

From Assessment to Action

Options for Parties Preparing
Submissions under Activity A.3.9 of the
Belém Gender Action Plan

This options paper was prepared by an informal group of experts engaged in implementation of the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan (GAP) including the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), Kaschak Institute for Social Justice for Women and Girls, World Resources Institute, UNSRID, and other key stakeholders. It does not represent official guidance from the UNFCCC. Please contact claudia@wedo.org for more information.

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Purpose of the note

This note is intended to provide options that may support Parties in preparing submissions under Deliverable A.3.9 of the Belém Gender Action Plan ([Decision 7/CP.30](#)). Deliverable A.3.9 invites Parties to **submit findings from national assessments of relevant issues, including, as appropriate, health, violence against women and girls, and care work in the context of gender and climate change**. Submissions are due in **March 2027**. They are expected to inform a dialogue at COP 32 and ongoing workshops at the international and regional levels.

The purpose of this note is not to create a fixed or mandatory template. Rather, it offers practical options on what Parties may wish to include, how they can draw on existing evidence, and what steps they can take to generate additional inputs where needed.

***A strong submission does not need to be exhaustive.** It should help identify what is already known, what evidence exists, what gaps remain, and how findings can inform national policy, financing, implementation, and future work under the Belém Gender Action Plan.*

1. What is Deliverable A.3.9?

Deliverable A.3.9 sits under the broader GAP activity to strengthen the evidence base and understanding of the differentiated impacts and opportunities of climate change and climate action on women, especially Indigenous women and women from local communities, and their role as agents of change, as well as the role of men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and strategic allies in achieving gender equality (A.3).

Under Deliverable A.3.9, Parties are invited to submit findings from national assessments of relevant issues, such as, as appropriate, one or more of these three themes:

Health

in the context of
gender and climate
change

**Violence against
women and girls**

in the context of
gender and climate
change

Care work

in the context of
gender and climate
change

Parties may choose to address one, all three, or other relevant themes, depending on national context, available evidence, policy priorities, and institutional capacity.

2. Why this submission matters

The A.3.9 submission process is one of the earliest major deliverables of the Belém Gender Action Plan. It creates an important opportunity to ensure that future implementation is grounded in evidence, national realities, and the lived experiences of communities most affected by climate change.

Submissions can help:

→ build a stronger evidence base
on gender and climate change

→ shape the COP 32 dialogue on
submission findings (A.3.10)

→ inform international and regional workshops on the findings (A.3.11)

→ inform future dialogues, technical support, and implementation priorities under the GAP

→ identify national data gaps and capacity needs

→ strengthen coordination between ministries, statistical offices, civil society, and researchers

→ connect evidence to climate policy, finance, health, and social protection systems

→ inform future dialogues, technical support, and implementation priorities under the GAP

This is not only a reporting exercise. It is an opportunity to move from commitments to implementation. Strong submissions can help ensure that the GAP is translated into national policy, financing, programming, and accountability.

3. What can Parties submit?

It is each Party's prerogative to identify the information they would like to submit in a manner that reflects their national context and available evidence. Submissions may draw on existing data, new consultations, research, policy reviews, civil society inputs, local and Indigenous knowledge, or rapid assessments.

Parties may wish to include:

Statistics - existing national statistics, ideally disaggregated by sex, age, disability, income, geography, ethnicity, Indigenous identity, or migration status

Assessments - findings from national climate, gender, health, social protection, disaster risk reduction, labor, care, human rights, or development assessments

Policy documents - evidence from NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDs, national gender and climate action plans, health adaptation plans, DRR and social protection strategies, care policies, or national development plans

Institutional evidence - findings from statistical offices, ministries, academic institutions, public health bodies, human rights institutions, or research organizations

Civil society evidence - from women's rights organizations, Indigenous women's organizations, feminist movements, women environmental defenders, youth, disability rights, LGBTQI+, trade unions, care worker, and community-based organizations

Case studies - showing how climate impacts affect health, safety, livelihoods, unpaid and paid care work, and access to essential services

Policy and program examples - national or local policies, programs, or financing approaches responding to these impacts

Gaps and limitations - identified evidence gaps, data limitations, and recommendations for future research, capacity-building, finance, and implementation - transparency here is itself a useful contribution to the GAP

4. How can Parties prepare a submission?

Parties can begin by using information that already exists. In many countries, relevant evidence may already be available but spread across different ministries, institutions, sectors, and civil society networks. The immediate task is often not to start from zero, but to bring evidence together and identify how it can inform climate policy and implementation.

Below are outlined some possible steps for preparing a submission.

1 Identify a coordination lead or small coordination team

Identifying a lead institution or small coordination team may be helpful to create ownership and clarity on who is guiding the submission process. This could include, for example, the National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point, the Ministry of Environment or Climate Change, the Ministry of Gender or Women's Affairs, or other relevant national bodies, depending on the specific national circumstances. Where possible, the coordination team may consider to include or consult institutions responsible for gender equality, health, statistics, planning, finance, social protection, disaster risk reduction, labor, human rights, and local governments.

2

Convene relevant ministries and institutions

An initial coordination meeting or working session with relevant national actors may be useful to identify what data already exists, where it sits, which institutions hold relevant information, what evidence can be used for the submission, and what additional inputs are needed. Various key national actors can be included in this meeting, for instance:

- Ministry of Environment or Climate Change
- Ministry of Gender, Women, Equality, and/or Social Development
- Ministry of Health
- National Statistics Office
- Ministry of Finance or Planning
- Ministry of Labor or Social Protection
- Disaster risk reduction authorities
- National human rights institutions
- Local government representatives
- Academic and research institutions
- Civil society and community-based organizations

3

Map existing evidence

A rapid mapping of existing evidence across one or more of the three themes can help identify both available evidence and important gaps. This does not need to be a lengthy new research process. A rapid mapping could review:

- national surveys
- administrative data
- health surveillance data
- climate vulnerability assessments
- gender equality assessments
- GBV prevalence or service-use
- time-use surveys
- labor force surveys
- care economy studies
- social protection data
- disaster loss and damage assessments
- local government reports
- civil society reports
- academic studies
- community consultations
- case studies from climate-affected communities

4

Gather additional inputs where useful

Where evidence is limited or fragmented, and as much as possible, it may be helpful to generate additional inputs before preparing the submission. This could include:

- a call for written inputs from civil society, researchers, local governments, community organizations, and affected groups;
- targeted consultations with women's rights organizations, Indigenous women, women from local communities, youth, care workers, health workers, women environmental defenders, and other affected communities;
- short surveys to ministries, local governments, service providers, or
- civil society networks;
- focus groups or listening sessions;
- expert roundtables;
- regional or local consultations;
- rapid evidence reviews prepared by national research institutions; meetings with national statistical offices and key ministries to identify available data and future data needs.

Following best practices recognized internationally, consultations should be accessible, inclusive, and safe, to yield the best possible results. Specifically, data collection relating to violence against women and girls and other sensitive issues should follow survivor-centered and do-no-harm principles, prioritizing safety, confidentiality, informed consent from the survivor, and minimizing the risk of re- traumatization or further harm.

5 Prepare and submit findings

The final submission can be concise and practical. It may, for example, include a short overview of national context, key findings, available evidence, gaps, policy implications, and recommendations. Where relevant, data tables, consultation summaries, case studies, civil society inputs, or references to relevant reports can be included as annexes.

6 Recognizing civil society-generated evidence

Grassroots organizations, women's rights groups, Indigenous women's organizations, youth groups, care worker organizations, disability rights organizations, women environmental defenders, and local community groups, often hold evidence that is not captured in official data systems, but that has proven valuable in complementing and providing more nuance to official data. Such evidence may include:

- community consultations
- case studies
- local monitoring
- participatory research
- service provider data
- testimonies and lived experience
- movement-led research
- documentation of impacts on specific groups or communities
- analysis of policy and implementation gaps

ANNEX

Example – Submission Template

This submission template aims to support Parties in drafting their submissions. Using this template is entirely voluntary. Parties may produce their submission in the format they deem appropriate.

1. Introduction

Briefly explain the purpose of the submission and identify which theme or themes are addressed: health, violence against women and girls, care work, or a combination of these or other themes.

2. National context

Summarize relevant national climate impacts and gender equality context. This may include information on climate hazards, affected regions or communities, gender inequalities, existing national policies, and relevant institutional arrangements.

3. Methodology or evidence base

Explain how the submission was prepared. For example, Parties may describe whether they reviewed existing data, convened ministries, consulted civil society, commissioned research, conducted surveys, or gathered inputs from local governments and communities.

4. Key findings (by theme or themes)

Present findings including:

- available data and evidence;
- groups or communities most affected;
- regional or local differences;
- examples of lived experience or community
- impacts; relevant policies, programs, or financing
- approaches; gaps in evidence or implementation.

5. Policy and implementation implications

Explain what the findings suggest for national climate action and gender equality. This could include implications for adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage, disaster risk reduction, health systems, social protection, care systems, just transition, climate finance, national planning, or local implementation.

6. Data gaps and capacity needs

Identify what evidence is missing, what data is not yet disaggregated, and what support is needed to improve future assessments. This may include technical support, financing, improved data systems, stronger cross-ministerial coordination, or support for civil society participation.

7. Recommendations

Share recommendations for national action and for future GAP implementation. Recommendations may address policy change, financing, institutional coordination, research, data systems, capacity-building, or support needed from international partners.

8. Annexes

Where useful, consider including annexes with data tables, case studies, civil society submissions, consultation summaries, research references, or summaries of relevant policies and programs.