**PARTNER SESSION 1**

**Women Political Leaders: *Climate Change, Women Land Rights and Sustainable Development***

1. The Partner Session on *Women Political Leaders: Climate Change, Women Land Rights and Sustainable Development* was held at 11:15 on Thursday, 7 September 2017 at Legian 1 and 2, Mezzanine Floor, BNDCC 2 Bali. The meeting was moderated by **Ms. Zita Gurmai**, Special Gender Adviser, European Commission.
2. **Hon. Dr. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf** delivered her opening remarks. She highlighted WPL as the largest community of parliamentarians that work directly with women parliamentarians and political leaders in advocating the implementation of SDGs. She also elaborated the fact that women are the most vulnerable to the climate change compare to men. Therefore, she encouraged parliamentarians to hold more dialogue in international level that should involve women and also empower them. She concluded her remarks hoping that the discussion will raise more awareness with regard to women parliamentarians’ participations and women leaders in the issue of climate change and land rights.
3. **Dr. Suhariyanto**, Chief of Indonesia Central Bureau of Statistics delivered his presentation. He shared Indonesia’s experience in obtaining disaggregated data to promote equal property rights and in monitoring the implementation of SDGs especially to know more about land rights for women. He explained that in Indonesia, BPS is a government body tasked with statistics including gender empowerment index, and that there are so many collected indicators for SDGs in Indonesia that are based by gender.

The current effort of the Indonesian Government to ensure the land rights for the people is to conduct the acceleration program on land certification as well as the program of “*Hutan Sosial*“ (Forest management for community welfare especially for those living in around forest area).

According to Dr. Suhariyanto, Parliamentarians should support NSO to strengthening sectoral statistics which are produced by Ministries/Institutions/Local Governments. NSO has a role as coordinator of National Statistical System, which its expertise in developing statistics would be beneficial to develop disaggregated data needed by the government.

Parliamentarians plays important role on budgeting, law enforcement and supporting government to conduct mitigation of climate change impact including gender perspective. For example, promoting social community (PKK)’s role on socialization for women economic empowerment and health. Therefore, women would become less vulnerable and stronger to face natural disasters; and to have more access to work, land, loan/banking. He encourage parliaments to support the government in formulating ‘post disaster programs’, establishing more mitigation programs in the near future, and support women empowerment and encourage them to achieve higher education.

He concluded his presentation by stating that in order to be able to do more for women, a comprehensive data is needed as a basis to determine the policy or laws that should be formulated.

1. **Dr. Zipporah Kittony**, Kenyan Senator delivered her presentation. She shared the success made the Parliament of Kenya in formulating laws which cover women’s interests in terms of property rights. Kenya has also formulated a legal framework which allows women to gain benefit from land use where as in the past, it was difficult for women as the culture and behavior of Kenyan men were different back then. However, it is in the Kenyan government’s interests to implement the SDGs with women participation. However, despite all that, they still have barriers and hindrance as it is not an easy solution to change the culture, and the prices of properties are also expensive.
2. **Hon. Mdm. Romina Guadalupe Ramos**, Member of Parliament from Bolivia delivered her presentation. She shared her opinion on women’s access to land as a collective effort to re-owning the land during and after the Spanish occupation. Today, women have gained better access to land rights under President Morales’ land rights reform. Access to women are important as in the past, they have experienced conflicts which caused many casualties among men while women, especially the indigenous women, experienced difficulties in accessing lands.

She further elaborated that land owners especially women have increased into 46% after the reform and this gave women more access into owning and cultivating these lands. In Bolivia, there are many indigenous groups and vast social diversity. Therefore, a very comprehensive solution is needed. The government has also provided more access to women to be able to cultivate lands as it is a part of the SDGs agenda.

The Bolivian Parliament has issued a new law that allows the involvement of women in mitigating climate change. Women are being empowered in utilizing lands and areas around them. In implementing the SDGs agenda, it is important to ensure that women are not left behind.

The Bolivian Parliament has also formulated laws regarding ownership of natural resources, as in the past, men have dominated these ownership. This is a major achievement in Bolivia as the paradigm about women rights of land and empowerment have been one of the focus of SDGs goals.

1. **H.E. Mdm. Sumitra Mahajan**, Speaker of Parliament of India delivered her remarks. She stated that on behalf of the Indian delegation, she would like to thanks the House of Representatives for organizing this important event as well as the generous hospitality. It is time for women to have more roles with regards to implementing SDGs especially in terms of land ownerships and empowerment. H.E. Mdm. Mahajan said that women land rights and sustainable development as well as the climate changes are all related. This is because women are the most vulnerable to climate change and poverty anywhere in the world.

Women should have more roles in implementing SDGs as women can offer valuable insights in managing the mitigation of climate change and implementing SDGs. She elaborated more on women land rights are critical in the issue of implementing the SDGs. In the past, most women in India who are working in agriculture would never have the rights to own a land. The Indian government are working on giving more opportunities for women to be able to own a land.

The Parliament of India has made a consistent effort in empowering women and granting women the rights of politics. To address important issues on women at the legislative level, we need higher involvement of women. This is due to the central role of Parliamentarians in development agenda to ensure the successful implementation of SDGs and that women are equal partners in achieving SDGs.

1. Delegates were invited to deliver their comments on *Women Political Leaders: Climate Change, Women Land Rights and Sustainable Development*. The comments from the floor are highlighted hereunder:

**Hon. Mrs. Siti Hediati Soeharto – Indonesia**

She stated that the heart of SDGs is to eradicate poverty and empower small farmers so that they can have access to land rights as well as the needs to improve productivities of women as small farmers and provide them a better access to commercialize their products.

**Hon. Ms. Maria Antonia de Almeida Santos – Portugal**

She emphasized on the need to empower women more. There is one thing that is also important that hasn’t been mentioned much during the session, namely women’s health as a form of realization of their basic rights. She stressed that implementing SDGs would also means improving the welfare of women including their healthcare. She concluded her statement by saying that whenever women are healthy, their families and society are healthy as well.

**Hon. Mr. Mohammed Dean – Fiji**

He stated that it is important for men to be a part of the women forum in terms of advocacy works. He further explained on the commitment of the parliament of Fiji in supporting, empowering and encouraging women to become political leaders, political party leaders or to be further involved in the political process that would determine women’s future.

**Hon. Ms. Amelia Anggraini – Indonesia**

She acknowledged that women’s access to land rights is still low. In order to address this issue, she expected parliamentarians to promote women empowerment and better education for rural women. By conducting this effort, rural women’s understanding on land rights will be improved. She highlighted that addressing farmers’ rights in economy is a main component of land rights reform. In Indonesia, the government has redistributed land certificates to farmers of the bottom 40, including women. Lastly, she called for parliamentarians to put more efforts to resolve this issue.

**Hon. Ms. Cecilia Ngetich Ke – Kenya**

In mitigating the risk, she underlined that we need to have better understanding on women issues as well as providing alternative ways of cultivation. She highlighted that the Parliament of Kenya has passed many laws and regulations on education for rural women to increase their understanding on land rights. Lastly, she emphasized that information is power and therefore better data provision and analysis of land rights are necessary.