

Women's Major Group Comments on the CSD-13 "Chair's draft Elements for Decision"

14 April 2005

Chair,

We the women are surprised and disappointed that after all the strong and adequate words of so many countries during CSD 12, the preparatory meeting and these last few days on this floor, and all the good examples of and ideas for the participation of women, the cross cutting issue of gender equality is so minimal and poorly worded in the draft.

In general we find that all the interlinkages and cross cutting issues would be better served by being formulated in a new specific paragraph.

We are pleased with the reference to the rights-based approach (d), the eco system approach (m)(iv) and the equal rights of women to own and inherit land and other property and to access credit markets (q)(iii).

Both are in our mind interlinking for all three themes.

Furthermore we would welcome that more actors are defined and named to get things going.

We suggest however the following revisions to the Chair's Draft:

Under 1. emphasizes that: add

"e) Women play a central role in achieving the goals and targets of the JPOI and the MDG's regarding human settlements, Water and sanitation. Acceptance and implementation of this principle requires positive policies to address women's specific needs and to equip and empower women to participate at all levels, including decision-making, planning, implementation en monitoring, in ways defined by them."

(Dublin 1992)

A. Water:

(a) (iv) ..adapting affordable, appropriate and alternative water supply technologies,.."

(b)(i): revise to: "provide vocational training to managers and technicians including women and the youth to enhance their capabilities in general and enable local maintenance by women and youth"

(c)(ii) revise to "...revolving funds and microfinance facilities"

(f) revise to: "...and financial assistance in developing countries and countries in transition in preparing..."

(f) (Vii): revise to: .."involving workers, women and their organizations in water management and provide (vocational and other)training ."

(g) (iv): revise to: "training farmers and agricultural workers, men and women alike in.."

(i) : revise to: ..support to local authorities, workers and women and their and other community-based organizations..."

B. Sanitation:

(l) revise to: "...dignity, gender equity and equality, security and education;"

(m) (iii) revise to: involving women and their organizations in the decision-making, design, planning, implementation and management of appropriate and secure sanitation systems at all levels and provide for (vocational and other)training"

(m) (v) revise to: “...ecological (dry) sanitation and adaptation of regulations to make this possible”

(m) add (viii): relief aid and reconstruction-plans after armed conflict or natural disasters should include adequate gender and cultural sensitive sanitation

(n) remove: “developing” to make this apply to all countries

(n)(iv) remove “within their particular social and cultural context” and revise to: “involving women and community groups in raising awareness...”

C. Human Settlements:

(q) (iv): revise to: “promoting public-public and public-private partnerships..”

(q) add: ((ix): “develop a mechanism to allocate responsibility for damage done during armed conflict”

(q)(vi) revise to: “...community improvement be it rural or urban, including through...”

(r) (iv): revise to: “providing education including (higher) vocational training to (particularly poor) women and youth, to improve their access to decent jobs, professions or starting businesses”

D. Institutional arrangements:

(s)(i) revise to: “..conduct voluntary consultations with interested governments, women, workers and their organizations...”

(s) add: (viii) “involve Major Groups as partners in the process and facilitate them and their organizations”

(u)(ii) revise to: ...a living document and disseminate the information regularly”

Add:

E. Interlinkages and Cross Cutting issues:

(Y)The pivotal roles of women as providers and users of water and guardians of the living arrangements have to be reflected in institutional arrangements for the development and management of water resources and sanitation. (Dublin 1992). Acceptance and implementation of this principle requires:

(i) positive policies to address women’s specific needs

(ii) equipping and empowering women to participate at all levels in water resources and sanitation programmes, including decision-making, planning, implementation en monitoring

(iii) allocating funding and other resources to organisations and institutions to incorporate gender equity, women empowerment and full participation and to enable women(organizations) to develop and implement also thir own priorities on projects related to water, sanitation and human settlements

(iv) use tools like gender disaggregated data, gender analyses, gender responsive budgeting and monitoring and indicators to ensure accountability and commitment of governments (IPM report para 20)

(v) Countries should implement earlier commitments for instance those formulated in the Beijing platform for action, CEDAW and the relevant chapters of Agenda21

(z)(i)“Governments should create legislation to implement the principle under 1b. “(the responsibility to ensure access to safe drinking water (quality and quantity), basic sanitation, secure housing and related basic services, ensuring affordable services for all).

(ii) : Implement existing regulations and legislation in all countries (e.g. European Water Framework Directive, and the Aarhus Convention)

(a2) Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy-makers at all levels. The participatory approach involves raising awareness of the importance of water among policy-makers and the general public. It means that decisions are taken at the lowest appropriate level, with full public consultation and involvement of users in the planning and implementation of water projects. (Dublin 1992)

We feel these suggestions reflect the way things were discussed and will greatly improve the document.

Thank you.