SYMPOSIUM ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION POLICIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

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PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD
ACHIEVING COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AS RELATED TO GENDER, INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

• VERY WELL DOCUMENTED – INTERLINKAGES ACROSS THE SDG GOALS
• GENDER IS CROSS CUTTING
• CLIMATE CHANGE IS CROSS CUTTING
• INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IS CROSS CUTTING
• DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IS CROSS CUTTING
• THEY ALL REQUIRE STRATEGIC ACTIONS AIMED AT ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND
INTRODUCTION CONTINUED
GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

• CLIMATE ACTION PRESENTS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE GOOD ON OUR COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUALITY

• CLIMATE CHANGE HAS FORCED US TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT ADAPTATION, MITIGATION AND RESPONSE AND IN SO DOING IT HAS PLACED THE SECTORS MOST IMPACTED IN THE SPOTLIGHT, LIKE THE WATER SECTOR

• THESE SECTORS PARTICULARLY HIGHLIGHT GENDER DIFFERENCES IN ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OVER RESOURCES AND PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

• BUT WE HAVE NOT TRADITIONALLY PLANNED WITH THESE DIFFERENCES IN MIND – AT THE EXPENSE OF EQUALITY – IT CANNOT BE BUSINESS AS USUAL
EASIER SAID THAN DONE?

- NATIONAL STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN & MID TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
- NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN AND SECTOR ADAPTATION PLANS
- NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS
- AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS …
- MUST BE GENDER RESPONSIVE

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO JUST INTEGRATE SOME GENDER CONSIDERATIONS INTO EXISTING PLANS
POLICY DEVELOPMENT

• GENDER POLICY TO FOCUS ON GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE PRINCIPLES INCLUDING GENDER JUSTICE

• GENDER POLICY SHOULD ENSURE THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS A STRATEGIC PRIORITY

• GENDER TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND MAINSTREAMED IN THE SECTORS AS PART OF A NATIONAL STRATEGIC PROCESS TO MAINSTREAM GENDER IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – IF INCORPORATING GENDER CONSIDERATIONS IN POLICIES REMAIN ONLY THE BUSINESS OF THE GENDER BUREAUS THEN IMPLEMENTATION WILL ALWAYS REMAIN A CHALLENGE (ONGOING – SLOW PROCESS)
SUSTAINING GENDER MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS

• THE DEPARTMENTS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND FINANCE ARE KEY TO ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS IN ALL SECTORS, INCLUDING WATER AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT.

  • PUBLIC SERVICE – INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY OF FOCAL POINTS ON GENDER THROUGH INCLUSION OF THIS FUNCTION IN THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND INCLUSION IN THE APPRAISAL INSTRUMENT.

  • FINANCE – ENSURE GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING ACROSS ALL SECTORS. THIS WILL ENCOURAGE THE INCLUSION OF GENDER CONSIDERATION IN PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS.
SUSTAINING GENDER MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS

• FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF FOCAL POINTS
  • TO ENSURE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE
  • FACILITATE COLLABORATIVE PLANNING ACROSS DEPARTMENTS
  • IDENTIFICATION OF TRENDS THROUGH THE COLLECTION OF COMPARATIVE DATA
  • COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSFORMATIVE INTERVENTIONS WITH MULTI-AGENCY IMPACT
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND DATA MANAGEMENT

• CRITICAL COMPONENTS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY
• COLLABORATION WITH ACADEMIA, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS
• ONGOING AND INFORMED BY NEW RESEARCH
• WILL STRENGTHEN NATIONAL REPORTING CAPACITY
INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

• Find the ideal placement of the unit/department to serve its cross-cutting function.
• Equip with human resource (expertise specifically) – Gender expert, legal expert, research expert at the country level for greater effectiveness of the unit to serve as the coordinating body for gender equality.
MAKING LINKAGES

• Link gender mainstreaming with eliminating discrimination against women and ending gender-based violence, and make true of the commitment to CEDAW.

• Not engaging in transformative practices that seek to break the cycles that keep women disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of extreme weather events is a form of discrimination against women.

• Articles 4 and 5 of CEDAW should be emphasized in that regard:
  • Article 4: Use of temporary special measures
  • Article 5: Responsibility of states to engage in specific activities aimed at reversing harmful gender stereotypes in the public and private spheres.
CHANGE MANAGEMENT

• FINALLY, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT GENDER RESPONSIVE AND GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE WORK IN ALL SECTORS IS RELATIVELY NEW AND WITH EVERYTHING NEW THERE WILL BE ACTORS WITH VARYING DEGREES OF BUY-IN AND OPENNESS TO CHANGE.

• SHIFTS OF THAT NATURE REQUIRE DELIBERATE STRATEGIES THAT ARE COUNTRY-SPECIFIC AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT – IT CANNOT BE LEFT TO CHANCE

• SYSTEMATIC MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION ARE CRITICAL TO THIS PROCESS

• THE CARICOM GENDER STRATEGY PRESENTS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THOSE DELIBERATE STRATEGIES TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS IN THIS REGARD