



21.11.2017

# OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

on women, gender equality and climate justice  
(2017/2086(INI))

Rapporteur: Florent Marcellesi



## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas parties to the Paris Agreement (concluded at the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21)) have committed to respecting and promoting human rights, namely gender equality and the empowerment of women, when taking action to address climate change;
1. Recalls that women are more vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate risks owing to sociocultural and economic barriers (such as access to land, credit, public services and technology), poverty and dependence on natural resources for their livelihood; notes with concern, for instance, that the climatic stress on water and forest resources often disproportionately affects women's everyday activities, thus limiting their economic prospects; reiterates that it is essential to enhance women's autonomy and reduce discriminatory practices in order to overcome the challenges of climate change and develop effective resilience; takes the view that gender considerations, as well as climate change programmes, should therefore be a central focus of policies and programmes in developing countries;
  2. Notes with concern that according to a UN study, the role of women as agents of change to drive climate decisions and investment, and to benefit from them accordingly, has so far been modest<sup>1</sup>; deplures, in particular, the fact that women are underrepresented in the key climate-change related sectors of science – such as energy, engineering, transportation, information technology (IT) and computing – as skilled workers, professionals and decision-makers; considers that a paradigm shift is needed that puts gender concerns at the centre of climate management efforts and investments; believes that climate decisions and investments should therefore engage all sections of society, especially women and other vulnerable groups;
  3. Stresses the need to make the financing of both adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its effects gender-responsive; welcomes the recent progress made with regard to gender policy in the field of multilateral finance mechanisms; welcomes, in addition, private sector initiatives that aim to enhance corporate social responsibility by introducing a premium for projects that fulfil sustainability criteria, including promoting livelihoods and educational opportunities for women; notes, however, that according to the UN Development Programme (UNDP), only 0.01 % of all funding worldwide supports projects that address both climate change and women's rights; calls for the EU and its Member States to ensure that their climate change programmes comply with the highest international standards on human rights and do not undermine gender equality;
  4. Calls on the Member States to mainstream the gender dimension in the development, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of national environmental policies and in reporting on such policies, and to ensure full and equal participation by women in decision-making at all levels, particularly when it comes to climate change strategies;

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<sup>1</sup> UN Women guidebook entitled 'Leveraging co-benefits between gender equality and climate action for sustainable development. Mainstreaming Gender Considerations in Climate Change Projects'.

calls, in addition, for women to participate in management and decision-making with regard to the allocation of funding to prevent natural disasters;

5. Considers that the three financial mechanisms under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF) – should unlock additional finance for more gender-responsive climate investment policy;
6. Stresses the need to identify and promote programmatic approaches that have been proven to be gender-responsive, such as population, health and environment (PHE) programmes, among others, that provide an integrated solution to health, gender and environmental challenges, including a response to climate change, and contribute to the achievement of the respective sustainable development goals (SDGs);
7. Recalls that women’s empowerment is central to the achievement of the SDGs; notes with concern that gender-based barriers exist in international and national policy-making in the field of climate change; stresses the need to guarantee women’s participation in decision-making, planning and implementation processes; urges the EU and its Member States to step up their efforts to mainstream gender into their climate policies and development cooperation, including within all trade and investment frameworks; urges the EU, in particular, to make development aid conditional on the inclusion of human rights-based criteria, and to establish new gender-sensitive climate change policy criteria;
8. Recalls that the collection of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics is a preliminary step towards conducting proper gender analysis on climate change; notes, however, that in many countries, gender statistics on the environment are lacking; calls for the EU to upgrade capacity-building in developing countries’ national statistical systems, for the purposes of collecting gender statistics on the environment in order to improve the evaluation of, and find solutions to, the varying consequences of climate change; calls, in particular, on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to improve data collection (on resilience and vulnerability post-disaster, for example) and carry out further gender analysis of the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms and the impact of the Protocol;
9. Calls for the creation of an environmental indicator making it possible to analyse growth models, modes of consumption and lifestyles and their influence on climate change;
10. Notes that women’s economic autonomy presupposes access to social security, land, basic social services and public services; notes with concern, however, that according to the UNDP, although they predominate in world food production (50 to 80 %), women own less than 20 % of land; notes equally that rising commercial demand for land is also making it difficult for poor women to gain or retain secure and equitable land access;
11. Highlights the vulnerability of women in the rural sector, which is particularly affected by climate change; stresses the need to address the gender-differentiated investment risks to sustainable agriculture; calls for the EU to help developing countries reform laws and eliminate discriminatory practices that restrict women’s ownership of and

access to productive resources and means of production, including advisory and financial services;

12. Recalls that the adoption of the SDGs places Policy Coherence for Development at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; urges the EU to frame its energy policy according to these principles; notes with concern that EU measures intended to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and emissions from transport in the EU have led to increased demand for biofuels, a demand that can be met only by importing such fuels from developing countries; underlines that this has resulted in land use changes, which affect vulnerable people, especially women; calls for the EU to address these concerns in the ongoing reform of the Renewable Energy Directive (Directive 2009/28/EC);
13. Welcomes the fact that the Paris Agreement includes references to gender balance, and insists that helping countries implement their climate objectives or attain their intended nationally determined contributions under COP 21 will only be possible if we take advantage of the knowledge, foresight, participation and action of all sections of our societies, especially women;
14. Recalls that forests support the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people and 80 % of all terrestrial biodiversity, and help to absorb 30 % of carbon emissions;
15. Recalls the pivotal role of forests in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, the delivery of ecosystem services and the safeguarding of livelihoods; notes, however, that while women in forest-dependent communities contribute considerably to the sustainable management of forests, they do not often benefit from forest-related investments and are excluded from relevant decision-making; calls for the strengthening of the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly women; underlines the critical role of gender equality and women's empowerment in the long-term success of REDD+; considers that REDD+ action should address structural inequalities around land and forest tenure; stresses, in particular, the need to tackle the lack of clarity and security of tenure rights in developing countries, especially with regard to women, who often merely possess usufructuary rights to the land, which affects their decision-making power when it comes to managing or benefiting from the REDD+ process;
16. Notes that desertification and the loss of water resources have a major impact on the daily life of women, particularly women farmers; calls for women's rights to own and use land to be guaranteed, particularly through agrarian reform schemes;
17. Recalls that decentralised sustainable energy technologies are increasingly becoming the most cost-effective energy options for the poor; calls for support for women's entrepreneurship in the energy sector so as to reduce the time women spend doing unpaid domestic and care work;
18. Stresses the need to protect and recognise small farmers, particularly women, as key economic actors whose rights to the use and ownership of land need to be protected under binding legal mechanisms to safeguard against land-grabbing;
19. Recalls that although women are the primary managers of household energy in most developing countries, they frequently experience energy poverty, for example using low-burning and health risk materials on a daily basis, which has a negative effect on

their prospects in terms of healthcare, access to drinking water, agriculture, employment opportunities, and so on; stresses the need, against this background, to address the gender-differentiated investment risk in energy in order to accelerate universal access to energy; recalls that by providing incentives for the renewables-based electrification of developing countries, climate agreements can contribute to poverty reduction; believes, in this context, that women can be powerful agents of change in the transition to sustainable energy; calls, more generally, on developing countries to adopt policies that will enable access to affordable, reliable and modern energy sources, in line with SDG 7, and emphasises the need to incorporate gender mainstreaming into energy policies and programmes to improve its effectiveness and efficiency;

20. Calls for gender-sensitive action to ensure that women are seen not only as beneficiaries of climate action, but also as clean energy technology entrepreneurs; welcomes the Commission's call for proposals on women & sustainable energy, making EUR 20 million available for the implementation of activities promoting women's entrepreneurship in the sustainable energy sector in developing countries, and encourages the Commission to increase this amount in the following editions;
21. Recalls that women are generally more affected by climate-related disasters than men and that such disasters exacerbate gender disparities, including in the allocation of shelters; stresses the need to provide an appropriate response to women's economic, medical and psychological needs in crisis and post-disaster situations; reiterates, more broadly, that Member States have obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to take concrete steps to address the gender-related dimensions of disasters in a changing climate, namely through the adoption of targeted, country-specific policies, strategies, legislation and budget lines;
22. Stresses the need to engage with existing climate finance frameworks at all levels, so as to ensure that gender perspectives are integrated into disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts;
23. Calls for the identification and reinforcement of specific gender-sensitive strategies that support the gender and social dimensions outlined by the global climate authority, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), including voluntary, rights-based family planning as a potential adaptation strategy;
24. Stresses the importance of the transfer of environmentally friendly technology and the need to honour the financial commitments made, in particular at COP 21 and within the framework of the Green Climate Fund, to enable developing countries to transition to a carbon-free growth policy;
25. Calls for gender equality-focused training for EU officials, especially for those dealing with development and climate policies;
26. Calls on the Commission to promote gender equality in the context of climate justice in regional aid programmes, the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, and dialogue with third countries.



## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	21.11.2017
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 18 -: 1 0: 3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Ignazio Corrao, Mireille D'Ornano, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Maria Heubuch, Arne Lietz, Linda McAvan, Norbert Neuser, Vincent Peillon, Maurice Ponga, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Elly Schlein, Eleftherios Synadinos, Eleni Theocharous, Paavo Väyrynen, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Anna Záborská
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Thierry Cornillet, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Frank Engel, Brian Hayes, Florent Marcellesi, Paul Rübig



## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

18	+
ALDE	Paavo Väyrynen, Thierry Cornillet
EFDD	Ignazio Corrao
GUE/NGL	Lola Sánchez Caldentey
PPE	Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Anna Záborská, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Brian Hayes, Frank Engel, Maurice Ponga
S&D	Arne Lietz, Elly Schlein, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Linda McAvan, Norbert Neuser, Vincent Peillon
VERTS/ALE	Florent Marcellesi, Maria Heubuch

1	-
EFDD	Mireille D'Ornano

3	0
ECR	Eleni Theocharous
NI	Eleftherios Synadinos
PPE	Paul Rübig

**Key to symbols:**

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention