

Commission on the Status of Women
52nd session
25 February – 7 March 2008

Interactive expert panel on the theme
“Gender perspectives on climate change”

Thursday 28 February 2008, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Bios of panellists

1. Ms. Minu Hemmati (Gendercc – Women for Climate Justice, Germany)
2. Ms. Lorena Aguilar (World Conservation Union, Costa Rica)
3. Ms. Anastasia Pinto (Centre for Organization, Research and Education, India)
4. Ms. Rachel Nampinga (Eco-Watch Africa, Uganda)
5. Ms. Sri Woro B. Harijono (Meteorological and Geophysical Agency, Indonesia)

1. Minu Hemmati (Gendercc – Women for Climate Justice, Germany)

A clinical psychologist with a doctorate in environmental and organisational psychology, Minu Hemmati was a Senior Lecturer at the University of Saarbruecken, Germany, 1992-1998. Since 1998, she has been working as a self-employed advisor and programme coordinator with international agencies; governments; NGOs; women's organizations; research institutions; and corporations – focusing on multi-stakeholder processes, and on women's / gender and sustainable development issues. She has regularly participated at UN Summits and Commission meetings since 1996, covering sustainable development, social development, urbanisation, and gender issues. She also co-coordinated the Women's Caucus to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development from 1999-2001, and is a member of the Women's Caucus at climate change negotiations. She is presently working in cooperation with LIFE e.V. / genanet to implement a multi-pronged strategy aiming to increase gender responsiveness of international climate change and climate protection.

Ms. Hemmati will give an overview of progress on the incorporation of gender concerns in key international agreements on climate change, including the Bali negotiations, highlighting major gaps and challenges. Her statement will also describe the multi-pronged strategy being developed to increase gender responsiveness to climate change, and the achievements, gaps and challenges in increasing the participation of women in decision-making on climate change at all levels.

2. Lorena Aguilar (World Conservation Union, Costa Rica)

Lorena Aguilar is the Senior Gender Advisor to the World Conservation Union. She is an international advisor for numerous organizations, governments and universities on topics related

to water, environmental health, and gender and community participation. With a Master's degree in anthropology, Aguilar, who majored in cultural ecology at the University of Kansas, has worked for ten years in the field of development and in the design of public policy projects in Latin America. For the past fifteen years she has been actively engaged in the incorporation of social and gender aspects into the use and conservation of natural resources worldwide. She has contributed to mainstreaming gender issues in the environmental sector, including in the development of gender strategies for UNEP and the Convention on Biological Diversity. She has published 25 books and several publications about gender and environment, environmental health, and public policy involving equity issues.

Ms. Aguilar will speak on the importance of, and ways and means to, identify and address gender and social aspects in work on climate change, particularly in the context of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change.

3. Anastasia Pinto (Centre for Organization, Research and Education, India)

Ms. Anastasia Pinto is an indigenous woman, of the Meitei nation in India. Ms. Pinto has worked on women's issues for nearly 30 years, concerned with women's rights to land, natural resources, in armed conflict and also on displacement issues. She has received various awards for her work, including the "Silver Banner" from the Governor of Tuscany. Ms. Pinto is an advisor to several indigenous organizations, including CORE – the Centre for Organization Research and Education, and the ICITP – Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, and is a member of the Gender and Climate Change Network, Women for Climate Justice.

Ms. Pinto will speak on mobilizing NGOs and women's groups to take action on mitigation and adaptation strategies to combat climate change.

4. Rachel Nampinga (Eco-Watch Africa, Uganda)

Ms. Nampinga is a Ugandan Environment and Community activist. She is the programmes director for 'Eco-Watch Africa', based in Kampala, which ensures gender equality in sound environmental management, and is the coordinator of the Gender and Climate Change network in Africa. In 2006 she was President of the Africa Youth Initiative on Climate Change. From 2004-2007 she has participated in the UN meetings on climate change (COP) as part of the global and climate change network. She has been involved in a number of consultancies, including a consultative report on recommendations on gender and energy at the Africa Partnership Forum to the G8 at the Civil G8 Summit.

Ms. Nampinga will speak on the linkages between gender equality, poverty, energy and climate change, and provide an analysis of the vulnerability of women, including young women and the poor, to the impacts of climate change. She will also share concrete examples of efforts to address this vulnerability.

5. Sri Woro B. Harijono (Meteorological and Geophysical Agency, Indonesia)

Ms. Harijono is an engineer in agricultural mechanization, with a Masters in Engineering on Agroclimatology. She is presently the head of the Meteorological and Geophysical Agency

(BMG) in Indonesia. She is also the Vice-President of the WMO Regional Association (RA) V (Southwest Pacific), a member of the executive council of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and is actively engaged in the committee on gender mainstreaming in the WMO. Ms. Harijono was formerly the Deputy Minister for Research, Science and Technology in Indonesia. She presently serves on international monitoring networks of the Tsunami Early Warning System in the ASEAN region. She also has many publications on climate change and its impact in Indonesia, and has spoken at several conferences, including on Indonesian women's contribution to minimize the impact of global climate change.

Ms. Harijono will discuss the importance of mainstreaming gender perspectives in disaster risk management, and highlight the contributions of women in this area. She will address the impact of the tsunami on women in the ASEAN region and ways to incorporate gender perspectives into tsunami early warning systems.