

**Morning meeting with representatives of major groups and other stakeholders
“Reinforcing major groups and other stakeholders’ participation”**

June 30, 2015

Women’s Major Group Statement delivered by Eleanor Blomstrom, Women’s Environment and
Development Organization (WEDO)

Shortened for Delivery

Thank you, Mr. President, Colleagues,

The Women’s Major Group (WMG) endorses and will support a strong, independent, transparent and inclusive HLPF, which is critical for achieving the sustainable development goals, including gender equality, the full realization of the human rights of all girls and women of all ages, and their empowerment.

I’ll first highlight 5 key roles we see for the HLPF. Then I’ll zero in on 6 aspects related to our participation and contributions. Our full paper provides additional details.

The WMG believes the HLPF provides opportunity for innovation and has a role to:

1. Match the ambition of the Post-2015 agenda
2. Ensure policy coherence, across governments, the UN system and with international financial and trade institutions. This should include coherence with the UN Financing for Development process, while ensuring that the specific mandate of the FFD review process is not compromised;
3. Establish transparent, global, regional and national-level accountability mechanisms for monitoring and review. National reviews are the cornerstone and governments have primary responsibility for implementation, but all stakeholders should be held to account, including international financial and trade institutions and transnational corporations;
4. Initiate a global peer review mechanism to evaluate performance on sustainable development, that is inclusive of all Major Groups, constituencies and rights holders, and is linked to regional and national-level accountability mechanisms;
5. Follow up on financial and non-financial Means of Implementation, for example
 - a. Review financing for women’s organizations
 - b. Establish clear guidelines and ex-ante assessments for private finance to ensure alignment with human rights and sustainable development objectives
 - c. Use a technology facilitation mechanism to ensure environmentally safe, socially appropriate, gender-sensitive and economically equitable technologies, innovations and knowledge, including traditional knowledge and practices

In regard to enhancing participation and contributions, including in implementation and review, the WMG recommends to:

1. Formalize and institutionalize the modalities from Res 67/290
2. Follow the principle of non-retrogression to ensure rights to participate in decision-making and to access to information
 - a. For example, Nameplates; speaking slots; access to workshops/informals; articulated role in review process and implementation
3. Establish a mechanism that ensures robust involvement of self-organized major groups, other recognized constituencies and rights holders.
 - a. The mechanism should define parameters for the engagement of new and diverse constituencies, thus allowing flexibility to adapt to changing global and regional challenges while maintaining high levels of transparency and accountability
4. Establish a platform to share best practices, support collaboration between Major Groups and Member States, and provide/open opportunities for funding and up-scaling
5. Ensure funding and capacity building support for Major Group participation in all levels of the HLPF
6. Establish clear communication about the basic principles of the post-2015 development agenda so they are understood by all constituencies and rights holders, including the most marginalized

As the HLPF moves into its next phase of important work, the WMG is committed to continue its engagement to ensure an integrated approach to sustainable development, in its three dimensions, that brings about poverty eradication, the achievement of women's human rights and gender equality, and that addresses the root causes of them. The WMG will continue to contribute its diversity of expertise and experience that covers every aspect of the agenda, working closely with colleagues at all levels.

Thank you.