

**High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment  
22 September 2016**

**1 minute intervention by Eleanor Blomstrom**

**Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) & the Women's Major Group (WMG)**

Distinguished colleagues, thank you. As part of my work at WEDO, I'm a co-organizing partner of the Women's Major Group, which facilitates participation of diverse women's and feminist organizations around the world in the holistic Agenda 2030.

We will promote the highest standards for gender and economic equality as a means to achieve the 2030 Agenda and are committed to its implementation, follow-up and review. This includes calling on private sector and government stakeholders to address the systems that perpetuate business as usual of the current economic model.

It requires commitment to the multilateral system and the normative work of the UN, reconfirming the UN charter and the fundamental importance of human rights over corporate agendas.

For example, many large corporations do not ensure women's human rights throughout the value chain and do not pay their fair share of taxes. Thus we want to see the private sector putting an end to actions - such as investment arbitration- that undermine progress toward economic empowerment and dismantling structural inequality.

Finally, we recognize the obligations of Member State to create policies and conditions that support women's economic empowerment, and we also want to see States support systemic reforms, such as the Human Rights Council binding instrument for transnational corporations and the global tax body that is currently under discussion.

These global, systemic changes lay the foundation for true economic equality and justice for women.