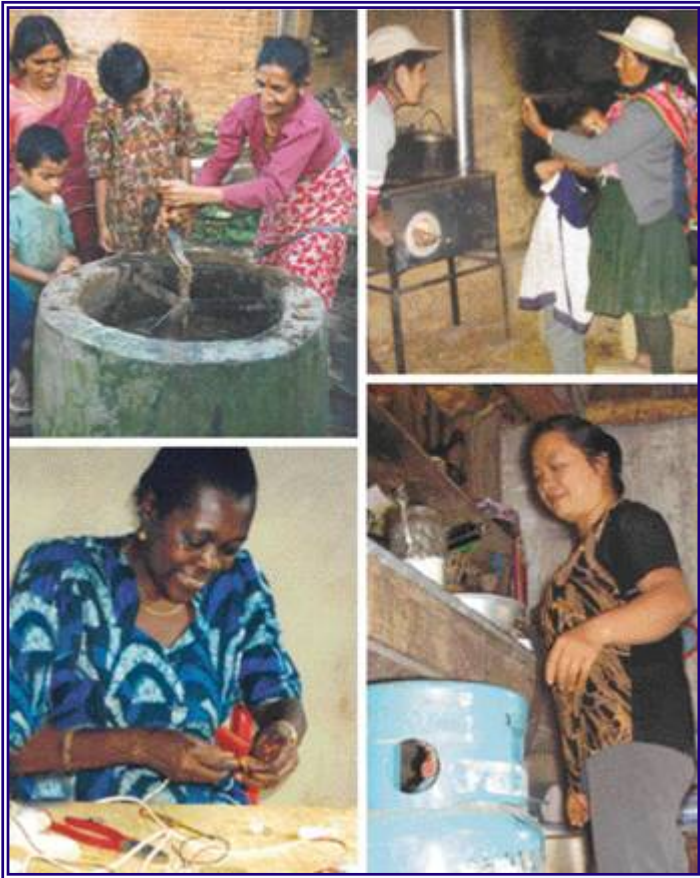


# Energy as Women's Business



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# ***What does gender have to do with energy issues?***

- **Dealing with electricity, oil and gas is generally viewed as men's work.**
- **Women are not included in discussions about energy plans and policies.**
- **'Gender-blind' energy policies ignore women's roles and hinder economic development.**

# ***Where energy comes from wood and biomass fuels, it is viewed as ‘women’s business’.***



- **For two billion people, biomass fuels are the primary source of energy.**
- **Cultural traditions in developing countries make women responsible for gathering fuel.**
- **Many women spend long hours in unpaid work gathering firewood and providing food.**

# ***Policies should reflect linkages between energy, women's work and national economics.***



- **Greater attention to gender differences in energy investments and initiatives.**
- **Women involved more in decisions so they can manage their lives more productively.**

# ***ENERGIA sponsored national consultations in countries with strong gender and energy linkages.***

- **Opportunity for women not present at CSD 15 to give input to governments and delegations.**
- **Country-specific recommendations for national and international energy actions.**

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## ***Some of the common themes from the national papers:***

**Dependence on biomass fuels is an obstacle to economic prosperity.**





**Women should be engaged in more productive activity than gathering biomass.**



**Investments are needed in improved fuels and equipment, as well as electricity.**





**Women play an important energy role and need to be more involved in decisions.**

# ***A new gender-balanced paradigm.***



- **Shift from a ‘subsidy mindset’ to enterprise development for women in the energy sector.**
- **New financial investments in energy infrastructure and services that promote economic and social development for both women and men.**