**Cuestionario en relación con la resolución A / HRC / RES / 38/4 del Consejo de Derechos Humanos sobre los derechos humanos y el cambio climático.**

**RESPUESTA DE MÉXICO**

1. **Please describe the impacts of the adverse effects of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls. Where possible, please share specific examples and stories.**

Climate change has significant impacts on women and girls´ human rights, in particular on the human right to a healthy environment for the development and well-being of the person.[[1]](#footnote-1)

As mentioned in General Recommendation 37 of the CEDAW Committee, climate change is aggravating the risks and effects of disasters worldwide, with significant consequences for women and girls, especially those that face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination due to various factors such as ethnic origin, geographical location, age, sexual orientation, disability status, among others.

In case of disasters caused by climate change, the right to health of women and girls is mostly affected, particularly their sexual and reproductive health, with the lack of timely services, such as pre and post maternal care. In addition, climate change contributes to diseases and premature deaths worldwide, as a result of heat waves, floods, hurricanes or droughts.

Furthermore, one of the important effects of climate change is the lack of water availability, which leads to the detriment of the enjoyment of the human right of access, disposal and sanitation of water for personal and domestic consumption in a sufficient, healthy, acceptable and affordable way, enshrined in Article 4, sixth paragraph of the Mexican Constitution.

In these cases, the demand for water resources is growing in the different sectors, such as industrial, residential and agricultural, where vulnerable groups are the main affected to have access to it; to obtain this benefit they arrive to move kilometers.[[2]](#footnote-2)

For example, women and girls living in poverty areas are responsible for water supply, food preparation, child care and cleaning of homes and activities that depend on the vital liquid. In addition, carrying water from distant sources has serious consequences for health, especially for women, girls and boys. Apart from the weight they must transport, in many cases the water they collect is contaminated and this causes diseases, such as schistosomiasis.

Therefore, gender analysis in the field of climate change offers the possibility of establishing adaptation strategies that do not reinforce existing inequality gaps and that contribute to the full enjoyment of women and men´s rights.

1. **Please describe any relevant commitments, legislation and other measures that you have taken to promote a gender responsive approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local, national, regional and international level and to ensure the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls impacted by the adverse effects of climate change. Please include relevant mechanisms used to promote accountability and/or implementation.**

Mexico has a broad normative and programmatic framework for combating climate change from a gender perspective.

The new government's commitment has been reflected in the discussions with civil society organizations on the subject. Recently, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Josefa González Blanco, met with representatives of the academic sector and the Gender and Environment Network (RGEMA) in order to promote the joint construction of environmental policies with a gender perspective on topics such as climate change, renewable energy and water, among others. At the meeting, it was agreed to create a work agenda on the subject.

The national and international commitments of Mexico in the matter will be described in the next lines:

**International framework**

1. **International agreements**

* Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW (1979).
* United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)
* Kyoto Protocol, where industrialized countries commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. (1995).
* Paris Agreement (2015)[[3]](#footnote-3)

1. **Other international compromises**

* United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Declaration) and its "Agenda 21" (1992).
* Beijing Platform for Action, specifically its K objective, on ensuring the participation of women in decision-making related to the environment and strengthening / establishing mechanisms at all levels to assess the impact of environmental and development policies on women) (1995).
* Plan of Implementation of the Decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002).
* Manila Declaration for Global Action on Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Reduction (2008).
* Beijing Global Action Agenda on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction (2009)
* Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
* 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 5 -on gender equality and empowerment of women- and SDG13 -on the adoption of urgent measures to mitigate climate change and its effects.
* Lima Work Program of COP 21. Mexico fostered the inclusion of gender perspective in that Program.

**National framework**

1. **Normative framework**

* The Mexican Constitution has various provisions on gender and climate change, for example: respect for human rights in Article 1; the principle of equality between women and men in article 4; and, the human right to a healthy environment for the development and well-being of the person in article 4.
* The main objective of the General Law on Climate Change is to guarantee the right to a healthy environment and establish the concurrence of faculties of the federation, federal entities and municipalities in the preparation and application of public policies for adaptation to climate change. One of the important principles of the law -established in art. 26- is gender equality and the empowerment of women.
* The General Law of Ecological Equilibrium and Environmental Protection regulates the provisions of the Mexican Constitution that refer to the preservation and restoration of the ecological balance and the protection of the environment. With regard to the definition of environmental policy principles, the Law establishes –in its Article 15, section XV- the importance of contemplating the participation of women in the protection, preservation and sustainable use of natural resources and in the developing.
* The General Law on the Rights of Girls, Boys and Adolescents - in its article 43 – establishes that children have the right to live in a healthy and sustainable environment, and in conditions that allow their development, well-being, healthy and harmonious growth, both physical and mental, material, spiritual, ethical, cultural and social.

1. **Programmatic framework**

* The Special Climate Change Program is an instrument of the General Law on Climate Change. From 2014 to 2018, the Program integrated lines of action on gender and climate change with cross-cutting strategies of the National Program for Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination against Women (PROIGUADAD, in Spanish) 2013-2018, both from the federal government.

In both instruments, the following topics are considered: disaster risk reduction; productive sectors; access to basic services, housing and safe environments; training; environment and biodiversity; financial instruments and incorporation and harmonization of gender perspective in national and international policy.

This administration is committed to following these actions.

1. **Accountability mechanisms**

* One of the most important mechanisms of accountability is the tracking Platform of PROIGUALDAD that is coordinated by the National Institute of Women and also the follow-up tables to the PROIGUALDAD actions.

1. **Other actions**

* In the Sixth National Communication and Second Biennial Update Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, our country recognized that women are powerful agents of change that must be present and that play a leading role in the projects of mitigation and in decision making and the search for solutions linked to climate change. [[4]](#footnote-4)
* The Sixth National Communication specifies particular projects that had, as final recipients, women and girls and other general projects that contemplated the gender perspective, for example:
* The Project "Adaptation to climate change and solidary economy, a way towards the economic empowerment of indigenous women of Oaxaca". Through the PROEQUIDAD Program, this initiative gives financial support to civil society for the development of projects that foster equal opportunities and the advancement of women in Mexico.
* The Project "Adaptation of Coastal Wetlands of the Gulf of Mexico to the impacts of climate change", triggered processes of effective social participation to promote equality between women and men in the project; the empowerment of women and the creation of new leaderships were promoted; participatory evaluations with a gender approach were developed; among others.
* The Project "Conservation of Coastal Basins in the context of Climate Change" developed: indicators of gender and statistical information disaggregated by sex; socio-environmental diagnosis with a gender approach; training programs to promote the participation of women in sustainable management and reinforcement of community leaderships with a gender perspective.
* Through the Project "Pilot implementation of rainwater harvesting in the community of El Gato, in Guanajuato, Mexico" women of the community organized on their own, motivated by the need to access the water resource.
  + Also, within the framework of the Sixth National Communication, the National Institute on Ecology and Climate Change (INECC) and the UNDP, organized the "Forum on Gender, Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change: opportunities, lessons learned and challenges".

The main objective of the Forum was to know and disseminate the projects, research and publications that have been carried out from the academy, by civil society organizations and by government institutions in Mexico from 2012 to 2018 on gender and climate change, and identify areas of opportunity in this topic in order to report these advances in the Sixth National Communication of Mexico to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). [[5]](#footnote-5)

* + Some other actions and good practices will be highlighted in question 5.

1. **Please share a summary of any relevant data that captures how the adverse effects of climate change have affected women and girls, taking into account multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.**

Mexican foreign policy has highlighted the importance of combating multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, with the conviction that the impacts of various problematics, such as climate change, are not the same for women and men, nor for women in their diversity.

The adverse effects of climate change affect mainly vulnerable populations, for example, the increase of tropical storms and hurricanes, results in the loss of crops, of homes and even the spread of diseases, being in this last case, where women and girls are more vulnerable, due to the lack of access to health, in particular, to sexual and reproductive health.

In this regard, in the recent Climate Summit-COP24, Mexico highlighted that the fight against poverty is one of the highest priorities of the Mexican government, which entails to a better response to climate change.

1. **Please describe mechanisms and tools, which can be used to measure and monitor the impacts of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls.**

Mexico has two tools or geographic instruments for the integration and consultation of information about phenomena generated in the Mexican territory, in order to elaborate risk scenarios, the analysis of the population vulnerable and as a support for risk and territory management:

* + National Atlas of Risks: It seeks to guarantee that female heads of household and the population with indigenous language have information about risks that may affect them, their intensity and how to prevent and react to them.
  + National Atlas of Vulnerability to Climate Change: The data allow to evaluate the different levels of current and future vulnerability of the communities, providing exposure indexes, sensitivity and adaptability of the selected areas, as well as the level of vulnerability in different media, such as economic, social and biophysical resources.

Both have gender indicators for the different scenarios that could be presented.

On the other hand, there is the Early Warning System, which is composed of terrestrial, marine, air and space measurement and monitoring instruments that -organized harmonically with the National Civil Protection System- can warn the population, in an expeditious manner, through electronic means of telecommunication, on their situation of vulnerability and risk to extreme hydrometeorological phenomena related to climate change.

1. **Please identify and share examples of good practices and challenges in the promotion, protection, and 'fulfilment of the human rights of women and girls in the context of the adverse effects of climate change. Please include examples that highlight multilateral cooperation, gender mainstreaming, gender responsive approaches, and the full, meaningful and effective participation of women and girls in relevant decision-making processes.**
2. **Good practices**

* In multilateral fora, such as the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, Mexico has promoted the inclusion of the gender perspective in different initiatives. Likewise, the incorporation of this perspective on climate change has been promoted, for example: the establishment of the Lima Gender Work Program 2014-2016 and the recognition of the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Paris Agreement.
* The National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) has promoted the incorporation of the gender perspective to make visible the work of women in the conservation and sustainable use of forest areas, as well as promoting greater access to land ownership and the benefits that these actions imply in mitigating the negative impacts of climate change.

In addition, INMUJERES has signed collaboration agreements with the National Coordination of Civil Protection (CNPC) and the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC) to mainstream the gender perspective in the public policies they develop in the field of climate change, and in prevention protocols.

* In this framework, INMUJERES and the CNPC developed, in 2016, the Resilient Women Project that sought to contribute to the empowerment of women and to combat of natural, making visible their importance as promoters of sustainable development within their families and communities, through targeted actions to the consolidation of social, economic and risk management capacities.
* The INECC has developed pilot projects that promote the gender perspective and represent good practices in the adaptation to climate change.
* Through the Adaptation Project of Coastal Wetlands of the Gulf of Mexico -mentioned in question 2- some actions were taken to strengthen the gender perspective:
* Incorporation of the gender perspective in projects to implement adaptation actions in communities of the lagoon of Alvarado, Veracruz; of the Carmen-Pajonal-Machona lagoon system, Tabasco; and, in Sian Ka'an, Quintana Roo.
* Training and participation of women in the design, construction and use of palafitos in communities of Tabasco.
* Training and participation of women in the operation of a rainwater collection system in communities of Tabasco.
* Training and participation of women in reforestation actions of mangrove and riparian habitat in Veracruz and Tabasco.
* Training and participation of women in the operation of Management Units for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wildlife (UMA) in communities of Veracruz and Tabasco.
* Participation of women in diagnostic workshops and on the social perception of risk in communities of Veracruz, Tabasco and Sian Ka'an.
* In 2016, the National Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction presented how women and men are affected differently and the importance of strengthening women's capacities and their inclusion in decision-making bodies.
* Bilateral cooperation projects have also been developed to trigger the participation of women in areas that contribute to the mitigation of climate change. In Mexico, the German Cooperation Agency has deployed several international cooperation projects with a gender perspective in order to foster women's participation in the fields of renewable energies and energy efficiency, such as the Sustainable Energy Program to promote gender equality or the creation of the Women Network in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

1. **Challenges**

One of the most important challenges in the mainstreaming of gender perspective in the climate change agenda is the generation of statistical information, at various scales of analysis, on sociodemographic characteristics disaggregated by sex and covering different topics related to climate change (dynamic of relationships in households; use of time; use, access and control of natural resources; access to economic resources, education, health; spaces for participation in decision-making, etc.)

This information will impact on the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies on climate change. Also, it is necessary to make a compilation of experiences from the local perspective that allow us to have a greater detail of the gender roles and their relationship with climate change.

Despite the challenges, there are significant bases in the matter. Mexico is a regional leader in the production of disaggregated indicator data, since it has a System of Gender Indicators in which the basic demographic components are considered: population, fertility, mortality and migration; it also presents disaggregated information on general topics such as health, education, work, decision-making, indigenous populations, violence and time use.

International cooperation initiatives have also been developed. In September 2018, the Global Center of Excellence on Statistics with a Gender Perspective (CoE) was installed; it is coordinated by UN Women, INMUJERES and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

Some of the objectives of the CoE are: the strengthening of technical capacities in the matter at a global, regional and national level for the compliance and monitoring of the SDGs and the mainstreaming of the gender indicators in them; improving institutional frameworks related to statistical processes for the generation, analysis and use of data on gender equality and women's empowerment; developing training programs on gender statistics for the main actors in the field; promoting the production, management and innovation of knowledge in gender statistics; facilitating South-South, horizontal and triangular cooperation of statistical systems with a gender perspective.

1. **Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to support efforts to integrate a gender-responsive approach into climate action at the local, national, regional and international levels for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women and girls**

In order to combat climate change, it is important to accomplish with the different regulatory instruments at national, regional and international levels; also, the dissemination, at the state level, of the General Recommendations of Committees such as CEDAW, specifically the recommendation of climate change and natural disasters, is significant. In Mexico, the participation of the three levels of government involved, directly and indirectly, in the fight against climate change, is fundamental.

In addition to the above mentioned, and for the mainstreaming of gender perspective, it is essential to raise awareness of the adverse effects of climate change and its repercussions, mainly on women and girls, and, consequently, generate participation channels.

1. This right is enshrined in Article 4 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. During the negotiations of Paris Agreement, the Mexican delegation promoted the inclusion of gender perspective in that instrument. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. For more information about the Sixth National Communication, please consult: <http://cambioclimatico.gob.mx:8080/xmlui/handle/publicaciones/117> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. For more information, please consult: <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/documentos/foro-genero-y-cambio-climatico-2018?state=published> y <https://www.gob.mx/inecc/prensa/especialistas-en-materia-de-genero-intercambian-experiencias-para-enfrentar-el-cambio-climatico-en-mexico> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)