WOMEN AGENTS OF CHANGE: EXPERIENCES IN DYNAMIZING SECTORS FOR A MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOOST WITH GENDER EQUALITY

MESSAGE

PANELISTS

PRESENTED BY

MODERATOR

MINISTER MARCELA GUERRERO
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Gender Advisor, Secretary of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina.
Objective of the session

To exchange and discuss different experiences in which the gender approach to adaptation and mitigation has been integrated in different sectors.
Moderate this session:

Antonela Busconi

Gender Advisor
Climate Change Secretariat
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina
The importance of integrating women into the sectors of the economy

- Tackling the climate crisis requires climate actions based on changes in production patterns.

- LAC is highly vulnerable despite its low contribution to global emissions, so proposals for climate action must identify policies for strategic sectors that reduce emissions, create jobs and boost investment.

- Advancing in the implementation of gender-responsive climate actions requires an intersectional approach that recognizes the diversity of women's needs and interests.
● Achieving equitable, gender-responsive and sustainable growth paths requires actions that strengthen the use of bioeconomy-based strategies.

● The role of the State is fundamental for the elaboration of public policies to face the pandemic and to connect the emergency with a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability.
Strategic sectors for a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability

Camila Gramkow

Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
A transformative recovery based on a Great Boost for Sustainability

- Sustainable investments transform development style
- Inaction aggravates structural development gaps
- Sustainable development styles
The gender dimension in the Great Boost to Sustainability

- Motivation
- Objective
- Collective construction process
- Partners: ECLAC, UN Women Brazil and Friedrich Ebert Foundation Brazil
Inaction and the climate emergency: the year 2020
The impacts of climate inaction on the gender dimension

Inaction in the face of the climate emergency will have disproportionate impacts on women, girls and feminized bodies.

A grueling starting point. Women today constitute a group more susceptible than men to vulnerabilities in terms of monetary poverty, time poverty, work overload and unpaid care, precariousness of insertion in the labor market, among others.
Brazil Case:

- Women spend almost twice as much time as men on domestic and/or care tasks.
- Women receive, on average, 21.3% lower wages than men.
- Black women are paid 55.6% less than white men.
- Black women, indigenous women, "quilombolas", peripheral women, poor women and feminized bodies that do not comply with the norms are groups especially exposed to the impacts of climate inaction, which underlines environmental racism.
The gender dimension impacts of climate inaction

- The increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme events may make these vulnerable women even more exposed to adversities.

- They have fewer tools to adapt.

- They tend to have greater time poverty, as they are the ones who tend to leave their jobs to care for others.
Opportunities for climate action in the gender dimension

A transformative recovery with gender equality and environmental sustainability requires massive investments.

These investments can represent opportunities for women, girls and feminized bodies.

However, these impacts are not automatic and require coordination of investments and policies in strategic areas.
Strategic areas for sustainable investments with gender equality

Education and training for equal access to green jobs

In most of the "green" sectors, women's participation is in the minority. For example, in renewable energies, women represent only 11.7% of jobs in Brazil.

It is necessary to invest in education and training to equip women with the necessary skills to benefit on equal terms with men from the new green jobs of the future.
Strategic areas for sustainable investments with gender equality (1/3)

Renewable energy

These investments would bring access to electricity to the nearly 1 million people who remain without access to electricity in Brazil, including indigenous, quilombola, rural, water and forest women and girls.

The wind energy sector alone could generate more than 200,000 new jobs in Brazil by 2026, from which women could benefit.
Strategic areas for sustainable investments with gender equality

Electromobility of urban public transport

Investments in this area would significantly reduce GHG emissions and other air pollutants in cities, with important impacts on health and productivity.

It would also reduce travel time and better integrate the periphery and urban centers, creating more opportunities for women to access better jobs, education and training, and health services.
Strategic areas for sustainable investments with gender equality

Sustainable agricultural production

Brazil could lose 11 million hectares of arable land by 2030 if global warming is not contained, which will directly impact family farming.

- Investments in sustainable agriculture, prioritizing farms led by women and valuing their traditional knowledge, are key to resilient agricultural production, ensuring food security and sovereignty.
Health and Care

• Women account for 76% of occupations in the health sector,

• Investments in intensive care resources, equipment, home care programs and increased availability of health professionals are also critical to generating employment opportunities for women.

• Climate change is expected to exert great pressure on health systems with the increase in climatic events.

Strategic areas for sustainable investments with gender equality
Strategic areas for sustainable investments with gender equality

Water management and basic sanitation

- It is a central area for reducing women's time poverty by freeing up their time to care for the sick, improving the family's health status.

- It contributes to the economic autonomy of rural women.

- Example: the 1 Million Cisterns Program, whose investments amounted to more than R$3.6 billion, benefiting 1.2 million families, between 2003 and 2018, freed women from traveling long distances to fetch water, generating income, improving family health.
Publication: La dimensión de género en el Gran Impulso para la Sostenibilidad en Brasil: las mujeres en el contexto de la transformación social y ecológica de la economía brasileña
Audience questions
Experiences in the region
Costa Rica

Marcela Guerrero

Minister for the Status of Women and Executive President of the National Women's Institute (INAMU)

Opportunities for economic autonomy in electromobility
Dominica

Francine Baron

Chief Executive Officer, Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD)

Advancing Gender Equality in Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement in the Caribbean: Experience of Dominica
"We need to invest now in preparedness to mitigate future protection needs and prevent further climate caused displacement. Waiting for disaster to strike is not an option."

~Filippo Grandi UN High Commissioner for Refugees

The Caribbean is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world, to extreme weather events. Climate Change is resulting in more frequent and intense extreme weather events.
Context and Objective

In 2017 Hurricane Maria devastated Dominica... The impact?

- 226% of our GDP lost
- 90% of homes were either damaged and/or destroyed
- 67 persons dead or missing
- Schools unable to operate for approximately six months
- Economic activity stopped
- Millions spent in the recovery process
In the immediate aftermath, Hurricane Maria caused a mass exodus of people from Dominica in a disorganized manner...

- 35,000 people were displaced

- 2017 hurricane season resulted in three million people displaced in the Caribbean
How do hurricanes impact people, particularly women?

- Women tend to be disadvantaged
- UNDP – Women have less time for paid work
- Gender inequalities disproportionately impact females
- The issue of women lagging behind men in recovery and economic opportunity must be addressed
What is the time frame and key components for achieving resilience post Hurricane Maria?

- Dominica developed a National Resilience Development Strategy (NRDS) and a Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan (CRRP) to be implemented by 2030.
- Both policy documents recognized the importance of a gender integrated approach.
- CREAD is chiefly responsible for execution of CRRP.
Timeline

- One key target is functional communities for a minimum of 15 days
- CREAD has ensured that women are an integral part of disaster management process
- Gender sensitivity must be an important part of disaster preparedness and response
Results

So far, what critical results have been realized as we journey towards resilience?

- Draft National Gender Action Plan

- Increased involvement of women in policy making:
  - 34% of the national parliament is female
  - 81% of Permanent Secretaries are women
Results

- Economic empowerment of women, especially the numerous female MSMEs
- Construction of two regional emergency shelters specifically designed for women and children
- Flexible Hurricane Protection - Blockchain parametric product
Lessons Learned

What key lessons have been learned on the resilience journey thus far?

- Economic differences between men and women must be considered in policy development and delivery systems would include special measures to protect vulnerable groups.
- The gender inequalities within society have become even more glaring while developing a nation that is resilient.
- A gender integrated approach must be employed in planned actions, policies and programs in all sectors.
Lessons Learned

- Importance of community disaster plans

- A substantial proportion of homes, businesses and livelihoods in Dominica, were either uninsured or underinsured

- Creativity and innovation in addressing the many challenges that we face as Small Island Developing States is paramount
Guatemala

Marleny Oliva

Coordinator of the Unit for Gender, Multiculturalism and Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala.

Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala

Experiences of gender considerations in REDD+ Participatory Processes.
Participatory construction with women leaders

Women's practical and strategic needs

Full and effective participation
Metodología

- Linking women and men to the forest
- Proposal of grassroots actions
- Strengthening of knowledge
Results (video)

Component 1: Consultation and participation with cultural relevance and gender focus
- Equal access and right land tenure for women and men
- Equitable distribution for women and men
- Maintain and improve biodiversity and services environmental benefits equality between women and man
- Full and effective participation of women

Component 2: Preparation of the REDD + strategy
- Improving livelihoods and the well-being of women man
- Good governance, leadership and and women's empowerment for decision making
- Equitable access and relevance to information
- Compliance with laws, treaties and conventions local, national and international women's rights

Component 3: Developing a scenario reference

Component 4: Forest Information system and framework monitoring, reporting and Verification system governance
Lessons learned

- Women should be allowed to express themselves, based on their felt needs, and the essence of their contributions should not be lost at the time of elaborating actions.

- Technical staff should work with the gender units to achieve effective gender mainstreaming.

- It is necessary to ensure the participation of women leaders throughout the process. (stakeholder mapping)

- Link the construction process with the national and international legal framework to provide support and sustainability, carrying out a prior analysis of the specific legislation for women that is linked to the normative frameworks in forests.
Lessons learned

- Women should be allowed to express themselves, based on their felt needs and not on their own needs.

- Promote dialogue in spaces for women only, other spaces for men and other mixed spaces so that there is a more inclusive approach. Spaces where only women participated favored dialogue and empowerment of gender considerations in the national REDD+ process.

- Consider translation into the local language.

- Consider payment of per diems to women from communities participating in the different processes.
Audience Questions
Latin America and the Caribbean must set a development path with policies oriented towards growth with gender equality and compatible with conservation and balance.