

Women Major Group Statement: Multistakeholder Dialogue on Policy Options, Practical Measures and the way forward.

Thank you, Chair.

The Women Major Group calls for the 10 year framework on SCP to support initiatives in which women and youth have clear and decisive access points to all levels of programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as funding mechanisms.

Waste:

We call on governments to enforce the “polluter pays” principle at all levels. Financial mechanisms are required to clean up waste and repair damage. Waste policies should be based on the waste hierarchy with priority given in the following order: 1) avoid 2) reduce 3) reuse 4) recycle.

Chemicals:

Women are the first environment for the child, transforming harmful chemicals to the developing child. We call for the application of the precautionary principle in chemical policies when there is uncertainty about possible harm ensuring women and children are protected.

Mining:

Women and mining is a story of violence. Many mining activities destroy livelihoods and the environment. Global UN guidelines for sustainable mining which assures payment for full rehabilitation of mining areas and assuring benefits and safe and decent jobs for local communities including women is needed..

The Rio+20 conference in 2012 is the occasion to reach an international agreement on sustainable mining. We call for a moratorium on green field mining until an agreement has been implemented.

We call on governments to create a global plan and fund for clean-up after mining.

Transport

Investment in the transport sector often neglects the needs of women and the non-motorised poor. Women need to be involved in transport planning at all levels. We call on governments to develop low-carbon integrated transport plans, which optimise complex transport modalities and urban rural linkages.

Improving rural transport systems could be a facilitating factor to rural development. Most rural livelihood activities are carried out by women through walking and head loading.

Finally an analysis of the transport sector in terms of gender and women issues must be looked at based on its multidimensional nature thus involving a multiple of factors which must be considered from a gender perspective.

The Women Major Group would undertake research and gather information on:

1. Existing SCP projects and policies that incorporate a gender perspective.
2. proposed improvements to SCP programmes and policies based on gender analysis.
3. differing women's SCP needs and priorities in the North and South; and
4. analysis of obstacles to, and opportunities for scaling up SCP initiatives to benefit women.

We look forward to collaborating in this important effort.

Thank you.