

PRESS RELEASE

GENDER AND CLIMATE – a non-side event

An informal discussion group met in the Parma room on 5th December 2003 on the topic

Is gender an issue in climate change, and if so, how should it be approached?

More than 30 people contributed their views and underlined the lack of gender awareness in the climate change process. Simply stating that both men and women are affected by climate change does not bring out the fact that women are in many cases more vulnerable, and also less involved in the technological changes proposed to mitigate climate change. Climate change is not a gender neutral process and this needs to be explicitly recognised and dealt with.

Five main areas of concern were identified:

1. Lack of gender specificity in the criteria related to the climate change instruments
2. Lack of gender specificity in relation to the vulnerability/adaptation discourse
3. The need for case studies which illustrate both how climate change itself, and how projects (both mitigation and adaptation) affect men and women differently
4. The underlying gender connections between climate change agreements and other international processes such as the CBD, and health related treaties on pesticides etc
5. The lack of participation of women in the whole process.

A number of cross cutting issues were also identified including how to tackle the lack of awareness of these problems at the national and local levels.

It was decided to aim for a one day event at CoP10 to bring all these issues to the greater climate community. Five subgroups were set up to deal with the five themes outlined. The subgroups will meet during the remaining period of CoP9 to plan their inputs to CoP10.

Persons interested in joining the discussions of any of these subgroups will find information about their meetings on the wall at the NGO offices (ground floor). A list serve is being set up and will be managed by ETC, and people who are interested are most welcome to send their contact details to Roselyne vd Heul (r.vanderheul@etcnl.nl) or Leanne Wilson (Leanne@etcuk.org).

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