BACKGROUND

There is clear evidence that climate change is having gender-differentiated impacts, and in many cases is intensifying the constraints that already place rural women, especially those that are reliant on agriculture for their livelihoods, at a great disadvantage.

While climate change can exacerbate exiting gender inequalities in agriculture, it can also tap into women’s vast potential, if their important role in adaptation and mitigation is fully recognized and they are provided with equal access to productive assets, markets, climate information services, technology and training.

There is increasing global political commitment to address gender and climate change. In the same vein, agriculture features in over 90% Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) developed as a result of the Paris Agreement, and over 40 percent of NDCs mention gender issues.

The Gender Action Plan of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted at COP23 in November seeks to mainstream gender perspectives in all mandated areas of its interventions. The requirement of gender-sensitive development impact has also become an integral condition for funding under the climate finance mechanisms under the Convention.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and its partners, CARE International, the Pacific Community (SPC) along with other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) firmly believe that harnessing rural women’s potential will significantly enhance the resilience of households, communities and agri-food systems at large. Similarly, Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy of promoting gender-responsive environment and climate action to support government planning and initiatives to mitigate and adapt to climate change is in line with such efforts.
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PROGRAMME

11:30

Opening remarks
Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau
Minister of International Development and La Francophonie of Canada

11:40

Perspectives from Small Island Developing States
Ms. Polotu Paunga
Head, Division of Women’s Affairs, Kingdom of Tonga
Ms. Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago – Elisara
Director, Social Development Programme, Pacific Community

12:00

Upscaling Gender-responsive Climate-Smart Agriculture interventions by development actors
Ms. Carla Mucavi
Director, FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations
Ms. Saratou Malam Goni
Director, Leadership, Women Empowerment Programme, CARE Niger

12:20

Gender on the international climate agenda
Ms. Fleur Newman
Lead Gender Officer, UNFCCC

12:30

Plenary Discussion
All presenters and participating government representatives

12:40

Closing remarks
H.E. Ms. Olai Uludong
Palau Ambassador to the United Nations