

ENERGY COMMUNITY'S COMMITMENTS ON GENDER EQUALITY

Vienna, 8 March 2021

The Energy Community Secretariat affirms its commitment to gender equality by:

1. Raising awareness on **mainstreaming gender** in all aspects of energy policies and interventions when providing support and assistance to the institutions of the Energy Community and the Contracting Parties. Gender concerns, needs and differences are to be considered as much as possible in planning, policy-making, project implementation and monitoring;
2. Endorsing **gender-responsive procurement**, intended as the inclusion of the impact on gender equality and women's empowerment in its procedures for the procurement of services and works. While maintaining rigorous quality standards, procurement policies will make the utmost use of the flexibility offered by the applicable procurement law, with the aim to achieve gender equality by systematically insisting on women's workforce participation in stipulating technical specifications, selection criteria and contractual terms;


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3. Aiming for **equal representation of women and men in all events**, in-person or online, and that no gender is restricted to the moderator or facilitator role. Exceptions are permitted for events with only one speaker and events focusing on women's empowerment, where all-female lists of speakers are permitted. It is important to engage men in events on gender equality to maximize the discussion's impact.



Signed on behalf of the Energy Community Secretariat

Janez Kopač, Director