Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy

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Mainstreaming gender in STI policy

A matter of development effectiveness as well as an ethical issue:

1) Women play a central and vital role in society (productive activities, social functions)

2) Gender mainstreaming can make STI policies more effective and

3) Appropriate STI policies can enhance women’s contribution to economic growth and development

- Identified 7 Transformative Action Areas

- Fifteen years later it’s time to revisit

- Timing is opportune: STI is getting back on the development agenda

- Few national STI policies address gender equality
Making science, technology and innovation policy gender responsive

Three key elements:

1. Promoting S&T to support women’s development and livelihood activities (“Science for Women”)

2. Promoting gender equality in science, technology, and engineering education, workforce, and leadership (“Women in Science”)

3. Supporting the role of women in innovation systems
Science for Women
Promoting science and technology to support women’s development and livelihood activities

- Three key sectors where women play a central role
  - Agriculture, food security, and nutrition
  - Water and sanitation
  - Energy

- Science and technology can help address women’s challenges (many examples)

- Strong role for proactive policies to support the design, development, and diffusion of gender responsive technologies
Women in science
Promoting gender equality in science, technology and engineering education, workforce and leadership

Why? To ensure women contribute shaping the STI agenda and make it more gender responsive

Key issues
- Promoting a S&T literate women population
- Working with women to improve production and support of women’s enterprises
- Ensuring women gain participate in decision making on STI policies

Strategies and tools
- Promote female education in science, mathematics and technology (SMT)
- Continuing education and vocational training
- Information and communication technologies: ICTs have a great potential for female education
- Fixing the “leaking pipeline”
Supporting women in innovations systems

Women in SMES
- Technical and scientific education and training
- Venture capital
- Recognition and protection of women’s knowledge and innovation
- Training for enterprise development

Having women in management of medium and large enterprises is important for innovation systems and for countries to compete globally (Transformation Action Area No 8)
Some basic features of a gender-affirmative policy

- COHERENCE with other policy areas (an integrated approach)
- Evidence-based
- Integration of gender perspective throughout the policy making process
- Scaling-up of successful programmes (i.e. from local to national level)
Conclusions

Political will

Three key words: assess, understand, translate.

Developing STI approaches which benefit women (science FOR women) and ensuring women’s role in STI (women IN science)

This involves in particular:

- Consulting and working with women
- Providing them access to resources
- Recognizing and supporting their local knowledge and innovation practices
Conclusions (cont’d)

Gender mainstreaming in STI policy: the “gender lens approach” at each stage of the STI policy making process

At research and assessment level:
- evidence-based assessments taking into account gender equity and gender gaps (e.g., gender impact analysis)

At design level:
- solutions and strategies in consultation with women at all levels

At implementation & monitoring level:
- programs and support structures to implement and monitor gender-responsive STI policy
Thank you for your attention

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