

## **Report from Second Regional Workshop on Supporting the Integration of Gender Considerations into MRV/Transparency Processes in the Western Balkan Countries and Lebanon, held November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Belgrade, Serbia**

The UNDP/UNEP Global Support Program for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports, GSP organized the **Second Regional Workshop on Supporting the integration of gender considerations into MRV/transparency processes in the Western Balkan Countries**, hosted by the Republic of Serbia, with the purpose of bringing together the Climate and Gender Focal Points from the Ministries and Institutions in Western Balkan countries, to discuss the opportunities and the challenges to mainstream gender into the development process of National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) to the UNFCCC. Also, in the light of the enhanced transparency framework established by the Paris Agreement and the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT).

Building up on a conclusions and results of “The First Regional Workshop on Supporting the Integration of Gender Considerations into MRV/transparency Processes in the Western Balkan Countries and Lebanon” hosted in Skopje in December 2017, the Second Workshop was aimed to bring together relevant experts from ministries and institutions working on climate change and gender in Western Balkan countries and Lebanon to contribute to upgrade their capacities to integrate gender consideration into climate change MRV and to share initial lessons learned in this process. Workshop targeted both governmental officials responsible for development and submission of reports to the UNFCCC (NCs and BURs) as well as professional entrusted with gender mainstreaming, as well as UNDP Country offices’ experts who are supporting countries in development of NCs, BURs and CBITs. Workshop was held in UN Building in Belgrade and gathered 31 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Montenegro, Serbia and FYR of Macedonia. The list of participants and trainers is at **Annex A**.

### **Day 1**

#### **Opening & Workshop Objectives**

The Workshop was opened by representatives of the hosting Government, Mrs. Biljana Filipović Đušić, Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection of Serbia, and Mrs. Ljiljana Lončar, Advisor to Prime Minister and Advisor to Chairwomen of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of Serbia. Both speakers addressed the issue of gender components of climate change

MRV in the context of UNFCCC and CEDAW<sup>1</sup>, as well as in the context of national legislation of the Republic of Serbia. They also explained current programs and project that include gender considerations - Climate Smart Local Development, first National Strategy for Low Carbon Development, etc. Speakers also underlined that in the process of implementation of the mentioned as well as in other similar projects, government should closely cooperate with civil society and business sector.

In continuation of the opening session, Mrs. Jelana Tadžić, UNDP Serbia Program Analyst, elaborated how the 2014 floods that affected Serbia and other countries in the region were a wake-up call for the decision makers with regard to different vulnerabilities. A research on impact of floods on women and men has been conducted, paving the way for development of gender-sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy. She also underlined that in the implementation of this Strategy, it is necessary to take into consideration transformative roles of women and men in post-disaster situation and to connect all actors. As she stressed out, it was a great number of women associations who were ready to provide support during the floods in 2014, but at that time, local authorities were not adequately prepared to make good use of this support to help to victims of floods.

Mr. Damiano Borgogno, GSP Coordinator, explained that 5 Balkan countries plus Lebanon have been chosen by GSP to build together concrete steps for climate change and gender, and hopefully to inspire other regions to take the same steps. He reminded participants that on COP 23, Gender and Climate Change Action Plan has been adopted, identifying five priority areas for action, one of them being capacity building for institutions in charge of climate change MRV and also institutions responsible for gender equality policies. As GSP already started to support countries on this way, it is necessary to understand this regional workshop as a part of the process to understand the issue, to provoke discussion, and to exchange experiences. Mr. Borgogno also pointed out that countries are expected to appoint UNFCCC gender focal points.

### **Session 1: Climate Change as a cross-cutting and development issue**

This session was aimed at providing an updated understanding to the participants on the key messages on climate change as Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees (IPCC). Report was presented by Mrs. Valeria Arroyave from GSP.

In order to understand the overall context of climate change within the Agenda 2030, main targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action) has been presented by Mrs. Snežana Ostojić-Paunović from UNDP Serbia. She also presented connections

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<sup>1</sup> UN Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

of SDG 13 with the rest of SDGs and passed the message that since everyone is to be affected by climate change, everyone should be included in climate actions.

### **Session 2: Gender as a cross-cutting issue**

This session was aimed at providing a better comprehension to non-gender practitioners on the key relevant concepts on gender equality, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming.

The session started with presentation of Professor Marina Hugson, Serbian sociologist, gender scholar, gender expert and feminist, presented the key relevant concepts and tools necessary for integration of gender equality and women's empowerment into environmental and climate change policy processes. Her explanation of the main concepts also included a snapshot of evolution of concepts through social movements (women's rights movement), research, development of feminist theory, codification of gender equality through international legal standards, development of national standards and finally, through institutionalization of policies. Gender justice is one of the main aspects of social justice. It cannot be simply added to existing development framework, but treated as an opportunity to reframe our current understanding of development by transforming vulnerable groups into agents of change.

Prof. Hugson explained the main indicators and targets of the Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and how they are linked with other SDGs. As she pointed out, there is a lack of interconnection between SDG 5 and some other SDGs and it is necessary to develop country specific genuine progress indicators.

[Prof. Hugson presentations are available on GSP web page](#)

### **Session 3: Strengthening gender mainstreaming into climate change action**

In this session, the role of gender focal points under the UNFCCC has been shared with participants by Mrs. Emma Letellier, GFP from France, in order to highlight experiences and good practices on how to make such linkage more effective and comprehensive in climate change action. Mrs. Letellier presented the framework of her responsibilities and her first-hand experiences in communication and coordination with the Government agencies. As she explained, there are two main areas coordination: 1) working with respective institutions on cross cutting issues, supporting awareness- raising and capacity building of institutions, and 2) on tracking progress by including gender features in planning process.

Her presentation was followed by discussion, underlying the difficulties for integrating and calling the stakeholders that are doing gender mainstreaming gender, understanding that the conditions of the countries are very different.

In continuation of the Session 3, Mrs. Arroyave from GSP presented a Gender responsive national communications toolkit developed by GSP.

Session has been concluded by the group exercise on Integration of gender considerations into climate change, facilitated by Prof. Hugson. Participants were asked to pick one of the presented projects from other regions and to describe (using basic SWOT analyses methodology) if this project could be implementable in their countries.

As Prof. Hugson concluded, the first day disclosed some of the profound gaps in the field Gender and Climate (GAC). Shortly, these gaps could be identified as follows:

1. The gap between emergency of the constructive intervention in the field of climate change and small-scale efforts, or the gap between global challenge and small, local, micro responses. While “think globally, act locally” is still an inspiring slogan, the fact is that there is huge discrepancy between the speed of negative forces of global development and the speed of positive small-scale forces, which unfortunately cannot produce an overall global turning point.
2. The whole process of dealing with climate change is designed as mostly administrative process going through national administrations, which is putting an extra strain on the employees especially in countries in the region (due to the combination of poverty and high demands, together with austerity measures). Additionally, focus on national level and even local level administration has positive effects for awareness raising, but, again, it is limited in the scope of real effects.
3. Much more attention is given to adaptation than to mitigation in GAC, which is per se diminishing the effects, especially in the long run. There is an absence of understanding how the climate change is affected by gender regimes, at the first place.
4. Some key issues are missing from the broader perspective on GAC, especially those related to power distribution, choice of development, gender, climate and social justice. This, as a negative consequence has not only “political neutralization” of the issues, but disconnects causes from the consequences, thus necessarily leading to the status quo, or even worsening of the present negative trends.
5. Gender and Climate issues are treated as issues which are only defined by knowledge, and not by interests, so different conflicting interests stay out of the picture. This problem cannot be resolved by refinement of procedures and measurements, although they are helpful in managing the process, especially the one of adaptation. Challenges of reporting on GAC should not be identified with challenges of real contribution to constructive solutions in that field (GAC).
6. Women and their concerns are mostly addressed from WID perspective and not from GAD perspective, and they are treated more as victims than agents of change. At the same time, their responsibility as social agents and consumers, as well, in a consumerist society or civilization, is just avoided as in issue.
7. The dominant discourse on GAC is the one which is based on the idea of vulnerabilities of women from developing countries, and in that sense, it is not really adequate for the

Western Balkans, where women do appear to be the strong agents, on micro level, but also even in politics.

8. Those who are engaged in concrete tasks related to reporting on GAC often lack motivation and commitment since they cannot connect their work with larger set of values nor with their career advancement.
9. Negative approach to climate change is not motivating because it is based on fear. That kind of approach can only lead to increased racism, anti-humanism, even fascism, new conflicts, including wars, increased competition and even higher exclusion and impoverishment of the large parts of humanity. On the other hand, climate crises gives an opportunity to humanity to increase solidarity and mobilize in finding best solutions by different development models.
10. There is an evident absence of adequate indicators for connecting Gender and Climate (SDG5 with SDG13).

## Day 2

### Session 4: Country presentations

Second day of the workshop started with country presentations, aimed at experiences sharing in the region on the status of climate/gender action, and to openly discuss expectations and results with other countries.

[Presentations](#) were delivered by the following country representatives:

Serbia – Mrs. Dragana Radulovic, Ministry for Environment Protection

FYR of Macedonia -Mrs. Gordana Trajkovska and Pavlina Zdraveva, UNDP

Albania – Mrs. Roven Agaliu, Ministry for Tourism and Environment and Aurelia Bozo, Gender Equality sector

BiH – Mrs. Raduska Cupać, UNDP

Montenegro – Mrs. Danijela Račić, Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism

Lebanon – Mrs. Yara Dieu, UNDP Lebanon

Presentations were followed by discussion, stressing out the importance of having a legislation that can guarantee that all institutions will provide sex-disaggregated data. It was also suggested that it is important to identify indicators (or measures) in the region that mainstream gender and climate change so it is easier for the ministry of environment to know what data should ask from the gender ministry. It was also suggested that one of the ideas might be to have a body that can coordinate between gender and climate change institutions, because usually the person in

gender only is interested in women discrimination but is important to have a group that can cross cut other sectors as climate change.

### **Session 5: Coping with the pace of change**

This session was aimed at providing inputs and useful elements on integration of gender considerations into MRV. The session started with example of how stakeholders could be included in the process. Mrs. Maida Čehaić Čampara, Expert for Community Mobilization presented main aspects of stakeholder's participation and explained how their involvement in all phases of the decision-making process can serve as a good base for taking informed decisions. She also explained that engagement of stakeholders can be a prevention from taking socially and gender-blind decisions. She organized a group work (role play) using an example of imaginary country that took the measure concerning with decreasing pollution caused by use of plastic bags and how this decision affects different stakeholders in a different way.

[Presentation of Mrs. Čehajić-Čampara is available on GSP web page](#)

In continuation to Session 5, Mrs. Natalija Ostojić from UN Women Serbia presented a Training Handbook on Gender and Climate Change. The handbook presents is an useful instrument for planning gender and climate change capacity building activities for institutions.

[The Training Handbook on Gender and Climate Change](#) is available on GSP web page

### **Session 6: Capacity building exercise: drafting a Plan for Gender Action into MRV**

Based on what countries previously elaborated at the Skopje meeting on gender action plans, country representatives were asked to further develop the plans based on the new inputs and lessons learnt generated in this workshop.

In order to present the main steps that has to be taken by countries in order to Integrate gender into MRV, Mrs. Sanja Elezović, GSP Consultant, presented the main tools and instruments for stocktaking - Baseline Gender Analyses, as well as for institutional capacity building - Assessment of Institutional Preparedness for Integrating Gender into CC MRV. Those tools and instruments, complemented by the previously presented Training Handbook and instructions for stakeholders' engagement, provides countries with useful, easy-to-handle methodologies that present a base for integration of gender consideration into MRV. As underlined by Mrs. Elezović, this base needs to be further elaborated by individual countries and adapted to national contexts.

[Presentation of Mrs. Elezović](#) is available on GSP web page.

Presentation was followed by exercise - drafting a Plan for Gender Action implementation into MRV by individual countries.

[Country Action Plans](#) are available on GSP web page.

Second Regional Workshop has been concluded by Mrs. Elezović and Mr. Borgogno. Participants were asked to complete their action plans and to send it to GSP and informed about next steps that will be undertaken by GSP.

Next steps include:

1. Analyses of country Action Plans, technical assistance to countries in its implementation and other support defined in ToR for the Consultant for Gender and Climate Change Mrs. Elezovic (by the end of 2019).
2. Development of GSP Action Plan for Integration of Gender Considerations into Climate Change MRV for Balkans and Lebanon for 2019 (by the end of 2018).

This document will be based on priorities defined under the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan, and will contain the following elements:

- a) Country profiles, with basic gender statistics, overview of legislative and institutional framework for gender equality and climate change;
- b) Critical overview of APs developed by countries, with recommendations for improvement/further elaboration of APs in accordance with priorities defined in the UNFCCC GAP.
- b) List of GSP targets/outcomes and proposed activities for 2019, including capacity building, development of knowledge products, networking, etc.

#### Annex A: List of Participants

<i>"Second Regional Workshop on Supporting the Integration of Gender Considerations into MRV/Transparency Processes in the Western Balkan Countries and Lebanon"</i>				
<b>N.</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Institution</b>
<b>1</b>	Albania	Mirela	Kamberi	UNDP
<b>2</b>	Albania	Rovena	Agalliu	Development Agency, Ministry of Tourism and Environment
<b>3</b>	Albania	Aurela	Bozo	Gender Equality Sector
<b>4</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Slađana	Bundalo	UNDP

<b>5</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Radusca	Cupac	UNDP
<b>6</b>	Lebanon	Yara	Daou	UNDP/Ministry of Environment
<b>7</b>	Lebanon	Nada	Makki	Office of the Minister of State for Women's Affairs
<b>8</b>	FYR of Macedonia	Pavlina	Zdraveva	UNDP
<b>9</b>	FYR of Macedonia	Gordana	Trajkoska	UNDP
<b>10</b>	FYR of Macedonia	Teodora	Obradovic Grncarovska	State Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
<b>11</b>	FYR of Macedonia	Svetlana	Cvetkovska	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
<b>12</b>	Montenegro	Danijela	Racic	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism
<b>13</b>	Montenegro	Biljana	Pejovic	Ministry of Human Rights
<b>14</b>	Montenegro	Snezana	Dragojevic	UNDP
<b>15</b>	Serbia	Aleksandar	Popovic	Ministry of Env. Protection
<b>16</b>	Serbia	Ljiljana	Loncar	Coordination Body for Gender Equality
<b>17</b>	Serbia	Jelena	Tadzic	UNDP CO Serbia
<b>18</b>	Serbia	Aleksandar	Jovanovic	UNDP CO Serbia
<b>19</b>	Serbia	Miroslav	Tadic	UNDP CO Serbia
<b>20</b>	Serbia	Ana	Seke	UNDP CO Serbia
<b>21</b>	Serbia	Snezana	Ostojic-Paunovic	UNDP CO Serbia
<b>22</b>	Serbia	Ana	Pjavančić Cizelj	UN Women
<b>23</b>	Serbia	Natalija	Ostojic	UN Women
<b>24</b>	Serbia	Danijela	Bozanic	Ministry of Environment
<b>25</b>	UNDP IRH	Damiano	Borgogno	UNDP GSP
<b>26</b>	UNDP IRH	Valeria	Arroyave	UNDP GSP
<b>27</b>	UNDP IRH	Tugba	Varol	UNDP GSP
<b>28</b>	UNDP IRH	Sanja	Elezovic	UNDP GSP
<b>29</b>	UNDP IRH	Marina	Hughson Blagojevic	Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research
<b>30</b>	UNDP IRH	Maida	Cehajic Campara	Community Mobilization
<b>31</b>	UNFCCC	Emma	Letellier	UNFCCC