



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
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NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, referring to the letter of Mrs. Yoko Hayashi, Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, dated 24.11.2016 with reference number CEDAW/DRRCC/2016/2, on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in a changing climate, has the honour to attach herewith the contribution of the Hellenic Ministry of Interior, General Secretariat of Gender Equality.

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, January 17, 2017

To: **The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**
cedaw@ohchr.org

Att. 2 pages

RE: "DRAFT GENERAL RECOMMENDATION ON DRRCC"

The General Secretariat for Gender Equality (GSGE), i.e. the governmental organization in charge of equality between women and men in Greece, expresses its high appreciation for the quality of the document entitled "Draft General Recommendations No 35 on the Gender-related dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction in a Changing Climate". Undoubtedly, the acclaimed expertise of the CEDAW Committee is a guarantee for the final outcome and always in favour of women's empowerment and substantive equality between women and men globally.

It is underlined that the GSGE has been sincerely involved in the gender aspect of climate change by developing synergies with a number of distinctive national and international stakeholders. Here is a comprehensive presentation of our main policies and actions on the issue:

A. The drafting of a new National Action Plan on Gender Equality has been just completed. Our intention is the new Action Plan to be endorsed by the Ministers' Council, so that it can serve as the roadmap for the governmental policies on equality between women and men in Greece during the period 2016-2020.

In particular, the priorities of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2016-2020 are in accordance with the guidelines of the European Commission to the 28 EU Member-States and concern the following policy areas:

- 1) social cohesion, poverty, immigration and multiple discrimination
- 2) gender-based violence
- 3) labour market and reconciliation of family and professional life
- 4) education, training, culture, sports and mass media
- 5) health
- 6) decision-making.

The multifaceted consequences of climate change on gender equality are expected to be treated collectively and horizontally among the State, the NGOs, the academic community and the civil society.

B. Since June 2015, the GSGE has been in close cooperation with the Hellenic National Meteorological Service and in particular with the National Gender Focal Point at the World Meteorological Organization. This cooperation guarantees the smooth flow of the relevant scientific documentation and feedback for planning and implementation of relevant policies on a national level.

C. A number of information and sensitization campaigns on women and the environment have been implemented successfully under the initiative of the competent GSGE Directorate for Development & Support of Policies on Gender Equality. Here is an indicative list with the relevant material available in English; special emphasis has been given to the WMO activities, the COP21 and the crucial link between women and the environment in the developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific:

- 1) Conference report - Conference on the Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services: <http://www.isotita.gr/en/index.php/news/480>
- 2) Gender Day at the 17th World Meteorological Congress (Geneva, 5-6-2015): <http://www.isotita.gr/en/index.php/news/490>
- 3) Women and the Climate Change (COP21/CMP11, Paris 2015): <http://www.isotita.gr/en/index.php/news/513>
- 4) The gender aspect of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (COP21, 12-12-2015): <http://www.isotita.gr/en/index.php/news/527>
- 5) The World Meteorological Organization prioritizes Gender Equality: <http://www.isotita.gr/en/index.php/news/531>

6) 26th African Union Summit (Addis Ababa, 21-31/1/2016): 2016-African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women: <http://www.isotita.gr/en/index.php/news/544>

7) Gender-responsive strategies on climate change - the role of the World Meteorological Organization: <http://www.isotita.gr/en/index.php/news/566>

8) Widespread publicity in Greece of the gender-responsive policies of the World Meteorological Organization thanks to an initiative by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality: <http://www.isotita.gr/en/index.php/news/567>

9) Women's Issues at the ACP Port Moresby Declaration 2016: <http://www.isotita.gr/en/index.php/news/575> .

D. The active involvement of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality in the thematic priority "Women and the Environment" has gained the recognition of the World Meteorological Organization as presented in the WMO letter dated on 29-9-2015: http://www.isotita.gr/var/uploads/ANNOUNCEMENTS/2016/WMO_29-06-2015.pdf .

E. In the framework of the bilateral cooperation between the governmental organization in charge of equality between women and men and the Ministry of Education in all three educational levels (primary, secondary and tertiary education), a digital competition for students from public and private institutions of secondary education in Greece has been in process for the school year 2016-2017. The theme is "Gender and the Environment" and involves the creation of video or blog on the relation of men and women, boys and girls with nature and environment (climate change included). A comprehensive guide in Greek has been prepared by the GSGE and it constitutes an integral part of the competition open call: <http://www.isotita.gr/var/uploads/ANNOUNCEMENTS/2016/Egxeiridio%20-%20H%20Optiki%20tou%20Fylou%20sto%20Perivallon.pdf> .