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| **Interviewer name** | XXXX  |
| **Sub-contractor organization** | XXXX  |
| **Interview date** | 4th December, 2020 |
| **Duration of interview audio recording** | 31mins 16secs |
| **Face-to-face or virtual interview** | Virtual interview |
| **Interview participant** |
| * **Code**
 | N3 - GMT20201204 |
| * **Participant name**
 | XXXX |
| * **organization name**
 | XXXX |
| * **Gender**
 | Female |
| * **Stakeholder category**
 | Non-governmental organization, (working on development, facilitating energy access, SDGs, energy and gender issues, etc.)(worked formerly in a government agency) |
| * **Country**
 | Nigeria |

Participant: Hello, good evening.,

CF: Good evening madam. Hello, can you hear me? You're muted, Hello your muted, Hello.

Participant: Okay, can you hear me?

CF: Yes, I can hear you know, it's a very good evening to you.

Participant: Good evening

CF: Thank you so much for finding time really to to make sure this conversation happens, and I know it's been it's been typed period but again, thanks so much.

Participant: You are welcome!

CF: Well, as I mentioned the key aim of this is to get I mean as somebody who has been very active in the energy space and also I mean we've met in a few forums also particularly in energy institutes and also with the XXXX workshops in preparation for this in preparation for the recipient.

Participant: Yeah,

CF: Yes. So these are different forums where we have met. I just thought okay. Ah, it's you you seem to be very active in that particular space. So one of the key concerns this particular projects, we are working on understanding gender related issues as it relates to energy access. So and see what I really have issues. I've been personally gender Equity issues and we are considering four countries, so the first is Nigeria and then Ghana in Africa and then we're looking at Pakistan and India in Asia. So here we just want to I'm going to be having this conversation between, between 40 minutes average is what I'm expecting. It may be less. You may have to make it faster, because I have had a busy day, the questions you can send it by email or keep it later.

Participant: I have to be a bit faster It's very bit faster, I had a very long day.

CF: Very good. No worries, that’s just exactly okay, no worries. So I would leave the first thing I would like to guess. I mean, can you tell us can you just tell me a bit about your background? And of course what you have done particularly in relation with this so your background what's got you into this sort of work they have been doing a bit of your professional background ground

Participant: I have a degree in xxx and then I have a PhD in xxx but PhD was on environmental regulations and compliance started. My career ended my career with government spent over 20 years 24 years in the oil and gas sector specifically involved in Waste Management toxicity testing of Drilling Fluids spills environmental impact assessments and health safety and environment ended xxxx, and the my interest in environmental issues, which is obviously related to energy concerns started when I was in secondary school with the Greenpeace articles that I read. That's her cell that actually resting. Yeah funny enough. I never knew I was going to end up in that space. So what we're doing in terms of protecting the environment and it really it really intrigued me because these were people who were ready to even lose their lives and it was a voluntary organization as well. And so I joined the xxxx and held that position for three years while I was working and of course while I was working I was very much a field person and I saw firsthand the very blatant non-compliance to environmental laws in the country. And that's and also a lot of questions while still this was multinationals operating in the oil and gas in a developing country, but they were not in any way complying with the SEC regulations. It's one thing if we didn't have any regulations, okay, so that's it for the sport my interest to find out why this double standard why where there's a will there's such a disparity in terms of operations at all that particularly when it had to do with energy use mental issues. I say energy use because I remember once we were trying to phase out the use of lunox bonex in the offshore facilities and for every regulation that came there was a push back hmm this also intrigued me because the regulations were jointly developed by the industry and the regulations for all stakeholders were all involved. Again, we can ask you some of these things because some of these issues were alien in the Nigerian space given that the government was very much focused on development. All right, so there was a very delicate balance between compliance and revenue generation as way to understand even till they pay interest. Absolutely.

CF: The problem is not regulation. I told is not policy. That's why I said I don't know we have everything we need in terms of laws regulations policies.

Participant: We have everything in country, Is it this did research I did pointed to the fact that our regulations are at par with what obtains in the developed world but a lot of other issues came into play first the regulator's themselves where they are well equipped to do the work Independence of the agencies where they allowed to sanction non-compliance yeah and of course the stakeholders themselves.

CF: interested, thes are interesting insights. Now you mentioned something which I find very intriguing if I got okay. I mean, even the most Nationals they do all sorts of things if I mean operated in the energy space and somehow I mean without any care for the environment which in the end actually leads to the second big theme of this whole conversation, which has to do with issues of gender equity in the old energy space. The truth of the matter is some of argued that women did a bronze of most of these things the most. From your experience, what have you seen?

Participant: Women bear the most of what particularly?

CF: The consequences of some of this. I mean,

Participant: Infraction?

CF: Yeah.

Participant: Well, I yeah, that's as true in the sense that when you look at the value chain, I think the women are very close to the bottom of the value chain in terms of even being involved in policy making even working in the energy sector may be reset now we have a lot more women in that space engineers women who are scientists engineers and technology as well, do you understand? So in those days we'll just be a few men scattered here and there in the oil and gas sector, but today the differently there's a difference has a marked difference and I'm quite impressed with what I'm seeing and what I'm reading. I've not really seen I mean like in real life what I read and I see that a lot of women are be attending positions of authority whereby they can be involved in the policy, and of course, you know that women I little bit more thorough. That's my experience because, I was really little I was not office bomb. I used to go out to the field.

CF: Hmm.

Participant: And that is why I always see my name come popping up now and again because I want fully understand the dynamics of compliance and regulations and the interactions between these various stakeholders. All right, first and foremost the people need to understand what the implications are today. We are talking about clean energy, today we will see the use of fossil fuels and we do not see a positive drive towards alternatives yet. This same companies are brought voluntarily support for example solar farms in other regions not in Nigeria, but one thing I've come to realize is that you cannot take politics away from the mix, the oil and gas sector very complex environment, highly technological, very capital-intensive, It is also a place where you do not find a lot of people. It's very specialized as well and start those three things automatically create a gate or womenfolk because it's largely dominated by men, I like I said, it's only now that you see women in stem which is, you know, engineering science and what have you.

CF: So, thanks so much for that. Now most of our policies and those are they really don't know gender sensitive in a way, is that correct?

Participant: They are no, I wouldn't say they're not gender sensitive because when you set up policies, you're not saying this is for a man, this is for a woman understand. I'm just saying that the barriers politics science, okay, and being in a male dominated area automatically also somewhat excludes the womenfolk.

 CF: Hmm.

Participant: But those barriers are broken down now, even when you are there, even when you are there, it takes the whole lot for you to get to the top, because you're competing against men. I'm not saying that you cannot get home. You will get there what you're going to work twice as hard because of course the women home providers to provide for the family. They also have the rule of having kids reached breaks their career. So sometimes they have to inter interrupt their career to be able to have their homes. Do you understand, that break in career is at is at a disadvantage for the women whose them at a disadvantage. You see you those are the issues but like I said things have changed dramatically covid has also come to shows that you really don't need a lot of things that we thought were necessary, technology is also playing a very vital role in the energy space which is very welcoming because that means that women can also do what they need to do without being out there exposed to the dangers. And what have you do you understand?

CF: Yeah.

Participant: So what would play out would be for women to be for that encouraged to go into stem, Engineering technology, especially, and yeah and focusing on understanding not being there as a figurehead or just to tick some boxes to understand that is very important.

CF: Yeah interested. I like the insights

Participant: That we've had has been the lady who is now Yeah, that's why I mention politics.

CF: Interested interesting. So it is you mentioned something which I find very interesting which is the fact that of course now it is not that there is there is no really there's really no, it's not a policy by area per se but more how to get women to really take a position them. Yes. No, it's least be to another aspect which I find also everything you touched on this a bit which has to do with Finance in energy access issues. We see the host communities of many energy-producing policies communities those whose communities, they I mean they have me they have challenges and things like that. And of course, we also see that women and children are mostly impacted now when it comes to financing because the financing most energy access infrastructure and we see all sorts of models. We've tried all sorts of things governments through the rural electrification agency and, you mentioned something. That's okay some of this oil companies, they do great things abroad but here nothing at, unless they are more or less forced. I mean the current model around energy access financing does it really doesn't really capture the needs of women as we see particularly in those rural communities. Someone has argued for example that most of the energy access policies we have today are not pro-poor because

Participant: Not what?

CF: Not pro-poor, they don't support the poor

Participant: They are not, they are not.

CF: Because some argue for example that them for someone like us living in the cities If I'm renting a house, there's already electricity infrastructure up to that housing. I just paid for what I use both all these different models for energy access people. I mean, we've more or less get the people these poor people to pay for the infrastructure also to get it to where there I mean, what do you what do you have to say particularly around issues of the various financing model we have today and one is to change the oil to make sure we are Go to cater for the needs of women?

Participant: We need to get a lot more women involved. We need to get a lot more women understanding the different layers of energy and energy use for the rural women and for week four areas that are very far away from the National grid and all of that. There are alternatives. What are the Alternatives we talked about biogas, which is as a result of waste in generated which can very easily be managed by women, It is not so highly technological you understand. We talk about solar, solar, solar systems as well, once you have that initial layout it can also be easily monitored and managed and used and over time. The initial costs balances out. Why are people not focusing on this which can easily reach the lower the lower ranks of the community, which you Women and children, you understand?

CF: Yeah,

Participant: They don't know.

CF: Interesting!

Participant: So there is need for Education. There's need for awareness at the grassroots level. That's what I say because the communities give license for these people to operate in their neighborhood and when you give the license you must be able to get something back you must be able to put down conditions. that would benefit you as a woman benefit your family. I'm gonna fit the community. Be proud to this time it is at the behest of the companies and pay perhaps the NGO’s they pay and the NGO’s dance to that tune. But if at the Grassroots the women or also understand, then of course the game will change. They will be empowered for instance in waste to energy projects, and they don't cost as much as we hear the other types of energy products and projects cost. You understand how many people will understand this even the few women who are in the energy space today really also understand? Because for me it boils and so understanding once you understand and you also understanding energy business because this players are not charity organizations. However, when we look at the total outlay of their PR projects or what do they call that B cells are projects it comes down to not having any impact because we have schools littered all over the Niger Delta not properly equipped, no teachers there, but the amount being allocated to this project, you'll be amazed, meanwhile the ones that will actually impact only for especially the women from that I want to bring out of poverty may not necessarily cost this much so women also must learn that they are the foot soldiers. They would have to represent women in the communities and that they represented many in the women and speak up and speak out, you only speak out if you know, speak up for themselves, the men will speak out for themselves, they say what they want, the women also need to stand firm for the know can benefit the womenfolk without any discrimination

CF: Exactly great, Now imagine there are no policy as you've mentioned no policy or financial constraints just for a moment that we manage in there and there is none of those things exist. What in your view would be the best practice for us to achieve gender equity in energy access?

Participant: I have said, and I will say in a different way, understanding is very fundamental option best available, option and one that will be sustainable that is very important.

CF: Okay!

Participant: And like I said, sometimes even when we go to the communities the women are not adequately represented that is all that is cultural you understand that when the chips are down culture is not going to is not coming to give you anything we respect our culture we recognize our culture when the chips are down what exactly are the benefits of all of this we are the sixth all producer in the world, but look at what we're doing now? Now what you're saying does it measure so they don't recognize people with experience and expertise or fortunately the political game being played around the energy space, is hurting the country more than you want to admit it and realize, we the story, we are going to roll gas, we are going to convert gas, how many women are able to afford that?

CF: Very true very true, something I just want to ask I mean are other issues, I mean as we try to trying not to take much of your time as you have mentioned, to try to wrap up really are there other issues you think we've not touch that you like to shed light on?

Participant: Well, I think one we have said the regulations are there they won't be as much as we want to because we are talking about the operators and the people in the energy sector. We're talking about awareness of the regulations as this affects women and the communities and the populace awareness of the regulations because when you are aware of the regulations, then you know what to do to ask for, you know what to look out for you know, how to help in monitoring and ensuring that you preserve your space under environment, right?

CF: Yeah,

Participant: Awareness is not there, If you look at the homes even Industries with this XXXX project I had he opportunity at that meeting talk to somebody and somebody who is a man who was in the manufacturing space and he was a very excited about a project that had to do with the wind and wind and solar it was a comet coming out of Canada that had that technology and I said look this company is so sure of that, energy that they are willing to have you put zero money down on the floor so that yeah on the proviso that you give you give them a bank guarantee or something. I'm not too much of a financial person that is also very key because when you are not surrounded, you know in finance in policy and Technology, they are all interrelated and we must be able to link the components together to be able now to come out with something that you can say. Okay. Yes, This will be beneficial to not be there are too many gaps. Let me just put it out in the mix too, many bad gaps one is only trying to you know ensure that you understand so that you are able to follow on a good day. You're quite a number of that a regulator usually does not have any does not have much strength in financial discussions, which is a flaw. Yeah, very big very big flow because if you're saying do this, what is at what cost is the person you're telling to do is considering you have us looking at only really looking at policy that also looking at Cost.

CF: Yeah.

Participant: So those are the kind of things that I think perhaps if we take a step back, I do know that they have energy commission and all this and all that but everything seems to be on the table and the papers on paper if not d it is today get more women involved, women are very thorough, women understand where a pinches the most I'm not playing down at men or looking down at men or saying that they are not important but they are some salient things that men often times overlooked.

CF: Yeah, it’s essentially about drawing on the strength of the various. I mean, I mean because women have areas of strength where the yes exactly.

Participant: To encourage women who sit on the table remember trying most women are not waiting to be asked to sit on the table, they take their position on the team and it will take a little bit of time also see the kind of results we really want and are the women there, are there at the women now getting into science technology and them and Engineering? Yes. They are.

CF: Yes, I can attest to that. We just started our engineering school and then we have perfect good number of girls coming in.

Participant: Exactly! another thing that women need to quickly ramp up its politics you cannot take politics out of anything mix you need to understand the politics of the environment and if it's to be very naive for us to think that it does not matter.

CF: It’s at the heart of everything actually.

Participant: I hope I have answered all your questions?

CF: Yes, I am quiet happy and impress really because you have brought out a dimension that we ordinarily do not look at because yes as somebody that comes from the oil and gas sector and you have worked with xxxx as a bug regulator in that field and then given some perspective that among the people I have discussed with you're the first person that I've hammered on the fact that no, no, no, we've got regulations, and then, I mean he's just we are not doing what we should do, Interested, thank you so much for your time.

Participant: I had to decline that call so that we can quickly round this up.

CF: Thank you so so much for your time. Okay. Thank you so much.

Participant: I will like to... Can you hear me? You said you are doing a project, I will like to see the outcome of that project because every knowledge is important.

CF: Okay, We will have a workshop, I think around much April there about where we'll share some of the findings and also do so cross-country comparison and see also what other countries are also doing that we have we are studying and then I mean we're going to host a workshop, we are going to throw it that open definitely so that we can can we share.

Participant: That is very fine.

CF: Yeah, great. Thank you so much.

Participant: I hope i didn't rushed too much. But I think I've touched on all of the best point.

CF: You really touched on the important themes really you you have touched on the important themes, which is great. Thanks so much for your time. And thanks so much for really taking out time to do this.

Participant: Yeah.

CF: Enjoy your weekend.

Participant: Thank you so much too and all the best.

CF: Yea, Bye bye.

Participant: Bye Thank you so much too and all the best.

CF: Yeah, bye-bye.