Understanding the Gender-Environment Nexus

Launch of the OECD report “Gender and the Environment: Building Evidence and Policies to Achieve the SDGs”

21 May 2021, 12h00 – 13h15 CEST

Opening remarks and Keynote speech

Angel Gurría
OECD Secretary General

As Secretary-General of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) since 2006, Mr Gurría has firmly established the Organisation as a pillar of the global economic governance architecture including the G7, G20 and APEC, and a reference point in the design and implementation of better policies for better lives. He has broadened OECD’s membership with the accession of Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Estonia, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovenia, and has made the Organisation more inclusive by strengthening its links with key emerging economies. Under his watch, the OECD is leading the effort to reform the international tax system, and to improve governance frameworks in anti-corruption and other fields. He has also heralded a new growth narrative that promotes the well-being of people, including women, gender and youth, and has scaled up the OECD contribution to the global agenda, including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Kostis Hatzidakis
Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Greece

Mr Hatzidakis is the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, a Member of the Greek Parliament and the Vice President of the New Democracy Party. He was born in Rethymno, Crete, in 1965. He studied at the Law School of the University of Athens and he holds a Master’s Degree in Political Communication from the University of Kent. He speaks English and French. He is a Member of the Greek Parliament since 2007, representing Athens B’ northern sector constituency. He has served as President of the Youth Organization of the New Democracy (1992-1994), Member of the European Parliament (1994-2007), Minister of Transport (2007-2009), Minister of Development (2012-2014), Minister of Environment, and Energy (2019-5/1/2021).
Speakers and moderators

Romina Boarini

Director, OECD Centre for Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE)

Ms Boarini is the Director of WISE. She was previously Head of Inclusive Growth and Senior Advisor to the OECD Secretary-General. She launched the Framework for Policy Action on Inclusive Growth and the Business for Inclusive Growth. She is currently co-steering the OECD’s horizontal initiatives on Impact Measurement. Prior, as Deputy Head of the Well-Being Division of the Statistics Directorate and the Head of the Well-Being and Progress Section, Ms Boarini was responsible for the OECD Better Life Initiative, the statistical pillar of the OECD Inclusive Growth Initiative and the OECD Pilot Study on SDGs. She also led the Statistics Directorate’s contributions to SDGs-related National Development Strategies and the project on Business and Well-Being. Before joining the OECD in 2005, Ms Boarini was a post-doctoral fellow in Sustainable Development (Chaire EDF-Ecole Polytechnique) and worked as a consultant to the French Ministry of Social Affairs. Ms Boarini holds a PhD in Economics from the École Polytechnique in Paris.

Verania Chao

Programme Specialist, Gender and Climate Change, UNDP

Ms Chao has worked for UNDP for more than a decade, where she has developed strong expertise in gender and environment issues. As her work has broadened OECD’s membership with the accession of the piloting of gender-responsive NDC implementation in 10 programme countries. Previously, she oversaw the environment, energy and climate change portfolio in UNDP’s country office in Mexico, where she worked with national and subnational governments, civil society organizations and at the community level. Ms Chao holds an MSc in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Linda Gustaffson

Gender Equality Advisor, City of Umeå, Sweden

Ms. Gustafsson has 15 years of experience in working with gender equality on local and regional level. As gender equality officer for the city of Umeå, Ms. Gustafsson serves the Gender equality committee in the Umeå City Council and serves as an expert for the municipality. She has coordinated several national projects and in 2017, she was appointed to the Swedish Government advisory board on Feminist urban planning. She has been part of the URBACT initiated #genderequalcities working group from 2018 and is currently project leader for the Action planning network Genderedlandscape, funded by the Urbact program, focusing on holistic and tailormade methods in gender equality work.
Chitra Kumar
Associate Director, Office of Environmental Justice, US Environmental Protection Agency

Chitra Kumar is acting Associate Director of EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice, where she is responsible for federal interagency partnerships, strategic communications, and supporting White House EJ initiatives. Her EPA career spans nearly two decades of implementing policies and programs related to air quality, water infrastructure, and community resilience and revitalization. In 2020, Ms. Kumar served as a fellow at the global nonprofit Aspen Institute focusing on sustainable rural development, and in 2013-2014, focused on water policy at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Ms. Kumar holds a master of city planning degree from MIT and is a mother of two.

Rodolfo Lacy
OECD Environment Director

Dr. Lacy is the Director of the Environment Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Prior to joining the OECD in August 2018, Dr. Lacy was Vice Minister of Environmental Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (2012-2018), Chief negotiator of Climate Change (COP19-COP23), Co-chair of the Global Methane Initiative, Member of the High-Level Group of the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO6), and Board Member of the Climate Action Reserve in California, USA. He holds a Doctorate Degree in Environmental Science and Engineering from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (Mexico), a Master’s Degree in Urban Studies and Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Engineering from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (Mexico) and a certificate in Leadership on Environment and Sustainable Development from El Colegio de México.

Josephine Kaviti Musango
Professor, GENS Trilateral Research Chairholder, School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Ms Musango is a Professor at the School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University in South Africa. She is the GENS Trilateral Research Chair holder, on ‘Mainstreaming Gender for Energy Security in Poor Urban Environments’. Josephine has over sixteen years’ experience in using system dynamics in research to energy transition and policy challenges. Her current research focus is the application of system dynamics to understand energy-gender issues at households to provide better energy solutions. Josephine's passion is to inspire young system dynamicist. Her book ‘9 Principles to Connect with your Soul’ is based on her evaluated experience in using system dynamics.
**Sigita Strumskyte**

Head of Sustainable Development, Gender and Partnerships Team, OECD Environment Directorate

Sigita Strumskyte manages activities to mainstream gender equality and other social aspects in environmental policies. Previously, she has been involved in a number of cross-disciplinary activities, such as the OECD-G20 initiative on sustainable infrastructure, work on policy coherence for sustainable development, and the SDG governance, contributing to publications in these areas. She also served as advisor to the OECD High Level Representative to the UN in NY, and as analyst in the Eurasia Division of the Global Relations Secretariat. Prior to her current role at the OECD, she worked in the private sector, supporting entrepreneurship and business development. Sigita graduated from Kaunas and Paris Universities and has an MBA from INSEAD.

**Mapula Tshangela**

Director for Climate Change Mitigation Plans Implementation, National Department of Environment, Forestry & Fisheries, South Africa

Ms Tshangela’s areas of responsibility includes management of private sector GHG mitigation plans regulations, support to Provinces and Local Government on their mitigation plans implementation and support to broader climate change and gender mainstreaming. Mapula was previously the Senior Policy Advisor at the South Africa Department of Environmental Affairs and was part of the team that managed several initiatives including, among others, the national strategy for sustainable development, the national green economy summit and the conceptualization of the national green fund. Prior to joining the DEA in 2007, Mapula worked in the private sector within the environment field.
Closing remarks

Denise Gareau

Chairperson, Working Party on Gender Mainstreaming and Governance / Director, Policy and External Relations Branch, Women and Gender Equality, Canada

Ms. Gareau is the Chairperson of the OECD Working Party on Gender Mainstreaming and Governance (GMG), which was created by the OECD Public Governance Committee in 2019. It formalises the former OECD Roundtable on Better Governance for Gender Equality and brings together senior officials from gender equality institutions across OECD member and partner countries to strengthen the capacity of governments at large and gender institutions, in particular, to design and deliver effective strategies for closing gender gaps, building on the OECD analysis, data, recommendations, policy tools and implementation support. Ms Gareau is also the Director of the Policy and External Branch in the Women and Gender Equality government department in Canada. She was previously the Director at Employment and Social Development Canada where she was responsible for horizontal initiatives in employment programs and partnerships. In addition, she was the director responsible for the Enabling Fund for Official Language Minority Communities (OLMC), which supports the work of 14 community organizations involved in economic development and human resources in OLMCs.

Masamichi Kono

OECD Deputy Secretary General

Mr. Masamichi Kono was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD in August 2017. His portfolio includes the strategic direction of the OECD policy on Environment, Tax, Trade and Agriculture, along with Financial and Enterprise Affairs. He oversees the horizontal projects and initiatives on Infrastructure and Sustainable Growth and also represents the OECD at the Financial Stability Board. Prior to joining the OECD, Mr. Kono was the Vice Minister for International Affairs, Financial Services Agency, Japan (JFSA) and President of the Asian Financial Partnership Center of the JFSA. In relation to this work, he served as Chairman of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) Technical Committee from April 2011 until May 2012, and thereafter as Chairman of the IOSCO Board until the end of his term in March 2013. He was also the Co-chair of the Financial Stability Board Regional Consultative Group for Asia from July 2013 to June 2015, and Chairman of the IFRS Foundation Monitoring Board from February 2013 to June 2016. He has had a long career in financial supervision and the regulation of financial services, both in Japan and in the international arena, since joining the public service in 1978, including the WTO Financial Services Committee.