

# Manila Declaration for Global Action on Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Manila, Philippines  
22 October 2008

*We, the participants of the Third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance, on Gender in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, have gathered in Manila, Philippines, 19-22 October, 2008,*

UNDERSCORING that women are vital agents of change, holders of valuable knowledge and skills, and can be powerful leaders from community to global level in climate change mitigation, adaptation and in disaster risk reduction;

RECOGNIZING that effects of climate change are one of the most urgent human security, ecological and development challenges of our time—exacerbating poverty, forced migration and conflict;

HIGHLIGHTING the close link between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction for which the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015 provides a guide to better protect our societies and economies from current and future hazards;

UNDERLINING the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that climate change impacts will vary among regions, generations, ages, classes, income groups, occupations and gender, and that the most marginalized will be disproportionately affected;

EMPHASIZING that women make up the vast majority of the world's most impoverished people and face unequal access to and control over resources, technology, services, land rights, credit and insurance systems, and decision-making power;

RECALLING the 2007 *Human Development Report*, which states that climate change is likely to magnify existing patterns of gender inequalities;

ACKNOWLEDGING that industrialized countries have a historical responsibility for climate change;

NOTING the lack of awareness in many countries on the issue of climate change and disaster risk reduction; and

DENOUNCING the absence of a gender perspective in the global agreements on climate change, despite national, regional and international commitments, and legally binding instruments on gender equality,

HEREIN DECLARE THAT:

- 1) Climate change and its negative impacts must be understood as a development issue with gender implications that cuts across all sectors (social, cultural, economic, and political) from the community to the global level; and concerted efforts are required by all stakeholders to ensure that climate change and disaster risk reduction measures are gender responsive, sensitive to indigenous knowledge systems and respect human rights;
- 2) Women and men must equally participate in climate change, disaster risk reduction decision-making processes at community, national, regional and international levels;
- 3) The Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) should urge its Secretariat to adhere to human rights frameworks and standards, and international and national commitments to gender equality, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Agenda 21, the Beijing Platform for Action, Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, ECOSOC Resolution 2005/31, the Millennium Development Goals, the Hyogo Framework for Action and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

4) Parties to the UNFCCC:

- a) Shall request its Executive Secretary to develop and implement a strategy to ensure gender considerations are fully integrated in the Secretariat's work plan, programs, assistance to the Parties, and cooperation with financing mechanisms;
- b) Shall ensure participation of women and gender experts during the preparation and presentation of national communications, as well as gender parity at national and international meetings, in particular at the Conference of Parties, and recognize women as a Constituency; and
- c) Should request the Secretariat to cooperate with international organizations and donors, in the development of gender-sensitive policies and program guidelines to aid Governments in ensuring gender equality while reducing climate-related risks and adapting to climate change at national and community level;

5) Financial institutions and funding mechanisms supporting climate change measures and disaster risk reduction should:

- a) Integrate gender-sensitive criteria into planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs, projects and initiatives;
- b) Allocate adequate resources to address the needs of women in climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction, for example through funding appropriate and environmentally sound technologies and supporting women's grassroots initiatives in sustainable use of natural resources; and
- c) Refrain from funding extractive industries, such as mining, logging and oil and natural gas extractions that exacerbate climate change, poverty and gender inequality;

6) Market-based mechanisms, such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), carbon trading funds and credits, must be made accessible to both women and men and must ensure equitable benefits. Thus, CDM should fund projects that enhance energy efficiency and make renewable energy technologies available and affordable to women for household needs, enhancing economic activities and socio-economic mobility;

7) Building on the Bali Plan of Action, UNFCCC (Article 6), and the Hyogo Framework for Action (Priority 3) Governments should:

- a) Promote, facilitate, develop and implement public awareness campaigns, education and training programs on climate change and disaster risk reduction, targeting women and men, and boys and girls alike;
- b) Facilitate access to information on climate change and disaster risk reduction policies and results of actions, which are needed by women and men to understand, address and respond to climate change and disaster risk, taking into account local and national circumstances such as quality of internet access, literacy and language issues; and
- c) Systematically document and make accessible best practices on gender responsive climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives, facilitating replication of such practices;

8) All development partners shall ensure that affirmative action is promoted, and climate change and disaster risk reduction measures are rapidly adopted in high risk areas, such as Africa and small island states;

9) Governments, their respective statistical offices or bureaus, international organizations and financial institutions should collect sex-disaggregated data in every sector and make these readily available;

10) Governments and international organizations must pursue gender-responsive budgeting to ensure adequate allocation of resources to enhance the capacity of women, especially the poorest and most disadvantaged, to foster their resilience to climate change and disasters;

11) Governments, regional and international organizations should monitor, prepare for, and respond to climate-induced human displacement, migration and conflict, paying special attention to the needs of women and children;

12) South-South and South-North cooperation must be promoted and coordinated to effectively respond to the global issues of gender in climate change, disaster risk reduction and food security; and

13) Women organizations and specialized agencies, civil society, parliamentarians, government ministries and departments responsible for gender equality and women's affairs must have a stronger voice and role in the discussions and decisions that are being made on climate change and disaster risk reduction.

WE DECLARE OUR FULL COMMITMENT to contribute to these goals and to cooperate with each other and all relevant stakeholders—including Governments, parliamentarians, the private sector, civil society, indigenous peoples, academia, religious institutions and individuals—with the intent to carry this declaration forward to all meetings through which decisions on climate change and disaster risk reduction are made, including the UNFCCC COP-14 (Poznan), COP-15 (Copenhagen), the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and beyond.