

**Women as a Major Groups Statement on  
Inter-linkages and cross-cutting issues  
Wednesday 2 May**

We would like to express our support for the interventions made with regard to gender as a crosscutting issue by governments at the IPM session, including South Africa, Nigeria, Norway, and Germany (speaking for the European Union).

Norway, for example, offered a very coherent set of policy recommendations, which we would like to highlight as elements that could be included in the Chair's text:

- Enhance research and data collection on women's energy use and needs in connection with developing energy policies and projects
- Increase capacity building and technical training for women as a means of empowerment in order for women to take an active part in decision-making processes
- Develop energy infrastructure and institutions that directly benefit women and the poor. Women should be included at all parts of the project, policy and development planning process both as energy providers and energy users.
- Promote the integration of gender and rights issues into energy projects to involve women in the choice and use of energy resources and technologies. This leads to a more flexible approach, with projects responding to the particular needs of women, and with regard to local priorities and contexts."

South Africa also identified specific policy actions, which Women would like to see included in the Chair's text, including:

- Support for the development of gender expertise at national, regional and international levels
- Establishment of new, and strengthening of existing networks that seek to address gender and sustainable development issues
- Enhancing access to information and capacity for data collection on the impacts of gender-focused interventions.

The EU added a recommendation on removing gender discrimination in terms of legal rights (including inheritance and equal access to secure tenure of land and finance).

All of these suggested recommendations would be welcome additions to the Chair's draft document, which currently contains only one general point at the very end of the inter-linkages section – "To enhance gender mainstreaming in all areas of sustainable development".

In addition, Women would like to emphasize the need for actions that will increase the capacity of government officials and development practitioners, researchers and policy-makers to integrate a gender perspective into energy planning and implementation. We are eager to share our specific recommendations on these issues, and call on the CSD to strengthen existing networks and partnerships that seek to address the connections between gender, energy and sustainable development issues.

