

National Consultation by the NGYAs in Turkey

Region & Country: ECA & Turkey

Introduction:

- The meeting was held virtually on January 24 2022, Monday.
- An NGYA (National Gender Youth Activist) is a young activist who is voluntarily representative in their own countries in order to raise awareness about the action for gender equality.
- The virtual meeting in Turkey by the NGYAs in the country focused on national level of climate justice and gender equality so that in CSW66, the demand of youth from Turkey would be also heard upon the intersections of climate justice and gender equality.

Discussion Points:

- Climate crisis affects people in an intersectional way; a woman in a village experiences effects of forest fire different from a woman who lives in an urban environment, for instance.
- Especially in Turkey, we do not have an overall and comprehensive political mechanisms so as to reduce the effects of climate change.
- Youth are afraid of their future as they will be the ones to face the effects of climate change.
- It is more important to focus on the effects of post-disaster rather than focusing on the disaster itself.
- When we look at the earthquake happened in Izmir, Turkey, we can see that those who were rescued from the disaster were women and girl children, which should make us raise questions about gender inequality. It is always woman and girl child to harshly go through the effects of natural disasters, creating an imbalance within the aim of achieving gender equality.
- Ecofeminism is not a widely-known notion and feminist paradigm.
- Let alone discussing feminisms, the notion of activism is a notion that people in Turkey are afraid of. When we say activism, people think of terrorism, vandalism or any “-ism” which people in Turkey may associated with activism and its so-called rampage. We have to deconstruct the discourses with regard to the notion of activism positively.
- Climate crisis is denied, and people distort realities about climate crisis.
- There is a huge problem with funding especially when it comes to youth.

- Thanks to the UN which is one of the most exclusive global organisations, NGYAs are given a space to express their ideas about both climate and gender activism, for the organisation helps youth to influence their environment about taking action. Especially generation Z is the key to build a sustainable future till 2030 and afterwards.

Recommendations:

- Inclusivity and representation of women in decision making is crucial, and they should be given a seat in the table. For instance, in COP26, the experiences of rural women are transmitted through urban white men, who are no where near to talk about what rural women go through in terms of experiencing climate change and gender injustice.
- If there is going to be a change, its steps should be taken politically. Policy is the key to take action in order to reduce the effects of climate change. Such policies should be made by listening to the experiences of youth, women and girl children.
- Since we cannot stop natural disasters from happening and can only lessen the destructive effects of it, we should focus on injustices created by post-disaster.
- In order to raise awareness about ecofeminism, it must be understood that climate activism and gender activism are not different from each other but they complete one another. We should focus on ecofeminism as a notion and on ecofeminist activism as a means of raising awareness so that the line between climate activism and gender activism will be transparent.
- The notion of activism should be fixed by giving young people more space to be represented as they like so that people may understand that activism is not a means of terrorism but it is about taking action for the betterment of all.
- Young people and their NGOs or youth-led organisations need more funding so that they can raise their voices in a more inclusive way. They may influence other young people to take action about climate injustice and gender inequality, which would eventually end up with having a seat on the table in which decisions are made about the future of the world.
- Within the UN, there is a lack of attendance of youth in decision making. The UN should not limit the attendance of youth within the organisation as youth are the ones to be heard. When it comes to women and girl children, they should be eligible within decision making process, as well. Experiences of youth, woman and girl child should be heard from themselves first-hand, and they should have a seat on the table in which their future is the question. For instance, in the following CSWs, more young people, women and girl children may be seen, heard and, all in all, fully represented.

- What global leaders promise in GEF or CSW should be transparent. For instance, a funding process of a promising country should be followed transparently so that activists can see whether the fund is spent resolutely. Funding must be transparent and more open to the eye.