

## **Women Major Group statement on the Ten-year review of programmes of sustainable consumption and production**

Thank you Mr. Chair.

The Women's Major Group is amazed by the lack of focus on the **Review** of programmes on sustainable consumption and production.

Women are the main consumer group, and empowering women to make responsible decisions is important. Education that empowers consumers, including women and young people, to make responsible, ethical decisions is essential to changing consumer behaviour.

In order to support the engagement of women in sustainable consumption and production initiatives, programmes need to include women in their design and implementation and they need to integrate the perspectives and recommendations of women.

As the main producers of staple crops, women play a critical role in making a transition to sustainable agricultural economies. Women have made significant contributions to climate change negotiations. For women in developing countries, technical assistance and capacity building are essential for their effective contribution to mitigation and adaptation initiatives. We remind you of the activities of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance and their efforts to promote sustainable production and consumption of food and energy.

Women must be supported in undertaking sustainable production activities to enhance their access to legal rights, bank credit, and ownership of land and other natural resources. Women **must be** recognized as active agents of change and given the opportunity to become owners of wealth so as to avoid excessive State control and the unlimited accumulation of riches by relatively few. This is an important means for releasing women's potential and promoting social cohesion.