



## CoP16 HIGH LEVEL SIDE EVENT

# Gender and Climate Change Finance: Empowering Women to lead in the New Green Economy

**Date:** December 9th 2010, During the High Level Side Event Segment

**Time:** 13.20-14.40 hrs.

**Venue:** Room Aguila, Cancun Messe

- Organized by the Governments of Mexico, Finland, and Grenada, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme and the Global Gender and Climate Change Alliance, this event will be made up of high-level leaders on gender and climate change from different sectors and regions, including government representatives, United Nations, civil society and private sector.
- This 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP16) high level side event will showcase examples of women's increasing empowerment in climate change finance and the green economy, including reports on new entrepreneurial ventures, advocacy strides in climate finance architecture, and public-private partnerships, going beyond **why** it's important to empower women to a discussion of **how** it's being done. The focus will be on capitalizing upon women's potential and experiences as innovators and agents of change and identifying strategies for bringing them into the mainstream.



## BACKGROUND

- As has become evident in recent years, women and girls are likely to be disproportionately impacted by climate change. Their traditional role as the primary users and managers of natural resources, primary caregivers, and unpaid laborers means they are intimately involved in and dependent on resources that are put most at risk by climate change. Added to that, women too often lack rights and access to resources and information vital to overcoming the challenges posed by climate change. Women, however, are not only potential victims of climate change, they are also powerful change agents who have the capacity to contribute to successful adaptation and mitigation strategies and promote the new green economy.
- The global transition to low-carbon development, in fact, presents key political and financial opportunities for sustainable human development. Women in poor countries, on the front lines of climate change, have the potential to leapfrog carbon-based development and become leaders in adaptation, mitigation, the use and production of renewable energy, and green jobs and businesses. To realize this potential, women will need the support of appropriate policy, capacity building, funding, representation, and gender-responsive climate finance architecture.
- At this time, when billions of dollars in climate finance are being mobilized, it is important for governments, UN agencies civil society and private sector to identify what success looks like for women in the green economy and the ways in which that success is achieved.

**SAVE THE DATE**