

8TH GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM 3-4 FEBRUARY 2007

Key Messages: Gender

Global Civil Society participants met on February 3-4, 2007 to define the key messages we wish to convey on the issue of gender equality and the environment. We support the Gender Recommendations contained within the Global Civil Society Statement of the 24th Session of the GC/GMEF. We also note with appreciation UNEP's efforts to implement Governing Council Decision 23/11 on gender and the environment. To further implement this decision, we recommend the following:

To Governments:

- 1) Commit adequate resources and support to enable UNEP to fully implement the UNEP Gender Plan of Action at the global, regional, and divisional levels;
- 2) Dedicate specific, adequate resources to implement the outcomes of the 2004 UNEP WAVE conference, including the four project proposals on i) knowledge generation for improved policy-making: best practices for ensuring women's equal access to, management of, and decision-making over natural resources (e.g. water) in order to develop model policies and programs; ii) work at the gender/conflict/environment nexus; iii) capacity-building: a mentorship program for young women as environmental activists; and iv) work at the nexus of environment and human rights: using CEDAW (the women's rights Convention) and other human rights instruments to ensure women's equal participation with men in environmental protection.

To UNEP:

- 1) Fully implement the four project proposals emerging from the 2004 UNEP WAVE conference (see #2 above) and ensure both support and adequate resources for regular WAVE conferences, both regionally and globally, to be organized in cooperation with civil society partners;
- 2) Develop, or support the development (in partnership with civil society partners), of programs, policies and practices to ensure women's equal access with men to
 - management of environmental resources,
 - environmental policy making,
 - environmental justice
 - environmental information,

as they relate, in particular, to land rights, water and other natural resources, through education, legal advocacy, legislative reform, or other means;

- 3) Incorporate a gender equality and women's human rights approach into every aspect of the SAICM strategy;
- 4) Recognize, in UNEP's policies, practices, and programs, that the traditional knowledge and the role of women from indigenous, local and rural communities is critical to environmental stewardship and conservation;
- 5) Include women as well as men in every phase of environmental management in the context of conflict—from prevention to post-conflict reconstruction—recognizing that women's access to land and resources in this context requires special attention, and that women as well as men have a critical role to play in conflict transformation (prevention, management and resolution) as well as environmental conservation.

Prepared by the Gender Working Group during the Global Civil Society Forum from 3-4 February 2007. The following attempts to represent the outcomes of discussions among the major groups present although this is may not be considered explicitly endorsed by all attendees.