New Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

UNIDO recognizes that gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW) have a significant positive impact on sustained economic growth and inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), which are drivers of poverty reduction, social integration and environmental sustainability. Therefore, UNIDO’s new Gender Policy, in effect since 13 March 2015, will not only advance the overall goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women but also pursue the goal of gender balance within the Organization and promote the organizational commitments of UNIDO to mainstream gender in all programmes and projects.

The newly established Gender Mainstreaming Steering Board (GMSB), comprising of the Executive Board members and chaired by the UNIDO Director General, will oversee the implementation of UNIDO’s GEEW Strategies, which will be implemented by the new Office for Gender Mainstreaming, Ethics and Accountability (ODG/GEA). ODG/GEA will also be responsible for promoting GEEW within the Organization, including the systematic gender mainstreaming of all policies, programmes and organizational practices, as well as working towards achieving gender balance within UNIDO. This will be supported by dedicated Gender Focal Points (GFPs) and ad-hoc Gender Teams at all levels. Among others, the GFPs’ primary responsibilities and tasks will consist of promoting greater awareness of gender issues at the organizational and programme levels, creating a gender-sensitive work environment in their Branch, identifying good practices and initiatives that promote GEEW, and contributing to the preparation, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the progress achieved in the implementation of the UNIDO’s GEEW Strategies, as well as networking with other GFPs at Headquarters and the Field. A Gender Coordinator to work in ODG/GEA on a full-time basis shall also be appointed from within the Organization.

Please read through UNIDO’s new “Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women” on our Intranet, OpenText and gender pages on unido.org.


REThink the Energy-Gender Nexus: Adding Value to Sustainable and Inclusive Development in the Energy Sector

The Energy Branch of UNIDO, in close collaboration with the Gender and Energy Programmes of the World Bank Group’s Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), SNV and ENERGIA, is organizing a side event “REThink the Energy-Gender Nexus: Adding Value to Sustainable and Inclusive Development in the Energy Sector” during the Vienna Energy Forum 2015.

The side event will provide a forum for knowledge exchange and discussion among stakeholders engaged in the field of sustainable energy. Innovative approaches for mainstreaming gender into sustainable energy projects, as well as insights into how gender equality and the empowerment of women can be strengthened through sustainable energy access will form an integral part of the agenda. In particular, selected studies and best-practice solutions will be presented, complemented by a networking event fostering women’s empowerment. Representatives from governments, multi- and bilateral donors, development agencies, civil society and the private sector are expected to attend this event.

Register before 4 June 2015 for the Vienna Energy Forum taking place on 18-20 June 2015 and be a part of the event! For more information on this event please contact k.proestler@unido.org or for general information on the Vienna Energy Forum vef2015@unido.org.
In achieving its unique mandate to accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO recognizes access to sustainable energy for productive uses as a key catalyst. In particular, UNIDO focuses on the role of women as agents in promoting and using climate technologies and renewable energy solutions – recognizing that women can take the initiative and play a key role in driving innovative actions to abate greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the risks posed by climate change. In addition, climate mitigation and adaptation technologies, especially in the field of renewable energy, can be a catalyst for women’s economic empowerment and the promotion of gender equality.

During this webinar hosted by EmpowerWomen.org and organized by UNIDO in cooperation with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), UN Women, and ENERGÍA on 6 May 2015 at 8:30 am (EDT), experts and entrepreneurs in the field of sustainable energy will invite us to RE-Think the role of climate technologies for women’s empowerment. To facilitate discussion and knowledge exchange on the nexus between mutually reinforcing linkages of gender, climate technologies, sustainable energy, and inclusive and sustainable industrial development, prominent experts in the field of gender and sustainable energy are brought together. Experts include Joy Clancy, from the University of Twente; Wandee Khunchornyakong, who runs Solar Power Company Group, the largest solar power generation company in Thailand; Monica Christy, Senior Programme Officer representing Kopernik’s Ibu Inspirasi initiative; and Ondina da Barca Vieira, from UN Women in Mozambique. Discussions will focus on innovative solutions for the successful transfer of climate technologies that engage women as key actors, as well as on enabling conditions for empowering women as agents of change in driving innovative climate actions, and the role of climate technologies in accelerating women’s economic empowerment.

To attend the webinar, register here. For more information on this webinar please contact the UNIDO energy-gender expert Katharina Proestler at k.proestler@unido.org.
The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), in collaboration with UNIDO, has launched a campaign under the tag “#Standtall” to raise awareness of the under-utilized potential of women in the energy sector and the social constructions that are holding women back.

The global campaign recognizes that women are under-represented in the energy sector, particularly in the technical areas, and that an energy sector, where women’s human capital is not appropriately harnessed and utilized, cannot achieve the goal of sustainable energy for all (SE4ALL), globally or in the ECOWAS region.

With the aim of putting West African youth at the forefront as leaders of the transformation for inclusiveness and equality in the energy sector in the ECOWAS region, the campaign kicked off with a writing competition targeting young men and women at the age of 16 to 32 years of age. The five highest voted articles, based on voting via social platforms, are being selected and reviewed by a jury, which includes experts from UNIDO’s Energy Branch. The best three articles selected by the jury will be awarded with prize money of up to US$500 for the first prize and will be featured in the ECOWAS newsletters.

The message of #Standtall is that women and girls should be proud and confident in their qualities, capacities, abilities, talents and skills. “Through this campaign we want women and girls to know that they have something to offer towards ending energy poverty and to the sustainable development of their communities. We are saying don’t hold back from unleashing your full potential.” says ECREEE.

The campaign is being implemented through the framework of the ECOWAS Programme on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (ECOW-GEN), a flagship programme implemented by ECREEE in close cooperation with the ECOWAS Department of Social Affairs and Gender, UNIDO, ADA, AECID ENERGIA and other partners.

The submitted articles can be found here.
For more information please visit: http://ecowgen.ecreee.org/index.php/campaigns/
The story of the small village of Piplantri in southern Rajasthan’s Rajsamand district has gone viral over recent months. Every time a girl is born, villagers plant 111 trees and the community is taking care of these trees from then on, guaranteeing extra income from their harvest as the girls grow up. Between 2007 and 2013 the villagers managed to plant over a quarter million trees in honour of the village’s girls. To further prevent young girls from being disadvantaged or neglected by their parents, money from the village residents is being collected by the girl’s father and is turned into a fixed deposit for the girl, taking a step towards girls’ education and self-determination. Since the beginning of this rather new tradition, new ways of making a living from the newly planted trees have emerged. To protect the trees from termite infestation, Aloevera plants are grown, which has lead to a wide variety of Aloevera products distributed by the villagers. The village of Piplatri and its initiative against gender discrimination and the fight against climate change is truly noteworthy and should serve as an example.

For more information go to: http://piplantri.com/

Pictures: piplantri.com

Close the GAP!

World wide gender gap on various parameters

EmpowerWomen.org

Why girls don't study science

https://www.facebook.com/piplantri

111 trees for every girl

Spread the word on Twitter!

#Piplantri

#VEF2015

#Standtall

Best wishes from Nilguen Tas, Theresa Tomaschitz and Clara Pfannkuch

For any comments, further information or contributions, please contact: gender@unido.org