

National Community of Practice for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Climate Change



Second Meeting Report

August 9, 2023

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Background and Context

In December 2019, with the support of Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) program, a workshop was organized by the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) facility to discuss the outcome of a gender analysis of key CRGE implementing ministries (conducted by the CRGE facility and the Global Green Growth Initiative (GGGI)) and a [gender and climate change scoping report](#) on Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) CRGE and gender directorates (Conducted by the CRGE facility and CDKN). The findings of both initiatives showed that gender was considered in some sector specific undertakings, however, there was limited information on the climate change and gender nexus.

The contribution of the Ministry of Women, and Social Affairs (MoWSA), and Women, and Social Affairs Directorates (WSADs) in the sector ministries and agencies, was inadequate in improving the integration of gender into climate change actions. This was mainly due to the limited human and financial capacity, and the limited integration of these gender mandated directorates into ministries and agencies for decision-making and planning processes within the respective institutions. This has resulted in limited to no consideration of gender equality issues in climate change actions.

The CDKN supported [workshop](#) discussed the findings as well as the recommendations made by the two analyses and defined a way forward. One of the key recommendations of the workshop was the establishment of a community of practice (CoP) on gender and climate change with the main objective of coordinating learning between stakeholders and sustaining the work that is being carried out by different actors. In December 2020, exactly a year after the first workshop, the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Climate Change (CC) COP was established following a 2-day workshop with one of its main aims being to provide a training of trainers on gender and climate change.

CRGE program coordinators and gender focal points who were expected to mainstream gender equality considerations and provide training in their respective institutions to support gender and climate change initiatives at different levels were invited to participate in the workshop. The terms of reference of the COP were agreed to be discussed in the first COP meeting.

On April 26, 2021, the **first meeting** of the COP was held with technical support from the CRGE Facility and financial support from GGGI and CDKN. The meeting was attended by 37 (of which 14 were women) gender experts, and others who are engaged in climate change and development. Participants were from key CRGE implementing ministries' WSADs, regional women and social affairs bureaus and relevant staff from the EPA. In this meeting the COP ToR was discussed and a work plan for 2021/22 was

developed. It was also agreed that MoF and EPA will Co-Chair the CoP while the CRGE facility will be the secretariat and the MoWSA will have oversight of the CoP.

However, due to various challenges including restructuring in Ministries and the lack of resources, the COP was not able to carry out its work plan, and organize its quarterly meetings as planned.

In 2023, CDKN's new program and GGGI partnered again to support the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) to re-engage the COP and identify ways to ensure its sustainability. Towards this, the second meeting of the COP was held on August 9, 2023 in the Pyramid Hotel, Bishoftu, Ethiopia. The meeting was [attended by forty three \(43\) members](#) out of which twenty two (22) were female.

Objectives

The second meeting aimed at revitalizing the COP through renewed discussions of its role, membership and sustainability. The specific objectives of the meeting included:

- Refreshing on previous activities and commitments;
- Revising / updating the COP's Terms of Reference (TOR);
- Revising / updating a one-year work plan of the COP;
- Sharing information on planned capacity strengthening trainings.

Introduction and Opening

The meeting started with an introduction of the program by Medhin Fissha, National Adaptation Planning Project Lead, GGGI. She then led a round of introductions by the participants SouthSouthNorth Director, Robi Redda, made the welcoming remark.



Robi Redda in his remark, extended a warm welcome to all the participants and highlighted the commitment of SSN and its Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) program to support the Government of Ethiopia in delivering a gender responsive climate action. He indicated that the program has been engaged in the understanding and

implementation of the gender and climate change nexus since 2019 and had jointly supported the first COP meeting with GGGI in 2021. He indicated that both SSN and GGGI through their respective programs will continue supporting the COP in different capacities. Wishing everyone a good deliberation he invited H.E Tirumar Abate, State Minister, MoPD to deliver her opening speech.



H.E Tirumar Abate indicated that the COP was established to ensure the climate change initiatives of Ethiopia are gender responsive. She emphasized that the COP members need to have the knowledge and capacity to deliver this assignment. Citing the financial and coordination challenges the COP faced in the previous years, she implored the members to develop a strategy

that will ensure its sustainability. She closed her statement by reaffirming the commitment of MoPD as the climate change coordinating body and its partners, GGGI and SSN, to support the COP in realizing its goal.

Community of Practice for Gender in Climate Change – Terms of Reference and Annual Work Plan

Presentation

Following the opening remark, a summary of the updated COP’s Terms of Reference (Annex 1) and the previously developed 2021/2022 annual work plan (Annex 2) were presented by Medhin Fissaha and Shalom Gebredingel, Chief of Staff, MoPD, respectively.

Group Deliberation



The second session of the program included breakout groups where each section of the ToR and annual work plan were discussed. The groups were asked to discuss the documents thoroughly, taking into consideration the importance of having

deliverable actions as well as sustainability of the CoP. The groups then presented their discussion outcomes to the panel.

The **summary of key recommendations** proposed by the groups are presented below.

Terms of Reference

Key points agreed to be incorporated into the ToR

I. Background

- The background section lacks the climate change commitments, achievements and challenges and focuses mainly on gender. Therefore, it is recommended to include one paragraph to capture these.



II. Objective:

- Replace inform with engage in the first pillar
- Split advocacy and resource mobilization (as advocacy and lobbying and resource mobilization) into two pillars.
- Under advocacy important to use CSOs and other non-state actor members to advocate to the mass
- Have knowledge management as a subset of monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting pillar.

III. Structure and Composition

- MoPD and Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MOWSA) to be Co-Chairs.
- The Climate Change Unit under the Climate Change and Demography division in MoPD with technical support from GGGI and SSN to serve as the Secretariat.
- Since some ministries do not have CRGE Units, environment units should also be included.
- Academia should be included.

- Examples of development partners should be indicated.
- Limited participation of non-governmental actors in this meeting indicates there is a need to approach key actors and share information clearly to encourage their participation in the future.

IV. **Monitoring, Evaluation, learning and reporting**

- Lessons and results may be made accessible through digital platforms possibly using websites of co-chairs and other member institutions.

The [ToR](#) is updated based on these inputs from participants.

Annual Work plan 2023/24

Key revision points agreed to be incorporated into the 2023/24 work plan

- **Activity 1. Engage Strategic Decision Makers**

Sub-activity 1.1. Gender responsive policy analysis and production of policy brief

It is difficult to carry out the activity in all the sectors. Therefore, it should be initiated in prioritized three sectors and supported by the sectors' climate and/or gender units. The work will need a consultant to work closely with the sectors and the secretariat.

Sub-activity 1.2 Finalize COP ToR

This should be removed from the annual plan

- **Activity 2. Planning a harmonized and aligned investment programming, CD and Implementation**

Sub-activity 2.2 Organize joint field visit

This should be removed from this activity and be under M&E

Sub-activity 2.3 Carry out capacity needs assessment and develop a CD plan

This will require a consultant to work along with the sectors and the secretariat.

Sub-activity 2.4 Implement activities on the CD plan

This should be postponed to the following year

Sub-activity 2.5 Identify, document and disseminate indigenous knowledge

This should be removed as it is beyond the scope of the CoP

- **Activity 3. Advocacy and Lobbying**

Sub-activity 3.3 Chair and secretariat to meet quarterly

Sub-activity 3.4 CoP members to meet three times a year

- **Activity 4. Resource Mobilization**

Sub-activity 4.1 Develop resource mobilization strategy

This requires a consultant to work with sectors and the secretariat

Sub-activity 4.2 Develop proposal to support CoP activities

This requires a consultant to work with sectors and the secretariat

- **Activity 5. Monitoring, Reporting and Knowledge Management**

Sub-activity 5.1 Review M&E guideline

This should be done for one prioritized ministry initially

Sub-activity 5.2 biannual review meetings

Joint field visit missions will need donor support

It was suggested to include the opportunities/strengths and Threats/weaknesses identified.

The secretariat took the responsibilities of updating and compiling the ToR and the work plan as per the recommendations and sharing it with the participants for their final endorsement.

Post meeting feedback on possible activities for the CoP included: assessment of gender policies in light of issues of climate vulnerabilities; possibility of considering regional level representation and review of Ethiopian policies vis-à-vis their alignment with international gender and CC policies. These will be discussed in subsequent meetings and incorporated as agreed.

The [work plan](#) is updated based on these inputs from participants.

GESI and CC capacity strengthening training

Arsema Andargachew, CDKN Ethiopia, program manager, briefed the participants on upcoming GESI and CC training of trainers that will be organized by MoPD, SSN and GGGI. The training is planned based on the CoP's 2021/2022 workplan which identified

capacity strengthening needs. The training will use the CDKN GESI and CC training module for the most part and will be held for two days in November/December. She provided the link where the training materials are available should anyone would like to have a look and use them in their day-to-day work.

Further as this module will regularly be updated when new data and information are available, she invited participants to share any programs/projects that can potentially be featured as a case study and/or documentary for future versions. She also emphasized the need to make sure each sector identifies the individuals who will be members of the CoP and ensure they attend regularly.

Closing

Shalom Gebredingel, Chief of Staff, MoPD closed the meeting. In her remark she noted that it has been a fruitful deliberation and that the CoP now has a clearer understanding



of its roles and responsibilities as well as its planned activities for the coming year. She stressed that the next important step is now to ensure we will implement what we have planned and for this, each individual member and the institution they represent has the responsibility to play their parts. She indicated that MoPD is ready to support the CoP and will do its part to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the CoP. Finally, she officially closed the meeting by thanking the participants for their contribution and the partners for their technical and financial support to materialize

this meeting.