

**Women's Major Group Statement  
Regional Discussion on Sustainable Development  
Latin America and the Caribbean  
Wednesday 3rd May 2006**

**presented by Hazel Brown**

We wish to congratulate the Chairman for his efficient handling of the implementation process so far and we strongly support the continuation of this process at the regional level.

We also thank ECLAC for facilitating the input of women in the process. We must build and improve collaboration between stakeholders on the issues of sustainable development. Energy, poverty and gender inequality and inequities in gender decision-making arena have a major impact on sustainable development. In many Latin American and Caribbean rural communities and informal urban settlements, women are most affected by energy poverty because they are responsible for providing their households with food, water and energy.

Because gender energy and development are interlinked it is important the data be collected and disaggregated so that gender issues may be effectively addressed on national and regional policies and projects.

We therefore recommend:

1. Specific time bound Regional targets for renewable energy use and efficiency in energy use, with suitable incentives and resources for research and development; investment and promotion. There is need in this connection to include the utility regulators as a major stakeholder in this process.
2. We must link changes in the energy matrix to employment creation in SME including areas of installation and maintenance
3. We must build capacity and support consumer organisations at national and regional level to change consumption patterns which are harmful and inefficient.
4. UNDP Carbon Fund be used to allocate resources for a strong Regional solar energy project.

In order to overcome poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals energy access must be human rights based and not market based.

Strong public sector infrastructure, policies and programmes and regulation are central to clean and efficient energy access. Gender balance is also necessary to ensure that women's rights, needs and experiences are considered in energy policy decision making at all levels.

Training, capacity building, adequate allocation of resources and technology are essential to overcome energy poverty.

We support the position of Barbados that the UNECLAC Caribbean Office needs to be more involved especially in relation to matters concerning implementation of the SIDS Programme of Action.

The CSD Women's Major Group is compiling a set of case studies to demonstrate some successful strategies for achieving good gender balanced results in the area of the review process and we are willing to share these with the Commission.

Thank you