

Gender Equality and the Environment

Report on Gender Events at UNEA-2 25-27 May 2016

Table of Contents

1. Women and Sustainable Energy (Sustainable Innovation Expo).....	2
2. High Level Gender and Environment Forum	3
3. Global Gender and Environment Outlook: The Critical Issues Launch	10
4. Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment: Breakfast Meeting	11
5. UNEA Resolutions	20



1. Women Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Energy (Sustainable Innovation Expo)

24 May 2016

Acknowledgement: Content of this section is provided by UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

Speakers

Welcoming remarks: MP Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, President of the First United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-1) and former Minister of Environment and Green Development of Mongolia

Moderator: Ms. Patricia Beneke, Director and Regional Representative of the UNEP Regional Office in North America

Panellists:

- H.E. Mr. Ohn Win, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Union of the Republic of Myanmar
- Mr. Cheikh Fofana, Deputy Director of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Republic of Senegal
- Ms. Christine Kalui, Executive Manager African Eco-labelling Mechanism (AEM)/ Eco Mark Africa (EMA) Secretariat
- Ms. Norine Kennedy, Vice President, Strategic International Engagement, Energy and Environment at the United States Council for International Business (USCIB)

Closing remarks: Ms. Patricia Beneke, Director and Regional Representative of the UNEP Regional Office in North America and Dr. Seemin Qayum, Policy Advisor, Sustainable Development, UN Women

Main outcomes

- The role of women entrepreneurs is significant as they are important agents of change for SDG delivery. Their roles, networks, experiences and outlooks make them indispensable for achieving all SDGs. Planning for a future powered by sustainable energy needs to be gender-inclusive and gender-responsive so that this sustainable future becomes a reality.
- Women and women entrepreneurs in particular face gender-specific vulnerabilities, barriers and challenges in their daily lives. Good governance, corporate responsibility, inclusiveness and a world driven by women leaders are key factors for successful SDG delivery.
- In Myanmar, sustainable energy is key component to reduce deforestation. As sustainable energy entrepreneurs, women can accelerate sustainable energy access and thereby promote sustainable forestry, while improving their own wellbeing. Access to clean, modern energy means less time spent collecting fuel wood (and therefore less small scale logging) and less exposure to household air pollution.

- Senegal already has a vibrant entrepreneurship scene, and at the same time faces low sustainable energy access rates. Promoting women entrepreneurship in sustainable energy is particularly promising here as it can leverage modern and clean energy access solutions and reduce poverty.
- Promoting women's leadership in eco-labelling is a great vehicle to foster women's entrepreneurship for sustainable development.
- Local, national, regional and international partnerships are crucial for empowering women to deliver SDGs. Successful examples exist, for instance, the new UNEP & UN Women joint global programme Women's Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Energy (WESE), which brings a wide variety of stakeholders together from governments, academia, private sector, civil society, and multilateral organizations worldwide.

2. High Level Gender and Environment Forum

Gender and Environment within the context of the Agenda 2030 implementation

24 May 2016

1. Opening Session

Chair Ms. Haddijatou Jallow, Executive Chairperson, Environment Protection Agency, Sierra Leone opened the session and offered welcoming remarks.

Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Janet Kabebere-Macharia, Senior Gender Advisor and Head, Gender and Social Safeguards Unit (GSSU), UNEP provided welcoming comments.

H.E. Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Former Minister of Environment and Green Development of Mongolia and Outgoing President of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren emphasized the **need to change the attitudes of younger generations**, to **redefine prosperity and happiness** to understand that we cannot continue to consume more and more. Lessons can be learnt from nomadic herders in Mongolia, who move each season and don't accumulate much. We should return to traditional wisdom and knowledge and combine this with modern technologies.

Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren stressed it is necessary to focus on scaling-up and timing of implementation of agendas and policies recently adopted. We need to mobilize ourselves rather than spend too much time thinking while planetary boundaries cross the limits. Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren urged all to take energy from UNEA-2 and return to their respective countries to help to change to a green path.

H.E. Flavia Nabugere, Minister of State for the Environment, Uganda and Chair of the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment (NWMLE)

Minister Nabugere noted that participants must be curious how gender issues are negotiated within the global agenda, and how global commitments can be transferred into tangible benefits at a community level. In the context of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, she identified an eagerness to learn the strategy for gender equality, sustainable development and inclusive participation of men and women.

Minister Nabugere observed that **there are global resources available that can be harnessed by states to drive sustainable development**, yet **we need to move from negotiation to practical action**. She encouraged all to draw lessons from UNEA-2 to initiate innovative programs and enterprises, to ensure we participate in the emerging sustainable development agenda, and transfer disadvantages of climate change into opportunities. Minister Nabugere added she is determined to carry these messages back home, and encourage tangible action. She emphasized all participants should harness resources they have at this global level to reach the grassroots.

2. Setting the Scene

Moderator Dr. Musonda Mumba, UNEP advised the theme for the session was “healthy environment healthy people”, noting it was great to see a full room with exciting dialogue and distinguished guests.

Ms. Kerstin Stendahl, Deputy Executive Secretary, Secretariat of Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)

Ms. Stendahl advised she considers gender to be at core of all BRS activities, yet there is still some way to go. What is required is a mindset change, a way of including gender in day-to-day work. Ms. Stendahl introduced the BRS conventions dealing with hazardous chemicals and waste. She discussed how harmful substances affect women, men and children in varying ways, depending on level of exposure, behavioral patterns, age, location, nutritional status and exposure to other chemicals. Certain chemicals accumulate over time and can build up to dangerous levels, with a variety of adverse health impacts.

Ms. Stendahl emphasized **we cannot talk about gender equality without talking about intergenerational equality**. Children are exposed to chemicals also through their mothers. Fetuses and children are particularly affected by exposure to chemicals, and low-income pregnant women and children in developing countries are at special risk. Women and children comprise a large percentage of the agricultural labor force exposed to pesticides. We need to distinguish between women and men and adjust actions accordingly, but it is also necessary to look at migrants, indigenous, low-income and marginalized sub-groups. There are strong economic gains to be made from integrating gender into chemicals and waste management.

Ms. Stendahl stressed a need to:

1. **Recognize and reaffirm the role women play in activities where chemicals and waste are involved.** Women’s roles need to be made visible, encouraging more sound management practices.
2. **Break down gender stereotypes and prejudices.** Showcase women’s input in traditionally male domains (e.g. science, shipping, waste management).

3. **Strive for good governance and equal participation of men and women in decision making** so that all groups can voice their views and concerns.

Ms. Stendahl noted that the convention texts recognize the role of women and the BRS Secretariat has a Gender Action Plan to ensure gender equality considerations are embedded into daily work. A publication featuring stories on gender perspectives on chemicals and waste management can be found on the BRS website.

Dr. Cristina Tirado-von der Pahlen, Chair, International Union for Nutritional Sciences, task force for Climate and Nutrition

Dr. Tirado-von der Pahlen emphasized that SDGs are strongly interconnected and complementary, and therefore cannot be easily separated. Dr. Tirado-von der Pahlen ran through highlights from the health chapter of the last Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, which recognized:

1. **Air pollution is the world's single largest environmental health risk** and in 2012 was responsible for death of 7 million people. Introducing clean fuel stoves could reduce up to 17% deaths from pneumonia in children under 5 years old, while 2.5 million lives per year could be saved by reducing short-lived climate pollutants. There are gender differences in energy consumption and sustainability. Transport contributes to significant emissions and health related deaths.
2. **The co-benefits of sustainable urban transport** include reducing emissions and health benefits from sustainable, active transport and physical activity, along with reduced accidents where infrastructure is in place to protect users.
3. **The co-benefits of reducing local populations through access to reproductive health and modern family planning.** This reduces vulnerability to environmental stresses and reduces long-term energy use and emissions.
4. **The eco-benefit of sustainable diets.** Almost 800 million people are suffering chronically from hunger (60% are women and girls). At the same time, one billion adults and 20 million children are overweight. Shifting consumption can reduce emissions and improve health.

Prof. Joni Seager, Bentley University, and Coordinating Lead Author of the Global Gender and Environment Outlook (GGEO)

Prof. Seager introduced the publication of the abridged version of the GGEO, *GGEO Critical Issues*, launched on 25 May 2016, with the full report to follow shortly after. The GGEO was produced in response to a request from the NWMLE, to which UNEP committed to producing an environmental assessment exclusively through the lens of gender analysis. The GGEO builds on existing information on this area that is scattered and incomplete, resting on the work of hundreds of scholars, practitioners, community groups and gender advocates. The Outlook is the first comprehensive and global gender & environment assessment. It makes substantial contributions to environmental assessment by changing mindsets in terms of methodology and introducing a new 'matrix of inquiry'.

Prof. Seager emphasized that gendered environmental analysis is not just a matter of "add women and stir". Rather, the goal is to bring a *gender lens* to environmental assessment, which makes visible both

men and women as actors and makes visible gender norms and frames that are environmentally instrumental. The GGEO was produced by a team of around 50 contributing authors and large pool of reviewers, through a participatory, diverse process.

Prof. Seager outlined key messages from the GGEO:

1. **All dimensions of “the environment” are gendered.** Gender roles and norms position women and men differently in relation to the environment, with gender differences in drivers, pressures, perceptions of risks and benefits, impacts of disasters, consumption patterns, and health and livelihood implications from environmental change.
2. **There is a pressing need for more sex-disaggregated data;** what gets counted, counts. There’s too much at stake to ignore gender, and we have a brand new opportunity with the SDGs.
3. **We need not just more gender-relevant data, but *better* data.** There is a need to “lift the roof off the household”, to examine dynamics inside households where gendered negotiations occur.
4. **Gender-sensitive environmental assessments are needed at national and international levels.**
5. **Existing environmental and gender commitments by governments need to be followed up and effectively implemented.**
6. **Environmental projects, policies and programmes that don’t take gender into account will produce inadequate results and will not yield sustainable solutions.**

3. Examples of addressing challenges: what we can learn from others

Ms. Almas Jiwani, CEO, Almas Jiwani Foundation, President Emeritus UN Women Canada

Ms. Jiwani shared that when she hears the phrase that “women are the answers”, she gets elated because it is a theme that resonates throughout many of her personal and the foundation’s activities. But, let’s pause for a second to ask ourselves, if women are the answer, what are the questions? Women are the answer, but only if there are enabling conditions for women to be the answer. These conditions are systemic, meaning each community, each country has to create the environment for women to succeed and thrive.

She stressed the impact women can have on economies of the developing world, through empowerment and entrepreneurship. Ms. Jiwani related an experience where she was offered a number of different views of the meaning of ‘women’s empowerment’. She emphasized that gender equality is the state of a society when women and men walk together, side by side. Women are not seeking the power; but want to use power to help other women to unleash the power within. Despite much progress, gender equality has yet to become a global reality.

Women’s political participation is a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality and genuine democracy. It facilitates women’s direct engagement in public decision-making and is a means of ensuring better accountability to women. Studies show higher numbers of women in parliament generally contribute to stronger attention to women’s issues. This includes increasing the number of women in decision-making positions, making gender-sensitive governance reforms, and ensuring that they are properly implemented. Significant progress has been made. Today, there are more women in

government than ever before. Women are increasingly channeling their efforts to expand the number of women candidates in elections, and transform politics and political accountability.

Ms. Jiwani noted the **need to reflect, analyze and assess, and recognize socially constructed views on gender**. We must ask why gender inequality still exists. She believes that any advancement in pushing for gender parity is contingent on the ability of women to hold positions of leadership and role models. Only then can the true potential be unlocked. And the only way for this to happen is for girls, at the youngest ages, to receive the same opportunities as boys, most importantly, that of a quality education.

Ms. Jiwani explained how the Almas Jiwani Foundation is focused upon five 'E's' which form the bedrock for gender equality: equality; education; entrepreneurship; entertainment; and energy. Further information on this work is available on the Foundation's website. In closing, Ms. Jiwani emphasized the Foundation needs everyone's help, and all are invited to join. Women are the answer, but only if we ask the right questions that will enable the right conditions and inspire actions.

Dr. Juana Vera Delgado, Senior Programme Officer, Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)

Dr. Delgado outlined the GWA's mission "to promote women's and men's equitable access to and management of safe and adequate water, for domestic supply, sanitation, food security and environmental sustainability". The GWA's strategy is to work on the empowerment of women, poor men and disadvantaged groups including indigenous people through actions including economic, socio-cultural, political, and physical empowerment.

The GWA links gender and water to tackle issues and inequalities including environmental injustice and poverty. Water is constitutive to at least 14 SDGs. Water is the center for livelihood, environmental and economic health; without water there is no life. This is why the GWA's strategy is of linking gender empowerment to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) captures interrelated environment and gender challenges. Actions used by GWA for empowerment include capacity building, knowledge sharing, advocacy, and strengthening global networks.

Dr. Delgado outlined the main lessons learnt and ways forward under the SDGs. First, **women's and disadvantaged groups' main problem is not only access to and control over water or other environmental goods, but exposure to pollutants**. Secondly, **the need to address gender equality in IWRM is underestimated as water is still considered a men's domain**, a technical issue and apolitical. The GWA's priority is to address this masculine bias.

Dr. Delgado closed by acknowledging two gender water and environmental justice heroes: Máxima Acuña, a Peruvian subsistence farmer who led a resistance movement against a U.S. mining giant threatening to displace her from her land, and Berta Cáceres who led an indigenous campaign that successfully pressured the world's largest dam builder to pull out of a dam project at Río Gaulcarque.

Mr. Daniel Wanjohi, East Africa Representative, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

Mr. Wanjohi discussed gender dynamics of cookstoves and how clean cooking can advance empowerment and the environment. Mr. Wanjohi emphasized that cookstoves are the cause of poverty, poor health, gender inequality, deforestation, air pollution and climate change:

- Almost 3 billion people rely on open fires and basic stoves for cooking.
- Over 4.3 million people die prematurely each year from illnesses attributable to indoor air pollution from cooking with solid fuels.
- Burning solid fuels for household energy needs produce up to 25% of black carbon emissions.
- The annual costs of solid fuel use for cooking in the developing world are \$123 billion.

Clean cookstoves contribute directly to the achievement of at least 10 SDGs, and to creating an environment where Agenda 2030 can be achieved. Mr. Wanjohi ran through impacts inefficient cooking has on women and girls. It contributes to time poverty, poverty, drudgery, vulnerability to violence during firewood collection and detrimental health impacts. Women spend up to five hours a day cooking and collecting fuel, carrying loads of up to 20kg. Households can spend up to one third of their income on energy, and exposure levels to smoke can be up to 100 times recommended levels.

Mr. Wanjohi outlined the Alliance's principles on gender:

- **Women determine the use and adoption of clean cookstoves and fuels.** Therefore technologies, distribution and marketing, etc. must be gender-informed.
- **Women entrepreneurs are an untapped resource** for scaling adoption. Women are particularly better in terms of investing back into their community.

Gender informed practices in the clean cooking sector leverage gender information to identify opportunities and barriers leading to increased effectiveness of businesses, and increase gender and empowerment impacts. Mr. Wanjohi identified some challenges to scaling women's empowerment and entrepreneurship in the clean cooking sector. These include low organizational capacity for those implementing to address gender, the need for finance, the need to build greater evidence of specific gender impacts, and the need to influence policies through awareness raising and advocacy. Further resources on these issues are available on the Alliance's website.

Ms. Helen Hakena, Papua New Guinea Women Major Group

Ms. Hakena opened by sharing a personal story from Papua New Guinea. Following a ten year war and government imposed blockade, Ms. Hakena remembered witnessing women die during childbirth with no support. During this time, many women died from preventable diseases, and there was a lot of gender-based violence. Ms. Hakena emphasized a desire for development which helps vulnerable people, particularly women. The current focus on climate change action can be used as an opportunity to rethink the existing global political, economic and social structures. **Measuring gross domestic product as a mode of development has devastating impacts for women.** Local economies are not measured. Yet food women produce, care they give, and time spent passing on knowledge, if properly supported, can represent human development and safeguarding the planet.

Ms. Hakena stressed **the power of storytelling in empowering women and its impacts on policymaking**. They have been carrying out research where women share their stories about the impacts of climate change. These stories were given to the government and as a result women are now included in decision making and policies have been altered, contributing to delivering various SDGs. Women in the community have more equal rights and access to economic resources and services. Women are included in committees, are members of Parliament, have opportunities for leadership. There is improved food security and nutrition, and sustainable agriculture is promoted. Empowerment of women has reduced discrimination and violence against women in the community. Work on climate change has strengthened resilience and adaptive capacity.

Ms. Hakena emphasized wealthy countries must stop using global resources to add to their wealth, they must stop enabling corporations to sue governments who protect the environment and human rights, and they must recognize the real means of implementation: women leading peace and sustainable stewardship of the community and environment. Civil society and women’s human rights defenders should be supported. She closed by reiterating the need to **move away from a neoliberal development model to a model of environmental, social, gender, economic, redistributive justice**.

4. Recommendations and closing remarks

Following questions and discussion, Dr. Janet Kabeberi-Macharia provided closing remarks. She advised that GSSU would aim to list recommendations arising from the Forum. This would be shared with the NWMLE network. Dr. Macharia thanked all for their participation. She noted that the goal is to make gender equality the vehicle for achieving the SDGs and this can only be done by putting action to our words. She encouraged all to put our heads together, offer ideas for action.

Summary of Recommendations

Subject	Recommendation/Lesson
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on changing the attitude of younger generations. • Redefine the meaning of prosperity to understand we cannot continue to consume more and more. • Transfer global commitments into tangible benefits at a community level; move from negotiation to practical action. • Harness global resources to drive sustainable development and reach grassroots. • Move beyond measuring gross domestic product as a mode of development; support local economies (food production, caregiving, local knowledge). • Harness the power of storytelling in empowering women and impacting on policies. • Stop enabling corporations to sue governments who protect the environment and human rights. • Move away from a neoliberal model of development, to a model of environmental, social, economic, redistributive justice/accountability. • Analyze and recognize socially constructed views on gender.
Chemicals and Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and reaffirm the role women play in activities where chemicals and waste are involved; women’s roles need to be made visible. • Break down gender stereotypes and prejudices; showcase women’s input in traditionally male domains. • Strive for good governance and equal participation of men and women in decision making.

Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address air pollution as the world’s largest environmental health risk (e.g. by introducing clean fuel stoves, reducing short-lived climate pollutants). • Harness the co-benefits (health and environmental) of sustainable urban transport, modern family planning, and sustainable diets consumption.
Global Gender and Environment Outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take into account how all dimensions of “the environment” are gendered. • There is a pressing need for more sex-disaggregated data. • We need not just more gender-relevant data, but <i>better</i> data; to examine dynamics and gendered negotiations inside households. • Gender-sensitive environmental assessments are needed at national/international levels. • Existing environmental and gender commitments by governments need to be followed up and effectively implemented.
Gender and Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link gender equality to water management to capture environment and gender challenges. Address masculine bias in the water sector. • Focus on actions for empowerment including capacity building, knowledge sharing, advocacy and strengthening global networks.
Clean Cookstoves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As women determine the use and adoption of clean cookstoves, technologies, distribution and marketing, etc. must be gender-informed. • Utilize women entrepreneurs as a resource for scaling adoption. • Use gender informed practices, leverage gender information to identify opportunities and barriers leading to increased effectiveness of businesses, and increase gender and empowerment impacts. • Address challenges including low organizational capacity, the need for finance, the need to build evidence of gender impacts, and the need for policy advocacy.

3. Global Gender and Environment Outlook: The Critical Issues Launch

25 May 2016

The launch of the *Global Gender and Environment Outlook (GGEO): The Critical Issues* took place at a UNEA-2 Media Roundtable on 25 May in the presence of international media. The event confirmed that GGEO is a pivotal report, leading the next generation of inclusive environmental assessment and decision-making. It calls for gender-sensitive environmental policies and recognition of the key role of women in driving sustainable development. Moderator Michael Logan (News and Media Officer, UNEP) opened the session and welcomed a panel of distinguished presenters who spoke on the occasion:

- Mr. Elliot Harris, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director, New York Office, UNEP
- Ms. Simone Ellis Oluoch-Olunya, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women, Eastern and Southern Africa
- Ambassador, Victor C. Rønneberg, Ambassador of Norway to Kenya
- Ms. Jacqueline McGlade, Chief Scientist and Director, Division of Early Warning & Assessment, UNEP

The key findings of the GGEO outlined by Ms. McGlade were:

- Existing environmental and gender commitments by governments need to be followed up and effectively implemented.

- Adequate funding and resources will contribute to improvement and progress in developing and implementing gender-sensitive environmental policies.
- Gender-sensitive environmental assessments are needed at national and international levels.
- Gender-disaggregated information is essential.
- It is also essential to promote and support women’s voices, leadership and agency.
- It is important to bring men and boys, women and girls, into the gender-environment conversation.
- Enabling conditions for large-scale transformations with respect to the environment and gender need to be created.
- Issues of unpaid work and time poverty need to be addressed.

The GGEO can be downloaded at: www.unep.org/ggeo.

4. Network of Women Ministers & Leaders for the Environment

Breakfast Meeting, 26 May 2016



Background and Meeting Objectives

The goal of the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment (NWMLE) – established in 2002 – is to promote gender responsive sustainable environmental management at regional and global levels and to enhance the representation and involvement of women in decision-making areas of the environment and sustainable development at all levels. Membership of the NWMLE is now open to both male and female ministers and leaders for the environment.

The Breakfast Meeting is an annual event held during international environment meetings in collaboration with UNEP, which houses its Secretariat. Invitees are ministers of the environment, heads of delegations and government, heads of environment agencies and departments, representatives from international civil society and UN agencies.

The Breakfast Meeting is convened by the Chair of the NWMLE and co-hosted by UNEP. The overall objective is to discuss progress made by the Network in meeting commitments made during the Rio+20 summit in 2012, with a view of reviewing the commitments and synchronizing them with the implementation of the gender related targets of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. Four years after Rio+20 and with the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, it is important that the NWMLE reviews its commitment with a view of harmonizing these with the SDGs. The meeting will address the following:

- How do we ensure SDG and gender related input into High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2016?
- Integration of SDG gender indicators in environmental targets
- What can the Network learn from the Lima Gender Work Program?

Ministers, heads of delegation and invited speakers were requested to respond to the above three areas, to identify how their organizations can work with the NWMLE, with a view to strengthening its work particularly across different regions. The chair of the meeting is current NWMLE chair, HE Flavia Nabugere, Minister of State for the Environment, Uganda.

1. Opening and Welcome Remarks

Moderator **H.E. Amina J Mohammed, Minister for the Environment, Nigeria**, welcomed guests to the meeting and provided opening remarks. Minister Mohammed noted the meeting was an opportunity to immediately build on the momentum of Wednesday 25 May's launch of the *GGEO – The Critical Issues*, the gender events at UNEA, and the recently agreed Agenda 2030 and SDGs. As the GGEO points out, addressing gender and the environment cannot be just “adding women and stir”. We are now being asked to not just be gender-sensitive but to be gender-responsive. Tuesday 24 May's High Level Gender Forum highlighted the strong linkages between gender and the SDGs. The NWMLE has a significant opportunity to become an even more pivotal force for ensuring that the gender-environment nexus is more than a new element of a check-list, but that it is the issue that can make the difference to many peoples' lives.

H.E. Flavia Nabugere, Minister of State for the Environment, Uganda and Chair of the NWMLE provided further welcome remarks and discussed the strategic importance of the work of the NWMLE. She noted that the NWMLE has played a critical role in advocating for and strengthening gender initiatives in environmental policies. Gender has been placed on the global agenda for environmental protection and sustainability, and is a bridge between various Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The question is how can commitments be translated from paper into a grassroots reality? The NWMLE will remain a key partner for the UNEP and others in ensuring gender equality remains at the forefront of the SDGs Agenda. Minister Nabugere **called upon development partners to support the NWMLE** to enable the Network to move from talk to action. Achievements of NWMLE so far are notable. The Network's call for a GGEO has been realized following the launch of the abridged version of the report, *GGEO Critical Issues*. Minister Nabugere noted that **the NWMLE can support gender equitable implementation of the SDGs and Paris Agreement by:**

1. **Promoting gendered aspects of the SDGs into the HLPF** convening in New York in July 2016.
2. **Advocating for consistent reporting on the gender targets in the environmental goals of the SDGs.**
3. **Continued leadership on climate change and playing a more active role in the Lima Gender Work Program.**
4. **Launching a call for action on gender and environment linking UNEA, SDGs and Climate.**

Minister Nabugere advised that she will be leaving as co-chair of the NWMLE and outlined the process for nomination of succeeding co-chairs:

- The Secretariat will request nominations from all countries of 2 possible co-chairs with regional balance.

- The position is held for a period of 3 years and membership is now open to both male and female ministers.
- A name change is required for the NWMLE. The new name proposed is: *“Network of Ministers and Leaders on Gender and Environment”*.

2. Presentations from Ministers and Distinguished Guests

Dr. Margaret W. Mwakima, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Authorities, Kenya

Dr. Mwakima noted that gender and the environment is about far more than gender mainstreaming. She outlined the key achievements and work the Government of Kenya is undertaking in this space. The Government is committed to ensuring women and men are involved in decision making process from the political and ground level. Work has been done on getting more women into parliament and in programs, projects and recruitments. The Government has also been working to ensure the legislative framework is supportive of gender equality, and is calling for gender responsive budgeting.

Dr. Yannick Glemarec, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

Dr. Glemarec emphasized that gender equality and women’s empowerment is a precondition for sustainable development and there are natural synergies between gender and environment. He identified women’s empowerment as both a right and a solution to address environmental and health challenges in a synergistic manner. Dr. Glemarec advised that UN Women is trying to accelerate gender equality and women’s empowerment through partnerships, focusing on multi-stakeholder transformative programs. He highlighted UN Women’s work including:

- UN Women’s joint Women Global Programme with UNEP which promotes women entrepreneurs to accelerate sustainable energy development in order to reduce air pollution;
- UN Women’s programme to address the gender gap for climate smart agriculture to enhance nutrition and lower occupational risks; and
- UN Women’s programme for disaster prevention and preparedness to address the gender inequality of risk.

Ms. Inger Andersen, Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Ms. Andersen advised that the IUCN, established 1948, was one of the co-founders of the NWMLE. While there has been amazing progress over last 15 years across the stream of environment and sustainability, we have a long way to go. She emphasized that we must not lose the imperative of continuing women’s empowerment in sustainability. We have talked for decades about this and what is needed now is to see is how this can be made a reality. Ms. Andersen outlined **three key messages**:

- 1. Women are not only victims.**
- 2. Global goals cannot be achieved without women. Women’s inclusion must be meaningful, not just a checking of a box.**
- 3. Transparency and accountability matters; more of this is needed within organizations.**

The IUCN has introduced a system for tracking gender progress and accountability by governments in environment policies. The Environment and Gender Index ranks countries on how they are implementing gender and environment mandates into national planning and policies, across different gender and environment categories.

Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Ms. Ishii highlighted the interconnections between gender equality, sustainable development and GEF's mandate to generate global environmental benefits. She emphasized that together the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change present a renewed opportunity to initiate transformation toward sustainability, and implementation of integrated solutions that balance social, economic and environmental goals. Ms. Ishii emphasized that closing the gender gap and empowering women is key to fighting environmental degradation and insecurity.

She highlighted that GEF, in collaboration with GEF Agencies and other partners, has made significant progress integrating gender equality and women's empowerment principles into GEF's programming and projects. Today GEF is requiring all new projects to conduct a gender analysis and to develop gender responsive results-based frameworks. GEF understands that engaging beneficiaries actively in planning and implementation yield better results, and provide important first steps to ensuring that women's needs, participation, voice and leadership are addressed. GEF is particularly happy to report on the progress consolidating the GEF Gender Partnership, with active participation of gender experts and focal points from all GEF Agencies, MEA Secretariats, and representatives from civil society. Ms. Ishii reiterated her hope that the GEF Gender Partnership will serve as an effective mechanism to support the efforts and commitments of this NWMLE and beyond by:

- a) Distilling good practices/approaches to mainstreaming gender in environmental policy and projects, and improving understanding what works and doesn't work, while sharing knowledge across partners at global and national levels;
- b) Strengthening capacities among partners to promote women's leadership and address gender in projects and programs supported by the GEF;
- c) Collaboratively identify and develop effective measures to track results and progress made.

Ms. Ishii concluded by highlighting that everyone plays a critical role to propel the social, economic and environmental transformation needed to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. Shifting to a more sustainable and low-carbon trajectory will require new ways of thinking, new alliances and integrated and equitable solutions.

H.E. Mr. Mona Ioane, Associate Minister for Environment, Cook Islands

Associate Minister Ioane advised that the impacts of climate change are already being felt in the Cook Islands and this has affected food security, water resources, human health, social and economic development and more. In many of these contexts, women are more vulnerable given barriers faced to resources access and decision making. Cyclone Pat brought destruction to the Island in 2010, placing pressures on families, particularly women. Examples of other challenges that demonstrate the

vulnerability of women are the decline in availability of resources such as the pupu shell which women traditionally craft into necklaces and sell to generate income, and salt water intrusion reducing areas for cultivation. Women have been both vulnerable to climate change, and effective agents of change in managing these challenges. They have capacity to build resilience against climate change and disasters and this should also be recognized. In addition to recognizing this in policies, the Cook Islands are working to improve collection and analysis of gender and climate disaggregated data. Associate Minister Ioane outlined six priority outcomes of the Cook Islands National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

1. Gender responsive Government programs and policies.
2. Equitable participation of women and men in decision making and governance.
3. Enabling environment for full participation of women in economic development.
4. Improved capacity of women to adapt to climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies.
5. Improved capacity of women to address health issues.
6. Elimination of violence against women.

Gender considerations have also been incorporated into other planning documents such as the National Sustainable Development Plan, and Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Dr. Akhtar emphasized that a focus on women is smart economics, but it is also a risk smart approach. Gender and inequality issues have been a part of the Regional Commission's work for many years. ESCAP has focused on women's empowerment and gender equality in five areas¹:

1. Adoption of a whole-of-government approach, strengthening governance and institutions to recognize the need to mainstream gender into policies and public institutions.
2. Increasing finance, implementing gender sensitive planning and budgeting.
3. Enhancing accountability, monitoring and evaluation.
4. Developing stronger partnerships within and between government, civil society and the private sector. Enhancing women's leadership, partnership and participation.
5. Strengthened regional cooperation.

ESCAP is working closely with states, civil society and the private sector to ensure these goals are achieved. In cooperation with UN Women, ESCAP leads the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism Working Group on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (co-chaired by ESCAP and UN Women). ESCAP is also looking at enhancing accountability through the improved production, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics. Dr. Akhtar closed by welcoming the NWMLE's involvement in the 4th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017.

¹ Further information on these five priority areas can be found at: <http://www.unescap.org/speeches/gender-equality-womens-empowerment-asia-pacific-progress-and-challenges>.

H.E. Dr. Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia

Minister Bakar outlined the Government of Indonesia's work on gender equality and environmental management. She emphasized the commitment of the Government of Indonesia to strengthen its work on gender and environment outcomes in line with SDGs and other global agreements. The Minister also recognized the importance of high level policy forums and networking amongst decision makers, and strengthened Indonesia's commitment to ensuring concrete actions are addressed.

Dr. Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice President of Islamic Republic of Iran and Minister for Environment

Dr. Ebtekar noted that there are clear references to gender equality in many global agreements. While we have a long way ahead, we have advanced and the roadmap is there. More important for women particularly is "the heart map" – needed to bring about a change in attitudes, lifestyles, behaviors, to transform ideas and mentalities. Such changes need to be seen in our approaches at a local, national and regional level. Dr. Ebtekar also one successful environment and gender project in Iran, a project on the restoration of Lake Urmia by empowering rural women residing in villages near the lake to change their agricultural practices. The lake is showing signs of recovery following the Urmia Lake Restoration Project.

Ms. Haddijatou Jallow, Executive Chairperson, Environment Protection Agency, Sierra Leone

Ms. Jallow opened by noting that Sierra Leone is a gender and environment friendly country, and one of the few countries that has declared International Women's Day as a holiday. Ms. Jallow advised that she was honored to present on the Network of African Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment. At a meeting at UNEA-2 on 24 May 2016, **the following outcomes were agreed:**

1. The Network called for action to domesticate global and regional agendas at country level. The Platform was recognized as a good avenue to promote the implementation of these agendas and ensure that they keep the strong focus on environmental sustainability, gender equality and women's empowerment already contained in regional and global agendas.
2. Women's participation must be promoted in environmental decision making bodies.
3. It is important that national policies are examined and revised to ensure they are in line with regional and global agendas and in particular promote issues of gender responsive environmental sustainability required to move towards implementation. Policy coherence within countries is essential.
4. The Network would like to work together with the UN in developing and applying tools to monitor progress towards implementation of global and regional goals in the national context.
5. African group morning sessions will be used to bring issues of women's empowerment and gender equality to drafting groups of various resolutions at UNEA-2, particularly the one on natural capital accounting and the resolution on environmental education and capacity building, to ensure final resolutions are gender responsive.
6. To explore technical areas of work on gender responsive natural capital accounting and quantifying women's contribution to natural capital.

7. A gender equality and women's empowerment perspective/section should be part of all environmental assessments and regional outlook reports.
8. UNEP should accelerate development of a roadmap looking at the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and Africa Adaptation Initiative as entry points.
9. A two page strategy on gender integration in AMCEN and AU work to be drafted.
10. African ministers could ask for support for energy solutions that are of tremendous importance to women.
11. The need for UNEP's support consolidating the Network for future policy dialogues and maintaining its vibrant nature.

Ms. Almas Jiwani, CEO, Almas Jiwani Foundation, President Emeritus UN Women Canada

Ms. Jiwani offered thanks for the opportunity to address the esteemed event. She noted that evidence has proven that the status and role of women is the best clue to a nation's growth potential and is a key factor in determining a society's standard of living, and it is important to focus on women's economic empowerment. Ms. Jiwani outlined the work of the Almas Jiwani Foundation (AJF) which focuses on the equality and gender issues imperative. AJF is set in a new paradigm by people from different walks of life cognizant of the realities, recent failures, and challenges ahead.

The AJF has identified a process to provide opportunities to girls and women in the developing world. Through various partnerships with stakeholders, projects currently in the planning stage, they will provide sustainable energy to remote areas to give them access to power and communication systems that are currently unattainable. The power will allow communities to power schools, clinics and to operate filtration systems. The Foundation's belief is that educated women are empowered, successful women. Through provision of resources to allow these remote areas to flourish on their own, AJF will create the environment for growth and sustainable energy. Without sustainable energy there can be no sustainable development. The key is working together to ensure sustainable energy and development and to achieve gender equality and change.

Ms. Norine Kennedy, Vice President of Environment, Energy and Strategic International Engagement of the United States Council for International Business (USCIB)

USCIB is engaged in all aspects of the 2030 Agenda, and the private sector plays a central role in sustainable development and meeting the challenge of achieving the SDGs. This includes through public-private partnerships, business input into policy negotiation and implementation, and closing the gap in financing and technical capacity. Ms. Kennedy outlined USCIB's work on the Global Business Alliance for 2030 (GBA):

1. The launch of this historic alignment in the international business community took place last year. The GBA was formed to enable the private sector to demonstrate its central role and make real contributions to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda.
2. The alliance invites every business inside for action to advance sustainability. Those involved include many businesses owned and run by women, and this is a tremendous resource.

3. While the UN and businesses don't always speak the same language, efforts to appropriately translate language between the two sectors are underway.

Ms. Kennedy advised that USCIB looks forward to partnering with UNEP and others to carry this work forward. She closed by emphasizing that **women who are economically empowered are a profound resource that has not yet been adequately tapped.**

Prof. Joni Seager, Bentley University, Coordinating Lead Author of the Global Gender and Environment Outlook

Prof. Seager introduced the publication of the abridged version of the GGEO, *GGEO Critical Issues*, which was launched this week. The GGEO was produced in response to a call from the NWMLE in 2012, to which UNEP committed to producing an environmental assessment through the lens of gender analysis. The Outlook is an important policy resource for leading future environmental decision making, and in the development and implementation of gender-sensitive environmental policies. The GGEO was produced by a team of around 50 contributing authors and large pool of reviewers. She mentioned a few of the **key messages of GGEO, including that:**

1. All dimensions of "the environment" are gendered.
2. Gendered environmental analysis is not just about "adding women and stir".
3. There's too much at stake to ignore gender.
4. There is a pressing need for more data; what gets counted, counts.
5. There is a need to "lift the roof off the household", to examine relations inside households.

Prof. Seager thanked the NWMLE for its initiative in asking UNEP to undertake this report and advised that the full report will be available in the coming weeks. Janet Kabeberi-Macharia (Senior Gender Advisor and Head, Gender and Social Safeguards Unit, UNEP) further recognized the support of UNEP senior management.

H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union

Commissioner Tumusiime outlined the African Union's (AU) work in relation to gender and environment, particularly Agenda 2063, a strategy and roadmap looking at what Africa will be like in the next 50 years, to ensure positive socioeconomic change and development. She advised that gender equality is critical in this agenda, and women are at the center of this work. This Agenda demonstrates how the AU walks the talk. Further, Commissioners of the African Union Commission, the executive arm of the AU are 50% women, 50% men. The organization is working to ensure women come into all decision making positions. Commissioner Tumusiime closed by noting that without women we will never achieve SDGs.

3. Closing Remarks

Dr. Janet Kabeberi-Macharia, Senior Gender Advisor and Head, Gender and Social Safeguards Unit, UNEP

Dr. Macharia noted that with representation from thirty ministers, this has been a historic meeting of the NWMLE. She advised that the UNEP Secretariat of the NWMLE will communicate with participants

following the meeting. The desire going forward is to strengthen the NWMLE, and in this regard **UNEP needs the support of other institutions**. Dr. Macharia articulated a belief that gender equality will be driver for meeting the environmental dimensions of SDGs, supported the proposed new name for the Network.

Minister Nabugere closed the meeting by offering profound thanks and appreciation to all distinguished guests, Ministers, and speakers. She recognized the central role the Network is poised to play in the future, and thanked the Government of Kenya and UNEP for their support. Minister Nabugere reinforced the **need to strengthen the Network going forward, to compile innovative approaches, link with grassroots and development partners, and seek access to finance**. The meeting was brought to a close with a final call for all to move from talk to action.

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation/Lesson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development partners should support the NWMLE to enable movement from talk to action. • The NWMLE can support gender equitable implementation of SDGs and Paris Agreement by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promoting gendered aspects of the SDGs into the HLPF. ○ Advocating for consistent reporting on gender targets in the environmental goals of the SDGs. ○ Continued leadership on climate change and playing a more active role in the Lima Gender Work Program. • Accelerate gender equality and women’s empowerment through partnerships, focusing on multi-stakeholder transformative programs. • Women’s inclusion must be meaningful, not just a checking of a box; global goals cannot be achieved without women. • More transparency and accountability is needed within organizations. • A focus on women is smart economics, but it is also a risk smart approach. • We need to bring about a change in attitudes, lifestyles, behaviors, to transform ideas and mentalities. Such changes need to be seen in approaches at a local, national and regional level. • The private sector plays a central role in sustainable development and achieving the SDGs. This includes through public-private partnerships, business input into policy negotiation and implementation and closing the gap in financing and technical capacity. • Take into account how all dimensions of “the environment” are gendered. • There is a pressing need for more sex-disaggregated data. • There is a need to “lift the roof off the household”, to examine relations inside households. • Africa Network for Women Environment Leaders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Domestic global and regional agendas at country level and ensure that they keep the strong focus on environmental sustainability, gender equality and women’s empowerment. ○ Women’s participation must be promoted in environmental decision making bodies. ○ It is important that national policies are examined and revised to ensure they are in line with regional and global agendas and in particular promote issues of gender responsive environmental sustainability required to move towards implementation. Policy coherence within countries is essential. ○ The Network would like to work together with the UN in developing and applying tools to monitor progress towards implementation of global and regional goals in national contexts. ○ Explore technical areas of work on gender responsive natural capital accounting and quantifying women’s contribution to natural capital.

- A gender equality and women’s empowerment perspective/section should be part of all environmental assessments and regional outlook reports.
- UNEP should accelerate development of a roadmap looking at the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and Africa Adaptation Initiative as entry points.
- A two page strategy on gender integration in AMCEN and AU work to be drafted.
- African ministers could ask for support for energy solutions that are of tremendous importance to women.
- Need for UNEP’s support consolidating the Network for future policy dialogues and maintaining its vibrant nature.

5. UNEA Resolutions

The Second Session of UNEA-2 adopted 25 Resolutions (Table 1), including a resolution on UNEP’s Medium-Term Strategy for 2018-2021, Programme of Work and budget for 2018-2019. UNEA-2 agreed to change the cycle so that future meetings will take place in odd years, with the next meeting to take place in 2017. Of the 25 Resolutions, three refer to ‘gender’ or ‘women’, reflecting feedback provided by UNEP’s Gender Unit. The gender relevant text from these is outlined below.

Resolution 2/5 Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This resolution outlined detailed actions while:

*“...Stressing the importance of respecting, protecting and promoting human rights and **gender equality** and recognising the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development...”*

Resolution 2/15 Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict

This resolution outlined detailed actions while:

*“Further recognizing the specific negative effects of environmental degradation on **women** and the need to apply a **gender perspective** with respect to the environment and armed conflicts...”*

Resolution 2/12 Sustainable coral reefs management

*“Recognizes the vital role that **women** play in the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and affirms the need for the full **participation of women** at all levels of policymaking and implementation for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs”*

Table 1: List of UNEA-2 Resolutions

No.	Title of the Resolutions
2/1	Amendments to the rules of procedure
2/2	Role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of environment and environment authorities
2/3	Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training
2/4	Role, functions and modalities for UNEP implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

2/5	Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2/6	Supporting the Paris Agreement
2/7	Sound management of chemicals and waste
2/8	Sustainable consumption and production
2/9	Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste
2/10	Oceans and seas
2/11	Marine plastic litter and micro-plastics
2/12	Sustainable coral reefs management
2/13	Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication
2/14	Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products
2/15	Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict
2/16	Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being
2/17	Enhancing the work of UNEP in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions
2/18	Relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariat
2/19	Midterm review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environment Law (Montevideo Programme IV)
2/20	Proposed medium-term strategy for 2018-2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018-2019
2/21	Sand and dust storms
2/22	Review of the cycle of sessions of UNEA of UNEP
2/23	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
2/24	Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands
2/25	Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region