



Terms of Reference

Consultancy to Undertake Feminist Research on the Viability of the Climate Finance Landscape in the Realization of Gender Justice, Economic Justice, and Climate Justice

“We need to invest in nature. 1% of climate finance dedicated to nature is not enough.” — Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, President, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT)

Introduction

The Terms of Reference serve as guidelines for undertaking a Research on the viability of the climate finance landscape in the realization of gender and climate justice. The research will be undertaken under the auspices of the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) program. The VCA program is being implemented by a consortium led by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Netherlands, and other partners including South South North, Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA), Slum Dwellers International, Fundación Avina and Hivos under the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ five-year strategic partnership: “Power of Voices”. The program aims to ensure that by 2025, local civil society and underrepresented groups will have taken on a central role as creators, facilitators and advocates of innovative climate solutions. Their inclusion is crucial for effective and lasting climate responses, and because the climate crisis is also a societal challenge with ethical and human rights aspects.

The overall approach of the program is to work with civil society to build wide societal support for locally shaped climate solutions through an inclusive and rights-based approach. This includes building a broad-based climate alliance at country level, bridging divides (urban-rural, gender, youth) that amplifies voices in new unusual ways. AMwA brings to the consortium a recognized track record of feminist leadership development, feminist research and advocacy and movement building to advance women’s rights and gender equality for a just climate transition.

Background

Global action on climate change is contingent on the delivery of timely, adequate and affordable climate finance. The availability of flexible, credible, predictable, new and additional climate finance holds the key to the successful implementation of climate actions by developing countries. It is also critical to building momentum and strengthening collective, gender responsive, and sustainable climate action at national, regional and global levels¹.

¹ Schalatek, Liane. 2009. Gender and Climate Finance: Double Mainstreaming for Sustainable Development. Washington D.C.: Heinrich Böll Stiftung

While the global climate finance landscape² has made progress in incorporating gender considerations, with all major climate financing mechanisms (under and outside of the UNFCCC) having some form of gender policy and/or action plan, this effort has largely been obscure to the realities of women and other minoritized groups.

Climate-vulnerable communities, of which the majority are rural women, gender expansive people, and indigenous peoples in developing regions like Africa also face other multiple forms of vulnerabilities, including physical, economic, and social vulnerabilities. It is estimated that at least 57% of the countries experiencing the most significant burden of the combination of climate-induced and political fragility hazards are located in Africa. Cyclone Idai in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe; and Cyclone Kenneth in Mozambique that devastated hundreds of thousands of women and children leaving them stranded and in urgent need for assistance revealed the need for different approaches to financing. It made the case for the need for a special finance facility for loss and damage.

For the African region in general and individual African countries in particular, which already face numerous development financial needs that annually transcend their national revenue baskets, the consideration for additional climate financing that goes beyond the \$100 billion is imperative. In fact, recent estimates for climate action in developing regions like Africa are laying out the case for trillions and not billions in new and additional financing³ as their fiscal space shrinks due to current rises in their debt levels, despite not having been triggered by the climate crisis. However, this evidence has remained largely gender blind and continues to approach the climate crisis as a single issue, while failing to acknowledge the full spectrum of the numerous challenges that communities face that contribute to their vulnerability, and hence are disproportionately affected when climate disasters occur.

Justification

It is important to note that Article 4.7 of the UNFCCC provides that “The extent to which developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments related to financial resources and transfer of technology. It will also depend on the extent to which developed countries fully take into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country Parties”.

“In the implementation of the commitments in this Article, the convention further states that the Parties shall give full consideration to what actions are necessary under the Convention, including actions related to funding, insurance and the transfer of technology, to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties arising from the adverse effects of climate change and/or the impact of the

² UNFCCC. Online:

<https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/the-big-picture/introduction-to-gender-and-climate-change/the-gender-action-plan-1>

³ Climate Change Finance Unit Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India (2017) Climate Summit for Enhanced Action: A Financial Perspective from India,

<https://dea.gov.in/sites/default/files/FINAL%2017%20SEPT%20VERSION%20Climate%20Summit%20for%20Enhanced%20Action%20A4%20size.pdf>

implementation of response measures.” Any adaptation and mitigation action by the developing countries must, therefore, be taken in the context of sustainable development along with their national priorities.

While Article 11 of the UNFCCC clearly defines a mechanism for the provision of financial resources on a grant or concessional basis, including for the transfer of technology, recent climate finance estimates have shown that a) 66% of climate finance is concessional financing; and that b) only 10% of climate financing reaches communities. In addition, finance for climate action at community level by both civil society and governments have largely been for short term service delivery responses merely addressing the short term effects of the climate crisis, and yet the decimation wrought by the climate crisis will be long term and thus requires progressive long term climate finance to deliver long term climate solutions.

Overall Objective

Given the growing attention to devise means of channeling and accelerating climate finance to developing countries and especially local communities including guaranteeing that climate finance is contextual and applicable to their needs, AMwA intends to commission a research to assess the viability of the current climate finance landscape in the realization of gender justice, economic justice, and climate justice.

Specific Objectives

The research will map out and unpack the existing climate finance governance architecture, channels and frameworks at national, regional and global levels in view of Africa’s and selected countries’ development challenges. The research will further document the experiences of national and local level governments and communities particularly rural women, gender expensive persons, and indigenous peoples in accessing climate finance, and how much of this financing is used to promote the adoption and utilization of locally led climate solutions. Finally, the research will generate and share actionable and regenerative gender responsive and Global South feminist solutions that are grounded in communities’ lived experiences towards channeling and accelerating climate finance for gender and climate justice.

We hope that through the findings of this research we will be able to contribute to shaping global South women’s position towards a national, regional, and global climate finance governance landscape that better centers the needs of the most marginalized, especially now as the discourse to elaborate the New Collectively Quantified Goal on climate finance is currently underway.

Scope and Methodology of the Research

The research will focus on the African continent, while drawing on specific country experiences from Zambia, Tunisia, and Kenya. The research will be developed through a two pronged approach. The consultant will conduct desktop research to analyze secondary data at national, continental, and global level. This will form the main methodology of the research. Dialogue and conversation with various state and non-state actors at national and community levels working on climate change related issues. The dialogues will occur through both semi structured interviews as well as focus groups discussions. The dialogues will be foregrounded with feminist theory, principles and perspectives. The consultant will also be expected to present the research report in a validation meeting and incorporate any comments arising before final submission.

Expected deliverables

The consultant is expected to produce the following:

- An inception report
- A draft research report for review and validation by AMwA and or partners - A final version of the research report

A) Time Frame

The assignment is expected to last between 1st October to 31st October 2022.

B) Qualifications for the Ideal Consultant

The individual should hold a degree in Development Studies, Gender and Development, Law, Climate Change Science or any other related field from a recognized university or have other relevant experience related to the evolving world of climate change.

Experience, Skills, and other attributes

- A clear and demonstrated understanding and knowledge of the national, regional and global climate finance and governance landscape
- An understanding of key feminist principles such as intersectionality;
- At least 5 years of relevant experience in women's rights and feminist research related to climate change;
- Fluency in English is required, an added advantage if the candidate has a working understanding of French or any other language as used frequently in Kenya, Zambia or Tunisia;
- Knowledge of recent developments related to the topic;
- Demonstrated ability to complete complex assignments in a timely manner and delivery quality results.

Who can apply and how?

African feminists with expertise in feminist education, research, and knowledge generation and experience in designing feminist advocacy strategies

If this is you, send;

- Your CV (not more than 3 pages/) detailing relevant experience in similar tasks, and at least 2 references.
- An expression of interest (not exceeding two pages) explaining why you are the most suitable person for the task,
- And provide a brief methodology on how you will approach the task to recruit@akinamamawaafrika.org