2019 IEA Ministerial  
Women in Energy - 'Advancing Equal Participation for a Clean Energy Future'  
Chairs’ summary

1. The 2019 Ministerial side-event of 2019 International Energy Agency (IEA) Ministerial  
Meeting was opened by Michał Kurtyka, Ministerial Chair and Dr. Fatih Birol, Executive  
Director of the International Energy Agency. The event was chaired by H.E. Christyne  
Tremblay (Canada) and H.E. Megan Woods (New Zealand) in Paris on 5 December 2019  
under the theme “Women in Energy - 'Advancing Equal Participation for a Clean Energy  
Future.”

2. The event brought together Ministers and high-level officials from African Union, Australia,  
Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand,  
Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States, who expressed enthusiastic  
support for advancing gender diversity across the energy sector. Notable announcements  
during the event included the United States’ launch of the C3E International Ambassador and  
Mentoring Programme and Canada’s initiation of the next C3E Awards nomination process.

3. Aiming to recognise and promote the value of an inclusive and diverse energy sector,  
participants shared their ambitions and plans to advance gender diversity and helped to  
provide guidance and identify priorities for 2020 and beyond to the IEA Technology  
Collaboration Programme Clean Energy Education and Empowerment (C3E TCP).

4. Recognising that the energy sector throughout history has lacked the participation of  
women and noting that women only make up 22 percent of the traditional energy sector  
labour force, participants highlighted that research shows that diversity is good for  
performance which provides a strong “business case” to act to attract more women to the  
energy sector and take steps to retain them.

5. Emphasizing the importance of integrating gender into energy policies and sharing best  
practices, participants welcomed the activities of C3E TCP and the Equal by 30 Campaign under  
the Clean Energy Ministerial as platforms to exchange best practices and strengthen  
collaboration in several areas, including knowledge and data collection, recognition of women  
leadership and raising ambition on implementation. Equal by 30, which now boasts over 125  
public and private signatories across the energy sector globally, encouraged greater action on  
gender equality by 2030.

5. Commending the IEA’s elevated efforts to build up and share knowledge to help tackle  
issues related to future human capacity needs, including equal opportunities for women and  
men in the energy sector, participants welcomed the IEA as the Coordinator for the  
Workstream on Knowledge and Data collection for the C3E TCP, and encouraged strong  
support for IEA in that role.

6. Reiterating strong support for the IEA’s focus on promoting gender diversity, participants  
asked the Secretariat to report regularly to the IEA Governing board on progress, including  
C3E and related activities.