

LIBREVILLE OUTCOME STATEMENT ON WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN AFRICA



Women Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Energy Workshop

Radisson Blu Hotel,
Libreville, Gabon.
13-14 June 2017



UNITED NATIONS
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The Workshop on “Women Entrepreneurs and Sustainable Energy” was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Libreville, Gabon on 13-14 June 2017 with the theme “**Unlocking Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in Sustainable Energy**”. This was held under the auspices of sixteenth African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN 16).

The Workshop was attended by representatives from governments, non- government organizations, civil society, financiers, women entrepreneurs, multi-lateral agencies, private sectors, Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The participants expressed their appreciation to the Government of Gabon for hosting the Workshop and to the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iceland, United Nations University-Gender Equality Studies and Training (UNU-GEST), UN Women and Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) for the excellent organization of the Workshop.

The participants at this workshop;

Recognizing the critical role played by women entrepreneurs in sustainable energy in Africa and their efforts to scale up energy access, conserve the environment and address climate change challenges;

Concerned about the challenges faced by women in accessing resources such as land, finance and information to facilitate their engagement in sustainable energy initiatives;

Further concerned about the current limited participation of women in decision-making and policy processes at the community, national, sub-regional and regional levels in the energy sector;

Welcome the African Union Declaration on 2015 as the Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa Agenda 2063;

Mindful of Goal 7 environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities and Goal 17 on full gender equality in all spheres of life;

Take note of the resolutions and decisions made in the preceding year during the 6th Special Session of the AMCEN, Decision of the Committee of Africa Heads of State and Governments on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) to develop Women and Gender Programme on Climate Change (CWGPCC) to engage women and gender in climate change related action;

Further take note of the extension of the Lima Work Programme on Gender at United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) 22 Decision 21/CP.22;

Further recognize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts);

Consequently, we, the participants at this workshop, recommend the following actions to our African Governments:

Environmentally sustainable and gender responsive energy policies

- a. Develop and operationalise environmentally sustainable gender responsive energy policies and mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment commitments into means of implementation, budgets, social protection mechanisms and investments.
- b. Develop and operationalise environmentally sustainable and gender responsive accountability frameworks to monitor and report on the gender impacts, targets and results of energy policies.
- c. Promote enabling policy mechanisms informed by gender analysis and sex- and age- disaggregated data to accelerate the sustainable growth of micro, small, medium and large women-led enterprises across the energy value chain.
- d. Develop and operationalise affirmative actions and accountability mechanisms that will facilitate the effective participation of women entrepreneurs in policy making processes.
- e. Strengthen the role of UN Environment and other development partners to play a catalytic role in supporting national governments to harmonise, develop and operationalise cross cutting integrated policies that link energy, environment, gender, finance and other line agencies, and support the translation of such policies in Nationally Determined Contributions.

Access to finance and markets for women energy entrepreneurs across the value chain

- a. Remove barriers that hinder women entrepreneurs access to affordable finance by promoting innovative financial mechanisms
- b. Facilitate access to finance from multi-lateral agencies and development partners (e.g. GEF, GCF, World Bank, AfDB, EU, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iceland, Sida, NORAD and others) to support women entrepreneurship development programmes in the energy sector.
- c. Promote an inclusive enabling environment through instruments such as a guarantee facility that allows women to effectively compete in sustainable energy markets.
- d. Develop and implement GEF Energy Impact Programme and others that promote women's entrepreneurship across sustainable energy value chains in Africa.

Capacity building, skills creation and empowerment for women entrepreneurs

- a. Integrate gender and sustainable energy curricula into educational programmes from primary school level to universities, including vocational and technical training institutions.
- b. Develop and operationalise capacity development programmes (scholarships, mentoring, internships and others) that will enhance the skills, knowledge and employability of women in the energy sector.

c. Sensitize the general public, including men and boys, on the importance of integrating women and girls in the energy sector.

d. Establish a network of African Women Entrepreneurs in the Energy Sector to exchange, learn and share knowledge and resources.

14 June 2017

Libreville, Gabon