



- Recommendations for Theme 3 -

**NEW SOLIDARITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE
OCEAN GOVERNANCE: ENGAGEMENT OF
WOMEN AND YOUTH**



Women's Caucus

Key Issues and Recommendations

Leadership and Decision-Making: It cannot be overstated that engaging women in all levels of maritime affairs as well as ocean policy-making and implementation is essential to achieving effective sustainable ocean governance, marine resource use and water resource management. The participation of women in environmental affairs is key to implementing and fulfilling commitments set forth in Agenda 21, the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), the World Summit on Sustainable Development/Johannesburg Plan for Implementation (2002), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Although the crucial role of women in environmental and maritime affairs have been repeatedly recognized by the UN and international community, women are still explicitly excluded from decision-making roles and face discriminatory structures and attitudes that propagate gender inequality.

Economic and Opportunities for Women in Coastal Communities:

Limited opportunities exist for women in coastal and fishing communities to enhance their economic and social role and to participate in local and national government-led development and conservation efforts. And, when disaster strikes, the little support that is available to them diminishes, leaving them struggling for survival. Recommendations for improving opportunities for women in coastal and fishing communities and strategies for coping with disaster include:

1. Increase access to financial services (specialized loan products, insurance/risk management instruments, extended facilities for microenterprises and self-help groups) that support income-generating activities and microenterprises undertaken by women in inland and coastal communities: mariculture, aquaculture, fish and fishery product processing, and services (vending, contract-cleaning for fish, marketing and auctioning, net-making, agriculture).
2. Ensure provision of basic social services, including safe drinking water and sanitary facilities.
3. Expand educational and skill development opportunities (financial and business management skills, vocational training, entrepreneurship, pre- and post-harvesting), where women lead and manage training initiatives.
4. Enhance coordination and relief efforts between the private sector, government, microfinance institutions, and NGOs and promote partnerships with like-minded groups that are already working on coastal community development and women's issues.
5. Support and scale-up effective community-based strategies, technologies and solutions.
6. Establish community awareness programs about fisheries and disaster preparedness with the local or national government or a resource or disaster management group.

Women and Security on the Seas:

The past decade has seen an exponential rise in the number of people crossing the high seas to flee conflict, escape oppression, or seek better economic opportunities. They often place themselves at great risk on dangerously overcrowded boats or are the victims of human traffickers – particularly women and children – who will be bound to a life of sexual or labor exploitation and terror. Finding solutions to and ensuring an effective response to international migration remains a serious challenge.

As such, the following recommendations have been set forth:

1. Ensure border control measures taken by states to curb interception at sea and illegal maritime migration to not prevent refugees from gaining access to asylum procedures and protection to which they are entitled.



2. Provide support to all people who have traveled by sea to find a long-term solution to their situation.
3. Clarify the responsibilities of different groups involved in international maritime migration: the country of origin, transit and final destination; international organizations and shipping companies as well as develop comprehensive action plans on regional levels that address migration issues.
4. Support and expand existing community-based information programs about migration.
5. Strengthen the capacities of regions of origin and countries of first asylum.

Recommendations

The overall recommendations that emerged from the Women's Ocean Caucus are:

1. Education for sustainable ocean governance; more effective utilisation of modern tools and technology to create new ocean literacy and to develop new skills and talents for ocean problem solving livelihoods.
2. Regional women and the sea conferences
3. Establish an IOI Women's Caucus
4. Address issues of maritime migration and maritime human trafficking.
5. Explore possibilities of creating new financial mechanisms for micro ocean economy.
6. Fieldtrips to the seashore to provide local populations with better orientation and appreciation of the oceans to their communities and lives.
7. Post disaster economies; development including training in fisheries technology including aquaculture, seaweed mariculture and self help programmes
8. Development of marine technical and vocational skills.
9. Media training in use of new digital photographic technologies and other programmes to enhance communication skills through better use of popular media.