

*Women's Major Group Statement  
Objectives, March 7, 2011-03-07*

Thank you chair for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Women's Major Group.

As we address the objectives of the conference, let me say that Rio2012 must be a platform for forging renewed commitment to multilateralism and a reinvigorated pathway to sustainable development, in a most inclusive and rights-based form.

That said, I'd like to share 3 core concepts that the Women's Major Group holds as truths:

- Women's rights are human rights
- Sustainable development will **not** be achieved without gender equality
- Gender equality requires specific, concerted actions by all stakeholders

In securing renewed political commitment, we need implementation means for the key principles of sustainable development that were agreed in Rio 1992. I remind you of Principle 20 on the role and participation of women and Principle 10 on access to information, justice and participation, which deserve urgent attention. Other key principles such as the precautionary and polluter pays principles will ensure justice in the 3 pillars.

Many of the growing challenges to address at Rio 2012 severely impact women. Climate change will exacerbate all others, especially ecosystem degradation and water and food insecurity. Addressing these challenges requires gender analysis to design, target and monitor effective policies and programs that benefit all communities.

We encourage deliverables of rio2012 to include

- a negotiated road map on the green and social economy, with measurable and verifiable targets, indicators and timeline
- a negotiated agreement for a coordinated system for strengthened international governance of sustainable development - which recognizes the essential role of women
- consideration of a high commissioner on environment and sustainable development
- a global agreement on principle 10
- gender balance on sustainable development advisory boards and committees, (particularly tech)

At Rio 2012, the world has the opportunity to lead a transformation of global processes, in which women play an integral part. We therefore call on delegates to support outcomes of UNCSD that protect and promote the human rights of all while achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Thank you.