

**WOMEN AS A MAJOR GROUP**  
**STATEMENT FOR MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE OF**  
**THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF CSD 15**

**10th May 2007**

Good afternoon Mr Chair and distinguished Ministers

Women as a Major Group appreciate the efforts of governments and the CSD bureau to incorporate gender as a cross-cutting issue in the important thematic areas of energy for sustainable development, climate change, air pollution and industrial development.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into actions to expand access to energy is critical as a way of addressing women's distinct experiences of poverty and meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Gender mainstreaming requires commitments by governments, international organizations and other institutions to ensure that women's concerns and contributions - as well as men's - are represented and taken into account in energy policies, programmes and national poverty reduction strategies, as well as in decision-making processes at all levels. It also requires that investments in energy infrastructure and services be clearly targeted to address the needs and roles of women as managers and suppliers of energy resources.

Key strategies for mainstreaming gender into energy for sustainable development include:

1. Clear targets and timeframes on mainstreaming gender in policies, programmes and projects, such as that adopted by the Netherlands government on access to energy for 10 million people by 2015 with women as a specific target group, that can be monitored and evaluated based on measurable gender-sensitive indicators;
2. Technical training and innovative measures that enhance access to financing for energy-related equipment and enterprise development for women;
3. Gender budgets, audits and gender disaggregated data to inform, guide and be used to ensure transparent and equitable national energy policies and implementation strategies;
4. Capacity building for government officials and development actors on how to use tools to integrate gender approaches into the design and implementation, of energy policies, programmes and projects;
5. Institutional arrangements to ensure women's effective representation and participation in the energy sector and related organisations, that incorporate an information dissemination strategy on how women can be involved and the expected outcomes of their involvement.

In developing countries, women would benefit most from government strategies to upscale affordable, cleaner and culturally appropriate technologies. These include biogas digesters and solar cookers, as well as cleaner-burning and more efficient cooking fuels and community reforestation programmes.

For countries in transition, where air pollution from industry and motor vehicles are major health and environmental threats, women would benefit from stronger regulation and monitoring of these risks.

With regard to climate change, CSD 15 can play an important role by highlighting women's particular vulnerabilities to climate change impacts, and also recognizing their potential contributions with regard to mitigation and adaptation activities.

Women as a Major Group strongly support governments that are working towards low carbon development paths and adopting strong targets for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. We reject unsustainable energy policies that threaten the health and safety of women and their families through nuclear radiation risks, destructive mining operations, flooding of communities for large hydropower projects and large bio-fuel plantations.

We are eager to participate partnerships with governments following CSD 15 to promote access to clean, safe and affordable energy for the future, including modern cooking fuels, wind and solar systems, small hydro-electric generators, modern bio-fuel systems and energy efficiency mechanisms.