

**Statement by Women's Major Group on Sustainable Consumption & Production  
For High Level Roundtable Discussion May 12, 2011**

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair

You have asked what commitments are needed from different stakeholders to advance the implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programs on sustainable consumption and production.

Women are already engaged in many activities throughout the world that are part of a transition to more sustainable consumption and production patterns. The Women's Major Group is working to help expand and scale up women's initiatives in this area.

In support of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes, the Women's Major Group has proposed an initiative to work in collaboration with governments, international agencies, and other major groups and stakeholders, particularly to gather and share information about:

- (a) existing SCP projects and policies that incorporate a gender perspective;
- (b) proposed improvements to SCP programmes and policies based on gender analysis;
- (c) differing women's SCP needs and priorities in the North and South; and
- (d) analysis of obstacles to, and opportunities for, scaling up SCP initiatives to benefit women.

With reference to the presentation we heard today on Millennium Consumption Goals, we would like to emphasize that for women in developing countries, under-consumption associated with poverty, food insecurity and lack of modern energy sources represents a current and ongoing crisis. Efforts to address women's vulnerability to the world's combined food, financial, energy and environmental crises must be prioritized in the work done in the area of SCP.

However, much of women's work throughout the world involves unpaid activities to care for their families and sustain their communities, with little recognition or support from governments or institutions. The invisibility of women's contributions, and over-emphasis on market economics, means that they are often overlooked in formal discussions about sustainable production and consumption.

*We therefore call for gender mainstreaming, and specific targets (at least 30%) for participation and representation of women, within the UN agency structures, programmes and initiatives, as well as for the indicators selected and the monitoring and evaluation process.*

Despite many important initiatives, the work in SCP so far has been insufficient in view of the enormous challenges we face. We clearly need a simple, efficient and well-functioning organizational structure that encourages the engagement of civil society with governments and other partners in this critical work.

*We therefore also call for measurable targets for implementing the 10 Year Framework of Programmes, including a target suggested by NGOs to identify, showcase and support at least 1000 national and regional initiatives each year during the ten year period of work, as well as a two-year review process for the 10 year framework.*