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## The Commonwealth NDC Webinar Series

### Integrating Gender Equality into NDC Implementation

8<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 14:00 - 15:30 (GMT)

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#### Introduction

The Commonwealth Secretariat through its Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) supports Commonwealth member countries access climate finance to support their climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience efforts, thereby contributing towards the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The support provided by CCFAH, through the deployment of long-term Commonwealth Regional and National Climate Finance Advisers to member countries and partner organisations, is demand driven and based on specific requests received from member countries. The support provided cuts across the development of grant applications and implementation of climate change projects, capacity building - both human and institutional strengthening, as well as cross-Commonwealth cooperation, and sharing of knowledge.

Under the NDC Partnership's Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) initiative, the Commonwealth Secretariat delivered targeted support for the enhancement and implementation of NDCs through the provision of in-country technical expertise in four member countries in 2021 namely Belize, Eswatini, Jamaica and Zambia. The CAEP is a demand-driven and impact focused initiative to deliver targeted support to countries for the enhancement and implementation of their NDCs, including the provision of in-country technical expertise and capacity building. Climate finance being a crucial aspect in achieving the ambitious NDC targets, the CCFAH delivered a number of climate finance related deliverables under the CAEP working together with member countries, the NDC Partnership and other partners. These include the following<sup>1</sup>:

#### Belize

- Climate Finance Landscape of Belize 2015 - 2019
- Climate Finance Strategy of Belize 2021 - 2026

In Belize our Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser carried out a climate finance landscape assessment and built on the findings to develop a Climate Finance Strategy for Belize.

#### Eswatini

- Government of Eswatini Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR)
- Strategy to Enhance Private Sector Engagement in Eswatini NDC Actions

In Eswatini the Adviser supported the Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) to ascertain how climate-related spending is included in the national budgeting process. The findings are helping the government with evidence-based decision-making on

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<sup>1</sup> All the final reports are available on the Commonwealth Secretariat website and accessible via the following link <https://thecommonwealth.org/climate-finance-access-hub>

budgeting for climate action. A strategy to enhance private sector engagement in Eswatini NDC actions was also developed.

### **Jamaica**

- Socio-economic and Financial Implications Assessment of Climate Change for the Government of Jamaica

In Jamaica the CCFAH supported the assessment of the socio-economic consequences of climate change on the country's national budget and spending, and this supports the countries long term strategy and investment plans for achieving climate targets.

### **Zambia**

- Climate Finance Mapping for NDC Implementation in Zambia
- Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of Climate Finance for Zambia

In Zambia, work on strengthening the country's institutional processes and structures to seek, receive, utilise and report on climate finance has been carried out through climate finance mapping along with the development of a baseline report on monitoring, reporting and verification of climate finance for NDC implementation for Zambia.

Beyond the CAEP, the Commonwealth Secretariat also delivered the following gender and NDC report<sup>2</sup>:

- Gender Integration for Climate Action: A Review of Commonwealth Member Country Nationally Determined Contributions

The report provides an in-depth understanding of how and to what extent Commonwealth member countries are integrating gender and social inclusion concerns into their NDCs, with the identification of prevailing gaps, entry points and opportunities for the integration of gender into NDCs including a set of best practice recommendations.

Accessing climate finance is an important pre-requisite in achieving ambitious climate targets represented by the NDCs. Access to climate finance by countries can be considered as an iterative process comprised of different stages. Under the CAEP and other NDC related work, CCFAH has worked across all these stages presented in the conceptual framework in Figure 1, with different deliverables from understanding the climate finance status to implementing strategies and plans.

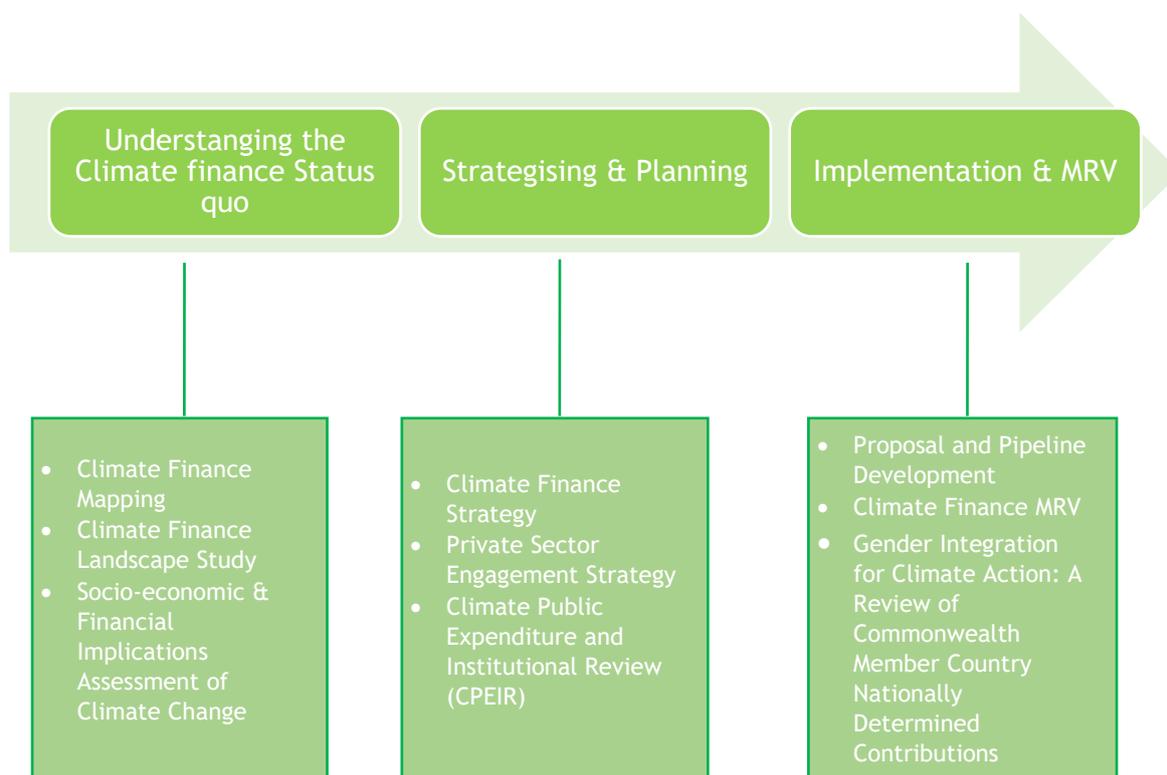
This Commonwealth NDC Webinar series delivers on the CCFAH knowledge management strategy to spur the accumulation and transfer of critical knowledge across countries and regions for the replication and scaling up of innovative and successful climate action projects and initiatives. The exciting topics slated to capture our experiences and lessons learned across our NDC related work include:

- Climate finance: from landscape to strategy implementation;
- Integrating gender equality into NDC implementation;
- Developing climate financing frameworks for improved alignment of public and private sector investments for NDC Implementation.

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<sup>2</sup> The final report is available on the Commonwealth Secretariat website and accessible via the following link <https://thecommonwealth.org/climate-finance-access-hub>

Figure 1



## Context

Against the backdrop of International Women’s Day (8 March 2022), with the theme of ‘*Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow*’ this particular webinar entitled **Integrating gender equality into NDC Implementation** seeks to share learning and experiences from across the Commonwealth on planning and integrating gender in the design and implementation of NDCs.

Mainstreaming of gender equality in all climate policies, strategies and targets is critical to ensuring more effective, inclusive and sustainable climate action that take into accounts the different way in which climate change affects different groups and in particular the disproportionate burden on women.

The NDCs provide the opportunity to publicly present both the intent to address gender inequality as integral to domestic climate action, and to evidence how that intent will be converted into measurable outcomes. The year 2020 marked the milestone period when countries were to update and submit their NDCs under the Paris Agreement and thus also marked an opportune time to enhance gender considerations in climate priorities for the next 5 years.

It is for this reason the Commonwealth Secretariat embarked on an assessment of the extent of gender integration in new or revised NDCs by Commonwealth member countries compared with the original Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC). The analysis reviews NDCs submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by 26 July 2021, which totalled of 20 of the 54 member countries. It serves as an entry point for considering the opportunities for gender integration and provides useful best practice

examples and recommendations for the strengthening gender responsiveness in the implementation of NDCs.

Building on the outcomes of this review document and the recommended best practices, the Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with the NDC Partnership, is hosting this webinar as a technical knowledge sharing platform for member countries and stakeholders to delve deeper and further share their experiences and lessons learned in integrating gender equality in designing and more importantly actioning revised NDCs with a focus on gender integration.

## Objectives

The overarching aim of the webinar is to encourage increased consideration of gender equality in the implementation (and future updates of NDCs) and related climate action policies and strategies.

The main objectives for the webinar are as follows:

- To share the experiences and lessons learned by countries and stakeholders in designing and implementing more gender responsive NDCs.
- To enhance awareness of the critical elements to be considered for meaningful integration of gender equality into national climate action policies and strategies.
- To discuss the way forward in working towards better integration of gender equality in climate action looking specifically at NDC implementation and the gaps that exist to realise this.

## Desired Outcomes

- Increased awareness of the importance and opportunities for integrating gender equality in NDC implementation and related policies and strategies.
- Uptake of the recommendations proposed by the Commonwealth Secretariat in its publication '*Gender Integration for Climate Action: A Review of Commonwealth Member Country Nationally Determined Contributions*'

## Agenda

Timing (1 hr 30 mins)	Item
Event Moderator - Jennifer Namgyal, Adviser, Gender, Commonwealth Secretariat	
(10 mins)	<b>Welcome and Context Setting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unnikrishnan Nair, Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat</li> <li>• Robert Bradley, Knowledge and Learning Director, NDC Partnership</li> </ul>
(5 mins)	<b>Video</b> - Supporting gender integration in climate action across the Commonwealth
(10 mins)	<b>Presentation: Integrating gender equality into climate action policies, strategies, and commitments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fleur Newman, Action Empowerment Unit Lead - Gender, Youth and ACE, UNFCCC Gender Focal Point and Focal Point for Women, UNFCCC</li> </ul>
(10 mins)	<b>Participant Engagement - Q&amp;A Session</b>

<b>(30 mins)</b>	<b>Moderated Panel Discussion: Experiences and lessons learned in integrating gender equality in NDC implementation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hannah Girardeau</b>, Gender and Youth Associate, NDC Partnership</li> <li>• <b>Bertha Chiudza</b>, Gender and Social Specialist, Green Climate Fund (GCF)</li> <li>• <b>Sasha Jattansingh</b>, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser, Antigua and Barbuda</li> <li>• <b>Edith Ofwona Adera</b>, Coordinator, Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP) and Regional Principal Officer, Africa Development Bank (AfDB)</li> <li>• <b>Ana Rojas</b>, Senior Gender and Climate Change Adviser, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</li> <li>• <b>Unnikrishnan Nair</b>, Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat</li> </ul>
<b>(20 mins)</b>	<b>Participant Engagement - Q&amp;A Session / Interventions from the floor</b>
<b>(5 mins)</b>	<b>Closing Remarks and Way Forward</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Uzoamaka Nwamarah</b>, Adviser, Climate Section, Commonwealth Secretariat</li> </ul>