

CLOSING STATEMENT OF WOMEN AS A MAJOR GROUP AT CSD 14

We, the Women's Major Group, intend to move forward by holding governments and ourselves accountable for the prior commitments that have been made to poverty reduction, gender equality and women's empowerment, including but not limited to the ninth and fourteenth sessions of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 9 and 14), the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In doing so we recognise and repeat that implementation must be premised on a rights-based approach that guarantees universal access to basic public goods and services, such as water and energy, and in this context we make the following commitments for actions:

- We commit to work together with governments to raise awareness about specific approaches to making energy policies, programmes and projects more equitable and gender sensitive and also to track implementation of governmental commitments at the local, national and global level;
- We commit to continue to provide leadership and work with governments to implement result-oriented projects and actions that recognize the critical role that women play as actors and participants, and NOT only recipients, in the energy sector, so as to increase women's access to energy services and create opportunities for them to improve their livelihoods;
- We commit to developing a knowledge database and disseminating information on the mechanisms and funds created in the climate change treaty process and exploring how they can be utilized as resources for creating economic opportunities for women in developing countries and in countries in transition;
- We commit to participating in innovative initiatives on financing at various levels in the energy sector, from micro to macro levels;
- We commit to providing support and expertise for gender budgeting and auditing of energy policies and programmes, including Poverty Reduction Strategy Plans;
- We commit to strengthening the capacity of women as a major group to participate in energy policy-making, decision-making and programme implementation through South-South, North-North, and South-North networks; and
- Finally, we hope when we return next year for CSD 15, we will see a different picture: women on the CSD bureau; a woman chair of the CSD for the first time; gender balance on the expert panels, and more women represented on the government delegations. We would be happy to recommend women energy experts to be included on panels and government delegations. However, Mr Chair, we refer not only to the participation of more women at CSD 15; we are also challenging CSD 15 to address more substantially the policy reforms needed to address the links between access to affordable energy services for the poor, gender equality and women's empowerment.