

# GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice Annual Report 2008 / 2009 / 2010



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## Preface

Dear Members,

At the end of COP15, we stated in our final press release:

“After weeks of negotiations, the outcome of COP15 is extremely disappointing. There are no firm and worthwhile commitments, only the acknowledgement of a declaration, which states that global temperature rise should not exceed 2°. Yet the atmosphere does not act under orders. It's us humans who ought to act, but the declaration remains silent on commitments. During the last days of the negotiations gender language was also watered down in the various draft texts. In particular, it is absent in mitigation and financing. However, if the gender language would have been stronger, it wouldn't have been a reason to celebrate, though, because it can only be as good as the overall outcomes of the meeting.”

In the meantime, the UNFCCC is headed by a new Secretary General, Christiana Figueres, who in a meeting with civil society groups said that negotiations can be much more effective if we recognize a paradigm change based on responsibility to future generations (see press release from the Women & Gender Constituency @ UNFCCC Press release, Bonn, August 6, 2010).

But still, the most important questions haven't been answered, and neither a fundamental change nor a clear strategy on how to reach a fair and ambitious agreement (at least within the next year!) are visible. Now, as we are approaching COP16, no-one is expecting a 'deal', particularly as the last elections in the US indicate that it becomes more and more difficult. At the same time, local, regional and national initiatives and activities become more and more important. In this context, GenderCC's Focal Points and Steering Group Members initiated national dialogues on 'gender and cc' in various countries, e.g. in Bangladesh, Kenya and South Africa.

Still, we believe that it is important to strive for an international agreement reflecting women's rights, gender justice and climate justice, and Cancún might at least bear the chance to convince more delegates to make a difference by integrating gender on all levels of climate policy-making.

There is no climate justice without gender justice!

Marion Rolle / GenderCC-Coordinator

## **Retrospective: GenderCC's first Year (2008)**

In 2008, GenderCC has been formally registered as a legal entity (not-for-profit NGO) under German law (a „eingetragener Verein“, e.V.). Right after registering the organisation we started to set up a coordination office in Berlin, Germany. It was initially staffed only by a student @ 10hrs / week; since April 2009, the organisation has been able to employ a network coordinator (@ 20-26hrs / week). All three Board Members (Gotelind Alber, Minu Hemmati, Ulrike Röhr) have supported the coordination work, adding their expertise to preparing and implementing GenderCC activities.

The organisation's activities included in particular: supporting the participation of women and gender experts in environmental and climate change related decision-making, planning and implementation; and setting up a network of regional and thematic Focal Points around the world (Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America, and the Pacific). The Focal Points have together formed the international GenderCC Steering Committee, which is engaged in strategy development for integrating gender justice in local, national and international climate policy, and awareness raising and capacity building at local, national and regional levels.

In addition, GenderCC has been accredited as an Observer Organisation to the UNFCCC, and took part in the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP14) of the UNFCCC in Poznan, Poland. An impressive number of different activities were made possible with the help of funding GenderCC received from Oxfam Novib and DEZA and the cooperation with LIFE, enabling us to finance the participation of 13 women from developing countries, 3 women from industrialized countries and several interns at COP14. Our work in Poznan gave us the opportunity of further develop and strengthen the GenderCC network.

### **Some examples....**

#### **International Conference: Gender Justice in Times of a Changing Climate (5 December 2008, COP 14, December 2008, Poznan)**

The conference, hosted by LIFE and GenderCC and funded by the German Environmental Ministry, was a great success: about 100 participants animatedly discussed how climate change causes different forms of injustice and how to address these. The discussion centred on the special needs of each region and their recommendations for the international level, the challenges presented by efforts to integrate gender into climate change policy and on how to pick promising strategies to further these ends.

#### **Side Event (EU Pavilion): Gender justice in climate change policy (1 December 2008)**

GenderCC's first event at COP14 on the need to include women's perspectives into climate related policies engaged more than 100 participants in a lively discussion about gender and climate change. GenderCC members and other experts gave inputs on the gender aspects of adaptation and mitigation and how they should be taken into account in the negotiations.

### **Action: Women's Rights Up - Emissions Down” (11 December 2008)**

Members of GenderCC stood at the entrance to the UNFCCC area with a placard and chanted the slogan "women's rights up - emissions down". The media reacted very positively to this action and various interviews were solicited during the last two days of the conference.

### **Video documentation and podcasts**

A film-maker from South Africa, funded by the German Ministry of the Environment, filmed GenderCC activities in Poznan and produced a 17-minute documentary. She also interviewed some of the network members. These interviews can be accessed on the GenderCC website as 3-4 minute podcasts. GenderCC members give testimony on the impacts of and climate change in their region and present their coping strategies.

### **Interventions and submissions**

Intervention during the final plenary (12 December 2008):

Svetlana Slesarenok of the Black Sea Women's Club, who attended the Poznan conference as part of the WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future delegation presented a clearly stated, emotionally moving intervention on behalf of the Women's Caucus, which was greeted with strong applause.

### **GenderCC Submission on REDD**

GenderCC handed in a submission on REDD to the UNFCCC secretariat. The submission states that market-based instruments usually strengthen those who are already active in the market, mainly those who, in the past, helped to create the problem in the first place (e.g. avoidance of deforestation). The submission demands a gender assessment of all measures, and opposes the support of plantations as a contribution to reforestation.



## **Establishing the Organisation: GenderCC's Activities in 2009**

As described in the previous Annual Report, GenderCC has a coordination office in Berlin. Staff includes a coordinator (@ 26 hrs / week), a support person (@ 10 hrs / week) and sometimes an intern. The office is mostly dealing with coordinating the international network, supporting partners in developing countries and their participation at national and international conferences on climate change; servicing members and dealing with membership issues; and fundraising for sustaining the work at international and regional levels. All three Board Members have continuously supported the coordination work.

Much of the work focused on participating at the international climate conferences (especially COP15, Copenhagen) as well as establishing and supporting the GenderCC regional and thematic Focal Points around the world.

The Focal Points have together formed the international GenderCC Steering Committee, which is engaged in strategy development for integrating gender justice in local, national and international climate policy, and awareness raising and capacity building at local, national and regional levels. A joint strategy document was discussed at several strategy sessions and agreed in 2009.

([http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/Network/GenderCC-Strategy\\_web.pdf](http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/Network/GenderCC-Strategy_web.pdf)).

### **Fundraising**

In 2009, GenderCC was able to raise money mostly earmarked for the purposes of influencing the international climate negotiations, aiming to integrate gender perspective and issues of gender justice. Funds were dedicated to supporting developing country members and other women and gender experts in participating at international climate conferences and being active there, particularly at the UNFCCC conferences in December 2009 in Copenhagen.

At the same time, we worked to raise funds for activities in 2010/11. We were successful in securing a grant from the German Ministry for Technical Cooperation and Development (BMZ), earmarked for developing the Focal Point in South Africa, working with women and communities, and for supporting the international coordination of the network from the Berlin office. We also submitted a number of other funding applications, including to a range of small foundations, Oxfam Novib, NORAD, and the International Climate Initiative of the German Ministry for Environment (BMU).

### **Raising Awareness and Disseminating Information**

The organisations website at [www.gendercc.net](http://www.gendercc.net) was continuously expanded and updated. It provides information about the participation of women and gender experts at the UN climate conferences; about key issues under discussion there; and about gender aspects of main areas of climate policymaking. The website offers a data base of references, and a database of case studies. It provides information about public campaigns and the GenderCC network and organisation itself.

The GenderCC email list has been continued; at the end of 2009 it already had about 400 members.

In order to spread information about climate change and its linkages to gender justice, we held speeches, participated in panel discussions and organised and co-organised conferences, e.g. in New Delhi, Bangladesh, Copenhagen, Oslo, Cochabamba, Berlin and Bonn.

Moreover, we produced a flyer about goals and activities of GenderCC, and published a „Toolkit for Decision Makers“ at national and international levels. Translations into French, Spanish and German are being prepared and will be available in digital editions at COP16. In addition, a number of articles were published in newspapers and magazines, e.g. in the *inkota-Dossier 4* and the magazine of iz3w (Informationszentrum 3. Welt - 3rd World Information Centre).

### **GenderCC at the UN climate conferences**

GenderCC was represented with a delegation of women at most of the negotiating sessions of the UNFCCC in 2009, with a majority of delegates coming from developing countries. Sessions included:

- AWG-KP 7 and AWG-LCA 5 (March 29 - April 08 2009, Bonn, Germany)
- SB 30 (June 01-12 2009, Bonn)
- Informal meeting of the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP (August 10-14 2009, Bonn)
- AWG-KP 9 and AWG-LCA 7 (Sept 28 - Oct 09 2009, Bangkok, Thailand)
- Resumed AWG-LCA 7 and AWG-KP 9 (Nov 02-06 2009, Barcelona, Spain)
- COP15/CMP5 (Dec 07-18 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark)

Activities included holding Side Events, maintaining an information and exhibition booth, press briefings, campaign actions and demonstrations. The following will provide more detail on a few examples of this work at COP15 in Copenhagen in December 2009.

### **... Some examples from COP15/CMP5 in Copenhagen, Denmark**

#### **Daily Women's Caucus**

GenderCC organised the daily Women's Caucus meeting, dedicated to networking and coordination among the women and gender experts present at the COP. Lobbying points and strategies are being discussed, joint meetings and campaign actions are agreed and prepared.

#### **Side event: „Lessons learnt from gendered development cooperation?“ (Dec 14, 2009)**

GenderCC organised a Side Event discussing the question of „Lessons learnt from gendered development cooperation?“ in order to reflect upon experiences among development organisations such as Oxfam Novib and CARE USA) and extract conclusions for the work in the climate process, and for adaptation and mitigation activities at local and national levels. Dorah Lebelo (GenderCC / GreenHouse Project South Africa) facilitated the event that was attended by over 100 people. In addition, the session was recorded and web-cast by the UNFCCC Secretariat ([http://cop15.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/cop15/templ/play.php?id\\_kongresssession=2543&theme=unfccc](http://cop15.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/cop15/templ/play.php?id_kongresssession=2543&theme=unfccc)).

## **Workshop at Klimaforum: „Gender, Climate Change and International Climate Negotiations in action“ (Dec 08, 2009)**

The workshop „Gender, Climate Change and International Climate Negotiations in Action“, attended by about 40 participants, was designed to introduce the topics of gender, climate change and climate policy, and discuss concrete activities. Four members of the GenderCC network made presentations about the situation in their countries, local activities and concrete demands from their perspectives.

### **Information dissemination**

The GenderCC information booth served as a meeting point where materials were shared and conversations initiated with delegates from around the world. We also celebrated the „Gender Champion of the Week“ award to delegates who had been particularly active in supporting the integration of gender justice in the negotiations.

The toolkit “gender into climate policy”, published 2009, has become an important vehicle of GenderCC’s awareness raising work. The toolkit covers issues under negotiation in the UN climate process, including the causes of climate change and mitigation measures. It offers recommendations for gender sensitive technology transfer and financing mechanisms. It also includes tools and methods for gender mainstreaming in national and international climate policy and describes principles of gender sensitive communication. Finally, it includes dates and facts on gender and climate related issues (<http://www.gendercc.net/resources/gender-tools.html>).

Official statements and press briefings highlighted issues of gender sensitive adaptation measures and adaptation funding as well as integrating the demand for gender justice in the „Shared Vision“ document, under negotiation for articulating a joint vision for a future climate regime. Andrea Guzmán (Bolivia) made a statement on behalf of GenderCC during the opening plenary of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action.

Results of the Copenhagen Conference were disseminated via the GenderCC website and by GenderCC members in their regions and beyond. We also published several magazine articles.



## Perspectives 2010

Due to the fact that the UN COP in Copenhagen did not achieve a binding agreement, GenderCC is continuing its work in the UNFCCC process in 2010, and beyond, as necessary. At the same time, we put an emphasis on national and regional activities, as well as on further strengthening our outreach activities.

The **International Secretariat** worked specifically on developing the Steering Group's internal communication in order to establish and carry out its guiding functions. Moreover, the Secretariat developed the service for members, as well as GenderCC's outreach: The first electronic GenderCC Newsletter was published in May 2010. It is a quarterly publication providing information about GenderCC activities, current developments, new publications and events dealing with gender and climate. Again, the work of the Secretariat wouldn't have been possible without the support of the **Board**, as well as several interns.

GenderCC's **Focal Points** as well as Members of the **Steering Group** concentrated on their work at the regional and national levels. We regard this as very important so as to maintain a strong linkage to local communities, particularly the women in local communities, and to support them in their activities. In various regions, Focal Points / Steering Group Members organised national dialogues on the integration of gender into national climate policy, e.g. in Bangladesh, Kenya and South Africa. Furthermore, in January 2010, a project funded by the German Ministry for Technical Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has started in **South Africa**, focusing on information, awareness raising and capacity building in various communities across the country.

Finally, we were successful in securing a grant from the International Climate Initiative of the German Ministry for Environment (BMU). Thus, activities started in mid-November on international level, as well as nationally in **Bangladesh** and the **Pacific region**. Other funds were raised for the carrying out a workshop on 'Research' in Bonn, in June (see below; Funds coming from Bread for the World and the EED, Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst), and for providing a French, German and Spanish version of our toolkit "Gender into climate policy" (Funds coming from the EED and the Foundation 'Umverteilen').

A smaller fund, coming from the GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, Funds was dedicated to supporting developing country members and other women and gender experts in participating at the UNFCCC conference in December 2010 in Cancún.

### GenderCC at the UN climate conferences

UNFCCC- Sessions in 2010 included:

- AWG-KP 11 und AWG-LCA 9 (April 09-11 2010, Bonn)
- 32nd session of the UNFCCC Convention Subsidiary Bodies, Bonn 31 May to 11 June 2010
- 13 session of the AWG-KP and the 11th session of the AWG-LCA, Bonn, 2 August to 6 August 2010

- 14th session of the AWG-KP and the 12th session of the AWG-LCA, Tianjin, 4 to 9 October 2010
- COP16/CMP6 (Nov / Dec 2010, Cancún, Mexico)

Activities included holding Side Events, maintaining an information and exhibition booth, interventions, press briefings, campaign actions and demonstrations. The following will provide more detail on a few examples of this work.

### ... Some examples

#### **07 June 2010: “Gender and climate change research: gaps, questions, and potentials”**

GenderCC held a side event on “Gender and climate change research: gaps, questions, and potentials”, co-hosted by LIFE, WECF, BRIDGE and GDN. The very well-attended side event aimed for introducing and discussing the current state of research within gender and climate change in specific areas, as well as for raising issues and questions and discussing suggestions for improvement. Gotelind Alber provided in her presentation an introduction and background of gender and climate change research while other presentations focused on a variety of issues such as disasters, conflicts and migration (Maira Zahur/ Pakistan), the feasibility of household and community-based projects under the CDM illustrated by examples in the Caucasus and Central Asia (Robert Müller/ WECF), the new Gender and Climate Change Cutting Edge programme of BRIDGE (Alyson Brody). Furthermore the side-event included the results of a Symposium on the same topic which GenderCC had organised beforehand. Panellists concluded together with the participants the event with a discussion on future steps and ways for improvement within the field of gender and climate change.

As a follow-up to the symposium and side event, on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency GenderCC took up the initiative to contact the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), to offer support in any possible way, e.g. to share research findings and references, and to comment on draft reports. Responding to the letter, the IPCC Secretariat welcomed the opportunity for further cooperation, and listed a number of possibilities.

**Submission to the SBSTA: Views and information on the effectiveness of the Nairobi Work Programme (submitted 16 August 2010) see: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/smsn/ngo/189.pdf>**

Views and information on the effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in fulfilling its objective, expected outcome, scope of work and modalities

## Overview on GenderCC's Structure, Governance and Network

### GenderCC Focal Points

Focal Point for Africa: Dorah Lebelo

Focal Point for Asia: Sharmind Neelormi

Focal Point for Latin America: Ana Filippini

Focal Point for North America: Felicia Davis

Focal Point for the Pacific: Koin Etuati

Focal Point for Indigenous People: Anna Pinto

### GenderCC International Steering Group

Ana Filippini (Uruguay); Claudia Gimena Roa Avendano (Columbia); Andrea Isabel Guzmán Arroyo (Bolivia); Anastasia Pinto (India); Annabell Waititu / Eunice Warue (Kenya); Dorah Lebelo (South Africa); Felicia Davis (USA); Gotelind Alber / Minu Hemmati / Ulrike Röhr (Germany); Koin Etuati / Ulamila Wragg (Fiji / Cook Islands); Maira Zahur (Pakistan); Sharmind Neelormi (Bangladesh)

### GenderCC Members

Being a network, our work is based on our members: women and gender activists and experts working for gender and climate justice all over the world.

Our members include:

[Australian Women in Agriculture](#), Australia

[Asian Institute of Technology](#), Thailand

Bao Taab Neere for sustainable development, Burkina Faso

Centre for Global Change (CGC), Bangladesh

[Centre for Research and Education \(CORE\)](#), India

Environment and Development Solutions, Ghana

[Femnet](#), Focal Point Mali

[FundaExpresión](#), Colombia

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), Bangladesh

[Gröna Kvinnor Sverige](#), Sweden

[Institute of Environment and Water](#), Kenya

[Life e.V.](#), Germany

Dr Minu Hemmati, Germany

MUGEDE - Mulher, Género e Desenvolvimento, Mozambique

[Pacific WAVE Media Network](#), Cook Islands

[Solidaritas Perempuan](#), Indonesia

[Stockholm Environment Institute](#), Kenya

Sustainable Energy and Climate Policy, Gotelind Alber, Germany

Sweetafrica, Liberia

[Taiwan Environmental Action Network](#), Taiwan

[Women Environmental Programme](#), Nigeria

[Women's Environment Network Australia](#)

[Women of Colour United](#), USA

[World Rainforest Movement](#), Uruguay

[Zenab for women in development](#), Sudan

And a considerable number of individual members who are not mentioned by name.

Copenhagen 2009: Finland is the “Gender Champion of the Week!”





... now as digital versions also available in  
French, German and Spanish!

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*GenderCC - Women For Climate Justice* is the global network of women's organisations and networks, activists and gender experts from all world regions working for women's rights, gender and climate justice.

### **GenderCC's vision**

*The change we envision is fundamental.* GenderCC believes that in order to achieve women's rights, gender justice and climate justice, fundamental changes are necessary to overcome the existing systems of power, politics, and economics.

The challenges of climate change and gender injustice resemble each other - they require whole system change: not just gender mainstreaming but transforming gender relations and societal structures. Not just technical amendments to reduce emissions, but real mitigation through awareness and change of unsustainable life-styles and the current ideology and practice of unlimited economic growth. Not the perpetuation of the current division of resources and labour but a responsible cooperative approach to achieving sustainable and equitable societies.

We believe that *linking women's rights, gender justice and climate justice* is key to achieving these fundamental changes. This is a question of justice and equity as much as a matter of quality and effectiveness of decisions.