



ADAPTATION FUND

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Adaptation Fund Board

**DRAFT OF AN UPDATE TO
THE GENDER POLICY OF THE ADAPTATION FUND**

Draft of an UPDATE to the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund

Background

1. Gender equality is increasingly recognized as a crosscutting issue in major multilateral environmental agreements. The 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development acknowledged in Principle 20 women's "vital role in environmental management and development" with Agenda 21 focusing in its Chapter 24 on women's considerable knowledge and experience in managing and conserving natural resources.¹ All Rio Conventions over time have underscored the key role gender equality and the empowerment of women specifically play in the realization of the respective objectives of these various conventions.² Likewise, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development recognizes gender equality and women's empowerment both as its own sustainable development goal (SDG 5) as well as a catalyst for reaching other goals, including SDG 13 on urgent action to combat climate change.³

2. Over the past 15 years, a number of decisions by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have addressed the gender dimensions of climate change.⁴ In 2010, the Conference of Parties (COP) in decision 1/CP.16 as part of the Cancun Agreements recognized that gender equality and the effective participation of women are important for long-term cooperative action on all aspects of climate change.⁵ In 2012, Doha decision 23/CP.18 decreed the promotion of gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol "so that gender-responsive climate policy responds to the differing needs of men and women in national and local contexts."⁶ A work programme on gender in the UNFCCC, established in 2014 in Lima with decision 18/CP.20⁷, was extended in decision 21/CP.22⁸ until 2019. The Lima Work Programme was further strengthened at COP 23 in Bonn with decision 3/CP.23 through the adoption of a multi-year Gender Action Plan⁹ seeking "to advance women's full, equal and meaningful participation and promote gender-responsive climate policy and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Convention and the work of Parties, the

¹ UNGA (1992), Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Annex I: Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, **A/CONF.151/26 (Vol. I); UNCED (1992), Agenda 21, available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/milestones/unced>. In 1992, the Rio+ 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in 2012 confirmed that gender equality and the effective participation of women are important for effective action on all aspects of sustainable development.**

² UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) articles 5, 10 and 18, the Gender Action Plan (UNCCD decision 30/COP.13) as well as UNCCD COP decisions 9/COP.10 and 9/COP.11. See: <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents>. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) decisions IX/8, X/19, XI/2, XIII/1, and the CBD 2015-2020 Gender Action Plan (decision XII/7), see <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/>.

³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

⁴ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/resources/documentation-on-gender-and-climate-change>; also WEDO (2014), UNFCCC Decisions and Conclusions: Existing Mandates and Entry Points for Gender Equality. <http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/GE-Publication-ENG-Interactive.pdf>.

⁵ UNFCCC, Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 7.

⁶ UNFCCC, Decision 13/CP.18;

https://unfccc.int/files/bodies/election_and_membership/application/pdf/cop18_gender_balance.pdf.

⁷ UNFCCC, Decision 18/CP.20;

https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_gender.pdf.

⁸ UNFCCC Decision 21/CP.22; https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/pages_17-20_from_10a02.pdf.

⁹ UNFCCC, Decision 3/CP.23; https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/decision_3_cp23.pdf.

secretariat, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels.” At COP 25, Parties adopted the five-year ‘Enhanced Lima Work Programme on gender and its gender action plan’, and invited “relevant public and private entities to increase the gender-responsiveness of climate finance with a view to strengthening the capacity of women”.¹⁰ It recognizes the need for progressing gender-responsive actions across all areas of the Convention and with respect to the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement prominently underscored that Parties in their climate actions should be guided by respect for human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women in its preamble and in Article 7.5 and stressed the importance of following “a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach” for adaptation action.¹¹

Rationale

3. Both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13) on climate change, and the Paris Agreement recognize that holding the increase in global average temperature to well below 2° C through effective mitigation measures is crucial and that these efforts must progress in tandem with actions focused on adequately protecting people, livelihoods and ecosystems from the adverse impacts of climate change through measures that enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability. The strategic thinking reflected in SDG 13 and the Paris Agreement includes underlying assumptions about the importance of human agency, knowledge, institutions and social change processes in order to be successful. The Adaptation Fund (the Fund) which serves the Paris Agreement since 1 January 2019¹², operates in this overarching framework and contributes to an implied theory of change derived from the Paris Agreement and SDG 13, as elaborated in the Fund’s Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for the 2018-2022 period¹³, by addressing the urgent and immediate adaptation needs in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and by committing to a gender mainstreaming approach in doing so.

4. The Fund finances concrete adaptation projects and programmes in countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol “aimed at addressing the adverse impacts of and risks posed by climate change” and “at producing visible and tangible results on the ground by reducing vulnerability and increasing the adaptive capacity of human and natural systems to respond to the impacts of climate change, including climate variability.”¹⁴

5. The Fund’s MTS¹⁵ updates and refines the Fund’s mandate to better serve the evolving needs of Parties to the UNFCCC. It articulates the Fund’s own Theory of Change including the vision, goal, impact, mission, strategic foci and cross-cutting themes. The Fund’s gender policy and its mandates are an integral part of the Fund’s strategic focus and underlying theory of change.

¹⁰ UNFCCC, Decision -/CP. 25; https://unfccc.int/resource/cop25/cop25_auv_13gender.pdf; see specifically para. 14.

¹¹ UNFCCC, Adoption of the Paris Agreement; <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09.pdf>.

¹² See Decision 1/CMP.14 and Decision 13/CMA.1 <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/08a1e.pdf>.

¹³ Medium Term Strategy; <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Medium-Term-Strategy-2018-2022-final-03.01-1.pdf>.

¹⁴ Adaptation Fund Operational Policies and Guidelines (OPG), para. 10, available at <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/operational-policies-guidelines-parties-access-resources-adaptation-fund/>.

¹⁵ Medium Term Strategy; <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Medium-Term-Strategy-2018-2022-final-03.01-1.pdf>. The elaboration in this paragraph is taken from part II of the MTS.

Without a commitment to gender equality, the Fund's vision¹⁶, goal¹⁷ and desired impact¹⁸ cannot be realized. This is also explicitly and implicitly recognized in the Fund's mission statement, which elaborates four cross-cutting themes. The mission of the Fund is to serve the Paris Agreement by accelerating and enhancing the quality of adaptation action in developing countries by supporting country-driven projects and programmes, innovation, and multi-level learning for effective adaptation. All of the Fund's activities (its processes and projects /programmes) are to be designed and implemented with the following four cross-cutting themes in mind: 1) engaging, empowering and benefitting the most vulnerable communities and social groups; 2) advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; 3) strengthening long-term institutional and technical capacity for effective adaptation; and 4) building complementarity and coherence with other climate finance delivery channels. The Fund will pursue this mission during the 2018-2022 period through three strategic foci on action, innovation, and learning and sharing. It commits with strategic focus 1 on action (SF 1) to support eligible countries to undertake high quality adaptation projects and programmes consistent with their priority needs, goals and strategies; with strategic focus 2 on innovation (SF 2) to support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies; and with strategic focus 3 on learning and sharing (SF 3) to support learning and sharing about adaptation finance and action. Gender equality considerations are instrumental for the success of these strategic foci.

6. Gender norms and related cultural rules are part of what structures the interactions and reactions to climate threats and opportunities in human systems. Climate change impacts women and girls, men and boys differently because of existing gender inequalities, gender discrimination and social exclusion. These often restrict women's and girls' access to resources, legal rights or political participation and decision-making, threaten their peace and security, and thereby undermine their adaptive capabilities. This is why women and girls are often disproportionately affected by climate change as its negative impacts are aggravated by existing gender inequality and patterns of discrimination and social exclusion, which also reduce the effectiveness of sustainable development and poverty alleviation measures. By striving for gender equality and supporting gender equitable processes, such as empowering women in its activities, the Fund increases the adaptive capacity of human systems in line with its mission to support effective adaptation. It does so by acknowledging that men and boys, women and girls have differing adaptation needs, priorities and capabilities and by responding to those in a gender-differentiated way. This includes providing targeted support to women as positive change agents with deep knowledge of adaptation-relevant systems, such as those related to food, water or energy, at the forefront of climate change and by actively addressing the disproportionately higher vulnerability of women to climate change impacts and natural disasters due to persisting gender inequalities. It will thus apply the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which in 2007

¹⁶ Ibid, p.18. The Fund's vision is defined as follows: "Developing country Parties are successfully enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability in climate change through participatory, transparent and accountable processes. Their actions address the special needs of vulnerable social groups, communities and ecosystems; are based on and guided by the best available science and knowledge; and are purposefully contributing towards sustainable development and the eradication of poverty."

¹⁷ Ibid. The Fund's goal is defined as follows: "People, livelihoods and ecosystems are adequately protected from the adverse impacts of climate change."

¹⁸ Ibid. The Fund's impact is defined as follows: "Adaptive capacity is enhanced, resilience strengthened and the vulnerability of people, livelihoods and ecosystems to climate change reduced."

already determined the role of gender to be an important consideration for the development of interventions to enhance adaptive capacity and to facilitate adaptation.¹⁹ The IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C Global Warming in 2018 confirms that adaptive capacity depends on gender roles and further finds that, if poorly designed or implemented, adaptation projects in a range of sectors can increase gender and social inequality. Conversely, efforts to reduce poverty and gender inequalities and to enhance food, health and water security can reduce vulnerability to climate change.²⁰

7. The Fund's gender policy builds on the existing gender policies and gender action plans of other climate funds.²¹ It systematically integrates key principles elaborated in the Fund's own environmental and social Policy (ESP), especially the principles on **access and equity**, on consideration of **marginalized and vulnerable groups** and of **human rights**. It highlights the principle of **gender equality and women's empowerment** as the goal that the Fund strives to attain through its processes.²² It acknowledges and integrates the need to apply an **intersectional analysis** in addressing gender-related differences in vulnerability and ability to decrease vulnerability and adapt to climate change impacts as a lens to understand the complexity and particularity of inequalities in the lives of women and girls, men and boys. Those are dependent on a multitude of factors such as the economic profile and societal structure of the country or subnational region, specific climate impacts, variety of livelihoods, a host of sociocultural factors such as class, age or race as well as other change processes in societies, such as those brought on by globalization, urbanization and economic development. It is expected for those changes to lead to new adaptation challenges for women and girls, and men and boys respectively. To ensure resilience of entire societies, those gender-differentiated adaptation needs must be addressed in a comprehensive, forward-looking and adaptive manner.

8. The Fund's gender policy is human rights-based and congruent with international instruments in acknowledging the centrality of women's rights as universal human rights, in particular with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on the

¹⁹ 4th IPCC Assessment Report, Working Group 2, available at https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/ar4_wg2_full_report.pdf.

²⁰ IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty, available at:

https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_LR.pdf

²¹ For the elaboration of the Fund's Gender Policy and its update, the Gender Mainstreaming Policy of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP), its updated Policy on Gender Equality and the GEF Gender Implementation Strategy were considered. See GEF (2012), Policy on Gender Mainstreaming, Policy SD/PL/02; GEF (2014), Gender Equality Action Plan, GEF/C.47/09; GEF (2017), Policy on Gender Equality (GEF/C.53/04; GEF (2018), GEF Gender Implementation Strategy (GEF/C.54/06). The initial Green Climate Fund (GCF) Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan, as well as the Updated Gender Policy and Action Plan 2020-2023 were also taken into account. See GCF (2015), Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan, GCF/B.09/23, Annexes XIII and XIV, pp. 84-91; and GCF (2019), Updated Gender Policy and Action Plan 2020-2023, GCF/B.24/17, Annexes XXIII and XXIV, pp. 249-264.

²² The focus on gender equality in the Fund's initial gender policy upgraded some earlier references to gender equity in some Fund policies and operational procedures, such as the first version of the ESP. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) cautions against a reliance on the term "gender equity," which can be used in a way that perpetuates stereotypes about women's roles in society, and advises instead the use of gender equality as the legal term under existing human rights instruments with corresponding obligations for signatory states. OHCHR (2014), Women's Rights are Human Rights, HR/Pub/14/2, pp. 33-34; <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR-PUB-14-2.pdf>.

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the International Labor Organization's (ILO) core conventions²³, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)²⁴, follow up Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.²⁵ It supports the equal right of men and women to access and benefit from the Fund's resources in order to increase their adaptive capacity and reduce their vulnerability to climate change impacts.

Definitions

9. The Fund's gender policy makes reference to the following key gender concepts²⁶:
- (a) **Gender:** refers to socially constructed characteristics from the roles individuals take on in society to physical attributes that affirm notions of 'masculine' or feminine'. While not immutable or universal, gender shapes expectations, attributes, roles, capacities and rights of individuals around the world.²⁷ Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context and intersects with other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis including class, race, poverty level, ethnic group and age.²⁸
 - (b) **Gender Balance:** refers to the goal of having the same number of women and men in decision-making bodies and among staff in the different levels of organizational structures.
 - (c) **Gender Equality:** refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities and access of women and men and boys and girls and the equal consideration of their respective interests, needs and priorities. Gender equality is not a women's issue but should concern and fully engage men as well as women. Equality between women and men is a human rights issue as well as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable, people-centered development.²⁹
 - (d) **Gender Equity:** refers to the process of being fair to men and women, boys and girls. It recognizes the need for potential differential treatment that is fair and positively addresses a bias or historical or social disadvantage that is due to gender roles or norms or differences between the sexes. It is about fair and just treatment that takes into account the different needs of men and women, boys and girls, cultural barriers and (past) discriminations of the specific group.³⁰
 - (e) **Gender Gap:** refers to any disparity and inequality between women and men's condition due to their position or role in society. It concerns inequalities in terms of their participation,

²³Conventions relevant for gender equality among the eight ILO Core Conventions include: (i) Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value (1951); (ii) Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour (1957); (iii) Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (1958); <http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/introduction-to-international-labour-standards/conventions-and-recommendations/lang--en/index.htm> .

²⁴ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

²⁵ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

²⁶ If not otherwise indicated, relevant definitions build on and are adapted from UN Women, Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI); available at: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>; or the Annex to the GEF (2017) Policy on Gender Equality.

²⁷ European Capacity Building Initiative, ecbi (2018). Pocket Guide to Gender Equality under the UNFCCC; available at: https://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2018-Edition-of-Pocket-Guide-to-Gender_1.pdf.

²⁸ OSAGI; available at: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/factsheet2.pdf>.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ ecbi (2018), p.64

their access to opportunities, rights, power to influence and make decision, incomes and benefits, and control and use of resources.

- (f) **Gender Mainstreaming:** refers to a globally supported strategy for promoting gender equality.³¹ Mainstreaming involves the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the experiences and concerns of women as well as men an integral part 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. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.³²
- (g) **Gender responsive:** refers to the consideration of gender norms, roles and relations and to addressing inequality generated by unequal norms, roles and relations through changes within a given social setting through remedial action.
- (h) **Gender sensitive:** refers to the consideration of gender norms, roles and relations but does not necessarily address inequality generated by unequal norms, roles or relations through remedial action beyond creating gender awareness.
- (i) **Intersectionality:** refers to how gender overlaps with other sociocultural factors, such as race, ethnicity, religion or belief, health, status, age, class, caste, sexual orientation, gender identity, and inclusion and exclusion. Looking through the lens of intersectionality is critical for understanding the complexity and particularity of inequalities in the lives of women and girls, men and boys.³³
- (j) **Women's empowerment:** refers to the process by which women gain power and control over their own lives and acquire the ability to make strategic choices through an expansion of agency throughout women's lives, especially via participation and decision-making. It generally refers to differential or pro-active support to increase:
- (i) women's sense of self-worth;
 - (ii) women's right to have and determine choices;
 - (iii) women's right to have access to opportunities and resources;
 - (iv) women's right to have power to control own lives both within and outside the home; and
 - (v) women's ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.³⁴

³¹ UN OSAGI. Gender mainstreaming had been established as a global strategy for promoting gender equality in the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) through the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. See https://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/pdfs/Beijing_Declaration_and_Platform_for_Action.pdf. In addition, this was affirmed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in ECOSOC Agreed Conclusions (1997/2).

³² ecbi (2018), pp.64-65.

³³ UNICEF (2017). Gender Equality. Glossary of Terms and Concepts, p.6; available at:

<https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/1761/file/Gender%20glossary%20of%20terms%20and%20concepts%20.pdf>. UN Women (2018). Turning Promises into Action. Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Box 1.2, p.31; available at: <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2018/sdg-report-gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018-en.pdf?la=en&vs=4332>.

³⁴ European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE), <https://eige.europa.eu/thesaurus/terms/1102>.

Objectives

10. The Fund and its implementing partners shall strive to uphold women's rights as universal human rights and to attain the goal of gender equality and the equal treatment of women and girls and men and boys, including the equal opportunities for access to Fund resources and services, in all Fund operations through a gender mainstreaming approach.
11. The Fund's gender policy has the following objectives:
- (a) To ensure that the Fund will achieve more effective, sustainable and equitable adaptation outcomes and impacts in both its internal and external procedures that proactively analyze and seek to address dynamic interlinkages between enhancing gender equality, adaptation needs and other societal challenges, vulnerabilities and exclusions women and girls, men and boys and their communities face, and doing so in an intersectional manner, and that do not exacerbate but instead redress existing gender-based inequalities;
 - (b) To provide women and men regardless of their background, age, race, ethnicity, religion or other sociocultural factors with an equal opportunity to participate in, contribute to and benefit from Fund-supported activities to strengthen their agency, build their resilience, and increase their capability to adapt to climate change impacts and interlinked challenges; recognizing the need for targeted efforts in order to ensure women's full and effective participation and to address the role of men in contributing to gender-responsive adaptation measures and the societal changes that this requires;
 - (c) To address and mitigate against assessed potential project/programme risks for women and men in relation to concrete adaptation actions financed by the Fund in line with the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy;
 - (d) To contribute to addressing the knowledge and data gaps on gender-related vulnerabilities and to accelerate learning about effective gender-equal adaptation measures and strategies; and
 - (e) To consider and meaningfully integrate the experiences, capabilities, and as appropriate and relevant, the traditional, local and indigenous knowledge of affected women and girls, men and boys and their communities throughout Fund processes by following a gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach to stakeholder engagement for effective adaptation measures.

Guiding Principles

12. The Fund's gender policy is based on a set of key guiding principles as elaborated below:

Commitment

13. The gender policy commits the Fund to work within its internal operations and with its partners to uphold women's human rights and to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all its internal and external procedures in line with international human rights instruments, ensuing applicable international and domestic law. The Fund will strive to devote the necessary resources and capacities to implement the gender policy effectively. The Fund will do so through:

- (a) Adopting and promoting methods, tools and installing mechanisms to proactively advance gender equality and reduce gender discriminations and disparities in its funding operations and throughout the project cycle, recognizing the intersectionality of existing gender inequalities and exclusions; and
- (b) Measuring and reporting the outcomes and impacts of its activities on the resilience of women and girls, men and boys to climate change impacts and their ability and agency to address gender differentiated vulnerability to climate change in an intersectional manner.

Comprehensiveness in scope and coverage

14. The Fund applies its gender policy to all its adaptation activities irrespective of project/programme size or focus, whether implemented by multilateral, regional or national implementing entities accredited to the Fund.

15. The policy will be implemented throughout the Fund's operational processes with guidelines to be issued by the Secretariat for the benefit of the Fund's external partners, Designated Authorities (DAs) and Implementing Entities (IEs).

16. Fund IEs will be required to undertake an initial project/programme-specific gender assessment establishing a gender baseline, describing gender differences, analyzing gender-differentiated impacts and risks as per the ESP process ('do no harm'), and detailing opportunities to pro-actively address gender gaps and their intersectionalities as well as to promote the empowerment of women and girls for the proposed activity ('do good'). Fund IEs will articulate corresponding gender-responsive measures as part of the overall project/programme and will be required to select gender-responsive indicators, collect gender-disaggregated data, and to design gender-responsive implementation, results measurement and monitoring arrangements.

17. Fund projects and programmes will be screened for gender responsiveness at various stages of the project cycle, including the processes of review, endorsement and approval of the proposals, monitoring and evaluation by the relevant Fund bodies and external partners (the Secretariat, the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Ethic and Finance Committee, DAs and IEs, independent evaluators selected by IE and the Fund's Technical Evaluation Reference Group). Stakeholders should be meaningfully and comprehensively consulted in a gender-responsive way throughout the project life cycle.

Accountability

18. The Fund is accountable for its gender mainstreaming efforts and its gender-responsive adaptation results and outcomes, including through regular annual reports, as appropriate, in a transparent and comprehensive manner. Quantitative and qualitative gender monitoring for project/programme impacts is to be integrated into the Fund's Results-based Management (RBM) framework. Portfolio-wide the Fund accounts for the number of men and women beneficiaries

through efforts to improve high-quality, comprehensive and participatory gender-disaggregated data collection of Fund activities that also takes into consideration multidimensional factors.

19. The Board, as operating entity of the Fund, supported by the Secretariat, is accountable for results of the implementation of the gender policy.

20. Applicant IEs are required to document an institutional capacity and commitment to apply the Fund's gender policy and to demonstrate their ability to implement it during the initial accreditation process. Already accredited IEs have to demonstrate their institutional capacity and commitment to implement the Fund's gender policy as part of the re-accreditation process. An IE may demonstrate its ability and commitment to implement the gender policy through:

- (a) An institutional framework for gender mainstreaming, such as designated expert staff and/or a commitment at highest management level to gender equality;
- (b) Own policies, strategies or action plans that address gender equality and gender-responsive activities, or demonstration through related implementation track-records;
- (c) An ability to undertake socioeconomic and gender assessments, or similar methods to assess the potential roles, benefits, impacts and risk for women and men;
- (d) An ability to identify measures to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate adverse gender impacts; and/or
- (e) A monitoring and evaluation process that accounts for gender mainstreaming efforts, including the use of gender-disaggregated indicators, and can provide social and gender expert support during project implementation.

21. The ability of Fund accredited IEs to comply with the Fund's gender policy may be enhanced through the Fund's readiness programme and other means in order to meet the requirements of this policy. All accredited IEs will apply the gender policy requirements to the project/programme proposals submitted for funding. Project formulation grants and project formulation assistance grants may be requested by NIEs for that purpose. Moreover, reporting requirements in the project performance report (PPR) apply to all projects/programmes.

22. IE applicants that apply for accreditation with the Fund shall be assessed by the Accreditation Panel for their capacity and commitment to implement the Fund gender policy. They are expected to demonstrate its capacity through the requirements elaborated above.

23. All Fund IE applicants and IEs shall identify a grievance mechanism, which can be pre-existing, national, local, or institution- or project-specific, able and competent to provide men and women affected by Fund supported projects and programmes with an accessible, transparent, fair and effective process for reviewing and addressing gender-related complaints and grievances.

Competencies

24. The Board is encouraged to consider relevant gender expertise and gender balance in the composition and designation of Board members to serve on the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) and the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC).

25. The Fund will work with DAs and IEs, including through the accreditation process and the readiness programme, to enhance their capacity to understand and implement the Fund's gender policy. IEs and IE applicants may seek readiness programme support from the Fund, including technical assistance grants for the gender policy, project formulation grants, and iterative readiness support which could be available upon the Board's approval. The Fund will also make available to DAs and IEs learning materials and technical resources on advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. They may also obtain gender training and capacity building through their partnerships with other organizations (such as domestic, bilateral, multilateral and international organizations, including NGOs).

Resource Allocation

26. The Fund's resource allocation for concrete adaptation projects and programmes contributes to gender equality and supports the empowerment of women and girls. Fund projects and programmes without articulated gender considerations shall not receive Fund resources.

Knowledge management and communications

27. To accelerate learning on the implementation of gender-responsive adaptation actions and to contribute to addressing existing knowledge, data and institutional capacity gaps among its partners, the Fund will document the experiences and knowledge gained from the implementation of its gender policy. In particular, it will focus on identifying and sharing good practices from recipient countries and implementing entities. The Fund will actively engage in knowledge exchange on gender and adaptation finance with partner and peer organizations, particularly with other existing climate funds, especially the GCF and the GEF.

28. The Fund will communicate its commitment to gender equality, its gender policy and related implementation guidance to its partners and the wider public and seek periodic feedback from stakeholders and partners on the implementation of the Fund's gender policy, including possible future improvements.

Review and Revisions

29. The gender mainstreaming approach of the Fund's gender policy is a long-term undertaking demanding a sustained commitment and a regular tracking of its progress. It is part of the strategic focus of the Fund and a determinant for the success of its strategic planning and programming efforts. As experience is gained and lessons are learned in the implementation of the gender policy throughout the Fund's operations, the Fund as a learning institution might adjust its approach. In light of this, the Fund will review and update its gender policy either concurrent with its time-bound multi-year Gender Action Plan, or in line with Fund mid-term strategy planning processes.