

WOMEN MAJOR GROUP STATEMENT FOR THE CLOSING SESSION: 16TH MAY 2008

Sustainable development issues of land, water, agriculture, drought and desertification present significant human right issues for women in Africa and around the world. They are life and death issues so far as women are concerned.

We appreciate the numerous statements by governments during the CSD process confirming their commitment to considering and acting on these issues but there is more to be done. We look forward to future action.

We are encouraged by the possibility of a woman chair for CSD-17 and we look forward to increasing numbers of women as commission members. The CSD process must engage a greater number of women in the decision making process. We will support the CSD process by emphasising implementation at all levels to ensure that the perspectives of women world wide are incorporated in CSD-17.

We urge governments to accelerate the implementation of their commitments to both rural and urban women. We seek support to enable more women delegates from around the globe to participate at the CSD-17.