

Women's Major Group intervention – Feb 28 – 2011 -- IPM/CSD

The Women's Major Group affirms that all issues of the present cycle of the Commission on Sustainable Development have an impact on women and their lives, and women are key to solving the related problems. Women are important agents and driving forces of change.

Gender equality is a manifestation of social justice and a prerequisite for sustainable development; therefore, gender equality and women's empowerment are central elements of all debates and issues of the commission on Sustainable Development.

Equal participation of women and men is essential in the debate relating to sustainable development. Women are still significantly underrepresented in such debates, and their specific needs are insufficiently recognized.

The wellbeing of women, their families and their communities would be enhanced if member states implemented the Beijing declaration as well as the recommendations of CEDAW, WSSD, CSW and CSD. Such implementation is incomplete.

It has been noted that sustainability depends on the ability to mobilize green financing to make environmentally-friendly technology more widely available. We would like to expand on this idea by also emphasizing the need for women-friendly technologies that can expand their access to communications and information, and provide new opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and improved food production.

New financing and credit facilities dedicated to women's green business enterprises, and climate-related funds and mechanisms would benefit women, and their families and communities, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preserving critical ecosystems and biodiversity.

In order to ensure that financing for sustainable development, technology transfer, and climate mitigation and adaptation, is women-friendly, we recommend that gender balance should be required on all management boards, expert panels and advisory groups, and that gender analysis should be conducted to ensure equal access to benefits and opportunities for men and women.

Women in Europe for a Common Future and Voices of African Mothers are co-coordinators of the Women's Major Group, which has been active internationally, regionally, and locally in these areas of concern, as well as in other areas of concern related to the major themes under consideration this coming week. The Women's Major group looks forward to presenting our action priorities during this week's upcoming deliberations.

Submitted – Sharyle Patton, WECF

