

Gender Equality and the Environment

Gender Events at
UNEA-2
25-27 May 2016

Overview and
Outcomes



23 -27 May 2016
Nairobi, Kenya

Summary of Events



Women & Sustainable Energy Sustainable Innovation Expo

Tuesday 24 May 2016

Empowering women entrepreneurs for SDG delivery. With a focus on sustainable entrepreneurship in the energy sector.

High Level Gender & Environment Forum

Tuesday 24 May 2016

Achieving transformative results for gender equality for a “Healthy Environment-Healthy People”. Held in collaboration with the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment and supporting partners.

Global Gender & Environment Outlook Critical Issues Launch

Wednesday 25 May 2016

The critical issues launch of the first comprehensive global assessment of the gender-and-environment nexus.

Network of Women Ministers & Leaders for the Environment: Breakfast meeting

Thursday 26 May 2016

Closed event



1. Women Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Energy

Theme/Key Messages:

- Women's potential to accelerate sustainable energy access in context of joint UNEP - UN Women programme.
- Achievement of multiple SDGs (climate change, sustainable energy, gender equality).
- Women disproportionately bear burden of energy poverty: health and safety risks from household air pollution, carrying heavy fuel loads, lack of lighting.
- Women can be powerful agents of change in transition to clean energy.
- Potential of women as sustainable energy entrepreneurs unrealized.

Presenters:

- Ms. Patricia Beneke (UNEP Regional Office, North America).
- M.P. Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, UNEA-1 president, fmr Minister of Environment, Mongolia.
- H.E. Mr. Ohn Win, Union for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar.
- Mr. Cheikh Fofana, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal.
- Ms. Christine Kalui, African Eco-labelling Mechanism/Eco Mark Africa Secretariat.
- Ms. Norine Kennedy, United States Council for International Business.



2. High Level Gender and Environment Forum

Theme:

Gender and Environment in context of Agenda 2030 implementation

Focus:

- Setting scene for gender-environment issues
- Addressing challenges: what we can learn from others

Presenters:

- Ms. Haddijatou Jallow, **Environment Protection Agency, Sierra Leone** (chair)
- Dr. Musonda Mumba, **UNEP** (moderator)
- Dr. Margaret W. Mwakima, **Ministry of Environment, Kenya**
- H.E. Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, President, **UNEA**
- H.E. Flavia Nabugere, **Minister of State for Environment, Uganda**, NWMLE Chair
- Ms. Kerstin Stendahl, **Secretariat of Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**
- Dr. Cristina Tirado-von der Pahlen, **International Union for Nutritional Sciences**
- Prof. Joni Seager, **Global Gender and Environment Outlook**
- Ms. Almas Jiwani, **Almas Jiwani Foundation**
- Dr. Juana Vera Delgado, **Gender and Water Alliance**
- Mr. Daniel Wanjohi, **Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves**
- Ms. Helen Hakena, **PNG Women Major Group**



Recommendations

Women environment

“warriors”

“Women water (s)heroes and warriors”
(e.g. Berta Caceres):

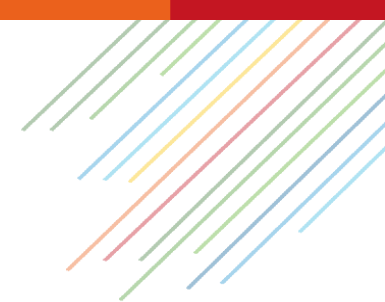
Environmental and women’s rights play key roles in ensuring inclusive, sustainable development. We actively need to defend and protect their rights/livelihoods.

Global economy

- Environmental justice not possible without gender and economic justice e.g. current patterns of resource extraction based on exploitative model.
- Structural systemic changes needed in global trade/investment policies e.g. problematic investor protection clauses go against human health and rights.
- 2030 Agenda review and monitoring needs quantitative data but also human stories and story telling.



Recommendations (cont.)



Energy and Water

- 14 of 17 SDG have implications for water, 10 for clean cooking.
- Access to safe, sustainable energy (household, transportation, income generation) essential for human health and climate.
- Gender dimensions are flagrant: until we understand social, economic, physical burden of lack of access to safe, sustainable energy/water we will fail to resolve environmental burden.
- National programs/budgets should be gender responsive and environmentally sustainable.
- Energy plans and policies should be informed by sex-disaggregated data and target women's needs/priorities to ensure equitable access.
- Gender barriers to sustainable energy finance should be dismantled to ensure equal entrepreneurship opportunities in sustainable energy for women and men.



Recommendations (cont.)

Women and Chemicals

- Women's right to healthy environment essential to address negative health impact from e.g. hazardous chemicals.
- Essential for protecting children's health; up to 33% of women's toxic body burden can be transferred to children.
- Need to phase out hazardous chemicals and ensure gender perspective in chemical management, including strong gender-mandate for Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Forests

- Caution against unregulated, unethical multi-stakeholder partnerships that could cause more harm to marginalized communities esp. women.
- Real champions on gender equality and women's rights ensure policies are implemented. UNEA can strengthen gender language across different Resolutions in line with other MEAs.



3. Global Gender and Environment Outlook (GGEO) Critical Issues Launch

Key Points

- A pivotal report leading next generation of inclusive environmental assessment and decision-making.
- GGEO calls for recognition of key role of women in driving sustainable development.
- Need support that GGEO recommendations are translated into global/local action.
- GGEO lessons and further development to be taken into all other GEO products.
- GGEO to be institutionalized into UNEP global assessment framework and contribute to 2030 Agenda Review.

Presenters

- 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)



GGEO (cont.)

Key GGEO findings:

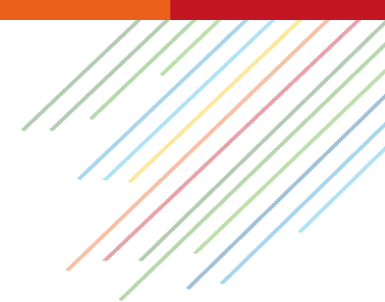
- Existing environmental and gender commitments by governments need to be followed up and implemented.
- Adequate funding/resources will contribute to improvement and progress in developing and implementing gender-sensitive environmental policies.
- Gender-sensitive environmental assessments needed at national and international levels.
- Gender-disaggregated information essential.
- Essential to promote and support women's voices, leadership and agency.
- Important to bring men/boys, women/girls into 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.



Presenters



- H.E. Amina J Mohammed, Minister for Environment, Nigeria
- H.E. Flavia Nabugere, Minister of State for Environment, Uganda, NWMLE Chair
- Dr. Margaret W. Mwakima, Ministry of Environment, Kenya
- Dr. Yannick Glemarec, UN Women
- Ms. Inger Andersen, International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Ms. Naoko Ishii, Global Environment Facility
- H.E. Mr. Mona Ioane, Associate Minister for Environment, Cook Islands
- Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific
- Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
- Dr. Masoumeh Ebtekar, Minister for Environment, Iran
- Ms. Haddijatou Jallow, Environment Protection Agency, Sierra Leone
- Ms. Almas Jiwani, Almas Jiwani Foundation
- Ms. Norine Kennedy, US Council for International Business
- Prof. Joni Seager, Global Gender and Environment Outlook
- H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union



Recommendations

- Support gender equitable implementation of SDGs by:
 - Promoting gendered aspects of SDGs into HLPF.
 - Advocating for reporting on gender targets in enviro goals of SDGs.
 - Continued leadership on climate change; more active role in Lima Gender Work Program.
- Accelerate gender equality through partnerships, focus on multi-stakeholder transformative programs.
- Women's inclusion must be meaningful; global goals cannot be achieved without women.
- More transparency and accountability.
- Focus on women is smart economics; a risk smart approach.
- Bring about change in attitudes, behaviors, to transform ideas and mentalities (local, national and regional).
- Central role of private sector in achieving SDGs (public-private partnerships, policy input, closing finance/technical capacity gaps).



Recommendations (cont.)

Africa Network for Women Environment Leaders:

- Domesticating global/regional agendas at country level; ensure focus on environmental sustainability, gender equality.
- Promote women's participation in environmental decision making bodies.
- Examine/revise national policies to ensure they are in line with regional/global agendas; promote gender responsive environmental sustainability.
- Policy coherence within countries essential.
- Work with UN in developing/applying tools to monitor progress towards implementation of global/regional goals in national contexts.
- Explore technical areas of work on gender responsive natural capital accounting and quantifying women's contribution to natural capital.
- Make gender equality perspective part of all environmental assessments/outlook reports.
- UNEP should accelerate development of roadmap looking at Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and Africa Adaptation Initiative as entry points.
- Two page strategy on gender integration in AMCEN and AU work to be drafted.
- African ministers could ask for support for energy solutions.



High Sprit & Momentum

- The overall momentum in gender and environment has reached new heights with a large turnaround from both ministers and the civil society
- The participation of men in the events was visibly obvious, a new phenomenon not seen before
- It is now high time to ride on the momentum and make further partnership and concrete commitment in the BRS Secretariat, UNEP and beyond