

Delegation from

Represented by

São Tomé and Príncipe

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Position Paper for the World Bank

São Tomé and Príncipe believes that fighting climate change and achieving gender equality are important in fostering economic growth of the international community.

I. Climate Change's Impact on the Global Economy

Introduction

"Climate change is a reality around the world and the extent and speed of change is becoming ever more evident" (Jacqueline McGlade, EEA Executive Director). Mainly in the last decade, these changes have had a serious impact on the world and especially on the African continent that despite not having contributed to the emissions of pollutants as much as other states, Africa is the continent that suffers most the effects of this change. The World Bank believes that climate change is one of the major barriers to global economic prosperity, it concentrates on the increasingly negative effect of climate change as one of its main obstacles because it affects the economic stability. The increase of the global temperature is one of the principal indicator. The dramatic raise of the temperature during this period is in part due to an excess of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Products like oil and coal, when burned, emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, which trap solar energy and escalate global temperatures.

São Tomé and Príncipe, is one of the countries most affected by the overheating due to the global climate changes because it is in Sub-Saharan Africa, and because one third of its population lives in areas prone to drought.

The economy of São Tomé and Príncipe is almost exclusively based on the plantation agriculture (the primary sector represents 13,7 percent of the GDP) and it is strongly conditioned by the climate change and the swing of the export products' prices on the international markets. Climate changes and heat waves damage the productions of cocoa, coffee, palm nuts, coconuts and other plantation that are the main source of sustenance and export. São Tomé and Príncipe is not a country that can take advantages from other sources and agriculture is its main activity.

Being a country with no funds (66 percent of the population lives below the extreme poverty of USD 1.25 pro capite), São Tomé and Príncipe cannot afford the latest facilities.

São Tomé and Príncipe's policy

The current frame of reference in the struggle to the climate change is made by the "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" (UNFCCC) (Rio de Janeiro, June 1992). The Convention provides that States Parties undertake to implement measures to prevent, control and mitigate the effects of human activities on the Earth's climate. In particular, the aim is to "stabilize concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level such that prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system " (art. 2). Another International act which binds industrialized countries and those with economies in transition to reduce overall emissions of greenhouse gases 5.2 percent compared to 1990, is the "Kyoto Protocol" (Kyoto, February 2005), ratified by more than 180 countries including São Tomé and Príncipe that, being a developing country, makes use of the clause which provides that "a state developing not have limitations on emissions so as not to hinder the socio-economic progress" (Kyoto Protocol).

One area in clear expansion is the one of oil, thanks to the discovery of major oil fields in the territorial waters of the country. In addition to the exploitation of crude oil, the prospects of gas fields should be considered. São Tomé and Príncipe does not produce oil domestically neither coal but it imports 889 barrels per day from other states and it doesn't import coal. In 2001, São Tomé and Príncipe and Nigeria reached an agreement on joint exploration for petroleum in waters claimed

by the two countries of the Niger Delta geologic province. After a lengthy series of negotiations, in April 2003 the joint development zone (JDZ) was opened for bids by international oil firms. São Tomé and Príncipe takes 40 percent of the USD 123 million bid, and Nigeria the other 60 percent. Bids on other blocks were still under consideration in October 2004. Our country has received more than \$ USD 2 million from the bank to develop its petroleum sector.

Solutions

The lack of actions against climate change is also a political coordination problem, as many countries have deeply invested in the oil and coal industry, which are two main reported causes of climate change. This business is extremely profitable and employs many people in Africa which gain from this consumption.

For the World Bank a solution could be the electioneering of the use of renewable energy at a higher percentage and an efficient production system in every sector. In addition it is important to have going buildings because of the measures adaptation against climate extremes such as floods, storms and overheating in summer.

For example, the buildings with high insulation standards heat can reduce power requirements during winter. It is possible to reduce by up 90 percent referred to the current calories needs the buildings can be isolated through plants that should surround the walls, decreasing the heat loss.

II. Gender Equality in the Global Marketplace

Introduction

The equality between women and men refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that their rights and duties will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both genders are taken into

consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a women's issue but should concern and fully engage men as well as women. Equality between women and men is seen as a human right issue and as a precondition for a sustainable people-centered development.

To solve this issue the international community held a convention in 2003 in Mozambique, where the Maputo Protocol was drawn up and created an organization called Solidarity For African Women's Rights (SOAWR) in 2004.

Moreover the Union of Industrial and Employers Confederation of Europe (UNICE) promotes gender equality and it thinks that the world of work can just take advantages from the fact that employees are selected and prepared because of their abilities and not for their gender, age and religion. UNICE wants to encourage companies to act in this way and a lot of these have gained great economic results. In conclusion we think that these results are the proof that insert more women in the world of work will help the economy of the countries, as São Tomé and Príncipe, that can employ women in the agricultural sector, that needs more and more work force for its big exports.

International action

The Maputo Protocol is a document concerning the rights of African women, and was subscribed on 11 July 2003 on the occasion of the second summit of the African Union, held in the capital of Mozambique. It is an act that urges the representatives of African governments commitment to take charge of the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women, and the start of a policy of gender equality in terms of rights and duties.

Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) is a coalition of 44 civil society organizations across the continent working to ensure that the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa remains on the agenda of policy makers and to urge all African leaders to safeguard the rights of women through ratification and implementation of the Protocol.

SOAWR works to achieve universal ratification of the AU protocol on the rights of women and ensure that the protocol is implemented in all countries and that it becomes part of domestic law.

Since its foundation in 2004, SOAWR has produced advocacy material in various media including special issues of Pambazuka News, published Not Yet a Force for Freedom; Breathing Life into the African Union Protocol on Women's Rights in Africa; and Grace, Tenacity and Eloquence: the struggle for women's rights in Africa. It has participated in African Union summits, engaging with ambassadors and ministers, holding press conferences and discussions with national civil society organizations. SOAWR initiated the "Color card campaign", giving colored cards to member states during African Union summits: green for countries that had ratified the protocol; yellow for those that had signed but not ratified it; and red for those that had not signed it. It has written to African presidents on several occasions about their commitment to ratify, domesticate and implement the protocol as declared in their Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa adopted in July 2004.

Proposed actions and solutions

We believe that barriers toward progress are in part due to deeply held religious and cultural beliefs as well as legal roadblocks. Each delegation should structure a Logistic Performance (LP) that will help compromise between the conservative view of female involvement in the workplace and the more progressive view that allows women to have a competing wage with their male peers. We think that inserting more women in the political world is necessary to achieve gender equality because the example must be given first from the most important part of our society. We cannot promote gender equality in the world if only men take decisions in our country. We strongly believe that a law must be made to impose companies to insert women in relevant position. In this way the figure of the woman would be more considered by the society.

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