

Intervention Women's Major Group 1 June 2012 (or 2 June)

Thank you chair

Having followed the discussion in the splinter group on gender and education, we are pleased to see that in Gender paragraph 2, there is general agreement for specific targets and temporary measures to reach gender parity.

It is a first step, even though Women would have wished to see even stronger language, of reaching at least 40% women in leadership positions by 2020, on the way gender parity.

Secondly, we call on government to keep the language on equal rights of women to property and inheritance in Gender paragraph 5.

According to the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, *"In almost all countries, whether 'developed' or 'developing', legal security of tenure for women is almost entirely dependent on the men they are associated with.*

Very few women own land.

A separated or divorced woman with no land and a family to care for often ends up in an urban slum, where her security of tenure is at best questionable."

Would you want your mother to be expelled from her land and home when your father dies? ...
No none of us want that!

Thirdly,

Every day 2000 women die of the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

This is as essential to us as safe drinking and access to energy.

In both the Gender and Health sections we call on you to reaffirm women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, as agreed in both the Cairo and Beijing Agreements.

This was just affirmed last month at the 45 session of the commission on population and development.

Clearly Rio+20 must follow suit !

A few words on chemicals:

In Chemical paragraph 1, the precautionary principle should be strongly re-affirmed in the section on chemical and waste. We cannot afford to wait another 20 years. Today entire generations are being contaminated with harmful chemicals, which build up in our bodies, and which we pass on to our children, often leading to irreversible health damage . We do **not accept** governments to delay action, and say that we should wait for risk assessments. Many women work with waste and recycling. We need

to move away from the persistent and harmful chemicals, and produce products which can be safely reused and recycled.

The women of the world will be watching you and counting on your support and ready to work with you,

Thank you chair,