

Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank

Law and Policy Frameworks – Fiji, Laos, and Mongolia

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The Think Tank might be interested in these reports (links below) of 2021 and 2022 by the Asian Development Bank.

The reports *A Gender Inclusive Legislative Framework to Strengthen Women's Resilience to Climate Change and Disasters*, and separate reports on *Fiji*, *Laos* and *Mongolia*, contain a neat summary of the differential impact of Climate Change (CC) and disasters on women, together with a summary of relevant international laws and the need to use laws and policies to overcome gender inequalities, gender violence, etc, and bring women into participating in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and CC planning and resilience building, and a suggested framework to achieve these.

The Purpose of the Framework report includes the following:

*This report is intended as a resource that will benefit governments, as well as organizations and individuals engaged in supporting governments to implement legislative reform. It provides specific guidance for strengthening gender-inclusive legislative frameworks and implementing gender-sensitive laws to increase women's resilience to climate and disaster risk. **It can also support public awareness by offering a basic source of information on rights and legislation related to climate change and disaster risk management, as well as how these measures can support women's resilience.*** (My emphasis)

- <http://dx.doi.org/10.22617/TCS210482-2>
- <https://dx.doi.org/10.22617/TCS220337-2>
- <https://dx.doi.org/10.22617/TCS220252-2>
- <https://dx.doi.org/10.22617/TCS220253-2>

I have copied the concluding paragraphs from the *Framework* report below.

The research for this report has revealed that legislation is a key ingredient to overcome the gender inequalities that increase women's risk to disasters and climate change, and promote women's participation in climate action and resilience-building. Laws play a foundational role in guaranteeing women's rights, including their right to participate equally in governance and to have their specific needs met. In addition to gender mainstreaming laws on climate change and disaster risk management, laws must also address the underpinning factors that lead to women's inequality. This is influenced by the socioeconomic circumstances in which women live their normal lives and require proactive laws.

Each country needs to ensure that the main legal pylons to promote equality and prohibit discrimination against women are developed and implemented to strengthen women's resilience to climate and disaster risk. It requires a holistic approach, as identified by CEDAW Committee GR37.

This report and the legislative framework provide the foundation to ensure that women's human rights are upheld in the context of disasters and climate change

impacts. This entails making disaster risk management and climate change adaptation measures gender-sensitive and protecting women from sex- and gender-based discrimination and violence. Crucially, while many laws and policies on climate change and disasters focus on women as a vulnerable group, there is an overarching need to address the underlying inequalities between men and women and the need for women's empowerment. This report has outlined the importance of preventing violence and sexual harassment in all contexts and implementing positive measures based on women's human rights to equality and freedom from direct and indirect discrimination. It has also emphasized the importance of strengthening women's economic resilience and ensuring substantive equality across access to inheritance, land and assets, decent employment, and business opportunities. The report and the legislative framework provide ways forward to support women as key stakeholders and active participants in creating and implementing disaster risk management and climate change solutions.