Promoting participation of Grassroots Women in International Climate Policy Development

Climate and Gender Workshop: Implementing the Paris Agreement

Irish Aid, Monday 9th April 2018
Participation of Grassroots Women

The Principles of Climate Justice state that the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes which are fair, accountable, open and corruption-free is essential to the growth of a culture of climate justice.

The participation of women, and in particular local or grassroots women, in decisions that impact their lives is central to this principle.
Women’s Participation: Learning from Community Experiences
Recommendations

1. Increase the participation of women in climate actions at all levels
2. Understand the context in relation to women’s ability to Participate
3. Shift the emphasis from women’s representation to meaningful participation in climate actions
4. Invest in training and capacity building to enable meaningful participation
5. Document the good work that is going on to enable women’s participation.
Recommendations

I. Enabling regular consultations between women’s organisations / grassroots women and Party delegations at national level and in the context of the UNFCCC to inform climate policy

II. Establishing an online platform under the UNFCCC to share views, knowledge and experiences related to local and traditional knowledge, needs and concerns

III. Requesting the secretariat to maintain a roster of representatives of local women’s organisations, including grassroots and indigenous women, which is periodically updated and used to facilitate grassroots women’s participation

IV. Organising dedicated events to allow for the exchange of information, best practices and experiences in local and grassroots participation in and gender-responsive approaches (co-organised, for example, by the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC), the Global Gender Climate Change Alliance (GGCA) and the UNFCCC secretariat)

V. Establishing a voluntary fund to facilitate participation and capacity building for local and grassroots women to engage in the UNFCCC.
Parties should, where appropriate, include grassroots women from climate impacted communities as part of their delegations to COP and Subsidiary Body meetings of the UNFCCC.

This would serve a dual function of sensitising negotiators to the needs of communities in their country while also empowering the grassroots participants to participate in discussions.
Paris Climate Agreement:

“Parties should when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity”.

Decision 21/CP.22 Gender and Climate Change

24. Also encourages Parties to integrate local and traditional knowledge in the formulation of climate policy and to recognize the value of the participation of grassroots women in gender-responsive climate action at all levels;

Decision 2/CP.23 Local communities and Indigenous peoples platform

Decides that the overall purposes of the platform will be to strengthen the knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, to facilitate the exchange of experience and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned related to mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner and to enhance the engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC process;
May 2016 in-session workshop of the LWPG
Sustainable Energy for All- Leaving No One Behind
European Parliament hearing on Women, Gender Equality and Climate Justice
Listening and Learning – a climate justice dialogue with grassroots women
"It is important to build bridges, fill gaps and engage communities from the earliest stages of climate policy design and action."

Noreen McAteer, National Elder Native Women's Assoc of Canada, at in-session workshop of the UNFCCC on the development of a Gender Action Plan
Troika + of Women Leaders on Gender and Climate Change
Development and Climate Days

CLIMATE JUSTICE

RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS

PUT PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

INFORMATION IS POWER!
Climate Justice Dialogue at CSW 62
Demonstrate the value of grassroots women’s participation

H1. Why support grassroots women’s participation?

Hypothesis: Grassroots women’s participation in climate-related decision making is important because it is based on different, gendered, and lived experiences of climate change.

H2. What can support to grassroots women’s participation achieve?

Hypothesis: Grassroots women’s increased participation at global level can reshape climate decision making and provide a positive feedback loop to institutionalising women’s participation in climate mitigation and adaptation at national and sub-national level.

H3. How can grassroots women’s participation be effectively supported towards these achievements?

Hypothesis: Grassroots women lack voice and political power and therefore strategic
Questions?