



## Including Gender Equality in Regulatory Documents on Climate Change

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**Abstract:** *Women play an important role in agriculture. The number of female-headed households in rural areas is also increasing as more men migrate to cities and other countries in search of work. Increasing access to them will help rural women increase economic opportunity and productivity, contribute to the food security of their countries, and improve the living standards of their families. In Uzbekistan, a number of measures are being taken in this direction by the state and the private sector in order to create favorable conditions for the development of women's entrepreneurship in rural areas.*

**Keywords:** *climate change, gender issues, Beijing Declaration, Republic of Uzbekistan, women.*

**Introduction.** Humanity has come a long way towards achieving gender equality. From the First International Congress on Women's Rights in Paris in 1878, the establishment of International Women's Day on March 8, the creation of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and the adoption of the "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women", every step on the historic path of improvement the position of women in society stimulated the progress of human civilization [1].

An important guide to action in this area was the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted in 1995 [2].

By the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), Uzbekistan prepared a "Report on the implementation of the provisions of the Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action Uzbekistan".

**Relevance.** In the years since the Fourth World Conference on Women, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Parliament, the Government of Uzbekistan and civil society organizations have remained committed to improving the status of women and empowering them in accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA) [5].

"In matters of gender policy, we intend to radically increase the role of women in the public, political and business life of the country," said the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on February 22, 2021, touching on the gender issue, at the main annual political event - the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council - among the identified priorities of democratic reforms in Uzbekistan.

During the years of independence, a progressive and reliable basis for the implementation of state policy towards women and men has been created in the republic at the legislative and executive levels, aimed at ensuring the constitutional principle of equality of women and men in the legal, organizational, financial, economic, social and other fields.



The vast majority of legislation and regulations relating to climate change do not directly address gender aspects. A special procedure, according to which all new draft laws are analyzed from a gender perspective, was introduced as part of the “Strategy for achieving gender equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030” only on May 28, 2021. All documents aimed at sustainable development, adaptation to climate change, improvement of living conditions and healthcare, etc., in one way or another affect the interests of women [7].

The Ecoforum of Uzbekistan, which includes about 30 eco-NGOs, in which half of the leaders are women, has created the Gender and Environment program, which includes women from different regions of the country. The Ecoforum representative is a member of the Central Asian Public Council of the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development.

A special nomination “Women of the Mountains” has been established at the annual national competition of environmental journalism in Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan is located in one of the most arid regions of Central Asia. About 85% of the country's territory is dry and dry, deserts and semi-deserts. Access to safe drinking water sources varies widely between urban and rural areas. Population with access to safe drinking water (2016): in cities - 93.2%, in rural areas - 75.3%. Population with access to sewerage (2016): in cities - 78.7%, in rural areas - 42.1%. Shortcomings in the water supply system affect both men and women, but women are mainly responsible for the delivery of water from various external sources, as well as the main consumers and stewards of household water and family hygiene [9].

**Targets and goals.** In order to consistently implement the tasks and ensure the achievement of the main target indicators defined in the Concept for the Development of the Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030, on February 24, 2021, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-5005 approved the “Strategy for managing water resources and developing the irrigation sector in Republic of Uzbekistan for 2021-2023”. The strategy notes that training and development courses will be organized to build the capacity of educational and research institutions, support the implementation of modern, efficient and sustainable approaches to integrated water resources management, and build the capacity to implement climate resilience measures in the design and operation. In doing so, special attention will be given to promoting women's participation and ensuring gender equality.

The 2018 updated gender assessment for the country shows that the share of the population employed in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in Uzbekistan is declining, and in 2016 was 27.4% of the total employed in the country (for comparison, in 1999 this figure was 36.2%). The decrease in the number of people employed in the agriculture and forestry sectors is mainly due to the departure of men who prefer work in a more profitable sector and/or labor migration. The share of women in the total number of employees of small and micro businesses (including farms) has slowly increased, from 21.7% in 2014 to 22.5% in 2016 [9]

The Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 23, 2019 No. UP-5853, provides for an increase in the number of enterprises managed by women in rural areas from 5,648 enterprises in 2018 by 30% by 2030.

Uzbekistan pays great attention to the protection of public health, for which state programs have been approved with significant budgetary allocations; Cooperation with international organizations is actively developing. Since 2014, there have been major positive developments in several key global indicators in the health sector. Maternal and infant mortality rates, as well as the number of children born with pathologies, have significantly decreased. Uzbekistan managed to achieve the target of the Millennium Development Goals in this matter. Over the past 20 years, the maternal mortality rate has decreased from 20.7 to 17.4 per thousand live births, and infant



mortality has decreased from 24.2 to 10.7 per thousand live births. The number of pregnant women with anemia decreased from 45.1% in 2014 to 38.2% in 2016 [9].

Climate change affects all aspects of life. At the country and local scales, the response to this challenge can be adequate if two main conditions are met: the preservation of natural ecosystems as climate regulators and the creation of gender-balanced decision-making mechanisms and goals at all levels, from the state to the family.

In the Environmental Pollution Monitoring Service of Uzhydromet, which is a specialized unit with the functions of monitoring the environmental parameters of environmental objects, including monitoring the biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems at the departmental stationary and expeditionary network of stations, 84% of employees are women.

In recent years, active measures have been taken in Uzbekistan to ensure gender equality, as noted in her speech during the Summit at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the IV World Conference on the Status of Women, Chairman of the Senate Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Chairman of the Commission on Ensuring Gender Equality Tanzila Narbayeva. She stressed that the authorities of Uzbekistan adopted about 20 legal acts in the field of protection and empowerment of women, developed a Strategy for achieving gender equality for the period until 2030, and also introduced a special procedure according to which all new bills are analyzed from a gender perspective.

**Conclusions.** The strategy for achieving gender equality is being implemented mainly in a number of priority areas, based on long-term targets. Among them is the provision of equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the public service, in the field of socio-economic, family relations and the upbringing of children, the exercise of voting rights. The strategy also provides for budgeting and financing of state programs, taking into account activities aimed at ensuring gender equality.

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