### Gender Equality and Climate Change Finance – The Role of Public Development Banks

**High level side-event CSW66 | Concept note**  
**Wednesday, 16 March, 9:00 am EDT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title of the event</strong></th>
<th>Gender Equality and Climate Change Finance – The Role of Public Development Banks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institution lead and co-leads</strong></td>
<td>Agence Française de Développement (AFD), African Development Bank (AfDB), European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)</td>
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| **Co-hosts** | Government of Morocco  
Government of France |

**Rationale**

Public development banks (PDBs) are essential players in the response to the 2030 global agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Gender equality as well as climate change remain major challenges to reach the 2030 Agenda targets. However, the achievement of all of these targets and specially those of SDG 5 remains behind schedule. Interestingly, the 2030 Agenda does not draw an explicit link between SDG 5 and SDG 13 on climate action. They rather make a link between women and girls' climate adaptive capacity e.g. land ownership, access to finance, climate education etc. Indeed, since the 1970s and the rise of feminist movements, the interlinkages between gender and environmental issues have been largely demonstrated. As such, the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD) all have gender action plans and the link between gender and environment was also laid out by Beijing Platform for Action.

To ensure that gender equality and women’s empowerment are reflected in global efforts to secure a more sustainable planet, PDBs can play an important role to identify and finance solutions that focus on the nexus between climate change and gender equality. This event will deepen on the PDBs initiatives existing on the nexus of gender and green, which remains as one of the priorities of the Finance in Common Summit’s gender equality coalition of development banks.

Concerning the existing initiatives in Morocco, the African Development Bank moves the gender and climate agenda in Morocco forward. As an example, the Bank conducted a gender case study analysis in the Solar Energy Program in Ouarzazate. The report provides insights on the challenges faced by women when it comes to joining the labour market in the renewable energy sector and a list of suggested gender indicators to be used to assess gender equality actions in similar green activities.

Another facility linking gender and green developed by EBRD in Morocco is the The Green Value Chain. This project aims to reduce gender gaps and promote women’s access to
climate finance, contributing to the creation of sustainable markets for a green economy. Gender considerations are integrated in the design and implementation of the programme to provide equal access to climate financing, by both men and women, ensuring that women and men potential sub-borrowers are aware of the benefits of investing in climate technologies.

The event will also be an opportunity to introduce different reports on the gender and climate nexus in development aid projects. For instance, the Green Jobs for Women in Africa report prepared by the African Development Bank (AFDB) and UN Women in December 2021 looked at the critical role played by women in managing Africa’s natural capital assets and building climate resilience in local communities. The report questioned if the transition to green economy and the economic transformation will help women move into higher paid and more stable jobs.

In 2021, in the prospect of the Generation Equality Forum, the French Development Agency (AFD) commissioned a study to map the gender-climate nexus within the international development realm (Forest & Foreste, 2021). More specifically, the study carried out a comprehensive critical analysis of strategies and discourses put forward by international development stakeholders such as international organizations, development agencies, NGOs, experts’ communities, multilateral financing institutions and regional development banks. In 2022, a second study was launched on PDBs’ projects implementation on the gender-climate nexus – trends and perspectives. As such, the study should draw up a typology of gender-climate projects (e.g. adaptation or mitigation; rural or urban setting); identify success factors based on a set of objective indicators, as well as potential improvements to strengthen projects’ positive impacts and avoid negative ones.

Objectives

The panel will address the role and impact of development banks in the funding of gender inequalities and climate change.

- Introduce PDBs initiatives and projects on gender, climate change and funding.
- Present the existing studies to explore the nexus of gender and climate change in relation with the 8 frames that been identified in the AFD/OFCE/Sciences Po study - the study on the benchmark of PDBs innovative projects on gender and climate change; and the study on green jobs for women in Africa: opportunities and policy interventions.

Format

Duration of the event: 1h15 – 75 minutes

9:00-9:02 am  Welcoming by Moderator, Ms. Oulimata Sarr, Regional Director for UN Women in West and Central Africa

9:03-9:15 am  Opening Remarks:
<table>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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| 9:15-9:55 am | Panel discussion about the issues and solutions on the gender and climate nexus for Public Development Banks:  
  - **Ms. Anita Bhatia**, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women  
  - **Ms. Barbara Rambousek**, Director, Gender and Economic Inclusion, EBRD  
  - **Dr. Vanessa Ushie**, Acting Director of the African Natural Resources Center, AfDB  
| 9:55-10:10 am | Q&A session                                                                       |
| 10:10-10:15 am | Conclusions by Moderator                                                          |

**Registration**  
[https://unwomen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u_hYEJRAT_CGbJaXLhndTQ](https://unwomen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u_hYEJRAT_CGbJaXLhndTQ)