SYMPOSIUM ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION POLICIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

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PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD

ACHIEVING COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AS RELATED TO GENDER, INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

- VERY WELL DOCUMENTED INTERLINKAGES ACROSS THE SDG GOALS
- GENDER IS CROSS CUTTING
- CLIMATE CHANGE IS CROSS CUTTING
- INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IS CROSS CUTTING
- DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IS CROSS CUTTING
- THEY ALL REQUIRE STRATEGIC ACTIONS AIMED AT ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

INTRODUCTION CONTINUED GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- CLIMATE ACTION PRESENTS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE GOOD ON OUR COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUALITY
- CLIMATE CHANGE HAS FORCED US TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT ADAPTATION, MITIGATION
 AND RESPONSE AND IN SO DOING IT HAS PLACED THE SECTORS MOST IMPACTED IN THE
 SPOTLIGHT, LIKE THE WATER SECTOR
- THESE SECTORS PARTICULARLY HIGHLIGHT GENDER DIFFERENCES IN ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OVER RESOURCES AND PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING
- BUT WE HAVE NOT TRADITIONALLY PLANNED WITH THESE DIFFERENCES IN MIND AT THE EXPENSE OF EQUALITY — IT CANNOT BE BUSINESS AS USUAL



EASIER SAID THAN DONE?

- NATIONAL STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN & MID TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
- NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN AND SECTOR ADAPTATION PLANS
- NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS
- AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS ...
- MUST BE GENDER RESPONSIVE

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO JUST INTEGRATE SOME GENDER CONSIDERATIONS INTO EXISTING PLANS



POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- GENDER POLICY TO FOCUS ON GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE PRINCIPLES INCLUDING GENDER JUSTICE
- GENDER POLICY SHOULD ENSURE THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS A STRATEGIC PRIORITY
- GENDER TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND
 MAINSTREAMED IN THE SECTORS AS PART OF A NATIONAL STRATEGIC PROCESS TO
 MAINSTREAM GENDER IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IF INCORPORATING GENDER
 CONSIDERATIONS IN POLICIES REMAIN ONLY THE BUSINESS OF THE GENDER BUREAUS THEN
 IMPLEMENTATION WILL ALWAYS REMAIN A CHALLENGE (ONGOING SLOW PROCESS)

SUSTAINING GENDER MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS

- THE DEPARTMENTS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND FINANCE ARE KEY TO ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS IN ALL SECTORS, INCLUDING WATER AND DISASTER MANAGEMNT
 - PUBLIC SERVICE INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY OF FOCAL POINTS ON GENDER THROUGH INCLUSION OF THIS FUNCTION IN THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND INCLUSION IN THE APPRAISAL INSTRUMENT.
 - FINANCE ENSURE GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING ACROSS ALL SECTORS. THIS WILL ENCOURAGE THE INCLUSION OF GENDER CONSIDERATION IN PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

SUSTAINING GENDER MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS

- FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF FOCAL POINTS
 - TO ENSURE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE
 - FACILITATE COLLABORATIVE PLANNING ACROSS DEPARTMENTS
 - IDENTIFICATION OF TRENDS THROUGH THE COLLECTION OF COMPARATIVE DATA
 - COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSFORMATIVE INTERVENTIONS WITH MULTI-AGENCY IMPACT

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND DATA MANAGEMENT

- CRITICAL COMPONENTS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY
- COLLABORATION WITH ACADEMIA, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS
- ONGOING AND INFORMED BY NEW RESEARCH
- WILL STRENGTHEN NATIONAL REPORTING CAPACITY

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

- FIND THE IDEAL PLACEMENT OF THE UNIT/DEPARTMENT TO SERVE ITS CROSS-CUTTING FUNCTION
- EQUIP WITH HUMAN RESOURCE (EXPERTIZE SPECIFICALLY) GENDER EXPERT, LEGAL EXPERT,
 RESEARCH EXPERT AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL FOR GREATER EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UNIT TO SERVE AS
 THE COORDINATING BODY FOR GENDER EQUALITY



MAKING LINKAGES

- LINK GENDER MAINSTREAMING WITH ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, AND MAKE TRUE OF THE COMMITMENT TO CEDAW.
 - NOT ENGAGING IN TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICES THAT SEEK TO BREAK THE CYCLES THAT KEEP WOMEN DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS.IS A FORM OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
 - ARTICLES 4 AND 5 OF CEDAW SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED IN THAT REGARD:
 - ARTICLE 4: USE OF TEMPORARY SPECIAL MEASURES
 - ARTICLE 5: RESPONSIBILITY OF STATES TO ENGAGE IN SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES AIMED AT REVERSING HARMFUL GENDER STEREOTYPES IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPHERES.



CHANGE MANAGEMENT

- FINALLY, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT GENDER RESPONSIVE AND GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE WORK IN ALL SECTORS IS RELATIVELY NEW AND WITH EVERYTHING NEW THERE WILL BE ACTORS WITH VARYING DEGREES OF BUY-IN AND OPENNESS TO CHANGE.
- SHIFTS OF THAT NATURE REQUIRE DELIBERATE STRATEGIES THAT ARE COUNTRY-SPECIFIC AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT — IT CANNOT BE LEFT TO CHANCE
- SYSTEMATIC MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION ARE CRITICAL TO THIS PROCESS
- THE CARICOM GENDER STRATEGY PRESENTS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THOSE DELIBERATE STRATEGIES TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS IN THIS REGARD