

# **Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management: Legislating Gender-Responsive Mitigation, Adaptation and Women's Participation**

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# Gender, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management – Key Issues

Concerns are two-fold

- Insufficient attention to gender-differentiated impacts
- Insufficient women's participation in decision-making fora



# Inadequate Attention to Gender-Differentiated Impacts and Priorities

- **Impacts borne differently by men and women**
  - environmental degradation
  - Declined productivity, income, food security
  - Lost shelters, assets, infrastructure
  - Lost family and community support
- **Women vulnerable to**
  - Increased time burden to work
  - Deaths and health problems
  - Violence
- **Different needs & priorities**
  - Health, safety, households needs



# Insufficient Women's Participation in Decision Making



- Invariably male dominated (e.g., COP meetings of UNFCCC)
- Greater participation of women at global, national & local levels needed



# Implications for Policies and Legislation



## Two essential dimensions

- Integrate gender concerns into CC&DRM legislation; and
- Legislate gender-equal participation in decision-making bodies at all levels

*\* Notable accomplishments on both, outside of the specific realm of CC&DRM*

# 1<sup>st</sup> Dimension – Integrating Gender Concerns into Legislation

- Ensure women's right on and access to
  - Property, natural resources, credit, skills, information, education, health, freedom from gender-based violence
- International and national mechanisms
  - e.g., CEDAW, Beijing Platform of Action
- ADB-assisted
  - National gender strategies in agriculture and environment
  - National gender equality laws
  - Awareness of women's legal entitlements



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Dimension – Legislating Gender-Equal Participation



- Affirmative actions
  - Local level more successful
  - National level struggling but some improvements
- ADB assisted
  - Building capacity of locally elected women and female judges
  - Women's quota/target in community-based organizations and national decision-making bodies (water board, ministries)
  - Gender-responsive and participatory local budgeting

# Towards gender-responsive & inclusive CC&DRM legislation

- Step 1: Ask right questions – e.g. DRM
  - Preparation
  - Disaster preparedness
  - Response to disaster
  - Post-disaster reconstruction
  - Responsible agencies
  - Financing
- Step 2: Build alliances and partnerships



**Thank you**

Visit:

<http://adb.org/gender>

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