

## 2<sup>ND</sup> INTERVENTION: WOMEN MAJOR GROUP / ROUND TABLE 4

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The WMG welcomes an upgrade on UNEP and a further role in addressing the increasing environmental challenges within sustainable development. We understand that UNEP's effective contributions to SDGs can exert a difference in the face of the current environmental, social and financial crises.

Therefore, such contributions must take into consideration the central role of women in the environment, and thus, sustainable development. Let me remind you that women around the world spend more time and energy in activities related to direct natural resource use and play a central role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by their use of traditional knowledge which have helped them overcome environmental challenges, and that still goes unrecognized.

Recognizing a traditional knowledge-policy interface is not only paramount for addressing environmental challenges but also addressing the underlying causes of increased poverty. In fact, women are already 70% of the world's poor therefore, if poverty is to be eradicated, women needs are to be considered separately and integrated into all areas of development. In addition, greater recognition of women's rights and gender equality are to be integrated including rights to land and self-determination. We call on governments to support both a stand-alone goal on gender equality and sub-goals in all the priority areas. For example, in the case of forests, a sub-goal should be, ensuring that women's whose lives depend on forest resources, have due access and control over them for allowing community-based development.