



INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND TRADE POLICY

CONFERENCE:

Gender Equity and Sustainable Development: Prioritizing Actions to Achieve Results

DATE: Thursday, January 19th, 2012, 8:30 am – 5 pm

VENUE: Resources and Conservation Center, Conference Center, 1st Floor, 1400 16th St. NW

Today, prospects for sustainable development remain a serious challenge as our global economy, our natural environment, our social well-being, and our political structures are in crisis. From the economy to climate change to food and agriculture, systems of governance are in disarray. More workers and their families are living in extreme poverty and the gap between the rich and the poor has grown, sparking protests around the world. Close to a billion people are hungry and the number of those malnourished is even higher.¹ Natural disasters are occurring at an unprecedented rate and for 2012 severe drought and flooding are already predicted in a number of countries. Many of the gains made in achieving sustainable development goals over the last twenty years have been or are being reversed as downside risks to the global economy continue to materialize.

Everyone is struggling more intensely in today's world – particularly women and girls. They are the ones who work more intensely to collect water, gather wood, prepare food, provide healthcare for family members, and provide income to make ends meet when economies break down. They are more at risk of violence, contracting sexual diseases, and displacement as a result of severe weather patterns and conflict. According to the World Bank, women own 1% of world assets. They lack property rights, access to productive assets, credit, and technology. In general, they are paid less than men and have more precarious work. And so on...

The bottom line is that gender equity and sustainable development go hand in hand. Leaders recognize the importance of linking gender equity with sustainable development goals. The UN Secretary General and various UN agencies have been calling for gender equity to be cross-cutting to the MDGs and for women's meaningful participation in all decision-making processes that impact their lives. The World Bank agrees that gender equity is a core development objective in its own right. Various actors in the private sector are promoting stronger

¹ *State of Food Insecurity in the World. 2011. FAO, WFP, IFAD. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2330e/i2330e.pdf>*

gender initiatives in sustainable market development. Scientists and engineers are developing various technologies designed to improve the lives of women. The UNDP 2011 Human Development Report affirms that beyond the Millennium Development Goals, the world needs a post-2015 development framework that reflects equity and sustainability. The question for us now is: how can we make it happen?

The Heinrich Böll Foundation and co-organizers Oxfam, Action Aid USA, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and Gender Action invite you to this targeted dialogue with leaders to help us to identify remaining challenges, solutions, and necessary actions to make sure that gender equity and sustainable development really happen.

PROGRAM

8:30am - Breakfast

9:00-9:15am – Welcome and Brief Overview by **Klaus Linsenmeier**, Executive Director of the Heinrich Böll Foundation North America

9:15-9:45am –Keynote Speaker: **The Honorable Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State**

9:45-10:00am – Response: **Thilmeeza Hussain, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Republic of Maldives to the United Nations**

10:00am-11:15pm – **Panel I: Global Governance: Shifts and Turns**

This roundtable discussion will reflect on the outcomes from the various global summits relating to the economy, food and agriculture and climate from a gender perspective. Speakers will be asked to reflect on what was achieved and what needs to happen in 2012.

FACILITATOR: **Jim Harkness**, President, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

- **Caren Grown**, Senior Gender Advisor in the Bureau of Policy, Planning and Learning, U.S. Agency for International Development
- **Tracy Raczek**, External Relations Specialist, UN Women
- **Anita Nayar**, Executive Committee, Development Alternatives for a New Era (DAWN)
- **Nancy Alexander**, Program Director for Economic Governance, Heinrich Böll Foundation North America

11:15-11:30am - Break

11:30-12:45pm - **Panel II. Enabling Economy for Gender-Equitable Sustainable Growth**

This roundtable will reflect the various trends in the global economy, and prioritize those rules and responses that will best address gender equity and sustainable development at various levels.

FACILITATOR: **Elaine Zuckerman**, Gender Action

- **Radhika Balakrishnan**, Executive Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University
- **Aldo Caliari**, Director, Bretton Woods Project, Center of Concern
- **Tim Scott**, Policy Advisor on Gender and Environment, UN Development Program (UNDP)
- **Jennifer Klugman**, Director of Gender Unit, The World Bank Group

12:45-1:45pm LUNCH

1:45-3:00pm - **Panel III. A Gendered Framework for Food and Agriculture**

This panel will reflect on ways to improve global hunger, prioritizing rules and responses to address gender equity and sustainable development: how do we move from rhetoric on the need to invest in women in agriculture to action that is both viable and long-lasting?

FACILITATOR: **Alexandra Spieldoch**, Independent Gender and Food Systems Specialist

- **Evariste Karangwa**, Program Director, Africa International Programs Department, Lutheran World Relief
- **Marie Brill**, Senior Policy Analyst, Action Aid USA
- **Florence Rolle**, Senior Liaison Officer, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s Office for North America
- **Mara Russell**, Practice Manager: Food Security and Livelihoods, Land O'Lakes International

3-3:15pm - Break

3:15-4:30pm - **Panel IV. Gendered Responses to Climate Change**

This panel will reflect on how gender plays into political and economic responses to climate change, prioritizing rules and responses to address gender equity and sustainable development: what's needed?

Facilitator: **David Waskow**, Climate Change Program Director, Oxfam America

- **Liane Schalatek**, Associate Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation North America
- **Sivan Kartha**, Senior Scientist, Stockholm Environment Institute
- **Bonizalla Biagini**, Head, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Operations, Global Environment Facility
- **Mariama Williams**, Senior Research Fellow, South Centre

4:30-4:45 pm - Closing Remarks and Next Steps, Heinrich Böll Foundation, followed by

5 – 6:30 pm RECEPTION at location