

Gender and Environmental Law. Challenges and opportunities for promoting the role of gender in environmental justice

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Panel 4. Poster pitch session

The Rio Conventions and women: What role for the gender actions plans in accomplishing their object and purpose?

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The understanding of gender equality and the empowerment of women as a cross-cutting issue in environmental matters has been underlined by the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and by the Declaration and Platform of Beijing, adopted by the 1985 Third and the 1995 Fourth World Conferences on Women, respectively, and by the Agenda 21 (1992), adopted by the 1992 Earth Summit, in which texts it is possible to acknowledge the diverse and wide range of interlinkages between climate change, biodiversity, desertification (or sustainable land use) and women, either by the negative effects of these forms of environmental degradation above them and their human rights, or by the women's essential role in the elimination, reduction or mitigation of their effects.

Despite the different normative thresholds (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has no reference to women in its text; the Convention on Biological Diversity contains one paragraph related in its Preamble; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, has one reference in its articulated text in addition to the one in its Preamble), the implementation of the three so-called Rio Conventions is required of a gender sensitive approach in order to guarantee its efficacy and the one of the other international instruments derived from and essentially connected to them. The adoption of Gender Action Plans, as the appropriate tool for mainstreaming gender issues within the work of each Convention, implies the opportunity of analyzing if the coordination developed between the three Rio Conventions, due to their widely recognized synergies, and institutionalized by the Joint Liaison Group and the Rio Conventions Pavilion, has also been applied to this question and, therefore, its impact in the accomplishment of their object and purpose.