

Enhancing Gender Balance in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Event organized by the Government of Canada on 5 September 2017

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, Canada.

Information note for delegates of IPCC-46

Context: Advancing the participation of women and under-represented groups in international bodies is a priority for the Government of Canada. With participation from the IPCC, the World Meteorological Organization and Canadian experts, the Government of Canada hosted an event on the margins of IPCC-46 on fostering gender balance in climate research and in the work of the IPCC. The event built on momentum from the “Women Advancing Climate Sciences initiative” championed by Fatima Driouech, Vice-Chair of Working Group I of the IPCC.

Objective: The event focused on best practices, achievements and recent work on the inclusion of gender balance principles under the United Nations structure to explore ways in which to strengthen the contribution of women’s involvement in climate change science and in the IPCC. An invitation to participate in this discussion was extended to all registered delegates of IPCC-46.

Proceedings: Opening statements were given by Martine Dubuc, Associate Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, Hoesung Lee, Chair of the IPCC, Michèle Thibodeau-DeGuire, Principal and Chair of the Board from École Polytechnique de Montréal, Elena Manaenkova, Deputy Secretary-General of the WMO. Final remarks were given by Fatima Driouech who initiated a discussion with participants. Concluding remarks were made by Thelma Krug, IPCC Vice-Chair.

The event was facilitated by the Deputy Secretary of the IPCC Kerstin Stendahl and the Head of Communications and Media Relations Jonathan Lynn. This discussion brought together IPCC-46 delegates from around the world, as well as IPCC observer organizations and representatives from Canadian universities.

Highlights of remarks from panelists:

Martine Dubuc

- Dr. Dubuc highlighted the importance of including Indigenous women in discussions about gender balance and climate science.
- Dr. Dubuc highlighted Canada’s first ever gender balanced cabinet of ministers and noted that the Government of Canada is also increasing efforts to achieve gender parity within deputy positions.
- Dr. Dubuc mentioned Canada’s use of a Gender-Based Analysis Plus framework to identify the potential impacts of policies, programs, and services on diverse groups of women, men, and gender-diverse people while putting special attention on Indigenous women.
- Dr. Dubuc mentioned Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy, which was released last June. This policy outlines Canada’s vision for promoting gender equality and helping empower women and girls around the world.

Hoesung Lee

- Dr. Lee gave an overview of gender-related policies and strategies within the UN system and mentioned that 2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the Economic and Social Council conclusions on mainstreaming a gender perspective, the fifth year since the creation of the UN-SWAP Accountability Framework and the second year since the Sustainable Development Goals were agreed, including Goal 5 specifically on gender.
- The WMO and UNEP have developed gender mainstreaming policies focused on capacity development, human resources, communications, monitoring and compliance and resource

allocation.

- The UNFCCC is developing a gender action plan.
- The IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report considered gender in its conclusions and the Sixth Assessment Report will examine new evidence on how gender as a non-climatic factor can influence climate change vulnerability.
- For IPCC Authors, Dr. Lee noted the improvement on gender balance. For instance, in AR4, 15.5% of CLA and LA were women. In AR5, women represented 21.5% of all Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs), Lead Authors (LA), and Review Editors (RE). Within IPCC structures, the representation of women is as follows: 69% in the Secretariat, 50% in the Technical Support Unit (TSU) Working Group 1 (WG1), 57% in the TSU WG2 and 70% within TSU WG3.

Michèle Thibodeau-DeGuire

- Dr. Thibodeau-DeGuire spoke of activities and initiatives such as the *Folies Techniques* to encourage young girls to learn more about science. The *École Polytechnique* also established the Order of the White Rose - a scholarship for women pursuing studies in engineering.
- The Influence of such interventions at a formative age was stressed as well as the role of mentoring.

Elena Manaenkova

- Dr. Manaenkova spoke about gender within the WMO.
- Her presentation highlighted some key points: Women and men are affected differently by weather and climate. In many parts of the world, women and children suffer disproportionately from natural disasters, especially if they are less mobile and have less access to communications than men. Yet, women are often at the frontline in moving forward with recovery. Women further hold key knowledge in natural resources management and are key actors in climate adaptation and mitigation. Women are a minority in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). They constitute only 30% of the world's researchers in these fields. Women are also under-represented in climate negotiations. At COP21 women accounted for 32% of party delegations. There is a lack of mentoring and support networks. There is a lack of outreach at schools and universities and not many policies that address work-life balance.

Fatima Driouech

- Dr. Driouech spoke about "Women Advancing Climate Sciences initiative". This initiative seeks to increase women's contribution and accomplishments in the domain of climate and climate change sciences including through the participation to activities of the IPCC. Dr. Driouech discussed the Side Event that took place at the UNFCCC COP22 on this topic. Dr. Driouech encouraged participants to reflect on ways in which to improve gender balance in climate and climate change sciences, including participation of women in the IPCC.
- Some ideas include: Sharing experiences and best practices on enhancing gender balance, supporting information exchange, including resources, mentoring and network development, identifying the challenges, gaps and the goals in the IPCC context, developing actions to raise the profile of gender balance in the work of the IPCC. Regional gender imbalances were highlighted and the importance of raising awareness of the value for countries to address this issue in the context of the work of the IPCC work was noted.

Discussion

- Facilitators asked questions to panelists and participants on topics related to the benefits to science when improving gender balance, best practices to encourage gender balance and how gender balance considerations could be applied to the IPCC. The following points were raised during the discussion:
 - The importance of mentoring and raising awareness about gender balance and the need to put a specific focus on developing countries.
 - The need for more aggregated data to highlight regional imbalance.
 - In the context of the IPCC, attention to improving gender balance is relevant for the nomination and selection of authors and participants of scoping meetings and expert meetings, as well as the election of members, Gender balance could also be considered with respect to delegation representatives and observer organization.
 - The 'glass ceiling effect' was highlighted whereby highly qualified female candidates hold back from leadership roles. Participants mentioned that this is one barrier to equitable gender representation: a socialized hesitation towards volunteering for leadership roles.
 - It's important to engage in direct and persistent cultivation of female leadership. The need to raise awareness amongst IPCC focal points of the importance of encouraging nominations from women was noted.
 - Finally, participants recommended that national focal points should be encouraged to nominate as authors in the forthcoming call for nominations of the Working Group I, II and III contributions to the IPCC Sixth Assessment.

Thelma Krug

- From the discussions that took place, some ideas were highlighted:
 - Liaising with UNEP and WMO to build on progress achieved from their Gender Strategies.
 - Considering gender action in line with discussions underway within the UNFCCC, exploring collaboration with the IPCC in relation to gender action.
 - In the context of the IPCC, emphasizing a focus on improving gender balance in climate and climate change science.
 - Assessing the possibility of mainstreaming gender balance strategies into the organizational work of the IPCC.
 - Considering a Special Report on gender and climate change.
 - The development of a framework of actions to improve gender balance within IPCC structures and, in this respect, promotion of empowerment, good practices and planning process that are gender-sensitive.
 - Encouraging governments to support nominations of highly qualified women in the upcoming call for nominations of the AR6 reports.