



COMMUNIQUÉ ARISING FROM A ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON “GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE: POST COPENHAGEN STRATEGIES”, ORGANIZED BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT (SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE UNIT (SCCU)) IN COLLABORATION WITH WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME (WEP) AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATION'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

21st July, 2010, Vines Hotel, Durumi, Abuja

Preamble




A one-day broad-based stakeholder's workshop took place at the Vines Hotel, Durumi, Abuja. The main objective of the workshop was to develop strategies for implementing activities that will ensure awareness of the impacts of climate change on women and children, and to chart a road map of strategies for mainstreaming gender issues into climate change programmes at all levels.

About 90 people from different organizations participated. They include major stakeholders and key sector players in climate change adaptation and sustainable development; amongst whom were officials from Ministries, Departments and Agencies, the academia, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and International Development Partners.

Observations

The workshop commended the efforts of the Federal Government and their Development Partners for bringing together the NGOs, CBOs, and relevant MDAs etc for the workshop. Participants further noted amongst other things that:

1. Climate change does not affect women and men in the same way; it has, and will have, a gender-differentiated impact.
2. Although everyone will be adversely impacted by climate change, women and children will bear the heaviest burden.
3. There is a need to develop strategies to ensure increased awareness on the impact of climate change on women and children.
4. A roadmap should be charted for the development of strategies in mainstreaming gender into climate change policies at all levels.
5. There is a need to mobilize broad-based representation of stakeholders to commence early action on the articulation of a gender inclusive position, preparatory to COP 16 in Mexico.
6. Gender is a critical and cross cutting issue in climate change, as such it deserves greater visibility.

7. Some research in the country has shown that women are more vulnerable to the impacts and risks of climate change. These impacts are disproportionate and women are worst hit.
8. Whilst Government is pushing for some policy and political intervention in the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation, observations are that these efforts are not driven from extensive empirical-based information, to guide effective policy formulation.
9. In the development of a National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action (NASPA), there is the need for policy makers to recognise evolving dynamics of gender roles and cultural disparities across the geographical zones.
10. While there is some degree of institutional collaboration to facilitate information sharing, a lot still needs to be done by way of designing inter agency feedback mechanisms. This development will foster even greater information sharing, as well as enable the provision of sector specific information that will greater facilitate the design of early warning signals, to promote effective planning.
11. The energy sector is key in the discourse on climate change; hence the nexus between these two are inextricably linked. It was noted that a lot of work has been done with regard to policy formulation as indicated:
 -  There is a national energy policy in place.
 -  Policy on renewable energy has been ratified.
 -  Research on Renewable energy has been translated to action plans, in form of viable prototypes on alternative renewable sources.
12. The absence of legislative instruments to facilitate an enabling environment that will stimulate concurrent investments has continued to constitute a barrier to both local and international investment in the mass replication of renewable and efficient energy sources.

Recommendations/Action

Following extensive discussions of issues, the Workshop made the following recommendations for consideration by all stakeholders.

1. There is need to actively promote continuous ongoing discussions and debates that will generate a critical mass of information to enable the country better position itself in ongoing international talks on climate change.
2. A National Gender and Climate Change Action Network should be established, to be an advocacy platform at the national and international levels, which will drive the gender and climate change concerns.
3. Eleven people representing their organizations should be nominated to steer the network and it should be headed by the Special Climate Change Unit of the Federal Ministry of Environment.
4. The issue of gender and climate change should be given far greater visibility by allowing it to be driven at the highest level, in this case at the Presidency.

5. Due to the shortage of financial resources, there is the need to set up a dedicated climate change trust fund, to facilitate the implementation of climate change action plans.
6. There is a need to actively engage the legislative arm in order to be able to expedite the passage of the 2006 bill that will facilitate the enabling environment in efficient renewable energy.
7. The future national delegations to strategic regional and international meetings should reflect gender balance and comprise well informed, broadly based, all-encompassing stakeholders, in order to properly articulate the national position.
8. National institutions should be strengthened so as to enable them develop and disseminate gender disaggregated climate data to facilitate more strategic national planning.
9. Participants were delighted at this initiative of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Women Environmental Programme and the UNDP, and looked forward to taking deepening the discussions.

Signed by:

Mrs. N.H. Alhassan
Gender and Climate Change Desk Officer,
Special Climate Change Unit, FMENV.

Dr. V. A Fodeke,
Head (Special Climate Change Unit)
Federal Ministry of Environment

Priscilla M Achakpa
Executive Director
Women Environmental programme