

REGIONAL SESSION- North America and Europe

1. Introductions (participants from UK, Sweden, Netherlands, Kazakhstan, Finland, USA, Belgium, Germany)
2. Presentation(s)
3. Inputs
4. Legislative measures
5. Small groups- Manila Declaration
6. Summary of points
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Presentation: Mobilizing women to demand U.S. action on CC (Rachel Harris, USA, WEDO)

Issues:

Background:

- U.S. largest contributor to CC—4% of population, but 25% of emissions
- Non-signatory to Kyoto Protocol
- US pattern of ratifying UN conventions- ICESCR signed during Carter administration, not ratified; UNCCPR not usable in US courts→ i.e. neither implemented in US
- US has not signed onto any human rights conventions; those US has ratified, not implemented properly→ not surprising we did not ratify Kyoto Protocol (signed but did not ratify)
- President Bush rejected KP entirely

US Also Dealing with CC:

- But CC is an issue—not only in dev'ing countries, but in US, as well
- US experiencing temp changes up to 4 degrees
- Weather becoming more erratic→ affecting most vulnerable communities
- Women are often the face of disasters, but women can also be the face of change

Efforts:

- The discussion must go beyond victimization; women must be considered leaders and agents for change; women must be directly engaged in the issue
- A human face—a woman's face—needs to come to CC; it is not just affecting polar bears or threatened species, it is also a human issue
- WEDO launched campaign to mobilize women to advocate for US action on CC and demand US re-engage in multilateral negotiations
- “Katrina to Copenhagen” concept→ linking women from the US to women around the world to advocate at the UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen
- This campaign works with Oxfam America, Sierra Club, women's groups

Q&A/ Open discussion on similar campaigns/organizations

- Many of our governments have signed onto Kyoto but have not done anything about it—don't even really believe in it
 - Solution: put a human face to CC; educate various populations as to impacts (issues of both enviro and gender *justice*)
- US presidential election? Huge pressure mounting for next president to attend UNFCCC negotiations
- Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) similar organization—European women came together in preparation for 1992 Rio Earth Summit; WECF works in areas of enviro + gender issues, with focus on enviro health issues and energy, as well as CC
- Belgian Senate working on sustainable development and doing gender 'quick scans'; no work yet on CC, but SD and gender mainstreaming leading toward work on CC, perhaps
- There was a lot of hype around the *Inconvenient Truth* but the hype as died down, so how do we keep the momentum going
 - Keeping efforts at the local level → *Sisters on the Planet* film bringing it to the personal level
- Financial crunch really limits what political will is doing; increasing political and community stress due to financial situation; Belgium is not interested in CC because the population is terrified on the recession
 - Reports + education can trigger new momentum; Netherlands is experiencing sea level rise, so attention has to keep coming back to that reality; media has a very important role to play; economics of CC also need to be a part of the discussion (example of women's coping strategies, i.e. moving/elevating stoves, is *economically* important to stress)
 - Finding those entry points in DRR and CCA—as well as entry points to keep climate change in the discussion, given so much else on the political agenda (often economic components to stress)
 - Immigration is also an entry point; taking on the fear of 'floods of people' descending upon borders
- Ministries talking different languages → Impacting women
- Big role for women to play in mitigation, in choice of technologies; 70% of decisions made in household by women but women only 30% of formal decision-making
- Resolution 1325—big campaign with women artists in Belgium, postcards, wide dissemination
- Financing and tech transfer; aid must be protected and there must be separate baskets of funds for CC

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS (*these points also on flip chart*)

Swedish enviro ministry surprised they had to deal with 'gender'; gender equality is part of enviro and SD agenda

Swedish suggestion to have individual pollution rights; people making a big impact on the enviro would have to pay for it

1. Much more concrete examples needed

2. Gender is a part of sustainable development and climate change
3. Individual pollution rights & obligations
4. Certified emissions
5. Apply UN gender mainstreaming initiative to energy and CC sector , along with agri, transport, infrastructure, initiatives
6. Women's participation in mitigation and energy policy choices
7. Decision-making about consumption at household level is 70% by women, so that ration is necessary to incorporate in nat'l policy-making, and make it concrete by providing case studies and examples
8. Urban and transportation planning must have a gender equality perspective and have women's participation
9. Carbon trading profits must be used for adaptation and gender-sensitive projects; traceable, accountable funds with can go all the way down to the household level, enhancing livelihoods and coping capacity
10. Donor communities should guarantee governments to allocate funds to women, gender-sensitive projects
11. CC adaptation funds (and all funding mechs under the UNFCCC) must have stipulations to be used for gender-sensitive projects
12. % of country budget for gender equality, + meeting MDG3, must be committed (vs. cost of not doing anything, especially re: adapt and mitigation) bringing the point beyond a moral argument, making it an economic argument (example cited: persistent gender inequalities cost Asia Pacific region \$58-77bn)

INPUTS to DECLARATION

- SHORTEN IT OVERALL
- Media has an important role to play; funding for informational and 'campaign' materials critical
- Much more concrete examples needed (i.e. of women's use of energy and consumption→ that they are experts on energy, and so their inputs are necessary and valuable); make every fact accessible and easy to digest (more of a communication strategy)
- Food security language, chronic and **acute** food insecurities
- PLEASE ENSURE THAT, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, WE ARE PROVIDING COMPARISON BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN—WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS/ RAMIFICATIONS SPECIFICALLY
- HUMAN RIGHTS LANGUAGE –“d” should come after “b” – human rights principles must guide ongoing UNFCCC negotiations and national policymaking
- SHORTEN—MERGE POINTS
- F- Cost benefit analysis of a gender approach in miti and adap as well as the absence of such approach
- All financial mechanisms addressing CC and DRR—not excluding others beyond UNFCCC
- J + H merged/ or J shortened (we still need explanation behind our points)
- L – integrate perspective about our responsibilities
- Adaptation *and* mitigation plans

- N- reflect *and address* (last line) policies *and budgets*
- O + P merge
- Good practices analysis: new 'O' develop good practice principles for gender responsive adaptation and mitigation strategies as a joint initiative across institutions, with multiple stakeholders, at UN, gov't, CSO level

Regional paragraph

From a northern perspective, we acknowledge our disproportionate contribution to CC, hence we demand a commitment from our governments and the private sector towards including a gender perspective and women's participation in all national mitigation and adaptation and support specifically the financial and technological needs and priorities of local women.

In line with the spirit of the Accra Action Agenda, we urge developed countries and donors to ensure that their respective CC and DRR policies, program and responses are designed and implemented in ways consistent with their agreed national, regional, and international commitments on gender equality and human rights.

Initiative of Finland is put forward as an example of collaboration and other delegations are welcome to join.

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