

**Women Major Group
Final Statement CSD-13
22 April 2005**

We, the Women Major Group, are leaving this CSD with mixed feelings.

We thank many of the governments who negotiated so hard to keep essential points in the text such as:

- The crucial role of women
- Subsidies targeted at the poor
- Affordable environmental technologies.

We are very pleased that sanitation has finally moved up in the agenda!

And we welcome that women's equal rights to own and inherit land are reconfirmed!

But...

We are dismayed that a rights-based approach has disappeared from the negotiated text. A rights-based approach is essential to ensure basic services for all.

Water has many values, but for the poorest, it should not have an economic price. You should ensure them free access to the life-line of water.

Now you have to show your political will! And turn your words into action!

Your national policies have to be transparent, and we will keep you accountable. Also, with regards to the equal participation of women at all levels!

And... what about a gender balanced bureau of CSD 14?

We look forward to welcome the first female Chair for CSD 15!!!