



Development Dialogue

Climate Justice and Gender

18-19 December 2008

Bolsena, Italy



SID
Society for International Development

Society for International Development

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The *Development Dialogue*

Up to now, development has been a transitive discourse, applied from those 'developed' to those in need of 'development'. But the ecological crisis we are experiencing nowadays, such as global warming impacting on all regions and all cultures, is urging us to find new ways of living on the planet we all share.

In this context, the **Society for International Development (SID)** has started a process of 'convivencia' (a way of life that encourages all people to live together, sharing resources, recognizing and respecting diversity, culture and nature, and searching for multiple paths for change), holding the **first *Development Dialogue***, with the aim of searching for development strategies that move beyond a focus on economic growth and take on board social and environmental imperatives.

The *Development Dialogue* on 'Climate Change and Development', was held on the 18-19 December, in Bolsena, Italy. The Dialogue, organized and promoted by SID's journal *Development*, together with policy makers, academia, scientists, students and activist, aimed at unpacking the common discourse on global warming and development.

It represented an opportunity to unravel the common discourse on global warming and environmental crisis, which has entailed the concept of fear, consumerism and other issues that have been popularized, discharging the pessimistic view which has led the global policy agendas.

Scientists, social activists, policy-makers, students and academics gathered to debate what are the global policy platforms for environmental issues? on North-South responsibilities regarding sustainable development and on how to bridge the gap between science, technology and social justice. Finally are climate change causes, effects and solutions sex/gendered?

In a unique setting like the Convento S. Maria del Giglio (www.conventobolsena.org), groups that normally do not have the opportunity to exchange views and ideas all came together to discuss on the alternatives to the dominant economic growth paradigm, to find out ways of transferring knowledge around global warming in everyday life and engage in the debate around climate change and social justice.

Context

In order to analyze some of these challenges and to explore different aspects of social justice that are likely to be affected by climate change, including economic, social, cultural and political dimensions, SID invited scientists, social activists, policy-makers and university researchers in a unique setting to stimulate the debate amongst groups that normally do not have the opportunity to exchange views and ideas.

In fact, there are many groups around the world that are struggling to find answers to the ethical issues of climate change and the financial crisis, causes behind the growing gaps and inequalities, from those working in the international policy arena to those working at local levels for technological, gender, ecological and social justice. Therefore, the Dialogue brought together an interdisciplinary group of international scholars, from Universities of Rome. Participants included students from the 'Anthropology Applied to Development Processes' course in La Sapienza University, who were curious to debate with scientists and activists, about the challenges faced in the global policy arena.

Participants from 19 different countries engaged in the Dialogue, 90 percent of which coming from the global South. It include some scholars working directly with the issue of climate change, such as members of the Tuscia University, CIRPS, which brings qualified researchers to deepen energy issues, but also included social movements in Italy, like the Slow Food movement and Punti di Vista, and other NGOs active in trade and North-South relations, such as Focus on the Global South , WWF which address issues of human security, equity, poverty and social justice from conceptual and empirical perspectives.



Students from La Sapienza University in Rome.

In order to stimulate the debate, sessions were facilitated by Wendy Harcourt, editor of *Development*, with an emphasis on participation using a workshop approach, featuring interactive sessions and informal networking.

Aims of the Dialogue:

- Create a greater awareness amongst participants of the gender dimension of climate change and its implications
- Promote growing transnational network of diverse activists focused on environmental justice issues and bringing up grassroots initiatives.
- Share transnational strategies that require deep seated change to current economic, technology and development policy in the context of climate change, focusing on alternatives around energy demands.
- Build capacity of young people from around the world in the economic, ecological and cultural dynamics of the climate change debate.



Development

Development is the flagship journal of the Society for International Development (SID). Since 1957 *Development* has explored the cutting edge issues of human centered development. With alternative perspectives on civil society, development policy and community based strategies for livelihoods, gender and social justice, *Development* keeps readers up to date on the challenging issues of today's rapidly changing world. Guest edited by Tariq Banuri, the issue tackles the political questions that the current hype around climate change inevitably raises for sustainable development policies, both globally and on the ground. The link between climate change and the prospects for sustainable development is important for at least three reasons. First, since developing countries contribute roughly half of current carbon emissions, climate stabilization cannot be achieved without active involvement by the developing world. Secondly climate stabilization is on a collision course with the unfinished development agenda. What is needed urgently is a way of addressing climate stabilization that does not jeopardize the rights of poor countries to development. Third the climate threat is the thin end of the wedge of a more fundamental problem, namely the incompatibility between an infinite and unending growth process and finite planetary resources. As such, long term solutions to the climate problem will have to go through the solution of the development inequities.

Speakers leading the Dialogue

Sabrina Aguiari is visiting scholar at the Newcomb College Centre for Research on Women (NCCRW), Tulane University, and current president of Punti di Vista, an Italian CBO active in rural Italy for a change in mainstreamed development models. She is a practitioner in international cooperation experienced in humanitarian response as well as in humanitarian mine action, peace building, participation and gender.

Nicola Bullard joined Focus on the Global South in January 1997. Before that, she worked in Cambodia, Thailand and Australia with human rights, development, and women's organisations and with trade unions. She has also worked as an editor, journalist and publisher. Nicola studied international relations at the Institute for Social Studies in the Hague, and education, geography and urban sociology in Melbourne. She is Australian.

Giovanna Di Chiro is research associate and visiting professor in the Environmental Studies Department at Mount Holyoke college, USA. She has published widely on the intersections of gender, race, scientific expertise, and environmental justice.

Wendy Harcourt is Editor of *Development*, the quarterly journal of the Society for International Development and feminist researcher and activist based at the International Secretariat of the Society for International Development in Rome, Italy. She has been working in international development since 1988 when she joined SID and is author of numerous articles and reports on gender and development.

Silvia Macchi is professor of Urban Planning at the Faculty of Engineering at Sapienza University of Rome and coordinator of the Section on Policies for the Empowerment of Women at the Inter-university Research Center for Sustainable Development. Her interests include urban policies from a feminist point of view and political participation of women in local development.

Mariagrazia Midulla has been a professional communicator for 25 years. She was head of press office for Democrazia Proletaria, Verdi-Arcobaleno, and Verdi, based in the Italian Parliament. Since January 2003 she was the Head of International Campaigns, in charge of Climate Change and Energy, Toxics and Agriculture. From 2006 she focused on global warming and energy programme, becoming Head of the Climate Change Programme in WWF Italy.

Ulrike Rohr is head of Gender CC – Women for Climate Justice, a pioneer network in the field. She is committed to mainstreaming gender into climate-related policy at local, national and UN levels, and particularly to strengthening southern women's involvement in the negotiations. She is one of the founders of LIFE e.V. and is in charge of the branch office in Frankfurt since 1994.

Cesare Silvi holds university degrees in mechanical engineering and nuclear engineering. He is the founder and chairperson of the Italian Group for the History of Solar Energy (GSES) (2005-2008) and past President of the International Solar Energy Society (ISES) (1999-2001).

Carmen Tedesco is Program Officer at the AED Center for Environmental Strategies with over 8 years experience and training as a geographer. As the geospatial coordinator for AED, she develops Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capacity at AED by bridging the gap between social scientists and technicians to better

implement spatial thinking on AED projects.

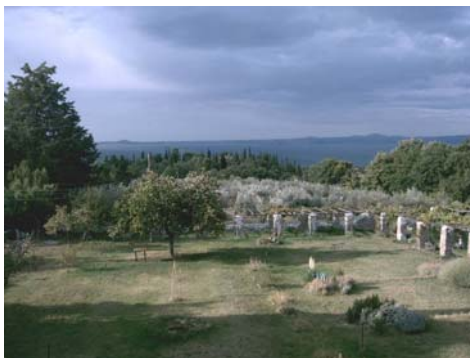
Riccardo Valentini , PhD, Full Professor at University of Tuscia , Director of Department of Forest Science and Environment, He published 170 papers in total of which 85 are published in international journals and book. He is referee of several

Where

The Dialogue was held at the Convento S. Maria del Giglio, Bolsena next to Europe's biggest volcanic lake and just an hour away from Orvieto the first slow town and hub of the slow food movement. The Convent provided the ideal setting for shaping and encouraging the debate and the exchange of different perspectives envisaging alternatives to unjust models of development, cultural degradation and depletion of natural resources. In this unique space, managed by Punti di Vista, a cultural association



Convento S. Maria del Giglio, Bolsena



Garden of the Convento S. Maria del Giglio, Bolsena

which aims at stimulating knowledge and the encounter of cultures, traditions and religions, participants reflected and increased their self awareness on the link between space, environment, local ecology and culture.

Art and the Dialogue

A public call was issued to select local artists, who participated to the Dialogue by preparing installation and performance in situ at the Convent S. Maria del Giglio. Their works stimulated the interaction amongst participants. Three art works were selected to best visualize and represent the Dialogue. During the event key note lectures were interspersed with visual art displays, such as video recording and pictures. Artists were asked to explore the impact of climate change and especially ecological challenges on arts and creativity.



The Themes

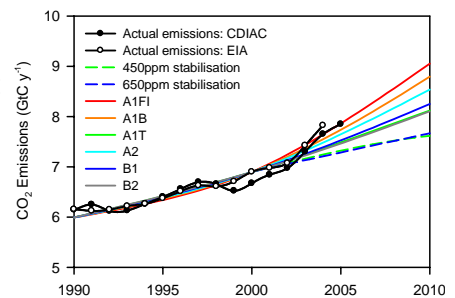
What is climate change?

The starting point for analyzing the problem of global warming is science. According to Riccardo Valentini, history of the enhanced greenhouse effect is not yet common knowledge.

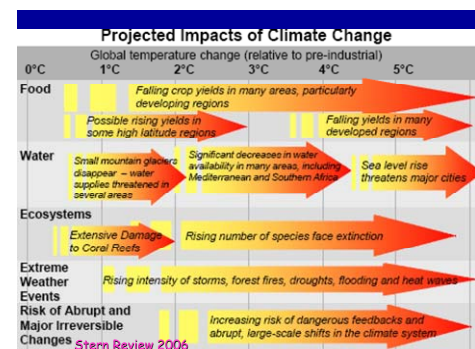
It begins at least over 100 years ago, when C.D. Keeling¹ monitored contents of CO₂ in the atmosphere, with results very close to the present ones. In 1938, electrical engineer G.S. Callendar² published an article explaining that the combustion of coal would produce a slight increase in temperatures around the globe. According to him, there was nothing to worry about. Everybody knew that burning coal was good for the economy and human well-being, and the increase in temperature was also good because it would extend the margin of cultivation to the North. Twenty years later, at the end of the 1950s, Roger Revelle (who is featured in Al Gore's film) and other scientists sounded a cry of alarm. Systematic measurements of CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere were made.

This intellectual history is interesting because it highlights the historical responsibility for climate change that falls on the industrial countries.

'Climate change cannot be denied. It is happening and it needs urgent action. It is a democratic phenomenon because it affects everyone on a global scale!' *Riccardo Valentini*



Global fossil fuel emissions



Projected impacts of climate change

What is the relationship between climate and energy?

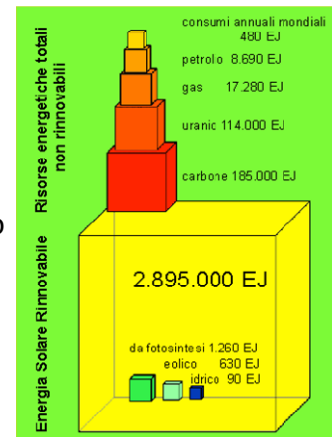
When talking about global warming we cannot ignore the link with energy demand and the efficient use of energy. Is possible to use solar energy in modern times?

Human civilizations developed using only solar renewable energy in all its direct and indirect forms (wind, hydro, forests and other biomass) until 200 years ago. According to Cesare Silvi, from the Group for the History of Solar Energy, starting from past civilizations and proceeding through the Industrial Revolution to the rapid developments of recent decades, the history of solar renewable energy can hold important lessons for our own times. However, to date its practitioners have almost entirely ignored the vast and complex technical and scientific fields related to the use of solar energy (direct and indirect, including forests and other biomass, hydro, wind, etc.). A systemic approach is needed!

The Earth is an interconnected system. Today we are in the midst of a great new challenge: understanding that the Earth and its three subsystems work as a whole, and that their operation can be affected by human activities. Once we understand the

systemic approach, it will be easier to efficiently know how to use its natural resources, from fossil fuels and nuclear energy to solar energy as to maintain the environmental balances on which our lives depend.

There are no 'easy' solution and techno quick fixes! Energy provided by fossil fuels permitted architects and engineers to ignore the fundamental rules of solar architecture and city planning which had been used as guides for thirty-five hundred years -- good insulation, building orientation – and led to major changes in our society that will not be easily reversed. Perhaps still more important, this 'easy' energy resulted in the loss of the ancient culture that was necessarily sophisticated and frugal in the use of natural resources.



Yellow box: solar energy available on the Earth

And in fact, it would be probably be much easier today to continue along this same path, to continue to build energy infrastructure based on fossil and nuclear fuels than to create an entirely new energy infrastructure that enables widespread use of solar energy. However, human societies progress when they face difficult challenges and manage to come up with new solutions, rather than falling back on traditional answers. The solar challenge is indeed a difficult one, but that is exactly why it ought to interest us and why we should work harder at solving it.

'We can ask ourselves whether it is possible to imagine an epochal transformation in which our fossil and nuclear fuel-powered societies can switch to a modern solar age, returning to the sole use of solar energy', *Cesare Silvi*



The Eden Centre, Cornwall

Climate change in the context of political ecology

In the scientific context, the term 'climate change' is commonly used interchangeably with global warming and the greenhouse effect, but is a more descriptive term. Climate change refers to the release of man-made gases in the atmosphere that trap the sun's heat, causing changes in weather patterns on a global scale. The impact of men's productive activity on the Earth system has given rise to the anthropogenic era³, whose effects include changes in rainfall patterns, sea level rise, potential droughts, habitat loss, and heat stress. The greenhouse gases of most concern are carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxides.

However, climate change is not just a political and economic issue. Most of all, it is a human issue, where the livelihoods of numerous communities are threatened and their security is at stake.

Climate change is more than just an environmental problem. Shifting the attention from the science and energy discourse to the bigger frame of political ecology, some academics, like Giovanna Di Chiro, highlighted the fact that climate change is more comprehensive term and it does not only refer to the rising level of carbon dioxide

released in the atmosphere, but it also entails a lot of other issues at the global scale that affect people and livelihoods, such as North-South relations, power shifts, policy, social justice questions, etc.

According to Giovanna Di Chiro, in an attempt to bridge the gap between society and nature (social sphere and science, apparent opposing world of human and nature, relationship between science and politics) critical efforts have pointed out that political ecology is something that people do.

The definition of **political ecology** embraces a range of definitions. Some stress the linkages to local communities and non governmental organizations, some to political ecologists, whether they are more interested in the biophysical or social aspects of a problem, others stress the political economy, while others point to more formal political institutions.

'There is a need to unpack the climate crisis and deal within larger contexts of politics, ecology and power'. *Giovanna Di Chiro*

Environmental justice

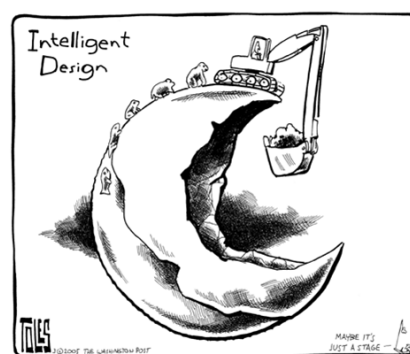
As a consequence of the debate around political ecology, another theme was raised which unifies different dimensions of social justice and climate change.

As a matter of fact, environmental justice refers to inequitable environmental burdens born by groups such as racial minorities, women, residents of economically disadvantaged areas, or residents of developing nations⁴. It refers to the distribution and production of environmental hazards between different social groups based on class, ethnicity, gender within the national boundaries as well as across the North-South divide.

Environmental Justice expands the definition of the concept of environment adding the dimension of power, intra-generational equity, twinning ecological goals with social justice goals.

In the early 1980s, environmental justice emerged as a concept in the United States and a new movement grew organically out of local struggles and out of a variety of other social movements. Members of the movement seek to redress inequitable distributions of environmental burdens (pollution, industrial facilities, crime, etc.) and equitably distribute access to environmental goods such as nutritious food, clean air and water, parks, recreation, health care, education, transportation, safe jobs, etc.

Self-determination and **participation** in decision-making are key components of environmental justice.



'Environmental Justice is able to bring together different issues that used to be separate. If you're talking about lead and where people live, it used to be a housing struggle, if you're talking about poisoning on the job it used to be a labor struggle, people being sick from TB or occupational exposures used to be separate health issues, so environmental justice is able to bring together all of these different issues to create one movement that can really address what actually causes all of these phenomena to happen and gets to the root of the problems'. *Giovanna Di Chiro*

Ecological debt

Part of the conversation raised during the Dialogue stressed the fact that countries which historically have produced and continue to produce more CO₂ per capita than the rest have a 'carbon debt'.

As Nicola Bullard observed, currently, human economic activity, primarily the burning of fossil fuels, results in the release of twice as much CO₂ into the atmosphere as can be absorbed by the world's 'carbon sinks'⁵. As a result CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere are increasing. Those who use too much of the carbon dioxide absorption capacity of the world's oceans, vegetation and soil owe a debt to all living creatures whose habitat is threatened. They owe a particular debt to the carbon creditors, the poor of the South who use less than their fair share of the CO₂ absorption capacity.

The poor and Indigenous peoples are among those who are likely to suffer the most severe effects of disappearing permafrost, floods, droughts, tropical storms and rising ocean levels brought on by climate change. These consequences of global warming are another manifestation of environmental racism. Industrial countries' per capita emissions of CO₂ far outweigh the modest emissions from developing countries.

Other voices from the South ask in Bali for recognition of the ecological debts⁶ or the environmental liabilities owed from North to South. There is a public and a private aspect to this.

Should the question of responsibility go back to 1992 and the Rio de Janeiro treaty? Should it go back to 1960, or even further back?

'The unequal carbon use proceeds as if the rich had assumed property rights over all the CO₂ sinks: the oceans, the new vegetation and the atmosphere.' *Joan Martinez Alier*

Gender – climate change

Although climate change affects everyone, it is not gender neutral⁷. As highlighted by Wendy Harcourt, the impact of global warming on biodiversity could lead to worsening of livelihoods for women and additional work in their daily responsibilities (such as collection of water, fuelwood and agriculture)⁸. Women are being affected in their multiple roles as food producers and providers, as care givers and economic actors⁹. Drought, deforestation and erratic rainfall cause women to work harder to secure (natural) resources and livelihoods.

Poor women more are likely to become direct victims (mortalities and injuries) of climate change disasters, such as hurricanes and flooding. In fact, during natural disasters, often more women die than men because they are not warned, cannot swim or cannot leave the house alone. Women are more vulnerable during disasters because they have less access to resources, and they are the primary caregivers to children, the elderly and the disabled. This means that they are less able to mobilize resources, will be more likely to be over-represented in the unemployed following a disaster, and overburdened with domestic responsibilities leaving them with less freedom to pursue sources of income¹⁰. In addition to these issues, women are often the victims of domestic and sexual violence following a natural disaster.

However, according to Giovanna di Chiro, even if gender aspects are addressed, women are mostly seen as the victims of climate change impacts, far less often as agents of change and protagonists of the climate change debates.

But just as women are more vulnerable to the consequences of natural disasters, they are often the most innovative in implementing immediate relief to their families and communities.

It is necessary to go beyond the image of women as passive victims to an understanding of men's and women's different needs, interests, vulnerabilities, capacities and coping strategies. Reports media predominantly portray women as victims and men as their saviours. As was the case with the Tsunami, it is necessary to research for blogs or NGO (social movements) in order to find women described as the subject and not the object of reportage. *Wendy Harcourt*

For this reason, it is essential to recognize the important **role that gender plays in disaster management** and relief, as gender concerns often get pushed to the background in the event of a natural disaster.

Yet it is now as relevant to the urban women of the North, like in the case of New Orleans as it was to the tsunami-affected women of south east Asia¹¹.

For over ten years within the emergency aid community, there has been growing attention to gender issues in emergency situations. International aid agencies have introduced policies, guidelines and staff training to support the integration of gender concerns in emergency responses.

Another way to illustrate this systematic gender difference is through the ecological footprint measure. As ecological feminists point out, there was a time in Africa, when women farmers provided 80% of the continents' food with minimal resource inputs and pollution outputs. Today, in parts of the global South where common land holdings are untouched by war, by neo-liberal trade deals, and by technology transfers, many women still practice ecologically sound and self-reliant models of subsistence economics.

Climate change from the point of view of the South

After debating these themes, participants gathered in working groups to discuss further fundamental challenges that climate change brings about.

Looking at developing countries and North-South relations, students raised different issues:

- What are the global policy platforms for environmental issues? Is there another policy arena apart from the UN?
- North-South Relations: What are respective responsibilities for sustainable development?
- How can we bridge the gap between science, technology and social justice?
- Are climate change causes, effects and solutions sex/gendered?



Jenny Arias Escandon and Carlos Fernandez

The following debates aimed at addressing some of these questions.

Where Do We Go From Here?

The international policy platform

During this session of debate, Mariagrazia Midulla from WWF, Nicola Bullard from Focus on the Global South and Ulrike Roehr, from Genanet, presented their view on the global international policy arena, highlighting challenges and achievements at the latest Poznan Conference of Parties, held from the 1st to the 12th of December 2008.

Taking into consideration the fact that the main platform for climate negotiations is the UN, they all agreed that from the Kyoto protocol to the creation of the UNFCCC and successively the many COPs (conference of parties) from Bali to Poznan to the future Copenhagen conference, not much has been achieved in terms of reducing carbon emissions and greenhouse gases.

According to Nicola Bullard, the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – common but differentiated responsibilities, inter-generational equity, and polluter pays -- have been undermined in favour of market mechanisms. The three main pillars of the Kyoto agreement --the clean development mechanism, joint implementation and emissions trading schemes -- have been completely ineffective in reducing emissions, yet they continue to be at the center of the negotiations.

As Ulrike Roehr observed, Kyoto is based on carbon-trading mechanisms which allow Northern countries to continue business as usual by paying for 'clean development' projects in developing and transition countries. This is a scheme designed deliberately to allow polluters to avoid reducing emissions domestically. Clean development mechanism projects, which are supposed to support 'sustainable development', include infrastructure projects such as big dams and coal-fired power plants, and monoculture tree plantations. Not only do these projects fail to reduce carbon emissions, they accelerate the privatization and corporate take-over of the natural world, at the expense of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

Proposals on the table in Poznan are heading in the same direction.

In the current negotiations, industrialized countries continue to act on the basis of self-interest, using all their negotiating tactics to avoid their obligations to reduce carbon emissions, to finance adaptation and mitigation and transfer technology to the South.

In their pursuit of growth at any cost, many Southern governments at the talks are trading away the rights of their peoples and resources. We remind them that a climate agreement is not a trade agreement.

The main protagonists for climate stability – Indigenous Peoples, women, peasant and family farmers, fisherfolk, forest dependent communities, youth, and marginalized and



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

affected communities in the global South and North, are systematically excluded. Despite repeated demands, Indigenous Peoples are not recognized as an official party to the negotiations. Neither are women's voices and gender considerations recognized and included in the process.

At the same time, business and corporate lobbyists expanded their influence and monopolized conference space at Poznan. At least 1500 industry lobbyists were present either as NGOs or as members of government delegations.

The Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) scheme could create the climate regime's largest ever loophole, giving Northern polluters yet another opportunity to buy their way out of emissions reductions. With no mention of biodiversity or Indigenous Peoples' rights, this scheme might give a huge incentive for countries to sell off their forests, expel Indigenous and peasant communities, and transform forests into tree plantations under corporate-control. Plantations are not forests. Privatization and dispossession through REDD or any other mechanisms must be stopped.

The World Bank is attempting to carve a niche in the international climate change regime. This is unacceptable as the Bank continues to fund polluting industries and drive deforestation by promoting industrial logging and agrofuels. The Bank's recently launched Climate Investment Funds goes against government initiatives at the UN and promotes dirty industries such as coal, while forcing developing countries into the fundamentally unequal aid framework of donor and recipient. The World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility aiming to finance REDD through a forest carbon mechanism serves the interest of private companies and opens the path for commodification of forests.

These developments are to be expected. Market ideology has totally infiltrated the climate talks, and the UNFCCC negotiations are now like trade fairs hawking investment opportunities.

Local policy arena

In order to link the global discussions to what happens at the local level, an earlier Dialogue took place, from the 1 to the 2nd of December, where challenges of local administrations at the national (Italian) and European level were discussed. Practical problems, as the implementation of renewable energy enterprises, the promotion of energy efficient housing, private sector versus government intervention were debated at the presence of public officials from different European countries (Spain, France, Italy) scientists, academics and private entrepreneurs.

According to the representative of the Herault Province in France, the environmental policy agenda is strictly related to the national government's political agenda, and not to a long term view.

Also Italian public officials noted that incentives for renewable energy (such as photovoltaic cells on rooftops, local energy power plants, etc) are subjected to each governmental mandate, especially in Italy. Access to credit is also reduced, based on technical and quantitative economic projections.

Climate change is regarded as an issue concerning the scientific technical community,

and is not seen as a general problem concerning the vision of the development. As some public officials observed, there is a need for strategic long term visioning, as policy makers rarely adopt long term strategic plans. This deficiency is also due to the lack of information and knowledge available to public officials.

Often policy makers trust the private sector for finding the link between needs and resources. However, the private sector is incapable of linking the whole to a sustainable solution, because it's much more dependent on the market.

Many public administrations, especially in Spain highlighted the necessity of letting the market of renewable energies free to regulate itself and have little government intervention. While on the other hand other European countries were supporting a more government regulation and intervention.

Challenges highlighted by the local and European public administrator:

- Necessity to involve all stakeholders in the strategic planning process
- Creation of a consumer's conscience
- Internalizing environmental externalities so to include them in the feasibility study
- Energy debate, especially related to nuclear energy, is being politicized by government and private sector in order to find a quick fix solution to the increasing energy demand
- Less funds available for the research community

Some ways forward advocated during the Dialogue:

- The need to develop an integrated systemic approach that requires a local territory and context analysis.
- Improve the politics of participation. Who should be engaged and involved in the discussions?

The Dialogue allowed to create a greater awareness amongst local policy actors on what is being done in other parts of Europe as well as the challenges and opportunities involved.

Women, gender and development

For many participants to the Dialogue the debate of gender and climate change was a relatively new issue. In fact, too often work on climate change has neglected the gender perspective. Therefore, the *Development* Dialogue has provided the space for innovative and committed feminists, such as Wendy Harcourt and Giovanna Di Chiro, to think through some of the implications of the climate change.

While in the past, focus has been placed on linking development and women's needs, nowadays a gender-based approach is applied in the analysis of debates and issues, centered on women and men rather than considering women in isolation¹².



Wendy Harcourt

In fact, the focus on women's needs perpetuated women's subordination and reinforced male dominance in development projects. Therefore, a gender-sensitive approach to development is critical to the sustainability of development projects that are geared towards meeting the practical and strategic needs of both men and women, with the aim of transforming unequal gender/social relations and to empower women¹³.

This approach views inequality between men and women as structural, dictated by socio-cultural norms that serve as organizing principles of society.

Gender justice

In the context of gender equality, equity and climate change, an approach that is sustainable to development is that which focuses on gender needs than on women's needs. Women must be represented and understood as powerful agents of change, not simply victims (of climate change).

How can gender justice be achieved?

Two approaches were suggested in order to analyze increasing inequalities:

- **The politics of intersectionality**¹⁴ is a tool for analysis, advocacy and policy development that addresses multiple discriminations and helps us understand how different sets of identities impact access to rights and opportunities.
- **The politics of participation.** Social and cultural dynamics of the participation of non-traditional actors in environmental politics and sustainable development discourse is essential. In particular, knowledge production practices of women activists in transnational environmental justice movements in the U.S., India, and Costa Rica, represent useful tools for gender justice analysis.
 - The Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC is where women's rights groups must be present to lobby for their inclusion in a post-Kyoto agreement and push for climate change to be a gender issue.
 - Women need to be present at the debates; Similarly, capacity building initiatives need to be funded to ensure that women have the language and technical knowledge to plan properly and participate meaningfully in these discussions.
 - Women's rights organizations/advocates need to be more concrete in their demands/suggestions and requests around climate change and gender equality.



Climate Justice activists

Useful Websites on Gender and Ecology

Academy for Educational Development:	www.aed.org
Climate Justice Now Alliance	www.carbonradewatch.org
Genanet:	www.genanet.de
GenderCC:	www.gendercc.net
Group for the History of Solar Energy	www.gses.it
Focus on the Global South:	www.focusweb.org
Punti Di Vista:	www.conventobolsena.org
Society for International Development	www.sidint.org
Slow Food:	www.slowfood.com
Women in Europe for a Common Future	www.wecf.org
WWF:	www.wwf.org

Gender and climate global policy fora

In the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) gender aspects of climate change, gender equality and women's participation are omitted.

Furthermore, the Kyoto Protocol, that outlines reductions in greenhouse gasses until 2012, fails in integrating a gender perspective in its operationalization and mechanisms (ex. Clean Development Mechanism).

In addition, an analysis of policy adopted at the IPCC shows that women are under-represented in all climate relevant decision-making bodies—local, national, and international. Not only are they under represented but also women from the South are further marginalized as climate negotiations are mainly led by European Governments.



Ulrike Roehr

However, the *International Women Leaders Global Security Summit* in New York, November 2007, acknowledged that climate change poses significant security risks, particularly for women, and that women have to be included in decision-making at all levels.

In this context, a global movement of women is pushing international policy planners and activists to include gender justice and environmental sustainability together in the climate negotiations.

A modest start—based on getting an equal voice in the public sphere—has been made by women's groups operating in parallel to UNFCCC meetings. At the Conference of the Parties (COP) held in Milan, 2004, a Gender and Climate Change Network was formed with the aim of aligning the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol with existing international agreements on women's rights.

At the last COP13 in Bali, the *gendercc - Women for Climate Justice* network of women's organizations and individuals, as well as the *Global Gender and Climate Change Alliance* of UN organizations, IUCN and WEDO along with other international organizations were established.

Finally, some of the alternative development paradigms have been proposed by the AWID Forum, on Gender Equality and Climate Change, which took place in Cape

Town, in November 2008. These include:

- Those in the north – who have disproportionately generated the emissions that have created the climate crisis—are those with the most choices/better ability to adjust and adapt to the effects of CC; and have more of an opportunity to shape and be present at the debates. As such, addressing climate change is a moral obligation; and principally a northern responsibility
- The 15th Conference of Parties will take place in Copenhagen from November to December 11, 2009. Here, the following policy demands will be made: 1) good governance 2) right to information 3) access to funds to tackle climate change 4) sustainable technology. It is very important that a clear and convincing gender perspective is added to all of these demands.
- Women's organizations do and must work at different levels and in different ways; but no need to re-invent the wheel, there are many experiences on the ground from which to draw as part of a global response to the call for climate justice

Mitigation and adaptation

The current inter-governmental negotiations under the UNFCCC are evolving around the key areas: mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance.

For gender and climate change discourse the key issue is whether women and men are impacted by climate change in the same ways or are women and their specific concerns left out. Because of this, the issue of **adaptation** is thus emerging as an important and extremely urgent aspect of climate change policy and projects and is now the focus of many international deliberations.

It is also agreed that the feminization of poverty, and other existing inequalities (women's gendered roles and division of labour), characterize women and men's vulnerability as well as their adaptive process.

For example since women form the a disproportionate share of the poor in South Africa, especially in rural areas who are dependent on natural resources climatic effects on these resources would make them more vulnerable. In addition, gender differences in property rights, access to information and in cultural, social and economic roles affect women and men differently.

The other footprint: It is critical that neoliberal governments everywhere disaggregate and discuss consumption statistics by gender and by culture. Without a grasp of basic structural notions like 'difference' in relation to resource use, and without an understanding of the socio-political mechanisms of 'othering', it will be impossible to carry through any solutions to global warming, let alone clear a pathway to lasting change. *Gabriel Saleh*

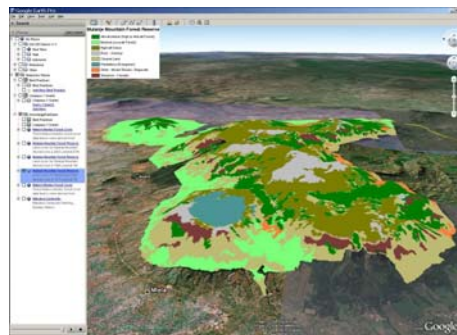
It is also documented (Anderson, 2002; Rukato and Wamukonya 2001) that women are more vulnerable than men because **technologies are not gender neutral** (e.g. carbon emission mitigation technologies).

Financing is one of the most crucial areas to be re-organized from a gender perspective. And probably the most difficult one, because most dominated by male power and male thinking

Financing is there for climate change, but the connections are not made to gender equality. In fact there is a need to track the funds and prioritize women as recipients because of the role they play in adaptation and the development of local/ innovative solutions. Additionally, women need to be present at these discussions and gender needs to be incorporated.

New tools and technologies

Some of the new tools that are available for addressing climate change were presented by Carmen Tedesco of the Academy for Educational Development (AED) Center for Environmental Strategies. Geospatial Information Technology, such as GIS, to collect, organize, analyze and display spatially related information are very useful to include geographical, social and economic data with a system wide approach.



GIS Technologies

Also AED promotes 'Communities of Practice Discussions', blogs, social networking, access to resources, environmental news for experience sharing amongst social networks of the South.

Like climate change, development is hugely complex, multi-layered and there is no main stakeholder. Needs to be tackled through a systems approach. Only very recently have we even talked about the two TOGETHER and the need to address development issues when discussing CC, especially around adaptations. *Carmen Tedesco*

How to put justice concerns in the global debate

The debate concluded that in the last year, important shifts were made in how people have been thinking about the climate negotiations. In fact, more social movements, grassroots activists are thinking how to get involved in the debate.

For example, as from the Poznan statement from the Climate Justice Now Alliance, a social network representing more than 160 organizations fighting for climate justice presented on the 12th December 2008, a radical change to put climate justice and people's rights at the centre of these negotiations is needed. Below some of the statements are summarized:

- Achieving low carbon economies, without resorting to offsetting and false solutions such as nuclear energy and 'clean coal', while protecting the rights of those affected by the transition, especially workers.
- Implementing people's food and energy sovereignty.
- Guaranteeing community control of natural resources.
- Re-localization of production and consumption, prioritizing local markets.
- Full recognition of Indigenous Peoples, peasant and local community rights.

'People who are suffering from the impacts of climate change should not pay the price for loosing their forests... etc... The message is simple. This is too important to leave to the market! We saw how the market can collapse, through derivatives and speculations... this can happen also in the carbon market!' *Nicola Bullard*

- Democratically controlled clean renewable energy.
- Rights based resource conservation that enforces indigenous land rights and promotes peoples sovereignty and public ownership over energy, forests, seeds, land and water.
- Ending deforestation and its underlying causes.
- Ending excessive consumption by elites in the North and in the South.
- Massive investment in public transport.
- Ensuring gender justice by recognizing existing gender injustices and involving women in decision making.
- Cancelling illegitimate debts claimed by northern governments and IFIs. The illegitimacy of these debts is underscored by the much greater historical, social and ecological debts owed to people of the South.

Looking at the issues discussed, participants of the Dialogue concluded that alternatives to the climate crisis will not come from industrialized countries and big business. Effective and enduring solutions will come from those who have protected the environment – indigenous peoples, women, peasant and family farmers, fisherfolk, forest dependent communities, youth and marginalized and affected communities in the global South and North.

Further conclusions:

- the global policy arena is restricted to the UN. It is necessary to enlarge the participation at the climate negotiations to social movements and grassroots organizations in order to understand the complexities of the environmental problems and shape their resolution
- it is necessary to include environmental justice approaches and analyze the complex roles and responsibilities of industrialized as well as developing countries in confronting local and global environmental issues
- a systemic approach is needed in bridging the gaps of science, technology and social justice in the debates
- a gendered approach is needed to achieve durable and sustainable solutions, as they engage in environmental change efforts at the local level



Continuing debates

Framing climate change as an issue of environmental justice raises many questions and concerns about the capacity of society to respond to current and future change in a reflexive and ethical manner. It raises questions of power, politics, race, class and gender—issues that are often swept aside in international scientific and policy debates about climate change. It also directs attention to the role of values, beliefs, worldviews and ethics, which are fundamental to efforts to address both threats and opportunities linked to climate change.

Issues that were raised by participants and that could represent topics for ongoing

and future Dialogues include:

- **Gender.** How to bring the insights of gender analysis and practice to environment and development policy debates, given an increasing inequality and marginalization which arises as a consequence of conflict from a shortage of natural resources.
- **Bio-Fuels or Agro-fuels.** The cultivation of bio-fuels – in the name of lessening the dependence on oil – has in fact contributed to food scarcity, destroying land that would have otherwise been used to farm food. What are the alternatives in terms of renewable energy?
- **Food Sovereignty/Agriculture.** There is a need to work towards food sovereignty, taking into account the principles of the slow food movement. Trade policies that promote the rights of people to food and to safe and ecologically sustainable production must be promoted. Women provide the labor for post harvest, storing, handling and stocking (women as farmers, women as producers), yet women are, generally speaking, not involved in the debates around the food crisis and/or the climate crisis; women farmers and women producers need to be present in international, national, local for a to debate/discuss farming practices, agriculture, climate etc. It is important to think about the role of corporate control over the global food system; view this as a key starting point to address systemic causes of climate change.
- **Consumerism and alternative development to economic growth:** we need a shift from focusing solely on economic development to socially responsible life style changes. There is a need to examine consumerism and push for a radical shift in consumption patterns particularly in the Global North.

Ways forward for SID's programme

The unique and exciting setting of the Dialogue encouraged a deeper understanding of political ecology from a South-South, North-South dialogue, from diverse local and transnational people movements, government, UN policy and research perspectives.

During the Dialogue participants engaged in bridging the differences about the science and politics of global warming, identifying and articulating key links between climate change, environmental justice and gender.

SID's aim is to promoting an interdisciplinary research agenda that emphasizes new ways of addressing environmental justice engaging in discussions across differences. This research agenda will be pursued by **the SID's Environmental Justice and Gender Programme.**

The programme will explore gender and environment within the context of the broader framework of environmental justice. The overall goal is to explore today's environmental crisis through a gender lens looking at the impacts of the energy and water crises, climate change, biotechnology, and unsustainable economic growth on peoples and their environments. The programme will therefore raise questions around access and control over energy, bio-technology, ecosystems, land sovereignty. Who are the actors? Who are the most effected and in what ways? What are the

alternatives to the rising monocultures? What are the responses to globalized food production? These are all key gender and environmental justice issues, rarely considered in adequate depth by governments and corporations.

In answering these questions, local knowledge and practices by women and men need to be brought to the forefront of political agendas.

As the main product the Program will feature a Zed Books Series on Gender and Environment, a multi disciplinary analysis of the gendered nature of environment from local and global perspectives. The series will aim to fill an important gap in today's literature in environmental and gender studies.

It will underline the importance of understanding today's environmental and interlinked development crises through a gender lens, looking at the impacts of the energy and water crises, climate change, and unsustainable trade and economic growth on women (and men) and their environments with a particular focus on women.

The Programme will host other Dialogues as a main vehicle for the dissemination of the findings and activities. In 2009 a dialogue is planned on '*Food, Globalization and Gender*' which will encourage a deeper understanding agricultural development from a South-South, North-South dialogue, from diverse local and transnational people

**Some moments of the Dialogue:
The slow food:**



The people:



Who is Who at the Dialogue

Non governmental organizations

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) works with governments, businesses, academics, and NGOs from many sectors to ensure that climate policy continues to move in the right direction. WWF launched the Go For Kyoto campaign to push enough governments to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and make it a legal treaty. Today WWF supports governments in industrialized countries to develop plans to reduce their current levels of CO₂ emissions, supports partnerships with businesses and industries to identify ways how they can reduce their emissions while pursuing local development goals - providing clean energy to those without any energy services. Also it actively supports communities and conservation areas to adapt to a changing climate. Actions such as restoring damaged forests, wetlands, and other habitats increase their resilience, help protect nature.

Focus on the Global South was established in Bangkok in 1995 and is affiliated with the Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute. Focus combines policy research, advocacy, activism and grassroots capacity building in order to generate critical analysis and encourage debates on national and international policies related to corporate-led globalization, neo-liberalism and militarization. It aims giving the "missing perspective in the discussion". For Nicola Bullard, *'climate change cannot be limited to a discussion only about the environment. There are questions about politics and power, like the issues of trade and finance being taken up. That is why we are talking about climate justice.'*



Academy for Educational Development (AED) is a nonprofit organization working globally to improve education, health, civil society and economic development. In collaboration with local and national partners, AED fosters sustainable results through practical, comprehensive approaches to social and economic challenges. AED implements innovative solutions to critical social and economic problems. Especially it focuses on new tools and technologies to address climate change in developing countries.



Academia

Mount Holyoke College, USA, represented by Giovanna Di Chiro, research associate and visiting professor in the Environmental Studies Department. She has published widely on the intersections of gender, race, scientific expertise, and environmental justice.

CIRPS (Inter-University Centre for Research and Development Projects), an inter-university research institute, created in La Sapienza University, aims at the promotion and implementation of sustainable economic and social development activities. Integral part of its mission is the promotion of member universities, participation to international networks, development of collaborations with private enterprises. CIRPS continues its research and demonstration activities on renewable energy extending its work to developing countries.

Tuscia University, Italy, through the Forest Ecology Department, coordinated by Prof. Riccardo Valentini, is engaged in research and projects concerning carbon bio-geo-chemical cycles, water and nutrition, growth models of forest stands, use of techniques for territorial analysis (remote sensing, proximal sensing and GIS) for forest applications. One of the projects carried out by the University is the CARBO GHG Europe, which provides a synthesis based on current research results of the European greenhouse gases budget, including both human induced and biospheric sources and sinks and recommendations for a multi-disciplinary integration in order to provide the scientific foundation for a full greenhouse gas accounting system by 2010.



Alternative movements

Punti di Vista, a non-profit association founded in 1996. Punti di Vista manages the Convento S. Maria del Giglio with the broad aim to stimulate the knowledge and the encounter of cultures, traditions and religions. The association organizes intercultural exchanges, study days, work camps, meetings, seminars, courses, in collaboration with local authorities and other local and international organizations. Punti di Vista works with local artists in the region, the government officials from the Viterbo Province and other local authorities in Italy, including members of local sustainable development councils.



Slow Food is an international member-supported organization (with over 85,000). Slow Food works to defend biodiversity in local food supply, spread taste education and connect producers of excellent foods with co-producers through events and initiatives. One of the most successful projects is the Learning Communities: the concept refers to a group of people who form a reciprocal learning and teaching community based on Slow Food principles. Learning communities highlight education as a multidirectional rather than one-way process and aim to stimulate real and much needed cultural change through food education. They seek to change the mentality of the average consumer, developing his or her relationship with food through particular programs and activities.



Local authorities

Viterbo Province, Local decision makers from different parts of the Viterbo Province help prepare the meeting by mapping out the most challenging issues for local communities and energy sustainable projects as well as to identify the crucial issues which are shared at local-global level for cross fertilization in the context of Agenda 21 and Kyoto Protocol and post Kyoto.



Scientists

Group for the History of Solar Energy, includes experts, scientists, and researchers of different institutions as the international solar energy society. The purpose of the group is to describe the work of the pioneers of renewable solar energy down through the ages and in all civilizations. The Italian Solar Energy History Project intends to help create further cultural and cognitive references on the history of solar energy that can facilitate the start of systematic studies on the subject and possibly provide lessons for the use of solar energy in our times and in the future. This history project's goal is primarily cultural, aimed at changing the perception of solar energy's potential and its modern application. Starting from past civilizations and proceeding through the Industrial Revolution to the rapid developments of recent decades, the history of solar renewable energy can hold important lessons for our own times, when humanity is beset by a growing number of problems, closely related to the use and availability of energy.

Gender groups

Gendercc – women for climate justice is the global network of women and gender activists, and gender experts from all world regions working for gender and climate justice. It aims at bringing public attention to climate change, and the increasing need for information about women's perspectives and gender aspects in climate change policies and measures. It serves as a networking platform for these organizations and gender & climate experts, and is to assist those who want to become acquainted with the issue as well as those who wish to enlarge upon it. It also develops research on gender and climate change and related areas, case studies that clarify and illustrate the gender aspects, activities and campaigns to make women's contributions to climate protection visible and further the integration of the gender dimension in climate policy and mechanisms and tools to put the integration of gender dimensions in climate change policies and measures into practice.

Endnotes

¹Charles David Keeling (1928 - 2005) was an American scientist whose recording of carbon dioxide at the Mauna Loa Observatory first alerted the world to the anthropogenic contribution to the "greenhouse effect" and global warming. The Keeling Curve measures the progressive buildup of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, in the atmosphere.

²Guy Stewart Callendar (1898 - 1964) was an English steam engineer and inventor. His main contribution to knowledge was propounding the theory that linked rising carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere to global temperature. This eventually became known as the Callendar effect. Callendar thought this warming would be beneficial, delaying a 'return of the deadly glaciers.'

³ The term Anthropocene is used by some scientists to describe the most recent period in the Earth's history. It may be considered to start in the late 18th century when the activities of the humans first began to have a significant global impact on the Earth's climate and ecosystems. The term was coined in 2000 by the Nobel Prize winning atmospheric chemist Paul Crutzen, who regards the influence of human behavior on the Earth in recent centuries as so significant as to constitute a new geological era.

⁴ According to a compilation of thoughts by several notable EJ organizations, root causes of environmental injustices include institutionalized racism; the commodification of land, water, energy and air; unresponsive, unaccountable government policies and regulation; and lack of resources and power in affected communities.

⁵ The capacity of land-based vegetation and marine life to absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen through photosynthesis

⁶ Ecological debt is the term used to describe the consumption of resources from within an ecosystem that exceeds the system's regenerative capacity. This is seen in particular in non-renewable resources wherein consumption outstrips production. In a general sense, it can be used refer to the overall depletion of global resources beyond the earth's ability to regenerate them. A more specific concept developed in the context of global warming is greenhouse debt. Ecological Debt has also been applied to highlight the disparity between industrialized nations, which consume a greater share of the global resource pool, and developing nations, who despite their greater share of the global population, consume less. (Alier, J.M, 2002, 'The environmentalism of the poor', University of Witswatersrand, UNRISD Report)

⁷ Climate change magnifies existing inequalities, reinforcing the disparity between women and men in their vulnerability to and capability to cope with climate change (UNDP, 2007).

⁸ Women's categories of work include reproductive, productive and community work, while men do not have the reproductive role. Reproductive work involves the care and maintenance of the household and its members. Despite it being the foundation of every society, reproductive work is often taken for granted, undervalued and not regarded as 'real work'.

⁹ Women, as the majority of the world's poor, are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change (WEDO, 2007, 'Changing the Climate: Why Women's Perspectives Matter', Fact sheet. WEDO, New York.)

¹⁰ Loss of livelihood assets, displacement and migration may lead to reduced access to education opportunities, thus hampering the realization of Millennium Development Goal 2 (MDG2) on universal primary education. Depletion of natural resources and decreasing agricultural productivity may place additional burdens on women's health and reduce time for decision-making processes and income-generating activities, worsening gender equality and women's empowerment (MDG3)... (UNDP, 2007, 'Human Development Report 2007-2008: Fighting Climate Change: Human Solidarity in a Divided World', Palgrave Macmillan, New York)

¹¹ An Oxfam (2005) report on the impact of the 2005 Asia Tsunami reported that the majority of those killed and least able to recover were women (many drowned simply because they had never learnt to swim). Oxfam, 2005, 'The Tsunami's impact on women', briefing, March, available at www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/conflict_disasters/downloads/bn_tsunami_women.pdf, site accessed 18 June 2007

¹² From (WID) to Gender and Development (GAD). The WID approach was characterized by assisting women in welfare and by recognizing women as equally valid recipients of development aid; following these the basic needs phase which saw women being targeted but without the benefit of any deeper social analysis of power relations. Finally, it was recognized that "...men and women have different perspectives, needs and constraints can lead to a better fit of project intervention with the 'clients' and thus greater management efficiency in terms of delivery". Gender here is being used in an instrumental sense, essentially to raise the internal rate of return of the project.

¹³ From this perspective, it is argued that gender planning could only empower women if women are active participants and their needs are strategically mainstreamed in development projects. This entails tackling the full range of issues women are confronted with on day-to-day basis from physical to symbolic, political and economic

¹⁴ Intersectionality is a theory which seeks to examine the ways in which various socially and culturally constructed categories interact on multiple levels to manifest themselves as inequality in society. Intersectionality holds that the classical models of oppression within society, such as those based on race/ethnicity, gender, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, class, species or disability do not act independently of one another; instead, these forms of oppression interrelate creating a system of oppression that reflects the 'intersection' of multiple forms of discrimination.