

## Concept note

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### *Enhancing Gender Engagement in the Uptake and Use of Climate Information and Services (CIS)*

*Date: 11-12 December 2018*

*Venue: Accra, Ghana*

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#### **I. Context**

The Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has proven beyond reasonable doubt that the Earth's climate is warming even without additional anthropogenic emissions into the atmosphere. The report further indicates the resulting Climate change will be widespread in Africa with far reaching consequences on African people and their environment especially, severe impacts on food security, water availability and human health. Hence the implication of variability in precipitation and seasonal changes will necessitate more than ever adaptation measures to manage and reduce the risks on productive systems such as agriculture and forestry as well as health in order to build resilience. The risk of changing climate is further compounded in Africa by challenges of access to climate data and information, which creates difficulties in assessing the overall risks and vulnerabilities triggered by seasonal variability and climate change.

The newly released IPCC special report on 1.5 degrees warming reiterates many of the findings of the 5<sup>th</sup> assessment report, and cites disproportionately higher flooding risks for women living in cities as well as potential for increased workloads for women due to agricultural adaptation measures.

To respond to the foregoing climate change challenges, under the auspices of the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) in collaboration with the UK Met Office, are implementing the Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) programme whose aim is to contribute to addressing the CIS gap and ensure accelerated uptake of CIS for development planning and practice. In implementing this programme, the ACPC has noted the limited engagement of women in the production and uptake of CIS, despite the continuing efforts made to involve them. This could be due to weak policy and legislative environment, which do not sufficiently provide the incentives for women to engage in the uptake and use of CIS. Sectoral policies (environment, agriculture, climate, gender) have not sufficiently addressed differential impact of climate change and how it affects men and women. Given existing gender inequalities and development gaps, climate change ultimately places a greater burden on women than it does on men. This is partly because of the societal and cultural roles and responsibilities women assume in the family as well as in the community and also due to inadequacy of policy intervention to mitigate against the effects of climate change. Compounding this is a shortfall

in development planning to integrate gender in strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. African member States do require support to effectively implement the *Paris Agreement (CoP21)* and gender action plans in order to build resilience and adaptation by all citizens against the effects of climate change. Gender inequalities exacerbate vulnerabilities to climate shocks and determine ways in which men and women experience, cope and get affected by climate change. In many African communities, the gender roles of women place them as primary food producers and providers of water and fuel for their families. These roles therefore can be burdensome as they place greater responsibility for family and community welfare disproportionately on women. A deeper appreciation that climate change impacts differently and disproportionately on men and women is critical and calls for gender sensitive climate policies that are informed by women so that they address the reality of their needs. The link between gender and climate change vulnerability is inarguable, and failure to address this is likely to affect overall achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specifically goals 5 and 13. Further, the link between gender and climate change in Africa is not extensively researched and well documented. Notwithstanding, available literature shows that, gender is an important and determining factor in climate change discourse.

Climate change is not gender-neutral; women are disproportionately (and, often, more severely) affected by its impacts. Gender-based inequities lead women to face more adverse climate change impacts than men. The same holds true with disasters: women are particularly exposed to disaster risks and are likely to suffer higher rates of mortality, morbidity and post-disaster ruin to their livelihoods. Several underlying factors exacerbate women's vulnerability to the impacts of disasters, including limited livelihood options, restricted access to education and basic services and discriminatory social, cultural and legal norms and practices.

The limited engagement of women in CIS and related climate change dialogues poses serious challenges in sufficiently adapting to and mitigating against climate change impacts. The world's poor whose majority (70%) are women<sup>1</sup> are significantly affected by extreme weather and climate events such as droughts and floods. In Africa for example, women are responsible for gathering and producing food, collecting water and sourcing fuel wood for cooking and heating, which increases their exposure to adverse climate events compared to male folk. However, women have significant knowledge and understanding of the changing environmental conditions, which could play a crucial role in identifying viable and practical community adaptation. Their limited engagement in CIS and other climate change related issues thus denies the public this strong knowledge and expertise which remains largely untapped on the continent.

In recognition of this challenge and the pressing need of looking for conducive options to engage women in CIS generation, uptake and use, and to enhance their capacity to keep climate impacts at bay and build long term resilience, ACPC in collaboration with the ECA's African Centre for Gender (ACG), is organizing a two-day consultative workshop to deliberate on the above issues and come up with recommendations to address them.

## **II. Objective**

### **2.1. Main objective**

- The Overall objective is to discuss the nexus between gender and climate change and explore ways of enhancing the role of women in the production, uptake and use of CIS, at both policy and practice levels.

### **2.2. Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives include:

1. Deepen appreciation of the link between gender and climate change in Africa;
2. Identify conditions that inhibit women's strong engagement in CIS and climate change issues;
3. Identifying options for enhancing the involvement of women in CIS and climate related issues;
4. Explore ways of strengthening the enabling environment for enhancing women roles in CIS;
5. Catalogue best practices and innovative ways of boosting women involvement in CIS;
6. Discuss mechanisms and a strategy for partnership building with women in the climate change sector across Africa.

## **III. Output**

- 3.1. A meeting report;
- 3.2. Recommendations for strengthening the enabling environment and enhancing women participation in CIS and climate change issues;
- 3.3. A catalogue of best practices and innovative ways of women empowerment.

#### IV. Format/structure

4.1. The consultative workshop will be a mixture of panel discussions and presentations structured as follows:

- I. Women challenges and inhibiting factors of women engagement in CIS and climate change issues;*
- II. The strong case and the need for enhanced engagement of women in use of CIS;*
- III. Women empowerment and best practices for adoption of an enhanced of women participation in CIS;*
- IV. Options for consideration in women engagement in CIS and related areas.*

#### V. Date and Venue

5.1. The meeting will be held on 11-12-December 2018 in ...Accra Ghana.....

#### VI. Participants

6.1. The workshop will be attended by women scientists, academics, practitioners, researchers and opinion leaders from different African countries as well as men with strong engagement and knowledge of gender and climate change issues.

#### VII. Tentative agenda

Time	Events	Chair
<b>PART I: OPENING SESSION</b>		
09:00-09:20	<b><i>Opening ceremony</i></b>	
<b>PART II: WOMEN ENGAGEMENT IN CIS AND CLIMATE CHANGE</b>		
09:20-10:30	Gender and Climate Change Nexus in Africa:  <b>Presentation:</b>  <b>Discussion</b>	
10:30-10:50	<b><i>Coffee break</i></b>	
10:50-12:00	Challenges affecting Inclusive engagement in CIS and climate Change issues  <b>Presentation.</b>  <b>Discussion</b>	

Time	Events	Chair
12:00-13:00	The case of enhanced women engagement in CIS and climate issues in general  <i>Panel discussion</i> 1. 2.	
<b>13:00-14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>PART III: VALUE OF INVESTMENTS IN CIS</b>		
14:00-15:30	Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) programme  <i>Presentation</i>  <i>Discussion</i>	
15:30-15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
<b>PART IV: BEST PRACTICES IN WOMEN ENGAGEMENT</b>		
15:45-16:30	Women empowerment best practices for adoption in enhancement of women participation in CIS  <i>Presentation</i>  <i>Discussion</i>	
16:30-17:45	Options for consideration in women engagement in CIS and related areas  <i>Panel discussion</i> <i>Q&amp;A</i>	
17:45-18:00	<i>Recommendation for creating enabling environment for women engagement in CIS and climate change issues</i>	
18:00 – 18:10	<i>Closing</i>	