

Statement by Sascha Gabizon, May 3, 2012

Thank you chair,

My name is Sascha Gabizon of WECF, I am speaking on behalf of the Women Major Group for Rio+20.

This WG2 has been working hard, but has been jumping for a long time over the difficult parts of parts B and C of chapter IV.

We would want to convey two messages to you on these paragraphs.

First: the worst outcome of Rio would be to have NO strengthening on the International Framework for Sustainable Development. That we would **have lost** the Commission on Sustainable Development, that we would **have lost the opportunity** to finally strengthen UNEP, and **have gotten nothing effective in return**. Certainly our children's and grandchildren will have a good reason to be very angry with us if we loose this opportunity.

We believe that **the institutional framework for sustainable development** needs to be strengthened **at many levels**, within **the UN** and **the Bretton Woods institutions**. Especially for IFIs, we need more balanced governance structures in **which not only those with the money** have a say.

One of the key drivers of unsustainability is the financial sector. Entrepreneurs can be drivers for sustainable development, but **investors often lack** guidelines for ethical, social and environmental criteria, they have been **a source of speculation**, of unsustainable development, and with the proliferation of **off-shore financial paradises**, less and less under control of governments. This situation needs to be changed if we are serious about sustainable development and poverty eradication.

We need **more accountability and monitoring**. And we need to give **a voice to the voiceless**, the **future generations**, and those with least power, the poor, the majority of which unfortunately are women.

Therefore our second message is, that **any new institution** - or renewed institutions - for governance of sustainable development need to assure that they have **mechanisms for gender parity in decision making**, that they use gender disaggregated data, and other tools to assure that decisions are balanced and sustainable.