

## Gender and climate change: debate in the Green Climate Fund



*Civil Society Observers group.*

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018- In Songdo, South Korea, the 19th meeting of the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was held, from February 26 to March 1. FARN participated as part of the group of civil society observers, analyzing gender issues in the framework of the project "Latin America Regional GCF Monitor Program"<sup>1</sup>

As a result of four extensive days of meetings of the Board of Directors, in which there was participation of groups of observers from both civil society and the private sector, a total of 23 projects worth more than one billion dollars were approved for actions to combat the effects of climate change in developing countries. Among them there is an Argentine project with a USD 100 million credit for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects promoted by small and medium-sized companies.

In the region, the approved projects were: 1) Poverty, Reforestation, Energy and Climate Change for USD 25.1M (Paraguay); 2) Promotion of private sector investments in energy efficiency in the industrial sector for USD 23.0M (Paraguay); 3) Energy efficiency in cities for USD 195M (Brazil).

There were comments from civil society regarding projects that include energy generation with biomass (Argentina and Paraguay); the specialists of the group were forceful in emphasizing the need to specify in detail the source of production.

<sup>1</sup> FARN was selected to represent Latin America, in a project that promotes the participation of Southern Cone women in climate finance through the monitoring of policies, programs and gender action plans of the GCF. This program is part of a joint initiative between WEDO (Women's Environmental and Development Organization) and BothENDS.

After a long process of consultation with several stakeholder groups, the Indigenous Peoples Policy was adopted. This strengthens the role of the groups of Indigenous Peoples and civil society as an active and effective part in the implementation process.

The policy of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), did not advance in this instance. Even though the GCF adopted from the beginning a "gender-sensitive approach", thus being the first multilateral climate fund with a gender policy and a gender action plan, the new proposal presented in this meeting was not adopted. Since there was opposition from some countries to the references in the text on sexual orientation as well as a call for the insertion of a language so that the application of the policy depends on national circumstances. On this, civil society considered that it weakened the recognition that human rights and women's rights are applied internationally and in the same way.

Therefore, in terms of gender, the original policy remains in force. Although revisions are expected to be considered in the short term in the next meetings, the current policy defines a framework of action for the projects. The challenge in this line is the implementation in the field of the approved projects, whose monitoring is essential if a deep transformation is sought in terms of gender equality in climate finance. Although the projects presented include both analysis and gender action plans, there is still a long way to go in terms of the detail of the allocation of project resources to that area, quantitative and qualitative definitions of their activities.



Massan D'Almeida (XOESE, Le Fonds pour les Femmes Francophones), Daan Roben (BothENDS), María Julia Tramutola (FARN), Bridget Burns (WEDO), Wanun Permpibul (Climate Watch Thailand)

[www.farn.org.ar](http://www.farn.org.ar)  
Buenos Aires – Argentina

