Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy

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Mainstreaming gender in STI policy

A matter of development effectiveness as well as an ethical issue:

- 1) Women play a central and vital role in society (productive activities, social functions)

- 2) Gender mainstreaming can make STI policies more effective and

- 3) Appropriate STI policies can enhance women's contribution to economic growth and development

- In 1995, the Report of the Gender Working Group of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) : *"Missing links – gender equity in science and technology for development"*.

  - Identified 7 Transformative Action Areas

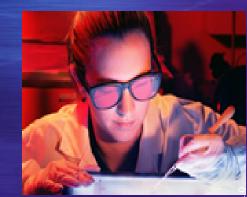- Fifteen years later it's time to revisit

- Timing is opportune: STI is getting back on the development agenda

- Few national STI policies adress gender equality

Making science, technology and innovation policy gender responsive

Three key elements:

- Promoting S&T to support women's development and livelihood activities ("Science **for** Women")

- Promoting gender equality in science, technology, and engineering education, workforce, and leadership ("Women **in** Science")

- Supporting the role of women in innovation systems

Science for Women
Promoting science and technology to support women's development and livelihood activities

- Three key sectors where women play a central role
  - Agriculture, food security, and nutrition
  - Water and sanitation
  - Energy

- Science and technology can help adress women's challenges (many examples)

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- Strong role for proactive policies to support the *design, development* and *diffusion* of gender responsive technologies

Women in science
Promoting gender equality in science, technology and engineering education, workforce and leadership

- Why? To ensure women contribute shaping the STI agenda and make it more gender responsive

- Key issues
  - Promoting a S&T literate women population
  - Working with women to improve production and support of women's enterprises
  - Ensuring women gain participate in <u>decision making</u> on STI policies

- Strategies and tools
  - Promote female education in science, mathematics and technology (SMT)
  - Continuing education and vocational training
  - Information and communication technologies: ICTs have a great potential for female education
  - Fixing the "leaking pipeline"

Supporting women in innovations systems

- Women in SMES
  - Technical and scientific education and training
  - Venture capital
  - Recognition and protection of women's knowledge and innovation
  - Training for enterprise development

- Having women in management of medium and large enterprises is important for innovation systems and for countries to compete globally (Transformation Action Area No 8)

Some basic features of a gender-affirmative policy

- COHERENCE with other policy areas (an integrated approach)

- Evidence –based

- Integration of gender perspective throughout the policy making process

- Scaling-up of successful programmes (i.e from local to national level)

Conclusions

- Political will

- Three key words: assess, understand, translate.

- Developing STI approaches which benefit women (science **FOR** women) and ensuring women's role in STI (women **IN** science)

  This involves in particular:
    - Consulting and working with women
    - Providing them access to resources
    - Recognizing and supporting their local knowledge and innovation practices

Conclusions (cont'd)

- Gender mainstreaming in STI policy:
  the "gender lens approach"
  at <u>each stage</u> of the STI policy making process

  - At **research** and assessment level
    evidence-based assessments taking into account
    gender equity and gender gaps
    (e.g gender impact analysis)

  - At **design** level:
    solutions and strategies in consultation with women
    at all levels

  - At **implementation & monitoring** level
    programs and support structures to implement and
    monitor gender-responsive STI policy

Thank you for your attention

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