

Draft recommendations from the High level Gender Forum

15 February 2009

GMEF CONSULTATIONS

Overall:

Statement to GMEF: That in all UNDAF (for one UN country programme) ensure gender and environment are fully integrated in country level programme development, implementation and analysis and evaluation.

Gender should not to be approached as a sectoral issue, but to be mainstreamed as an integral part of all sectors. In particular, Gender and environment to be mainstreamed into all the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)

GMEF THEME 1: Global crises national chaos

Energy Security

- ◆ Include women's needs and concerns in international discussions on energy use, access, and Climate Change.
- ◆ Conduct gender impact analysis on resource use and in particular on energy.

Water Security

- ◆ Women need to be recognized as managers and decision makers on water management.
- ◆ International commitments – role of women discussed – but we need deeper understanding of gender related use/management of water and underlying cultural/ economic or legal instruments.

Food security

- ◆ National policies should promote equitable access to land for women farmers and promote participatory land policies that empower local communities.
- ◆ Enhancing the representation and involvement of women in decision –making processes in the areas of agriculture and rural development, but in all issues sustainable development is crucial.
- ◆ Women are important stakeholders for programs on agricultural productivity to succeed.
- ◆ A green revolution for agriculture and environment management can only succeed if we focus on the needs of women, especially women farmers.

Financing mechanisms

- ◆ We may need to develop CDM projects that are women friendly and these should be simplified.
- ◆ Decent jobs should be for all and not just those in the industrial sector.

Support to the efforts being undertaken by the Global Gender and Climate Alliance in pushing for a gender responsive UNFCCC process and outcomes.

Disaster Risk Management

The gender-differentiated impact of disasters should be addressed in all environmental assessments. Gender should be integrated in all policies on disaster reduction and management.

BUDGETS

A clear policy on how to access existing financing mechanisms for CDM projects involving women's projects should be developed.

GMEF THEME II

International Environmental Governance structures.

General Statement to GMEF (IEG): Women not just victims but can play a big role in bringing up implementable solutions. They therefore should allocate an equal place in decision-making processes.

Decision-making

- ◆ IEG –include women in all levels of decision-making. Cascade the international decisions and policies to the national and local levels.
- ◆ Considering that the role poor women play at local level in sustainable management of environment including in disaster resilience is no longer contested, it is then prudent to invest in innovation and scale them for longer impact.
- ◆ Ensure that grassroots women are at the centre of policy development and programming and are present in all decision making.

Support to development of a women's parliamentary network

- ◆ In collaboration with Inter-Parliamentary Union, regional, sub –regional and national parliamentary networks establish a network of women parliamentarians on gender and environment. In this regard, UNEP should initiate the process through these networks to cascade national parliamentarians, then to local level on link between gender and environmental management. The network can be used to lobby for gender and environment concerns to be integrated into national budgets.
- ◆ UNEP to develop a capacity building for women parliamentarians and women in local government on gender and environment. Women parliamentarians need tangible information and data on the relation between women and environment and right skills so they can assist in lobbying for budgets.
- ◆ Green votes and greening political parties are effective instruments and women parliamentary networks can be effective in this regard.
- ◆ We need a gender sensitive approach in the national and international policies.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

NETWORK OF WOMEN MINISTERS AND LEADERS FOR ENVIRONMENT (NWMLE)

- ◆ Grassroots women need to be a part of the proposed informal network of women in the environment as leaders and as day-to-day expert on environmental conservation.
- ◆ NMLWE to work closely with the GGCA on pushing forward the road map to Copenhagen in ensuring that gender concerns are integrated into the Climate Change negotiations and outcomes.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- ◆ Support the participation and build the capacity of poor women in environmental management, monitoring and evaluation of progress on related commitment and emerging changes at the global, regional, national and local level.
- ◆ Capacity building on gender mainstreaming for relevant ministries; environment agencies; NGO's.

ROLE OF UNEP

- ◆ UNEP should take the lead in the UN and provide resources to commission gender audits of key UNEP programmes to see how women and men benefit.
- ◆ UNEP could set up a group of wise women, with the task of presenting a programme for fully fledged gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment to be presented and given resources for studies, consultations, etc.
- ◆ UNEP to continue building partnerships /collaboration amongst all agencies /countries.

FOLLOW UP

- ◆ Liberia colloquium – take recommendations of the High Level gender forum.