Climate Leaders Network Meeting: EnGendering Your ESG Strategy
14 August 2024
Hanoi, Vietnam

Summary:
The fifth Climate Leaders Network Meeting focused on adding a gender lens to Environmental, Social, and Governance strategies. The workshop, titled "EnGendering Your ESG Strategy," aimed to guide participants on integrating gender-inclusive approaches into corporate ESG strategies, particularly within the framework of sustainability, SMEs, start-ups, and value chains. Through a combination of expert interventions, interactive exercises, and company case studies, the event underscored the importance of gender considerations in advancing holistic ESG practices.

Key Facts:
The event was held on August 14, 2024, at Standard Chartered Bank's newly opened office in Hanoi's Capital Place Building. It was organized by IFC, Australian Aid, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, and USAID, and hosted by Michele Wee, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank (Vietnam). The workshop attracted notable attendees, including representatives from Unilever Viet Nam, AmeIn & Co., Standard Chartered Bank, and PAN Group, who actively participated in discussions on integrating gender into ESG frameworks.

Event Highlights:

- **Expert Interventions:** The discussions highlighted how embedding gender inclusivity within ESG strategies is crucial for achieving long-term sustainability and corporate responsibility. Experts emphasized that gender diversity, particularly in leadership, plays a vital role in driving ESG initiatives that are both effective and equitable.
- **The Role of Women in ESG:** The event recognized the critical contribution of women in upholding and advancing ESG principles across industries. By promoting gender parity, organizations can unlock diverse perspectives that foster innovation, improve risk management, and create more resilient business models.
- **Interactive Sessions:** Participants delved into real-world applications of gender-focused ESG strategies through group exercises. These sessions reinforced the idea that inclusive practices lead to more comprehensive and impactful ESG outcomes, benefiting both businesses and society.
- **Case Studies:** Presentations provided valuable insights into how various companies are integrating gender into their ESG agendas. The case of Unilever Viet Nam, for instance, demonstrated the positive impact of gender-inclusive policies on sustainable finance and overall corporate performance.
- **Future Directions:** The meeting set a forward-looking agenda, calling for stronger collaboration and continued dialogue on gender and ESG. Participants agreed on the need to amplify women's voices in the ESG discourse and committed to advancing these priorities within their respective organizations.

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