Gender Events at UNEA-2
25-27 May 2016

Overview and Outcomes
Summary of Events

**Women & Sustainable Energy Sustainable Innovation Expo**  
**Tuesday 24 May 2016**  
Empowering women entrepreneurs for SDG delivery. Focus on sustainable entrepreneurship in the energy sector.

**High Level Gender & Environment Forum**  
**Tuesday 24 May 2016**  
Achieving transformative results for gender equality for a “Healthy Environment-Healthy People”. Held in collaboration with the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment and supporting partners.

**Global Gender & Environment Outlook Critical Issues Launch**  
**Wednesday 25 May 2016**  
The critical issues launch of the first comprehensive global assessment of the gender-and-environment nexus.

**Network of Women Ministers & Leaders for the Environment: Breakfast meeting**  
**Thursday 26 May 2016**  
Closed event
1. Women Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Energy

Theme/Key Messages:

• Women’s potential to accelerate sustainable energy access in context of joint UNEP - UN Women programme.
• Achievement of multiple SDGs (climate change, sustainable energy, gender equality).
• Women disproportionately bear burden of energy poverty: health and safety risks from household air pollution, carrying heavy fuel loads, lack of lighting.
• Women can be powerful agents of change in the transition to clean energy.
• Potential of women as sustainable energy entrepreneurs unrealized.

Presenters:

• Ms. Patricia Beneke (UNEP Regional Office, North America).
• M.P. Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, UNEA-1 president, fmr Minister of Environment, Mongolia.
• H.E. Mr. Ohn Win, Union for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar.
• Mr. Cheikh Fofana, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal.
• Ms. Christine Kalui, African Eco-labelling Mechanism/Eco Mark Africa Secretariat.
• Ms. Norine Kennedy, United States Council for International Business.
2. High Level Gender and Environment Forum

Theme:

Gender and Environment in context of Agenda 2030 implementation

Focus:

- Setting the scene for gender-environment issues
- Addressing the challenges by learning from each other

Presenters:

- Ms. Haddijatou Jallow, Environment Protection Agency, Sierra Leone (chair)
- Dr. Musonda Mumba, UNEP (moderator)
- Dr. Margaret W. Mwakima, Ministry of Environment, Kenya
- H.E. Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, President, UNEA
- H.E. Flavia Nabugere, Minister of State for Environment, Uganda, NWMLE Chair
- Ms. Kerstin Stendahl, Secretariat of Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
- Dr. Cristina Tirado-von der Pahlen, International Union for Nutritional Sciences
- Prof. Joni Seager, Global Gender and Environment Outlook
- Ms. Almas Jiwani, Almas Jiwani Foundation
- Dr. Juana Vera Delgado, Gender and Water Alliance
- Mr. Daniel Wanjohi, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves
- Ms. Helen Hakena, PNG Women Major Group
Recommendations

Energy and Water

• 14 of 17 SDG have implications for water, 10 for clean cooking.
• Access to safe, sustainable energy (household, transportation, income generation) essential for human health and climate.
• Gender dimensions are key; until we understand the social, economic, physical burden for women that lack of access to safe, sustainable energy/water constitutes we will fail to the resolve environmental burden.

• National programs/budgets should be gender responsive and environmentally sustainable.
• Energy plans and policies should be informed by sex-disaggregated data and target women's needs/priorities to ensure equitable access.
• Gender barriers to sustainable energy finance should be dismantled to ensure equal entrepreneurship opportunities in sustainable energy for women and men.
Women and Chemicals

• Women’s right to a healthy environment is essential to address negative health impact from e.g. hazardous chemicals.

• Essential for protecting children’s health; up to 33% of women’s toxic body burden can be transferred to children.

• Need to phase out hazardous chemicals and ensure gender perspective in chemical management, including strong gender-mandate for Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Forests

• Caution against unregulated, unethical multi-stakeholder partnerships that could cause more harm to marginalized communities esp. women.

• Real champions on gender equality and women’s rights ensure policies are implemented. UNEA can strengthen gender language across different Resolutions, in line with MEAs.
3. Global Gender and Environment Outlook (G GEO) Critical Issues Launch

Key Points
- A pivotal report for next generation of inclusive environmental assessment and decision-making.
- G GEO calls for recognition of key role of women in driving sustainable development.
- Need support so that G GEO recommendations are translated into global/local action.
- G GEO lessons and further development to be taken into all other GEO products.
- G GEO to be institutionalized into UNEP global assessment framework and contribute to 2030 Agenda Review.

Presenters
- Mr. Elliot Harris, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director, New York Office, UNEP
- Ms. Simone Ellis Oluoch-Olunya, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women, Eastern and Southern Africa
- Ambassador Victor C. Rønneberg, Ambassador of Norway to Kenya
- Ms. Jacqueline McGlade (Chief Scientist and Director, Division of Early Warning & Assessment, UNEP)
Key G GEO findings:

- Existing environmental and gender commitments by governments need to be followed up and implemented.
- Adequate funding/resources will contribute to improvement and progress in developing and implementing gender-sensitive environmental policies.
- Gender-sensitive environmental assessments needed at national and international levels.
- Gender-disaggregated information essential.
- Essential to promote and support women’s voices, leadership and agency.

- Important to bring men/boys, women/girls into gender-environment conversation.
- Enabling conditions for large-scale transformations with respect to the environment and gender need to be created.
- Issues of unpaid work and time poverty need to be addressed.

The G GEO can be downloaded at: www.unep.org/ggeo.
4. Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment Breakfast Meeting

• Network est. 2002

• **Goal**: promote gender responsive sustainable environmental management and enhance representation of women in decision-making areas of environment and sustainable development at all levels.

• **Participants**: environment ministers, heads of delegations and government, heads of environment agencies, international civil society and UN agencies.
Presenters

• H.E. Amina J Mohammed, Minister for Environment, Nigeria
• H.E. Flavia Nabugere, Minister of State for Environment, Uganda, NWMLE Chair
• Dr. Margaret W. Mwakima, Ministry of Environment, Kenya
• Dr. Yannick Glemarec, UN Women
• Ms. Inger Andersen, International Union for Conservation of Nature
• Ms. Naoko Ishii, Global Environment Facility
• H.E. Mr. Mona Ioane, Associate Minister for Environment, Cook Islands
• Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific
• Dr. Masoumeh Ebtekar, Minister for Environment, Iran
• Ms. Haddijatou Jallow, Environment Protection Agency, Sierra Leone
• Ms. Almas Jiwani, Almas Jiwani Foundation
• Ms. Norine Kennedy, US Council for International Business
• Prof. Joni Seager, Global Gender and Environment Outlook
• H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union
Recommendations

• Support gender equitable implementation of SDGs by:
  • Promoting gendered aspects of SDGs into HLPF.
  • Advocating for reporting on gender targets in environmental goals of SDGs.
  • Continued leadership on climate change; more active role in Lima Gender Work Program.
• Accelerate gender equality through partnerships, focus on multi-stakeholder transformative programs.
• Women’s inclusion must be meaningful; global goals cannot be achieved without women.
• More transparency and accountability.
• Focus on women is smart economics; a risk smart approach.
• Bring about change in attitudes, behaviors, to transform ideas and mentalities (local, national and regional).
• Central role of private sector in achieving SDGs (public-private partnerships, policy input, closing finance/technical capacity gaps).
Recommendations (cont.)

Africa Network for Women Environment Leaders:
• Domesticate global/regional agendas at country level; ensure focus on environmental sustainability, gender equality.
• Promote women’s participation in environmental decision making bodies.
• Examine/revise national policies to ensure they are in line with regional/global agendas; promote gender responsive environmental sustainability.
• Policy coherence within countries essential.
• Work with UN in developing/applying tools to monitor progress towards implementation of global/regional goals in national contexts.
• Explore technical areas of work on gender responsive natural capital accounting and quantifying women’s contribution to natural capital.
• Make gender equality perspective part of all environmental assessments/outlook reports.
• UNEP should accelerate development of roadmap looking at Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and Africa Adaptation Initiative as entry points.
• Two page strategy on gender integration in AMCEN and AU work to be drafted.
• African ministers could ask for support for energy solutions.
Engangement & Momentum

- A strong overall momentum for gender and environment
- Large turnout of men and women
- Time for further partnerships and concrete commitment on gender as a factor in the activities of UNEP and beyond