



## Understanding the Gender-Environment Nexus

### ***Launch Event of the OECD's report "Gender and the Environment: Building Evidence and Policies to Achieve the SDGs"***

**21st May 2021**

The OECD held a launch event for its new publication 'Gender and the Environment: Building Evidence and Policies to Achieve the SDGs'. OECD Secretary General, Angel Gurría, opened the event, and Greek Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Kostis Hatzidakis, gave a keynote speech. The publication is a unique source of comparative information and evidence-based analysis on the gender-environment nexus. It proposes an integrated policy framework, to better understand the trade-offs and complementarities between gender equality and environmental goals, including transboundary and inter-generational effects.

A group of highly esteemed international experts provided their policy and scientific insights on integrating gender equality in specific environment-related policy areas during the event. They acknowledged that, while progress has been made in recent years towards achieving environmental and gender equality goals, in line with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs Framework, greater efforts are needed to integrate both aspects in policymaking. Some key points from the discussion include:

- Gender equality and environmental sustainability are mutually reinforcing. Incorporating a gender lens in policies that have an impact on the environment can generate numerous and broad economic benefits. Women are a driving force behind achieving environmental justice. At the same time, there are differentiated gender impacts of environmental factors.
- Lived experience and qualitative data is an integral part of the process of awareness-raising on the importance of the nexus. But quantitative data is fundamental to show with hard evidence that gender equality issues matter for environmental policy, and vice versa.
- Mainstreaming gender in environmental policy requires an integrated framework that acknowledges gender power structures and life conditions of women and men in all policy areas. Ensuring a gender-sensitive and just transition to low carbon economies could increase productivity and lead to better economic outcomes and more resilient societies. This applies also to access to sustainable infrastructure, and to introducing a gender lens in sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Effective mainstreaming is best done by groups, acknowledging diversity within genders, hence it is recommended to adapt an intersectional approach. Local and regional characteristics may require a tailored approach. Leading action, from South Africa to Sweden and Canada, in agriculture, urban planning or in the energy sector, illustrate how policy and public services can serve gender equality goals.
- An integrated framework, in its design and implementation, should include fiscal and monetary policies that jointly support gender and environmental goals. Gender-sensitive climate finance improves gender equality, creates economic opportunities for women and men, helps meet the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.
- Developing gender-environment indicators, enhancing data collection, and supporting women as change agents, are areas that the OECD could further dive into, providing support to countries. As economies emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring a green and gender-sensitive recovery is of outmost importance.