

Women's input on climate change

On behalf of Women as a Major Group we are pleased to note that paragraph 28 of the Secretary General's Report specifically recognizes women's vulnerability. We also thank the representatives of Mexico, the Solomon Islands and South Africa for acknowledging the disproportionate effects that climate change will have on women.

We therefore call upon governments and institutions to implement measures that will address the vulnerability of women, and men, by conducting gender impact analyses and vulnerability assessments. These approaches can identify gender specific needs with regard to protection from floods, droughts and other climate-related disasters, and adaptation measures to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Information is also needed in connection with gender roles in management of natural resources.

We support the statement made yesterday by the representative of Ghana and reinforce their call for governments and institutions to involve women in all climate change mitigation and adaptation decision making processes and take particular advantage of their skills in natural resource management.

Women and local communities must be involved in the development of policies for all sectors affected by climate change, including the choice of technology options for adaptation to climate change and the development of Disaster Risk Reduction activities and the establishment of early warning systems to reduce vulnerabilities.

Governments and Major Groups should work more closely with women's organizations to improve women's access to and control of natural resources, without which they would be less able to cope to the impacts of climate change.

Developed countries should channel additional resources to ODA to build adaptive capacity and resilience by vulnerable countries as well as support them to engage in a cleaner energy development path.

Governments should fully comply with their commitments to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. Developed countries are the major source of greenhouse emissions and therefore should take their responsibility for the injustice that climate change imposes on the poor. We call upon the North to change its energy production and consumption patterns, towards the promotion of increased access to affordable energy alternatives including clean energy saving technologies.