

**WOMEN MAJOR GROUP INTERVENTION FOR CSD-19, 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2011  
AFTERNOON ON SIDS PRESENTED BY DR.rer.nat SABINA ANOKYE MENSAH**

Thank you Chair for the opportunity to add the women's voice to the discussion. The women major group sees the necessity for a global change from a debt-based economy that depends on over-consumerism and results in destruction of nature, people and through climate change is affecting Small Island States. We must move to an economy which is based on common values for eco-services which will enhance the sustainability and the economic status of women i.e an economy that prospers as people and the planet thrive.

The Small Island States are confronted with destruction which is compounded by the actions of its own people. People should protect their natural and social wealth. Women are agents of change through their role as first educators of children, through their principal role in agriculture, leadership at all levels of society, and the many different roles women play. Governance by and for the benefit of all people and the planet as a whole must be inclusive and gender balanced at all levels.

The change is urgent. It should be based on the following principles: the phasing out of all toxic chemicals, zero waste and mining where the lands must be restored to their natural health and the polluter pays.

Women consider water as a high priority and a cross-cutting issue for all themes of the CSD. We urge Governments to discuss the water related implications. Waste policies should be based on the waste hierarchy with the priority given in the order of 1) avoid 2) reduce, 3) reuse and 4) recycle. Given the themes of the UNCSD, we call on governments to enforce the polluter pays principle and this should result in financial mechanisms out of which payments are made for a basic income for all. This would empower women, children, indigenous peoples and all as valuable collaborators in this process.

**THANK YOU**