



Access to information, Public Participation and Environmental Justice

APWLD

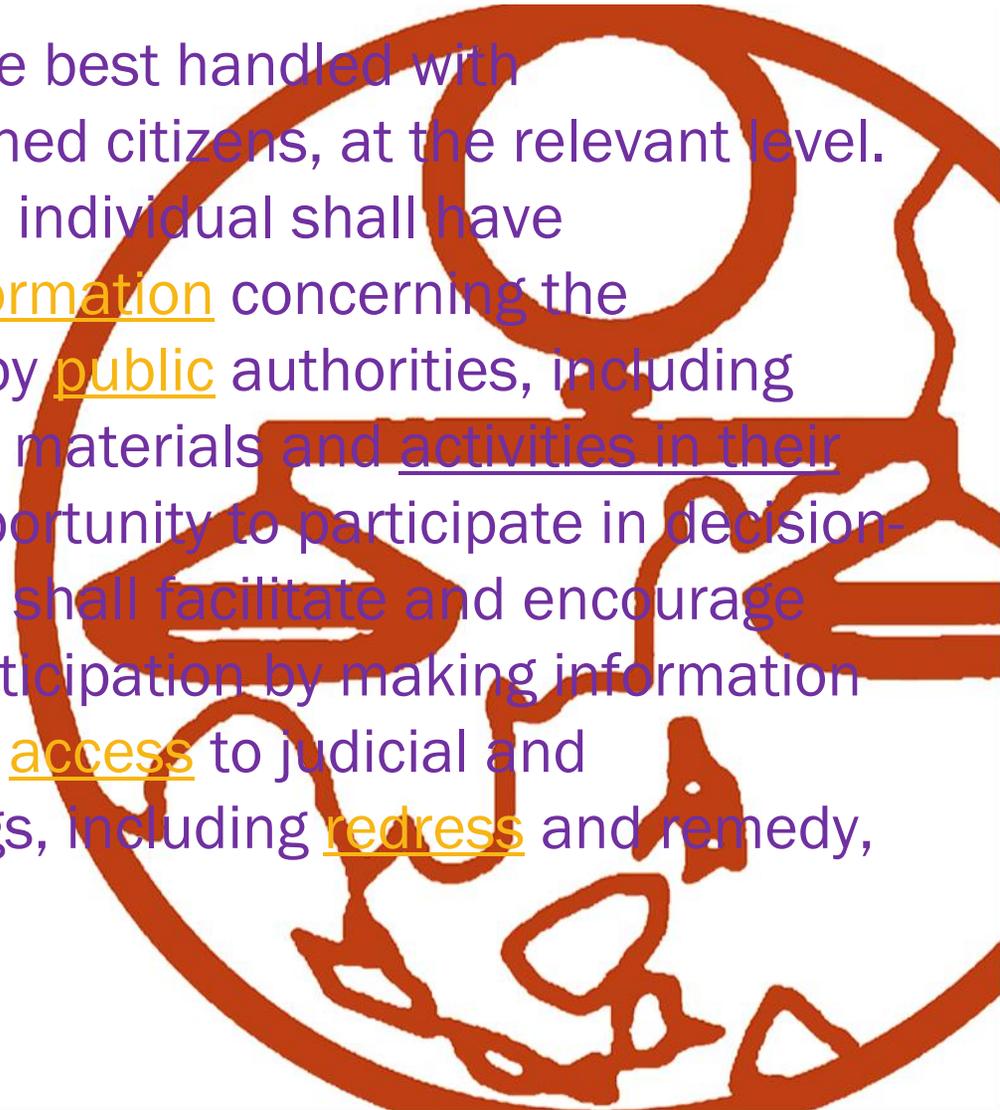
ASIA PACIFIC FOCAL POINT,
WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP



Kate Lappin

Principle 10

- “Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.”



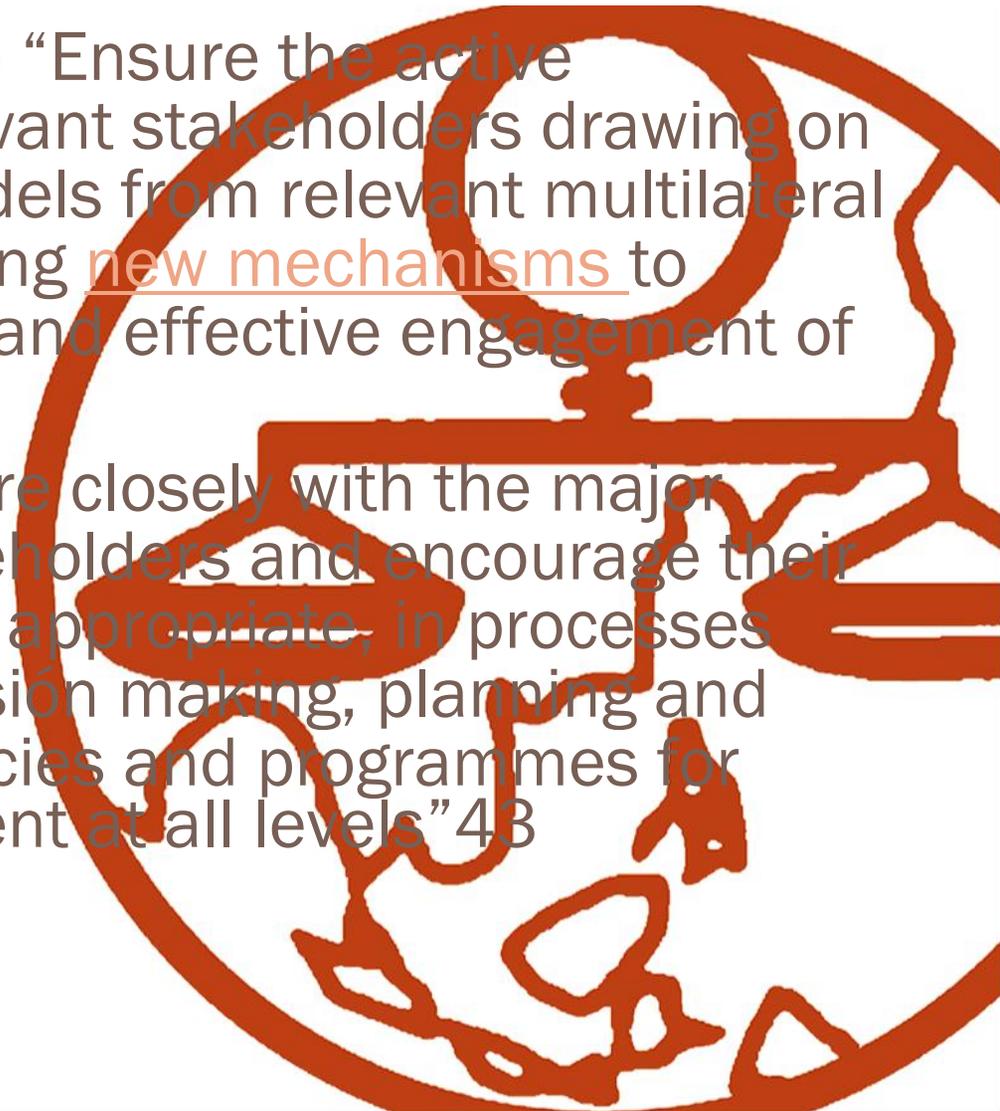
Specific text for women's participation

- “the vital role of women and the need for their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development” and supports “the removal of barriers” and “repeal of discriminatory laws” to create an enabling environment for women.



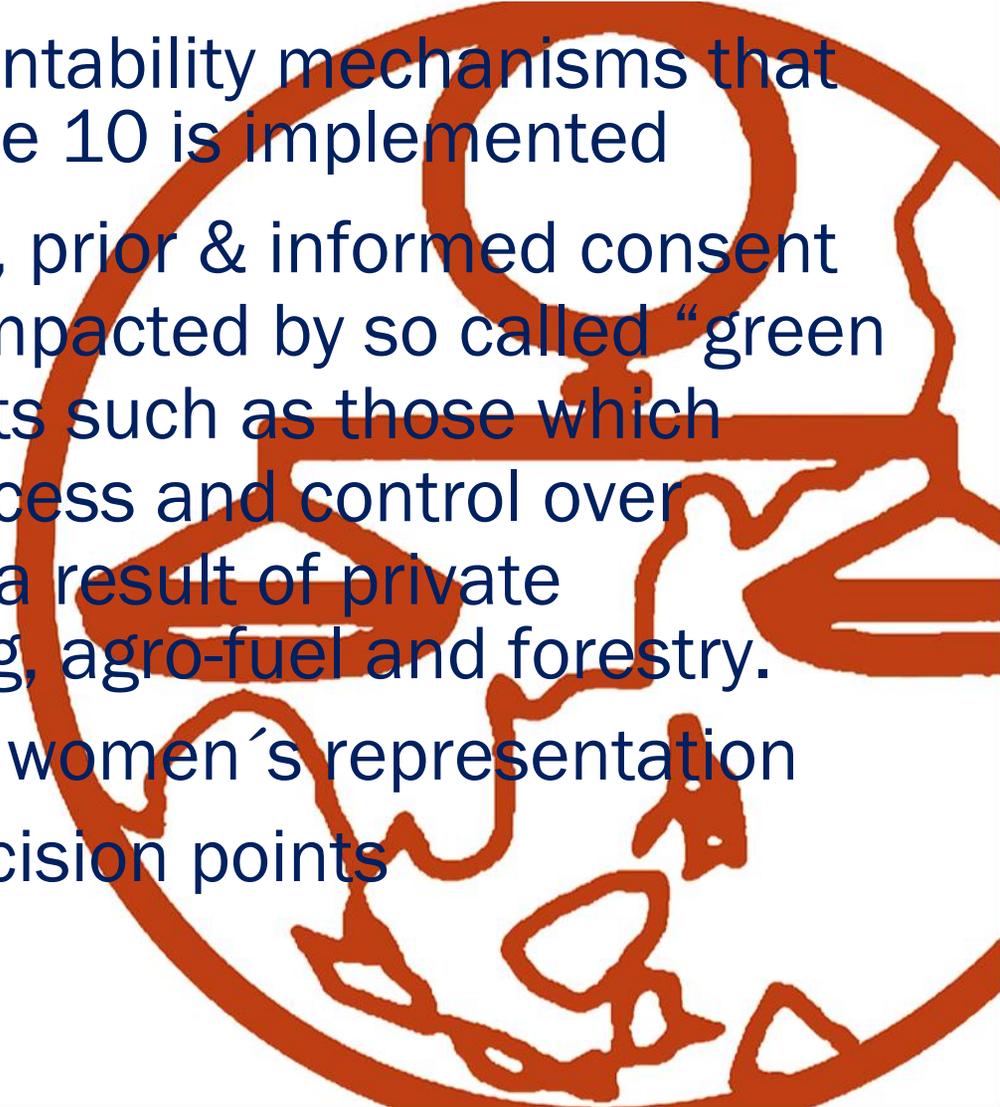
Other opportunities

- 88(h) requires UNEP to “Ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and effective engagement of civil society”
- “ We agree to work more closely with the major groups and other stakeholders and encourage their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels” 43



Concerns

- Currently lacks accountability mechanisms that would ensure principle 10 is implemented
- Does not ensure free, prior & informed consent for all communities impacted by so called “green economy” investments such as those which experience loss of access and control over natural resources as a result of private investments in mining, agro-fuel and forestry.
- Removal of quota for women’s representation
- Role of MGs at all decision points



Recommendations

- Redistribution of resources is the only solution
- That requires a redistribution of power, voice, governance between countries, between rich and poor and between men and women.



Recommendations

- Construct a goal on democratic governance & decision making, FPIC at local, national, regional, international levels
- Include indicator = existence of democratic, transparent decision making bodies involving those most affected
- Multistakeholder platforms for implementation of national sustainable development plans (Feminist Representation)
- Gender responsive and gender accountable processes
- Include indicator for women's representation at all levels @ 40%
- Indicator around access to meaningful information by those most effected
- Indicators over access to justice - access to appeal mechanisms, accountability for breaches inc no consent.

