

## **CIF PARTNERSHIP FORUM LEARNING OPPORTUNITY SUMMARY:**

### **NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIES: THE ROLE OF GENDER IN MITIGATION EFFORTS**

Saturday, 25 June 2011  
13h30 – 14h30

Moderator: Mr. François Rogers, IUCN  
Panelists: Dr. Annette Windmeisser  
*Division Climate Policy and Climate Financing, BMZ*  
Ms. Lorena Aguilar  
*Senior Global Gender Adviser, IUCN*  
Ms. Winnie Byanyima  
*Director (Gender Unit), UNDP*

On Saturday afternoon, 25 June 2011, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN, and the Global Gender Climate Alliance (GGCA) conducted a learning opportunity on *National Climate Change Strategies: The Role Of Gender In Mitigation Efforts* as part of the Climate Investment Funds Partnership Forum 2011, held in Cape Town, South Africa.

The event consisted of two parts: Three short presentations, followed by an interactive session where the audience was invited to participate.

#### *Introduction*

Dr. Annette Windmeisser, started discussions by making some introductory remarks.

Synthesis: She urged broadening the discussion about gender and climate change mitigation, and capitalizing on gender-differentiated roles. She also noted that the gender component of mitigation was not as intuitive as that of adaptation.

#### *Presentation Two*

The second presentation on “*Making the case for Gender and Mitigation*” was made by Lorena Aguilar, Senior Global Gender Adviser for IUCN.

Synthesis: Making the case on gender and mitigation might not be as intuitive as with gender and adaptation. However, considering the fact that more than half of the world’s population now live in urban settlements, it is all the more important to consider in our fight against climate change. During her presentation, Ms. Aguilar provided some insights into how gender and mitigation is being linked emanating from IUCN’s work with governments on national strategies on gender and climate change in Mozambique, Central

America, Jordan and Egypt over the past 18 months.

She urged “thinking outside the box” when addressing the issue of gender and mitigation. She said women are often seen as vulnerable victims of climate change, but should be viewed as agents of change. She noted the work of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance and highlighted the need for the four “I”s when discussing gender and climate change: impact; improve quality of life; increase sustainability; and involve women. She discussed: reducing household energy consumption by making efficient appliances available through the establishment of a financial mechanism for women; incorporating gender criteria in processes relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in Central America; and building awareness of transportation and gender issues in Egypt, highlighting an innovative transportation system on the Nile River that will be run by women. She said the CIF have the opportunity to move from good intentions to solutions.

### *Presentation Three*

Finally, Ms. Winnie Byanyima, Director of the UNDP Gender Team, made some remarks on “*Concrete examples of how CIF could benefit from mainstreaming gender in mitigation efforts*”.

Synthesis: Drawing the discussions closer to home, Ms. Byanyima, provided concrete examples of how Climate Investment Funds could benefit from mainstreaming gender in mitigation efforts.

She said the CIF could both decrease greenhouse gases and promote gender equality. She said the CIF should build-in gender equity principles and a women’s empowerment component. She also said monitoring and evaluation frameworks should show if gains are being made in gender equality, and that women’s ministries should be included in a substantial way in program design and implementation.

### *Moderated Session: Discussions with the Floor*

Following the presentations, Dr. Windmeisser moderated a *Questions-and-Answers*-session with participants. In the ensuing discussion, Ms. Byanyima urged increasing women’s involvement in the UNFCCC COPs to help raise their awareness. One participant advocated for inclusion of a gender expert in the CIF Sub-Committees, while another noted that under the SCF, gender has always been considered because of the organizations involved, but not under the CTF, which, he said, has not matured much in this respect.

Participants highlighted key recommendations, including the need for: gender expertise in the design and implementation phases; gender disaggregated data; developing relevant indicators; and a platform for sharing experiences (*please see Next Steps, page 3*).

## *Next Steps*

Participants made the following conclusions to be considered as follow-up from the event:

- A gender expert should be included in all missions to ensure gender considerations are sufficiently incorporated;
- Gender experts should be involved at all stages, but particularly during the design stage of projects;
- A platform for sharing learning experiences should be created;
- An urgent need for more disaggregated data exists (both at the input and results side);
- More indicators should be developed on gender and deployed;
- There should be a stronger flow of information from CIF to the country level;
- A gender observer seat in CIF trust fund committees is highly recommended;
- Transparency of the CIF should be enhanced, especially towards civil society;
- Gender should be mainstreamed in project budgets, and concrete budget lines for gender should be established, funded and monitored;
- We should adopt a reformist agenda – recognizing that gender roles have changed and that these should be integrated in our efforts on climate change;
- Stronger leadership is required to mainstream gender considerations with (i) clients, (ii) projects, and (iii) at the country level.

## *Wrap-up and Concluding Remarks*

Many efforts to mainstream gender have too often been confined to simplistic, *ad-hoc* and short-term technical interventions that have failed to challenge inequitable power structures and therefore also failed to ensure optimal implementation. Gender disparities remain among the deepest and most pervasive of all inequalities and, in fact, hinder the best of development efforts profoundly.

The linkages between gender and mitigation might be less intuitive than is the case with adaptation, but understanding this relationship is imperative as gender and mitigation offers a unique platform to move away from the notion that women are victims to an understanding that women are agents of change, capable of significantly strengthening our efforts on climate change.

To do so, however, requires innovation. We have to think out of the box, be creative, and establish alliances with new sectors and stakeholders with whom perhaps we have traditionally not engaged or work with.

At present, some countries are already advancing in the mainstreaming of gender in relation to mitigation. These provide excellent opportunities to create synergies among CIF initiatives, mitigation efforts and to advance gender equality.

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