

WOMEN GENDER CONSTITUENCY

Bonn, 2016, Intervention on Warsaw Mechanism on Loss & Damage from Women and Gender Constituency (Shaila Shadid)

(4.30-6.00 pm) on 24th May 2016, Addis Abeba room

Women are the faces of resilience and key actor of resilience building. Even though an increasing number of studies show and it is evident that, because of varying capacities due to gender inequalities, men and women are affected by, and respond to, climate change in different ways.

We appreciate the Warsaw mechanism provisions to have sex disaggregated data collection on loss and damage and Decision of 3/CP.18 Approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries and How loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change affects those segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, gender, age, indigenous or minority status, or disability, and how the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage can benefit those segments of the population.

However, we believe that, there is a need to improve the capacities of vulnerable groups and to take a gender-sensitive approach in activities that address loss and damage in relation to disaster and climate change. Sometime loss and damage cannot be measured in terms of physical assets or GDP. Examples of such non-economic losses include loss of life, cultural heritage or ecosystem services. Gender differences play double roles in the non-economic losses of climate. First, women often contribute to their families and their communities in non-monetary ways – often termed ‘care work’ (Genanet 2013). Therefore, an assessment of loss and damage that is based only on monetary or financial quantification may not take into account the value of women’s contribution to society. Second, it is possible that loss and damage affects women in developing countries more directly than men, for example, in terms of loss of life, or in relation to nutrition and migration.

There is slow onset disaster where the impacts from gender context needs to be addressed. As Loss and damage have differential impacts to both women and men given the scenario there is a need to have a linkage building with the Sendai Framework on DRR as Sendai Framework particularly emphasized that “women and their participation are critical to effectively managing disaster risk and designing, resourcing and implementing gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes; and adequate capacity building measures need to be taken to empower women for preparedness as well as build their capacity for alternate livelihood means in post-disaster situations.”

There are a number of other factors explain men and women’s differentiated vulnerability to climate change and disasters. Women experience unequal access to resources and decision making processes, with limited mobility in rural areas. Similarly, socio-cultural norms can limit women from acquiring the information and skills necessary to escape or avoid hazards, accessing technology etc. (e.g. swimming and climbing trees to escape rising water levels).

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In consideration of a decision on an international mechanism for Loss and Damage, we should incorporate gender mainstreaming as an approach that will enhance efforts to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change through:

1. Ensuring women's equitable participation in decision -making and L&D activities,
2. Assessing gender-differentiated vulnerability, prioritized needs and financing provision
3. Integrating women's particular vulnerability in the L&D accounting and assessment processes
4. Providing gender-responsive training, education and creating immediate and urgent actions to address L&D that are inclusive of vulnerable constituencies, particularly vulnerable women.

Therefore, the loss and damage assessments should include existing vulnerabilities and capacities specific to both women and men and at the same time consider the other vulnerable group like children, disabled, minority groups. Women representatives from disaster-affected communities needs to be consulted.

In order to achieve these objectives Parties must consider broader concepts and objectives, as well as a full range of approaches and tools of L&D mechanism that enables the synergies between gender dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation within the loss & damage assessment, ensuring that there is adequate funding for loss and damage above and beyond adaptation.