

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

Newsletter for **INFORSE** International Network for Sustainable Energy

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• **Theme:**
Gender
Climate & Energy



- **After COP15**
- **EU Policies:**
 - **RE Action Plans**
 - **Sustainable Biomass**
- **Seminars**

Inside: Newsletter of the
Low Carbon Societies Network

Sustainable Energy News

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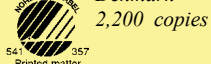
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*Photo on front page:
"There is No Planet B" poster
carried at the Climate
Demonstration Walk in
Copenhagen during COP15.
Photo by Judit Szoleczky.
Logo from southasia.oneworld.
net/ImageCatalog*

*State leaders and civil society
representatives speaking at COP15.*



From Climate Downturn to Leadership



Following a climate COP15 with little result and a winter of global record heat but with colder-than-average intervals in Washington, DC and in Northern Europe, the global climate policies are in a downturn.

We know more about the problems; we know more about the dire consequences of not acting. Yet, politicians and much of the public seem less concerned than before.

In the USA, an unprecedented oil spill seems to result in less regulation of greenhouse-gas emissions because of the peculiar way politics are done in the USA, caused by some politicians that seems to equate CO₂ emissions with freedom - at any cost!

In Europe, the political development is slow, as many EU countries, e.g., Poland and Italy, fear change, even change that could reduce their fossil-fuel imports, bring new jobs, and cause less pollution; but change, anyway.

And the picture in the large greenhouse-gas emitters in the developing countries - for instance, in the BASIC countries (Brazil, South Africa, India, and China, see p. 3) - mirrors the situation in the industrialised countries.

For instance, although China is now the largest investor in windpower, it is also the largest recent investor in the dirtiest fuel on earth, oil from tar sands in Canada.

Oil from tar sand is one of the costliest fossil fuels. It is more expensive than much of the energy-efficiency and renewable energy in which China could invest instead. China follows the mantra that "we need all sources", even the dirtiest ones. In doing so it just copies the West.

It was not China that invented the use of dirty tar sand. In addition, European oil companies and pension funds are deeply engaged in tar sand oil production.

A global deal to phase out greenhouse-gas emissions could be a strong tool to reduce worldwide climate change, but in the current situation it will not come easily.

With or without a global climate deal, we need global leaders: countries, companies, communities, and NGOs that will take bold steps leading to reduced emissions and to increased use of sustainable energy.

Leadership has been crucial in attaining the records that we now see in windpower, solar energy, etc. This kind of leadership in promoting the right solutions such as windpower or energy efficiency is still needed; but the most important leadership we need now addresses a total transition to sustainable energy and to other solutions to reduce greenhouse gases.

We need leadership ranging from local communities to nations, and leadership for real investments and for real change.

It happens all the time on the local level, from the Transition Town Movement to an increasing number of towns, municipalities, and regions that have agreed to phase out fossil fuels in two or three decades or less.

This trend must be strengthened; but it must also be brought to the national level.

Fortunately, things are moving in the right direction in many countries, from upcoming policies in Scandinavia and a new, ambitious energy minister in the UK, to plans and ideas in innumerable other countries and states, - including some states of the USA, as well as ambitious plans for sustainable energy in China.

If a number of countries start to change course for real to phase out emissions, others will follow, with or without a global agreement.

Then there will be a good basis for an ambitious and global agreement.



Gunnar Boye Olesen

Gunnar Boye Olesen

Editor & INFORSE Regional Coordinator
(Europe)

Climate after Copenhagen

COP15 ended in December, 2009 with the Copenhagen Accord. Negotiations are now continuing in the lead-up to COP16, which will take place in Mexico in November, 2010.



Negotiations Continue

The ad-hoc working groups on further commitments of the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and on long-term actions under the climate convention (AWG-LCA) met for three days in April. They agreed that in addition to the coming meeting in June, there will be two more meetings before COP16, each lasting at least one week. The breakdown of trust between developed and developing countries, culminating with COP15 in Copenhagen, continues to cast a shadow over the negotiations. This materialised in lengthy discussions over a proposal by the EU and others of a meeting between the chairs of AWG-KP and AWG-LCA to discuss developed countries' emission-reduction commitments. The African Group and others opposed such a meeting and felt that a "firewall" should be maintained between the two working groups. A compromise emerged, where the working group just took note of the meeting that the Chair of the AWG-KP has undertaken, under his own initiative.

Disagreements; Ways Ahead

Behind the disagreement is the wish of several developed countries to play down the role of the Kyoto Protocol after the first commitment period ends in 2012, and the wish of the developing countries to continue the protocol as a cornerstone in international climate regulation. Another point of disagreement in the negotiations is the role of the Copenhagen Accord. Now 122 countries have supported it and one has opposed it, while a number of countries have not taken a stand on it. In spite of the support, most developing countries do not see the Copenhagen Accord as a basis for future negotiations, but many of the elements in the Accord shows global agreements on specific issues that can be used in future negotiations, for instance in the AWG-LCA. The exercise is now to integrate these elements into one or more global agreements that all countries can agree to. With the slow pace of the developments, it will be difficult to reach a comprehensive agreement at COP16. Thus, negotiators face a dilemma

as to whether to work toward a less comprehensive and probably less ambitious agreement at COP16 or to schedule one more year of negotiations to achieve new global agreements. One option might be to aim for agreements on specific issues at COP16. Given that many of the possible agreements would need to be linked, however, the potential of the piecemeal approach is limited.

Behind the Negotiations

Behind the slow global climate negotiations are slow developments of the issues, mainly in developed countries:

- This spring, the EU will discuss changing its goal from 20% to 30% greenhouse-gas reductions by 2020. Currently, however, the EU countries are divided on this issue.
- In the USA, climate regulation is unlikely to be implemented before COP16, if ever.
- There are several uncertainties surrounding the promise in the Copenhagen Accord of \$10 bill. U.S./year from 2010 from developed to developing countries. One such concern is how to ensure that the funding will not simply be taken from existing development assistance.

A new development is that BASIC countries (Brasil, South Africa, India, and China) are meeting every second or third month to discuss the climate negotiations. At their latest meeting in April in South Africa, they repeated their support for a binding global climate agreement via the two-pronged approach of continuation of the Kyoto Protocol along with new long-term actions under the Climate Convention covering all countries.

Regarding a global carbon budget for individual countries (effectively a planetary limit on emissions, including developing countries), they agreed that this budget must be based on a multilateral agreement, on equitable burden-sharing including historical responsibilities, on equitable space for development of developing countries, and on adequate finance, technology and capacity-building support provided by developed countries for all developing countries.



At the well attended INFORSE-WECF side event at COP15, the network called for a Clean Development Mechanism clearly focussed on poverty reduction and showed examples of the many ways to use CDM funds to reduce poverty.



IRENA

The International Renewable Energy Agency is gradually becoming operational during 2010

with an increasing number of employees working at its three offices in Abu Dhabi, Bonn, and Vienna. Its governing body has agreed a budget of \$17 mill. About 80% of the activities will be in Abu Dhabi.

Read more at www.irena.org.



Wind & Solar Energy Records



In spite of the economic crisis, development of windpower and solar PV reached new heights in 2009.

Windpower installations were 38,300 MW in 2009, 42% higher than in 2008, and windpower now globally produces 340 TWh/year, equal to the power demand of Italy or 2% of global power consumption. China doubled its windpower market and installed 13,000 MW in 2009, while there were increases in most other countries, including 34% in USA and 23% in the EU countries together.

The global PV market in 2009 was 6,400 MW, 15% higher than in 2008. Germany is still by far the biggest market, with 3,000 MW installed. In 2009 the installed PV capacity in Germany was larger than the installed windpower capacity (1,917 MW); nonetheless, the added power production is largest from windpower.

Sources: wwindea.org, www.pv-tech.org.



Renewable Energy Action Plans in June 2010

By the end of June this year, all EU countries are required to have finalised their national plans for renewable-energy action and for implementation of the EU renewable-energy directive. INFORSE-Europe's recommendations for the renewable-energy action plans include general proposals such as reaching the national renewable-energy targets using only domestic measures and setting higher internal targets than the ones in the renewable-energy directive. INFORSE-Europe's suggestions also address separately the various types of requirements covered by the EU directive.

Proposals for administrative issues:

- Set up "one-stop-shops" to handle all applications for permissions related to renewable energy.
- Ensure easy application procedures for small installations.
- Include renewables in land-use planning (e.g., for windpower).
- Ensure fair access to the grid, part of which should be that renewable-energy installations only pay for their own lines, not for reinforcement of networks.
- Amend building codes to require solar heating and that a share (at least 5%) of energy demands be covered with local renewable energy.
- Institute a requirement of renewable energy for district heating similar to the requirement for buildings.
- Public authorities should plan the transitions of their energy use to 100% renewables within 20 years.

For information and training, INFORSE-Europe proposes that countries work with NGOs and other stakeholders to ensure efficient educational outreach and widespread training, including training of renewable energy installers and of building professionals.

For the renewable-energy transport target INFORSE-Europe proposes:

- Electric vehicles should be used as much as possible to reach the target.
- Imported biofuels are to be avoided when there are risks of unsustainability.

- Electricity used in railways should be counted using a factor of 2.5, as is done for road transport. This would correct the present unacceptable discrimination against railways in the directive, which allows this accounting factor only for renewable electricity used in road vehicles.

Read the full recommendations at www.inforse.org/europe/EU_res-directive.htm.

Beyond 20%

While the EU countries have firmly agreed to 20% renewable energy, 20% increase of energy efficiency and 20% greenhouse-gas (GHG) emission reductions by 2020, there are signs that it would not be hard to go beyond these commitments. Thus, achieving the 30% GHG reductions to which the EU countries have agreed in the case of an international climate agreement with comparable efforts from other countries looks to be a small incremental task, or maybe even a benefit, for the EU countries.

1-10% Extra Renewables

More than 20% renewable energy in EU in 2020 suddenly began to seem possible at the start of 2010 after the countries reported their forecasts for renewable-energy use in 2020.

22 countries expect to reach or to surpass their targets, together topping their combined goal by a total of 230 PJ (5.5 Mtoe). Only 5 countries did not have plans in place to reach their respective national targets, and the total deficit is about 80 PJ (2 Mtoe). If all of these forecasts are realised, the EU countries will surpass the target by about 150 PJ and, by 2020, will reach 21-22% renewable energy in their combined final energy consumption, instead of just 20%.

In addition, all of the countries can do more. Some can do a lot more. The German "Bundesverband Erneuerbare Energie - BEE" has estimated that Germany can reach 28% renewable energy by 2020, well above the German 18% target in the directive, and the Danish Organisation for Sustainable Energy (OVE) has estimated that Denmark can reach 37% instead of just reaching the Danish 30% target.



Screen shot from the web site of
INFORSE-Europe, EU policy overview:
www.inforse.org/eupolicy.htm

Therefore, it will be no problem to reach 25% renewable energy by 2020, as called for by INFORSE-Europe and many others; and even more seems possible.

Closer to 30/40% Reductions

With more renewable energy, and with strong implementation of the 20% energy-efficiency targets, the 30% GHG reduction target is getting closer, without purchase of "hot air" or similar, and so is even the 40% target called for by many NGOs.

The GHG reductions will require investments, but they will eliminate the costs of purchasing the fuels that they replace and they will create new employment. The reduced fuel use could even stabilise the prices of fossil fuels, leading to additional savings. GHG reductions become a net benefit when future increased fuel prices are included.

EU to Discuss 30% Reductions

The EU Commission is preparing to discuss means by which the EU countries could reduce their GHG emissions by 30% rather than the current target, 20%, assessing the incremental costs involved.

(continue on p. 5).



(continued from p. 4)

30% Reductions Affordable

The EU Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard told the EU Parliament's Climate Change Committee on April 26 that a 30% reduction is technically feasible and economically affordable. She also stated that costs are likely to be 1/3 lower than previously estimated because of the greenhouse-gas reductions caused by the economic crisis. She added that if benefits of reduced air-pollution costs and of reduced uncertainty of fuel import costs are included, the real costs will be still lower. The communication from the Commission is expected by the end of May, before the EU Prime Ministers meet in June.

The total cost of the 30% reduction, now expected to be around 45 bill. €, is equal to about 0.25% (one quarter of one percent) of GDP of the EU countries, without including benefits such as reduced air pollution. If oil prices grow beyond expectations, in line with the increases in 2009, the 30% reduction could easily flip from a net cost to a net economic benefit.

In spite of this, many EU countries are hesitant to go beyond the 20% targets, and an EU-wide agreement to increase the proposed goals will not be easy to reach.

Sustainability of Biomass

The EU Commission has published a report on sustainability of solid and gas biomass. The report was required by the renewable-energy directive. The main conclusions are:

- The Commission does not propose a mandatory scheme for sustainability of these types of biomass in EU.
- The report has recommendations for national sustainability schemes, proposing that those countries wishing to set sustainability criteria for solid and gas biomass do so in similar ways.
- National sustainability criteria preferably should be similar to those in the renewable-energy directive for liquid biofuels, with the main difference being that greenhouse-gas reduction criteria be set for heat and electricity output of biomass-fuelled facilities, not only for the fuel.

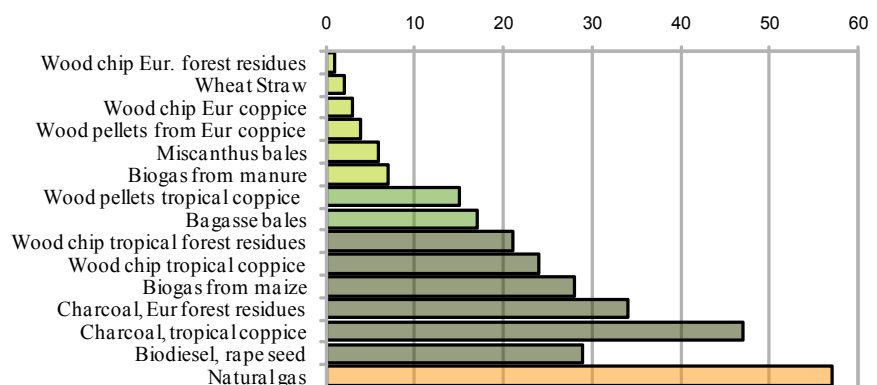
The report also includes typical greenhouse-gas reductions for various forms

of biomass, ranging from 1 gCO₂-eq/MJ for wood chips from temperate forest residues to 47 gCO₂-eq/MJ for charcoal from tropical short-rotation forests of, e.g., eucalyptus.

While the report on biomass was expected and garnered little immediate attention, leaked reports on the problems of liquid biofuels, including info from the EU Commission, attracted more media coverage. A report showed that biofuels from rapeseed, sugar beets, and in particular from soybeans can result in more greenhouse-gas emissions than conventional (fossil) diesel oil, when indirect effects are included. Another report showed that the Commission was considering to allow the controversial use of palm oil as a biofuel by redefining palm plantations as 'forests'.

Read more: www.foeeurope.org/agrofuels/index.html.

Typical Greenhouse Gas Emissions (g CO₂-eq/MJ), Selected Fuels



Values following the biomass sustainability report, except biodiesel (from EU renewable energy directive) and natural gas. Values for pellets are with wood as process fuel.

Front page
of the report
"Biofuels
Handle
with
Care"
November
2009,
40 pp



Download the report from www.foeeurope.org



Ecodesign

Peaceful Standby

Since January, most products put on the market in EU must satisfy the new standby criteria: No more consumption than 1 Watt for stand-by and off-mode, or 2 Watts if there is a display.

The introduction of this regulation has been welcomed by all, and it seems that no complaints have been made.

Many More Products to be Covered

2010 is a busy year for energy-efficiency regulation with the Ecodesign Directive. Now, also new labelling will be introduced, after the delay in 2009 because of disagreements about label formats. The plan calls for regulation and/or labelling of the following product groups to begin in 2010:

- Refrigerators, freezers (labelling only)
- TVs (labelling only)
- Dishwashers .

More information on Ecodesign issues:
www.inforse.org/europe/eu_ecodesign.htm

www.ecostandard.org

www.coolproducts.eu



Logos of the NGOs playing a significant role as progressive and independent experts challenging the industry's attempts to weaken the proposals on labeling and ecodesign of products.

INFORSE-Europe News



European Sustainable-Energy Seminar, October 6-8, 2010 Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), Wales, UK

This year INFORSE-Europe will organise a seminar at the brand new WISE (Wales Institute for Sustainable Education) building at CAT in Wales. Among others, the seminar will feature:

- Sustainable energy with local solutions, best practices in Europe.
- EU policies for sustainable energy: The most important policies, NGO positions, how NGOs can take part in development of better policies, can sufficiency be integrated in EU policies?

- NGO activities to promote sustainable energy, good examples, and future cooperation.
- Workshop to develop working sustainable energy models for exhibitions and schools.
- Tour at the sustainable energy exhibition park of CAT.
- Tour to successful local sustainable energy solutions in mid-Wales.
- The seminar is for people dealing with promotion of sustainable energy throughout Europe, addressing both the practical and the political challenges.

On October 5, before the longer seminar begins, a one-day seminar will be held at CAT in collaboration with the Low Carbon Societies Network, for those interested in scenarios and strategies for transition away from fossil fuels.

More about the seminar, CAT and INFORSE-Europe http://www.inforse.org/europe/seminar2010_CAT.htm.



Successful Policy Seminar, April 27, 2010

This year's European Sustainable Energy Policy Seminar, held on April 27, 2010 in Brussels, attracted more than 40 people, who took part in interesting discussions with speakers from EU Institutions (Commission and Parliament), researchers, and NGOs.

The policies of the new Commission as well as the difficulties of reaching climate agreements were in the focus of the discussions. In the discussions many also expressed the hope that, based on national plans, EU could reach much more than the 30% target for renewable energy in 2020, surpassing the agreed target.

The presentations are now online at www.inforse.org/europe.

Funding for INFORSE-Europe

With support from the EU Commission, the Nordic Council of Ministers, AirClim, and many others, INFORSE-Europe will maintain a high level of activities in 2010.

Follow EU Policies More Closely

INFORSE-Europe will continue to follow the progress of many EU policies. So far, most work has been done on the Ecodesign directive and on the renewable energy directive, where INFORSE-Europe has made proposals for implementation. Among others, INFORSE-Europe will also follow the new Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, support programs including "FP7", structural funds, the opportunity to increase climate targets, the future of EU emissions trading (EU-ETS), the effects of the Lisbon Treaty for sustainable energy policies, and EU external policies with focus on Ukraine and the "Eastern Partnership".

National Energy Policy Seminars

This year, more INFORSE members will be involved in national activities to follow EU policies and their implementation. There will be national seminars in Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, France and Denmark.

Sufficiency in EU Policies

Endless growth is not the answer to European development. Increasingly, scenarios provide for a shift from growth to stability in more and more sectors, combining energy efficiency with sufficiency.

INFORSE-Europe will initiate discussions on sufficiency and on proposals for how sufficiency can be integrated in EU policies, e.g., in a new energy-efficiency action plan.

More Sustainable Energy Visions

The work on a sustainable energy vision for Hungary has started in April, 2010.

The work will also start on a vision for Estonia, and updates and expansions will be done in the scope of the visions for Belarus, Bulgaria, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, and for the entire EU.

Campaigns and Exhibitions in Belarus, Romania, and Latvia

Mobile exhibitions will be part of year-2010 activities in Belarus and in Romania. In Latvia, INFORSE-Europe is involved in a "Carbon Footprint" project with a public campaign that might be a model for other countries.

Southeast European Cooperation

INFORSE-Europe is part of a new project to support sustainable energy in south-eastern Europe with NGOs in the region. Among the activities will be NGO seminars organised by Green Action Croatia to be held on the Croatian Solta Island.

COP15 Follow-up

INFORSE continues to follow climate negotiations and expects to be present also at COP16.

Presentations from COP15 events in which INFORSE participated are now online at http://www.inforse.org/europe/conf09_COP15.htm.



Solar Prize Awarded to INFORSE-Europe

On 11th December 2009, at a ceremony in Berlin, INFORSE-Europe received the Eurosolar European Solar Prize 2009 in the category "One-World Cooperation".



*Photo from the ceremony: Hermann Scheer from, Eurosolar, and Ursel Beckmann, and Gunnar Boye Olesen from INFORSE-Europe
More: www.eurosolar.de*



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"



Logo of WILPF

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-

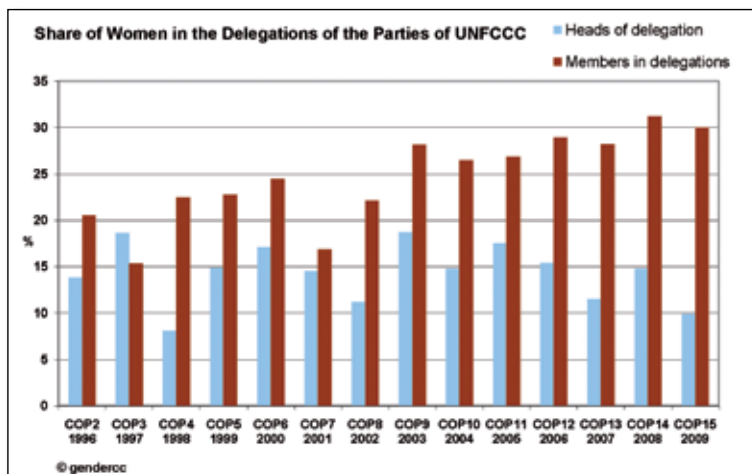
standing global imbalances at the expense of poor and marginalized countries and peoples. Even so, we must engage the UNFCCC by starting immediately a redoubled collective learning process geared towards achieving genuine and lasting solutions. Countries and their delegations need to work on a binding 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:

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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_CSJ.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

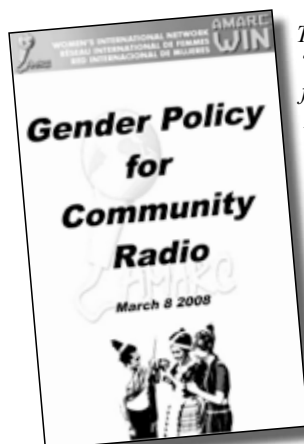


Women have a larger role in community radio than in any other form of media. Easy

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" (WMAF). 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](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.



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- Wind and Solar Energy Records

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EU Policy Update p. 4-5

- Renewable Energy Action Plans in June 2010
- Beyond 20%
- Sustainability of Biomass
- Ecodesign: Peaceful Standby, Many More Products to be Covered

INFORSE-Europe News p. 6

- European Sustainable-Energy Seminar, October 6-8, 2010, CAT, Wales, UK
- Successful Policy Seminar, April 27
- Funding for INFORSE-Europe
- Follow EU Policies More Closely
- National Energy Policy Seminars
- Sufficiency in EU Policies
- More Sustainable Energy Visions
- Campaigns and Exhibitions in Belarus, Romania, and Latvia
- Southeast European Cooperation
- COP15 Follow-up
- Solar Prize Awarded to INFORSE-Europe

Theme: Gender, Climate & Energy pp. 7-11

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1,000 Contacts - Online Database



INFORSE maintains a database of more than 1,000 NGOs and public officials, including research and educational institutions that are actively working in renewable energy. These contacts include all INFORSE members and span 159 countries. The online database can be searched by membership/contacts, country and name.

Check your organisation ! Corrections are Welcome

Global database: www.inforse.org/regions

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http://www.inforse.org/order_form.php3

INFORSE South-Asia CD

Manual on Solutions Using Sustainable Energy to Reduce Poverty

(in English, Hindi, Nepalese, Bangladeshi, and Singhalese) and Financial Manual (in English).

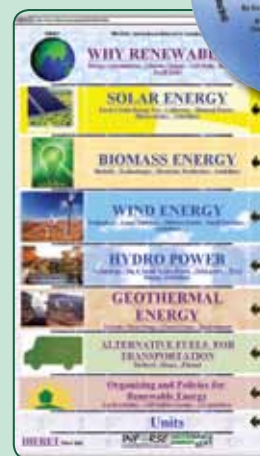
These manuals were produced through an INFORSE South Asia project using input from INSEDA, AIWC, WAFD and SDA from India, Grameen Shakti from Bangladesh, CRT from Nepal and IDEA from Sri Lanka as well as OVE and DIB from Denmark.

Published: January 2008;

Price: 15 € /CD,

1 year SEN + CD costs 35 €.

DIERET - CD Distant Internet Education on Renewable Energy Technologies



Price: 15 €

1 year SEN + CD costs 35 €.

