
SMBC Gender Policy for GCF Funding Projects/Programs

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Sustainability Planning Department

1. Background

1.1 The Green Climate Fund (the GCF) requires the entities accredited (the Accredited Entity) by the GCF that they adopt policy and strategy or action plan (Annex) to ensure gender mainstreaming in operations in the projects and the programs which are or to be funded by the GCF (the GCF Projects/Programs).

1.2 This document sets out Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)'s Gender Policy for GCF Funding Projects/Programs (hereinafter "Gender Policy") regarding the gender action as the Accredited Entity in the GCF Projects/Programs.

1.3 This Gender Policy applies to all GCF Projects/Programs in which SMBC participates as the Accredited Entity.

1.4 This Gender Policy expresses the commitment of SMBC to promote gender equality across the GCF Projects/Programs

1.5 This Gender Policy was prepared by taking into consideration the GCF Gender Policy

1.6 Key definitions are given below:

- (a) "Accredited Entity" means the entity accredited by the GCF;
- (b) "SMBC" means Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation;
- (c) "GCF" means the Green Climate Fund;
- (d) "GCF Projects/Programs" means the projects and the programs which are or to be funded by the GCF;
- (e) "Gender" refers to how societies and specific cultures assign roles and ascribe characteristics to men and women on the basis of their sex;
- (f) "Gender Equality", as enshrined in international and national constitutions and other human rights agreements, refers to equal rights, power, responsibilities and opportunities for women and men, as well as equal consideration of the interests, needs and priorities of women and men;
- (g) "Gender Equity" refers to the process of being fair to women and men. To ensure equity, measures often need to be taken to compensate (or reduce) disparity for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from otherwise operating on an equitable basis. Gender Equity leads to Gender Equality;
- (h) "Gender Sensitivity" refers to the understanding of the ways people think about gender and socio-cultural factors underlying gender inequality. Gender Sensitivity implies a consideration of

the potential contribution of women and men to societal changes as well as the methods and tools to promote Gender Equity, reduce gender disparities, and measure the impact of climate change and other development activities on women and men.

2. Rationale

2.1 In the context of sustainable development, SMBC will consistently mainstream gender issues in its implementation arrangements and frameworks for GCF Projects/Programs. This Gender Policy recognizes that gender relations, roles and responsibilities exercise important influences on women's and men's access to and control over decisions, assets and resources, information, and knowledge. This Gender Policy also recognizes that the impacts of climate change can exacerbate existing gender inequalities. This Gender Policy further acknowledges that climate change initiatives are more sustainable, equitable and more likely to achieve their objectives when gender equality and women's empowerment considerations are integrated into the design and implementation of GCF Projects/Programs. Further, this Gender Policy recognizes that women and vulnerable communities are also part of the solution to climate change and should, therefore, be effectively engaged in discussions and decisions that affect them.

2.2 This Gender Policy is closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which make explicit commitments to gender equality, both as a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG5 : Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and as a theme cutting across all the SDGs. An aim of combating climate change is to promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in the least developed countries and small island developing States, and includes focusing on women, from vulnerable communities.

2.3 This Gender Policy will be consistent with and linked to the existing relevant frameworks, policies and standards of GCF.

3. Objectives

3.1 This Gender Policy reinforces the responsiveness of SMBC to the culturally diverse context of gender equality to better address and account for the links between gender equality and climate change.

3.2 This Gender Policy commits SMBC to promote the goals of gender equality and women's empowerment through its decisions on the allocation of funds, operations and overall impact as

outlined in the Gender Action Plan.

3.3 This Gender Policy spells out the principles for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment through an action plan and supporting technical guidance, the operational requirements for stakeholder involvement in the design, implementation and evaluation of GCF Projects/Programs.

3.4 This Gender Policy moves beyond a narrow understanding of gender to consider, respect and value the contribution of both women and men.

3.5 This Gender Policy has two main objectives:

(a) To promote GCF Projects/Programs that:

(i) Advance gender equality through climate change mitigation and adaptation actions; and

(ii) Minimize social, gender-related and climate-related risks in all climate change actions; and

(b) To contribute to reducing the gender gap of climate change-exacerbated social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities and exclusions through GCF Projects/Programs.

4. Scope of Application

4.1 SMBC applies this Gender Policy in principle to all its activities as the Accredited Entity in the GCF Projects/Programs in order to address and reduce gender inequality, deepen stakeholder engagement and deliver better accountability to both men and women to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities, health and well-being, and resilience against climate-induced shocks and risks;

4.2 This Gender Policy is applicable to all countries, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

5. Guiding Principles

Guiding principles underpin the core values and premises of this Gender Policy and are aligned with the objectives and guiding principles of the Governing Instrument. These principles are presented in the following sections.

5.1 Principle 1

5.1.1 This Gender Policy is guided by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in which the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change note that when addressing climate change, principles of gender equality and empowerment of women should be respected, promoted and considered.

5.1.2 This Gender Policy is congruent with international arrangements, in particular with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the International Labour Organization's core conventions, in that it recognizes the equal rights of women and men to access the Fund's services in order to adapt to and mitigate against the impact of climate change.

5.1.3 SMBC recalls the preamble to the Paris Agreement which states: "Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking actions to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations, and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.

5.1.4 This Gender Policy is also guided by Article 7.5 of the Paris Agreement, where parties acknowledge that the adaptation should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems and should be based on the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.

5.2 Principle 2

5.2.1 SMBC expects that GCF's National Designated Authorities (NDAs) are aware that the GCF Projects/Programs are aligned with national policies and priorities on gender, and this Gender Policy.

5.2.2 SMBC requires that women and men be provided with equal opportunity to take an active part in stakeholder consultations and decision-making during GCF Projects/Programs preparation, implementation and evaluation.

5.3 Principle 3

5.3.1 For the purposes of this Gender Policy, SMBC requires that women and men, including vulnerable groups, be provided with an equal and equitable opportunity to be fully and effectively engaged in consultations and decision-making throughout GCF Projects/Programs cycle, taking into consideration the initial best practice options for country coordination and multi-stakeholder engagement, the country ownership guidelines, and the principle of free, prior and informed consent in GCF Projects/Programs involving indigenous peoples in line with the GCF's Indigenous Peoples Policy.

5.3.2 SMBC undertakes consultation that is gender sensitive and culturally aware, and that will be supported by the disclosure of relevant information pursuant to the SMBC Information Disclosure Policy for GCF Funding Projects/Programs.

5.4 Principle 4

5.4.1 SMBC recognizes the importance of transparency, non-discriminatory access and accountability in all aspects of its operations. Through SMBC Information Disclosure Policy for GCF Funding Projects/Programs, SMBC endeavours to provide accurate, gender-related and timely information to its stakeholders and the public at large, about its policy guidelines, standards, procedures and GCF Projects/Programs operations.

6. Policy Requirements

This Gender Policy requirements are categorized as follows:

- (a) AE (Accredited Entity) Commitments; and
- (b) Project-level Requirements.

6.1 Accredited Entities and Commitments

6.1.1 SMBC will dedicate the necessary financial, human and other resources, as appropriate, to comply with the principles and requirements of this Gender Policy.

6.1.2 At the project level, SMBC will be responsible for meeting the principles and requirements of this Gender Policy and supporting the implementation of the project-level gender action plan as it relates to the GCF-approved activity as well as for reporting on results, including the generation and use of sex-disaggregated as well as qualitative data.

6.2 Project-level Requirements

6.2.1 At the GCF Projects/Programs preparation stage, SMBC will

- (a) Ensure that concept notes and funding proposals submitted to GCF meet the principles and requirements of this Gender Policy;
- (b) Submit as a part of the funding proposal (i) a gender assessment, along with appropriate environmental and social assessments (as may be required according to the level of risks and impacts), and (ii) a project-level gender action plan; and
- (c) Integrate analysis of context and sociocultural factors underlying climate change-exacerbated gender inequality and optimize the potential contributions of women and men of all ages to build both individual and collective resilience to climate change.

6.2.2 At the GCF Projects/Programs implementation, monitoring and reporting stage, SMBC will

- (a) Take necessary measures to implement the project-level gender action plan submitted as part of the funding proposal approved by GCF;
- (b) Refine the gender-related baseline, indicators and targets in implementing the project-level gender action plan, as may be necessary;
- (c) Take the necessary measures to ensure periodic updates on the gender assessments and notify GCF when there are major changes in the design and execution of the GCF Projects/Programs , or other circumstances that may affect the implementation of the gender action plan; and
- (d) SMBC will also notify GCF of any changes in the project-level gender action plan; and
- (e) Monitor and report on the progress made in implementing the project-level gender action plan.

7. Responsibility

7.1 Environmental and Social Risk Analysis Department and Structured Finance Department of SMBC are responsible for the implementation of this Gender Policy at the project-level.

8. Effectiveness and Revisions

8.1 The provisions of this Gender Policy will take effect on [month] [day], 2020.

8.2 This Gender Policy will be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

9. Miscellaneous

9.1 This Gender Policy shall not be interpreted to affect or alter existing internal rules of SMBC and shall only apply to the GCF Projects/Programs in which SMBC participates as the Accredited Entity.

Annex: Gender Action Plan

Priority Area

- Outputs, outcomes and impact monitoring indicators, and reporting

Implementation of this Gender Policy

- Action
 - Application of this Gender Policy in GCF Projects/Programs preparation / design / implementation / monitoring

- Indicators
 - Percentage of the GCF Projects/Programs that have carried out initial socioeconomic and gender assessments, and that have collected disaggregated baseline data; and
 - Percentage of the GCF Projects/Programs that have applied gender-equitable stakeholder consultations