Decision No. 1055, the National Adaptation Action Plan in the period 2021 – 2030 (NAP) is currently being revised, and the technical report will soon be submitted to UNFCCC, the objective of developing human resources and promoting gender equality. This was reflected in the monitoring and evaluation framework (Decision No.148), which for the first time mentioned, two indicators related to women and gender equality. Viet Nam has mainstreamed gender equality approaches into the implementation of Viet Nam's NDC under the pillars of policy direction, governance and planning. However, there is limited collaboration among ministries. Secondly, it is shown that women are often mentioned in good principle or in the vision, but there is a lack of specific implementation guidelines.

**Ms. Dimitra XYNOU, Policy Analyst, Finance, Investment and Global Relations Division, Environment Directorate, OECD** presented on the gender equality and environment nexus: Integrating a gender equality lens in environmental policies. A survey of integrated OECD

member economies conducted in 2020 showed that: Most OECD members have a framework for gender equality, including gender equality in areas such as climate change, agriculture, forestry, energy, and green entrepreneurship and jobs. However, sex-disaggregated data related to environmental climate policies or the environment more broadly had not been consistently collected, which makes it difficult to identify differences between female and male in use practices or exposure or spatial distribution in the workforce. This is also a challenge for non-OECD members. South and Southeast Asia are particularly vulnerable to climate change and has different impact on men and women. Women entrepreneurs can contribute to positive environmental outcomes, but face to the same barriers as other women entrepreneurs (e.g. adverse tax and family policies, institutional constraints, and negative social attitudes). Proposals to improve the situation include training, mentoring, and coaching initiatives to promote women's environmental leadership, partnering with educational and vocational training institutions and the private sector to scale programs, and applying gender equality to environmental regulations, public procurement and protective measures to foster the establishment of civil society institutions that cater to sustainability goals.

The OECD has two COVID-19 recovery databases: one for green recovery covering 44 economies, and one for gender equality with a green lens covering over 200 economies. However, response and recovery efforts have largely ignored the intersection of gender equality and environment, with few policies promoting both environmental objectives and gender equality. To address this, a more integrated approach is needed from the financial system. The OECD is currently conducting environmental performance and green growth policy reviews and working on climate change adaptation, gender equality, climate neutrality, and resilience in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

***Ms. Athena Denise Galao - Program Analyst, Gender and Climate Change, UN Women*** had a talk on ***Empowering Women in Climate Governance: from Domestic Policy to Local Action.***

The speaker discussed the progress made in engaging and empowering women in decision-making processes related to climate governance. Despite the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, they are underrepresented in climate-related decision-making bodies and receive little financing. She also highlighted the need to integrate gender equality and climate into all levels of policy-making, from the local to

the global, and shares examples of efforts to create spaces for women's participation and strengthen their capacity in Bangladesh and Viet Nam.

The UNDP and UN Women have been working with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Viet Nam and Cambodia to engage them in the NDC process and advance gender equality. Regional discussions on scaling up gender equality and human rights in climate change and building capacities had been organized. Key enablers for women's leadership in climate governance include investing in women's leadership and participation, aligning policies and budgets, collecting and using gender equality and environment data, and investing in women's economic empowerment. The UNDP and UN Women are committed to monitoring and implementing gender equality commitments, unlocking climate financing, and creating synergies among different organizations working on environment, gender equality.

***Ms. Fleur Newman, Unit Lead, Gender| Youth | ACE at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*** had a presentation on ***How the UNFCCC is catalyzing women's empowerment through gender-responsive climate policy and action in a pre-recorded video***. To make climate policy and action gender-responsive, Ms. Newman highlighted that it's important to recognize that climate change affects people differently and not everyone contributes equally to the problem. The IPCC acknowledges differential risks and vulnerability to climate impacts, and differentiation in decision making, attitudes towards mitigation and adaptation, and who benefits from climate action. Prioritizing equity, climate justice, social justice, inclusiveness, and justice transition processes can enable effective climate policy projects and programs. Parties to the UNFCCC have identified mainstream gender equality across targets and goals of the convention and Paris Agreement as important for increasing risk effectiveness, fairness, and sustainability, and have developed the Lima work program on gender equality and its Gender Action Plan as a tool for facilitating gender-responsive climate policy and action.

Over the past decade, successful gender equality work programs and action plans have been correlated. The mainstreaming of women's empowerment measures and gender equality considerations in climate policies submitted through the UNFCCC process has been a contributing factor. The IPCC's latest synthesis report highlights the importance of addressing context-specific inequalities, including those based on gender equality, ethnicity, disability, age, and geographic regions in carefully

designed and implemented laws, policies, and participatory processes to reduce vulnerabilities and climate risks.

Integrating gender equality into climate policies requires analysis, inclusive coordination mechanisms, aligned policy instruments, and peer-to-peer exchange. Challenges include capacity building, coordination, and greater involvement of women experts in policymaking. Gender equality considerations must become integral to climate policymaking for transformational progress.

## **SESSION II - BEST PRACTICES AND SUCCESS STORIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC ON GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE POLICYMAKING**

*Moderator: Ms. Morgane Rivoal, Climate Change and Circular Economy Officer, UNDP Viet Nam Office*

***Mrs. Itzá Castañeda, Director of Social Equity and Inclusion from the World Resources Institute, Mexico*** had a speech on ***Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Policy and Action***. She presented key findings from a regional meeting on climate change and gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a focus on progress made by Chile, Peru, and Mexico. While these economies have made strides in incorporating gender equality into climate change institutions and policies, there is still a lack of formalization and inclusion of all necessary sectors, such as the private sector. Good practices were highlighted, such as the inclusion of gender equality in domestic determined contributions and long-term climate strategies, and the design of gender equality strategies for specific sectors. The need for inter-sectoral, multi-level coordination efforts with participation from various stakeholders is emphasized.

Chile, Mexico and Peru have incorporated climate change issues into their equality plans, but face challenges in institutionalizing gender equality and climate change arrangements, promoting tailored training processes, and institutionalizing the participation of key actors in the formulation and implementation of plans. Financing mechanisms play a key role in achieving gender equality in climate policies, but significant barriers persist in accessing sources of international finance for climate change. To increase access to financing mechanisms, stakeholders must be trained and sensitized. Political willingness and coordination with academic entities and domestic institutes responsible for producing environmental data is essential.

**Dr. Ajantha Segarmurthy, Deputy Director, National Disaster Management Agency, Prime Minister's Office, Malaysia** presented on **State of Gender Equality and Climate Change**. The speaker shared her experience with disaster management in Malaysia, particularly during floods. She highlighted the different challenges faced by women during disasters, such as lack of privacy, hygiene, and proper clothing. The speaker discussed how Malaysia's agency have addressed these issues, including providing backup clothing and sanitary pads, separate classrooms or tents for families, and a separate lactation room. She also addressed the needs of Muslim women, such as hijabs and prayer ropes. The speaker acknowledged that disaster management is a work in progress and that new challenges arise with each disaster. The speaker also discussed the challenges faced in Malaysia, including annual floods that affect over 30,000 people and recent landslides. Policies and disaster risk reduction measures are in place but emphasize the importance of understanding the situation on the ground.

**Ms. Nguyen Hoang Anh, Deputy Director of Information, Education and Communication Department, Viet Nam Women's Union** had a presentation on **Motivating and Supporting Women in Climate Change Adaptation**. The Viet Nam Women's Union is a socio-political organization with 19 million members that represents and protects the interests of women. It is recognized that women are most affected by climate change and have taken on the task of supporting women to adapt to climate change and protect the environment. Communication and support library methods to raise awareness, improve staff capacity, and provide practical recommendations for the community are frequent activities of the Union. They also focus on livelihood development projects to support sustainable poverty reduction and improve economic competitiveness managed by women. The union has supported over 1.2 million poor households in building toilets and clean water projects and has implemented effective initiatives and solutions to respond to climate change. The speaker called on women in Viet Nam to plan to protect the environment and adapt to climate change and encourages ideas and initiatives to protect the environment. The library's activities have resulted in income generation, economic empowerment for women, and policy building to promote women's participation. Challenges include barriers to women's participation, lack of recognition for women's role in climate change adaptation, gender equality stereotypes, and limitations in socialization resources. Proposed Recommendations included

strengthening women's role in decision-making, improving staff capacity on climate change adaptation, promoting women's economic empowerment, and developing communication materials on climate change reduction.

During the Workshop, representatives from Viet Nam Women's Union discussed their efforts to support women in adapting to climate change and incorporating gender equality considerations into policy. They also mentioned their focus on improving the ability of women in remote areas and ethnic minorities to reduce climate change. The discussion also touched on the need for gender equality mainstreaming approach in multilateral fora and the urgency of addressing loss and damage caused by climate change. The Session emphasized the importance of recognizing and addressing underlying women related inequalities and social norms that prevent women from fully participating in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

### **SESSION III - EXPLORING SOLUTIONS IN GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE POLICYMAKING**

*Moderator: Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division of ESCAP*

***Ms. Kristin Tilley, Ambassador of Australia for Climate Change stated on Enhancing Women's Leadership in Climate Mitigation and Adaptation in the Public and Private Sector.*** The Australian government recognizes that climate change is one of the greatest threats to livelihoods and wellbeing in the Pacific, particularly for women and girls who are already vulnerable due to prevailing gender inequality. To address this, the government has introduced women-related impact assessments to all new major policy proposals, including those related to climate change. This has led to a stronger focus on energy efficiency proposals, which benefit women who are already economically disadvantaged. As a development partner in the region, Australia is also working to integrate gender equality and climate investments through initiatives such as the Emerging Markets Impact Investment Fund and the Orange Bond Initiative. The Australian government has been working to integrate gender equality and climate in their development assistance program, recognizing that increasing women's perspectives and voices strengthens outcomes for climate and economic empowerment. They have supported projects such as Pacific Women Lead and the Women's International Network on disaster risk reduction, as well as the disaster ready women's weather watch network in Fiji and Vanuatu. To continue embedding gender equality into climate

decision making, speaker suggests thinking broadly, pushing for public commitments, repeating the message frequently, using research institutions to bring forward evidence, and building women's perspectives into climate responses.

**Dr. Edward JACKSON, President of Edward T Jackson and Associates Ltd., Canada** had a discussion on ***From Policy to Action: Creating Enabling Conditions that Support the Implementation of Gender-responsive Climate Actions***. Dr. Edward discussed government action for gender equality through climate finance. He mentioned Canada's CAD3 billion long-term climate finance portfolio in developing economies. The portfolio includes diverse implementing partners and uses unconditionally repayable contributions, which generates reflows from repaid sub-loans. He emphasized three segments where gender equality change can be scaled and accelerated: downstream, midstream, and upstream. Downstream refers to the end-users of clean technologies, such as households, farmers, and small businesses in developing economies. Midstream refers to the intermediaries who distribute finance and technology to end-users, such as banks, microfinance institutions, and cooperatives. Upstream refers to the multilateral and bilateral institutions that design and fund climate finance programs, such as development banks, climate funds, and domestic agencies. Furthermore, the use of blended finance stream, gender equality performance incentives, and gender-responsive sustainable procurement were also discussed as important approaches for advancing gender equality and climate solutions. Blended finance involves combining public and private capital to finance climate projects that generate both financial and social returns. Gender equality performance incentives aim to incentivize the achievement of gender equality outcomes in climate programs, such as increasing women's access to clean energy or enhancing their participation in decision-making processes. Gender-responsive sustainable procurement aims to integrate gender equality considerations into the entire procurement cycle, from planning and selection to contract management and evaluation.

Governments can promote gender equality and climate solutions by using approaches such as blended finance, de-risking and cost-sharing gender-responsive private investments, gender equality performance incentives, and sustainable procurement. Coordination among government agencies can also build domestic ecosystems for inclusive sustainable finance. Examples from Uruguay and Singapore were highlighted, including



shifting financing from public to private money and building ecosystems for inclusive sustainable finance. In conclusion, he highlighted the importance of considering gender equality in climate finance and outlined various strategies for advancing gender-responsive climate solutions.

**Ms. Hsiao-Fen Lai, Standing Supervisor, Homemakers United Foundation, Chinese Taipei** had a presentation on ***Innovative Gender-based Analysis in Policy Drafting and Decision Making***. The speaker highlighted Chinese Taipei's innovative based on gender equality policy drafting. She emphasized the importance of involving women in energy transition, especially in disadvantaged communities, and integrating gender equality perspectives into sustainable action in rural areas. The speaker also discussed how civil society organizations can assist policymakers in prioritizing gender equality and locating resources in a reasonable manner. Ms. Hsiao-Fen provided examples of collaboration between homemakers' unions, community colleges, and government committees to promote a low-carbon lifestyle and raise awareness on environmental issues. The presentation stressed the need for concerted actions to facilitate the active participation of women in drafting and implementing all aspects of climate responses, including unlocking financial resources for women's organizations on climate responses.

**Dr. Nguyen Sy Linh, Senior Researcher, Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam** had a talk on ***Integrating gender into climate policies: Evidences from Viet Nam and perspectives for regional application***. The presentation provided a comprehensive analysis of mainstreaming gender equality in the language chain in Viet Nam. The research presented was funded by UNEP and UN Women and provided valuable insights into the development context of Viet Nam, including gender equality indicators and the gender equality and climate change policy framework in Viet Nam. The presenter highlighted that gender equality mainstreaming approaches in policy documents is crucial for scaling up gender-responsiveness in Viet Nam. Dr. Linh discussed the importance of considering the impact of climate change on excluded populations from the development context. He emphasized the need to focus on the differences between the impact of climate change at the domestic level and the local level that there are some domestic policies and frameworks laid out for implementing gender equality into climate action, but it may be postponed in implementation due to some reasons.

Dr. Linh also analyzed various policy documents and found that while there are requirements for gender equality mainstreaming approaches at

the law level, there are no regulations at the implementing level or guidelines for mainstreaming climate change. Moreover, limited access to resources is a barrier for women farmers to adopt contributing factors to climate change. The presentation called for more comprehensive and inclusive policies and guidelines to be developed that consider gender equality and climate change, and for more support from international development agencies like UNDP to promote gender equality mainstreaming approaches in policy-making systems. Overall, the presentation provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for gender equality mainstreaming approaches in climate change policy in Viet Nam and highlighted the importance of considering gender equality in all aspects of climate policy and action.

After the third session, a question was raised for Dr. Edward from Canada on green finance about how to involve the private sector, especially SMEs with female leaders, in implementing the Domestic Adaptation action plan. Dr. Jackson suggested finding private sector individuals who can move in and out of government to align interests and understand sector conditions, as well as exploring the impact on investors as potential partners.

#### **SESSION IV - TOWARD THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AOTEAROA PLAN OF ACTION AND THE LA SERENA ROADMAP FOR WOMEN AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

*Moderator: Dr. Nguyen Sy Linh, Senior Researcher, Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment of Viet Nam*

**Dr. Kazue Chinen, Economic Policy Advisor, The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State** remarked on **US priorities on the gender/climate nexus**. The United States is committed to advancing women's economic participation in climate policymaking, recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls. The US government has adopted a two-pronged approach to address the gender equality and climate nexus, including addressing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and recognizing their potential as leaders in developing effective solutions to climate challenges. The US government is working on initiatives such as the Innovation Station and Women Overcoming the World's Climate Crisis through STEM to strengthen women's participation and leadership in climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience efforts. The speaker urges

collaboration among APEC economies to advance women's economic participation and invites discussion on the nexus of gender equality and climate change.

**Ms. Maria Holtsberg, Regional Humanitarian and DRR Advisor at UN Women Asia and Pacific Regional Office** had a talk on **Strengthening Global Cooperation on Gender-responsive Climate Action**. She presented on global cooperation for gender-responsive climate action, highlighting the urgency for a coordinated response to integrate gender equality into climate change. Data was shared on the impact of climate change on poverty reduction, with high impact scenarios expected to push women further into poverty. The speech also touched on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on unpaid care workloads and violence against women, emphasizing the need for a gender-responsive approach to climate crisis. She discussed the importance of gender-responsive climate action, highlighted the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls. Existing mechanisms for advancing gender-responsive action include the Lima Work Program and the Gender Action Plan, which provide a framework for collaboration among governments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. The Generation Equality Forum, launched in 2021, aims to ensure the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action on women's rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Action Coalition of feminist action for climate justice, which includes leaders from various economies and organizations, focuses on an intersectional approach to climate action and aims to enable women and girls to lead a transition into the green economy. Direct access to financing for climate solutions, building resilience of women and girls to climate impacts, and the collection and use of gender equality and environment data are among the commitments of the Action Coalition in Asia-Pacific.

**Ms. Cai Cai, Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division of ESCAP** highlighted initiatives such as bringing gender equality into climate action plans and strategies, and provided examples of regional consultations and recommendations for strengthening intersectional domestic climate plans and strategies. The presentation also discussed the importance of promoting women's participation and leadership in climate decisions, and utilizing women's knowledge and skills for better gender-responsive climate change adaptation and disaster reduction strategies. The speaker mentioned examples of including gender equality in domestic climate policy

frameworks. UN-ESCAP has also developed policy briefs and papers to promote gender equality in climate action, with a focus on gender equality impacts of climate change and the inclusion of gender equality mainstreaming approach in regional climate action plans.

Overall, the second day of workshop had discussed examples of gender-responsive climate change actions in the Asia-Pacific region, including government policies promoting women's leadership and participation, civil society support for women-led emergency responses and gender-responsive climate finance, and a project to advance women's entrepreneurship through innovative financing and policy coordination.

## COMPENDIUM OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout thoughtful presentations in four sessions, the Workshop has elaborated a comprehensive background on the importance of recognizing and addressing gender equality impacts of climate change and empowering women to participate in climate change initiatives. It has also emphasized the need for a gender-responsive approach to climate change, which acknowledged the various needs and experiences of women and men, and ensured the inclusion of women's viewpoints and experiences in decision-making processes.

Numerous examples of how gender equality could affect the ability of communities to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change were provided. It stressed that policies and programs are crucial for ensuring that the needs and concerns of women and girls are included in the design and implementation of climate change initiatives.

In addition, the importance of empowering women and girls, and building their capacity to participate in climate change-related initiatives was highlighted frequently. Good practices for empowering women in climate change adaptation, including access to education, training, and resources to participate in decision-making processes were presented.

The Workshop advocated for promoting women's entrepreneurship and innovation in the field of climate change, as well as recognizing and addressing the specific needs and experiences of women in the design and implementation of climate change policies and programs. The importance of mainstreaming gender equality in climate policy and action, which involves integrating gender equality considerations into all aspects of climate change policy and action, at all levels and in all sectors were emphasized significantly. According to the ideas proposed at the Workshops and initial review of this project, a list of recommendations for implementing economic empowerment for women through climate change mitigation and adaptation include:

### **A. Strengthen the linkage between gender equality and climate change interventions (policy and programmatic) and broader social, economic, cultural, and political frameworks**

1. Use an intersectional lens in domestic policies and climate frameworks, recognizing the differential impacts of climate and disaster risks on populations with varying class, race, ethnicity, sex,

age, disability, migration status, and location, especially small island developing economies.

2. Connect climate change adaptation with broader social, economic, cultural, and political frameworks to ensure inclusive and gender-responsive action.
3. Address the challenges of human mobility and climate change through cross-sectoral and coordinated action, integrating the migration, environment, and climate change nexus in policies and frameworks at all levels.
4. Recognize the role of women's unpaid care and domestic work, and the need for policies that value, reduce, redistribute, and reward it, with the participation of unpaid care and domestic workers in policy dialogues.
5. Support the role of women in sustainable resource governance and value their knowledge in contributing to climate change, environment, and disaster risk reduction interventions.
6. Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services, as well as mental health and psychosocial support during and after disasters, recognizing the impact of climate change on women's health and well-being.
7. Encourage women's participation and advancement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics sectors, to have meaningful representation in the implementation of climate change solutions and designs.
8. Ensure voice and representation of women in policy and decision-making processes, with collaboration between women's and youth organizations, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous groups, and environmental rights groups, including those at the grassroots and community level.
9. Strengthen the technical capacity of sub-domestic mechanisms for inclusive and gender-responsive action to address climate change and promote women's equality and empowerment.
10. Use forecast-based financing mechanisms and shock-responsive social safety nets to address gender inequality and support alternative income generation and financial stability for women reliant upon natural resources for financial security.

11. Invest in women and girls to achieve economic autonomy and guarantee stronger capacity and resilience.
12. Ensure and expand commitment to adequate gender equality and climate justice financing by governments and stakeholders, including mechanisms to address loss and damage.

**B. Improve data availability on the gender equality risks and impacts of climate change to enhance inclusive and gender-responsive policy development and programming**

1. Enhance data collection and analysis, including sex, age, and disability-disaggregated data, to understand the impacts of climate change and disasters. Use both quantitative and qualitative methods to gather information on the experiences of women and other affected populations to inform action. Increase data literacy and analysis in areas where gender inequality exists, such as unpaid care work, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, harmful practices like child marriage, access to resources, and migration.
2. Ensure that domestic climate change adaptation plans, as well as other domestic policies and programs for sustainable development, include indicators to monitor the impacts on women's equality and empowerment.
3. Encourage collaboration between women's ministries, ministries of health, and ministries responsible for climate change by sharing responsibility for data collection and reporting between them.

**C. Demonstrate political commitment by prioritizing the rights and needs of women and marginalized groups through concrete actions.**

1. Ensure meaningful and sustained participation of feminist, women-led, and youth-led networks and organizations, including indigenous women environmental defenders and grassroots communities, in decision-making at all levels through bottom-up approaches that are gender-responsive and intersectional.
2. Encourage women's leadership in climate action and institutionalize policy changes that aim to renegotiate women-related roles and shift behaviors and attitudes away from harmful women-related norms.
3. Improve policy coherence and integration of gender equality and human rights across various policies, such as development, climate, disaster risk reduction, economic development, and environmental

policies. This can be achieved by implementing frameworks that promote multiple and intersecting inequality and raise climate ambition, including the NDCs.

**D. Establish a monitoring framework to track progress towards gender equality in climate action.**

1. Develop a coherent set of indicators related to gender equality, environment, and disasters to systematically monitor the gender equality outcomes of policies and actions related to climate change.
2. Prioritize gathering, analyzing, and utilizing sex-disaggregated data to inform policy processes in disaster risk management, climate change, environment, and other relevant sectors. This can be achieved by promoting stronger collaboration between domestic statistics offices, government ministries, civil society, and other key data users. Complement sex-disaggregated statistics with qualitative methods to further improve the quality of data related to the agency and empowerment of women and other marginalized groups.
3. Enhance the monitoring and reporting of climate finance flows, and assess the impact on gender equality and the adaptive capacity of women, communities, and at-risk groups.