

To the co-chairs of the NWMLE
Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment

23 April 2013

Dear HE Rejoice Mabudafhasi and HE Lena Ek

The Women Major Group at UNEP was very grateful for the interactive dialogue with the NWNLE during the **Gender Forum on 17 of February** in Nairobi, and the possibility for our representative, Isis Alvarez, to **present our first recommendations regarding the post Rio+20** process on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The Women Major Group has continued to follow both the SDG process closely, as well as the post2015 development agenda. We are **working in a broad coalition of women's organisations**, those from UNEP, from the Women Major Group Rio+20, from UNFCCC, from CBD, from MDGs/post2015, from CSW and from ICPC (Cairo process).

Several of our colleagues have taken part in both **national as well as global consultation meetings on Post2015**, as experts and speakers, as well as meeting with of the High Level Panel on 2015 (Monrovia, Bali, Guadalajara). Last week, our New York based colleagues took part in the 2nd meeting of **the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals**. The women's statements have been posted on www.worldwewant2015.org and <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>¹

The Women's Major Group has consulted amongst its 400 organisational members, and **developed a discussion paper on the Sustainable Development Goals**, of which we are including a short summary for your information. The full discussion paper which is a dynamic document with 15 thematic chapters and 120 pages is available as a downloadable document on the Women MG website www.WomenRio20.org

Below, we summarize some of the key points which the Women Major Group feel are important in the SDG and post 2015 process, and which we would like to share with the Network members, in the hope that some countries would be interested in supporting some of our proposals. If you agree, **we would welcome** it if the secretariat would send our letter to all the Network members.

With our best regards, **for the Women's Major Group at UNEP,**



Sascha Gabizon WECF International, for the Women MG and Isis Alvarez GFC, Alice Odingo Soroptomists, Caroline Usikpedo Niger Delta Women Movement, Mildred Mkandla Earth Care Africa, Tess Vistro Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development, Hala Yoursy Desert Institute, Meena Bigli WOCAN/GWA - co-facilitators and regional partners of the Women MG at UNEP

¹ <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=157> , <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/330919> , <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/294475> , <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/331092>

Women's key recommendations for Sustainable Development Goals & Post2015

Building on lessons learned from MDGs, the Women Major Group **cautions against developing a set of reductive goals**, targets and indicators that ignore the transformational changes required to address the failure of the current development model - rooted in unsustainable production and consumption patterns that exacerbate gender, race and class inequalities.

The Women Major Group (WGM) believes that **Gender equality and women's rights** should be an **explicit priority** addressed **throughout** the framework as well as **stand-alone** priorities. However, we want to prevent the instrumentalization of women's rights and we ask for a framework that **tackles the root causes of gender inequality**. This requires:

- Women's equitable **access to and control over** resources;
- Promoting equitable **redistribution of paid and unpaid work**;
- Eliminating all forms of **discrimination, end gender-based violence, and guaranteeing sexual and reproductive rights**
- Preventing the **negative impacts on women of extractive industries and large-scale monocultures**;
- Support **women's leadership in mitigating of and adapting to climate change**;
- End the volatility of food prices and its impacts and assure **food sovereignty**; and
- Ensuring equal access to **quality education for women and girls throughout the life course**.

The WGM believe that a new framework must proactively **address increasing inequalities within and between countries**, the commodification of nature, and be based on the Rio Principles, including common but differentiated responsibilities.

The SDGs must be discussed within **a framework that enables their achievement** and includes **means of implementation** that prioritize **public financing over public-private** partnerships in order to realise states obligations to allocate the maximum availability of resources to eradicate poverty, achieve human rights and environmental sustainability.

SDGs should also include systems of monitoring and accountability that are built into the framework, with clear and time-bound commitments. This requires data **disaggregated** on the basis of age, sex and other status to identify, make visible and respond to inequalities.

Unfair investor and trade agreement are among root causes of unsustainable development. The international community must commit to **real reforms of the monetary, financial and trade regimes** that currently perpetuate inequalities and violence and undermine women's and girls' rights. Global macroeconomic structures must be coherent with governments' human rights obligations.

Participation of civil society is a crucial input to the process. It is important to ensure the active and meaningful participation of groups that are marginalized and most affected by unsustainable development - such as **women, indigenous peoples and youth**. We encourage member states to support and strengthen this participation, e.g by allocating funds to a public participation trust fund. Currently unlike in the previous 20 years, there is no funding available for public participation in this process.

This is a summary of key points, examples of targets and indicators are available, see www.womenrio20.org or contact@WomenMajGrp.org