

Intervention on Finance

Speaker: Meena Bilgi

Thank you very much Chair,

I am Meena Bilgi, regional representative for Asia Pacific, speaking on the behalf of the Women's Major Group.

We congratulate UNEP with its universal membership and strengthening decided at Rio+20. It now needs the resources to fulfil its role.

We call for a substantial increase of **UNEP's Environment Fund** to support the operationalization of para 88 of the Rio+20 outcome document, in particular para 88(h).

It is important that there is increased **funding for UNEP to support countries** with capacity building, in particular in the area of safe chemicals management and mercury, including through UNEP's **existing finance mechanisms**.

Currently, the SAICM Quick Start Trust fund which is one means to do so, is almost empty. We call on member states to contribute to the Quick Start Trust Fund.

We would like to highlight **article 88h on public participation**, and confirm our support for the consensus proposal from all major groups and stakeholders on Principles for Participation in UNEP, which was earlier presented by the NGO major group.

We also want to highlight that diversity is valuable, and that UNEP needs the diversity of perspectives. Women due to their gender roles, have different needs and priorities, which need to be reflected in UNEP's programmes and policy processes. Finally, we call for a **voluntary trust fund to support participation** and capacity building of CSOs and other stakeholders.

We feel that particularly stakeholders in society, who **due to existing inequalities least able to fully participate**, should **benefit** from such support.

Thank you