



UNIDO co-led Side Event at the 2022 Science, Technology and Innovation Forum

The Gender and Energy Compact: Catalyzing action for a just, inclusive and gender-responsive energy transition

Friday 6 May 2022, 7:30am - 8:30am EDT

Organizers: UNIDO, ENERGIA, GWNET

Event recording available [here](#)

Key Recommendations

- Science has to be the basis for the formulation of environmental policies that are gender-responsive, but **scientific developments are often gender-blind**. There has to be a significant and determined push to raise the importance of gender equality in all sectors, and especially in science and energy-related sectors as well as to increase availability of gender-responsive data and information. Knowledge is socially constructed – as a society we must hence **actively include and apply a gender lens in our work**.
- Moreover, **science-related fields remain men-dominated** and the benefits from scientific advances are still distributed unequally. This is a hindrance to protecting our planet and understanding the real implications of the climate crisis and energy planning on women and girls. The time is now to elevate the voice of those who haven't been heard before and to adopt measures that increase women's leadership and participation in science and technical fields of the energy transition as we cannot reach the SDGs if gender inequalities persist.
- **Partnerships and collaboration** between stakeholders are important to create a systemic change for gender equality and sustainable impact for all women. Recognizing that the energy transition cannot be sustainable if it is not socially inclusive and gender-responsive, UNIDO, ENERGIA and GWNET launched the "Gender and Energy Compact" to bring together international organizations, governments, private sector, academia and civil society to support this cause to jointly accelerate the implementation of the UN Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs.
- The **design process for new technologies, including in the energy sector must be human-centered**. Analyzing and monitoring the gendered perspectives, needs and priorities is important to develop products and services that cater to the needs of both women and men. The involvement of women along the whole value chain, including in the design and innovation process, is needed to create holistic and novel approaches for energy solutions and their distribution.
- Addressing the **gender financing gap** is key to ensuring women can equally lead, contribute to and benefit from the energy transition. This involves reducing gender bias of investors and providing dedicated funding to women scientists and entrepreneurs.

- **Inclusive workplaces and opportunities for networking are paramount to increasing women's representation in STEM fields.** Diversity and inclusion bring a variety of benefits for the employer and employees, and collection of data to identify any gender gaps are important. Gender equality policies, work-life balance measures, leadership support and career development programmes, as well as dedicated mentoring for women and funding are needed to increase the number of women leaders and agents of change in the energy sector.

Speakers at the event were **Sadikshya Aryal**, Co-Founder/Managing Director at Himalayan Innovations; **Dr. Milagros De Camps**, Vice Minister for International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic; **Dr. Margaret Matinga**, Senior Technical Advisor for the International Network on Gender and Energy (ENERGIA); **Dr. Victoria Plutshack**, Senior Policy Associate, The James E. Rogers Energy Access Project at Duke; **Leena Srivastava**, Deputy Director General for Science of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), **Cecilia Ugaz Estrada**, Director of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Office and Special Advisor, Office of the Managing Director, Directorate of Corporate Management and Operations, UNIDO; and **Leanne Williams**, Lead Analyst, World Biogas Association.

More information:

- [Gender and Energy Compact website](#)
- [UNIDO Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women webpage](#)
- [ENERGIA website](#)
- [UNIDO Guide on Gender Mainstreaming: Energy and Climate Change Projects](#)