

Closing intervention by the Women's Major Group

Thank you chair. Distinguished delegates, my name is Caroline Usikpedo, I speak on behalf of the women's major group. We support the general statement by all the major group stakeholders and rights holders that was just presented.

We just wanted to highlight the recommendations of the Global Gender Environmental Outlook that was launched this week, including the recommendation to integrate gender considerations in all environmental policies. While we welcome some of the progress in this field, and the explicit call to respect, protect and promote human rights, gender equality and the role of indigenous peoples in delivering the environmental dimension of 2030 Agenda, we deplore that too many of the resolutions and decisions adopted today are still gender blind. We thus call for increased policy coherence and compliance with existing decisions to mainstream gender in environmental policies.

Taking into account the gender dimension of environmental policies also calls for caution about market-based approaches like the financialization of nature, which can have serious negative impacts on economically and politically marginalized groups in society as highlighted in the major group statement, including women. We also caution against the privatization of public policy making in the field of the environment through often non-transparent and unaccountable public private partnerships.

Lastly, we call on you to properly assess the environmental and social impact of trade and investment agreements on the implementation of the SDGs, including SDG 5 on gender equality. We support the many calls for increased policy coherence during the past week, which is arguably one of the main challenges to address if we want to ensure effective compliance with the targets in the 2030 Agenda. Only if we practice what we preach, we will pursue the genuine systemic transformative change we really need.