



Mainstreaming gender in environmental activities of UNECE: strategies and good practices

Malinka Koparanova

Senior Social Affairs Officer and Gender Focal Point
UNECE

Franziska Ilg

Environmental Affairs Officer
Environment Division, UNECE

25 October, 2013
Geneva





Outline

1. What is gender, gender mainstreaming?
2. Why mainstream gender in UNECE Sub-Programmes of work?
3. Approaches to reflect gender dimension in UNECE activities
4. Mainstreaming gender in environmental activities





What is gender?

"Gender refers to the socially constructed rather than biologically determined roles of men and women as well as the relationships between men and women in a given society at a specific time and place."

Source: UNDP
(2003, p.3)

What is gender equality?

In a nutshell: That the opportunities we have in life do not depend on whether we are born as a man or a woman





Rationale for gender equality

Equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities is a matter of human rights and social justice

Greater equality between women and men is also a precondition for sustainable and people-centred development





What is gender mainstreaming?

Strategy



Gender Equality

Set of tools

Gender balance

Gender-sensitive language

Gender-responsive budgeting

Gender analysis

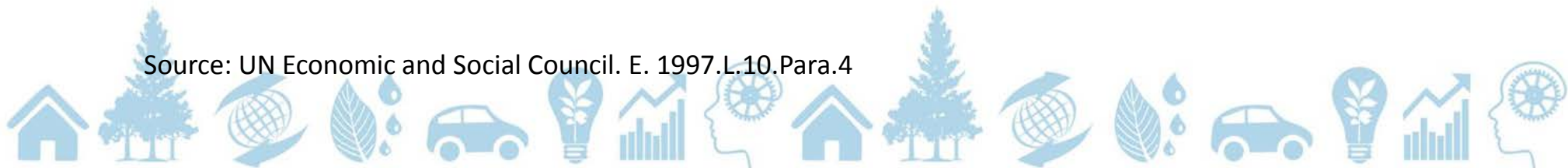


The concept of gender mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming was defined by the UN Economic and Social Council in 1997 as:

“the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.”

Source: UN Economic and Social Council. E. 1997.L.10.Para.4



Gender Mainstreaming

strategy for gender equality and women's empowerment

- Involve both women and men in consultation and analysis
- Use sex-disaggregated data
- Gender-sensitive strategies and objectives of the projects/activities
- Gender-specific indicators, outputs and activities
- Gender balance in project personnel and experts
- Impact assessment on gender equality in evaluation and gender expertise in the evaluation team





UN commitment to Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) (1995)

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2000)

(MDG 3 on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment)

Post-2015 Development Agenda





Mandate

- UN responds to Member States request for greater coherence and accountability for gender equality
- Accountability framework for gender equality – CEB Policy 2006/2
- UN-System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) for implementation of the CEB policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women, 2012
- ECE mandate on gender mainstreaming in all Sub-Programmes of work (ECOSOC 1997, 2001, 2007 and 2011)





Approaches to reflect gender dimension in UNECE work:

- I. Core activities focused on women's economic empowerment (UNECE/Gender, Special Programme on the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Project Working Group on Gender and Economy)
- II. Mainstreaming gender in the UNECE Sub-programmes of work





UNECE Gender Action Plan as part of the UN SWAP as a tool to implement its policy for gender equality and women's empowerment (2012, CEB of the UN)





At UNECE we pursue a three-fold approach to gender mainstreaming in UNECE Sub-programmes of work:

Improve awareness of the situation of women and men in sectors.

This is done through research, data collection and policy dialogue.

Build capacity on women's potential to contribute to development.

Gender-sensitive economic policy making through the exchange of good practice, research and evidence-based policy recommendations to governments.





Gender mainstreaming in UNECE Environment Activities

- Various gender mainstreaming approaches for different activities
- Examples:
 1. Project
 2. Programme/policy
 3. Publication





Example 1: Gender mainstreaming in SDC-UNECE project in the Republic of Moldova on implementing the Protocol on Water and Health

- Gender sensitive approach to water management, water supply, sanitation and health
 - To promote the integration of the gender perspective in policy development, water and health services, project and programme planning, monitoring and implementation
 - Women identified as group in particular need of safe water and sanitation services, especially in rural areas





Example 1: Gender mainstreaming in SDC-UNECE project in the Republic of Moldova on implementing the Protocol on Water and Health

Key issues with regard to gender equality:

- Women's participation in decision-making
 - Institutional mechanisms to ensure adequate participation of women and men in project activities
 - Adequate representation of women ensured in Steering Committee and Core Group meetings
- Gender-sensitive solutions
 - Integration of gender dimension, as and when appropriate, into project outputs





Example 1: Gender mainstreaming in SDC-UNECE project in the Republic of Moldova on implementing the Protocol on Water and Health

- Key project output:

Action Plan on the implementation of targets set under the Protocol on Water and Health

- At least 2 actions towards improving access to water and sanitation for women, children, vulnerable groups and persons living in rural areas





Example 1: Gender mainstreaming in SDC-UNECE project in the Republic of Moldova on implementing the Protocol on Water and Health

- Gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated indicators
 - Specific priority topics to be addressed by Clearing House identified, incl. gender-relevant topics and the collection of data disaggregated by sex, as and when relevant
 - Gender-relevant issues in awareness raising campaigns, as appropriate
 - At least 50 female staff in schools participate in awareness raising trainings
 - >30% female participants in seminars/workshops
 - Minutes of Steering Committee to reflect progress in gender mainstreaming





Example 2: Gender mainstreaming at programme/policy level - UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

- Identifies gender equity as a key theme
- Sets out the aim to equip people with knowledge and skills to act with concern for gender equity
- Stresses the importance of gender equity for sustainable development





Example 2: Gender mainstreaming at programme/policy level - **UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development**

- Call for resources/existing best practices on gender equality through ESD
- Electronic working space
- Session on addressing gender in the context of existing ESD action plans and strategies planned for 9th Steering Committee meeting, April 2014

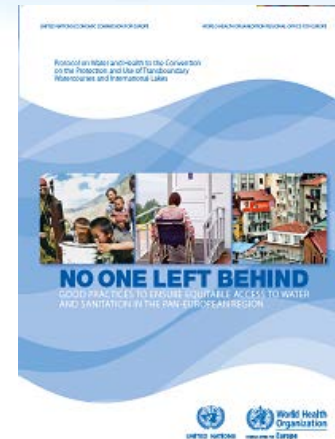




Example 3: Gender aspects highlighted in publication

No one left behind. Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region

- Highlights gender dimension of equitable access to water & sanitation
 - Women's equal participation in public decision-making
 - Female roles in the context of water and sanitation
- Identifies policy options
 - Collect data on access to water and sanitation taking into account gender, so as to identify discrepancies and set priorities for Government assistance





How to further mainstream gender into environmental activities under auspices of CEP?

UNECE Gender Action Plan

Promoting gender balance in environmental governance in the region

Promoting integration of gender issues in the sustainable development process by hearing the **voices of women major groups**

Promoting, where possible and appropriate, the **integration of the gender perspective in policies, recommendations and other meeting outputs**

Incorporating the **gender perspective in the meeting agendas and presentations delivered by speakers**





Contacts & Information

Malinka Koparanova
Senior Social Officer, UNECE
Malinka.Koparanova@unece.org

Franziska Ilg
Environmental Affairs Officer
UNECE Environment Division
Franziska.Ilg@unece.org

ECE Discussion Paper
Empowering Women for Sustainable Development:
[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/publication/UNECE Discussion Paper 2012.1.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/publication/UNECE_Discussion_Paper_2012.1.pdf)

