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**on behalf of CSO's present at the meeting**

Dear participants

I have been asked by the conference organizers to give you an off-the-cuff message, responding to our deliberations, and yet representing the main issues on behalf of the CSO's present at this meeting.

An impossible task as I can not do justice to the richness of the CSO inputs during the past two days as they are all relevant. Yet as my time is limited, I do not want to waist time in repeating critical issues said already.

Let me share a few sticky points that I take away from our deliberations that we all should take notice of in the process towards the post-2015 development agenda.

1. The importance of respect for history in two ways: the importance of time frames/long term perspectives and the importance of validating of past time achievements.

In the Netherlands both my grandmothers were born without the right to vote or stand as a political candidate. As adult women they lost their jobs as civil servants once they got married. My mother's destiny, being a PhD graduate in chemistry, was full-time motherhood after marriage and loads of unpaid voluntary community and care work. I belong to the first generation of Dutch women that combined work, care, community activism and having the choice to have children or not and enjoy a same sex relationship openly.

Expansion of the range of strategic choices open for women (and men) to decide about the pathways of their lives now and in the future, as Naila Kabeer has conceptualised so well, that is what the agenda of women's rights and gender equality is about, and that is a long long-term agenda, which is not linear and subject to setbacks, which we have seen in particular in the form of the backlash against sexual and reproductive rights since the turn of the century.

We need to acknowledge past time achievements, being in Vienna especially. History was made almost 20 years ago at the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993: women's rights being acknowledged as universal, unalienable and indivisible human rights and with violence against women recognised as a violation of human rights with states have the

responsibility to prevent, to provide support and protection, to ensure access to justice in relation to all forms of violence including violence committed by non-state actors.

We need to build on these historic achievements: the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, CEDAW, Vienna, the Cairo Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action, the five UNCSR on women in conflict, the ILO Conventions and the instruments of special rapporteurs and Universal Periodic Reviews. Women's human rights or rather human rights for all need to be centre stage on the future development agenda: not as one goal, not as being mainstreamed with a few indicators here and there, no in each and every sustainable development domain. Nothing less than that. Lydia, Cecilia, Wendy, Andrea, so many here present in the room have emphasized the importance of this. So we need a combination of respect for our long-term agenda that is not silverlined with linear progress with the urgency to put this agenda centre stage given its crucial role for humanity and human kind now and in the future.

2. I am getting older but not forgetful. I am seriously concerned about the institutional amnesia in the UN, in governments, in parliaments, and also among CSOs about the importance and relevance of gender equality and gender justice, inclusivity and social justice for a sustainable planet and human development and well being for all. Why do we have to start from scratch all over again when concepts such as the global public goods are being introduced. Why can't these embrace the Universal Declaration on Human Rights as a global public good that deserves protection and adherence to in order to sustain our planet, our lives and the lives of future generations. So can we refrain from reinventing wheels. So many of you said over the past few days and I was happy to hear you saying that: "we should have included violence against women, we have neglected the critical importance of sexual and reproductive rights, we went for a too narrow, countable and measurable, universal results/indicators agenda."

Well, women's rights activists said so in 2000, they demanded gender repair work, culminating in 2005 with the Taskforce on MDG3, with unfortunately extremely limited success in terms of the official MDG agenda and its indicators. Tell me something: we do not want to do gender repair work once more as damage control is a bad practice. It is an unsustainable aftermath strategy, with very limited impact. So really we can not buy into another process of a gender blind post-2015 development agenda, be it post MDGs, be it the new SDGs. The post-2015 development agenda should have substantive gender equality at the centre and this applies across the board for all countries in the world. This requires meaningful participation of women's rights activists and organisations in the processes of formulating and shaping this agenda.

3. Acknowledgement of the drivers of the agenda of gender equality, women's rights and gender justice. CSOs demand a sincere acknowledgement of the driving role that women's civil society activists, as individuals, citizens, netizens, social media activists, as women's organisations and movements play in upholding and promoting this agenda. Some of you in this room might not like it, but CSOs have sincere doubts about the role that the MDGs have played in driving the MDG3 and MDG5 agenda. Hasn't that been pushed for and driven by CSOs by demanding national and local level implementation of CEDAW and the Cairo PoA and the Beijing PfA. It reminds me of the Dutch government four yearly, compulsory reports on CEDAW. These are full with results and achievements claimed by the Dutch government, but in actual fact these results have been driven by civil society actors and citizens and often were countervailed and achieved inspite of the government. In this era of results based management, governments and development agencies claim contributions or attributions that are highly questionable. We might need a proper audit on the contributions to achieving the MDGs.

Accountability is a critical notion but it should entail multiple accountability from all stakeholders be it governments, civil society, private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, individual citizens.

4. A final sticky point concerns resources. Given who have been the drivers of the agenda on the table during the past two days, key drivers of this agenda need to be resourced, adequately and in a sustainable manner, within civil society but also within the other domains of governments, the donor community, private sector etc. In a time of increased scarcity of resources, especially in terms of official ODA – taking the Dutch as a very current example not sticking to 0.7% obligation – I want to challenge all of us gathered here, about the costs of processes like the one we are currently in, and the paper work or virtual reality of our work. I now face the difficulty of having to make choices, for instance to invest our scarce resources into an organisation that is fighting for decent working conditions in the Kenyan flower farms or into attendance by a Kenyan women's rights organisation into our conference deliberations of the past two days. What would be your response to the question what investment would yield more impact for the agenda of women's rights and gender equality? These are real dilemmas in our work today – so let us not be complacent and not refrain from difficult choices. Whilst making these choices the overarching guidance will be, should be not to trade-off the core objectives and values of upholding women's rights, human rights, gender and social justice in a sustainable manner.

Thank you.