

Gender mainstreaming in environmental policy

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Sustainable Energy and Climate Policy

Overview

- ▶ International gender mandates
- ▶ Implementation at national levels
- ▶ Gender approach
- ▶ Gender impact assessment (GIA)
- ▶ Example of a GIA

International Gender Mandates

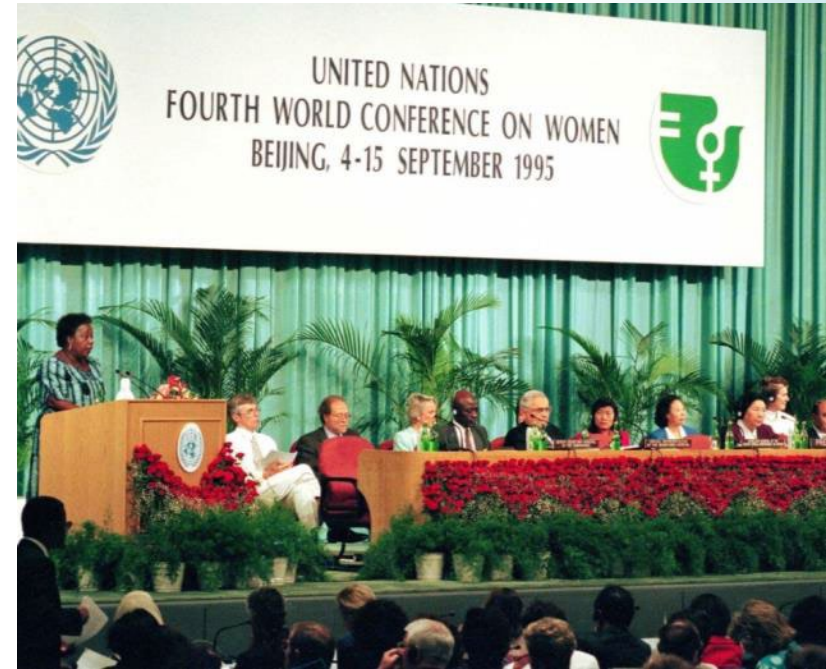
- ▶ CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)
- ▶ Beijing Platform, Area K (Environment), 1995
- ▶ European Union Treaty of Amsterdam (1999) formalised the commitment to gender mainstreaming as a means to achieve towards gender equality
- ▶ Agenda 2030 (SDGs)

Specific environmental treaties

- ▶ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Gender-responsive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Gender Action Plan, capacity building
- ▶ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Gender Action Plan, capacity building
- ▶ UNFCCC: Various COP Decisions, Paris Agreement (2015), Enhanced UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (2019)
- ▶ Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM): efforts to integrate gender

Beijing Platform strategic objectives

- ▶ Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels
- ▶ Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programs for sustainable development
- ▶ Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional, and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women



Gender and environmental policies: State of the art in Europe

- ▶ Gender still considered as an issue concerning mainly the Global South
- ▶ Integration of gender into development aid and thematic funding programmes (e.g. German IKI)
- ▶ Gender Mainstreaming approaches and tools have been developed many years ago, but rarely applied in practice
- ▶ Women centered activities more frequent, e.g. in rural areas, on urban planning and transport
- ▶ Improvements in the institutional setting in some countries, e.g. Germany
- ▶ Enhanced consideration of gender in research, e.g. H2020 projects on energy and transport

Systematic approach to integrate gender

1. Inclusion of gender equality into targets and commitments
2. Ensure equal representation in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels, incl. participatory approaches
3. Involve gender institutions
4. Adopt specific policy measures to empower women
5. Develop and apply gender analysis of policies and measures, e.g. Gender Impact Assessment
6. Implement gender responsive budgeting and inclusion of gender into monitoring

Key instrument for Gender Mainstreaming: Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)

- ▶ Is the policy relevant in terms of gender? Does the policy concern one or more target groups, and will it affect their daily life?
- ▶ How does the current situation in the field of action look like? What data and findings are available on gender differences and their underlying causes?
- ▶ Who designed the policy and what are its intended impacts, what does it seek to achieve?
- ▶ Which activities does it involve, who are the actors and which social groups are affected?
- ▶ What might be the unintended impacts on gender equality and gender relations? Are they positive or negative?
- ▶ How could the policy be improved to avoid adverse impacts and maximise positive effects on gender?

Example: carbon pricing in Germany

- ▶ A carbon price on energy in the building and transport sectors was introduced in 2019, starting with 25 EUR / ton CO₂
- ▶ To compensate for extra costs, a fund was set up to support replacing oil based heating systems, energy efficiency in buildings, and e-mobility
- ▶ Increase of the tax exemption for commuters



Analysis along gender dimensions

- ▶ Equal participation and gender representation:
Gender expertise was obviously missing
- ▶ Gender norms, hierarchies and power relations:
Interests of women neglected, strong lobbies and masculine models and lifestyles prevailing
- ▶ Market economy:
Primarily wealthy people benefit from the fund who own houses and cars, and commute to work. Women own less houses and cars, and commute less, so they benefit less



Analysis of carbon pricing scheme, cont.

- ▶ Care economy:
Women are more at home due to care work and have higher costs for heating. They use cars more for care work, both without compensation
- ▶ Resources and infrastructures:
Public transport, mainly used by women, is not supported by the scheme, but according to a recent study, each car is subsidized by the public with some 5000 EUR / year
- ▶ Body, health, intimacy:
Women have a higher comfort temperature, thus need more heating. They are more prone to energy poverty with negative effects on their physical and mental health



Analysis of carbon pricing scheme, cont.

Possible solutions

- ▶ Lump sum to be paid back to each household / each person
- ▶ Increase of transfer payments to poor households
- ▶ Fund to support public transport and e-bikes
- ▶ A speed limit would contribute to reducing emissions from cars, and women would much more strongly support it than men



Thank you for your attention!

