



**Women's Major Group**

**Opening Statement at the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals  
At the United Nations, New York**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2014**

Good morning. My name is Emilia Reyes with Equidad de Género, Mexico, and I speak on behalf of the WMG.

At the OWG 10th we made a call to use words with sound meanings, and to see those words translated into the wellbeing of all people. We thank you Co-chairs for the 16 Focus Area Document, for we are now in a clearer exercise of imagination to foresee the implementation of an ambitious agenda.

We welcome the inclusion of some structural elements across the document, and we want to address both specific topics as well as the chapeau under which the entire document should be drafted in our view.

In regard to specific elements, we urge you to integrate gender equality throughout all the focus areas and strengthen the targets in the following areas: to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women; to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights; to promote gender parity in decision making in all spheres; to foster a peaceful and secure environment for all people; to guarantee safe and equal access to quality education and public services, socially and environmentally sound technology, decent work and employment, and also control over assets and resources, based upon gender budgets. We have suggestions of language for specific topics, of which you will hear in the days to come, but we want to address our bigger concerns here, so that none of the challenges are left out because of a lack of conditions to guarantee their proper instrumentation. So I will address the broader framework for a chapeau.

We have no doubt gender inequality is a structural problem and requires solid measures, so the WMG would like to suggest ways in which we can achieve our common aim to eradicate it.

1) First of all, we believe that all the instruments guaranteeing the human rights of women should be taken into consideration as fundamental means of implementation, in the same way that we believe that the entire human rights framework should be the unequivocal starting point to the entire document.

2) Second, we want to highlight that gender equality means the wellbeing of women and persons in all their diversity across their lifecycle, so we would like to have that language across the entire proposal so that we can effectively guarantee that everyone is included.

3) Third, gender equality should be spelt out in all its words across all of the focus areas. This would only translate in more effective results for our longed achievement of sustainable development, and in that regard, it should have effective and appropriate financing.

4) Fourth, we would like to see that the root causes of the problem are addressed rather than only tackling the consequences, so we call for the monitoring of the reduction of the concentration of wealth as well as its social and environmental impacts.

5) Fifth, it is critical to guarantee that governments assume their mandate to provide every service and guarantee the exercise of rights, because we don't want to see a world in which only those who can pay for a private service to grant the accomplishment of those targets will see the benefits of them. Neither do we want to see states in a reduced use of its faculties because they are not fully focused as the main executers of the agenda. Rule of law is central in that regard.

The possibility of shaping a better world is in our hands, but we fear we are in the middle of a paradox: the document is still a contradiction, because it is still rooted in a neoliberal framework, focusing in the eradication of poverty that from the start was the cause of the failure of the MDG's, rather than on facing real solutions, such as progressive taxation, redistributive policies and the transformation of macroeconomic structures.

The 60% of the value produced by human work is performed by women in the form of unpaid domestic and care work, whereas only the remaining 40% of value is translated into money. Women subsidize the entire global economy, so that domestic as well as care work should be counted, re-valued and redistributed.

We want to make sure no blurred lines distort the outcome. This is the moment to pay attention to the process to achieve real results. We are closer to a neat document to reshape our reality.

- Let us be brave to draft the final words. Let us be just in including the non-included. Let us be bold in our urgency.
- Let us be fair in addressing transparency, accountability and co-responsibility. Let us be clear that we have debts in terms of rights and environment, not of money.
- Let us be ambitious to tread terrains where no other international process has gone.
- Let us pursue human and planetary wellbeing, not private and shortsighted interests.
- Let us be creative to reshape our world in the 15 years to come, so that no Post-2030 is needed.

Thank you chair