

On behalf of Women as a Major Group we thank you for the opportunity to address the Commission,

In this multi-stakeholder dialogue session, we would like to re-emphasize the positions that we have taken through out the CSD processes that identify priorities and actions to mainstream gender as a crosscutting issue.

We are pleased to note that some of the priorities agreed on at CSD 14 are highlighted in the Secretary General's reports on energy for sustainable development such as actions to mitigate the impacts of indoor air pollution on women and children, tools of integrating gender considerations into national energy budgets and training programs and linking access to energy for women with income generation opportunities. At this meeting, we would like the Commission to also consider the following additional policy actions that recognize the critical roles that women can play in the energy sector as agents of change:

- a) Women should be recognized as an important stakeholder group in efforts to improve access to energy services for the poor, and their specific energy needs related to cooking, heating, small and micro enterprises, health and empowerment addressed directly in all energy programmes.
- b) Participatory processes should be used to actively involve women in the design, promotion, choice and use of energy resources and technologies.
- c) Governments as well as Major Groups should take steps to ensure that more qualified women are trained and hired for policy-making positions.
- d) Women's access to energy should be explicitly addressed in national poverty reduction strategies, national energy policies, sustainable development plans and their implementation plan. The implementation plan should be an integrated one in as far as women's access to energy is concerned.
- e) Gender disaggregated data should be used in designing and implementing energy policies and programs

With regard to climate change, encourage all governments to support the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and additional international actions to control greenhouse gas emissions and their effects. We recommend that governments and institutions should conduct gender impact analyses to identify gender-specific mitigation and adaptation needs. Governments and institutions should also involve women in climate change decision-making and take advantage of their particular skills in natural resource management and conflict prevention.

Sustainable industrial development should be based on energy efficiency and alternative energy sources, which do not endanger the environment or public health. Governments should work towards phasing out nuclear energy.

Awareness campaigns, legal requirements, and economic incentives should be used to promote women's rights and economic development. Increased investments are needed in small-scale enterprises, better management of natural resources and access to alternative fuels, to relieve existing burdens on women and girls.

Finally, given the gender imbalances in the CSD bureau, panels, and delegations, the CSD itself should prioritize increasing women's participation and representation.