

# Second Policy Forum on Exploring Climate Change, Gender and Technology Nexus

5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Seoul, Republic of Korea (31<sup>st</sup> floor, Mozart Hall, Hotel President)

## Concept Note

### **I. Background and rationale**

Tackling climate change and building resilient societies in the post-pandemic era require a concerted global effort to prioritise green and just transitions while integrating climate considerations into all policy decisions. The Paris Agreement emphasises the interconnectedness of climate action, sustainable development, and a fair workforce transition that provides decent work and quality jobs for everyone.<sup>1</sup> Achieving a just transition calls for an inclusive approach that ensures the shift toward a green economy occurs equitably, leaving no one behind.

There is a growing global realisation that women's participation and leadership in green technology and climate action are vital for driving transformative change. Gender-responsive and women-led initiatives have widely demonstrated their success in the new energy space, including providing sustainable energy solutions at the community, regional, and national levels.

Moreover, women are also increasingly active in the energy workforce and as entrepreneurs in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), contributing to economic growth and industrial development. The dialogue on gender and energy has shifted from women being identified only as victims or as a vulnerable group to their recognition as significant agents of change as consumers, producers, innovators, and decision makers across the energy sector.

Technology, in fact, has the potential to contribute to achieving net-zero goals by greening industries and economies. However, it is important to note that technology is not gender neutral. Women's participation in the STEM and energy sectors, which underpin these transitions, remains significantly low, despite the fact that both women and men possess important skills for achieving a green economy.

The development of green sectors, while ensuring a just transition of the workforce and enterprises, whether in the energy sector or those related to the manufacturing of green products, holds significant potential for addressing gender inequalities. This potential can be realised by establishing equality of opportunity and treatment for women and men as a specific focus and goal from the outset. Such an approach presents an opportunity to prevent

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<sup>1</sup>Paris Agreement 2015, available at:

[https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris\\_nov\\_2015/application/pdf/paris\\_agreement\\_english\\_.pdf?gclid=CjwKCAjwvpCkBhB4EiwAujULMqrvn4LHNhc4qEaqkWoUttjH4dXYflrsIRI-Uk-nB46SZGBFJE9HHRoClhgQAvD\\_BwE](https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_english_.pdf?gclid=CjwKCAjwvpCkBhB4EiwAujULMqrvn4LHNhc4qEaqkWoUttjH4dXYflrsIRI-Uk-nB46SZGBFJE9HHRoClhgQAvD_BwE)

the perpetuation of sectoral and occupational segregation, eliminate wage and skills gaps, establish inclusive social dialogue, improve working conditions, and enhance social protection.

However, there is a scarcity of studies on the role of gender equality in green innovation, and further exploration is needed to understand how gender perspectives can be mainstreamed in science and technology.

Against this backdrop, UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality is organising the Policy Forum to explore the interconnectedness of women, technology, and climate action in driving positive change. The Forum aims to bridge existing gaps by examining the role of gender equality in green innovation and exploring strategies to mainstream gender perspectives in science and technology.

## **II. Objectives**

- A. Facilitate discussions on the importance of transitioning to sustainable, low-carbon economies and the role of women in driving this transition.
- B. Address energy transition: Examine the gender dimensions of energy access, renewable energy deployment, and energy efficiency, and explore ways to ensure equal opportunities for women in the energy sector.
- C. Foster dialogues on mainstreaming gender in climate action and green technology developments: Explore the benefits of gender mainstreaming in policy-making, project design, and implementation to enhance the effectiveness and inclusivity of climate actions.

## **III. Expected outcomes**

- A. Increased awareness: Raise awareness among participants about the interconnectedness of women's empowerment, technology, and climate action.
- B. Knowledge sharing: Facilitate the exchange of best practices, lessons learned, and research findings on gender-responsive climate projects, green technological innovation, and sustainable development.
- C. Enhanced partnerships: Foster new partnerships and collaborations among the stakeholders.

## **IV. Target audience**

The forum will bring together government officers in charge of managing gender equality programmes at national and local levels, development partners, members of the diplomatic community and civil society actors.

## Agenda

Time	Program
10:30 a.m. 10:40 a.m.	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jeongshim Lee, Director, UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality</li> </ul> <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anne Juepner, Director, UNDP Seoul Policy Centre</li> </ul>
10:40 a.m. 10:55 a.m.	<p><b>Session 1: What are the key drivers and challenges for mainstreaming gender perspective in climate change and technology nexus?</b></p> <p>Keynote Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Understanding the gendered dimensions of climate change” <i>Maria Holtsberg, Regional Advisor, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</i></li> </ul>
10:55 a.m. 11:40 a.m.	<p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Empowering women and girls for an inclusive, resilient, and green development in Asia and the Pacific region” <i>Zonibel Woods, Senior Social Development Specialist, Gender Equality Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, Asian Development Bank</i></li> <li>“Harnessing co-benefits for a just and green transition” <i>Helena McLeod, Deputy Director General and Head of Green Growth Planning and Implementation, Global Green Growth Institute</i></li> <li>“Gender mainstreaming in climate technology cooperation” <i>Chaewoon Oh, Principal Researcher, National Institute of Green Technology</i></li> </ul>
11:40 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Discussion and Q&A / Moderator: Maria Holtsberg, Regional Advisor, UN Women
12:15 p.m. 13:35 p.m.	Lunch
13:35 p.m. 14:35 p.m.	<p><b>Session 2: Gender responsive climate change Initiatives and projects</b></p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Gender, smart city and ESG: Cities’ gender-responsive action on climate change” <i>Jung Sook Park, Secretary General, World Smart Sustainable Cities Organisation (WeGO)</i></li> <li>“Mainstreaming gender issues in technology-based climate action” <i>Tiffany Hodgson, Head of Sustainability and Inclusion, Office of Sustainability and Inclusion, Green Climate Fund Secretariat</i></li> <li>“Promoting women’s access to renewable energy for economic empowerment in Viet Nam” <i>Nguyen Van Anh, Director of Help for indigenous value promotion and sustainable Environment</i></li> <li>“Gendered Plastics: Identifying gender gaps in the plastic value chain and circular economy in Korea” <i>Jooyoung Park, Associate Professor, Seoul National University</i></li> </ul>
14:35 p.m. 15:00 p.m.	Discussion and Q&A / Moderator: Heisook Lee, President, GISTeR

\* Simultaneous interpretation from English to Korean, and vice versa will be available.