

## Report from Third Regional Workshop on Supporting the Integration of Gender Considerations into MRV/Transparency Processes in the Western Balkan Countries and Lebanon

February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Podgorica, Montenegro

The UNDP/UNEP Global Support Programme for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports, GSP organized the **Third Regional Workshop on Supporting the integration of gender considerations into MRV/Transparency processes in the Western Balkan Countries**, hosted by Montenegro. The event gathered representatives of national institutions in charge of climate change MRV and transparency, as well as from institutions in charge of gender equality from Western Balkans and Lebanon. UNFCCC gender focal points from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and North Macedonia, France and Germany, as well as representatives of UNDP and UNFCCC also participated in the meeting. The list of participants and trainers is at **Annex A**.

The Third workshop build 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, as well as “The Second Regional Workshop on Integrating Gender Considerations into MRV in Western Balkans and Lebanon” hosted in Belgrade in November 2018, and its main purpose was to exchange information, experience and recommendations related to the following aspects:

- What has been achieved in the region in enhancing gender considerations into the climate and transparency framework?
- Have Gender Action Plans, which GSP supported elaborating, been implemented?
- What experiences and lessons learnt can be exchanged?
- Did countries make use of resources under National Communications (NCs), Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and Capacity Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)?
- What were the limitations/bottle necks/impediments for implementation?
- Can the NDC revision process be an opportunity for enhancing this integration?
- What has worked in the provision of support from UNDP/GSP and what has not?

## Day 1

### Opening & Workshop Objectives

The Workshop was opened by representatives of the hosting Government, Mrs. Marina Spahic, Head of the Division for Climate Change in the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism, and Mrs. Daniela Gasparikova, UNDP Resident Representative in Montenegro. Both speakers addressed the issue on how gender is related to climate change vulnerability and action, but also why it is necessary to integrate gender perspective, gender considerations and gender indicators in Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV). In continuation of the opening session, Sanja Elezovic, GSP Consultant for Gender and Climate Change, presented an agenda and a purpose of the meeting. At the end of the opening session, participants from 6 countries were asked to present themselves.

### Session 1: Gender equality as cross-cutting issue for climate action and climate transparency

This session was aimed to provide an updated understanding to the participants on the key messages of the climate change action, climate transparency and gender mainstreaming status.

Mr. Damiano Borgogno, MRV and Transparency Lead, UNDP, explained about Enhanced Transparency Framework and Climate Action in 2020. He pointed out that COP 25 turned to be less successful than expected; however, although the transition to low carbon economy is opposed by some of the greatest polluters, there are some positive changes in terms of low carbon economy actions taken by the private sector and consumers, as well as the significant influence of the young leaders some of the media in raising general awareness of the climate action urgency. Also, the example of European Union that decided to mobilize at least €1 trillion of investments over the course of 10 years, 25% of all EU funding for climate measures, to become climate neutral by 2050 (known as the "European Green Deal"), is also very encouraging. [Presentation of Mr. Borgogno](#) is available on GSP web page.

Mrs. Fleur Newman, Gender Affairs lead, UNFCCC, made participants acquainted with strategic approach to gender and climate change and updated them on the gender-related outcomes of COP 25. In the [Mrs. Newman presentation](#), it was underlined that every climate change, policy that impacts/benefit/involves people requires a gender consideration of to be as effective as possible. She also reminded participants that women are significant agents of change as consumers. On the other side, having this in mind, marketing industry markets the eco products in a feminized way. Behavior changes are required in order to minimize carbon emissions; introduction of a gender prospective is important in creation and in policy implementation. It is also important to have gender equality laws that are including climate change and vice versa. She also concluded that countries that do better in reducing Co2 emissions also have better integrated gender policies.

## Session 2: Experiences sharing in the region on the status of climate/gender action plans

The aim of this session was to allow countries to share their experiences and lessons learnt on their efforts to integrate gender considerations into climate action and transparency and participants were invited to share views and to openly discuss expectations and results with other countries.

The session started with presentations of UNFCCC gender focal points from EU - Mrs. Emma Letellier from France and Mrs. Anne-Lisse Koch Lavissee from Germany, who explained the overarching approach of their respective governments on gender and discussed about gender integration in general. As they pointed out, it is necessary to promote gender equality in the constitution and legislation and to mainstream gender in the national institutions. For example, Germany developed National Plan with vulnerability analysis, considering all vulnerable groups. Also, in 2006 assessment of gender equality in existing policies was undertaken and the ways of implementation gender equality policies were analyzed. Also, a research technical document was developed, containing 30 measures related to electrical vehicles, food waste and city planning. After the France and Germany experience, Mrs. Fleur Newman presented good practices and examples from the Bonn workshop held in June 2019. In [Mrs. Newman's presentation](#), examples on implementation of UNFCCC Gender Action Plan clearly showed that this kind of strategic approach creates the best foundations for gradual inclusion of gender considerations into climate actions and transparency - only in one and the half years of the GAP implementation, gender component of UNDP NDC support program includes 10 pilot countries designing and implementing gender-responsive NDCs (Bhutan, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, Kenya, Lebanon, Philippines, Uganda, Zambia). Also, 7 other countries are participating to share experiences.

In the continuation of the session, best practices from 5 Western Balkan countries and Lebanon were shared. In **North Macedonia**, decision is taken that the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan developed under the GSP support will be incorporated into future Gender Equality Strategy. It is necessary to include local governments and civil society in the process of implementation. CBIT will be used as instrument for implementation of the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan. As a follow up, North Macedonia plans to integrate gender in the strategy on climate change. In **Montenegro** it is planned under the CBIT project that MRV portal will integrate information related to gender, including those, developed under the Women and climate change study in 2017. Gender Action Plan is still not implemented, but the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights which is in charge of gender equality policies is ready to use it during the process of development of the new national Gender Equality Action Plan. Also, gender will be significantly integrated in the new National Adaptation Plan. **Serbia** also plans to establish a gender sensitive monitoring framework. Currently, a comprehensive research on influence of climate change on the life of people, which will have a strong gender component, they plan to organize capacity building and follow up actions. One of the challenges is a lack of gender disaggregated data, so it is necessary to discuss with statistical office about it. In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, gender dimension is well integrated into particular projects, but the integrated strategic approach is still

a challenge, and they are still struggling in making the contact between climate change and gender experts. Also, due to the complexity of the state structure and governance, gathering of sex-disaggregated data and gender information is still a challenge. In **Lebanon**, integrating gender is much more complex because from the beginning the laws are completely different for men and women. Also, gender equality is perceived as a women issue and men are not integrated in the process. Like other countries, Lebanon has difficulties to collect data. **Albania** further developed the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan that has been prepared with the GSP support. Gender expert has been engaged to add national context, to analyze particular parts of the Plan, to add aspects related to priority sectors and to develop indicators. This Action Plan will contain long-term, mid-term and short-term priorities, and the last two will be addressed through CBIT.

### **Session 3: NDC Revision Process as an opportunity to strengthen gender equality**

This session was aimed at informing participants about the planning and revision of NDC process and how they link with other climate action projects.

The session was opened by presentation of Mrs. Verania Chao, Gender, Inclusion & Climate Change Specialist, UNDP, who participated on-line and presented steps under the NDC revision process and pointed out the opportunities of this process for strengthening gender equality into climate policies. She explained key entry points for inclusion of gender into NDC: institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms, gender analysis in key sectors, as well as mapping of climate change policy instruments. In the continuation of the session, through presentation of Mrs. Pavlina Zdraveva from UNDP North Macedonia, experiences of North Macedonia were shared with participants on inclusion of gender into NDC. The process of inclusion was supported by UNDP's Climate Promise and CBIT.

## **Day 2**

### **Session 4: Gender and Climate change financing**

The aim of this session was to provide inputs on how to integrate gender and climate change in countries' national budgets and in development assistance projects.

After summary of the previous day, the presentation of Mr. Apar Paudyal from UNDP Nepal was shared on-line with the participants. After the earthquake in 2015, Nepalese government started with strategic inclusion of gender sensitive budget in all emergency programs. Ministry of Finances took the lead and after 5 years, Nepal has well mainstreamed gender budgeting through all relevant policies, strategies and programs in sectors related to climate change. In the presentation of Mrs. Valeria Arroyave that followed, funding opportunities available under the

National Communications, BURs and CBITs were presented. The session was concluded by sharing examples of gender and climate change financing from France and Germany, presented by Mrs. Emma Letellier and Mrs. Anne Lisse Koch Lavisse.

### **Session 5: Support available for capacity building**

In the [presentation of Mrs. Sanja Elezovic](#), GSP Consultant for gender and climate change, some useful on-line resources on gender and climate change were presented. The list resources include videos, research methodologies and webinars that could be useful for answering the following questions: a) Why gender and climate change matters (correlation between gender and climate change; b) How to mainstream gender into climate change policies; c) Gender and adaptation; d) Gender and mitigation.

### **Session 6: Next steps**

This session was organized in group discussion form and reporting back in the plenary, in order to answer the following questions:

**Q1: Assess the provision of GSP and identify how backstopping by UNDP and international organizations could be enhanced in the future?**

**Q2: Is your country planning on integrating gender into revised NDC? How? Purpose of the discussion is to share ideas and concerns, with the hope of providing some constructive solutions to common problems as countries revise their NDCs previous to COP 26.**

Results of discussion are summarized below:

**Q1: Assess the provision of GSP and identify how backstopping by UNDP and international organizations could be enhanced in the future?**

The general conclusion of all groups was that the GSP and UNDP two-years support on gender and climate change (autumn 2017 to winter 2020) was the initial push-up for actual mainstreaming of gender into climate change projects in all countries (Western Balkan and Lebanon). As a result, all countries developed and operationalized their gender and climate change action plans, most of them nominated gender and climate change focal points to UNFCCC and take into consideration gender aspects while developing UNFCCC relevant reports (NCs/BURs).

The group discussion identified several entries for future support:

- **Introduce environment (or climate change) marker of projects in ATLAS<sup>1</sup>**  
At this point, there is gender marker for every project, but adding environment/gender marker would enable better tracking of gender and climate change initiatives and would enhance reporting.
- **Identify various tools that would help countries to collect sex disaggregated data and gender information.**  
Currently, most of the countries are struggling to find/collect data disaggregate by sex in many areas needed for climate change relevant analysis/reporting. UNDP has already invested in supporting introduction of innovative approaches in many areas and could significantly contribute with expertise and tools to support data collection. In the next period, it is necessary to include national statistical offices in the discussion about data relevant for climate change MRV. It is also necessary to keep in mind that the process of integration of Western Balkans countries into European Union (EU), especially Chapter 27 (Environment) could be used to reinforce strategic thinking on gender dimension of climate change, it is necessary to use existing statistical instruments, like, for example, the Gender Equality Index<sup>2</sup>, which is currently in use by all Western Balkans countries.
- **Establishment of intergovernmental body** in order to support sharing of knowledge and experience among countries. Participants discussed about possibilities to address to existing regional networks and organizations to propose establishment of such body and agreed that initial letter should be sent to Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)<sup>3</sup>.
- **Encourage youth leadership in mainstreaming gender into climate action and transparency.** As in the previous case, participants agreed that this initiative should be addressed to Regional Youth Cooperation Organization (RYCO)<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> ATLAS is an electronic resource planning system used by several United Nations agencies. It ensures strengthened usability, data control and harmonization, improved finance, procurement, human resources, and travel, public cloud readiness, and extended functions in reporting, external access, and project management.

<sup>2</sup> The Gender Equality Index (GEI) is a tool to measure the progress of gender equality in the EU, developed by European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). It gives more visibility to areas that need improvement and ultimately supports policy makers to design more effective gender equality measures. GEI shows the diverse realities that different groups of women and men face. It examines how elements such as disability, age, level of education, country of birth and family type intersect with gender to create different pathways in people's lives. Among others, Area K - Gender and Environment, can be used as a significant source for climate change planning and monitoring. More info on: <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2019>

<sup>3</sup> The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) was officially launched at the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) in Sofia, on 27 February 2008, under which auspices it continues to operate. RCC has been working very closely with all the governments in the region and relevant regional cooperation mechanisms. More info on: <https://rcc.int/>

<sup>4</sup> Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) is an independently functioning institutional mechanism, founded by the Western Balkans 6 participants (WB 6): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, aiming to promote the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between the youth in the region through youth exchange programs. more info on <https://www.rycowb.org/>

- **Development of gender and climate change program.**

Each country, depending on the level of, and mechanisms developed for, intersecting gender and CC should develop a program on it, in order to achieve a systematic approach to this issue. That will avoid a segmented approach, will avoid parallel and overlapping activities to this topic that are depending only on projects and their gender component, implemented by different entities. UNDP can develop country-specific programs, which duration and elements will also depend on the specific country cases and needs on introducing gender into CC/ or intersecting gender and CC. That program should encompass all the sections of intersecting gender and CC and at the same time to meet the UNFCCC requirements (depending on the country needs):

- Gender and climate change intersection in the existing and planned national strategic and legal framework in both areas - analysis, recommendations;
  - Development and introducing a model for gathering gender-disaggregated data in the area of climate change- in cooperation with the State statistical office;
  - Analyzing the gender perspective and gender roles in each of the area of the climate change (ICT, agriculture, health, transport, energy etc.) - to identify the position of women and men in each area: needs, obstacles, roles - in order to identify concrete measures for action at grassroots level;
  - Strengthening the capacities of gender and climate change stakeholders at both administrative and decision-making level at central and local level - develop and conduct trainings and/or different methods of capacities strengthening and knowledge sharing;
  - Strengthening the institutional (inter/intra) cooperation on gender mainstreaming in climate change planning processes - introducing a protocol for cooperation or similar method;
  - Depending on the level of incorporation of gender into the CC in the national context - develop a mechanism for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Gender Action Plan;
  - Introduction of climate change into the Gender Responsive Budgeting at both central and local level;
  - Ensuring efficient implementation, monitoring and evaluation through designed gender indicators - establish a body for monitoring the implementation;
  - Meeting the UNFCCC requirements on gender, NDC, gender at GHG inventory etc.;
  - Practice of the Open method of coordination: involve the NGO, private sector and academia;
  - Gender component of the CC projects: to introduce a component on gender
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within each of the CC projects.

- **Support cooperation among women parliamentary networks from the region, as well as, NGOs, research institutions and private sector**
- **Introduce budget allocations for gender specific activities within all CC related initiatives (projects)-** for trainings, raise awareness, to support woman participation
- **Use every possibility to produce video material about correlation between gender and climate change and communicate it through social networks.** It is important to use case studies and simple language to communicate the messages and to provide the platform for grass root groups to tell their stories.
- **Global Support Program should develop a synthesis report on lessons learnt in Western Balkans and Lebanon in supporting introduction of gender considerations into climate action and transparency.** Sanja Elezovic and Valeria Arroyave will develop the report by the end of May 2020.

**Q2: Is your country planning on integrating gender into revised NDC? How? Purpose of the discussion is to share ideas and concerns, with the hope of providing some constructive solutions to common problems as countries revise their NDCs previous to COP 26.**

- All Western Balkan countries and Lebanon plan to integrate gender into their revised NDC. The aim is to ensure the equal participation of men and women in the development and implementation of the new NDC.
- Countries seek to involve men's groups, women's groups and civil society organizations focused on gender equality during the stakeholder engagement process and also include them in the institutional arrangements to support the implementation of NDCs and climate actions.
- It is important to carry out analysis to determine the level to which gender roles and equality are considered in national sector plans and climate change policies/strategies. The results of the analysis can then be used to inform the development of specific gender sensitive activities, commitments and corresponding indicators, as well as the budgeting processes to ensure that adequate resources are secured. This will ensure that gender issues are addressed from the planning stages to the implementation and monitoring and evaluation stages of the project and will address the fact that gender is not mainstreamed in the current NDC nor the sectorial planning documents that are aligned with the NDC.

Third Regional Workshop ended on February 13 at 13:00. The link for all presentations of the event can be found [here](#).



### Side meeting of UNFCCC gender focal points:

Separate meeting of UNFCCC gender focal points with UNDP and UNFCCC Gender Affairs lead, was held from 14:00 to 16:00. Serbia and Lebanon, who have not nominated UNFCCC GFP, were invited to select one participant per country to attend the meeting. Key points discussed at the meeting were as follows:

- **The role of UNFCCC gender focal points.** It was concluded that countries have different models of appointing the focal points - for example, Montenegro and North Macedonia appointed representative from the ministry in charge of climate change, Bosnia and Herzegovina appointed the person from institution in charge of gender equality, while gender focal point of Albania is University professor. For now, none of the GFP have detailed description of duties. UNFCCC Gender Affairs Lead Mrs. Fleur Newman explained that her office can develop only very general framework that could help countries to develop more detailed ToRs.
- **How do EU focal points collaborate?** GFP from Germany explained that there is not a formal way of collaboration, except for electronic communication. However, it proved to be effective as a collaborative tool for development of the EU synthesis report on implementation of UNFCCC Gender Action Plan in 2018 and 2019.
- **Capacity building for UNFCCC gender focal points.** GSP will support participation of GFPs from Western Balkans and Lebanon in the workshop for national GFPs which is to be organized in June 2020 by UNFCCC Gender Affairs office in Bonn.

## Annex A: List of Participants

<i>"Third Regional Workshop on Supporting the Integration of Gender Considerations into MRV/Transparency Processes in the Western Balkan Countries and Lebanon" February 13th and 14th Podgorica, Montenegro</i>					
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