

WOMEN MAJOR GROUP STATEMENTS - THE AFRICA REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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FIRST STATEMENT: 01/11/2013

Thank you Chair and to all consultants,

We would like to commend Southern Africa for highlighting the promotion of gender equality and empowerment as a sustainable development priority theme. There is special mention of the youth and elderly as called for in the Maputo Protocol. Furthermore, there is an indicator focused on Gender Based Violence. However, we caution on the emphasis on quantitative indicators insofar as the inclusion of girls and women in education and employment respectively. As indicated from distinguished delegates from Nigeria and Rwanda, we should also include indicators that demonstrate a transformative agenda that promotes women's rights as human rights including ownership and control of productive resources.

Additionally, adequate energy supply has been flagged as a sub-theme under poverty eradication. However as the distinguished delegate from Zimbabwe has mentioned, there are no targets/indicators on the same.

Thank you Chair

SECOND STATEMENT: 01/11/2013

Thank you Chair

WE, African women drawn from African Union Member States, Civil Society Organisations, Women's Rights Organisations, present the following Statement on behalf of the WMG.

RECALLING the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against women (CEDAW); the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality and the Decade for African Women (2010-2020) and various regional and international Legal instruments on Women's Rights.

Taking into consideration ongoing processes at the regional level, that rally for a strong African position including Africa Agenda 2063, Draft Common Position on

post-2015 and the Draft Africa Regional Report on the SDGs that call for social equity and equality, we commend the initiative by member states to have a stand alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment and further call for gender targets in all the proposed Goals.

We would like to state that social and ecological justice, including women's and girls' rights and empowerment, must be at the heart of sustainable development given that women continue to be underrepresented in decision making processes including climate change negotiations. The proposed SDGs must form part of a broader agenda of structural and transformational changes that is firmly rooted in human rights obligations and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and not be limited to reductive targets and indicators.

Recognizing this, the key recommendations made by the WMG, to be considered by member states, are that the post-2015 process and the proposed Sustainable Development Goals should:

1. Promote principles of non-discrimination on the basis of gender, age, class, race, ethnicity, and abilities in accordance Article 2 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.
2. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women in accordance with the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of women.
3. Ensure respect for the sexual and reproductive rights of all adolescent girls and boys, women and men, and their right to quality, comprehensive and reproductive health education and services.
4. Recognize and redistribute the unequal and unfair burdens on women and girls in sustaining societal wellbeing and economies, assure redistribution of unpaid work and protect the rights of care workers.
5. Empower women and girls, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups through access to basic services such as health care, food, water, energy, housing and employment.
6. Put in place measures to enable women access to, ownership and control over productive resources such as land and guarantee their right to property.
7. Secure food sovereignty based on the recognition of small holder farmers, particularly women.
8. Recognize, protect and enable the development of women's indigenous knowledge systems .
9. Facilitate women's access to appropriate technologies including ICTs for sustainable environment.
10. Increase support for alternative sustainable energy technologies, so as to safely meet energy and food needs while generating employment and supporting local communities.
11. Women must have a right to peaceful existence and participate in the promotion and maintenance of peace.

In conclusion we urge member states to ensure women's participation in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Thank you Chair