



Submission of views on how to improve the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for the future

MRFCJ welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the policy dialogue on CDM relating to how to improve the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for the future.

The Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice (MRFCJ) is a centre for thought leadership, education and advocacy on the struggle to secure global justice for those many victims of climate change who are usually forgotten - the poor, the disempowered and the marginalised across the world. MRFCJ's work is guided and informed by the [Principles of Climate Justice](#). These include *gender equality and equity* – a principle we believe the CDM could better reflect; and *sharing benefits and burdens equitably*, also of relevance to CDM as we believe those who contribute least to the causes of climate change should benefit equitably from the financial mechanisms put in place to address adaptation and mitigation to climate change.

As part of our work in the arena of gender and climate change, MRFCJ co-hosted a side event with a number of other organisations at the UNFCCC Bonn Intersessional in June 2011, entitled 'Women and Climate Finance – Past Experiences Inspiring Future Funds'. One of the three topics discussed was Gender and CDM. We therefore welcome this opportunity to provide input based on the main findings from this event and subsequent activities.

Opportunities for CDM to deliver for Gender Equality

There is great potential for CDM to benefit women and men, with significant gender benefits. Some CDM projects have greater gender benefits than others, for example, small scale biogas, improved stoves and solar lighting have been found to have positive effects on the lives and well-being of women. However, it is also important to note that there are gender dimensions to all CDM projects.

CDM is not gender-neutral i.e. projects financed under CDM do not affect both sexes equally. Given that women are the primary decision-makers for household energy use, the

distinct energy concerns of women need to be addressed in CDM projects through gender sensitive policies and programmes. Assuming that energy programmes are gender neutral excludes women's needs and fails to capitalise on harnessing the potential contributions of women. It is important that CDM projects take this into consideration so that they generate positive gender impacts that contribute to improved project success. Gender mainstreaming in CDM projects is essential in order to comprehensively address gender equality. This requires consideration of gender at all stages of the project cycle and with the support of all project stakeholders, from the CDM Executive Board to project developers and communities.

Small, community-based projects financed under the CDM provide important opportunities for realising sustainable development. The Programme of Activities (POA) model is facilitating the uptake of small-scale projects and making them feasible from the perspective of developers and buyers. We hope the POA model will enable the scaling up of access to CDM in Least Developed Countries. We encourage the Executive board of the CDM to continue to make amendments to policies and procedures that enable those who have contributed least to climate change to benefit from the transition to a low carbon, green economy.

The gender benefits of CDM projects could be better illustrated and understood by improving data collection and analysis of CDM projects from a gender perspective. CDM projects should provide gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex and age.

Stakeholder participation in CDM projects

Stakeholders in CDM projects include local communities, project developers, Designated National Entities and members of the CDM Executive Board. The participation of women and men in all stages of project from design to implementation and review can increase the social and environmental benefits of CDM. The World Development Report 2012 "Gender Equality and Development" provides evidence of the value of gender equality, stating that it can enhance productivity, improve development outcomes for the next generation, and make institutions more representative.

CDM Executive Board

Decision 36/CP.7 *Improving the participation of women in the representation of Parties in bodies established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or the Kyoto Protocol* invites Parties to give active consideration to the nomination of women for elective posts in any body established under the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol. However, there is a significant gender imbalance in the representation of the CDM Executive Board. Of the ten current members, only one is a woman. This lack of gender balance urgently needs to be addressed. MRFCJ is ready to work with the Executive Board and others to discuss ways and means by which greater gender balance could be achieved.