



World Assembly for Women: WAW!2022 Concept Note

(Reference) Current Situation and Challenges Concerning Women and Environment/Green Society

Climate change affects everyone, but the degree of impact varies by gender, age, social class and other various factors. For example, when women in the least developed countries are responsible for securing water for domestic use, they may have to go further to fetch water due to environmental changes caused by floods, droughts, cyclones, etc. Climate change-related disasters can also increase the burden of housework and care work on women and put them at greater risk than men of losing their means of livelihood ^(Note1).

According to the UN Women ^(Note2), women are also taking action to address global environmental degradation and climate change. One Italian woman has created a fashion brand that recycles discarded luxury fabrics ^(Note3). In Japan, a women entrepreneur started a low-emission vehicle transportation service, while also enabling employees to work that fits their lifestyles ^(Note4). Some analysts have reported that the higher the participation of women in climate change actions, the better the performance of climate change initiatives, and that their active role is the key to promoting a zero-emission society ^(Note5).

Energy-related industries are not the sole driver of decarbonization. In Japan, further efforts are needed in transportation and manufacturing-related industries, such as electric vehicles (EVs) and energy-efficient semiconductors, as well as in home and office-related industries, such as energy-efficient housing ^(Note6). Because the number of women in these fields has been limited to date, there are a lack of products with women's perspectives. For example, in building energy-efficient homes, it may be possible to achieve further energy efficiency if women's perspectives are considered in terms of what parts in real life can be saved. To this end, we also need to promote education and human resource development

for women in STEM fields from a young age.

This year's G7 Summit also included in the outcome document a call for Energy Ministers to identify actions to advance gender equality and diversity in the energy sector by the end of this year. Also this year, the UN Commission on the Status of Women agreed to incorporate a gender perspective into climate change, environment, and disaster risk reduction policies and programs, and to ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women ^(Note7).

In Japan, the revised Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures, enacted in 2021, stipulates that information on corporate greenhouse gas emissions be made available as open data. In addition, investors are increasingly interested in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) information, and in July, the Japan Exchange Group published an "information platform" listing information on ESG bonds. It is expected that an enhancement of such data would further accelerate the trend of incorporating ESG information of companies into investment decisions.

Along with information on climate change measures, information on women's empowerment is another form of ESG information. In recent years, the relationship between business and human rights has been reconsidered in many countries, and as stated in the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, women's rights are human rights, and companies are requested to disclose their human rights status, including the status of women's rights. While it is now a matter of course for corporate activities to take human rights into consideration, by working on both decarbonization and women's activities and disclosing information, companies can receive the recognition they deserve, raise more funds, improve corporate value and achieve sustainable corporate growth, and be able work on decarbonization from a variety of perspectives. In addition, incorporating gender perspectives will help to address diverse issues. Discussions on gender equality and women's empowerment in the climate change and environmental fields must be further developed and lead to concrete actions in the future. The WAW!2022 aims to become a turning point for women's participation from the planning stage of decarbonization measures, sharing practical examples from Japan and other countries and discussing concrete actions for the future.

(Note1) [UNDP, “Gender and Climate Change: Impact and Adaptation”](#)

(Note2) [UN Women, “In the Bolivian Amazon, women are protecting the forest and empowering themselves”](#)

(Note3) [Twitter of UNIC](#) (Japanese)

(Note4) [全国商工会議所女性会連合会, “女性起業家大賞”](#) (Japanese)

(Note5) [資源エネルギー庁, “脱炭素化社会に向けて世界が集結！東京ビヨンド・ゼロ・ウィーク開催（前編）”](#) (Japanese)

(Note6) [資源エネルギー庁, “カーボンニュートラルに向けた産業政策“グリーン成長戦略”とは？”](#) (Japanese)

(Note7) [UN Women, “CSW66 Agreed Conclusions”](#)