

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN VIETNAM'S POLIC AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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Abstract: Vietnam is one of the countries most affected by climate change in the world. However, addressing the linkages between gender and climate change is a challenge that Vietnam faces in developing policies and regulations related to climate change. For a stronger reflection of gender equality and women's empowerment in policies and legislative instruments, this paper reviews gender aspects in Vietnam's current policies and legal frameworks in responding to climate change. The paper highlights several issues including unclear policies and guidelines on gender mainstreaming, inconsistency in regulations related to gender mainstreaming, and ineffective implementation of existing policies and legislative instruments. Based on these findings, the paper makes recommendations on strengthening gender mainstreaming not only in policies and legislative instruments but also in the implementation of action plans and strategies on climate change in Vietnam.

Keywords: Climate change, natural disaster, gender inequality, gender mainstreaming, Vietnam, natural disaster

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Introduction

Vietnam has low-lying plains, highlands, and long coastlines, which make the country extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. According to the Climate Change Scenario¹, climate change is likely to alter the frequency, intensity, and behaviours of extreme climate events, increasing the risk of flooding due to sea-level rise. In the scenario of a 100 cm rise in sea level,

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¹ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) (2020), *Kịch bản biến đổi khí hậu* (translation: *Climate Change Scenarios*), Vietnam Publishing House of Natural Resources, Environment and Cartography, Hanoi, <http://www.imh.ac.vn/files/doc/2020/KB%20BDKH%202012.pdf>, last accessed on 29 March 2024.