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Climate Change, Gender and Human Development: A Case for Policy Formulation and Implementation in ECOWAS

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By KADDY FOFANA

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**CLIMATE CHANGE, GENDER AND HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT:
A CASE FOR POLICY FORMULATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION IN ECOWAS**

This paper is the product of research conducted during attachment to ECOWAS as part FOREWARN Programme. Any errors contained therein are the fault of the author



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Executive Summary

Today, climate change is a global issue with the potential to have a negative impact on development in countries already suffering social, political, environmental and economic stress. However, the extent to which its impacts are felt within population groups, particularly women, varies and lacks in-depth research (Banerjee and Bell 2007) as with viable solutions. Consequently, it is important to consider the linkages between climate change, gender and human development. The impact of climate change and climate-change induced disasters on one side and the gendered multiple role of women on the other, warrants policy attention in the region.

This paper presents a gendered dimension of how climate change affects human development. It also examines possible avenues for ensuring women's participation in decision making processes on mitigating the impacts of climate change as well as improving human development. Based on this analysis, recommendations are made for enhancing integration of a gender perspective in climate change adaptation and human development policies and programs. To achieve this, the paper reviews literature on gender, climate change and human security. Nigeria and Senegal are considered as case studies.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CILSS	Countries form the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
COP	Conference of Parties
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ENDA	Environmental Development Action in the Third World
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GGE	Greenhouse Gas Emission
GPRS	Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
ISDR	United Nation International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ICPR	The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISDR	International strategy for Disaster Reduction
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KP	Kyoto Protocol
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NALAG	National Association of Local Authorities in Ghana
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NCWD	National Council on Women and Development
NEMAP	National Environmental Management Action Plan
NETFUND	Navrongo Campus and Northern Education Trust Fund
NETRIGHT	Network for Women's Rights in Ghana
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RMG	Ready-Made Garment
SAPs	Structural Adjustment Policies
SNC	Second National Communication

SNEEG	National Strategy on Equity and Gender Equality
UNCCD	United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNECA	United Nation Economic Commission for Africa
UNECLA	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America
UNEP	United Nation Environment Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIFEM	United Nation Development Fund for Women
UNU-EHS	United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security
WALWA	Women and Law in West Africa
WHO	World Health Organization

1.0 Introduction:

1.1 Background

Climate change presents enormous challenges globally and particularly soon development in countries already suffering social, political, environmental and economic stress. Climate change has the potential to exacerbate natural disasters and conflicts over natural resources. However, the varying extents to which the impacts are felt by different gender and population groups, therefore makes it important to consider the link between climate change, gender and human development. This is especially so for least developed and developing countries, where women and other marginalised groups are comparatively more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and climate-change induced disasters, if their multiple and concurrent gendered roles, are put into consideration.¹Undoubtedly it has been noted that in areas hit by drought, floods and erratic rainfall compel in households women work harder and under challenging circumstances to secure resources such as food, water and fuel for their dependants.²In such cases, women therefore have less time to earn an income, access education or training, or participate in decision-making processes. Additionally, vulnerability to climate change can exacerbate the impacts of that result from human-induced stresses such as increasing urbanisation and migration, burgeoning energy demands, dwindling natural resources and the loss of traditional coping mechanisms.

¹This perspective has been argued out by several feminist scholars including; Denton, F. (2002). Climate change vulnerability, impacts, and adaptation: why does gender matter? *Gender and Development*.10, 10-20; Dankelman, I. (2002). Climate change: learning from gender analysis and women's experiences of organising for sustainable development. *Gender and Development*.10, 21-29. ;Lambrou, Y., & Piana, G. (2006). *Gender: the missing component of the response to climate change*. Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Terry, G. (2009). No climate justice without gender justice: an overview of the issues. *Gender & Development*.17, 5-18.; Neumayer, E., &PlüMper, T. (2007). The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters: The Impact of Catastrophic Events on the Gender Gap in Life Expectancy, 1981-2002. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*.97, 551-566.

²See, Brody, A., Demetriades, J., &Esplen, E. (2008). *Gender and climate change mapping the linkages, a scoping study on knowledge and gaps*. [Online].Brighton, UK, BRIDGE, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/reports/Climate_Change_DFID.pdf.

In patriarchal communities of West Africa, cultural stereotypes and religious practices further serve to entrench gender inequality³ These practices have in many ways disempowered women by denying and/or limiting their right of access to resources, opportunities and entitlements, particularly in: emergency communication and action; the use of relief assets; access to shelter and relief goods; and employment in adaptation and risk reduction, planning and recovery programs. Therefore, it is prudent while engaging in these communities to take into account these factors in order to promote affirmative action and develop effective adaptation plans and activities. Similarly, climate change adaptation (CCA) efforts should systematically and effectively address gender-specific impacts of climate change in among other areas the areas of energy, water, food security, agriculture and fisheries, biodiversity and ecosystem services, health, industry, human settlements, disaster management, and conflict and human security.

Viewing the impacts of climate change through a gender lens assists in identifying, isolating and or integrate key concerns for policymakers, planners and managers as well as expose major system gaps.⁴ One such policy intervention targeted on gender and disasters, which is logically extended to climate-induced disasters, is the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005*.⁵ The Framework states that “a gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management, and education and training.”⁶ The *ECOWAS Gender Policy* and its *Strategic Plan* provide guidelines and envisage a process for developing regional actions to enforce instruments that address gender equality in socio-economic development. The Policy which highlights the relationship between gender and the environment however remains silent on the very important issues of climate change adaptation (CCA and human security. Similarly, the *ECOWAS Environmental Policy* and the *Programme of Action to Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change in West Africa* give a very weak treatment to issues relating to gender.⁷

³Callaway, B, & Creevey, L. (1994). *The heritage of Islam: women, religion, and politics in West Africa*. Boulder, Colo, Lynne Rienner Publishers.

⁴See, Denton, F. (2002). Climate change vulnerability, impacts, and adaptation: why does gender matter

⁵Inter-Agency Secretariat of the ISDR. (2007). *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters*. Geneva, UN, ISDR.

⁶Ibid. p. 9.

⁷DHA. (2006) ECOWAS Policy For Disaster Risk Reduction. [Online] Humanitarian Affairs Department: Available at: http://www.preventionweb.net/files/26398_4037ecowaspolicydrr1.pdf. Accessed on 25 March 2013.

1.2 Overview of Climate Change, Gender and Human Development in ECOWAS

There is anecdotal evidence that climate change in West Africa might already be associated with conflict. Anthony Nyong and his colleagues saw a correlation between reports of conflict and drought periods in northern Nigeria.⁸ They also noticed that communities in northern Nigeria had successfully evolved traditional systems to manage new types of conflict, including those that result from climate-related events.⁹ Nick Brooks suggests that drought helped to trigger conflict in some Sahelian areas, as in the case of the Tuareg rebellion in Mali which started in 1990. The conflict began amid famine and widespread political repression despite being primarily an attempt by various Tuareg groups in Niger and Mali to secure an autonomous Tuareg state.¹⁰ The displaced population particularly the women are faced with issues such as sexual violence, diseases and increased vulnerability to other forms of insecurity. Furthermore, climatic changes not only impact on human development and environmental conservation, but also form a major threat, particularly to human security at national and livelihood levels. The security implications of climate change in turn also have political implications and changed the way in which decisions are made. According to Oli Brown and Alec Crawford there are two reasons behind this, first is that it is evidently clear that climate change has undermined development and exacerbated the existing drivers of conflict; and second, is that 'securitization' of issue, especially by campaigners, could result to concrete intervention and implementation of climate change policies such as reduction of green gas emissions.¹¹

⁸Nyong, A., Fiki, C., & Mclenan, R. (2006). Drought-Related Conflicts, Management and Resolutions in the West African Sahel: Considerations for Climate Change Research. *ERDE -BERLIN*. 137, 223-248.

⁹Ibid. p. 235.

¹⁰Brooks, N. (2006) *Climate Change, Drought and Pastoralism in the Sahel*. [Online] Discussion note for the World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism. Nairobi: IUCN. Available at: <http://bit.ly/10QMwKG> . Accessed on 23 March 2013.

¹¹Brown, O., & Crawford, A. (2008). *Assessing the security implications of climate change for West Africa country case studies of Ghana and Burkina Faso*. Winnipeg, Man, International Institute for Sustainable Development. See also, Dupont, A., & Pearman, G. I. (2006). *Heating up the planet: climate change and security*. Double Bay, New South Wales, Australia, Lowy Institute for International Policy.

1.3 State of the Discourse on Gender Mainstreaming

Climate change affects everyone which means it is gender neutral; however its effect on different gender groups is varied. This makes it important to examine the gender perspective. Gender inequality in access to resources, including credit, extension services, information and technology, must be taken into account so as to promote affirmative action while developing mitigation activities.

Globally, in the three main indicators used to measure gender equity, i.e., empowerment, economic activity and education; women continue to be below par to men. The widest gap is in empowerment – access to decision making spaces and exercise of power.¹²

Although the United Nations (UN) system does now have guiding principles for incorporating gender considerations in policies, climate change policy-making especially the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC is yet to adopt a gender-sensitive approach.¹³ This failure encourages creates gender inequity, and derails efficiency and efficacy of climate-related adaptation and mitigation measures and instruments.¹⁴ Above all responding to climate change goes beyond reducing greenhouse gas emissions to building self-resilience, and the capacity to adapt and prepare for the negative impacts. Therefore, understanding individual capacities for gender and climate change that addresses vulnerabilities, adaptation, mitigation and the manner in which engagement can take place.

Aaron McCright who fuses various theoretical gendered experiences with science by examining gender dynamics in climate change scientific approaches, notes that, climate is understood differently between men and women.¹⁵ This difference is a wide gap, and several researchers have noted women are more knowledgeable and concerned about environmental issues as compared to men.¹⁶ Therefore, if women would be economically and politically recognised and encouraged, then their knowledge would really be captured and utilised.

¹² Social Watch. (2009). *Gender Equity Index*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/11561>. Accessed on: 25 April 2013.

¹³ UNDP (United Nation Development Programme). 2009. *Gender and climate change impact and adaptation*. [Online] UNDP Asia-Pacific Gender Community of Practice Annual Learning Workshop. Negombo, Sri Lanka, 24-26 September 2008. New York: United Nations. Available at: <http://bit.ly/128VPTd>. Accessed on 21 March 2013.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* p. 3.

¹⁵ McCright, A. M. (2010). The effects of gender on climate change knowledge and concern in the American public. *Population and Environment*, 32, 66-87.

¹⁶ See McCright (2010); also see, Blocker, T. J., & Ekberg, D. L. (1997). Gender and environmentalism. *Social Science Quarterly*, 78, 841–858.; Davidson, D. J., & Freudenburg, W. R. (1996). Gender and environmental risk concerns. *Environment and Behavior*, 28, 302–339.

1.4 The Gender Dimension as Potential Aspect of Climate Change Solutions

The African Development Bank has noted that although there is a strong link between vulnerability to impacts of climate change with environment based livelihoods and gender in Africa, whereby women are particularly vulnerable.¹⁷ The predominant role of women particularly poor women who rely on agriculture, environment-related jobs and the informal sector are vulnerable to multiple climate change risks. The geography, environmental fragility and dependence on low-technology, rain-fed agriculture that makes West Africa vulnerable is at the heart of women's livelihood.¹⁸ Yet, women are more often overlooked as potential contributors to climate change solutions, and thus to the security of all human beings.¹⁹ Especially eventually linked to gender there are crucial links between climate change and gender inequality. However these links "On the one hand, climate change slows progress towards gender equality and poses a challenge to poverty reduction efforts; on the other hand, gender inequality can further worsen the effects of climate change. Compared to men, women are affected differently, and often more severely by climate change and associated natural disasters such as floods, droughts, cyclones and storms.²⁰ This is largely because men and women are bound by distinct biological and socio-economic roles and responsibilities that give rise to differences in vulnerability and ability to cope with these climate change consequences.

Women are not just victims but active agents of change and possess unique knowledge and skills that should be acknowledged and tapped into to develop resilience.²¹ Adaptation will be more effective if it makes use of women's traditional strengths. Their roles and experiences equip them with the potential to lead community and national efforts—well beyond the household doorstep. The UN Economic Commission for Africa projects that in Ghana, women and men occupy distinct positions in the economy largely as a result of a gender division of labour within households and the society at large.²² This allocates the bulk of reproductive activities to women, leaving men time to pursue more market-valued

¹⁷Alexander, P. (2011). The Link between Climate Change, Gender and Development in Africa. *The African Statistical Journal*.12.119-140.

¹⁸Blackden, C. M., &Wodon, Q. (2006). *Gender, time use, and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa*. Washington, D.C., World Bank.

¹⁹McCright, A. M. (2010). *The effects of gender on climate change knowledge and concern in the American public*.

²⁰See, for example, UN Women (2011). *Facts & Figures on Gender & Climate Change*, Global Gender and Climate Alliance. UN Women. New York. ; Neumayer, E., &PlüMper, T. (2007). *The Gendered Nature of Natural Disasters*.

²¹See, for example, Gurung, J. D., Sheila, M., Lubbock, A., Hartl, M. and Firmian, I., (2006). *Gender and desertification: Expanding roles for women to restore drylands*. [Online]International Fund for Agriculture Development, Rome. Available at: <http://bit.ly/12gOoJG>. Accessed on: 15 March 2013.UNEP. (2004). *Women and the environment*. Nairobi, Kenya. United Nations Environment Programme.

²²UNECA, (2004). *African Gender Development Index*. UNECA, Addis Ababa.

productive activities and resulting in extensive gender segregation in production and reproduction across different sectors of the economy. Women's unpaid labour is critical for livelihoods and the security of household and family members. It involves repetitive and time-consuming tasks, such as collection of firewood, water fetching, childcare, sweeping, garbage disposal and cooking, as well as the reproduction of social relations in the household and the community. Ghanaian women for example spend more than two times as much time on domestic work as men.²³ Furthermore, in agriculture, most women in the rural areas of the country are predominantly engaged in food crop cultivation and small scale trading, while their male counterparts are involved in both food and cash crop cultivation generally and on a relatively larger scale. While women in the country occupy a key position in the economy, like other countries this role is not only underestimated, but it is subjected to gendered-segregated divisions of participating in the economy.²⁴

For instance, in urban areas where women are predominantly found in the self-employed informal sectors of the economy, mainly in trading and other service activities, men have the majority share of the public and private formal sector wage jobs.²⁵ Moreover, the Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPs) privilege a small public sector and a large reserve army of labour in the informal sector.²⁶ Generally, incomes and conditions of work in the informal sector are far less secure and stable, relative to formal sector employment. Workers in the informal sector—mostly women—are usually not protected by labour laws and conventions and have no basic rights such as minimum wage or health care. In addition to their lower levels of involvement in wage work, women as an economic category occupy lower positions in the formal labour sector and therefore earn much less money than men in waged work.²⁷ Women's experience of inequality is also expressed in their limited access to and control over resources. Since 2000, a government decision to join the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and the subsequent adoption of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) has led to a continuation of the SAPs approach (WMC, 2004). Although women in Ghana have been identified as a category that suffers disproportionately from poverty, the sectors where women are in the majority are not prioritized in both GPRS I & II. There are also no measures in place to address women's experience of poverty in a systematic way.

²³Ibid.

²⁴Aryeetey, B. E.(2000).The participation of women in the Ghanaian economy. InAryeetey, E., Harrigan, J., &Nissanke, M. (eds). *Economic reforms in Ghana: the miracle and the mirage*. Oxford, James Curry, 321-

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷Ibid.

25 GPRS processes were highly contested by women's rights organizations for lack of gender sensitivity. In 2004, greater effort was made by the government to address the concerns of women. Thus, GPRS II is an improvement over the first one, in terms of responsiveness to gender issues (GPRS I & II, 2002, 2004).

2.0 Climate Change Situation and Policies in ECOWAS Member States

2.1 Considering Gender Sensitivity in Relevant ECOWAS Policies

West Africa is extremely vulnerable to climate change. Deeply disturbing alterations in the climate are already being noticed, and worse can be expected. If cataclysmic upheavals are to be avoided, the region needs urgently to find ways of conserving precious ecosystems and of supporting peasant farmers and other groups to use their traditional knowledge to adapt to far-reaching changes. It is evident that most parts of the ECOWAS region are faced with disasters such drought, floods and hunger due to crop failure. These force the populace in these areas to migrate and pose a threat to their lives and livelihood. For example the Senegalese province of Kaffrine, Kaydogu and even the capital Dakar are faced with droughts and flood, and the Gambian province of the Wuli and Sandu are faced with floods.

The *Hyogo Framework* states that ‘a gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management, and education and training.’²⁸In the *ECOWAS Revised Treaty* of 1993 member states agreed to formulate, harmonise, coordinate and establish appropriate policies and mechanisms for the

²⁸ISDR. (2009). *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: building the resilience of nations and communities for disasters*. Geneva, UN ISDR, p. 10.

enhancement of social, economic and cultural conditions of women. The *ECOWAS Gender Policy* and its *Strategic Plan* provide guidelines and envisage a process for developing regional actions to enforce instruments that address gender equality in socio-economic development. The Policy which highlights the relationship between gender and the environment however remains silent on the very important issues of integrating gender perspective into climate change adaptation (CCA) and human security. Similarly, the *ECOWAS Environmental Policy* and the *Programme of Action to Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change in West Africa* give a very weak treatment to issues relating to gender.²⁹

The sub-Saharan countries sign-up to a post-Kyoto deal will have little impact on global emissions. The average Ghanaian produces a third of atones of CO₂ per year and a Burkinabe one third of that (just one hundred kilograms). This compares to the average Dane's emissions of 9.8 tonnes and the North American's 20.6 tonnes.³⁰ However, cases such as Darfur are being held up as cautionary tales for the potential impact of climate change everywhere. In other words, African nations are not the *intended audience* of the post-Kyoto debate, but they are part of the *evidence* being used to make Women also play a role in adapting to and mitigating climate change through practices such as soil and water conservation through crop rotation and building embankments to avoid floods. In the case of risk management, gender sensitive community training will be effective in the adaptation efforts such as women monitoring early warning flood systems in tropical storms scenarios. Consequently, gender sensitive national planning has been implemented at the national level with African Least Developed Countries required to create a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) according to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The NAPA describes the country's priorities and strategies in relation to climate change. Therefore, it is essential to include gender perspective in data gathering and analyses, access to finance and technology in order to make the NAPA effective and representative of impacts of climate change on gender. Most West African countries have prepared or are preparing their NAPAs. Reports have been submitted by Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal; also Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Togo all finalized theirs. The focus of NAPAs on short term projects over linkages with development strategies that address medium and longer-term issues is short-sighted. Climate change will continue for years, and not all adaptation issues can be addressed through short-term projects. Therefore, a mix or short-

²⁹DHA. (2006) ECOWAS Policy for Disaster Risk Reduction. [Online] Humanitarian Affairs Department: Available at: <http://bit.ly/195oqKg>. Accessed on: 24 March 2013.

³⁰ UNDP. (2007). *Human development report 2007/2008: fighting climate change: human solidarity in a divided world*. New York, United Nations Development Programme.

and longer-term projects that incorporate participation across development sectors is important to ensure a wide range of adequate responses in adapting to climate that saves lives and, ultimately, strengthens livelihoods. In most cases, policies and programmes on Climate change do not cater for women's needs and issues affecting the lives of women.

Despite efforts, placing women at the core of policies to tackle climate change still has not entered the mainstream. Women are underrepresented in climate change decision-making and planning at all levels. The underrepresentation of women in development issues in the region is mainly due to patriarchy, gender stereotyping, inadvertence of policy makers, and high level of illiteracy among the women folk. In most cases women are seen as receivers only but not seen as having potential to effect changes in the society.

Whereas there is clear evidence of a direct link between gender relations and adaptation to climate change, women's voices and participation in decision-making structures and processes is woefully inadequate.³¹ Even though National Adaptation Plans are in the process of being developed, gender issues and the involvement of women are limited.

2.2 Mainstreaming and Policy Linkages

Building on the platform of gradual awareness of climate change hazards and challenges, and the incontrovertible need for adaptation in most vulnerable countries including ECOWAS member states, adaptation actions should be mainstreamed into development policy and planning at every level. An important first step towards mainstreaming adaptive activities is their integration into the national budget framework, and association with sectoral priorities to help ensure adequate funding. From multiple highlight a number of examples and opportunities whereby foreign policy linked to trade, energy, and international cooperation can leverage opportunities to advance climate change objectives.³² Foreign policies in particular could influence negotiating positions under the UNFCCC and greatly facilitate mobilisation of funds in order to meet climate change challenges.³³ Integration of broad social and economic policy issues in a new climate policy would certainly create greater understanding and appreciation of adaptation among policy- and decision-makers. Putting the right policy frameworks in place will further

³¹See, for example, Demetiades, J and Esplen, E. (2010). The gender dimensions of poverty and climate change adaptation. In: Mearns, R., & Norton, A. *Social dimensions of climate change: equity and vulnerability in a warming world*. Washington, DC, World Bank. Pp.133-145.

³²Drexhage, J. R. (2007). *Climate change and foreign policy an exploration of options for greater integration*. [Online] Winnipeg, International Institute for Sustainable Development. Available at: <http://bit.ly/10JwRWz>. Accessed on: 2 March 2013.

³³Ibid.

encourage and facilitate effective adaptation by households, communities, and the private sector in the medium- to long-term.

If given the chance, women can become strategists who can adapt to their environment's challenges. In Ghana, Senegal and Mali among other places, women have proven that they are effective in mobilising their communities to prepare for disasters and respond to its consequences. Adaptive process among these women included animal and crop diversification to suit the prevailing environment, shelter reconstruction, dietary adaptation and anti-erosion ring construction. The mitigation processes included the use of energy-saving technology such as improved cooking stoves and biogas. In Mali and Ghana, for instance, women started to cultivate *Jatropha curcas* in commercial quantities.³⁴ This fast-growing shrub is a source of bio energy for cooking; its seeds are used to make soap and she a butter.³⁵ *Jatropha curcas* reduces erosion, increases water retention and nitrifies water sources.³⁶ Similarly, in Nigeria, the latex from this plant is also used for dental inflammation treatment.³⁷ This plant serves as a good example of the ways in which women are using indigenous knowledge to mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt in their communities. These women understood that they had to use their own resources to cope in hazardous situations and are a testament to the fact that the gender perspective is paramount in planning any mitigation and adaptive process.

Christie Dennison suggests that the international climate change process will be unable to achieve truly global legitimacy unless it adopts a holistic approach of gender equity in research, agenda formation, negotiations, decision-making and regime implementation.³⁸ An overall assessment of the climate change debate however shows that women are patently absent in the decision-making process. The climate change debate is an indicator of how gender issues tend to be omitted, leaving room for complex market-driven notions.³⁹

Women are more likely than men to be absent from decision-making, whether in the household or the community, and at national or international levels – either because their contribution is not valued or because they do not have the time, confidence or resources

³⁴Agwu, J and Okhimamhe, A. (2011) Gender and climate change In Nigeria a study of four communities in North-Central and South-Eastern Nigeria. [Online]Heinrich BöllStiftung. Lagos. Nigeria. Available at: <http://bit.ly/13kOtx8> . Accessed on: 12 April 2013.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸Dennison, C. (2003) From Beijing to Kyoto: gendering the international climate change negotiation process. Presented at the 53rd Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs. 17-21 July, at Halifax and Pugwash, Nova Scotia, Canada.

³⁹Denton, F. (2001). Climate Change, Gender and Poverty–Academic Babble or Realpolitik? *Bulletin Africain: Point de vue* 14.Dakar: Rabede.

to contribute.⁴⁰Moreover, at the level of professionals, the gender disparity is also evident. For example, at the 2007 13th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) women made up only 28 percent of the delegates and only 12 percent of heads of delegations.⁴¹

While it is important to increase the number of women in positions of power, there must be close ties between women politicians and policymakers and grassroots women's organisations.

⁴⁰.Demetiades, J and Esplen, E. (2010). The gender dimensions of poverty and climate change adaptation.

⁴¹Ibid. p. 138.

3.0 Gender and Climate Change Issues and Policies in Senegal and Nigeria

3.1 Policies and Frameworks dealing with Gender and Climate Change in Senegal

The issue of climate change in Senegal has become a reality today for experts and local communities. With a high rate of temperature rise across the country, changes are felt by everyone. Research on climate suggests that Senegal has undergone long-lasting droughts particularly in the Senegal River basins which have been occasioned by approximately a 20 percent decrease in rainfall in 30 years.⁴² The draught according to Lekan Oyebande and Shakirudeen Odunuga has resulted to reduced rain-fed agriculture, limited economic development, and in the overall, enhanced poverty.⁴³ Therefore, considering women are more engaged in agriculture, their livelihood with that of the families means they are bound to be hugely affected. Broadly, however, significant advances have been made on gender issues despite constraints related to women's rights, social and economic empowerment. Senegal has signed a number of international conventions and passed relevant laws. They are reinforced by the Constitution of 2001 which reaffirms the principle of equity and gender equality and prohibits all forms of discrimination based on gender. However, not much has been done to apply national laws in favour of women's advancement. Also provisions contained in International instruments

⁴²Oyebande, L. and Odunuga, S. (2010). Climate Change Impact on Water Resources at the Transboundary Level in West Africa: The Cases of the Senegal, Niger and Volta Basins. *The Open Hydrology Journal*.4, 163-172.

⁴³ Ibid.

on women's rights are not adequately reflected in national legislation.⁴⁴ Yet Senegal is committed to halving gender inequalities first through its National Action Plan on Women (1997-2001) which ended with an assessment, and led to the adoption of the National Strategy on Equity and Gender Equality (SNEEG) in 2003 in compliance with recommendations of the Beijing Platform for Action, strategic orientations of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The National Strategy is the gender reference framework and the operational instrument designed to integrate gender into development of sectoral policies.

The Directorate of Environment which oversees the follow up on the UNFCCC set up a National Committee on Climate Change (COMNAC) and has taken necessary measures for its implementation. In addition, Senegal has so far produced national reference documents on climate change, conducted specific technical studies on vulnerability to climate change, and devised possible adaptation strategies. The first inventory document on greenhouse gas emission (1994) was followed by the Initial National Communication (1997), the National Strategy for UNFCCC Implementation, and the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). They were all complemented by sectoral studies. In order to identify the needs for a specific adaptation program, studies on vulnerability and adaptation were conducted in 2007 on water resources, fishing and coastal erosion. The next step will be to draft a second national communication that will draw from all the studies on vulnerability. It will focus on mitigation and adaptation strategies in all areas of the water sector, including supply and demand, water and health, agriculture, fishing, erosion and clean-up. Unfortunately, gender was not on the agenda in the national documents on climate change. However, reference to women was made in the environmental programs and projects which were part of the implementation strategies of the NAPA. Women participated in public consultations organised in every region in order to collect information on adaptation solutions at the local level in their roles as knowledge repositories because indigenous knowledge is important to the search for sustainable results.

⁴⁴Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; provisions of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights related to the rights of women.

3.2 Women's Access to Productive Resources in Senegal

Women who were interviewed by Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA) stated the following: "We walk for long hours to find wood. Our wells are empty. Goods for sale are hard to find. Our land becomes idle. We don't have money. It doesn't rain the way it used to before".⁴⁵ Women who have been exposed to hardships and environmental insecurity have changed their lifestyles due to these issues. Today, it can assert that they are the primary victims of climate change in light of all their responsibilities in the family and the community.

Rainfall is a big determinant in women's activities since most of their activities to sustain livelihoods revolve around the environment and depend on natural resources. However, in the last three decades, the decline in rainfall, shorter rainy season and increased in frequency of the drought seasons means that livelihoods particularly of women have been severely affected.⁴⁶ The relationship between gender and climate change can best be assessed through a development approach because it encompasses all data related to health, education and women's training to improve their socio-economic conditions. To better analyze the impact of climate change on women, studies should be undertaken in the sectors where women are most active, such as water and fuel wood collection, agriculture, fishing and forestry.

3.2.1 Access to Water

In this context, women experience great difficulty accessing water, particularly in areas where there are no bore-wells, electric wells, or worse, no connection to a water distribution network. Water collection has become a heavy burden that demands a lot of patience because women have to shuttle back and forth. Most wells have been drilled with a 45 to 50 meters depth because of the downward trend of the low water table, and sometimes they don't reach the drawing level.⁴⁷ However, women have to walk long distances to fetch drinkable water because of challenges such as salinity, dry wells or water impurities. Despite the existence of pumps and modern wells, women still have problems accessing water.⁴⁸ Poor water quality and all the physical efforts affect women's

⁴⁵WEDO. (2008). *Case Study: Gender, Human Security and Climate Change: Lessons from Bangladesh, Ghana and Senegal*. [Online] New York: WEDO, p.23 Available at: <http://bit.ly/15v78dj> Accessed on: 25 March 2013.

⁴⁶Oyebande, L. and Odunuga, S. (2010). Climate Change Impact on Water Resources at the Transboundary Level in West Africa: The Cases of the Senegal, Niger and Volta Basins. *The Open Hydrology Journal*.4, 163-172. ; See also WEDO. (2008). *Case Study: Gender, Human Security and Climate Change*.

⁴⁷ See, WEDO. (2008). *Case Study: Gender, Human Security and Climate Change*

⁴⁸Ibid.

health and their children's health. The functionality of the infrastructure is not guaranteed, and water drawing is mostly done in a traditional manner according to the women's testimonies featured in Denton's 2005 study on gender, energy and poverty.⁴⁹ Since it is difficult to access water, women are unable to grow out-of-season vegetables for commercial use, neither can they deal with reforestation or engage in other creative opportunities despite their willingness to do so.

15 Water coverage ratio needs in rural areas is about 64% but varies from 26 % (Kolda) to 76 % (Saint

3.2.2 Effects Climate Change on Women in Agriculture

Beyond the flood zones and the intra-dune basins of Senegal, over 90% of agriculture depends on the amount of precipitation which varies from year to year. The unreliability of rainfall has resulted in loss of soil fertility, poor harvests, and loss of earnings, food shortages and impoverished populations, especially in rural areas. The poor conditions have led to out-migration of men in search for employment in urban areas. Women have been left to fend for themselves and their families, although they are also beginning to migrate too. Those that remain adopt intensive agricultural practices and extend the cultivation of land to adjust to the effects of climate change. Unfortunately, this type of agriculture has further diminished the soil fertility and productivity.

Over 70% of women are active in the agriculture sector, yet they own only 13.4% of the land.⁵⁰ The women cultivate family owned lands. In addition, they are also responsible for agricultural processing. Agriculture is very time consuming for women as they have to address related problems to soil erosion and impoverished, infertile land. Limited access to energy services exacerbates their predicaments.⁵¹

3.2.3 Fishing

Apart from agriculture, fishing represents one of the main economic activities for women in Senegal: Large percentages of women are involved in fishing processing. Beyond mere participation women are at the helm of the processing sector. This activity takes place along the Atlantic shorelines where fishing products are discharged. The fact that Senegal

⁴⁹ Denton, F. (2005). *Communities on the margins of development: real life stories of gender, energy and poverty*. Enda Tiers Monde - Energy Programme.

⁵⁰ Ndiaye, Gora, (2007). *Impact du Changement Climatique sur les Ressources en Eau du Sénégal*. p.7.

⁵¹ Ibid

is located on the Western coast offers great opportunities for communities to invest in fisheries and in various economic enterprises, since the main industrial and economic activities of the country are concentrated in the coastal area.⁵² However, Women would be affected by the disappearance and the displacement of their work centres and habitat inland. Even though resettlement sites exist already in Rufisque, Djiffer and Mbour, it is predicted that the worst resettlement would take place between 2050-2100.⁵³ There is also a lot of insecurity in the processing sector due to the hard working conditions women encounter and due to the lack of energy services in the drying of fishing products.

3.3 Climate Change Situation in Nigeria

Nigeria is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, with more extreme weather events, more variability in timing and intensity of rainfall and higher temperatures over the whole country (Abiodun, Salami and Tadross, 2011). This is particularly so for agriculture and food production considering farmers in Nigeria rely on unpredictable weather patterns to grow and harvest their food crops which make reinforce the challenges associated with food production. Women constitute the larger percentage of peasant farmers living in rural areas and they depend on rain-fed activities for survival; hence they are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Women are particularly affected because traditionally they neither own nor control land and trees. They are therefore forced to survive on limited resources and available alternatives when their subsistence and livelihood are threatened.

Nigeria's key vulnerabilities to climate change as stated by Nigeria's First National Communication (FNC) on climate change are:⁵⁴

- Heavy dependence of the economy and of individual livelihoods on rain-fed agriculture which is highly susceptible to fluctuations in rainfall and water supply;
- Exposure of northern Nigeria to accelerated desertification linked to increasing drought with resulting impacts on the local population and the natural resource base;
- Exposure of the country's 850 km coastline to the threats of increased sea level rise and storm surges which could impact communities, infrastructure, coastal oil installations, endemic species of flora and fauna and spawning grounds for fish;

⁵²WEDO. (2008). *Case Study: Gender, Human Security and Climate Change*

⁵³Ibid.

⁵⁴NIGERIA. (2003). *Nigeria's first national communication: under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. [Online] Abuja, Ministry of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Available at: <http://bit.ly/10yPMJh>. Accessed on: 5 April 2013.

- Sensitivity of other sectors of the economy to climate variability such as Nigeria's electrical supply, which is heavily dependent on hydropower and thus is affected by fluctuations in rainfall;
- The pressure of high population growth which reduces resilience to a number of climate impacts;
- A lack of defined policies, low political will and limited financial resources to address the need for early action on climate change; and
- Limited organizational and technical capacity to respond.

3.4 Policies and Frameworks dealing with Gender and Climate Change in Nigeria

Although the Nigerian Constitution places an obligation on the state to protect and improve the environment, water, air and land, the law did not envisage any environmental constraints that are likely to prejudice the enjoyment of fundamental human rights provided under the Constitution. Disaster risk reduction plans in Nigeria appear to be less attuned to climate change than in other countries. For example, there is a strong case for developing a network of meteorological stations and early warning systems for both coastal and inland regions.

3.4.1 Gender-sensitive Policies and Strategies on Climate Change in Nigeria

Women's vulnerability to climate change is made worse by a lack of policies and regulations that are sensitive to their needs. Approaches and policy development to address climate change have focused primarily on technical and scientific measures –with less regard for the way in which political decisions and economic environments influence the response of women and men, or the social implications on the lives of women and men. Interventions that create greater awareness and understanding of the complex links between gender equality and the environment can help to build the capacity of impoverished rural communities, especially women, to adapt to the impacts of, and take action on, climate change. Communities and governments at all levels are encouraged to mainstream gender perspectives into their policies, action plans and other measures on

sustainable adaptation to climate change. Policies and strategies which have been recommended for efficient response to climate change initiatives include:⁵⁵

- Supporting the provision of tools or measures to adapt to and/or mitigate the impacts of climate change, including vulnerability assessments that build on local and indigenous knowledge of both women and men;
- Integrating gender analysis and gender equality indicators into programs and projects to identify where specific vulnerabilities to climate change lie, and where opportunities for mitigating and adapting to climate change can be found;
- Including both women and men in the decision-making on climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives. This may necessitate the empowering of women to play increasing roles in leadership positions, as well as management and decision-making processes, to ensure that women's voices are heard and their needs are addressed;
- Supporting the active participation of women in the development of funding criteria and allocation of resources for climate change initiatives, particularly at local levels;
- Conducting a gender analysis of all budget lines and financial instruments for climate change initiatives to ensure gender-sensitive investments in programs for adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building;
- Involving women in the development of new technologies related to climate change adaptation or mitigation which take into account women's specific priorities and needs, and make full use of their knowledge, expertise and traditional practices.
- This will ensure that the technologies are gender-sensitive, user-friendly, effective and sustainable;
- Facilitating extension studies, particularly for women, to improve the accessibility and use of new technology;
- Taking action in order to ensure UNFCCC compliance with human rights frameworks, international and national commitments on gender equality and equity, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);

⁵⁵UCN (2007). Gender and climate change: Women as agents of change. [Online] The World Conservation Union. Available at: <http://bit.ly/10fAifE>. Accessed on 10 April 2013.

- Establishing a system for governments to use gender-sensitive indicators and criteria for national reporting to the UNFCCC Secretariat;
- Ensuring gender equity in all phases and aspects of funding mechanisms: when designing, implementing, evaluating proposals, and reporting on programs. A series of gender-responsible criteria for programs/projects should be developed, which vary according to the instrument concerned;
- Increasing equitable access by poor women and men to climate change through market-based approaches such as the Clean Development Mechanism; and
- Women's organizations, the ministries or offices of women affairs should play inactive role in the discussions and decisions that are being made in the climate change arena.

Climate change adaptation: Integrating gender-sensitive climate change into policy in Benue State Green watch Initiative is working with two local communities on a climate change adaption strategy: Daudu in Guma LGA of Benue state; and Falgore in DoguwaLGA of Kano State. Using Social Analysis System (SAS2) tools (Chevalier and Buckles, 2008)⁵⁶

3.5 Challenges to Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change in Nigeria

3.5.1 Social and Cultural Restrictions to Gender Mainstreaming

Gender inequalities caused by social and cultural restrictions substantially limits women's access to, control over and use of services and productive resources. In societies that are more inequitable, men are likely to receive preferential treatment in rescue efforts and women are likely to suffer more from shortages of food and other resources in the

⁵⁶

aftermath of disasters. These gender inequalities and inequities usually render climate change events so devastating to women.⁵⁷

Gender inequality is also reflected in climate change events or natural resources when more women than men usually face the risk of death severe conditions because they are not warned or cannot take necessary actions on their own. There is decisive evidence that gender differences in deaths from natural disasters are directly linked to women's economic and social rights. A primary objective to redress this situation is gender equality, but as Lambrou and Pianna (2005) suggested, while gender equality may be good for women, there is need for some caution because it may not necessarily be good for the environment. When women have equal access to and control of resources, they may tend to adopt current male models and patterns of consumption in emulation of men. With equal gender opportunities a new environmentally friendly perspective needs to be developed that makes men and women equally accountable for their personal consumption and renders them responsible for the impact they have on the environment.

⁵⁷WEDO. (2007), *Changing the Climate: Why Women's Perspectives Matter*. [Online] Fact sheet. Women's Environment and Development Organization, New York. Available at: <http://bit.ly/16IMziT>. Accessed on 14 March 2013.

3.6 Inadequate Information on Gender Issues Related to Climate Change

Sometimes in carrying out academic or official activities, one loses sight of the reality of the problem being confronted. Climate change will have profound effect upon the lives of everyone – male or female, wherever they live. It is important not to get carried away by the professional challenges and remember the dire consequences upon the lives of so many people who depend on their policymakers, planners, development workers and experts from all disciplines to make the right decisions and take effective actions. Hannan (2002) notes that there is less interest in progressive but slow climate change events

Those are “less visible, on a smaller scale or slower to develop than large natural disasters that receive considerable international press coverage and external emergency support. The slowly developing climate change events however should be of equal concern since they will eventually culminate in major disasters.”⁵⁸

⁵⁸Olawoye J. E. Okoye, O., and Eleri, A. (2010). *Gender and climate change toolkit: For policymakers and programme developers*. [Online] International Centre for Energy Environment and Development. Available at: <http://bit.ly/10wyLL3>. Accessed on 12 April 2013.

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusion

There is urgency for women's movement put gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation a top priority in urging governments to rethink their economic development path and its implications on the ecology, livelihoods and human development. This requires effective policies and action by the state, several stakeholders and ECOWAS in terms of prioritising local knowledge and deepening gender responsive democratic principles. The power relations surrounding the climate change discourse must also be interrogated to promote women's rights and gender equality.

Furthermore, there is need to continue strengthening the links between international agreements, national realities and the promotion of gender equality in CCA. We should also build on our experience of engaging with other processes, by examining the extent to which donors and governments are complying with internationally agreed commitments and providing invaluable insights about donor-state relationships. By deliberating more critically on issues of gender and climate change in relation to rights, entitlements and responsibilities of citizens and the critical role of the women's movement in advancing these causes, we would be enhancing social well-being, democratic governance, gender justice and climate change.

Therefore, this paper proposes that adaptation policies, if well designed and effectively implemented, have the potential to contribute to greater gender equality. In the context of increasingly severe impacts from global warming, it is vital to implement comprehensive risk management and adaptation policies. Given that gender equality and women's empowerment are central elements for reducing vulnerabilities to climate change, it is

important that these policies—through clear, productive actions—diminish these vulnerabilities and advance toward greater gender equality.

Interventions would be more gender-sensitive and effective if affected communities, local, state and national governments, ECOWAS and partners would work closer together. Indeed as suggested by Julia Agwu and Okhimamhe Appollonia, interventions ought to respond to gynaecological problems and areas that affecting women primarily such as water, fuel wood, education and skill acquisition with microcredit opportunities.⁵⁹ A gender-responsive approach would arm women adequately to face the challenges of the impacts of climate change.

4.2 Recommendations

Faced with several layers of challenges, a multi-tiered and coordinated approach is required to build the capacities of governments and communities in West Africa to effectively mainstream gender into CCA.

4.2.1 General Recommendations for the ECOWAS Commission

The following recommendations are directed to various Directorates of the ECOWAS Commission jointly and severally in line with their individual mandates and areas of work, and pursuant to the omnibus Article 67 of the *ECOWAS Revised Treaty* of 1993.

- The ECOWAS Commission should integrate cross-sectoral approaches into regional climate change adaptation programmes and plans, particularly across the Directorates of Gender, Environment, Agriculture, Humanitarian and Social Affairs (HSA).
- The Directorate of Environment should support the development of local scenarios in each member state and compare them with national and transnational gender and climate change concerns so as to understand cross-scale interactions and potential points of leverage. In addition, ECOWAS should promote exchange of learning and gender-sensitive CCA practices among member states.
- The ECOWAS strategic plan should support its member states to mainstream climate change into economic frameworks and sectoral policies in order to ensure integrated adaptation responses. The current state of national adaptation strategies and the confinement of the climate change agenda to the environment sector make it difficult

⁵⁹Agwu, J and Okhimamhe, A. (2011) Gender and climate change In Nigeria a study of four communities in North-Central and South-Eastern Nigeria.

for development planners to have a holistic perspective of adaptation priorities at both macro (national) and micro (local) levels.

- Capacity to conduct local and national assessments of environmental, social and economic vulnerabilities should be supported and strengthened so as to inform processes for identifying gender-balanced adaptation priorities. The Directorates of Gender and Environment are well placed to achieve this planning and working together with stakeholders such as ministries of environment and gender, environmental protection and management agencies, and technical partners with expertise to carry out contextualised assessment in challenging environments. Gender considerations should be integrated into the assessment techniques (data gathering and analysis). Furthermore the results of such assessments should lead to negotiations and action plans developed jointly by relevant stakeholders.
- To record significant success, women must be involved in climate protection negotiations at all levels and in all decisions on climate protection. Representation by numbers is not enough. The Directorates of Environment and HSA should support this key process by working through already existing structures for advocacy, policymaking, planning and implementation such as national platforms for DRR and CCA, women groups, the Forum of Mayors in West Africa, parliamentary environmental committees.

4.2.2 Recommendations addressed to the ECOWAS Commission's Gender Division and the Gender Development Centre

The mandate of the ECOWAS Gender Division and the Gender Development Centre include: to mainstream gender in ECOWAS institutions, and member states and to develop networks and partnerships with relevant agencies in order to support ECOWAS gender mainstreaming efforts. In addition, to the above general recommendations to the ECOWAS Commission, the following recommendations are made in line with this mandate.

- Advocate for and promote ratification, domestication and compliance by all ECOWAS member states with conventions and instruments which promote gender equality and mainstreaming in CCA. A first step should be to track the status of ratification, domestication and compliance with such instruments by member states so as to identify where gaps exist.

- Assist ECOWAS member states to foster an enabling environment that promotes equal opportunity for women in CCA decision making, policy formulation and implementation, and advocate for adoption of affirmative action where necessary. This will enhance promotion of equitable access to employment opportunities, income, resources, leases on land and credit for agriculture, social services, and relief in times of disaster.
- Support capacity development and knowledge building for women on CCA issues, by investing in training of disaster managers. A potential channel could be giving support to disaster risk management centres of excellence in universities in member states and exposing them to cutting-edge knowledge and skills through collaboration and exchanges with other research centres and institutes in regions that are advanced in DRR.
- Forge partnerships and collaboration between ECOWAS, member state agencies, private sector, women groups, humanitarian organisations and development partners to ensure mobilisation of adequate resources and coordination of efforts towards realising the targets and objectives of gender mainstreaming in member states.

4.2.3 Recommendations for ECOWAS Member States

In view of the findings of the cases studied, the following recommendations are addressed to governments and MDAs and communities in ECOWAS member states. However, the recommendations are more didactic than prescriptive given varying levels of policy development, planning and implementation and the dynamics of local and national context.

- Local, state and national governments should support the sensitisation of policy makers, planners and communities on gender and climate change. Development cooperation could support this process by helping to sensitise the general public and train gender officers on mainstreaming gender in CCA. National governments could establish climate desk officers in relevant departments and ministries, in the same way it that most have done with gender officers.
- Local governments, traditional institutions and community-based organisations should make effort to address the tension between customary and traditional practices which are incompatible with modern parameters and state obligations in mainstreaming

gender into CCA and development. Socio-cultural values and norms which continue to perpetuate gender inequality and inequity should be queried and challenged.

- Particular support has to be given to women in guaranteeing inheritance rights and right to ownership/occupancy of land so that they would have not only access to fertile land, but that they also can make decisions on the management of trees. The clarification of tenure and propriety rights by the appropriate authority at the local and national levels will be essential.
- State and national governments should promote vertical and horizontal inter-ministerial collaboration and exchange in areas of legal, policy, sectoral and operational overlap. Although gender specific analyses regarding DRR and CCA are essential, National Adaptation Programmes for Action and National Communications often do not fully integrate these aspects into their analyses. Encouraging an exchange with the persons and institutions responsible for CCA and DRR between the two levels of government and across sector at each level is necessary.
- Governments at all levels should set clear graduated targets and take affirmative action to improve female participation in all CCA activities including assessments, planning, policymaking, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The actions of governments should be backed by policy and compliance tracked progressively. However, governments acting alone cannot guarantee success. In addition, political parties, women advocacy groups, environmental groups, labour unions, and other business and pressure groups such as chambers of commerce, industries, mines and agriculture should demonstrate support in mainstreaming gender into CCA and development.

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