

Thank you, Chair,

The women's major group sees the necessity for a global shift from a debt-based economy that depends on over-consumerism and results in destruction of nature, people and through climate change Small Island States. We must shift to an economy which is based on the value of our commons and pays for eco-services which will enhance the sustainability and the economic status of women-- an economy that prospers as people and the planet thrive.

The Small Island States are confronted by destruction which is compounded by the actions of each person. People should protect their natural and social wealth. Women are agents of change—through being the first educators of a child, through their principle role in agriculture, through leadership at all levels of society, and through 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 of governance.

A shift 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 water is a cross-cutting issue for all themes of the CSD. We urge Governments to discuss the water related implications.

Given the themes of the UNCSD, we can discuss a system where the polluter pays and this results in a Trust out of which payments are made for a basic income for all. This would empower women, children, indigenous peoples, and other protagonists as valuable collaborators in this global economic shift.