



CONCEPT NOTE

High-level side-event at the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

“From Paris to Marrakech: translating political commitments into effective gender-responsive climate solutions”

Organisers: OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET), Switzerland, France, Peru, Morocco, Italy, Fiji, Egypt and WEDO.

Date/Time: Monday 14 March 2016, 11:30 am – 13:00 pm

Venue: ECOSOC Room, UN Headquarters, New York

Background

The adoption of the landmark Paris Agreement marked an important step forward by recognising Parties' responsibility to respect and promote their human rights obligations through climate change action – including gender equality and women's empowerment – and by calling for gender-responsive adaptation measures and capacity-building activities. The centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment for realising sustainable development was also recognised in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through the presence of gender-specific targets in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on climate change and in many of the other climate-related SDGs. By recognising the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and their key contribution to developing effective and locally appropriate climate solutions, these agreements provide a mandate for advancing gender equality across all areas of climate change action.

Yet, the real litmus test will lie in how well these political commitments translate into progress towards gender-responsive climate solutions on the ground. Clear priorities for accelerating the integration of gender equality across climate change action include:

- the need to better take into account women's knowledge, experiences and priorities in decision-making on climate change at all levels;
- the importance of improving the gender-responsiveness of climate finance through better gender mainstreaming and targeted interventions;
- the importance of ensuring that gender equality is adequately integrated across all climate change policies and programmes.

The 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2016, with its priority theme on “*Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development*”, will provide a critical opportunity to keep mobilising support and generating innovative ideas for gender-responsive climate solutions. This high-level side-event will build on the successful event organised at COP21 by the OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality and the governments of France, Switzerland, Morocco and Peru. By bringing together a wide coalition of partners, this event will provide a crucial opportunity to reflect on the implications of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement for gender and climate change and maintain the momentum in support of gender-responsive climate action in the lead up to the COP22 in Marrakech.

Objectives of the side-event

- Take stock of the implications of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement for gender and climate change.
- Hear from actors who are at the forefront of efforts to implement gender-responsive climate change solutions at the global, national and local level.
- Develop action-oriented recommendations to ensure that women's needs are systematically taken into account in responses to climate change and to promote their active participation in all aspects of climate policy and finance.
- Propose options to improve the gender-responsiveness of climate financing.
- Continue to mobilise political support up to the COP22 in Marrakech and discuss options for a successor plan to the two-year Lima Work Programme on Gender due to expire in 2016.

Programme

Opening remarks

Ms. Emma Bonino, Special Envoy to CSW60, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy

Interactive expert dialogue

H.E. Laurence Rossignol, Minister of State for the Family, Elderly People and Women's Rights of France

H.E. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations

Bridget Burns, Advocacy and Communications Director, Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO)

H.E. Marcela Huaita, Minister of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru

Rajib Ghosal, Gender and Social Specialist, Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Noelene Nabulivou, DAWN, Pacific Partnerships on Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, and Diverse Voices and Action for Equality, Fiji

Interventions from the floor and interactive discussion

Closing remarks

Mr. Benno Bättig, Secretary-General of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

Moderator

Ms. Emily Espen, Lead Policy Analyst, Gender Equality and Women's Rights, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD