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GENDER AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

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Gender in the Global Frameworks and Policies: Sendai Framework, SDGs, Paris Agreement on Climate Change

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Alternative Futures

Significance of gender in global frameworks

- Global frameworks influence national policies, programmes.
- Global frameworks influence national and sub-national data collection.
- Global agreements are enshrined within the human rights framework.
- Gender-based differences in vulnerabilities and capacities are recognised internationally in principle (Sphere Standards, IPCC, Beijing Platform of Action).
- Global frameworks are pre-dominantly crafted by men.
- Global frameworks affect every aspect of women's lives – survival, livelihoods, development, empowerment.
- 'Last women first': Women are *affected first and worst* by disasters, climate uncertainties and lack of development.....and have the *least resources, opportunities and authority* to be able to take empowered action.

We've come a long way – in some way!

- Inconceivable not to have any mention of 'gender' in a global agreement.
- From 'women' the language has changed to 'gender.'
- Agreements factor in civil society consultations, many of which advocate gender-just issues and formulate language for insertions.
- An increasing recognition of women as actors , not just 'victims.'
- Demand for more women at global decision-making tables is emerging:
 - COP18, Doha, 2012 'gender decision': "*Promoting gender balance and improving the **participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol.***"
- Women's larger role with natural resources has reached global ears.
- The trend-line for gender equality is on the upswing....but voices are still too few, faint and geographically dispersed....

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015

'Gender' remains an 'add-on'

- 'Gender' is not a stand-alone concept. Women are clubbed with other marginalised groups like the elderly, the young, the differently-abled.
- No commitments on gender empowerment:
 - Guiding Principles state all policies and practices “should” (not must) integrate a “gender, age, disability and cultural perspective.”
 - None of the 7 Targets have gender-based commitments.
 - Gender missing from the 4 Priorities for Action except in one which says “women and persons with disabilities **should**” take the onus of promoting “gender-equitable and universal accessible approaches” during disaster response and post-disaster reconstruction.
 - Member States zero accountability for gender equality in rolling out Sendai Agreement
 - Women are seen as stakeholders but no support mechanisms, except capacity building.
 - Recognition of empowerment but not mandated: “...measures **need (not must)** to be taken to empower women for preparedness....secure alternate means of livelihoods in post-disaster situations” *The inclusion of livelihoods here is significant.*
- Fails to build on decades of experience of community-based disaster management, recovery and reconstruction.

7 Sendai Targets: essentially gender-blind

- Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower the average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005 – 2015;
- Substantially reduce the number of affected people (*categories to be decided later*) globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020–2030 compared to the period 2005–2015;
- Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030;
- Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030;
- Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;
- Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030;
- Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.

Paris Agreement on Climate Change 2015-2030

*21st Conference of Parties, United Nations Convention Framework on
Climate Change*

Regressive, barest references to gender

- Commitment to keeping to below 2 degree centigrade average rise but most vulnerable require a target of 1.5 degree centigrade, which is aspirational in the agreement.
- Human rights, gender equality in Preamble to the agreement; not in the operational text - Purpose (Article 2).
- Weak agreement with no targets on emissions cut – impacts on women may grow with no benefits.
- Gender seen only in relation to vulnerabilities, not capabilities.
- Gender not a cross-cutting issue - only in adaptation and capacity building; not in mitigation, finance or technology.
- Regressive – women need public finance and mitigation technologies to replace firewood with work-reducing solar heating.
- Loss and damage would affect women most but rich countries abdicate their responsibility to pay compensation.

Sustainable Development Goals 2030

Following up on the Millennium Development Goals

No equal treatment for men and women

- Only one gender-focused goal (5); gender (and climate change) not mainstreamed across all 17 Goals and Targets.
- Women clubbed with 'others' even in indicators:
 - Eg. Goal 1 on poverty should have centred around women who constitute the poorest group of people on this earth. Yet, only one indicator speaks about women and there too clubbed with 'others.' Percentage of women, men, indigenous peoples, and local communities with secure rights to land, property, and natural resources, measured by (i) percentage with documented or recognized evidence of tenure, and (ii) percentage who perceive their rights are recognized and protected.
- Indicators on problems affecting women most also gender-blind. For instance:
 - Minimum levels of dietary energy consumption (Goal 1);
 - Percentage of exclusively breast-fed below 6 months infants or number of agri extension workers per 1000 farmers (Goal 2);
 - Proportion of mentally ill persons using services (Goal 3);
 - Early child development index (Goal 4);
 - Percentage of people within 0.5km of public transport availability (Goal 11).
- The devil lies in the detail – how gender-responsive will re-wired national statistics be in reporting on indicators?

Key gender equality barriers in global accords

- ✓ Absence of human rights framework in actual agreements.
- ✓ No structural changes envisaged to counter patriarchal mindsets and institutions.
- ✓ Commission on Status of Women not used to guide making of the agreements.
- ✓ Gender equality does not form the bedrock of any agreement.

Evidence:

- Gender is an adjunct, clubbed with other marginalised groups.
- Lack of strong language around gender-responsive policies.
- Lack of gender-based data to guide decisions.
- There are no gender-specific commitments targets and/or indicators.
- States are not held accountable for promoting gender equality.
- Means of implementation, especially finance and technology, are silent on gender.
- Negligible presence of women on decision-making tables of these agreements.

What we want from global leaders

- Decouple gender from other marginal groups, recognising the triple bottomline of poverty, ethnicity and gender.
- Ensure gender equality in the language of the agreements.
- Gender equality must guide means of implementation, targets and indicators.
- Hold member-states accountable on equal access to decision-making and benefit-sharing.
- Mandate sex-differentiated data in vulnerability assessments and empowerment indices.
- Bring women's voices to the global decision-making tables; also for benchmarking, monitoring, evaluation, learning and dissemination. (11 of 145 world leaders were women at COP21 in Paris).
- Converge Sendai, Climate and Development agreements to achieve *gender-responsive resilient development* across all, 'esply natural resources-based, sectors.

Our role for gender equality in global accords

*The trend-line for gender equality is on the upswing...
but voices are still too few, faint and geographically dispersed*

- These are dynamic documents; actions to be taken by national governments.
- Know what our governments are doing on the accords.
- Promote research and studies.
- Gather evidences on impacts, actions, indicators, innovations....
- Take the lead at local, sub-national, national, regional, global levels.
- Strengthen our organised voices across regions and across countries.
- Expand our circle of influence, increase sensitivity, through broad-based engagement.
- Continue the dialogue.....

Thank you for your patience!

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