Building Blocks Towards a Gender-Responsive 2015 Climate Agreement

Bonn, Germany, June 13, 2014
Setting the Stage

• How is gender equality linked to climate change and what do we mean by 'gender-responsive' climate policy?

• Why is this important for enhanced action on climate change?

• What progress have we made on incorporating gender into the UNFCCC decisions/ mechanisms?

• Why is gender equality crucial for the 2015 climate architecture- and how might it be incorporated?
A short pop quiz!

- What percentage of women worldwide live on less than a dollar each day?

a. 3%
b. 20%
c. 26%
d. 45%
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b. 20%
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Of the 860 million adults around the world it is estimated cannot read, what proportion are women?

a. 1/2  
b. 1/3  
c. 2/3  
d. 3/4
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d. 3/4
• Women own how much of the world’s property?

a. 1 %
b. 2 %
c. 5 %
d. 10 %
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b. 2 %

c. 5 %

d. 10 %
• In Africa alone, how many hours per year do people spend collecting and carrying water?

a. 500 million hrs
b. 6 billion hrs
c. 20 billion hrs
d. 40 billion hrs
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In the Asian tsunami of 2004, what percentage of the fatalities were women?

a. 20%
b. 35%
c. 50%
d. 80%
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b. 35%
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d. 80%
• What percentage of current college graduates are women?

a. 10%
b. 25%
c. 40%
d. 55%
What percentage of current college graduates are women?

a. 10%
b. 25%
c. 40%
d. 55%
• What amount of women work in technical industries (i.e. energy, industry, construction and engineering)?

a. 5%
b. 20%
c. 17%
d. 35%
• What amount of women work in technical industries (i.e. energy, industry, construction and engineering)?

a. 5%

b. **20%**

c. 17%

d. 35%
• What average percentage of Parliament seats do women hold worldwide?

a. 8 %
b. 14 %
c. 20 %
d. 43 %
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a. 8 %
b. 14 %

c. 20 %
d. 43 %
Gender?

“Gender” refers to social relations between, and among, women and men and girls and boys

– Distinct from ‘Sex’, which refers to the biological differences between women and men
– Distinct from ‘Women’ as the basis for a political, institutional and analytical approach

Gender is socially constructed, and intersects with other social relations (eg. age, race, disability, sexuality, religion).
Gender Equality

‘Gender Equality is the equal enjoyment by women and men of socially valued goods, opportunities, resources, and rewards. The aim is not that women and men become the same, but that their opportunities and life chances become and remain equal.’ (OECD, DAC, 1998)
Gender Analysis: Roles/ Division of Labour

• **Reproductive Role**- Tasks associated with daily child rearing and domestic chores

• **Productive Role**- Work done by both women and men for pay in cash or kind

• **Community Managing Role**- Voluntary and unpaid activities at community level

• **Political Role**- Participation in decision-making at all political levels on behalf of interest-based constituencies
How people experience climate change is affected by their position in the gender division of labour – i.e., their gender roles, and their access to and control over resources.

These gendered impacts reinforce the importance of climate change as a development issue. Environmental instability exacerbates existing inequalities.
We therefore need to assess how climate change interventions approach the gender division of labour. Do they:

- Make assumptions about it? (essentialisms and stereotypes?)
- Use a women/ men binary generalization? (ignoring intersectionality)
- Exploit it? (instrumentalizing women?)
- Attempt to transform gender relations to make them more just?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender Gaps</th>
<th>Climate Change</th>
<th>Impacts Exacerbate Gender Inequities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poverty</strong></td>
<td><strong>Crop Failure</strong></td>
<td>Women experience increased agricultural work and overall household food production burden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 60% of the 1.5 billion people living on $1 a day or less are women (source: UNPFA)</td>
<td><strong>Fuel Shortage</strong></td>
<td>Many women in developing countries can spend between 2-9 hours a day collecting fuel and fodder, and performing cooking chores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water</strong></td>
<td><strong>Water Scarcity</strong></td>
<td>Increased burden on women walking further distances to access safe water, impacts the education and economic stability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On average women and children spend 8 or more hours per day collecting water (source: UN Women)</td>
<td><strong>Natural Disaster</strong></td>
<td>Women have a higher incidence of mortality in natural disasters; women can suffer from an increased threat of sexual violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Disease</strong></td>
<td>As caregivers women often experience an increased burden for caring for young, sick and elderly as well as lack of access to health care facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globally, women are 16.7% of government ministers; 19.5% of parliamentarians; and 9% heads of state (source: IPU)</td>
<td><strong>Displacement</strong></td>
<td>Forced migration could exacerbate women’s vulnerability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conflict</strong></td>
<td>While men are more likely to be killed or injured in fighting, women suffer greatly from other consequences of conflict, such as rape, violence, anxiety and depression</td>
</tr>
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<td>Women produce over 60% of food in some countries (source: FAO)</td>
<td><strong>IMPACTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXACERBATE GENDER INEQUITIES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Literacy</strong></td>
<td><strong>IMPACTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXACERBATE GENDER INEQUITIES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two thirds of the 774 million illiterate adults worldwide are women (source: UNStats)</td>
<td><strong>Displacement</strong></td>
<td>Forced migration could exacerbate women’s vulnerability</td>
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<td><strong>Land</strong></td>
<td><strong>Conflict</strong></td>
<td>While men are more likely to be killed or injured in fighting, women suffer greatly from other consequences of conflict, such as rape, violence, anxiety and depression</td>
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<td>Women own just 2% of the world’s land (source: UN Women)</td>
<td><strong>IMPACTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXACERBATE GENDER INEQUITIES</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gender Perspective Crucial to Effective Action on Climate

Women, as well as men, are users of energy and natural resources. This means that effective climate change policy needs to be based on gender analysis to:

• Understand the roles and resource uses of different groups of women and men (eg household vs productive energy consumption, different forms of use of common property resources);
• Be based on the environmental knowledge of different groups of women and men (eg resource use, DRR adaptation);
• Engage with attitudinal change amongst different groups of women and men (appealing to gender norms about production or care?);
• Draw on the contributions of different groups of women and men (environmental management, voluntary labour?);
• Appeal to different constituencies of women and men to provide political support to climate change interventions.
What do we mean by ‘gender-responsive’ policies?

Gender-blind

• Ignores gender norms, roles and relations; Very often reinforces gender-based discrimination; Ignores differences in opportunities and resource allocation for women and men

Gender-sensitive

• Considers gender norms, roles and relations; May not address inequality generated by unequal norms, roles or relations, but indicates gender awareness, although often no remedial action is developed

Gender-responsive

• Considers gender norms, roles and relations for women and men and how they affect access to and control over resources; Considers women’s and men’s specific needs; Intentionally targets and benefits a specific group of women or men to achieve certain policy or programme goals or meet certain needs; Makes it easier for women and men to fulfil duties that are ascribed to them based on their gender roles
Gender-Responsive Climate Policies

Climate policies, adaptation and mitigation actions which:
consider gender norms, roles and relations for women and men and how they affect access to and control over resources; considers women’s and men’s specific needs; Intentionally targets and benefits a specific group of women or men to achieve certain policy or programme goals or meet certain needs; Makes it easier for women and men to fulfil duties that are ascribed to them based on their gender roles…. with a goal towards promoting greater gender equality and transformation of these roles.
Can ‘gender-responsive’ help advance goals of Convention?

Adaptation

**IPCC:** The contrast in precipitation between wet and dry regions and between wet and dry seasons will increase [1].

**Gender:** When water is not available on the premises, women are more often responsible for water collection than men.

**Gender Responsive Action to address changes in rain patterns and water availability**
Develop infrastructure for water supply in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas that recognizes and addresses the needs of women, such as technology for harvesting rainwater and collecting and recycling household water. The government of Nepal is committed to build the capacity of women to provide technical and maintenance support and to monitor and control water quality.
Can ‘gender-responsive’ help advance goals of Convention?

Mitigation - Reduction in land use change

**Contribution to Emissions:** Most of the land use change originates from Central and South America, Africa and Tropical Asia since the 1980s [8].

**Gender Data:** Direct participation of women in decision-making and forest protection increased forest regeneration and control over illegal grazing and felling [19].

**Gender Responsive Action to reduce land use change**
In Cameroon, climate change strategies should include actions that provide equal access and control to women and men over tools, equipment, technology and resources needed to engage in activities such as sustainable forest management, agricultural techniques with low impact on the environment, afforestation, forestry certification, agroforestry techniques, and Non Traditional Forest Products (NTFP) processing.
Can ‘gender-responsive’ help advance goals of Convention?

Further examples:

**ADAPTATION**
- Water
- Oceans
- Sea level rise and salinization
- Extreme weather events
- Health

**MITIGATION**
- REDD+
- Reduction in land use change
- Changes in consumption patterns
What progress have we made on incorporating gender into the UNFCCC decisions/ mechanisms?

Shared Vision
- Gender equality and the effective participation of women are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change;

Adaptation
- Gender equality as guidance in preparation of NAPAs
- Enhanced action on adaptation should have a gender-sensitive approach
- NAPs – gender-sensitive tools and approaches
- NWP - gender-sensitive tools

Mitigation
- REDD+ national strategies should include gender considerations; safeguards should respect gender considerations
- Response measures should take into account consequences for women
What progress have we made on incorporating gender into the UNFCCC decisions/ mechanisms?

Technology
• CTCN in the preparation of technology projects and strategies should take into account gender considerations

Finance
• Total of 5 references including: “The [Green Climate] Fund will strive to maximize the impact of its funding for adaptation and mitigation, and seek a balance between the two, while promoting environmental, social, economic and development co-benefits and taking a gender-sensitive approach.”

Participation/ Balance
• Decision 36/CP.7; Decision 23/CP. 18- Gender Balance / Agenda Item
• TEC, Adaptation Committee, Standing Committee, GCF- gender balance in composition

Loss and Damage, Capacity Building, Article 6
Why is gender equality crucial for the 2015 climate architecture- and how might it be incorporated?
Thanks

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