



Gender justice: climate change as an emerging issue

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Women representative in the Dutch government delegation to COP15

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Vrouwen in de voorhoede voor een nieuw klimaat

COP15, main points on the agenda

A new international agreement, post-Kyoto, new GHG reduction commitments for the period after 2012

Mitigation

Adaptation

Technology transfer

Finance

And, more specifically: REDD, Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation

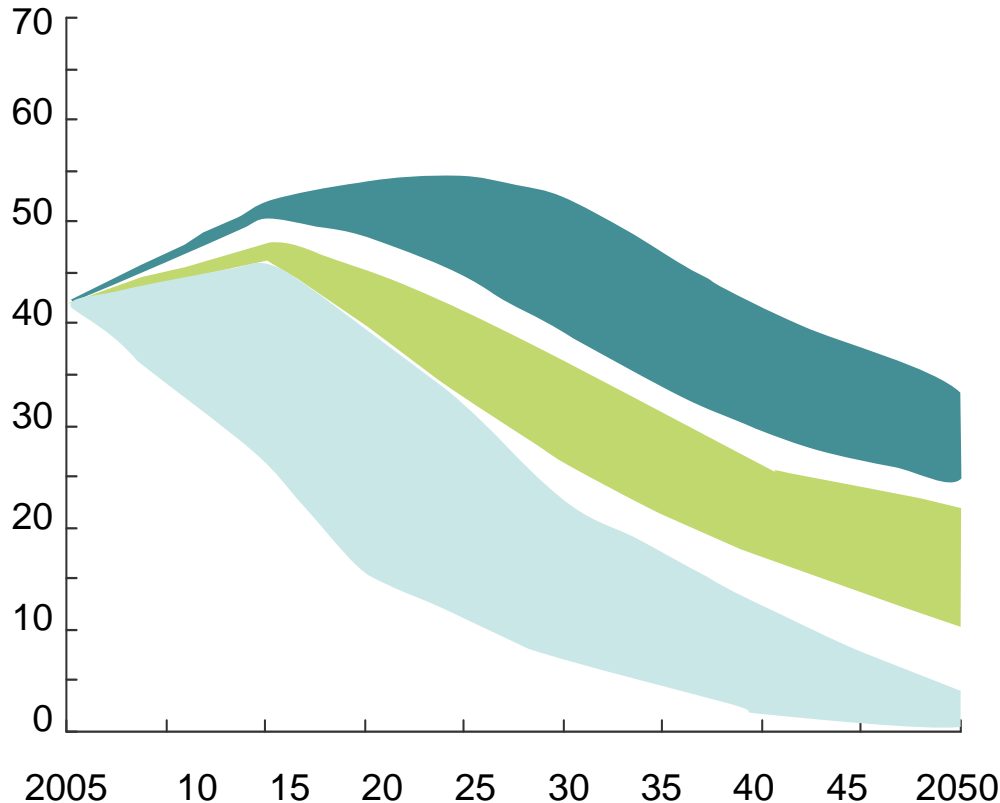
Preparing for COP15

- General Meeting of Members, Dutch Women Council
NVR
- Women & Climate expert meeting
- Formulate points of view, relation gender - climate
- Speech in parliament: Vaste Kamercommissie voor
VROM
- Develop the Women & Climate petition (shared vision)
- Workshop lobby capabilities
- Beat the Heat Now

The goal: 2 °C

Global GHG emissions and pathways for GHG stability

GtCO₂e per year



- Peak at 550 ppm, long-term stabilization 550 ppm
- Peak at 510 ppm, long-term stabilization 450 ppm
- Peak at 480 ppm, long-term stabilization 400 ppm

Probability of temperature increase under 2°C

Expected temperature increase

15-30%

3.0°C

40-60%

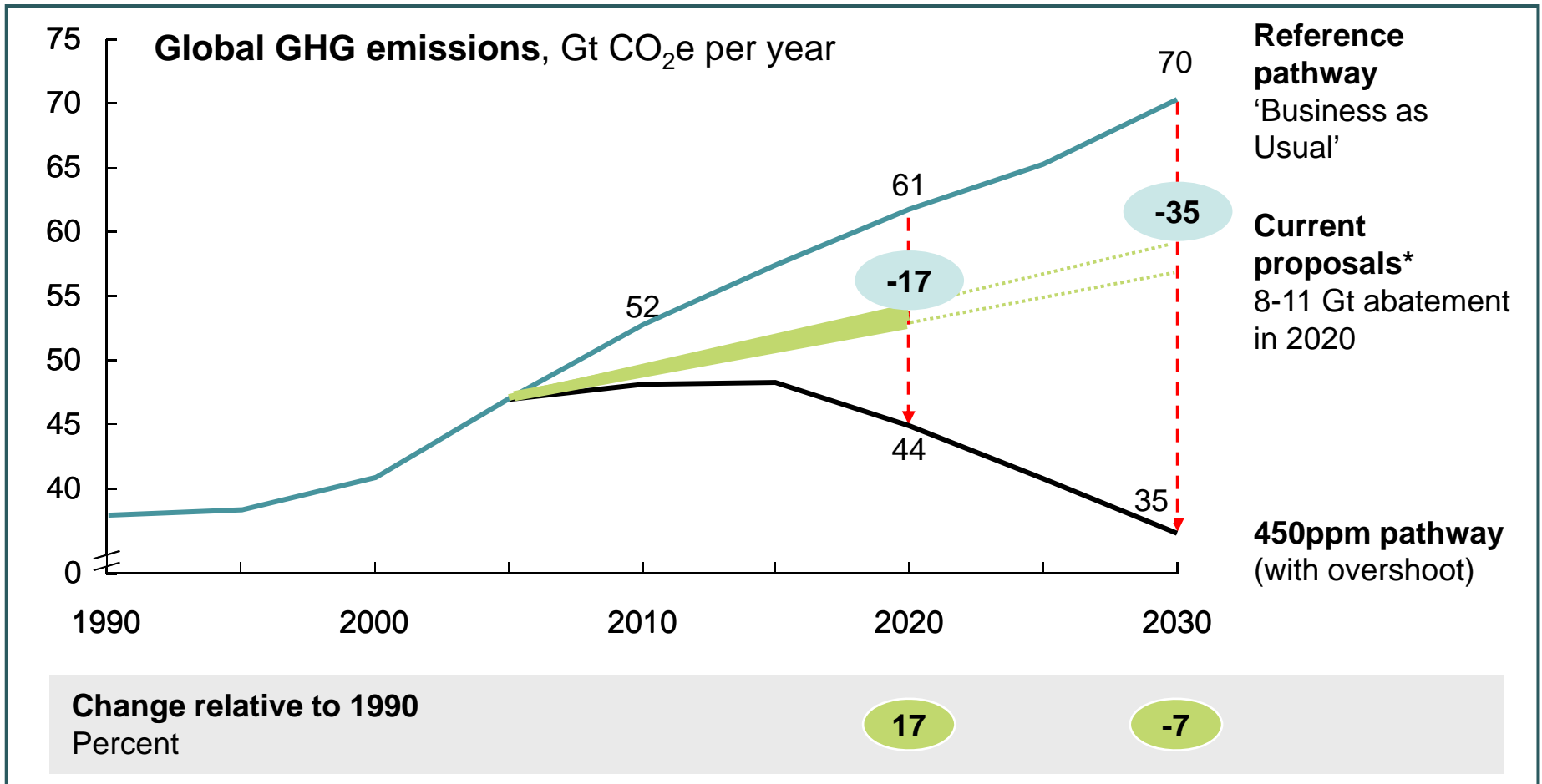
2.0°C

70-85%

1.8°C

- 450 ppm is not safe – it has a 40–60% probability of warming exceeding 2°C
- Even 2°C will require significant investment in adaptation

More drastic emission reduction measures are necessary



The importance of COP 15, gender and climate

- Personal concern
- Historical moment, crucial to have international commitment on deeper emission cuts NOW
- Climate change acts as a multiplier to the already existing crises: poverty, food scarcity, biodiversity loss, armed conflicts (incl. about scarce resources)
- The impacts of climate change are different for men and women
- Gender-specific issues are hardly considered, in terms of both problems and solutions; access to finance is very limited for women
- The ambition to make a difference in Copenhagen!

The gender challenge of Copenhagen

All global agreements have gender component:

United Nations charter (1945)

Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948)

**Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
Against Women (CEDAW) (1979)**

Convention on Biodiversity (1992)

Chapter 24 of Agenda 21 (UNCED 1992)

World Conference on Human Rights (1993)

International Conference on Population and Development (1994)

Convention to Combat Desertification (1994)

World Summit for Social Development (1995)

Beijing Platform for Action (1995)

Millennium Declaration (2000)

Johannesburg Plan of Action (2002)

Hyogo Framework for Action (2005)

The gender challenge of Copenhagen

Except one:

- **United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change
(UNFCCC)**
 - **Kyoto Protocol**



Draft text Barcelona did make reference to
gender (36x)

Women in developing countries

- Of the **1.3 billion people** who live in deep poverty, the majority are women (~70%)
- Women work **2/3** of the global working hours
- In rural areas, women produce 60-80% of staple food
- Women earn only **10%** of global income and possess only **2%** of property rights

Sources: UNICEF, 2005; UNIFEM, 2006.

Women in developing countries

Approach based on:

- The rights of women
- The specific role and position of women
- Influence of women on decision making, access to finance and participation in the implementation of climate measures, according to equity principles
- mobilizing women as ‘agents of change’
- role in mitigation

*Women collecting firewood in Ethiopië
Bron: UN/ E . Debebe*



Women in the Netherlands

Approach based on

- Higher ambitions, more ambitious goals in climate policy
- More influence of women in the climate debate
- More influence of women in policy making
- Promoting changes in life style, behaviour
- Focusing not exclusively on technological innovations
- Enhanced participation of Dutch women

The tasks of the women representative

Ingredients:

- Listening
- Developing and promoting clear, relevant points of view
 - based on content, gender issues in adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and finance
 - considering the process side: participation
- Advising, lobbying, networking
- Informing, reporting back

What helps? (Lobbying capabilities)

- Vision
- Acting in a strategic way, quickly
- Communication (modern gadgets, inside and outside the delegation, media)
- Personal contacts
- Windows of opportunity (petition > Cramer, Balkenende; gender platform)
- Coordination with women and environmental organizations, organization
- Initiative, courage
- Knowledge

What has been achieved in Copenhagen?


- 2 degrees target, required reductions
- Recognition of the role of science /IPCC
- US on board, voluntary pledges of US, China
- Voluntary pledges of developing countries
- Agreement about MRV, transparency
- Finance for developing countries: US\$ 10 billion per year 2010-2012, 100 billion by 2020 (Copenhagen Green Climate Fund)
- Consensus on REDD
- Reference to gender in the draft preamble and better gender balance of the CDM board
- Attention to gender issues within the Dutch delegation

Copenhagen made it possible for me to:

- Participate in the delegation, and in the ‘thriller’
- Hang around with J.P. Balkenende in the lobby of the hotel
- See a glimpse of Schwarzenegger
- Have dinner with 8 members of Dutch parliament
- See the difficulties of the EU in redefining its position towards the end
- Experience the Veni-Vidi-Vici trick of Obama
- See how the women caucus functioned
- Meet the president of Finland
- Meet the future vice-president of the Philippines and hear about their national climate policies
- Listen to a live concert of “Idol” Boris in the Copenhagen Express
- ... (see weblog www.nederlandsevroewenraad.nl/vrouwenvertegenwoordiger)







IT'S COPENHAGEN
—THEY'RE ASKING CAN
WE HANG ON FOR
ANOTHER 12 MONTHS

Kipper
Williams

Beyond Copenhagen

- Vigilance of the road to Mexico (Nov. '10) !!
 - What can we do?
1. We need to think globally but act locally
 2. The road to an international legal agreement is (too) long and bumpy, we need to act NOW
 3. Mobilize women as agents of change
 4. Promising initiatives:
 - “Ladies first”, Wubbo Okkels (www.ladiesfirst.nl), an initiative that demands the Netherlands to be 100% sustainable by 2050
 - One Million Women, Australia (www.1millionwomen.com.au), goal: cut 1 million tonnes of CO₂

Qualifications women representative, NVR vacancy

Expert in “the broader field of sustainability”

Knowledge on climate change

Knowledge on gender issues

Experience with international negotiations, preferably UN

Proved experience in being able to jointly develop a shared vision and bring it to the attention of a wider audience, including policy makers

Good communication and presentation capabilities

Excellent national and international network and willingness to use this network for the job