



| **GCF.10** |

| 10 YEARS OF CLIMATE IMPACT |

GCF REGIONAL DIALOGUE

with EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Colombo, Sri Lanka
14–17 September 2026



GCF REGIONAL DIALOGUE
with EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Gender Action Plan (GAP) 2026–2031

Seblewongel Deneke Negussie

Gender Policy Specialist, Office of the Chief Strategy and Impact Officer

Colombo, Sri Lanka

14–17 September 2026

Agenda

- Overview of the GCF Gender Policy and the Gender Action Plan
- What has changed
- Board Decision B.45/17 — what it asks of partners
- The five priority areas of the GAP
- What partners can expect from us
- Where partners come in
- What changes in practice
- What happens next, and key resources

Overview of GCF Gender Policy and GAP

Gender Policy

- Approved 2015, revised November 2019
- Gender equality is central to climate impact
- Applies across the institution and the portfolio, at national and project level

Responsibilities

Shared accountability across all GCF bodies

Board	Oversight function
Secretariat	Operationalization of the policy
NDA, AEs and delivery partners	Compliance with policy requirements and reporting

Gender Action Plan 2020–2023

The plan being replaced — operationalized across five priority areas



1 · Governance



2 · Competencies and capacity development



3 · Resource allocation, accessibility and budgeting



4 · Operational procedures



5 · Knowledge generation and communication

NDA = national designated authority · AE = accredited entity · DAE = direct access entity

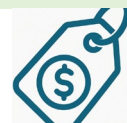
What has changed

What the independent evaluation found

Gender requirements unclear and unevenly resourced for partners



Gender treated mainly as a compliance requirement, not an investment opportunity



Limited evidence of gender outcomes and portfolio level reporting



Capacity uneven among partners and across the Secretariat



Limited access for women's and women-led organizations



What the GAP 2026–2031 does about it

Clearer, better-resourced requirements, with guidance partners can draw on

Active interest in probing the gender lens investing (GLI) space to mobilise capital for women-led enterprise

Gender markers, sex-disaggregated data and outcome verification make results visible

Competency building, knowledge sharing, peer-to-peer learning and a gender advisory group open to partners

GCF Engagement-to-Access Pathway brings women-led organizations into the AE pool and into climate finance

Board Decision B.45/17

1 of 5 decision paragraphs · “Encourages” — an expectation on partners

NDA and AEs encouraged to bring national gender and climate change focal points (NGCCFPs) into GCF processes



Who is encouraged

National designated authorities, and accredited entities in coordination with NDAs



Encouraged to do what

Engage national gender and climate change focal points



Where it applies

Readiness and preparatory support, project preparation support, funding proposals and funded activities

Decision text: “Encourages national designated authorities, and accredited entities in coordination with national designated authorities, to engage national gender and climate change focal points to assess readiness and preparatory support programmes, project preparation support, funding proposals and funded activities, with the aim of ensuring that these assessments actively promote a gender-responsive approach across the GCF portfolio; and”

The five priority areas of the GAP

1 · Governance — leadership, oversight and accountability, at Secretariat level



2 · Competencies and capacity development

Gender skills built across GCF, NDAs and AEs



3 · Resource allocation and budgeting

Adequate, transparent and traceable resourcing



4 · Operational procedures

Gender embedded across the project lifecycle



5 · Knowledge generation & communication

Data and learning shared to scale what works

35 actions sit under these areas — each with indicators, named lead and a delivery date

What partners can expect from us

The support available to partners, and how progress will be measured

A major capacity strengthening push

Learning needs assessment

Diverse partners — NDAs, AEs, DAEs and delivery partners — help shape the training and tools. From 2026, across the GAP period.

Toolkit and partner training

An updated gender and climate toolkit, disseminated with training for NDAs, AEs, DAEs and delivery partners.

Peer-to-peer exchanges

Best-practice learning with other NDAs, AEs, DAEs and delivery partners, focal points.

How progress will be measured

Reach will be measured

The share of NDAs, focal points, AEs and DAEs reached through outreach.

Effectiveness will be measured

Whether capacity building works in practice, not just how many sessions were held.

Where partners come in

Who partners bring into GCF processes

Leveraging diverse perspectives

Engage the NGCCFPs

Encouraged · B.45/17

Involve NGCCFPs to actively promote a gender-responsive approach across the GCF portfolio.

Where it applies

Readiness and preparatory support, project preparation support, funding proposals and funded activities, as set out in B.45/17.

Evidencing who was consulted

Document who was consulted

Keep a clear record of consultation with women's organizations, women community members and Indigenous women, backed by sex-disaggregated data.

Reporting

Evidenced at design, implementation and monitoring, reported annually and feeding into mid and end of project evaluations.

What changes in practice

What changes partners can anticipate

In proposals and budgets

A stronger gender investment thesis

We welcome proposals that elevate gender into programming, with GAP costs shown in output, activity or project management lines.

Better-quality submissions

Secretariat reviews continue, supporting partners to strengthen gender assessments and gender action plans.

Readiness and PPF support

Consistent support for partners' gender capability, with progress tracked and reported.

Evidence and verification

Project GAPs assessed periodically

Assessed annually for quality assurance with lessons reported to the Board. Improved impact and portfolio level reporting

Verifying gender impact together

Voluntary

We work with interested AEs to verify gender impact in funded proposals. Participation is optional.

A gender marker is to be introduced

Being designed and piloted, then built into the procedures the Secretariat uses.

What happens next

In 2026

GCF Secretariat	Capacity needs assessment and training	Covers Secretariat staff as well as partners and shapes the toolkit and training.
	Gender landscape for GLI and impact study	Groundwork to begin and partners may be approached to take part.
Partners	Learning needs assessment	Partners will be asked to contribute, so training and tools reflect real needs.
	Increased engagement of NGCCFPs	Across NAPs, NDCs, readiness, PPF, concept notes, funding proposals and strategic work.
To be confirmed	UNFCCC collaboration	Deepen the engagement with the UNFCCC to support the implementation of Belém GAP. Timing not yet confirmed.

The picture in one view

What we bring and what we ask, side by side

Theme

What applies to partners now

What is coming

Who partners engage

- Engage the national gender focal point
- Document consultation with women's groups

- Involve focal points in readiness, PPF and proposals
- An annual engagement, plus a proposal

Proposals and budgets

- Cost the project gender plan in budgets
- Readiness and PPF support for capability

- Budget allocation and absorption tracked
- A gender marker built into procedures

Evidence and verification

- The verification pilot is open to partners
- Sex-disaggregated stakeholder data

- Project GAPs assessed periodically
- Effectiveness of capacity building reported

Key Resources

01

GCF Gender Policy

[VIEW POLICY →](#)

02

Gender Action Plan 2026–2031

[VIEW ACTION PLAN →](#)

03

Board Decision B.45/17

[VIEW BOARD DECISION →](#)

04

Gender Assessment and Action Plan

[VIEW TEMPLATE →](#)

05

Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit

[VIEW TOOLKIT →](#)

06

UNFCCC Gender Focal Points

[VIEW FOCAL POINTS →](#)



| **GCF.10** |
| 10 YEARS OF CLIMATE IMPACT |

Thank you

Colombo, Sri Lanka
14–17 September 2026