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350 Ghana Reducing Our Carbon
(350GROC)

Persistent cultural barriers

- ❑ Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG5) which is on Gender Equality and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In Article 5 of CEDAW there is a call for “the elimination of prejudices ... which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women”. There is also a call for “the elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels and in all forms of education”.
- ❑ Our culture is male-dominated and does not allow women to take any leadership roles.
- ❑ Women are treated as second class citizens due to patriarchy
- ❑ What is true in this regard in the private sector also holds in the public sector. There is still a gender imbalance, though improving, in energy ministries and parastatals that are increasingly pronounced in more technical fields and among leadership positions
- ❑ Women in the Energy sector suffer in myriad ways, robbed of time, robbed of income, physically exhausted, struggling to access education and information.

Energy Poverty

Energy poverty – defined as the lack of adequate modern energy for the most basic needs of cooking, heating, lighting, income generation, community schools and health centres – is limiting human development in many spheres, including but not limited to: education, nutrition and food security, water and sanitation, market-based work, health, and gender relations.

Women, as active agents in biomass management, as the primary household cooks, and as participants in many biomass-intensive processing sectors, will play an integral role in shifting the region onto a cleaner development pathway.



Spatial (rural urban slums) energy inequalities

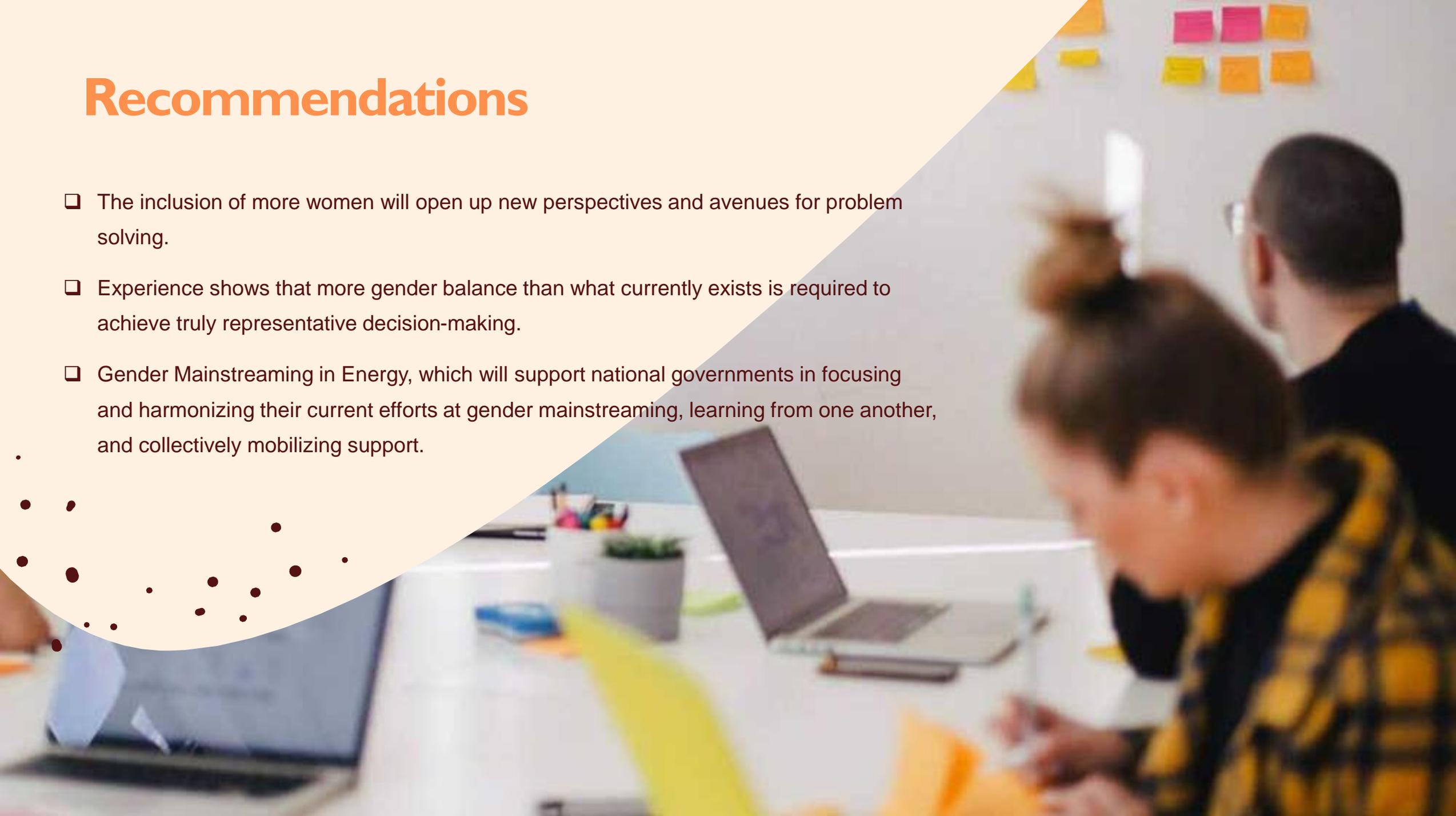
In the West African region, everyday energy sector decisions have profound implications on access rates for the most marginalized populations, women and men in rural areas and poor urban communities. Each decision point presents an opportunity to move towards more inclusiveness, but that can only happen once gender issues have been thoroughly mainstreamed. With women lagging behind men in access to clean and affordable energy, there is a need to address directly the issue of gender equality in energy access. Without it, progress towards sustainable development will remain incomplete.

In male-dominated rural communities, women suffer because they are not allowed to participate in any education on energy . There are relatively too few women working in the modern energy sector in the region for women to learn about, and when they do engage, it is too often in a smaller or limited capacity.

- ❖ Gender has also been shown to affect the ability of individuals to access energy because gender mediates other important predictors of fuel and technology switching like wealth, education, employment, and autonomy.
- ❖ In a similar fashion, existing gender norms and constraints affect the probability that a woman will choose the energy sector as a vocation and succeed.

Recommendations

- ❑ The inclusion of more women will open up new perspectives and avenues for problem solving.
- ❑ Experience shows that more gender balance than what currently exists is required to achieve truly representative decision-making.
- ❑ Gender Mainstreaming in Energy, which will support national governments in focusing and harmonizing their current efforts at gender mainstreaming, learning from one another, and collectively mobilizing support.



The background is a dark, almost black, space filled with numerous small white dots of varying sizes, resembling a starry night sky. In the top right corner, there is a large, irregular orange shape that looks like a stylized sun or a nebula. In the bottom left corner, there is a smaller orange shape with several thin, vertical, wavy lines extending upwards from it, resembling a stylized flame or a decorative element.

Thank You!