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Oral Statement CSW61: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work

Across the globe, there are millions of water and sanitation related jobs ensuring that water is made available every day. According to the ILO's World Water Development Report, 75% of the jobs in the world are water-dependent. But the percentage of women in water related sectors is extremely low. In many regions, women's care work includes water use and management: cooking, cleaning and laundry, which require fetching and hauling water. In spite of this, women remain insufficiently recognized and involved in environmental policy making and environmental management. This must change. Achieving environmental sustainability, gender equality and women's empowerment are closely intertwined.

Implementation, Policy Measures and Actions

The following actions and policy measures will aid the empowerment of women in water related sectors by welcoming the ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change:

- The importance of coherence between gender-responsive climate policies and balanced participation of women and men in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should be underlined.
- Lima work programme on gender should be integrated into programmes to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, as well as into all climate change mitigation and adaptation activities;
- The particular vulnerabilities of women and children who are displaced or forced to migrate due to effects of climate change and armed conflicts, should be determined.

- Permanent funding for NGO programmes promoting gender balance in decision-making bodies on climate change and sustainable development policies should be provided.
- The number of women participating in decision-making should be increased.

Conclusion

Sustainable Development Goal 6 underlines the negative impact of water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively on food security, hunger and malnutrition. Although women play a decisive role in household food security, dietary diversity and children's health, they face greater constraints than men in access to land, fertilisers, water for irrigation, seeds, technology, tools, credit, extension services, profitable cash crops, output markets and rural institutions.

According to the Sustainable Development Goal 8; in the changing world of work quality jobs are particularly needed in rural areas where most of the world's poor live and work. Agriculture is the world's single largest employer, especially so in developing countries where it generates a sizeable share of GDP. Responsible investments in sustainable agriculture and food systems can contribute to major societal benefits, including reduced inequalities, inclusive growth, and the creation of decent jobs.

International Federation of Business and Professional Women highlight the importance of progress in the percentage of women in water related jobs for the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work.