

Statement from Women as a Major Group for the Session on Inter-linkages and Cross-cutting Issues

Women as a Major Group would like emphasize the importance of gender considerations in the discussion on inter-linkages and cross-cutting issues in implementing policy options and actions on energy. Members of the CSD should provide leadership on rights-based and gender responsive policy approaches as central features of sustainable development.

Current and new ODA and energy investments should have specific components for the promotion of gender equality. We associate ourselves with the comments made by South Africa, Nigeria and all other government delegations on gender, energy access and poverty issues. We congratulate the Netherlands government for setting an example in this respect by announcing targets for extending energy access to 10 million additional people by 2015, with women as a specific target group:

New investments for expanding energy access should promote gender-sensitive research on energy needs and solutions, and production and promotion of clean and affordable energy sources. Indicators for ensuring

effective utilisation of such funds should assess gender sensitivity, social justice, benefits for and engagement of poor women, and sound environmental practices and sustainability.

It is particularly important to involve women and their organizations as major participants in energy decision at all levels in technology design, in the efficient and effective implementation and scaling up of projects and programmes. This would require comprehensive training and capacity building for energy practitioners working on the planning, implementation and evaluation of energy policies and projects.

International, regional, national and local strategies should specifically address the social contexts in which energy is used, and adopt an integrated approach to project planning and implementation. Clearly defined energy targets and time frames related to the promotion and implementation of the MDGs should be supported.

Finally it is essential to address the specific needs of Least Developed Countries by linking international commitments on energy with other commitments on gender equality, environmental sustainability and social-economic development.