

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



**First Meeting Report**

**April 26, 2021**

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## Background and Context

Gender equality is increasingly being recognized as a critical development issue in Ethiopia. All federal ministries including the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC) are mandated to ensure that women benefit from programs, projects and policies through a gender affairs directorate. Since the launching of its Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy in 2011, the Federal Government of Ethiopia has been striving to direct its development towards a gender responsive climate compatible direction and has committed to gender equality, as outlined in the National Action Plan for Gender Equality (NAP-GE) and the National Development Plan (NDP). Further, as a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Ethiopia is working towards gender responsive climate action, in line with the gender action plan agreed in 2017.

Reaffirming the fundamental need for a gender responsive and inclusive approach, the CRGE Facility in collaboration with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) as delivery partner is implementing a Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Project. The project, among others, has integrated strong focus on developing the capacity of CRGE executive agencies in the area of identifying, integrating and implementing relevant gender equality issues in their climate actions.

Similarly, the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) programme of SouthSouthNorth (SSN), has been working with the CRGE Facility on Gender and Climate Change (CC) capacity building initiatives since 2019.

The CRGE Facility, with financial support from GGGI had commissioned a gender analysis which looked at the CRGE unit and the Women, Children and Youth Directorate (WCYD) of key CRGE implementing ministries in 2018. In 2019, the Facility developed its gender equality strategy, and with CDKN support carried out a gender and CC gap assessment on MOF and EFCCC's CRGE and gender directorates.

In December 2019, with the support of CDKN, a workshop was organized to discuss the outcome of both the analysis and the assessment with key stakeholders. 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, Children and Youth (MoWCY), and Women, Children and Youth Directorates (WCYDs) in the sector ministries and agencies, was inadequate in improving the integration of gender into climate change actions. This is mainly due to the limited human and financial capacity, and the limited integration of these gender mandated directorates in ministries and agencies into the decision-making and planning processes of the respective

institution that has resulted in limited to no consideration of gender equality issues in climate change actions.

The 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 on gender in climate change with the main objective of coordinating learning between stakeholders and sustaining the work that is being carried out by different actors.

Following the above recommendation, the Facility organized a two-day workshop to establish the gender and CC COP and provide a training of trainers on Gender and CC in December 2020. The training was given to 20 participants that came from all CRGE sectors, from federal and regional levels as well as the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth. CRGE program coordinators and gender focal points who are expected to mainstream gender equality considerations and provide trainings in their respective institution to support gender and climate change initiatives at different levels were invited to participate in the workshop. It was agreed that the WADs in MOF and EFCCC as per their mandate will serve as the co-chairs of the COP, while MOWCY will provide the necessary guidance. The terms of reference of the COP were agreed to be discussed in the first COP meeting.

To this end, EFCCC and MOF, with technical support from the CRGE Facility and financial support from GGGI and CDKN organized the first meeting of gender and climate change community of practice on April 26, 2021. The meeting was attended by 37 gender experts, and those who engaged in climate change (14 women) from key CRGE implementing ministries' WCYDs, regional women, Children and Youth bureaus and relevant staff from the EFCCC.

## Objectives

The first meeting was aimed at bringing together key stakeholders to deliberate on the draft terms of reference of the COP which includes its objectives, pillars and accountability structure. The specific objectives include:

- Finalize the COP's Terms of Reference (TOR);
- Develop a one-year work plan of the community of practise;
- Refresh on concepts and principles of gender responsive socially inclusive approaches; and
- Share information on available resources and demonstrate through an interactive game.

## **Introduction and Opening**

The meeting began with a program introduction by Dr. Yigremachew Seyoum, Project Management and Monitoring Consultant of the readiness project, GGGI. He welcomed all participants and went through the agenda of the day. In his introduction, Dr. Yigremachew underscored the need for active participation of everyone, as this was the day that they could make the COP relevant to them. He also led a round of introductions by the participants and invited Mr. Negus Lemma; the Director General of Climate Change and Biodiversity Sector of EFCCC for his opening remark.

Mr. Negus in his opening remark, extended a warm welcome to all participants and highlighted the Ethiopian Government's commitments on gender in general and gender in climate change actions in particular, and indicated some of the initiatives that were carried out by his institution to that end. One of the efforts mentioned by the Director General was the gender analysis of Ethiopia's NAP (July 2019) carried out by the CRGE and NAP Coordinating Office in the EFCCC which aimed to identify gaps and opportunities and come up with recommendations on how best gender issues can be mainstreamed into the NAP. He also highly appreciated the support EFCCC has been receiving from partners such as SSN/CDKN and GGGI, and he officially opened the meeting.

This was followed by a welcoming remark by Mr. Robi Redda, SSN Director and CDKN Ethiopia Lead. In his welcoming remark Mr. Robi underscored the rationale behind establishing the COP. He mentioned the review the CRGE Facility, with CDKN support, commissioned to assess how effectively government bodies in Ethiopia are addressing gender issues in their climate change activities; and how the findings of the review clearly depicted the need to strengthen the understanding and implementation of the nexus between gender and CC actions. He also confirmed the commitment of SSN to support government's effort on this front.

## **Community of Practice for Gender in Climate Change-The Roadmap**

The second session of the day started by listening to messages from the CoP's co-chairs followed by presentations on why gender matters and available gender and CC resources that can be used by the CoP members. These led the way for the main discussion on the details of the COP's draft Terms of Reference (TOR), provide input, endorse it, and finally develop its work plan for the next one year.

## Messages from the Co-Chairs

Mrs. Abeba Mecha, the director of WCYD at the EFCCC shared the summary of EFCCC's gender equality efforts. In her presentation, she included best practices which demonstrated how the mainstreaming of gender equality in the works of EFCCC impacted the lives of women.

This was followed by a brief remark by Mrs. Tiblese Teka, WCYD director of MoF. In her remark, Mrs. Tiblese indicated the fact that despite being a global problem, impacts of climate change significantly differs across regions, countries, communities, and households. This is due to the different degree of sensitivity to harmful effects of climate change and the differentiated access to resources and capacity to adapt. She also emphasized the need to design and implement multisectoral initiatives for mitigation and adaptation climate actions to bear fruits which will be equitably shared by all. Mrs. Tiblese underlined the importance of establishing a functional COP to enhance and coordinate the mainstreaming of gender equality issues in the climate change actions through documenting and disseminating information, best practices, tools, and knowledge.

## Why gender matters? Highlight on the Nexus between Gender and Climate Change

Mrs. Haregewien Admassu, an individual gender equality consultant, made a presentation on the rationale behind thinking about gender equality in relation to CC. She indicated that gender emerges as an important issue in climate change discussions following the observation that the effects of climate change are not equally experienced by different groups of society such as men and women. This is because non-climate factors such as social inequality and marginalization not only influence the causes of climate change but also influence people's vulnerability. Women are more vulnerable to effects of climate changes because, often, women are poorer, receive less education, and are typically not involved in political and household decision making processes that affect their lives. Their work is more directly related to the environment as their main activities include fetching water and bringing wood for household purposes. By now, the inextricable linkage between gender and climate change has gain growing acknowledgement despite the limited success in making the response gender responsive. She also underscored, the fact that women should not be depicted in this process as vulnerable only, rather their possible contribution towards climate change action should be emphasized. Women have unique knowledge and skills related to their environment as they play a key role in agriculture as food producers and providers. She underlined the need for climate change practitioners to use women's knowledge of natural resources and environment to help bring about a more effective and sustainable response to climate change.

## Terms of Reference for the COP

The next part of the session was introduced by Mrs. Medhin Fissaha, the gender and safeguards consultant at the CRGE Facility (MOF). She made a presentation on the key sections of the COP's TOR (see annex 1).

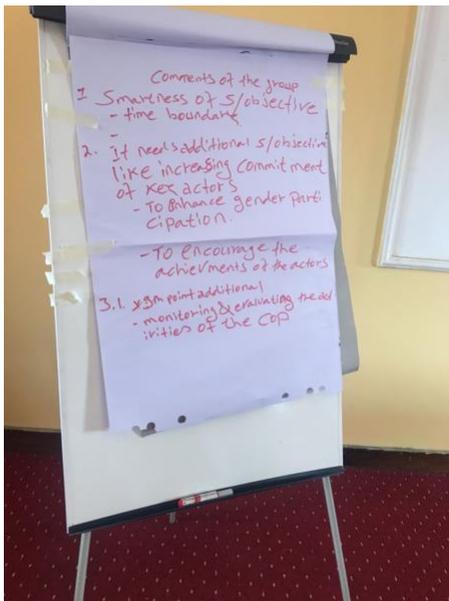


During her presentation, she also walked the participants through the training materials developed by CDKN on gender and climate change and demonstrated how they could access and use it by tailoring it to their context. She indicated that the training materials can be used by all members and partners working in this area. It can easily be downloaded from the CDKN website - [https://cdkn.org/resource/gender-](https://cdkn.org/resource/gender-training-pack-for-ethiopian-practitioners/?loclang=en_gb)

[training-pack-for-ethiopian-practitioners/?loclang=en\\_gb](https://cdkn.org/resource/gender-training-pack-for-ethiopian-practitioners/?loclang=en_gb)

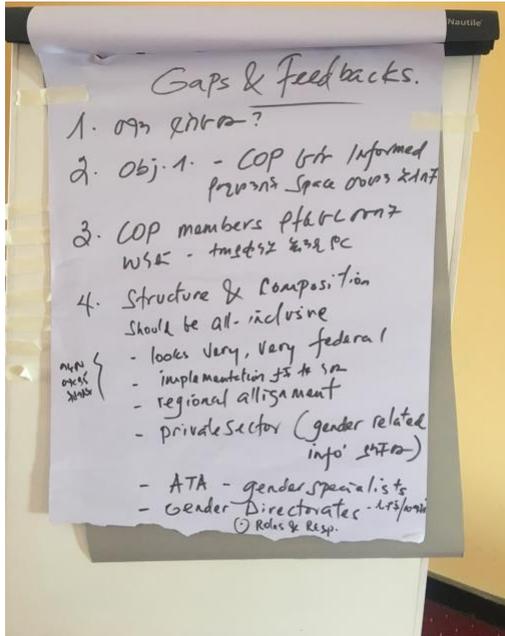
Upon the completion of her presentation, the participants were divided into 6 groups and tasked to discuss on the draft TOR and present their input to the plenary. The summary of key additions in the different sections, proposed by the different groups is presented as follows:

### I. Objective:



- The objective of the COP should be expanded to include its contribution to reduce the vulnerability of women to climate change related challenges.
- The pillars (the Specific Objectives) should include “improve access to information by women, and to document and disseminate indigenous knowledge”.
- Given the challenge in terms of accessing reliable gender and climate related data, the COP should aim to contribute towards collecting and disseminating such data to its members.

## II. Membership:



- The TOR should be clear in terms of who from the CRGE implementing ministries would be members of the COP-CRGE unit or WAD or both?
- Include Private sectors, Community Based Organizations and ATA as members.
- The COP should include regional stakeholders.

## III. Roles and Responsibilities:

- The responsibility of agenda setting should not be solely given to the Co-chairs. It should be a participatory process in which all members should have a stake.
- Add a role on ensuring the proper utilization of resources into the roles and responsibilities of the co-chairs.
- Resource mobilization should be carried out by all members not only by the secretariat.

## IV. Sustainability and Ownership:

- Members of the COP should sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance ownership as well as engagement of the management of member institutions.

Mrs. Medhin appreciated the input and assured the participants that the TOR will be revised taking input which fits within the mandate of the COP as well as practicality given the COP is still at its initial stage. She also provided response to the participants queries and brought everyone to the same level of understanding on the objective of the COP.

Accordingly, it was discussed that it would not align with the rationale as well as the scope of the COP establishment to expand the COP's objective to include results at community level

such as reducing the vulnerability of women to climate change related challenges and/or improving access to information by women, and to document and disseminate indigenous knowledge. Similarly, while the relevance of including regional level stakeholders as members of the COP was underscored, it was agreed not to pursue it at this point given its current capacity. It was also decided to explore different modalities to reach the regional level stakeholders in the coming COP meetings. Furthermore, the possibility of signing of MoU vis a vis the COP's mandate was discussed and agreed to further explore its practicality in the long run. In the meantime, the COP annual workplan will include different initiatives which aim to engage member institutions leadership.

### Development of a one-year action plan



Following agreement on the COP's TOR, participants were divided into three groups and drafted key activities under the four pillars for the next one year. The draft work plan of each group was presented, discussed, and agreed. The key highlight of the activities proposed is presented below (please refer to annex 2 for detail).

- Undertake a gender responsive policy analysis and present the analysis in the form of a policy brief.
- Carry out Stakeholder as well as CRGE focused project Mapping both at federal and regional level.
- Identify, document, and disseminate best practices in addressing gender equality in CC actions.
- Conduct capacity needs assessment (gender audit) of CRGE unit of the sector ministries.
- Develop and submit proposals to potential donors to support capacity development activities included in the work plan.
- Carry out biannual review meetings.

The secretariat took the responsibilities of compiling the workplan and sharing it with the participants for their final endorsement. It was agreed that since the identified activities may be too many to address in the first year, they will be prioritized in the next COP meeting.

## The Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) bingo game

The final session was facilitated by the CRGE Facility in collaboration with CDKN. The focus of the session was to introduce participants to an innovative interactive Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Bingo game. This game was developed by CDKN as part of the training pack on gender and socially inclusive climate compatible development. In the training, the game was used to spark discussion and reflection of practitioners on measures that a project manager for a climate project/programme would have the authority to take, and which are largely voluntary or discretionary in a project context. After the facilitator went through the instructions, groups were formed. During the game two groups shouted “bingo” simultaneously which sparked curiosity by other participants who requested them to read out their cards and their given explanations. The game was adapted to COVID-19 precautionary measures.

## Closing

Mrs. Tiblese gave a closing remark on behalf of the COP’s co-chairs. In her message, she appreciated the participation of the attendees and urged all that their as well as their institutions’ continued commitment is very key in making the COP functional.

Ms. Arsema Andargatchew, SSN/CDKN, expressed the importance of the sustainability of the COP and why it was essential to have this meeting to agree on the terms and activities of the COP. She stated that CDKN has been engaged with the CRGE Facility in pushing the gender and CC agenda since 2019 and hope to continue working closely.

Mr. Zerihun Estifanos, CRGE Facility appreciated the support of GGGI and CDKN for the establishment of the CoP and organizing its first meeting contributing towards enhanced gender responsive climate action. He emphasized the CRGE Facility’s commitment for rendering secretariate role to the CoP and empowering the co- chairs to own the initiative for ensuring its sustainability.

The meeting was officially closed by Mr. Mohammed Andoshe, Director of Climate Change Planning Implementation and Coordination Directorate, EFCCC. Mr. Mohammed noted the fact that the commission has been implementing different initiatives to address the issue of gender equality, but gaps still remain. He also expressed his hope that the COP will get stronger and contribute towards EFCCC’s and other CRGE implementing agencies’ efforts to address gender and social inclusion issues. Finally, he officially closed the meeting by thanking the participants for their contribution; and the partners for their technical and financial support to materialize this initiative.

## Annexes

### **Annex 1: Terms of Reference for a National Community of Practice for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in Climate Change (CC)**



Final Cop ToR.doc

### **Annex 2: Gender in Climate Change Action Community of Practice Workplan (2021/2022)**



Final COP Year One  
Workplan.docx

### **Annex 3: Meeting Agenda of the Community of Practice (COP) for Gender Equality in Climate Change (CC)**



Final Agenda-first  
COP meeting .docx

### **Annex 4: Participants, first meeting of Gender and Climate change Community of Practice Apr 26, 2021**



Attendance.docx