

**WOMEN ENGAGEMENT IN CIS
AND CLIMATE CHANGE**



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ACCRA-GHANA

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**Inclusive engagement in CIS and
climate change issues**

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ABOUT PACJA

- A continental coalition of 1000+ CSOs from diverse backgrounds in 48 African countries
- Brings together FBOs, CBOs, NGOs, Trusts, Foundations, Farmers and Pastoralists' Groups among other sectors.
- Founded in 2008, Continental Secretariat in Nairobi
- Works with Governments to drive African agenda at Int'l level
- Strong partnership with several int'l partners in North & South to spearhead major campaigns; eg the "Big shift" aimed at 100% renewables
- The attainment of SDGs & other development aspirations can only be possible if we address the question of energy



PERSPECTIVE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- ▶ **A humanitarian issue:** Many catastrophes and disasters are caused by climate events
- ▶ It is a **food security issue**, a water issue, forest issue, etc
- ▶ **An economic issue:** It has stunted growth of some economies while big economies fear cutting emissions will affect them
- ▶ **A political issue:** currently its shaping international diplomatic and political interactions; Agenda 2030 (SDGs)
- ▶ **Gender Issue:** Climate Chang affects women and Men differently depending on their roles and responsibilities

Key component areas in the Conversation

- ▶ Identifying conditions that inhibit women's strong engagement in CIS and climate change issues.
 - ▶ Identifying options for enhancing the involvement of women in CIS and climate related issues.
 - ▶ Explore ways of strengthening the enabling environment for enhancing women roles in CIS
 - ▶ Catalogue best practices and innovative ways of boosting women involvement in CIS
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CC & Gender - **Who are the most at-risk?**

- ▶ CC disproportionately impacts women and girls, exacerbating existing social inequalities and threatening health, safety, and economic well-being
- ▶ Gender inequalities and development gaps - amplify the effects of climate change for women, especially for those that depend on natural resources for their livelihoods
- ▶ Women are more likely than men to have primary responsibility for household tasks - “double work day” means that women bear an additional burden when drought, erratic rainfall, depletion of natural resources
- ▶ Poverty and inequality, the forced relocation of communities to ecologically vulnerable areas, and discrimination – also exacerbate women’s vulnerability to climate risks

Why Include women

- ▶ Women's essential roles in managing resources such as water, forests and energy and also lead fights for environmental protection
- ▶ Women are extraordinary agents of change.
- ▶ Women hold critical knowledge, highlighting the importance of consulting them for purposes of developing policies and strategies that meet the needs of climate information, climate services and climate change issues
- ▶ Women in developing countries feeling the effects of climate change have been identified as particularly adaptive and innovative

Bottlenecks – Women uptake of CIS

- ▶ **Socially** constructed roles and responsibilities have put women at a disadvantage in accessing information
- ▶ Women have also been ignored in emerging climate change conversation
- ▶ **Oversimplified framings** of women as a group in both the adaptation and climate services literatures
- ▶ **Overgeneralizations** that hinder the ability to address the climate-related development and adaptation needs of the most vulnerable
- ▶ Women are overlooked as **scholars and decision makers**

Cont.....

- ▶ **Alignment** of climate information's services with emerging literature on gender and adaptation
- ▶ Women have limited **decision-making authority**
- ▶ **Lack of access** to vehicles of climate information services i.e. Smart phones
- ▶ Lack of effort to **identify and cite** women involved in climate change dialogues
- ▶ **Legacy of discrimination**, lack of educational opportunities.
- ▶ Women are **underrepresented** in key disciplines for the study of climate change



What are available options?

- ▶ Need to **highlight** the work of women and to include more women in major **committees** in order to provide gender balance, social justice, and inspiration to young women to enter careers in science.
 - ▶ Reflects more on the barriers to women's advancement and the need for women to 'Lean in' to leadership positions in climate change dialogues
 - ▶ **Mapping** of women involved in Climate change and climate information services
 - ▶ Look at the **membership** of the global change committees
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Available Options Conti....

- ▶ Understating the different levels of women who consume climate change information services
- ▶ Use available women network platforms in popularizing the dialogue on climate information, climate services and climate change issues – PACJA provides such a platform

Recommendations

- ▶ In depth **research** and evidence based analysis of women involvement in climate change information services
- ▶ **Integrate** climate information services and climate information in various programmes
- ▶ Ensure full **meaningful, and consistence participation** of women in conversation on climate services and climate change
- ▶ Exploring various **dissemination channels** of CIS to ensure women have access

Recommendations conti.....

- ▶ Gender-specific needs for climate change adaptation, must be **mainstreamed** into the design of climate information services to improve their equity and effectiveness for both men and women.
- ▶ Promoting **policies and development** programs that improve women's access and use of CIS
- ▶ **Building capacity** of women and provide them with the logistical support to effectively apply climate information which will enable adaptive capacity to climate change and variability.





Thank you!

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