

**Intervention women major group 27 febr. 2009, Chair's text**

(by Lesha Witmer, Chair Commission SD Netherlands Women's Council)

Thank you chair.

We value prudence and respect for other opinions, but feel that already accepted rights and agreed recommendations are not well reflected in the text. We urge the bureau to have another look at the statements made by numerous countries and major groups on the right to water, land and food and the rights based approach. As well as the role of women.

We appreciate that comments on vocational education and capacity development have found their way into the document; some of the concerns of women are there as well.

However, we feel that the role of women and indigenous peoples as actors, experts and community leaders in their own right – and as such to be heard and respected – is not sufficiently reflected in the phrasing / choice of words. We will be happy to make suggestions for that; the world develops, so have we and this should be reflected.

We appreciate water issues having been mainstreamed throughout the text; unfortunately, biofuel and biomass issue as mentioned and the precautionary principle in that context, are not.