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INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE IPCC
Paris, France, 13 – 16 March 2018

IPCC-XLVII/Doc. 7
(13.II.2018)
Agenda Item: 13
ENGLISH ONLY

GENDER

(Submitted by the Secretary of the IPCC)

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GENDER

Gender considerations in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

In 2015, the United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 5 refers to the need to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Many of the United Nations entities that IPCC is closely affiliated with, such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have adopted action plans and policies with a view to advance gender equality. Also the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has a Priority Gender Equality Action Plan for 2014-2021.

In recent years many members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have expressed an interest in augmenting gender considerations in the work of the IPCC. Specific attention has been paid to gender and regional representation in the selection of authors for the IPCC special reports as well as the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).

IPCC members have also discussed gender – related issues during events organized in conjunction with IPCC and UNFCCC meetings.

During the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-22) to the UNFCCC in Marrakech, Morocco the Technical Support Unit of Working Group I and Association Marocaine des Sciences Regionales organized a side event on "Women Advancing Climate and Climate Change Sciences", with the participation of international, regional and national organizations, thereby launching a new international initiative that aims to increase women's participation and accomplishments in the domain of climate and climate change sciences.

In advance of the 46th Session of the IPCC in Montreal, Canada, an event on enhancing gender balance in the IPCC was organized by the Government of Canada on 5 September 2017. The discussions focused on ways and means to consider gender action in line with work under way within the UNFCCC; improving gender balance in climate and climate change science; assessing the possibility of mainstreaming gender balance strategies into the organizational work of the IPCC; considering a Special Report on gender and climate change; developing a framework of actions to improve gender balance within IPCC structures; and encouraging governments to support nominations of highly qualified women in the upcoming call for nominations of the AR6 reports.

Proposal for action

It is proposed that the IPCC decides to establish a gender task team with the aim of developing a framework of actions to improve gender balance within the IPCC's structures, which would report on progress to the 49th Session of the IPCC .