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Time to act: Let's make this the century of women’s empowerment and rights

Gender equality in a new climate agreement

a daily multi-stakeholder magazine on climate change and sustainable development

outreach.

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OUTREACH TEAM

Editor
Amy Cutter

Assistant Editor
John Romano

Print Designer
Antigoni Mathianaki

Web Designer
Tom Harrisson

Stakeholder Forum
Freelance

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Sonu K.C. — Green Team Nepal
Verona Collantes — UN Women
Elisa Calliari — Youth Press Agency
Tom Harrisson — Goldsmiths College, University of London
Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi — Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment

Nisha Onta — Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)
Leisa Perch — RIO+ Centre
Kalyani Raj — All India Women’s Conference
Stéphane Pouffary and Heather Rogers — ENERGIES 2050
Linda Siegele and Christoph Schwarte — Legal Response Initiative (LRI)

About Stakeholder Forum

Outreach is a multi-stakeholder publication on climate change and sustainable development. It is the longest continually produced stakeholder magazine in the sustainable development arena, published at various international meetings on the environment; including theUNCSD meetings (since 1997), UNEP Governing Council, UNEP Conference of the Parties (COP) and World Water Week. Published as a daily edition, in both print and web form, Outreach provides a vehicle for critical analysis on key thematic topics in the sustainability arena, as well as a voice of regional and local governments, women, indigenous peoples, trade unions, industry, youth and NGOs. To fully ensure a multi-stakeholder perspective, we aim to engage a wide range of stakeholders for article contributions and project funding.

If you are interested in contributing to Outreach, please contact the team (acutter@stakeholderforum.org or jromano@stakeholderforum.org).

You can also follow us on Twitter: @stakeholders
Gender equality and women’s empowerment didn’t make it to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992. Its sister conventions, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) were ahead of the race, with the recognition of women’s agency and their contribution to advancing the goals of those two Conventions.

Parties to the UNFCCC discussing the elements of the new climate agreement to be adopted at COP21 in Paris in 2015 have proposed the inclusion of gender-specific references for the new agreement’s preamble and related elements including on adaptation, mitigation, capacity-building and finance.

Rightfully, the Parties are aligning their efforts to advance gender equality in the climate change discourse and to capture gender dimensions in the new agreement. After all, as the UN Secretary-General (SG) underscores in his Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda – The Road to Dignity, “This is the century of women: we will not realise our full potential if half of humanity continues to be held back.”

Gender equality is an unfinished development agenda. Sustainable development will remain elusive unless we address the unequal distribution of power, resources and opportunities that perpetuate gender inequalities and poverty; tackle deeply entrenched socio-cultural norms and practices that justify and condone violence and discrimination against women and girls and their exclusion from decision-making processes; and their unequal access to and ownership of productive resources. The international community has heard this in many consultations, discussion and studies, and accordingly the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals has proposed Goal 5: Advance Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Thus, the headway that is now seen in the Parties’ discussions on the elements of a new climate change agreement – as also reflected in the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) Non-Paper on the elements for a draft negotiating text – should be a basis to further explore and specify how a gender equality perspective and actions to advance women’s voices and rights in the new agreement can be strengthened. Gender equality language should be present throughout the agreement – in both the preamble, as well as the operative paragraphs. Specifically, to set the context, a preambular paragraph on recognising international instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Agenda 21, The Future We Want (Rio+20 Outcome document) and the outcomes of the two other Rio Conventions. A separate paragraph on guiding principles should include gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, together with human rights and non-discrimination.

In addition, it is important for each of the relevant sections to be included in the agreement – e.g., on adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology and capacity building (and other means of implementation), and monitoring and accountability framework – to contain concrete actions aimed at advancing gender equality and women’s participation and leadership, as well as the integration of gender-responsive approaches in any subsequent implementation programmes (relevant to the areas listed above).

In the course of the remaining negotiation days, we should be reminded of the SG’s call in his Synthesis report “This is no time to succumb to political expediency, or to tolerate the lowest common denominators.” Climate change impacts are not gender-neutral and require strong gender-responsive actions. Addressing climate change requires the involvement of all of us – women, men, boys and girls, and it requires bold action at all levels.

Let’s all work together to get this message to every negotiator so we get everyone to act for gender equality now!

MORE INFO

This article represents the view of the author and not that of her organisation.
Looking at decisions taken by Parties under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), it strikes me how much ground we have gained on gender over the last seven years. From zero references to gender in the negotiating text in 2007, the gender community has risen to the challenge to the point where gender seems to be a fixture on the climate change agenda. To get to this point has not been easy, and we still have a long way to go. While we have made progress on some areas, research and experience tells us that more is needed.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) World Centre for Sustainable Development (RIO+ Centre), in collaboration with the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) implemented a gender assessment of Climate-Smart Agriculture in five Southern African countries over the last few months, to gain a better understanding of where gender fits and how, as well as how policies respond and where further challenges and opportunities exist.

The results are decisive: Men and women smallholder farmers are significantly challenged to respond to changing environmental conditions, but differently.

- Participation is not influence. Women’s opportunities to influence policies at the local and national levels continues to be hampered by their gender, culture and other barriers.

- The voice of women is growing but still weak. Gender ministries, bureaus and units are often marginalised and remain out of the loop on agriculture, climate or environmental policies – despite women representing at least 50 per cent of communities, being significant users of resources impacting the management of water, land and forests, and providing nearly half the labour for agriculture in developing countries.

- Women struggle to tap into resources. Although climate adaptation and mitigation will not be easy, cheap or easy to sustain, women still do not enjoy full and equal access to inputs, credit and technology that exist to support climate-smart agriculture.

- Equal participation is vital for success. Women’s leadership, their control and decision-making over resources – financial and otherwise – as well as gender-inclusive governance frameworks, are important for the successful management of soil and water that form the bedrock for food production, nutrition and poverty reduction.

Gender and development can be broken down into a core set of strategic and practical needs: leadership, education, assets, governance, livelihoods, ecosystems, gender-based rights, participation and control over resources.

We have achieved progress on some of these points, including women’s leadership and participation at the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC and incorporating linkages between gender and ecosystems, livelihoods and governance within the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) process where, for the first time, a chapter on Poverty and Livelihoods was included, as well as a detailed analysis on gender.

At the local level, however, much more work remains to be done. Education, control over assets and resources and gender-based rights remain huge challenges.

Skeptics have denied that humans cause climate change. Other have also challenged the relevance of gender to climate change, suggesting it is being forced into discussions.

Is gender a climate change shoehorn? Definitely not! The shoe fits rather comfortably.

As negotiators define a new global climate deal that will inform climate action for the next 15 years, I ask that they please consider rural women. Think for a moment how the results of negotiations in Lima would either help them to adapt and be active participants in mitigation or fail to provide them with the solutions they are in such desperate need of.

When negotiating emissions reductions, please consider seriously how better access to climate services, soil conservation techniques and seed varieties could make the difference between rural women thriving or barely coping. Consider how a new climate deal will allow for more money to go into investments for a better future, versus managing avoidable crises today.

Consider how investing in education is as important as investing in technology. And how, without understanding the benefits technology could bring, it would not be useful for long. Women make over 70 per cent of the decisions at the household level. Ultimately – who decides and who will make the difference?

MORE INFO
Want to Learn More? Visit the RIO+ website: www.riopluscentre.org and follow on Twitter (@RioPlusCentre) and Facebook (/riopluscentre)
The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) process provides an important opportunity to raise climate-related gender concerns and push for their inclusion in a new global deal on climate change.

In both written submissions and oral interventions to the ADP process, Parties and groups of Parties have called for the integration of gender into the 2015 agreement. There has been support across many countries – developing and developed alike – to treat gender equality as either a guiding principle of the 2015 agreement, a cross-cutting element, or both.

A variety of approaches are available to reflect gender equality in the 2015 agreement; this article will outline some of these.

Integrating gender equality in textual provisions is a first approach. As a general (guiding or cross-cutting) principle, it could be introduced either in the preamble or in the substantive provisions of the agreement. For example, the following notions may be considered in a preamble:

“women and men have an equal voice in decision-making on climate change and broader governance processes”

“women and men shall be given equal access to the resources necessary to respond to the adverse effects of climate change”, or

“all climate change policies, processes and actions shall follow a gender-sensitive approach.”

Including gender equality provisions in the operative part of a new agreement would further strengthen the role of gender equality in future efforts to address climate change. For example, a principle-related provision could read as follows:

“Gender equality and women’s empowerment are critical to achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention. Accordingly, Parties shall promote gender equality and women’s empowerment and ensure their full and effective participation in climate change policies, programmes and decision-making at all levels.”

A second approach would be the creation of gender sensitive bodies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In order to support the effective consideration of gender issues under the UNFCCC and to ensure a degree of successful implementation and follow-up, the Parties could decide to establish a dedicated body or task force. This could be, for example, a team of gender specialists to promote the effective implementation of urgent work on gender and climate change or a more informal platform to strengthen and facilitate linkages among gender-interested stakeholders. A corresponding provision in a new agreement may read, for example:

“A committee on gender and climate change is hereby established to advise Parties and other bodies responsible to take decisions under this Agreement on gender issues. The committee shall consist of one man and one woman (or another ratio, minimum threshold or composition) from each of the five official United Nations regions, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small island developing States (SIDS).”

In addition to substantive provisions, procedural tools may help to gradually improve gender balance in delegations and bodies established under the UNFCCC. In many countries, the under-representation of women has been, at least in part, successfully addressed through quotas (for seats in parliament, positions in government or recruitment places).

Formal quotas on gender would chart new territory in international relations. Technically, the composition of delegations and their compliance with a formal percentage quota for women could be monitored in connection with the review of credentials (Rule 19 of the draft Rules of Procedure). Alternatively, decision-making in different bodies may be tied to a minimum requirement for the participation of female delegates. Under the draft Rules of Procedure (being applied) a debate requires the presence of at least one third of parties. The presence of two thirds of parties (quorum) is required to take a decision.

These quorum requirements could be tailored to include a similar procedural threshold with regard to women delegates who represent parties and act on their behalf during the course of decision-making processes (whether by voting or consensus). A corresponding provision in a new agreement could, for example, state:

“The quorum for decisions by Parties requires the presence of at least two thirds of the Parties to this Agreement of which at least one third shall be represented, at the time when the decision is taken, by women”

MORE INFO

View the full document at www.legalresponseinitiative.org
A present study in Rasuwa, a hilly district situated in Nepal, has looked into the adverse effects of climate change in eight selected villages. Climate Change does not discriminate between genders. However, it is women who are disproportionately affected by it. It is estimated that Nepali rural women work, on average, 18 hours in a day, and their plight has worsened due to climate change.

For example, 41 year old Furpu, a resident of Langtang Village Development Committee expresses, “For the last 15 years, we have been facing problems of drinking water as all the ponds and streams nearby have dried up. Previously we could fetch water within a distance of half an hour. Now we have to walk four to five hours to fetch a bucket of water.” She further adds that there are problems related to fodder, grass and fuel wood. More time is expended in collecting this as compared to before. These are some of the examples of climate change affecting rural women.

Some other effects mentioned by rural women are climate change’s impact on farming. Due to the effect of climate change on the agricultural system, agricultural jobs are no longer attractive to rural men. This has compelled rural women to take up farming instead, in turn increasing the burden on them.

Most of the farming in the area is dependent on monsoon rain. However, due to climate change, rain water has been more difficult to anticipate reliably. This has led to a decrease in crop yields, and attacks of new insects and pests that are also detrimental to agricultural production.

Other effects of climate change, as mentioned by another rural Nepalese woman, 70 year old Kamikshya Ghale, “for five years there has been no snowfall in January or February. As a result, apple farming is not possible anymore. There is also frequent incident of drought and soil erosion which has discouraged other types of farming.” It is evident that climate change has affected the system as a whole – be it agriculture, forestry, environment and, most importantly, the workload of rural women.

The flora and fauna have also witnessed a significant decline in numbers. Species like scented deer and different species of birds are no longer seen in these areas today. Similarly, the population of yak has also declined, and perennial grassland has become a rarity. Water sources that yak and other livestock rely on have dried up. Snow, which was visible in the hills just five years ago, has also vanished.

Climate change has increasing effects on women for grazing their livestock. Previously, very little time was needed to collect fuel wood, fodder and to herd livestock. 31 year old, Sonam Gyalmo says “we go at 10AM and return at 4PM in the afternoon. That means we spend six hours of our valuable time in collecting fuel wood, fodder and looking after livestock. It has become extremely difficult to raise livestock due to the changes in climate.”

All of the above examples highlight the harsh reality women are suffering in rural areas in Nepal. Though this article portrays the difficulties faced in one community, it is representative of the nation as a whole. Despite their silent suffering, no concerted efforts have been made to alleviate the workload of rural women. Rural women in Nepal are often illiterate and not engaged in income-generating work. Their contribution to their households and communities is immense, but they are rarely recognised.

Some steps have been taken by both government and non-government organisations to tackle the issue of climate change, but they have remained more on paper than in practice. Until and unless rural women are involved in the decision-making processes to alleviate their problems, the silent suffering of rural women in Nepal will continue. Thus, urgent and concerted efforts need to be made by all stakeholders to combat the challenges and threats emerging from climate change.
On Wednesday 3 December, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Standing Committee on Finance presented a landmark assessment which highlighted that hundreds of billions of dollars of climate finance may now be flowing across the globe annually. However, what is lacking in this assessment and their recommendations is a focus on gender-responsive climate financing instruments and benefit sharing mechanisms.

Billions of dollars of finance will not ensure sustainable change in the lives of women and men if climate change funding is not gender responsive. Article 7 of the Cancun Agreement acknowledges that gender equality and the effective participation of women are important for all aspects of climate change, and Article 12 demands a gender-sensitive approach. Climate financing mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Climate Investment funds are developing gender action plans and policies; the assessment by the Standing Committee on Finance also highlighted the need for further improvement and refinement of methodologies for assessing the impact of interventions.

There is a clear need for a framework for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) for gender impacts, similar to those frameworks developed for carbon emissions.

Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN) created the W+ Standard as the world’s first social benefit standard to measure positive impacts to women’s social and economic empowerment, and to provide governments, international organisations, companies, and individuals a way to drive social and economic empowerment for women. The W+ Standard tracks women’s empowerment in six areas: time, income, health, leadership, education and food security. Establishing this standard of measurement made it possible to create W+ Units that investors can purchase to ensure progress in these areas.

These W+ Units are results-based social assets – investments in improving the lives of women and the people they support. The first W+ project was completed this year in Nepal, where women in rural villages replaced their wood-generated stoves with those generated by biogas, relieving them of the need to collect wood for fuel. This change saved the Nepalese women over two hours every day. This time saved became time that the women could use to increase their income, take on leadership roles in the community, learn new skills, grow additional crops, care for children and the elderly, improve their health, support their community and benefit from rare leisure time.

The W+ Unit recognises the social and economic value of women. Purchasing these social assets allows buyers to drive positive social change for women and economic wins for local communities, because profits from the sales of the W+ Units return to women and benefit their families and communities. W+ Units make it possible for companies, governments and individuals to make certified investments in women’s empowerment, and these investments yield measurable outcomes for women, supply chains and investors.

Governments, development agencies and investors are increasingly funding women’s empowerment and gender equality, based on women’s rights and evidence of improved project outcomes. However, what is lacking for many is a robust means of measuring these outcomes in a way that can be simply communicated. At this time, certification schemes and standards do not quantify benefits or outcomes to women of project communities; many refer only to gender and women in relation to their workplaces or social safeguards. The W+ aims for a more pro-active approach to tackle the issue, by incentivising projects and companies to deliver new resources to women of affected communities, to address both their practical and strategic interests through results-based financing.

The W+ offers a unique mechanism to value women’s contributions to unpaid care work, climate change mitigation and development initiatives and spur their empowerment by sharing revenues from the sales of W+ units with women and their groups.

MORE INFO
More information and a webshop for W+ unit sales can be found at http://www.wplus.org.
As I travelled halfway across the globe covering two very different worlds, I found myself listening in on the same conversations everywhere. Government delegates, civil society organisations (CSOs) or strangers on the street, everyone was talking about climate change.

Ironically, there used to be a time when chatting about the weather was merely a veiled attempt at making small talk. Today, there is a much larger and more crucial issue hidden within those very conversations. Increasingly hotter days, harsher winters and extreme rain patterns are just a few of the weather changes under discussion these days. And while the abnormal weather patterns are observed by all, most people may be clueless about their origin. Despite the critical ‘climate change’ issue being a mandate on almost every agenda across global and national environmental forums, the common Indian man or woman from any rural Indian village is usually ignorant about the very concept.

All India Women’s Conference (AIWC), a pioneering non-profit organisation largely dedicated towards the socio-economic empowerment of women, has been working on environmental conservation and protection issues for over three decades now, through its vast network of over 500 branches across India. The propagation of alternative energy for domestic use, waste management and water conservation are a few among many initiatives undertaken by the organisation towards mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. At the national level, AIWC has trained many girls and women in the use, assembly and repair of solar equipment and, furthermore, provided them with an income generation opportunity by connecting these trained women to manufacturers.

The frequent extreme weather situations faced over the past decade and the resultant heavy burden on women, made us realise that there is a dire need to create awareness in adaptation techniques and enhancing resilience of women to combat the negative impact of post-disaster situations. With the support of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), we have conducted Disaster Preparedness Training in more than 15 states in India. Special training to provide minimum initial services for sexual and reproductive health (MISP for SRH), again with the support of NDMA, has also been initiated by AIWC and quite a number of women have been trained on MISP during the past four years.

To support AIWC’s goal of women’s overall empowerment, and to make the grass-roots level women aware of international scenarios relating to sustainable development and climate change, a series of advocacy workshops were conducted in different states across India in 2014, focusing on the impact of climate change on essential elements of human life like energy, water, health and agriculture. The workshops were supported by Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF). They also endeavoured to revive traditional adaptation techniques imbibed in indigenous women’s routine life and looked at ways to upscale them.

With active engagement in climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, AIWC continues to conduct programmes and training for urban and rural women in the areas of alternate energy, water management, waste management, disaster preparedness and a wide range of other topics, reaching out to hundreds of women in all states across India. This is an extension of its 86-year old mandate of empowering women and is symbolic of the continuing commitment to the cause of women.
Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi is from Uganda and works for the organisation Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment. She is currently attending the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP)20 in Lima, Peru. Ms. Kenyangi spoke with Latha Swamy, UN Youth Representative for Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), and shared some of her experiences and thoughts about the COP.

Latha Swamy (LS): How does your organisation support, or engage, women in agriculture and forestry?

Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi (GK): My organisation is a grassroots women’s organisation in Uganda working on environmental and climate change issues, specifically in agriculture and food security. We work with forest-edge communities to improve their resilience to climate change by implementing adaptation and mitigation activities.

Our projects help communities establish forest resources on their own land. We work in a collaborative relationship with the National Forest Authority (NFA). The majority of forests in Uganda are protected so this partnership is important to have. Originally the NFA had a single-focus of protecting the forest, but that bred a lot of conflict between the community and NFA.

LS: Of what importance are forests to the communities and women in particular?

GK: Forests support the livelihoods of the communities with fruits, mushrooms, leaves, tubers, fuel wood, and building and fencing material. Also, many forests in Uganda serve as watersheds, like Lake Victoria and the Nile River. Many of the forests have been cut, so the water and fuel security is lost, and this puts women at a disadvantage in their communities.

LS: Given your work at the community level, how do you see that fitting into the various work streams of the negotiations?

GK: Our work at the community level fits in with the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) because we are looking at gender equality as a measure of improving the resilience of not only women, but the entire community. Although there is very good legislation concerning gender equality in my country, the policy and practice are divergent.

Connecting the dots: Relating forests and food to women’s empowerment

Traditional norms and practices are very much in place at the grassroots level and women are still without access or control to productive assets, like land, seeds, and implements in the home. They can’t make meaningful investments that are permanent. One example is tree plantations – women will not be denied to have a plantation, but land is usually acquired by inheritance. And since gender equality is relatively new in my country, women still do not have their own land, or the money to purchase it (many women are still uneducated, and therefore not that competitive on the job market to earn a wage). We are in support of gender equality in the new decision in the SBI, because we believe if women have the same assets that men have access to and control of, it will go a long way to enhancing the resilience of communities.

Adaptation is very important for the community to enhance resilience. As such, my organisation is transferring fuel saving technology and promoting solar energy and rain water harvesting, as well as forest-based non-extractive income-generating activities, such as beekeeping. Income-generating components like these also have a spillover effect for biodiversity. Previously bees were burned to death to harvest the honey, but now they are being smoked out, in a sustainable manner.

LS: What do you hope to accomplish at the COP?

GK: Being at COP20 gives me an opportunity to be witness to what has been passed. I will be able to hold my government accountable if they do not deliver. I would like to get exposure to the process, to understand the work streams in depth, and to understand their interlinkages because the process affects us as women. I feel that if these global level discussions are successful, it will percolate to the national level, and then to our communities.

Once gender equality has been enshrined in global policy positions, I think there will be a lot of resources injected into the communities, and the capacity of the women will be built. They will be able to gain skills, gain understanding of the issues, and we hope they will be able take a stand and demand their rights.
Gender in the climate negotiations – moving from a side issue to a common thread

Stéphane Pouffary and Heather Rogers
ENERGIES 2050

Two years ago in Doha, COP18 adopted decisions that marked an important shift in the consideration of gender within the climate negotiations. Until then, questions regarding gender were side-lined to the ‘Other matters’ section of the agenda, therefore lacking an official space for discussion. So what’s new for Lima? ENERGIES 2050 believes that it is time to rethink gender not as a side issue but as an integral part of the solutions for tackling climate change.

The 2012 Doha conference adopted a decision specifically focusing on promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties. Whether a comprehensive framework and work programme on gender will be established to help implement this decision remains under discussion. Since Doha, a regular slot in the agenda of the COP has been allocated to gender and climate change, thus creating a dedicated space for discussion. In Lima, a workshop showcasing women’s leadership on climate action will be held, as well as a high-level event on gender and climate change, as part of ‘Gender day’ on Tuesday 9th December.

So how well is the consideration of gender equality being integrated into the climate negotiations? In regards to the UNFCCC itself, the proportion of women in different bodies and country delegations is now monitored. Under the topics addressed by the UNFCCC, gender-sensitive approaches are gradually gaining attention – for example in work programmes on adaptation – but such discussions need to be transformed into concrete decisions and practices.

These developments since Doha stem from the overall agreement among Parties that gender equality and ensuring women’s human rights are necessary to effectively act on climate change. As the negotiations opened in Lima, civil society representatives speaking on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency called for a decision regarding gender and climate change that encourages gender-sensitive climate policy. They also call for gender equality to be included as a guiding principle in the text of the new climate agreement.

ENERGIES 2050 – an NGO based in France and working internationally on the transition towards a sustainable, equitable future – believes that it is important to recognise gender as a cross-cutting issue and therefore a consideration for all the different aspects of climate change action, including mitigation, adaptation, finance and capacity building. The same is of course true for the wider sustainable development agenda, which can only succeed in consultation and with the involvement of all actors, and certainly not without the participation of women.

In October 2013, a new Francophone network for gender equality was founded – the ‘Réseau francophone pour l’égalité Femme-Homme’ – under the International Organisation of la Francophonie (an institution gathering 77 members from five continents). This network was initiated by representatives from more than twenty countries, with the common goal of contributing to the promotion of gender equality and to the empowerment of women. As a member of the network, ENERGIES 2050 very much shares this vision and the consideration of gender equality is an integral part of our mission and activities. We all know that women play a key role in the move towards sustainable development. For example, it makes no sense to keep discussing family farming in the negotiations if we ignore the issues of land ownership for women as well as income generating activities and education for women and girls.

So whether we look to the UNFCCC negotiations and international climate policy, or to mitigation and adaptation activities on the ground, gender equality and women’s human rights need to be systematically taken into account, as a common thread and very much an integral part of these different activities – and certainly not as an add-on, or even worse, an afterthought.

MORE INFO
ENERGIES 2050 is a non-profit non-governmental organisation (NGO) working on the ‘Great Transition’ towards a more humane, plural and united society, bringing peace and respecting the common goods of humanity.

Website: www.energies2050.org Email: contact@energies2050.org

The Francophone network for gender equality:
www.francophonie.org/Lancement-du-reseau-francophone.html
### Side events calendar

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<td></td>
<td>13:15 - 14:45</td>
<td>Machu-Picchu</td>
<td>The German action programme for climate mitigation 2020: How to reach the 40% reduction target</td>
<td>Germany, Oeko-Institut (Institute for Applied Ecology e.V.), Berlin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13:15 - 14:45</td>
<td>Caral</td>
<td>The energy sector and the 2015 agreement – pathways to success</td>
<td>International Energy Agency (IEA), World Energy Council (WEC)</td>
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<td>13:15 - 14:45</td>
<td>Paracas</td>
<td>High-Level Event on Gender and Climate Change: Men and women taking action on gender equality and climate change: How far have we come?</td>
<td>Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13:15 - 14:45</td>
<td>Maranga</td>
<td>Mitigation of energy-related GHG emissions</td>
<td>United Nations (UN)</td>
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<td>13:15 - 14:45</td>
<td>Paracas</td>
<td>Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC)</td>
<td>Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Ev-K2-CNR Committee (Ev-K2-CNR), Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13:15 - 14:45</td>
<td>Maranga</td>
<td>Cities &amp; climate change: Opportunities for collaboration between cities, policy-makers and business</td>
<td>Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation (KAS), Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13:15 - 14:45</td>
<td>Maranga</td>
<td>From Green Growth Plans to Green Infrastructure Investments</td>
<td>International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13:15 - 14:45</td>
<td>Caral</td>
<td>At the crossroads of PoAs and NAMAs, potential for advanced monitoring: MRV+</td>
<td>Groupe Energie Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités (GERES), Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16:45 - 18:15</td>
<td>Sipan</td>
<td>Innovations LIVE: effective solutions to the climate challenge in Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>Uruguay, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16:45 - 18:15</td>
<td>Caral</td>
<td>Women and Youth Leading Solutions on the Frontlines of Climate Change: Yasuni, Renewables and Beyond</td>
<td>Amazon Watch, TakingITGlobal (TIG)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16:45 - 18:15</td>
<td>Maranga</td>
<td>Towards Climate Resilient Cities</td>
<td>Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Korean Business Council for Sustainable Development (KBCSD)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16:45 - 18:15</td>
<td>Paracas</td>
<td>Rule of Law for Climate Justice: Certainty, Equity and Transparency in the Post-2015 Climate Accord</td>
<td>International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Global Forest Coalition (GFC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16:45 - 18:15</td>
<td>Wari</td>
<td>Momentum for Change: Women for Results</td>
<td>Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18:30 - 20:00</td>
<td>Caral</td>
<td>New large-scale Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) projects operating in the Americas</td>
<td>University of Texas at Austin, Carbon Capture and Storage Association (CCSA)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18:30 - 20:00</td>
<td>Maranga</td>
<td>From Vision to Action Plan - Raising the Global level of ambition through national and local action</td>
<td>ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18:30 - 20:00</td>
<td>Paracas</td>
<td>Innovation in the development of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. The MAPS Experience</td>
<td>Switzerland, University of Cape Town (UCT)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18:30 - 20:00</td>
<td>Machu-Picchu</td>
<td>The challenges of local adaptation planning and initiatives for communities</td>
<td>Italy, Care International, Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN), International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gender Day Events - Tuesday 9th December

**High-Level Event on Gender and Climate Change: Men and women taking action on gender equality and climate change - How far have we come?**  
*Time: 13:15-14:45, Room: Paracas*  
The event will bring together influential women and men leaders to envision a way forward to a sustainable future in which fully empowered women and men can be drivers of change. It will also commemorate the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+20).

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**UNFCCC Momentum for Change Initiative: Women for Results**  
*Time: 16:45-18:15, Room: Wari*  
Organised by the UNFCCC secretariat, this event will showcase 2014 Lighthouse Activities that demonstrate the critical leadership and participation of women in addressing climate change. These activities bring measurable results, which can potentially be replicated and scaled up at the local, national and international levels.

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**Cocktail Reception: Advancing Gender Equality for Climate Action**  
*Time: 20:00-22:00, Room: Peruvian Pavilion*  
Hosted by the Government of Peru and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), in cooperation with the Governments of Finland, Spain, Mexico, Netherlands, Mozambique, the UNFCCC secretariat, Global Gender and Climate Alliance, UN Women, UN Development Programme, Spanish Cooperation in Peru, the UNFCCC Women and Gender constituency and Women’s Environment and Development Organization.

A short twenty-minute programme will include welcoming remarks from the organisers followed by a panel discussion on how to advance the integration of gender considerations in the new climate change agreement and mainstream them in relevant national policies and actions.
Reflections from COP 20, Day 7

Elisa Calliari
Youth Press Agency

Saturday 6 December saw the opening of the first ever Multilateral Assessment (MA), aimed at engaging parties in evaluating developed countries’ mitigation efforts. Convened under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), this two-day exercise was the second step of a wider International Assessment and Review (IAR) process started in January 2014, with the technical review of the national reports submitted by developed countries. The MA opened on Saturday with presentations by the European Union and some Member States, and continued on Monday 8 December with contributions from the United States (US) and New Zealand, among others. The MA was applauded by parties as an important tool for enhancing accountability, transparency, and sharing of national experiences. Nevertheless, it looked more like an academic exercise with Parties providing their PowerPoint presentations on national mitigation efforts and with little critical analysis on the results presented. This was particularly true during the first day of the assessment, with the Brazilian delegation calling for more interaction and discussion in the process and the SBI chair endorsing this request. In fact, on Monday, the exercise was more engaging and questions by developing countries were so numerous that the session closed with a slight delay before the lunch break. In particular, Fiji, Brazil, China, Saudi Arabia proved to be particularly vocal. On the developed countries side, the US, Canada and Australia were among the more active in the discussion.

From a formal point of view, the MA might represent an important platform for enhancing accountability and keeping track of what developed countries are doing in terms of mitigation commitments. However, the exercise could be improved in a number of ways. In particular, there is a strong need for comparability among the results presented, this being ultimately hampered by the different methodologies individually used for the assessment. Moreover, the assessment efforts put in place by developed countries seemed to be quite uneven. While the EU presentation was based upon a 200 detailed report, the Biannual Report submitted by the US was quite thin with its 34 pages. Consequently, it was no surprise that the US was inundated with questions from both developed and developing countries. This first experience during SBI 41 will hopefully be useful to better shape the process in the upcoming MA (June and December 2015) and to make the MA really meaningful and supportive of an enhanced transparency under the Convention.

Tom Harrisson
Goldsmiths College, University of London

Not for the first time during COP20, the presence of Shell’s David Hone on a side-event panel has caused controversy. The event in question, hosted by the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA), whose name was changed from “Why Divest from Fossil Fuels When a Future with Low Emission Fossil Energy Use is Already a Reality?” to “How Can We Reconcile Climate Targets with Energy Demand Growth?”, was inundated by a scrum of civil society protesters on Monday.

Speaking outside the event Godwin Uyi Ojo, Executive Director of Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria said ‘we are here to condemn the activities of Shell in COP20. Shell is promoting dirty energy as part of the energy future of the world but [it] has caused monumental havoc in the Niger delta, [destroying] our rivers [and] our livelihoods, this is why we are pushing for renewable energy to say Shell has no part in COP20’.

Also on the panel was Lord Nicholas Stern who, having pushed passed protesters wearing “Get the FF out” t-shirts, spoke about the necessity of up-scaling Carbon Capture and Sequestration technology to stay within a 2˚C scenario. The protesters duly walked out allowing for a brief Q&A and some much-needed breathing space.

When questioned about his refusal to support the fossil fuel divestment campaign present at the London School of Economics, where he chairs the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, Lord Stern gave a somewhat conflicted response. Without actually acknowledging the campaign itself, he talked about ‘portfolio decarbonisation’ adopted by large public sector pension funds such as FRR in France, whereby the companies with the poorest environmental standards are dropped, creating positive incentive structures and increased returns on investment. He also talked about the need to be analytical when choosing where to apply pressure, either as a shareholder or none-shareholder.

Stern seems then to indirectly agree with the LSE Divest, whilst inviting criticism from civil society organisations by legitimising fossil fuel companies like Shell by speaking at such events.

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