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*Motto: Abundant Life, Security and Peaceful Co-existence*

## HOW TO MAINSTREAM GENDER CONSIDERATIONS INTO NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION.

Gender mainstreaming has been a swelling topic in the UN for over two decades. The idea of gender mainstreaming is to ensure that the right of women, as well as men, are fully considered in constitutional framework and planning, thus achieving gender equalities in the states, nations and in the world at large. Gender mainstreaming as evolved from the believes that basic amenities such as food, water, and other basic necessities should be provided for women, to actively mainstreaming gender consideration into policies and planning. This arose from the incessant abuse on the female gender, in terms of molestation both domestically and commercially, abridged privileges and other vices that impinges the female gender.

Gender mainstreaming as defined by ECOSOC agreed conclusions 1997/2 is: *"...the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality."* (Nations, 2002). In line with the definition, a pragmatic and strategic approach must be taken to bring this topic consideration to bear.

One of the best ways to incorporate gender into adaptation action is to engage both genders in the administration of affairs. As humans, we have the tendency to care for ourselves, which is part of the inherent makeup of human beings. To this effect, appointing the female gender into state affairs, decision and policy making, etc. to a level of same proportion with the male gender will be cutting-edge in balancing the lopsided nature of the constituency in favour of the male gender. In lieu of the male gender making decisions affecting both genders, the female gender will be allowed to alter or correct decisions such that it suits both genders, thus ensuring gender equality.

With respect to one of the main focuses of ASYARF, which is the concern for women, youth and children, ASYARF stands in the forefront to promoting gender equity, and will always ensure that the strategy and action plan for this task is brought to optimal fulfillment. From experience, the foundation has realized that it is not just about providing women with the appropriate care and education, but, in creating a platform, where opportunities are given to the female gender in managing high ranking positions. This has indeed brought a notable difference between the medieval and recent, in bringing about the emergence of the female gender in prominent



positions in the country as well as in our organization. By this, the socio-economic aspect in terms of social Justice is enhanced.

In conclusion on how to mainstream gender considerations into national adaptation planning and implementation, it is important to note the gaps that could stampede this process or give it a sluggish move, so as to strategically tackle this trend in making sure that mission of the movement is accomplished. The gaps are itemized below

- The scanty representation of women in the political space. This is ubiquitously seen in the developing countries of the world, that the male gender has been dominating the political institution, and are still playing the major role in the political space.
- Ignorance and pretense. This trend is most commonly practiced domestically, especially in homes in which the traditional ways of the woman not having a say in decision-making is encouraged.
- Impartial legal status and entitlement. Countries that do not promote women to be property owners, and limit the privileges given to the female gender are causing a down-throw to equity and promoting low self-esteem to the female gender.
- The discrepancy in the division of labour in the economy. Women are seen to be mostly populated in low paying jobs, while men are seen to dominate the economy.
- Discriminatory mindset or believes. Most people still encourage this mindset of women not being capable of delivering effective work done.

All these are behavioral patterns that should be looked into, in order to ensure that the strategy needed to mainstream gender considerations into national planning and implantation is successful to the required target.

#### SOURCE

Nations, U. (2002, January). GENDER MAINSTREAM; AN OVERVIEW. LithoinUnitedNations New York, p,38.