

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

Gender and climate change. Is the Ecuadorian normative addressing gender equality?

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Ecuador has a comprehensive regulatory framework on environmental and climate change issues. In 2008 a new Constitution entered into force, in which general guidelines about environmental protection, climate change and gender equality were established. Nevertheless, climate change was mainly addressed through public policies. Finally, since 2017 Ecuador has for the first time a national normative that addresses climate change due to the issuance of the Environmental Organic Code which includes a chapter dedicated to regulate climate change, tackling climate change's management, planning, financing, technology transfer, knowledge management and general provisions on mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Additionally, a Regulation to the Organic Code of the Environment has been developed, which also includes a book on climate change that allows the application of the provisions of the Environmental Organic Code.

Moreover, several international instruments have recognized the need to integrate a gender approach in environmental issues and in tackling climate change, for instance the Rio Declaration; Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals; as well as some decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Therefore, it is important to analyze and evaluate whether Ecuadorian climate change regulations include a gender neutral language that allows the implementation of actions taking into account gender equality and that are in accordance with international regulatory frameworks and standards. Then, instruments to address climate change like the Nationally Determined Contribution, submitted by Ecuador to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2019, will implement specific actions and strategies for each gender, taking into consideration that climate change affects men and women differently.