



Theme: Gender, Climate & Energy



by Judit Szoleczky, editor, Sustainable Energy News

In this issue we publish a Women/Gender Theme for the 5th time in Sustainable Energy News since 2001.

On the following 5 pages you can read about facts and NGO views that often are marginalised in the media.

- Read about women's voices advocating for a nuclear-free world.
- Gain insight into the continuous efforts to influence the UN to include in its texts vital considerations of gender, which it has watered down yet again.
- See positive developments, as "gender and climate" issues are raised, often for the first time, in many forums and organizations, e.g., at the 5th World Urban Forum and at the 54th UN Status of Women Conference.
- Learn about new publications available on the web and about coming events in which you can participate.
- Finally, be surprised again and again at facts such as that, among decision-makers, only around 5% - 35% are women, despite the roughly 50%-50% balance of the population between women and men.

We hope that you will enjoy reading our coverage and that it will inspire you to send us input for future gender-theme issues.

"No climate justice without gender justice"

Photo by GenderCC.



Ulrike Roehr speaking on behalf of "Women and Gender" at COP15.

Women Say: "Don't Nuke the Climate"

During the UNFCCC COP 15 in Copenhagen, side events marked the civil society's wish to keep the nuclear energy out from the climate negotiations.

Among the organizations were several INFORSE members.

The side events were:

"Women's Perspective on Nuclear Energy: Nuclear Power is the Problem, not a Solution", 8 December, 2009, DGI-Byen, NGO Climate Forum. Organised by WILPF- Denmark, WECF, Ecodefence, WISE and others.

"False Promises of Nuclear Energy", 12 December 2009, Bella Center. Organisers: WILPF, WECF, IFG, Sortir du nucléaire, NIRS, the Environmental Institute of Munich, Greenpeace, Ecodefence and WISE.

During the event, the organisations showed the true face of nuclear energy and presented a proposal, supported by citizens from all over the world, for a nuclear-free post-Kyoto regime.

Speeches at the end of the Climate Walk, 12 December, 2009.

The Demonstration Walk started at the Danish Parliament building and ended at the Bella Center. About 100,000 people walked the 6 km route.



Illustration from the event "Nuclear Power is the Problem, not a Solution"

More info:

- WILPF - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom:

W: www.wilpfinternational.org

W: www.kvindefredsliga.dk/klimatopm-de.html

- WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future:

W: www.wecf.eu

- Don't Nuke the Climate Campaign:

W: www.dont-nuke-the-climate.org

- Helen Caldicott's publications:

W: www.helencaldicott.com

- Helen Caldicott's speeches on 12 December, 2009:

W: <http://envirobeat.com/?p=1993>

W: <http://envirobeat.com/?p=1761>



Dr. Helen Caldicott's Speeches

All of the three events mentioned above included Dr. Helen Caldicott's speeches. She explained the medical hazards of exposure to radiation in the course of using nuclear power. Nuclear exposure can affect many generations and is known to cause leukemia and other cancers as well as congenital birth defects. She explained, e.g., the effects of the radioactive waste, which gets through the water into the fish, the milk, the food, human breast milk, fetuses, babies, and children. She spoke about the 12,000 who got cancer in Belarus after the Chernobyl accident and the effects in the food chain for 600 years in Europe.

"Nuclear power is about disease, and it's about death. It will produce the greatest public health hazard the world has ever seen for the rest of time. We must close down every single nuclear reactor in Europe and throughout the world."

She called urgently to end all the destruction of the environment and of the public health that is caused by nuclear energy and waste.

She proposed that the several billions of dollars typically used to finance nuclear power be invested instead in solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal energy, as well as in energy conservation.

A sustainable energy future is possible.



Gender Justice at COP15: Half of Nothing is Nothing



By Marion Rolle and Nina Somera,
GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice

After months of negotiations, the outcome of the Climate Conference in Copenhagen (COP15) is extremely alarming. For those who are already suffering the effects of climate change, the essential failure of the Summit is utterly devastating.

Most of the delegates, throughout the Conference, stressed the urgent need for a fair and ambitious agreement, including serious emission reduction targets as well as sufficient financing.

It is thus all the more counter-intuitive and alarming that the Conference produced no firm worthwhile commitments. Further, although some progress has been made in the inclusion of gender-related considerations in the texts since Poznan, the language remains weak.

Perhaps most strikingly, although COP15 saw the strongest commitment of civil society ever seen within the climate-change negotiations, it was marked by the most blatant exclusion of civil society in the history of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Women and Gender Groups in the UNFCCC-process

COP15 was the first UNFCCC conference in which women and gender-based NGOs were recognized as discrete constituencies. It seems that UNFCCC increasingly acknowledges the often disproportionately harsh gender-specific impacts of climate change on women's lives and of the importance of gender considerations in Conference structure and process.

Once the COP15 process was closed to civil society organizations (CSOs) and social movements, however, the civil constituency was disenfranchised. It could no longer realise its potential to intervene effectively.

To make matters worse, women's share in the delegations of parties remained small, constituting only about 30% of registered country delegates and approximately 10 % of the heads of delegations.

Gender in the Outcome

The so-called "Copenhagen Accord" is far from the "fair and ambitious agreement" that CSOs have demanded, and it does not consider gender justice at all. While the document underlines the need to limit global warming to (insufficient) two degrees centigrade and urges all nations to reduce their emissions, it is silent on concrete measures and timeframes. Moreover, not only was it produced in a manner that betrayed the supposed character of any UN process, but it also lacks substantive strength and political support, especially but not only from the global South.

However, the *Copenhagen Accord* is not the only contentious aspect of COP15. Gender language in the draft texts of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action (AWG LCA) increased slightly during the preparatory meetings; *even this small improvement was watered down* and partially deleted near the end of the process. Further, the thinking and the language continue to paint women as a sidelined, "vulnerable" minority interest instead of as strong, vital, 50%-of-the-population stakeholders.

Not unexpectedly, considerations of gender-specific difficulties are completely absent in the AWG LCA texts on mitigation and financing. This was also true of drafts of AWK-KP (Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol).



Beyond Copenhagen

Instead of signalling a climate- and gender-just future, COP15 produced toothless political declarations that preserve long-

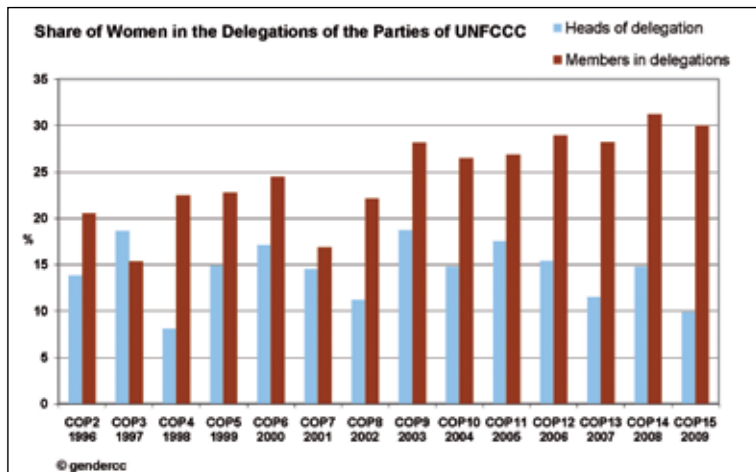
standing global imbalances at the expense of poor and marginalized countries and peoples. Even so, we must engage the UNFCCC by starting immediately a redoubled collective learning process geared towards achieving genuine and lasting solutions. Countries and their delegations need to work on a binding post-2012 agreement to be approved in Mexico in December, 2010 (COP 16).

GenderCC calls for urgent and concrete action. *"Not a political declaration, but commitments. Not 'continued high growth' but fundamental changes of how we live and consume in industrialized countries and how we share the Earth's resources nationally and globally. Not lukewarm reduction goals but deep emission cuts and significant public funding that can really bail us out from this climate crisis."* (Ulrike Röhr, Intervention in the plenary of the High Level Segment, on behalf of Women and Gender.)

GenderCC, together with women and gender experts from all over the world, advocates for this agreement to be fair and ambitious, based on a strong gender perspective, with forceful, meaningful involvement of women as equal stakeholders in all processes and at all levels of decision-making.

In this context, GenderCC welcomes the decision to appoint a woman as the next UNFCCC Executive Secretary, and hopes that the Costa Rican diplomat Christiana Figueres will put people's interest and gender equity at the core of the process.

There is no climate justice without gender justice.



Share of Women /Men in the Delegation of the Parties at UNFCCC COPs. Graph made by GenderCC.



Gender, Cities and Climate Change



Gotelind Alber,
GenderCC
– Women for
Climate Justice

Recently, at the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, everybody was talking about cities and climate change. The crucial role that cities play in the combat of climate change as well as the urgent need to enhance their resilience are increasingly acknowledged by researchers and policy-makers.



Huge Differences with Common Characteristics

Although there are huge differences between the challenges facing cities in the global North and South, some common characteristics exist:

The range of inequalities can be very large in urban areas, ranging from virtually zero to very large in terms of citizens' carbon footprints, and from extremely high to relatively low in terms of vulnerability. These differentials are connected to income, age, ethnicity, and so forth. Along with other inequalities, gender leads to a further differentiation. In most cases, women are more at risk due to their social roles, their lower incomes, their lack of leverage on decision-making and, in many societies, constraints in their mobility.

Research findings indicate that there are more fatalities among women than among men during disasters, which are the most severe climate hazard for cities. After disasters, women's household chores and care work are likely to increase, for instance due to additional care for the sick and elderly, decreased availability of drinking water, and food

insecurity. Income-generating activities are jeopardised, in particular for the high percentage of women who work in the informal sector.

As for the causes of climate change, there are indications from recent research that women have smaller carbon footprints. Moreover, in terms of mobility, housing, food security and water, health and sanitation, and other services, women and men often have different needs.

The Role of the Cities

Cities must fold the measures of these disparities into programmes of adaptation and mitigation. Otherwise, especially with the intractable male domination of planning and decision-making, gender inequalities will be aggravated by climate change.

Gender and climate change are two cross-cutting issues relevant to most aspects of urban life. Urban structures reflect both the carbon economy and the power relations between women and men. The fundamental changes needed to overcome these problems require mainstreaming considerations of both climate and gender as well as striving for climate justice.

To address social and gender inequalities properly, it is essential for cities to pursue a multi-dimensional approach towards sustainable development rather than focusing solely on short-term greenhouse-gas emissions reductions. Emphasis should be placed on reworking urban areas to make them resilient, equitable, inclusive and low-carbon. In particular, cities in developing countries should improve infrastructure and services, address poverty as well as affluence, and ensure equitable access to resources and services. In practical terms, this includes upgrading slums in collaboration with community initiatives, implementing inclusive policies for disaster-risk reduction, improving food security, energetically retrofitting

9 - 40% larger
footprint of male
single-person
households
compared to
female in Europe
for all age groups
and income groups



Source: Rätty, R. and A. Carlsson-Kanyama (2009)

programmes targeting the poor, and effecting transport policies that favour non-motorised transport modes.

Due to their role and knowledge as resource managers of households and communities as well as their proven ability to change behaviour at need, women can benefit the city's climate-change strategies greatly and, thus, should be seen as key players in constructing helpful local climate policy.

City networks should play a key role in sensitising cities on issues both of climate and of gender. They should provide guidance on gender-sensitive approaches and methodologies. Ensuring equitable participation of women and men in planning and decision-making and collection of sex-disaggregated data are first steps, followed by rapid assessments of gender dimensions of existing plans, projects and policies.

Governments and international agencies should support these efforts. They should offer incentives to stimulate local action that integrates gender considerations fully into climate policy and that ensures gender-balanced participation.



Information:
World Urban Forum 5, Rio de
Janeiro, Brazil,
March 22-26, 2010:
W: www.unhabitat.org
Presentation by GenderCC:
W: [www.gendercc.net/uploads/
media/gender-cities-cc.pdf](http://www.gendercc.net/uploads/media/gender-cities-cc.pdf)



Pictures from the exhibition of GenderCC at UN-FCCC COP15 in Copenhagen.
From left to right: Gotelind Alber, Ulrike Röhr, Sascha Gabizon, Zareen Myles.



More info:
GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice
Marion Rolle, E: m.rolle@gendercc.net
Gotelind Alber, E: g.alber@gendercc.net
W: www.gendercc.net



Climate at UN Status of Women Conference



Climate was also one of the issues at the 54th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW54 - Beijing +15),

and the NGO parallel events on 1-12 March 2010.

About ten side/parallel events were organized on gender and climate change. There were also Climate Change Caucuses organized by the NGO/CSW Sub-Committee on Women and Climate.

Speeches addressed the topics of gender, climate change from point of equity, crisis response, agriculture and food security, and poverty. Concrete experiences of the impact of climate change were presented from Nigeria and Asia Pacific.

Among the organisers of these side events were many organisations, which until now have not dealt with climate change issues. Among the organisations are: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), International Alliance of Women (IAW), Korean Institute for Women in Politics, Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW),

Feminist Task Force of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (FTF-GCAP), International Alliance of Women, Women's Climate Initiative, Heifer International, Women of Color United, and Temple of Understanding. Among the UN organisations were: UNDP, UNIFEM, WEDO, WHO, and Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), which is a programme by WEDO, UNEP, UNDP, and IUCN.

How to go forward after COP 15 was discussed heavily, among others on sessions: "Post Cop 15: The Environmental Dilemma" and "Gender and Climate Change: The Untold Story of COP 15".

List of side events on gender and climate at the GenderCC 's web site:
http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/Related_meetings/Climate_Change_Events_at_CSW.pdf

Womenwatch web site:
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html>
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/parallel.html>

Link to videos of speeches from the official and parallel events, which can be downloaded from Isis International's website:
http://www.isiswomen.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1381:speeches-from-the-parallel-events-of-the-un-commission-on-the-status-of-women-54th-session&catid=166:csw54-on-beijing-15&Itemid=173



The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY (NGO/CSW) was created in 1972 as a Committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CONGO). Committees were later formed in Geneva and Vienna. The members are representatives of about 80 organizations that actively participate in the UN events and have Consultative Status with the UN through ECOSOC. Membership in the NGO/CSW/NY is open to individuals, but they have neither voting rights nor access to events inside of the UN territory.

The need for a new Task Force on Climate emerged in 2008 and the new Subcommittee on Women and Climate Change (SC-WCC) of the NGO/CSW/NY was established in 2009.

The Sub-Committee WCC's web page provides resources for education and advocacy on the relationship between women and climate change. The site also includes recent updates of gender texts and on global climate-treaty negotiations.



Contact: Anita I. Wenden, chair of SC-WCC at wenden@rcn.com, www.ngocsw.org.

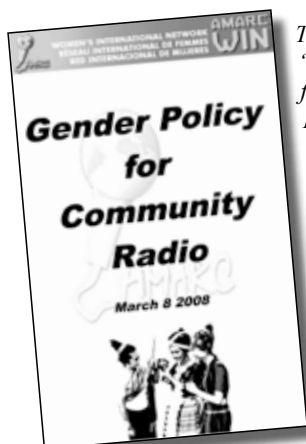
Community Radio Spreading: Seminar for Women from South and Central Asia



Women have a larger role in community radio than in any other form of media. Easy to use, easy to access, and low in cost, community radio helps women's voices to be heard in countries as diverse as Afghanistan and Australia. As community radio spreads, particularly across the Asia-Pacific region, it is helping to empower women. Isis international organizes series of seminars teaching women to make radio programs.

At the latest seminar in February, 2010 in India, thirty women from south and central Asia participated. The 6-day cross-cultural seminar was training women to make community radio programs to strengthen women's participation in climate-change adaptation, disaster mitigation, and peace-building.

The programme is called "Women Making Airwaves for Peace" (WMAP). It involves the sharing of experience and skills as participants learn to produce radio programmes. Attendees function as resource persons, trainers, trainees, and radio journalists all at the same time.



The publication "Gender Policy for Community Radio" was translated into 18 languages in 2009.



Isis International was founded in Rome, Italy in 1974 and moved its office to Manila, Philippines in 1991.

For 36 years, Isis International has been working through media as well as through information and communications technologies towards achieving women's human rights, facilitating networking and information-sharing for women's movements in the global South.

Isis international has an email list and a regular publication "Women in Action". Besides the community radio projects, a recent development is that video films are available of speeches of CSW54 and its parallel events (See above) and you can read reports from Nina Somera on UNFCCC COP15.

Contact: Isis International, Nina Somera (climate), Bianca Miglioretto (community radio) E: info@isiswomen.org <http://www.isiswomen.org/>.



Publications



ENERGIA's web site

www.energia.org

New separate web sites for
Africa: www.energia-africa.org
Asia: www.energia-asia.org

Online Training Course: The Gender Face of Energy. Moduls: Gender & Energy Concepts. What is gender and what is energy? How are they interlinked?

By *ENERGIA, International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy*
Read: <http://www.moodle.energia.org/>.

UN FAO on Gender

Publication/Fact sheets:



- **Does gender make a difference in dealing with climate shifts?**

2010, 4 pp.

- **Women and Rural Employment**

2009 4 pp.

<http://www.fao.org/gender/gender-home/gender-resources/gender-publications/en>

- **Agri-Gender Statistics Toolkit:**

<http://www.fao.org/gender/gender-home/gender-resources/gender-toolkits/en>.

UN WomenWatch

The Threats of Climate Change are not Gender-Neutral Fact Sheet

11 pp, 2010, pdf file

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/.



EC's Website on Gender



The Gender Equality Website of the European Commission (EC) is under "Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities"



- **Report on Equality between Women and Men - 2010**, English, French and German, 56 pp., pdf file.



- **Gender Pay Gap Campaign**, and its first results on the Gender Pay Day April 15, 2010.

The average pay gap in EU-27 is 17.6 % (the lowest: 5%, highest: 30 %)

- **News on Opening of the "European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)"** in Vilnius, Lithuania, December 2009.



- **EC Database of Statistics:**

Women & Men in Decision Making

National and EU average statistics, e.g., the EU/EU-27 average percentage of men:

Largest publicly listed companies: 89%
European Central Banks and Financial Institutions: 82-89 %

European Committees: 80%

Ministers in national governments: 75%

European Parliament: 65%

European Commission: 65%

Website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=418>.

Events



7 June, 2010

Place: Bonn, Germany



International Symposium on "Gender and Climate Change Research: Gaps and Questions", Bonn, Germany

Organised by GenderCC, in collaboration with Bread for the World, BRIDGE (Institute of Development Studies), EED (Church Development Service) and GDN (Gender & Disaster Network).



Contact: m.rolle@gendercc.net, www.gendercc.net.



25-26 November, 2010

Place: Linköping, Sweden

Session: Gender, Sustainability & Climate Change, Conference: "Equality, Growth and Sustainability - Do they mix?"

Organised by Forum for Gender Studies and Equality, Linköping University, Sweden

More: www.liu.se/genusforum.

Gender, Climate & Energy in Sustainable Energy News

INFORSE's newsletter, Sustainable Energy News, covers the gender/women, climate and energy issues from the NGOs point of view. Inputs are very welcome on activities and viewpoints.

During the last years articles have been collected in themes. These Themes Issues include:

Issue # 68, March-April 2010

Issue #65, July 2009

Issue #60, April 2008

Issue #47, December 2004

Issue #32, February 2001

The themes and other articles on gender are collected under the website:

www.inforse.org/europe/sen_gender.htm.

