

NORDIC SUMMIT DECLARATION

PARTICIPANTS at the Nordic Summit, held on 2 February 2009 in Copenhagen, drafted a series of concrete recommendations in the area of gender equality, gender, and climate change.

CLIMATE CHANGE is a global problem that affects every person in the world. Participants at the Nordic Summit agreed that global action is needed to solve the problems associated with it.

BUT NOT EVERYONE is affected in the same way. Climate change affects women and men differently, in industrialised as well as developing countries.

AND THERE ARE DIFFERENCES also in how different people themselves affect the environment and climate. Women and men engage in different behaviors that produce a different environmental footprint; therefore, any strategy for a more sustainable society has to incorporate a gender and gender equality perspective.

A GOAL-ORIENTED and effective approach to climate change must originate in the different situations of women and men, and it must ensure that the experience and knowledge of both genders is considered when planning future efforts.

GENDER EQUALITY is a driving force of wellbeing and sustainability. Gender equality and equal opportunities are preconditions for sound economies, social cohesion, and a sustainable approach to climate change.

POLITICIANS, organizations, and individual women and men are encouraged to take responsibility for creating a more equitable and sustainable society.

IN ALL FUTURE operations, participants of the Nordic Summit commit to incorporating a gender and gender equality perspective whenever relevant.

THE PARTICIPANTS, FROM ALL OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES, were invited personally by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic Ministers for Gender Equality, and have each contributed to the drafting of these specific recommendations for action.

THIS IS A JOINT-NORDIC contribution that can enhance and inform UN policy on climate change through the integration of a gender equality perspective. It is also intended to generate national, regional, and global debate on gender equality and climate change – among people in every country, but also within the organizations that work with climate issues on a concrete level.

“THERE CAN BE NO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT AN EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT; AND THERE CAN BE NO EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT GENDER EQUALITY”

**NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE,
WANGARI MATHAI**

WHY GENDER EQUALITY, GENDER, AND CLIMATE CHANGE?

Women and men affect the environment differently:

In industrialised countries, men generally travel more than women. Men are more likely to have their own car, whereas women use more public transportation. It is estimated, for example, that men are responsible for approximately 75 percent of all car use in Sweden.

Women and men are affected differently by climate change:

Climate change particularly affects poor, developing countries. Women comprise 70 percent of those living below the poverty line. Hence, women are often more vulnerable to climate-related disasters than men. Climate change exacerbates existing inequalities and reinforces differences between women and men in terms of their vulnerability and ability to cope with climate change.

Women and men are unequally represented in decision-making processes concerning climate change:

In international climate talks, the share of participating female ministers has varied from 15 to 20 %. The share of female delegates has been around 27 % over the last five years, while the share of female heads of delegations is less than 20 %.

MAKE EQUALITY A PART OF THE NEW CLIMATE AGREEMENT

01

To make gender equality one of the guiding principles in the negotiation process and integrate it into the new climate treaty

HOW

This recommendation could be presented by the Nordic Council of Ministers for inclusion in the climate negotiations.

WHY

Gender equality will contribute to a more effective solution to urgent climate change adaptation problems; for example, agricultural and water management, which are usually part of women's work in developing countries.

WHO

Individual governments will work actively to draft overarching recommendations for reducing inequality between women and men and for promoting sustainable development.

GREEN PUBLIC GENDER MAINSTREAMING

02

Use gender mainstreaming systematically and proactively in climate and sustainability efforts, in both industrialized and developing countries, and target the challenge to political decision-makers.

HOW

- We need political will and implementation.
- We need political acknowledgement that a gender and gender equality perspective has a role in everything that people do.

The work can be implemented concretely by appointing people who are experts on gender issues. Working together with climate experts, they can operationalize the field and require that municipalities do the same.

We can call for gender-mainstreamed CO₂ balance sheets from states/regions/municipalities, with concrete action plans for follow-up.

WHY

We need to raise awareness about the gender and climate dimensions, and their interconnectedness. This process must take into account the opportunities and interests of both men and women, so that we are able to find new, sustainable solutions. The aim is to create a gender-infused operating foundation, by subjecting existing and future efforts to a number of gender equality controls.

WHO

Politicians, government leaders, municipalities, and regions.

KEY TO SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION

03

Investments in gender equality are the driving force for innovation and sustainable development.

HOW

Launch initiatives to gender-mainstream financing mechanisms and national budgets.

First steps:

- Include the recommendation during preparations for and during COP15.
- Have corporations include it in the Global Compact.
- Have corporations and governments commit to implement the goals that are set.
- Men and women tell success stories and show commitment.

WHY

We need the talents and resources of everyone. Men and women think in different ways and contribute differently to solutions. In order to ensure this diversity, men and women must have equal opportunities to influence and benefit from the investments that are made to address climate change (adaptation/mitigation). This process will make men and women equal and full-fledged collaborative partners and citizens.

WHO

Nordic Council of Ministers, governments, politicians, (Climate Ministers), NGOs, individuals, companies (boards of management), leaders, collaborative partners

They will be anchored through:

- UNFCCC (conventions, implementation of financing mechanisms)
- Global Compact – CSR initiative; section on sustainability (including the issues of gender equality, diversity, and innovation)
- Governments and corporations

MONEY FOLLOWS THE INDIVIDUAL MAN AND WOMAN

04

Include sustainable gender equality in the financing of the new climate convention and in aid policy.

HOW

The Nordic Ministers for Climate Issues will discuss the recommendation and take it up in the negotiations preceding COP15. This will also generate greater knowledge on gender and climate issues. Follow-up will take place through monitoring indicators.

WHY

Efforts to address climate change needs to be made more effective and goal-oriented. This can be done by ensuring that project financing and other investments support sustainable development and promote gender equality. The project will be reinforced through ensuring balanced gender representation in decision-making processes.

WHO

Organizations and recipients of project funding and investments.

NORDIC AID WITH A DOUBLE PAY-OFF

05

The Nordic countries are engaged in creating a distinct aid profile in the context of gender equality and climate change. They will make sure that a conspicuous percentage of development aid is earmarked for gender-responsive projects in the context of climate change.

HOW

Financing can occur through the BNP of donor countries; “X percent” of funds can be earmarked for global, gender-responsive, and climate change-related projects.

WHY

- We are undertaking an investment that brings double the results.
- We are supporting green and gender-responsive thinking in global project development.

WHO

Governments/states, Ministers, NGOs, and the private sector.
They will be anchored through the climate change meeting in Copenhagen 2009.

EQUAL ACCESS FOR WOMEN AND MEN

06

Ensure equal access to sustainable technology for both women and men.

HOW

Legislation is fundamentally important here. Women must have the same access as men to ownership, loans, education, etc. Many cultural barriers also need to be broken down. We acknowledge that the steps to be taken may depend on local conditions.

WHY

Equal access to technologies that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions is a basic right of both women and men. From now on, women will not access a particular technology through men. This right will bring society-wide, equal development on our way to a carbon-neutral society.

It requires that men step back and allow women to step forth. Accordingly, women need to take greater responsibility for their new position.

WHO

International, national, regional, local decision-makers. NGOs, development institutions, local. Can go through local Agenda 21 divisions, women’s groups. New structures may also be created.

USER DRIVEN INNOVATION

07

Development of sustainable technology (research and innovation) will incorporate the perspectives of both women and men in terms of needs and use.

For example: Second-generation bio-fuels from agricultural crop by-products, creating local income and attractive jobs for women.

Local development of cleaner technologies for cooking, to reduce deforestation and local air pollution.

HOW

A crucial step in the development process is to involve the users (both women and men) in a dialogue on and in the testing of new technologies. This can be supported, for example, through local pilot projects, capacity building, and Master's/PhD programs. Green innovation funds must take into consideration in all appropriations the potential benefits in terms of gender and localities. The first step can be to propose the establishment of a green innovation fund at the COP15.

WHY

Technological development will ensure local participation, incorporate local experiences, and provide income development for both women and men, in order to ensure effective and sustainable use of technology.

Both parties can benefit from increased income. Women will have an opportunity to use technology in their daily lives, which will bring added benefits to 2015 goals (income, education, gender equality, sustainability) and regional development goals within, for example, the EU. The primary users of a technology will have a role in its development and responsibility for its use.

WHO

Researchers, technological companies, end-users, national governments (research, innovation, financing), an international organization. Anchoring through all stakeholders, through specific development projects. The fund will operate in the context of an international organization, such as UNFCCC.

WOMEN AS ROLEMODELS AND CHANGE AGENTS

08

Both women and men will be utilized in the implementation of sustainable technologies. But we have to acknowledge their different opportunities in terms of innovation processes and use.

HOW

It is important to have the involvement of both women and men during the entire process – from needs/use, to development and implementation. As an example, traditional African farming is often in the hands of women.

It is essential to have a woman as role model when implementing new, sustainable technologies. The first step is to secure funds for projects that involve women's potential as agents for change.

WHY

Taking gender differences into consideration will produce maximum benefits from technology and improve the living conditions of both women and men. This is also true in communicating at an individual level with women or men.

WHO

- The end-users of sustainable technologies (women as well as men)
- Organizations and politicians regarding prioritization
- Companies that produce sustainable technology

Used wherever there is a presence of female “agents for change”.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES – FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

09

Technology, innovation, and design must incorporate a climate change, gender, and gender equality – perspective. We must utilize women's and men's different opportunities, knowledge, and competence in technological development and implementation.

HOW

- Official climate change development activities need to incorporate a gender equality perspective.
- Official climate change adaptation measures should be checked for their gender equality impacts.
- Private companies should be challenged to collaborate with gender researchers and others to increase women's interest in traditional energy and climate products, which have so far mostly been in men's sphere of interest.

WHY

Women bring important knowledge to innovation and design processes.

We have many climate-related technologies that have not been utilized sufficiently widely. For example, low-energy products, alternative energy sources (wind and water power), and building insulation. A higher degree of user adaptation – here, gender adaptation – can promote environmentally friendly uses of technology.

WHO

Public and private companies and researchers.

CARBON COST MATRIX

10

To internalize considerations regarding CO₂-impact and gender equality in the metrics used for organizational decision-making, especially on cost.

Examples: Car acquisitions in municipalities: Apply total cost of ownership criterion, instead of simple list price, to reflect that electric vehicles (at least for now) are more costly to buy, but much cheaper to drive per mile/kilometer. As a supporting benefit, electric vehicles appeal more to women than men and facilitate increased flexibility for women in the labor market.

HOW

The initiative could come from the central government or from regional organizations. The original model could be developed by the central government. A subsidy program from the government could be created to cover the costs for organizations that adapt the model according to its own needs.

WHY

In Danish municipalities it is important to create systems that allow budgeting according to life-cycle considerations, as opposed to one-year cash-flow impact. The effect on men/women depends on the actual choice of cars, but in any case it would be considerable, in as much as many cars are driven by home-care personnel, who are mostly women.

WHO

Start with the Ministry of Finance and then work outwards, horizontally and vertically, to all other organizations, to the extent that this otherwise deviates from standard procedure.

PUBLIC FRONTRUNNER

11

The public sectors of industrialized countries must show the way in CO₂-reductions.

HOW

- Use financial instruments (tax and VAT) to reward and punish institutions, companies, and individuals to stimulate methods that are more CO₂-friendly.
- Create targets and CO₂-quotas for public expenditures, for example: green cars, green food, green investments, new buildings, and quotas for air travel.

Gather data in order to map out the targets that work best for carbon scoring and the field of gender equality. A form for a “CO₂-price guarantee” will be developed for use from now on. It will ensure that the public sphere takes the lead at all times and applies best practices in CO₂-reducing purchases, investments, and choices.

WHY

The public sector has the size and economic might to create the necessary market and thereby create and influence demand. When products and services are available and can be purchased, it will set a trend. At the same time, this will “de-gender” the debate so that it is no longer a question of men and women, but of what is the right thing to do – regardless of gender.

WHO

Governments, politicians at all levels, and the public sector.

WOMEN AND MEN'S CARBON FOOTPRINT – A TOOL FOR DEVELOPMENT

12

Create a specific knowledge base on the relationships between:

- 1 Consumption patterns
- 2 Gender
- 3 Emission of greenhouse gases
- 4 Knowledge level
- 5 Decision-making competence

HOW

Carry out a quick research project to provide an overview of existing data and produce the data that is still missing.

WHY

We know that men and women consume differently. However, we need a better and more precise basis for decision-making in terms of the policy instruments that affect household greenhouse gas emissions. These include factors such as various fees, legislation, state investments, planning, and campaigns.

WHO

The Nordic Council of Ministers in cooperation with professionally qualified institutions working with the issues of gender, climate change, household consumption and behavior, and policy instruments.

COMMUNICATION THROUGH THE GOOD EXAMPLE

13

Devise a communications strategy to offer various examples of gender and climate change adaptation in water and agricultural management.

HOW

The Nordic Council of Ministers will develop climate scenarios with concrete examples of why gender equality is a necessary precondition for adaptive measures.

The examples can provide the basis for communicating solutions that can then be integrated into national adaptation strategies.

WHY

There is not enough information about the significance of women in climate change adaptation. Such knowledge can contribute to more effective adaptation measures.

WHO

Nordic Council of Ministers

INVOLVE BOTH WOMEN AND MEN LOCALLY

14

Ensure that the local knowledge, experience, and needs of both genders are taken into account in planning all interventions and political decision-making processes in the context of adaptation.

HOW

The appeal can be addressed to national governments, donors, NGOs, corporations, etc. The appeal can be preceded by disseminating information about climate change and its consequences for local areas. The first step is to lay down the demand of the active integration of both genders in national strategies for climate change adaptation.

WHY

Both genders need to be actively involved in taking responsibility for climate change adaptation. When both genders are making decisions that originate in their own realities, needs, and experiences, we increase the likelihood of creating more effective and sustainable solutions that benefit larger parts of the population. Everyone who is affected by climate change must contribute their knowledge and needs when solutions for adaptation are being created, and women must contribute to all decisions equally with men.

WHO

Corporations, organizations, local population in all age groups.

MORE WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING!

15

In 2014, the boards and top management of public and private companies must have a division of men and women that is at least 60 – 40. All committees at the local, regional, and national level need to set a good example.

HOW

- Realize recommendations through the EU and through national legislation.
- The Ministers for Gender Equality, Environment and Climate agree on a joint initiative.
- Have major national energy companies show the way!

WHY

The reduction of climate-affecting greenhouse gases is a global challenge. To meet it, we need a large degree of innovation, competence, the backing of our populations, as well as willpower. We will need to make use of all the resources that society has to offer. Since women and men have different experiences, both must be involved in the decisions that are made. Women and men must have equal responsibility for the development of our future society.

WHO

- Corporations, politicians, NGOs, and users are the most important stakeholders.
 - The Nordic Council of Ministers will make sure that the recommendations are taken forward to the politicians of each country as well as to international organizations.
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