

COW, Monday 18 February 2013

Intervention by Major Groups Women,

Speaker: Sascha Gabizon, WECF Netherlands or Meena Biligi, WOCAN, India

Thank you chair

I am speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Group

We would like to address 2 key issues:

On article 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, we would like to highlight **article 88h** on public participation, and confirm our support for the consensus proposal from all major groups and stakeholders on Principles for Participation in UNEP, which was presented by the NGO mayor group.

We also want to highlight that diversity is valuable, and that UNEP needs the diversity of perspectives for environmental policy-making and implementation. Women due to their gender roles, have different needs and priorities, which need to be reflected in UNEP's programmes and policy processes.

On the Sustainable Development Goals, agreed in Rio+20

We believe that the 2 key priority areas for the SDGs should be:

- 1) Ending inequalities, in particular gender inequalities
- 2) Ensuring environmental sustainability within planetary boundaries

The Women Major Group has prepared concrete recommendations for the SDGs, which will be presented in our side event tomorrow Tuesday, in the Green Room.

We call for gender sub-goals in all goals as well as one stand-alone goal on women's empowerment and gender equality. Proposed indicators could be allocating 50% of ODA to local funding which strengthen women's rights to protect the natural resources which are the basis for their livelihoods and food security.

In particular, recognition of women's right to own land which can prevent further resource privatization and nature commodification that lead to land grabbing and other harmful activities that destroy ecosystems and hence, people's livelihoods.

Likewise, SDGs offer an opportunity to redirect perverse incentives and ensure that industries that have played a major role in environmental destruction are made liable, and pay for the pollution and clean up. It is unacceptable that the largest 20 companies in the world have 300 billion in profits, while they are also responsible for the largest pollution and destruction from their oil and mining activities.

Finally, SDGs should focus on poverty elimination. As women are 70% of the poor, priority should go to funding for women living in poverty in rural and slum areas and implementation of a global social protection floor, providing 100% essential services and 100% income security.

