



Check against delivery

**Opening Remarks
by
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Civil Society Development Forum 2010:
Financing for Climate Change: Gender Equality**

(In preparation for the High Level Segment of the 2010 Economic and Social Council)

**21 April, 2010
UN Headquarters, Conference Room 4, 10 am to 1 pm**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel privileged to address this civil society event as part of the Global Preparatory Meeting for the substantive session of ECOSOC.

Upon assuming the Presidency of the ECOSOC on 19 January, I outlined what I called the five 'musts' that we need to achieve in order to ensure that the ECOSOC remains fit for purpose:

- One - we must adopt a proactive and constructive agenda
- Two - we must adopt shorter, more focused agreements and resolutions
- Three - we must do more to improve the atmospherics surrounding the ECOSOC
- Four - we must move beyond stale arguments
- Five - we must do justice to the ECOSOC's role in the operational aspects of the UN's work

I would therefore like to commend the selection of such a challenging and visionary theme "*Financing for climate change: Gender Equality*", which I believe goes some way in achieving the five 'musts'. At the same time, it is most fitting that the

theme of your meeting draws upon both the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the 2010 substantive session of ECOSOC.

This year's Annual Ministerial Review will be devoted to the theme of "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women".

The message of the AMR and DCF must be clear: socio-economic progress and gender equality must be pursued in an integrated way. Needless to say this message is also pertinent in the context of the climate change crisis.

Ladies and gentlemen,

There is a growing awareness that without effective mitigation and adaptation of which finance is a key component, hard-earned development gains, including progress made towards achieving the MDGs would be reversed. Alarmingly, some studies have estimated that climate change could entail a loss of between 5 – 20 percent of world gross product per year by 2050 if nothing is done.

Climate change will hit the poorest hardest due to their existing vulnerability. Further, challenges encountered by developing countries are many and diverse. Perhaps most significantly, it creates 'double inequity' in a sense that developing countries have been most adversely affected by global warming, while carrying little responsibility for causing the problem.

In the same vein, climate change does not affect women and men in the same way: due to their social status, limited access to financial resources and knowledge, women are more vulnerable to climate change stresses and shocks.

However, women should not be viewed as mere helpless victims of climate change – they are also powerful agents of change. Their involvement and indeed leadership is critical if the climate change challenge is to be effectively addressed.

To make a real change, gender sensitive financing for climate change is critical: if women do not have the resources to deal with today's stresses and shocks then they are unlikely to be able to deal with the additional stresses.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I can see three overarching challenges of climate change and gender equality vis-à-vis the effectiveness of development cooperation: mobilization, management and allocation of climate change-related funds.

One, we need to close a tremendous gap in funding climate change and gender equality response efforts in many developing countries. Hence, the first climate change challenge for development cooperation would be to identify and mobilize the additional sources of mitigation and adaptation related finance.

Two, it is critical that we ensure high levels of coordination, complementarity and coherence (3Cs) between climate change, gender equality and development policy processes and also among different donors in their support. There is a vital need to harmonize the current climate change and gender equality initiatives with already existing development frameworks and processes and major principles of development cooperation. Needless to say, the primacy of the principles of national ownership and leadership cannot be overstated.

Three, there is an equal need to effectively allocate internal and external resources for climate change and gender equality. It is critical for recipient governments to integrate a climate and gender perspectives into planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring processes to make environment and gender equality an integral part of governments' development priorities. In turn, donors should fully support those efforts in line with the principle of national ownership of aid.

Adaptation and gender aspects must be integrated at the national level, not only into development policy in general, but also into policy areas such as poverty reduction, rural development and infrastructure investment.

Additionally, an appropriate marker for climate change- and gender-related contributions needs to be designed for more systematic reporting / monitoring system, which will help more accurately track the climate funding flows.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I cannot overstate the need for broader engagement and dialogue with NGOs in overcoming the challenges we face in the timely realization of the MDGs, particularly in the area of gender equality and climate change. In fact, partnerships are critical in achieving the MDGs.

We expect NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC to make a significant contribution to the 2010 substantive session through multiple channels. In this regard, I am open to your suggestions for the Ministerial Declaration 2010 and see this meeting as an opportunity to share ideas and find common ground for collective action.

We look to NGOs to take on an important role of supporting the ECOSOC agenda and champion its cause. We expect you to provide leadership in civil society by maintaining women's empowerment and climate change on your own national agenda and on the global agenda as well. We expect you to find the convincing incentives to ensure that States live up to their commitments in climate and gender areas.

Thank you.