**REPORT FINANCING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: GENDER EQUALITY**

***Global Preparatory Meeting of ECOSOC 2010 organized by the Office for ECOSOC Support and Cooperation and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women/NY***

10 am – 1 pm, 21 April 2010, United Nations Headquarters, New York

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**OVERVIEW**

The Global Preparatory Meeting for the Annual Ministerial Review session of ECOSOC entitled “*Financing for climate change: Gender equality*” took place April 21, 2010 at the United Nations, New York. The event was organized by the Office for ECOSOC Support and Cooperation and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York. It aimed to place women’s empowerment and “gender as smart economics” approach at the center of the financing for climate change discussions. The event drew on respective commitments of Member States, UN entities, civil society and the private sector and their experiences in the context of the agreed conclusions of the Fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration and the Copenhagen Accord.

Speakers included H.E. Hamidon Ali, President of ECOSOC, Under Secretary General Sha Zukang, H.E. Dessima Williams of Grenada, H.E. Jarmo Viinanen of Finland, Christian Holmes (USAID), and Yuvan A. Beejadhur (The World Bank). Representatives from the NGO community included Rachel Harris (Women’s Environment and Development Organization), Soon-Young Yoon (NGO/CSW/NY) and Liane Schalatek (Heinrich Boell Foundation). Two discussants, Natalia Kostus (International Alliance of Women) and Florina Lopez (Indigenous Women’s Biodiversity Network, Panama) contributed to an interactive dialogue with the audience. Cate Owren (WEDO) acted as moderator. Many government delegations, including from the U.S.A., the United Kingdom, China, Spain, Slovenia, Iceland, and NGO representatives participated in the meeting. The event addressed the following issues:

* What are the sources of climate change financing and what does gender-sensitive climate change financing policy mean in practice?
* How can one ensure gender sensitive climate change economic policies at macro and micro levels?
* What are some success stories of gender budgeting and gender sensitive approaches in climate change financing?
* How can financial assistance/ODA for climate change contribute to women’s empowerment?

Key recommendations

* Use a double mainstreaming approach both to gender and climate change policies and to development policies.
* Conduct a gender analysis of financing mechanisms, including mechanisms for financing climate change, and create specific gender budget lines accordingly
* Fund and include women leaders who support gender equality and women’s empowerment in all climate change negotiations (such as at the Conference of the Parties meetings) and climate change financing decision making (e.g.in the technical working groups of the High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing).
* Create formal channels for civil society to have access to the UN high level advisory group on climate change financing.
* Gender equality and women’s empowerment should be included in the “Shared Vision” (the opening section **[[**setting the stage in]] of the UNFCCC negotiations text) as well as in the texts concerned with financing.
* Decisions concerning financing for climate should draw upon international instruments that uphold women’s human rights as a guide for policy making. These include CEDAW—a legally binding instrument, ratified by 186 countries—and the Beijing Platform for Action.
* The UNFCCC and GEF should develop a “Gender Plan of Action.”
* Ensure that the World Bank uses a gender lens in up-scaling climate change financing and development gains, as these relate to clean energy, renewable energy, and forest facilities’.
* Build the capacity of grass-roots women’s groups and community development organizations, and develop guidelines and methodologies to ensure projects will consult and benefit them.
* Work directly with indigenous women’s groups in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of climate change financing.
* Collect research on the impacts of climate change on women and the roles that women play in climate change; analyze and replicate success stories such as the Grameen Shakti and REDD projects that involve indigenous women.

**SUMMARY**

**H.E. Hamidon Ali of Malaysia and President of ECOSOC** stressed the Annual Ministerial Review’s role as a forum for development and cooperation devoted to implementing national goals and commitments for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Given the negative impacts of climate change, progress on MDGs could be reversed without adequate adaptation and mitigation. Women are most vulnerable to climate change, but, at the same time they are important actors in finding solutions to climate change. Therefore, it is critical for women to have the financing needed to deal with today’s and tomorrow challenges.

The mobilization and allocation of funding for climate change could close the gap for developing countries, which will be hit hardest by its consequences. The critical areas of action are: harmonizing gender equality and climate change initiatives in development cooperation; allocating internal and external resources for climate change and gender equality; monitoring current climate change finance mechanisms. Partnerships are critical for the success of financing initiatives. To find common solutions, there is a need to engage multiple channels of NGO participation. NGOs can provide leadership in ECOSOC and make sure that governments live up to their commitments.

**Under Secretary General Sha Zukang** stressed that gender equality cuts across all other sectors and occupies a central space in development processes. It is important that those issues are dealt with in a comprehensive manner, including by addressing climate change impacts and inter linkages between climate change, development and gender issues. Women have to be targeted as a priority group for climate change financing because women play a key role in shaping sustainable consumption patterns for climate change mitigation. Governments should include women experts in all climate change financing processes, especially in decision making to create gender funding criteria. There is a need to conduct gender analysis of financing mechanisms and to create specific gender budget lines. A gender lens should be used in all stages of climate change financing— planning, budgeting, implementing, and evaluating.

**H.E. Ambassador Dessima M. Williams of Grenada** spoke as the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) to point out that island states are particularly vulnerable and threatened by the adverse impacts of climate change. No matter how mature a country’s economy, social sector, physical infrastructure—all can be swiftly destroyed by the outset of sea level rise, hurricanes, and droughts. This vulnerability is secondary to a more fundamental understanding that many of these islands are former colonies, struggling to achieve sustainable development, and are the homes to some of the largest impoverished populations in the world. Women are entrenched in poverty, and if gender equality is not adequately mainstreamed in climate change and development, their poverty will be exacerbated. In sum, poverty remains a central challenge for sustainable development policies.

Crucial questions to answer during climate change negotiations are: Who is at the table? Are there a sufficient number of women in decision making positions taking part? Do these women bring an adequate understanding of gender equality to the negotiations? What is there on the negotiation table regarding gender equality? Does the language adequately reflect women’s goals? Are the protections that countries and populations seek from climate change sufficiently gendered? Are there financial resources that take into consideration the existing gender inequalities and attempt to remove them? Women of conviction must participate in the negotiations if the women’s rights agenda is to be taken forward and gender mainstreaming ensured. The participation of the civil society is critical.

In the climate change negotiations, it is important to ensure that gender equality is included in the “Shared Vision” (the opening section setting the stage in the UNFCCC negotiations text). The Copenhagen Accord should focus on poverty eradication. The three pillars of the UN are the governments, the Secretariat, and the people.

**H.E. Ambassador Jarmo Viinanen of Finland** emphasized that climate change will hit the poor, 70% of whom are women, the hardest. The gender-differentiated negative impacts of climate change in food security, agriculture and availability of fresh water are women’s responsibilities. Women have wide knowledge of the environmental issues and can be powerful agents for change. Not enough attention has been given to gender aspects in climate change negotiations and too few women have participated in the negotiations to date. The allocation of the funds from the Copenhagen Accord has to have a clear gender aspect. There is a need for women’s empowerment, capacity-building for women, and sharing of knowledge, so that both women and men can participate in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment have a prominent role in Finland’s development cooperation— in education, health, agriculture, and forestation. Finland has created a “women’s’ delegates trust fund (around $800,000 dollars for years 2010 and 2011) to ensure that women delegates from developing countries can participate in the climate change negotiations. Last year, all 21 delegates from 20 different countries were sponsored for the Copenhagen conference, and in total 70 participants in the UNFCCC meetings were supported from the trust fund. Finland has cooperated with the Global Gender and Climate Alliance to train government delegates on gender and climate issues.

The large sums of money that are linked to climate change should benefit women, especially women in developing countries. Mechanisms to ensure that women take part in deciding on these funds are also needed. Finland has identified gender and climate change as a priority because the enormous problem of climate change cannot be solved by only half of the world’s population.

**Soon-Young Yoon, Vice-Chair of NGO CSW/NY** stressed the importance of viewing climate change as a women’s human rights issue. The poverty of some affects us all and information about climate change has to move freely in multiple directions, through diverse forms of economies from slash and burn to highly industrialized societies. A global ecology must ensure open access to science and technology information for everyone, including poor women.

Ratified by 186 countries, CEDAW is a legally binding instrument that can reinforce implementation of gender provisions in climate change. Women’s invisibility in national statistics, which constitutes a violation of CEDAW provisions (Article 2) because it affects a government’s ability to prevent discrimination is an example. Sectors such as forestry, energy, transport, construction, and infrastructure typically do not collect gender-disaggregated data, yet when gender-blind policies in these sectors persist, women’s contributions are undervalued. Other examples of how CEDAW is relevant to financing for gender and climate change include: ensuring equal decision-making powers for women (Article 7), guaranteeing equal economic and employment rights (Article 11, 13, and 15), and strengthening provisions for rural women recognizing their rights to participate in government programs (Article 14). The CEDAW statement on gender and climate change, adopted at its 44th session in New York, 2009, recognized the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, and the critical role of women as agents of change and leaders.

While CEDAW is legally binding, policy guides are found in the Beijing Platform for Action. All of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform, including environment, poverty, economic structures, and sharing of power and decision making have implications for involving women in climate change finance instruments. Human rights, health, communications/media, education and training, and the girl-child contain recommendations for participation of women in the media, politics, economic activities, education and training, science and technology, and in reducing risk factors in facing climate change.

The Beijing Platform for Action is a good guide for financing in gender and climate change because it recognizes the wide diversity of women (by ethnicity, religion, culture, economic circumstances, and age). Not all women are the same, and there can be multiple discriminations that prevent women from taking advantage of opportunities in financing. Recognizing the diversity of the needs of women, whether rural, indigenous, or victims of conflict, is an important first step for designing gender budgets. Improved gender-disaggregated data is urgently needed. Financing for climate change should provide funding for collecting national statistics on women’s economic and environmental management roles. The Beijing Platform for Action also makes recommendations to be implemented by multiple stakeholders, including the private sector, transnational companies, banks, research and education institutes, media, trade unions, women’s organizations and NGOs. This reflects the aim of the women’s movement to demand a fundamental change in the structure of society— a change that involves many actors, including men, and that moves beyond policies and laws.

**Liane Schalatek, Associate Director at the Heinrich Boell Foundation** \* highlighted the high cost of large-scale climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, the difficulty of meeting such costs being exacerbated by the convergence of multiple financial crises in donor countries due to the global recession, public indebtedness, and large financial sector bailouts. The World Bank World Development Report 2010 estimates an annual cost of $30 to $100 billion for adaptation and $140 to $175 billion for mitigation by 2030. Recent trends in climate financing point to the proliferation of over 60 new bilateral and multilateral instruments and funds, a short-term shift from the UNFCCC and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and the long-term development of a new global climate finance architecture, such as the “Copenhagen Green Climate Fund”. The question is whether or not gender has been adequately mainstreamed into any of these funds’ policies.

The Copenhagen Accord makes a concrete political commitment for $30 billion ($10 billion per year) for 2010-2012 as short-term finance and up to $100 billion per year by 2020 in long-term finance to be equally divided for adaptation and mitigation. The problem with the Copenhagen Accord is that it is not a binding agreement with mandatory finance flows and lacks links to MDGs. Indeed, early indications show that fast-tracked short-term finance for 2010 is mostly re-assigned as Official Development Assistance (ODA), not additional and new financing. Financing for climate change has to be additional to ODA, and needs to address linkages between development, poverty eradication and climate action. Climate finance should take the form of mandatory and compensatory transfer payments, instead of “climate aid” or repayable loans.

Thus far, environmental finance mechanisms have had limited benefit for the Least Developed Countries and the poorest and most disadvantaged groups within countries such as women. Currently, only one third of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) mention gender. Within the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), it is important to take many measures to ensure gender equality is included. These measures should ensure the participation of the poor and women in the design of CDM projects, streamlining application procedures, reducing registration fees for small projects, and improving access for community-based initiatives.

While many funds include some “social aspects” in project preparation and financing (usually community-based), an explicit gender-focus is missing. There is a need for gender-differentiated data, gender specific budgets and accounting for new finance mechanisms as well as inclusion of women in project design and implementation.

The key to success is double mainstreaming of climate policy in sustainable development and vice versa. Gender considerations should be included in the mandate of the High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing, for example, by bringing gender experts into the technical working groups. It is critical to ensure gender-specific language in the outcome document in Cancun. Other recommendations include : (1) developing a “Gender Plan of Action” by the UNFCCC; ensuring gender audits for new and existing climate finance mechanisms; making gender guidelines and criteria an integral part of operating procedures and project outlines. There is no climate justice without gender justice.

*\*Ms. Schalatek could not attend the meeting in person due to flight cancellations caused by the volcanic dust cloud over Europe; her submitted presentation is summarized here.*

**Christian Holmes, Senior Advisor at the USAID** stated that involving women in climate change financing first requires that research be collected on the impact of climate change on women and the roles that women play in adapting to climate change. Young women are reported to be walking longer distances to collect water for their families, risking their safety, being attacked and raped. Dealing with the impact of climate change reduces girls’ productivity and income, and allows less time for schooling thus exacerbating gender inequalities. The contribution that women make to adapting to and mitigating climate change has to be recognized. For example, women may have useful knowledge about alternative sources of groundwater, but if they are not invited to the meetings that knowledge may not benefit the community. Governments and projects should take advantage of women’s knowledge and contributions (strong social skills, networks and relationships, and experience with natural resource management). They should involve women in decision-making so that a) women will be willing and ready to adopt new practices, technologies, crops; b) they will have a say in strategies that will put more burden on their time.

Another strategy is to implement effective programs, keeping in mind that best intentions may not generate best results. For example, building dikes or irrigation systems may create jobs that favor hiring a male work force, and don’t necessarily offer new opportunities for women. USAID internal policy directives require staff to member to integrate gender into every phase of project implementation, from strategic planning to evaluation. The Office of Women in Development and other USAID gender advisors assist USAID field missions with these gender analyses. Critical concerns that should be addressed are: How will the different roles and status of women and men within the community, political sphere, workplace and household affect the work to be undertaken and vice versa? How can the project be designed to take advantage of the different skills and knowledge of women and men? Who will be employed?

Successful examples of USAID gender sensitive initiatives in climate change financing may be replicated. USAID helped fund the Grameen Shakti program in Bangladesh to train rural women to install and maintain photovoltaic Solar Home Systems and improve cook stoves. The program provides jobs for women, reduces GHG emissions, and provides cleaner-burning fuel for household use –all which helps improve women’s health. Grameen is an example of a comprehensive approach to working with the tools of micro enterprise, in partnership with other multilateral institutions such as the World Bank as a guarantor. It also aids local groups in accessing Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) credits.

USAID recognizes that in the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) finance mechanism, the role of women is often neglected because they do not have property rights and access to carbon credits. In Ecuador, USAID is helping the government increase women’s involvement in ecosystem services projects, and incorporate gender into a new legal framework for land-based carbon regulation –PES (payments for ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration and water). These efforts will help mitigate climate change though forest conservation, and ensure that women benefit from future REDD programs. USAID increasingly invests in gender equality and women’s empowerment because success in addressing development challenges –like poverty, food security, economic growth, and health—depends on how well gender and climate concerns are integrated.

**Yuvan A. Beejadhur, Counselor at the World Bank** stressed the importance of quickly and decisively addressing climate change financing to advance the number of mitigation and adaptation funds assisting developing countries. As the 2010 World Bank World Development Report notes, climate change impacts men and women differently. Many women are in a disadvantaged position, lacking legal status, decision making powers, and access to education, health services, property rights, capital, and markets. A new World Bank World Development Report 2011 will focus on conflict and fragile states, where there can be some stories of the harsh reality for women in remote, water scarce and conflict areas. There is a need to create synergies while addressing the challenges to development and the worsening of gender inequalities caused by the financial crisis.

The World Bank Group’s Strategic Framework on Development and Climate Change aims to close the knowledge gap and the financing gap, including those among multilateral development banks (the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the InterAmerican Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the World Bank).

The World Bank Group plays an important role in leveraging and scaling up climate change financing to reach development gains, related to clean energy, renewable energy, and forest facilities. The potential of the World Bank in this regard is exemplified by the Climate Investment Funds which generated investment projects and lending to around 13 countries for a total portfolio of 6.2 billion US dollars, and has a considerable leverage factor of more than USD 25 billion dollars. Designed through extensive consultations, the CIF are governed by balanced representation of donors and recipient countries, with active observers from the UN, GEF, civil society, indigenous peoples and the private sector.

The World Bank’s broad stakeholder approach involves consulting NGOs and indigenous communities to ensure vulnerable groups have better access to finance. For example, the World Bank has assisted the Least Development Countries to integrate gender mainstreaming within the National Action Plans though the World Bank Strategic Climate Fund program on climate resilience. There is a need to include a gender component in Climate Investment Funds to address both gender inequalities and women in decision making.

The partnerships between the World Bank, the United Nations, NGOs, the new United Nations entity for women, and the indigenous communities should be strengthened. Moving towards the MDG Summit, the World Bank will be accelerating its efforts to leverage more resources and to adequately address the gender component. It is a matter of women’s human rights.

**Rachel Harris, Coordinator at the Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)** stated that direct fast track financing mechanisms, such as the National Implementing Entity (NIE) in Senegal, accredited under the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund, provide a significant opportunity to make the Adaptation Fund more gender-responsive in its programs and projects. Adaptation and mitigation projects are more effective and sustainable if they are gender sensitive. Market based mechanisms can marginalize women, because they value emissions reductions but place no value on sustainability. For example, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is based on investment in large-scale projects, usually led by men to get largest return on emissions reductions. The small-scale projects that are sustainable and community based are usually led by women.

At the UNFCCC negotiations, civil society should advocate for governments to submit gender language in the finance and technology sections of the negotiating text. Similarly there is a need for advocacy at national and local levels to include gender equality in national and local climate change financing policies and implementation. Decision- makers should improve women’s representation in the governing structures of climate financing mechanisms and ensure equitable participation of women at all levels of decision-making in climate change financing. Recommendations include : funding the involvement of stakeholders, increasing the focus on and giving priority to funding small-scale and community-based projects, building the capacity of grass-roots women’s groups and community development organizations, and developing guidelines and methodologies to ensure projects will consult and benefit women.

**Natalia Kostus (Poland), Member of the Global Gender Climate Alliance/International Alliance of Women** emphasized the involvement of civil society and women in the governance of climate finance instruments to fulfill the need for accountability and transparency. The UNFCCC, an overarching governance structure for international climate change policy, is the only Rio Convention that does not include any specific language on gender. New approaches will generate new results in terms of empowering women, as stakeholders, decision-makers and actors in climate change financing. At the UNFCCC negotiations, the access of Women and Gender Constituency advocates to governmental proceedings allows them to access information, build their capacity, and engage with the decision makers so that their voices, priorities, interests and knowledge make an impact. There is a need to create formal channels for civil society’s access to the UN high level advisory group on climate change financing.

**Florina Lopez (Panama), Coordinator for the Indigenous Women’s Biodiversity Network and member of the Indigenous Women’s Forum** stressed that indigenous women are impacted most by climate change, and should be involved in the design and implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures. Currently indigenous women lack access to climate change decision making processes and do not have direct access to the funds available. There are large networks of indigenous women on biodiversity in Latin America but they are not invited to meetings with the World Bank and indigenous peoples. It is important for institutions to make sure that indigenous women can also participate in these processes as indigenous men often do not share the information with the women. Indigenous women want to work directly with international institutions and not though large NGOs. Policies of major financial institutions that hold funds designated for indigenous peoples are often used in ways that violate the rights of indigenous women.

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