

Intervention

Thank you chair

My name is Caroline Usikpedo from the Niger Delta Women's movement for Peace and Development, Nigeria, I am an Ambassador for the International Human Rights Commission, and I am speaking on behalf of the Women's Major Group.

We welcome an upgrade on UNEP and a further role in addressing the increasing environmental challenges within sustainable development. We understand that UNEP's effective contributions to SDGs can exert a difference in the face of the current environmental, social and financial crises.

Therefore, such contributions must take into consideration the central role of women in the environment, and thus, sustainable development.

Let me remind you that women around the world spend more time and energy in activities related to direct natural resources use and play a central role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, including their use of traditional knowledge which has helped them overcome environmental challenges, and still goes unrecognized.

Recognizing a traditional knowledge-policy interface is not only paramount for addressing environmental challenges but also addressing the underlying causes of increased poverty.

In fact, women are already 70% of the world's poor therefore, if poverty is to be eradicated, women needs are to be considered separately and integrated into all areas of development.

In addition, greater recognition of women's rights and gender equality are to be integrated including rights to land and self-determination.

We call on governments to support both a stand-alone goal on gender equality and sub-goals in all the priority areas. For example, in the case of Environmental

Degradation and Oil Spills in the Niger Delta, women are most vulnerable and their voices are least heard, a sub-goal should be, ensuring that women's whose lives depend on Environmental, Agricultural and Natural resources, have access and control over them.

There is need to create a peaceful environment to tackle poverty, Climate Change and its attendant effects on livelihood.

The post 2015 should put in place a comprehensive adaptation programme for floods, erosion and other environmental challenges with reference to the Niger Delta Situation.

Thank You!